



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE:	October 5, 2026
MEETING TYPE:	Regular Council Meeting
SUBMITTED BY:	Steve Perry (Police Chief)
AGENDA CAPTION:	[Discussion Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Unit] Presented by [Steve Perry, Police Chief]

Background Information

Request for Legislative Support: Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement in Hutchins

Current Texas law allows local police officers to enforce state statutes, including moving and equipment violations.

However, local law enforcement agencies do not automatically have the authority or certification necessary to enforce all commercial motor vehicle safety regulations.

For example, if a Hutchins police officer stops a commercial motor vehicle within the City of Hutchins and has probable cause to believe the vehicle is unsafe and presents a danger to the traveling public, the officer may need to request assistance from another agency with the appropriate commercial motor vehicle enforcement authority. This could include the Dallas County Sheriff's Office, Texas Department of Public Safety, Dallas Police Department, or another qualifying law enforcement agency to conduct the necessary commercial vehicle safety inspection.

This presents a significant public-safety challenge for the City of Hutchins.

Hutchins has a population of approximately 8,400 residents and has experienced substantial growth in industrial, manufacturing, warehousing, and logistics activity. The city currently has approximately **25 million square feet of warehouse space**, resulting in a significant volume of commercial truck traffic through the community.

According to TxDOT data, approximately **112,000 commercial vehicles travel on I-20 through the city each day**, while approximately **105,000 commercial trucks travel on I-45 through the city each day**.

Despite this level of commercial traffic, Hutchins currently does not meet the population-related qualifications necessary under **Section 644.101 of the Texas Administrative Code** to establish a commercial motor vehicle enforcement program within the Hutchins Police Department.

The result is a gap in local enforcement capability. Hutchins police officers are often the first law enforcement personnel to encounter potentially unsafe commercial vehicles, yet the City does not have the authority, certification, or specialized training necessary to conduct the full range of commercial motor vehicle safety inspections.

Commercial motor vehicle crashes have increased in Hutchins. Crash data shows that accidents have increased by approximately **13% to 20% annually over the past five years**. Given the City's concentration of logistics and industrial activity and the volume of commercial traffic traveling through Hutchins, strengthening local commercial vehicle enforcement capability should be an important public-safety consideration.

On **September 14, 2026**, I met with **State Representative Aicha Davis** to discuss this issue, and the challenges Hutchins faces as a result of the substantial increase in commercial vehicle traffic throughout the City.

I have asked Representative Davis to support the City of Hutchins pursuing legislative change that would address the current population-based limitation and provide an opportunity for Hutchins to establish the necessary commercial motor vehicle enforcement capabilities.

With support from state and local leaders, such legislation could allow the Hutchins Police Department to obtain specialized training and certification and coordinate more directly with the Texas Department of Motor Public Safety to establish a commercial motor vehicle safety unit.

The goal is straightforward: **to give Hutchins law enforcement the tools, training, and authority necessary to address unsafe commercial motor vehicles within our community and help reduce commercial motor vehicle crashes.**

Hutchins has become a major logistics and industrial hub in North Texas. Our local enforcement capabilities should reflect the realities of the commercial traffic our residents, businesses, and roadways experience every day.

Budget Implications

If allowed this program CAP is 110% of what the program cost is to the city annually.

Personnel \$ 100,000.00

Court Personnel Cost \$ 25,000.00

Equipment \$ 150,000.00 amortized over 5 years \$ 30,000.00

Program cost annually \$ 155,000.00

Operational Impact

Safety on Hutchins and State of Texas Roadways

Legal Review

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff is requesting that the City Council support staff's efforts to request legislation amending Article 644.101 of the Texas Administrative Code.

Supporting Documentation and Attachments

Texas administrative code (Article 644.101)