



## Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date: June 3, 2025

Agenda Item: Police Departments Vehicle Replacement Plan

Staff Contact (name, email, phone): Rachelle Blitch, [rblitch@whitewater-wi.gov](mailto:rblitch@whitewater-wi.gov) , 262-473-1380

### BACKGROUND

(Enter the who, what when, where, why)

The Police Department is currently managing an aging fleet. In an effort to develop a more strategic and cost-effective replacement schedule, staff engaged with Enterprise to explore the potential benefits of a vehicle lease program for the City.

Following several discussions and a thorough evaluation, staff concluded that an alternative approach would provide a more advantageous solution—both in terms of accelerating fleet turnover and meeting the Department’s need for additional vehicles.

The attached documents detail the proposed vehicle replacement schedule, estimated costs, and projected cash flow impacts for your review and consideration. The current model is conservative, and we initially assumed the use of new vehicles for training purposes. However, we are open to considering the purchase of newer used vehicles or repurposing one of the pickup trucks once it has reached the end of its useful life within the patrol fleet.

Training vehicles are utilized by staff—including civilian personnel—for travel to out-of-town trainings or academy assignments.

In anticipation of the manufacturers’ allocation requirements, and to meet the May 23rd deadline, we proactively submitted orders for two Ford Explorers. This action does not obligate the City to expend funds at this time; rather, it secures our place in the production queue. Without placing these preliminary orders, we would risk being unable to acquire these vehicles in 2026 due to limited availability.

### PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

5/27/2025 – Approved by the Finance Committee to recommend approval by Common Council

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

The associated costs would be incorporated into the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) section of the 2026–2027 Biennial Budget. Staff has determined that a one-time borrowing of approximately \$396,000 would be sufficient to initiate the program. Ongoing support for the program is expected to be sustained for 10 or more years using the additional funding approved through the recent referendum.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

---

Staff respectfully recommends approval of the proposed vehicle replacement schedule. The recommended vehicle replacement schedule offers a fiscally responsible and operationally effective approach to modernizing the Police Department's fleet. It addresses current deficiencies, ensures long-term sustainability, and leverages recent voter-approved funding to minimize future financial impact.

---

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED
------------------------

(If none, state N/A)
----------------------

- |                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| 1. Vehicle Replacement Schedule |
| 2. Projected Cash Flows         |
-