



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: August 6, 2013

Prepared By: Sydnia Crosbie **Phone #:** (512) 854-7682

Division Director/Manager: Cynthia McDonald

Department Head: Steven M. Manilla, P.E., County Executive-TNR

Sponsoring Court Member: County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE: Receive briefing on vehicle replacement costs for total loss vehicles

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

On Tuesday, July 30, 2013, the Commissioners Court raised concerns about the increased costs to replace vehicles that have been deemed total losses. Judge Biscoe has asked that the Court be informed as to the reason for the increased costs. In addition, the Court requested that staff look into the possibility of the replacement vehicles being similar to the vehicle being replaced. (Because Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptors are no longer being manufactured, the current practice is to replace them with Chevrolet Tahoes.)

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Continue purchasing Chevrolet Tahoes for TCSO patrol vehicles.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Cost Comparison for Law Enforcement Vehicle

	Vehicle Cost	Equipment Cost	Total Cost
FY13 Tahoe	\$27,240	\$17,748	\$44,988
FY12 Tahoe	\$26,700	\$19,372	\$46,072
FY11 Crown Victoria	\$24,344	\$11,406	\$35,750

In 2011, Ford discontinued manufacturing the Crown Victoria used by TCSO as the primary patrol vehicle. A committee comprised of members from TNR and TCSO analyzed the vehicle choices available at the time and recommended the Chevrolet Tahoe for the following reasons:

- Comparable price – The sedan replacing the Crown Victoria was selling for \$24,500 and the Tahoe for \$25,000.
- Interior space – The replacement sedans were all smaller in size than a Crown Victoria. This would make it difficult to fit all of the required equipment in a

smaller unit along with a prisoner. It was recommended that a larger unit be purchased and the Tahoe was the cheapest of the larger options.

- Proven track record – With the exception of the Tahoe, all the other options were new models that did not have a track record of being used successfully for patrol.
- Ground clearance – Due to the terrain of the areas TCSO patrols, greater ground clearance was needed. The replacement sedans did not meet this requirement.

Although the vehicle prices were similar, there were a few additional costs incurred by selecting the Tahoe. In addition to the standard equipment purchased for a Crown Victoria, additional lights (\$1,000), a cage (\$300) and a storage vault (\$1,800) are required in a Tahoe. Those costs total approximately \$3,100.

Simultaneously, Travis County changed its purchasing method due to revisions in the rules for capitalizing equipment. Purchases and installation of the equipment was done piecemeal by a few vendors in the past. Beginning in FY12, a completely rigged out vehicle is purchased at an additional cost of approximately \$3,000 - \$4,500 per vehicle. However, the entire vehicle is able to be capitalized instead of incurring costs in the General Fund.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS:

N/A

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Cynthia McDonald	Financial Manager	TNR	(512) 854-4239
Steven M. Manilla	County Executive	TNR	(512) 854-9429

CC:

:
: **0101 - Administrative -**