

MEMORANDUM



TO: ERICK ZINSER
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY/ CHIEF OF POLICE

FROM: MICHAEL RHATIGAN, FLEET ASSET MANAGER

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDED PURCHASE OF NON-HYBRID POLICE EXPLORERS

DATE: MARCH 5, 2024

Mayor and Council –

Please see the below recommendation to proceed with the purchase of three (3) gas powered Police Explorers as Ford does not know when they plan on building more hybrids.

- Victor

Since COVID, automaker supply chains have been greatly affected by the lack of available parts to build vehicles. This has affected or delayed the City from purchasing vehicles for all departments. Ford recently released a letter to customers stating they cannot fulfill any 2023 or 2024 Hybrid Explorer orders (attached). The City has three (3) 2023 Hybrid Explorers on order and cannot order any 2024 hybrid models. Due to the hybrid engine supply chain constraints, the 2023 order has been pushed to at least 2025.

This manufacturing constraint has created a problem with the replacement schedule of the police patrol units. As it stands, Ford has no estimated time to resume production of the Hybrid Explorers. While hybrids have been able to reduce fuel consumption for the police patrol fleet, the DPW- Fleet Division recommends that gas engines be purchased this year since it is unknown when hybrid models will become available again. Lunghamer Ford of Owosso currently has three (3) 2024 non-hybrid Explorers available for purchase on their lot. The Fleet Division recommends on an upcoming March 18th agenda that City Council consider the purchase of these three (3) non-hybrid vehicles to replace the patrol units coming out of service this year.