



Date: June 20, 2025
To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Rick Thomas, Police Chief
Re: Consideration and Approval: **Police Department Utility Vehicle Approval**

Objective:

To approve the purchase of two (2) utility vehicles for the use of the Police Department through a future Budget Amendment.

Summary:

On June 9, 2025, the Town Council recommend we research new vehicles vs. buying used. I have contacted several vendors and discussed golf carts & utility vehicles. The one thing that was clear from all the vendors was to stay with a brand name, Ez-Go, Yamaha & Club Car. I could only find a very limited number of new dealerships that sell these brands. After numerous conversations about the pros & cons of golf carts, I decided to look into utility vehicles as well. This was a suggestion from a Councilor as well.

Golf carts range from \$13,500-17,000, with added features like roofs & windshields, your medium cost is about \$15,000 for American base models. I have found that we can purchase utility vehicles for almost the same price. The utility vehicles have mesh doors & seatbelts, where the golf carts have no door and seatbelts are accessories. The utility vehicles have more flexibility and can be used during storms to carry chainsaws & gas and are American made. In addition, they can pull small trailers, like what Public Works use for tree work, etc.

Other Considerations:

The other thing I considered was depreciation value. American made & UTVs will hold value vs. an imported model. The availability of parts and service was another factor. If we had to build a golf cart, lead time is about 4 months out. A few dealers want to unload 2024 models vs. a 2025 model. The UTVs are ready for purchase.

Estimated Budget:

Two UTVs: \$33,000

Upfitting: \$5,014.90 (lights and winch)

Decals: \$500.00

Estimated Total Budget: \$38,514.90

Budget Amendment Requirements:

Add \$40,000 to the Police Impact Fee Fund (142), Law Enforcement Account (521), Capital Outlay Vehicle (650).

Possible Motions

The Town Council has the following options:

1. Motions to approve the Police Department purchase of two UTVs and to direct staff to a Budget Amendment

or

2. Motion to deny the Police Department purchase of two UTVs.

Fiscal Impact:

The purchase of the two utility vehicles and equipment will cost an estimated \$38,514.90 and will be paid out of Police Impact Fee Fund (142), Law Enforcement Account (521), Capital Expenditure Vehicle Object (650).

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommend that the Town Council approve the purchase of two UTVs for the Howey-in-the-Hills Police Department in the amount of \$40,000, utilizing available Police Impact Fee funds. The acquisition supports the Department's operational readiness and event safety capabilities by providing effective means of emergency access and mobility during community events.

This investment will improve the Town's preparation for medical incidents in areas with restricted vehicle access and will enhance the overall efficiency and responsiveness of law enforcement personnel. Staff further recommends that Council authorize the Town Manager to execute the necessary procurement actions in coordination with the Police Chief.