



Council Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 05/05/2026

Agenda Item: Squad Purchase Request

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BACKGROUND

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

The Police Department is requesting to purchase two (2) vehicles consistent with the squad purchasing plan previously approved by the Finance Committee. This purchasing plan involves purchasing vehicles outright and cycling vehicles out of the fleet prior to becoming high mileage with higher maintenance costs.

The request is to purchase one marked Chevy Tahoe (patrol squad) and one unmarked Ford Transit Van (multi-purpose vehicle). The Ford Transit van would be a multipurpose vehicle utilized by all sworn staff members for events such as; crime-scene processing, tactical team deployments, drone/UAV deployments and Mobile Command at incidents.

The Chevy Tahoe would be a marked patrol vehicle replacing the Ford F150 currently used as a supervisor patrol vehicle, bumping that vehicle into the Community Service Officer vehicle. The current CSO vehicle would then be auctioned using Wisconsin Surplus.

The Ford Transit van would replace an older Ford Explorer in the Detective Bureau fleet which would then be utilized as an unmarked patrol vehicle replacing the 2021 Chevy Tahoe in the patrol fleet that has 83,353 miles on it.

The Ford Transit van holds its value well and is expected to last the Police Department a minimum of 10 years. Chevy Tahoes have a higher resale value than Ford Explorers, which is why it is the model of choice to replace the current supervisor squad. Our current Ford Explorers are auctioning for around \$2,500. Karl is proposing to take the retiring 2021 Chevy Tahoe on a trade if we purchase through them and will give us an estimated \$15,000 for this older vehicle. Staff believe that is the most cost-effective option for the 2021 Chevy Tahoe, however, it could be auctioned through Wisconsin Surplus as well if necessary.

As in previous years, we are requesting to make this order in the year prior due to delays in receiving vehicles from the manufacturers and outfitters. The request to purchase the squad cars now will secure pricing and build timeline but won't have an impact on the budget until 2027 when our department would take possession of the vehicles. The purchase order window closes May 8th, 2026.

Bids Received for one (1) Marked Patrol Squad:

- **Karl Emergency Vehicles**: 2026 Chevy Tahoe base vehicle cost **\$54,740.20**. Karl Emergency Vehicles is also an all-in-one complete outfitter for emergency vehicles that purchases aftermarket add-ons in significant bulk, providing reduced costs to departments. Total upfit cost through Karl is **\$14,168.92** with graphics costing an additional **\$1,244.83**.
 - Option one (1) if purchased through Karl. Estimated complete cost for one (1) marked squad (*without trade in*) is **\$70,153.95**.
 - Option two (2) if purchased through Karl. Estimated completed cost for one (1) marked squad (*with trade in of retired 2021 Chevy Tahoe*) is **\$55,153.95**.
- **Ewald Automotive Group**: 2026 Chevy Tahoe base vehicle cost **\$54,661.00**. Costs for decals completed by Eagle Media at approximately **\$1,500.00** and additional upfitting completed with 10-33 Vehicle Services is **\$15,683.79**.
 - Estimated complete cost for one (1) marked squad if purchased through Ewald and upfitted by 1033 is **\$71,844.79**.

Bids Received for one (1) Ford Transit Van:

- **Karl Emergency Vehicles**: One (1) 2026 Ford Transit-350 Cargo RWD High Roof HD Van costing **\$52,975.00**. Karl Emergency Vehicles is also an all-in-one complete outfitter for emergency vehicles that purchases aftermarket add-ons in significant bulk, providing reduced costs to departments. Total upfit cost through Karl is **\$15,769.39**.
 - Estimated complete cost for this vehicle purchased through Karl is **\$68,744.39**.
- **Ewald Automotive Group**: One (1) 2026 Ford Transit-350 Cargo RWD High Roof HD Van costing **\$52,489.00**. Additional upfitting cost through 10-33 Vehicle Services **\$44,025.37**.
 - Estimated complete cost to purchase this vehicle through Ewald and upfit through 1033 is **\$96,514.37**.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

Finance Committee previously approved the cyclical replacement cycle as outlined beginning with purchasing these six vehicles in 2026.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

Total cost of one (1) Chevy Tahoe squad car and one (1) Ford Transit van squad car depending on the options chosen range from \$123,898.34 (including \$15,000 trade-in) to \$168,359.16.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Recommend Council approval to place the order for both the fully marked Chevy Tahoe and Ford Transit van through Karl Emergency Vehicles along with trading in the 2021 Chevy Tahoe the Police Department is looking to retire. Total cost, approximately **\$123,898.34**.

Recommended Motion: **Move approval for purchase of one (1) Chevy Tahoe squad car, one (1) Ford Transit van, and trade in the retired 2021 Chevy Tahoe through Karl Emergency Vehicles.**

ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

1. Karl Whitewater PD VAN UPFIT - W-LIGHTS JB 15478 Squad quote
 2. Karl 2026 Ford Transit Van quote
 3. EWALD 2026 FORD TRANSIT T350 HIGH ROOF HD EL 148 WB RWD DRW CARGO Van quote
 4. 10-33 Vehicle Services Van Upfit Quote
 5. 10-33 Fully Marked Supervisor Vehicle Upfit Quote
 6. Ewald 2026 CHEVROLET TAHOE 4WD PPV quote
 7. Karl 2026 Chevy Tahoe Sales Proposal
 8. Karl Fully Marked Squad Upfit costs
 9. Karl Whitewater_Police-Chevy_Tahoe_Graphics
 10. Karl sales proposal with Trade in of old squad
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