



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: August 13, 2013

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

Division Director/Manager: Cynthia McDonald, Financial Manager

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

Sponsoring Court Member: County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE: Receive briefing and take appropriate action regarding the replacement of law enforcement patrol vehicles.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

On Tuesday, July 30, 2013, the Commissioners Court raised concerns about the increased costs to replace patrol vehicles that have been deemed total losses. Judge Biscoe asked that the Court be informed as to the reason for the increased costs. Since Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptors are no longer being manufactured, the current practice is to replace them with Chevrolet Tahoes.

This decision was vetted through the Vehicle User Committee, TCSO, and TNR. The following vehicles were evaluated:

<u>SEDAN</u>	<u>UTILITY</u>
Chevrolet Impala	Chevrolet Tahoe
Chevrolet Caprice	Ford Utility
Dodge Charger	
Ford Interceptor	

Prices were reviewed, specifications were analyzed and the vehicles were test-driven before a decision was reached by the committee. In addition, several area agencies were surveyed. Of the seven surveyed, five have transitioned to Chevrolet Tahoes since the Crown Victoria has been discontinued. Prices for those agencies range from \$42,000 to \$54,000 (Exhibit A).

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Continue purchasing Chevrolet Tahoes for TCSO patrol vehicles as appropriate.

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 viable replacement sedans were all smaller in size than the Crown Victoria. This would make it difficult to fit all of the required equipment and electronics 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.
- Construction – The Ford vehicles have a unibody construction which makes them difficult to repair in case of an accident. One agency has seen an increase in the number of patrol vehicles deemed a total loss as a result of this issue.

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 lighting was added to reduce the risk of rear-end collisions while the vehicle is parked on the scene (\$1,000), a cage to separate the prisoner seating area from the rear storage area (\$300), and a storage vault to secure weapons and other valuable equipment in the absence of a vehicle trunk (\$1,800) are required. 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 were 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:

Travis County purchases patrol vehicles utilizing a BuyBoard contract. This ensures the best price is received and allows the County greater flexibility in rigging out the vehicles. In addition, the County earns a rebate on its total annual purchases from BuyBoard.

ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS:

- A: Agency cost comparison
- B: Standard equipment list for patrol vehicle

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Cynthia McDonald	Financial Manager	TNR	(512) 854-4239
Steven M. Manilla	County Executive	TNR	(512) 854-9429
Michael Joyce	Fleet Division Manager	TNR	(512) 854-4658

CC:

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**Exhibit A
Area Agency Cost Comparison**

COUNTY	DPS	BAXER COUNTY	TARRANT COUNTY	HARRIS COUNTY	HAYS COUNTY	WILLIAMSON COUNTY	CITY OF AUSTIN
Director	Dan Stang	Pat Crossno	Joylee Russell	Robbie Rausin	Steve Cost	Randy Rodgers	Mark Boyds
Division Manager	Fleet Manager Assistant	Fleet Manager	Fleet Manager	Fleet Asset Manager	Fleet Manager	Fleet Manager	Wireless Shop Manager
Vehicle	Ford Crown Victoria	Ford Crown Victoria	Ford Crown Victoria	Ford Crown Victoria & Chevrolet Impala	Dodge Charger	Ford Crown Victoria	Ford Crown Victoria
Model	Chevrolet Tahoe	Chevrolet Tahoe	Chevrolet Tahoe	Undecided	Chevrolet Tahoe	Chevrolet Tahoe	Ford Utility Interceptor
Year	N/A	\$35,000*	\$30,500*	\$41,570	N/A	N/A	\$65,000
Price	\$33,969	\$35,000	\$25,729		\$28,600	\$39,509	\$30,000
Other Costs	\$11,229	County ITS installs computer, radio, camera	Department supplies additional equipment		\$25,000	\$2,500	\$32,000
Total	\$45,198	\$49,833	Unknown		\$53,600	\$42,009	\$62,000
Quantity	92	Unknown	13	194	22	58	73

Exhibit B Standard Equipment List for Law Enforcement Patrol Vehicle

Qty	Description
1	OVERHEAD LIGHTBAR (TRAVIS COUNTY SPECS)
1	SIREN SPEAKER
1	SIREN/LIGHT CONTROL PANEL
2	SIDE WINDOW LIGHT - RED/BLUE
2	REAR SIDE WINDOW MOUNTING BRACKET
2	MINI LED WARNING LIGHT (R&B) REAR LIFT GATE
1	MINI LIGHTBAR (R&B) TAILGATE
1	18" CONSOLE WITH FACE PLATES& BASE PLATE
1	INTERNAL CUP HOLDER
1	ARM REST
1	SIDE MOUNT DOCKING STAND FOR LAPTOP COMPUTER
1	COIN TRAY
1	DIGITAL CAMERA W/BODY MIC WITH 32 GB - SDHC
1	ADDITIONAL - FLASH MEMORY CARD - 32 GB - SDHC
1	CAMERA CRASH SENSOR WITH WIRING HARNESS AND PIGTAIL
1	REAR SEAT (PRISONER) CAMERA
1	WINDOW BARRIERS STEEL HORIZONTAL BARS
1	POLYCARBONATE CENTER SLIDER WINDOW WITH EXPANDED METAL INSERT
1	RECESSED PANEL (SPACE SAVER)
1	PAIR, 20", 14 GAUGE STEEL EXTENSION PANELS (FOR USE WITH RP 57T07 RECESSED PANEL)
1	CHARCOAL GREY ABS, CONTOURED TRANSP. SEAT W/ 7 GA. STEEL SCREEN WINDOW CARGO BARRIER & SEAT MOUN
1	DUAL GUN MOUNT ON PARTITION WALL, NO LOCKS WITH BUTT PLATES
2	UNIVERSAL GUN LOCK
2	FLAT PLATE TO MOUNT GUN LOCK
2	CHARGER SLEEVE ASSEMBLY FOR FLASH LIGHTS
2	12V DC DIRECT WIRE CHARGE CORD
1	5 LB. FIRE EXTINGUISHER W/ BRACKET
1	GRILL GUARD WITH 4 LIGHTS (2 FACING FRONT/2 ON SIDES)
1	WRAP AROUNDS FOR GRILL GUARD
1	GRAPHICS TSCO GRAPHICS PACKAGE
1	THREE DRAWER STORAGE CABINET
1	DELIVERY/SHIPMENT OF OEM SEATS/D. PANELS/REAR SPEAKERS
1	GPS ANTENNA
1	BLACK 15 USB 2.0 EXTENSION CABLE
1	AIMS KIT II (COUNTY FUELING SYSTEM)
1	TINT WINDOWS
1	RIGHT SIDE INTERSECTOR - UNDER MIRROR, BLUE
1	LEFT SIDE INTERSECTOR - UNDER MIRROR, RED
2	DOME LIGHT RED/WHITE
1	LIFT GATE BOTTOM LED LAMP, RED
1	LIFT GATE BOTTOM LED LAMP, BLUE
1	BACK UP SENSOR
1	IMPRES VISOR MICROPHONE RADIO
1	PUSH BUTTON (PTT) RADIO
1	WIRING HARNESS (CUSTOM BUILT)
1	SPOTLIGHT, DRIVER'S SIDE
1	DUAL BATTERY