

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: August 26, 2025

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

Through: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

From: Bob Grabowski, Fire Chief

Topic: Purchase Approval – Fire Department Shift Commander Vehicle

PURPOSE

Staff is requesting that the Board approve the purchase of one (1) 2025 Ford Expedition from Ford of Homewood, of Homewood, IL, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$49,661 plus additional equipment and upfitting to the vehicle in an estimated amount of \$30,000, for a total estimated amount of \$79,661. This replacement vehicle is designated as the “shift commander” vehicle.

PROCESS

To ensure vehicle reliability, which is critical for emergency responses and while minimizing maintenance costs, the Fire Department utilizes a vehicle replacement schedule for all vehicles and equipment. Currently, the fire staff vehicles are on an eight-year replacement schedule. The vehicle being replaced is a 2016 Chevrolet Tahoe which was purchased in 2015 - scheduled for replacement in 2023. Because the vehicle was in relatively good shape and in an attempt to prioritize other budget needs at the time, staff delayed the purchase of this replacement vehicle to the current budget year 2025-2026.

Shift Commander

The requested replacement vehicle will be assigned to the duty Shift Commander (*often a Fire Captain or a Fire Lieutenant in the captain's absence*). The shift commander is the senior officer who oversees all fire and emergency operations during their shift. The shift commander is typically the first vehicle to leave the station for major response and emergency calls. The shift commander needs to arrive on the scene ahead of the ambulance and/or fire engines to better assess the on-scene emergency.

Shift Commander Vehicle

The shift commander vehicle plays a vital role in daily operations. The vehicle is filled with equipment and resources that may be needed for emergencies. The vehicle also serves as a mobile command post, allowing the shift commander to manage emergency scenes directly from the field using communications equipment, mapping tools, and incident command resources. The

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vehicle enables rapid response to incidents, ensuring timely assessment and coordination of personnel and resources prior to the arrival of fire apparatus and even ambulances.

Purchase Options – Chevrolet to Ford

The Fire Department's maintenance committee and the certified mechanics at Public Works discussed the vehicle purchase options and decided that a Ford Expedition would better serve staff as the replacement vehicle. Staff solicited and received three bids for a 2025 Ford Expedition with the results listed below.

<i>Dealership</i>	<i>Vehicle Cost</i>
Ford of Homewood, Homewood, IL	\$49,661.00
Currie Motors, Frankfort, IL	\$50,411.00
Joe Rizza Ford, Orland Park, IL	\$51,955.40

Associated Vehicle Equipment and Accessories

The estimated cost for vehicle accessories including lighting, sirens, communication equipment, additional accessories such as vehicle painting and command post equipment is \$30,000. These items will be installed after purchase, bringing the total estimated cost to \$79,661, which remains below the budgeted amount.

OUTCOME

The approval of this vehicle purchase will allow the Fire Department to replace an important asset of their fleet.



FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** 2024 General Obligation Bond Proceeds
- **Budgeted Amount:** \$100,000
- **Vehicle Cost:** \$49,661
- **Outfitting, Painting and Accessories:** *Estimated* \$30,000
- **Total Cost:** \$79,661

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LEGAL REVIEW

Not required

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Approve the purchase of one (1) 2025 Ford Expedition from Ford of Homewood, of Homewood, IL, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$49,661; and, approve the purchase and installation of lighting, accessories, painting and equipment for an estimated total amount of \$79,661.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Vehicle Bids