



# MEMO

## Fire Department

To: Finance and Personnel Committee  
From: Fire Chief Jacob Carrel  
Date: April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Re: Purchase of Dodge Durango

### **Background information:**

The Fire Department requests approval to purchase a 2026 Dodge Durango through the State of Wisconsin cooperative purchasing contract (#505ENT-M24-VEHICLES-03) awarded to Ewald Motors of Oconomowoc, LLC. This budget item was approved in the 2025 Capital Budget. The vehicle will serve as the primary day-staff vehicle for chief officers. The Department's prior chief vehicle, a Chevrolet Impala, has been reassigned to the Fire Inspector, a new position established this year.

### **Authority and Policy Compliance**

Wis Stat. §16.73 authorizes the Wisconsin Department of Administration to enter into cooperative purchasing agreements with municipalities for equipment and permanent personal property. Section 4-106 of the City's Purchasing Policy recognizes State of Wisconsin cooperative purchase contracts as a valid procurement method.

### **Best-Value**

Pursuant to Section 4-106, the following demonstrates that the State of Wisconsin cooperative contract provides the best value to the City for this purchase: The State of Wisconsin awarded Contract #505ENT-M24-VEHICLES-03 to Ewald Motors of Oconomowoc through a publicly advertised Request for Bid (RFB #28411) conducted by the Department of Administration, with pricing that reflects statewide purchasing volume and competitive evaluation. The Dodge Durango is well-suited to the operational needs of fire department chief officers, providing all-wheel-drive capability, interior space for equipment, and the durability required for command and response functions.

### **Strategic Plan:**

#### Create a Community of Choice

This purchase advances the Strategic Plan objective to Create a Community of Choice, and specifically the tactic to maintain a safe and healthy community. Equipping fire chief officers with a vehicle suited to command and response functions supports the

Department's ability to maintain flexible responses and service levels amid a growing community.

People Management Plan

Providing appropriate tools and equipment for the chief officers also supports the objective of creating a People Management Plan. Reliable, purpose-appropriate apparatus contributes to employee engagement and reflects the City's commitment to equipping staff with the resources needed to perform their duties effectively.

**Budget:**

The cost of this vehicle is \$38,955, funded through the approved 2025 Capital borrowing.

**Staff Recommended Action:**

Staff recommends forwarding this request to the Common Council with a recommendation to approve the purchase of a 2026 Dodge Durango from Ewald Motors of Oconomowoc, LLC, through the State of Wisconsin Cooperative Purchasing Contract at a cost of \$38,955, and to authorize the Fire Chief to execute the purchase agreement and related documents.