



09/01/21

Memorandum

To: Steve Giesbrecht, Borough Manager  
Cc: Mayor Jensen and Members of the Borough Assembly  
From: Chris Cotta, Public Works Director  
Re: Police Vehicle Purchase – Early Replacement of Unit 96

The FY22 approved Borough budget includes replacement of one Police Patrol Unit (#56). This is one of two Ford Explorers that were in service with the dept. The replacement for Unit 56 has been ordered and is expected to arrive sometime this winter. The other Ford Explorer, #96 was evaluated and extended for 2 years during the FY21 budget process. It was due to be replaced during the FY23 budget cycle, however for a variety of reasons the Motor Pool is recommending an early replacement of this vehicle.

As with the other Ford Explorer Patrol Unit, #96 has historically had higher maintenance costs and more downtime than what is expected for critical service equipment. Recently, it has experienced multiple failures of major systems which have resulted in significant maintenance expense and extended downtime. At present the unit is in Ketchikan having the power steering module replaced and computer reset. This is work that cannot be handled locally and fortunately there is a shop in Ketchikan that is able to perform the necessary procedures.

The Motor Pool Dept would normally not have gone to these lengths to repair a vehicle nearing the end of its service life, however availability of new vehicles has been low and we do not know how quickly we will be able to obtain another unit. Due to the extended lead time not only for police-type vehicles but also the accessories needed to outfit them, we feel an early replacement recommendation is the best way to proceed in this instance. This will maximize our chances of obtaining a replacement unit for #96 before it becomes unserviceable and must be retired.

Alaska Sales and Service of Anchorage (the State's Chevy fleet dealer) has supplied a quote for a 2022 Tahoe equipped as per the requirements of the Petersburg PD. This quote is attached for reference. Both the Tahoe and the listed upfit equipment are priced via the current State of Alaska contract pricing. Total cost of the vehicle would be \$57,274. This includes the vehicle price of \$40,670, upfit equipment at \$15,339, and shipping estimated at \$1,265 via Alaska Marine Lines. We may be able to ship the vehicle via ferry at less cost, however given the uncertain status of ferry service from Juneau it is best to budget for barge shipment just in case.

Code Section 4.04.040 (Exceptions to Bidding), Section G States: *When it is advantageous to the borough to enter into a contract with a bidder for the same supplies or services such bidder is providing another Alaskan local government, the state of Alaska, a cooperative purchasing association composed of government agencies, or the United States, where such supplies, equipment or services are being provided to the other governmental unit or association on the basis of competitive bids submitted; and*

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*where the borough contract is on substantially the same terms as those bid; or to contract with or through such other governmental unit or association so that the benefit of the responsible bid accrues to the borough;*

This proposed vehicle replacement adheres to Borough purchasing code and meets an ongoing need of the Police Dept. Although this proposed purchase was not budgeted in FY22, the Police Dept's Motor Pool reserves are sufficient to fund this purchase in full. The FY22 Motor Pool budget will not need to be increased since some planned expenditures have been eliminated or have fallen/will fall in other budget periods. See attached FY22 Motor Pool Budget Replacement Summary with highlights showing these changes.

For the preceding reasons, Public Works recommends award of this vehicle purchase to Alaska Sales and Service, of Anchorage, in the amount of \$57,274. If you agree with this recommendation, please forward it to the Borough Assembly for consideration at their next regular meeting on September 7, 2021. Thank you.

Attachment: Alaska Sales & Service Quote (5 pages)  
FY22 Motor Pool Replacement Budget Summary with highlights – 1 page

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