

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 19, 2025

TO: Melissa R. Marsh, City Manager

FROM: Sean P. Ballantine, Director of Public Services
Gregory Lelito, Fire Chief
Ray Gilson, Deputy Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Replacement of Vehicle #704

The FY 2024-25 Budget includes funding for the scheduled replacement of Vehicle 700, a fire department utility vehicle.

In anticipation of the addition of the Deputy Fire Chief position, DPS and Fire Department staff met to determine future vehicle needs, and properly align the fleet of administrative and utility vehicles. Vehicle 704 has been kept in reserve status as a “run until fail” holdover from the August 2014 flood, and was recently sold in order to obtain peak resale value. With funding programmed into next year’s budget, the proposed measure is to purchase 704’s replacement now, and 700’s replacement in the next fiscal year, planning for a downsize to a midrange pickup or SUV.

Vehicle purchasing through the City’s historic channels remains difficult if not impossible, as the auto manufacturers are still providing little to no order availability for government purchasing contracts, and continue to suffer from severely reduced inventory and supply chain issues. This has resulted in Staff, particularly Motor Pool Supervisor Dan Yamarino and Deputy Fire Chief Ray Gilson having to pursue new and creative ways of meeting the City’s needs, including purchasing available vehicles “off the lot” with government pricing. Through diligent communication, we were able to find a vehicle which would fit the needs of the new Deputy Fire Chief position. Although the vehicle is over the currently budgeted amount, savings are available in the Fire Department line account to cover the overage.

Staff therefore recommends that Council approve the purchase of one 2025 Ram 1500 Crew Cab as quoted in the amount of \$49,087 from LaFontaine Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Lansing through the MiDeal Cooperative purchasing agreement.

City of Madison Heights
Department of Public Services
801 Ajax Drive
Madison Heights, Michigan 48071