

Memo

To: Town of Saratoga, Town Council

From: Emery Penner, DPW

CC: Other recipients

Subject: Purchase of Ford pickup truck (Public Works Director vehicle)

Date: January 7, 2026



Councilors,

The purpose of this memo is to request approval to purchase a Ford pickup truck (with a lockable truck cap) to support the Public Works Director position and its hybrid field/office duties.

Quick Highlights:

- Cost (OTD, with 4-year protection): \$28,398.00
- Year: 2018
- 4 x 4
- V8 Coyote Engine, based off old school 302. Higher horsepower than original, dual overhead cam instead of single.
- 81,000 miles
- Truck cap for tool coverage

- White (matches our other vehicles)
- Money in budget at time of adoption, spread across multiple departments

Vehicle / Purchase Summary:

- Vehicle: 2018 Ford F-150 (as listed on the dealer quote).
- Purchase includes a truck cap that provides weather protection and lockable storage for the truck bed.
- Dealer quote totals:
 - • Without protection package: \$23,507.00
 - • With 4-year protection package: \$28,398.00
 - • Difference attributable to protection package: \$4,891.00 (plus doc/DMV as itemized on the quote).

Operational Need (Public Works Director/Planning and Zoning Admin Position):

The Public Works Director/Planning and Zoning Admin role is a hybrid position with a variety of responsibilities (field work, some labor, and office-based administration). This position must reliably:

- Carry tools, equipment, lasers/levels, PPE, site plans, and field documentation during project seasons.
- Visit project sites and building sites routinely while carrying out daily job duties.
- Operate in changing conditions (weather, mud, dust) while keeping equipment secured and protected.

The lockable truck cap is a significant value-add because it provides secure, weather-protected storage for tools and equipment without requiring daily loading/unloading. Adding a cap later could cost from 2k to 4k.

Why a Shared Vehicle is Problematic:

Sharing a single vehicle with another position creates recurring operational problems and reduces efficiency:

- Mobility and scheduling conflicts: unexpected field needs cannot wait for vehicle availability. (Have used Subaru, but this is used for all employees to go out of town, taking samples, training, classes etc. Plus has no bed. Currently using personal Dodge Dakota.
- Different equipment loads and storage needs: specialized gear cannot be reliably staged if the vehicle must be cleared daily.
- Uniform/PPE and job-function differences: the vehicle must remain configured for the Public Works Director's hybrid workflow. Higher level of cleanliness required due to uniform requirements.
- Reduced readiness: frequent unloading/reloading adds time and increases the chance that critical equipment is missing when needed.

Warranty / Protection Highlights (4 years):

The selected protection package provides extended mechanical and electrical coverage for up to 48 months or 48,000 miles with a \$200 deductible. The platinum warranty can be used at any ford dealership. It is extremely comprehensive and covers almost everything on the vehicle.

Why Paying More for Newer / Lower Miles Does Not Make Sense:

This purchase is for a municipal role with low annual mileage. Paying an additional \$15,000–\$20,000 for a newer vehicle with 25k–40k miles (depending on package) does not make sense for me under these circumstances especially for the proposed use. The reasons I think so are listed below.

- The Town is unlikely to fully realize the value of the mileage advantage at low annual miles.
- Short downtime for repairs will not materially affect service levels or revenue production for the Town.
- There is no explicit or practical way to calculate a private-sector style equity investment/ROI strategy for this position in a municipality.

Accordingly, the appropriate standard is to purchase something reliable, efficient, and fit for purpose—at a competitive price and with strong protection to control risk—rather than paying a large premium for mileage the Town is unlikely to utilize.

Estimated Trade-In Value at the end of the warranty (4 years / +20,000 miles):

Based on typical depreciation patterns for full-size pickups and assuming only an additional 20,000 miles of use this is probably very high, an estimated trade-in value in four years is approximately \$17,000 (actual value will vary with condition and market).

Conclusion / Requested Action:

This Ford pickup (with lockable cap) is an appropriate, purpose-built vehicle for the Public Works Director's/Planning and Zoning hybrid field/office role. It is competitively priced even when compared to similar styles in other brands such as Chevy and Dodge. With the selected protection package, provides a solid fit for the needs of the position along with comprehensive mechanical coverage for the next four years. Which at that point the vehicle could be traded in or continued to be in service.

Requested action: Approve the purchase of the Ford pickup truck as outlined above (OTD \$28,398.00 with protection package). I could pick the vehicle up in Idaho on Jan 19.



Features

Where You're Covered

Coverage is effective anywhere within the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii and Canada. You're covered even if you're traveling or you move to a different city.

You're Covered

When a repair can't be made by your selling dealer, the program administrator can utilize its national corporate credit card to make immediate payment to the repair facility for a covered repair.

Maximum Benefits

There's no yearly limit on the number of claims that can be made, subject to service contract maximums.

Reasonable and Convenient

This economical coverage can be included in your monthly loan or lease payment.

Transferable Coverage

All coverage plans are fully transferable within 30 days from the date of sale of your vehicle if the remaining portion of the original manufacturer warranty has not been reduced or voided. A transfer fee will apply.

Self-Service Claim Portal

Visit our user-friendly website for all your Lithia & Driveway Vehicle Service Contract needs: vehiclecareplan.com. You can have instant access to your Lithia & Driveway Vehicle Service Contract, locate a preferred repair facility, initiate a claim, track claim status or just email questions to our experienced customer service representatives.

Maintenance Requirements

You're required to perform maintenance services to your vehicle as outlined within the Owners Manual for your vehicle. You're required to retain copies of all maintenance receipts during the term of Lithia & Driveway Vehicle Service Contract.



Provider and Administrator

State	Company
CA	Motor Warranty Services of North America, California License, #0E40891
FL and OK	Automotive Warranty Services of Florida, Inc., Florida License #60023 , Oklahoma License #44198051
NH	Consumer Program Administrators, Inc. dba Consumer Warranty Program Administrators
TX	Consumer Program Administrators, Inc. dba The Administrators of Consumer Programs, Texas License #175
WA	Provider: National Product Care Company Administrator: Consumer Program Administrators, Inc.
All Other States	Consumer Program Administrators, Inc.

**All located at 175 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60604
1-800-533-8136**

Limitations of Coverage

The purchase of the Lithia & Driveway Vehicle Service Contract is optional. This document provides general information about the Lithia & Driveway Vehicle Service Contract and should not be solely relied upon when purchasing coverage. Please refer to the Lithia & Driveway Vehicle Service Contract for details of terms, conditions and specific coverage details, including limitations and exclusions. Certain conditions and components are excluded, such as inadequate maintenance or loss of coolant or lubrication of the vehicle, pre-existing conditions (N/A in GA), corrosion and parts designed for limited life such as bulbs, filters and brake pads. **Replacement parts may be new, used, non-OEM or remanufactured.**



Reorder Number:
LITHIA-VSC-BRO (R 12/21)

GA12206A-1221