



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: April 15, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Christopher Gorsky, Administrative Services Director

SUBJECT: New Fleet Vehicles

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider Acceptance of Four (4) New Police Vehicles, Two (2) New Fire Engines, and One (1) New Street Sweeper Into the City's Fleet.

BACKGROUND:

The police vehicles are the first of 10 new police vehicles that have been acquired as part of a new leasing program for the City of Sonora. In a bid to enhance public safety and fortify law enforcement efforts, The City of Sonora has recently embarked on a transformative journey, replacing aging police vehicles that were past their prime. The city administration's decision to lease new police cars marks a significant step towards modernizing our law enforcement fleet and ensuring our officers are equipped with reliable vehicles to serve and protect the community effectively. The police vehicles received this week are the first of 10 police vehicles that have been acquired as part of a new leasing program for the City of Sonora. It has been nearly 20 years since we last were able to update with a fleet of new patrol vehicles. The last major purchase were used Ford Crown Victorias purchased from surplus after the completion of the Salt Lake Winter Olympics in 2002. Since then, the City has purchased vehicles one at a time, through grants or donations. For the last 15 years, the City's fleet has been aging, now with an average age of 16 years, costing more money to maintain and operate as gas efficiencies and safety has improved dramatically. This has led to issues with officers having had several vehicle breakdowns, which has not helped our employee retention issues. The City of Sonora wants to be an employer of choice and to achieve that goal we need to provide modern, safe equipment for our employees.

The new fire engines replaced fire trucks that were over 20 years old and nearing their end of life. Some of the city's CDBG funds needed to be used by a certain date to meet the timeliness requirement from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The CDBG program, administered by the Sonora Community Development Department, provides federal funds to local governments for the development of viable communities by addressing their housing, public facilities, and economic development needs.

The street sweeper was purchased as a replacement for another aging piece of equipment. The old sweeper was purchased in 2001 and had reached its end-of-life as the costs for maintenance, such as brush replacements and rust, made it economically viable to purchase a new efficient model, saving as much as 50% in fuel costs. The State, through the California Air Resources Board, has also mandated the retirement of older diesel equipment requiring agencies to upgrade their fleet to comply. The new sweeper is more compact, so it can navigate the narrow Sonora streets, is safer to operate, and is much quieter.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Police vehicles have been leased with repurposed General Fund resources, as the City had savings from the deletion of a maintenance department, and Measure Y funds, the new sales tax passed by voters in November 2022.

The Fire engines were purchased using Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG).

Measure I Funds, the ½ cent tax measure passed by Sonora voters in 2005, were used to purchase the street sweeper