



Police Department

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CHIEF OF POLICE

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To: Patrick Bryant, City Manager
From: Chief Harry Hess
Date: 07/07/2022
Ref: PD Fleet information and Request to Purchase Vehicles

Fleet Overview

The Avondale Estates Police Department currently deploys 15 marked patrol vehicles and one unmarked CID vehicle. Of the 15 marked patrol vehicles, three were decommissioned prior to my start in April of 2022. Since I started, I have decommissioned one additional marked patrol vehicle and the unmarked CID vehicle due to the overwhelming cost of repairs. I have reserved one vehicle solely as a spare marked patrol vehicle. This spare vehicle is only used for emergencies if an officer's vehicle needs repairs. This leaves only 10 marked patrol vehicles and one spare for use by the department.

The following is a list of the current fleet with year make model and milage as of June 2022.

CP-01	2006	FORD	CVPI	152393
AE-09	2008	DODGE	CHARGER	
AE-10	2009	DODGE	CHARGER	
AE-11	2010	DODGE	CHARGER	
AE-12	2012	DODGE	CHARGER	104478
AE-14	2012	DODGE	CHARGER	107550
AE-15	2013	DODGE	CHARGER	88966
AE-16	2014	DODGE	CHARGER	80290
AE-17	2016	DODGE	CHARGER	65571
AE-18	2017	FORD	PI SEDAN	53247
AE-19	2020	FORD	PI UTILITY	36032
AE-20	2020	FORD	PI UTILITY	19653
AE-21	2020	FORD	PI UTILITY	16000
AE-22	2020	FORD	PI UTILITY	23325
AE-23	2021	FORD	PI UTILITY	12048
AE-24	2021	FORD	PI UTILITY	9486



The department has a staff of 15 full-time sworn officers and one part-time officer. Of the fifteen full-time officers, 12 are assigned to the patrol division utilizing the marked patrol vehicles, one sergeant in CID which was assigned the unmarked vehicle, one part-time officer which does not have an assigned vehicle, and three administrative positions which do not have access to a vehicle.

Fleet Maintenance

When I started, I quickly realized that the automotive repair shop performing our fleet maintenance was only addressing issues which we brought to their attention and not completing any routine preventive maintenance. An example of this was with a unit which was in the shop prior to my start date with a bad radiator. The repair shop only replaced the radiator and did not inspect the rest of the system. They failed to notice slug in the reservoir indicating other issues which could have been resolved while replacing the radiator. This oversight caused the vehicle to overheat after the repairs which caused engine damage.

To resolve any further issues, I have set up fleet accounts at a Dodge dealership and Ford dealership to conduct all future maintenance work on the fleet. This move may cost more for the work, but every time a vehicle goes in it receives a full inspection and I am notified of all preventative services by manufacture.

The remaining Dodge Chargers have been in service prior to having assigned vehicles for officers. These vehicles have higher driven mileage, but many of the mechanical concerns are due to these vehicles being run seven days a week and in some cases 24 hours a day seven days a week.

Fleet Replacement Schedule

The requested replacement schedule for police vehicles moving forward will be driven by the model year, mileage, and mechanical condition of the vehicles. Emergency response vehicles are expected to be in service for seven years or 100,000 miles. This life span is in part due to the stop and go nature of the job and extreme use responding to emergency calls for service. Additionally, life of the vehicle can be shortened due to lack of care or preventative maintenance being performed.

Idling

To decrease the hours of use on the engines of the fleet, I have advised our officers to turn the vehicles off when not on calls for services and away from their vehicles. This has brought to light some technical issues with our systems due to battery saving settings with our computers,

camera systems, and internet access. I am currently working on settings to keep our systems on longer while also saving batteries, but this is a work in progress which I am sure will be resolved.

In-Car Cameras

Only the marked patrol units purchased from 2019 forward have working in-car camera systems. When purchasing these newer vehicles, the previous administration went with the Axon camera systems for both body cameras and in-car cameras. The issue with the older vehicles not having working in-car cameras is that the camera view is only of that from the body camera which often only captures the steering wheel. Moving forward all marked units will be outfitted with the Axon in-car cameras which will capture the rear seat area for prisoner transports and out the front windshield. The cameras will provide a one-minute loop prior to any activation. By continuing to use the Axon camera systems for body cameras and all marked units is that they are activated by Axon's trigger system technology which includes holster draws and TASER activations. Any camera in the area of a trigger being sensed will activate all cameras regardless of the officer or vehicle.

Request to Surplus

I am requesting to surplus the following vehicles:

- CP-01 – 2006 Ford Crown Victoria due to milage and estimated cost of repairs of \$7,000.00
- AE-09 – 2008 Dodge Charger due to this vehicle being decommissioned prior to my arrival
- AE-10 – 2009 Dodge Charger due to this vehicle being decommissioned prior to my arrival
- AE-11 – 2010 Dodge Charger due to this vehicle being decommissioned prior to my arrival
- AE-16 – 2014 Dodge Charger due to estimated cost of repairs of \$20,000.00

Once approved for surplus, these vehicles will be stripped of all equipment and sold on an auction site with proceeds coming back to the General Fund Account.

Request to Purchase

Admin Vehicles

I am formally requesting to purchase the following administrative vehicles from Wade Ford:

- 2022 Ford Edge - \$34,601.00 + \$2,200.00 for the 5-year 100,000-mile warranty + \$3,008.00 for the emergency equipment upfit. **Total of \$39,809.00**
- 2022 Ford Edge - \$34,850.00 + \$2,200.00 for the 5-year 100,000-mile warranty + \$3,008.00 for the emergency equipment upfit. **Total of \$40,058.00**
- 2022 Ford Ranger - \$27,448.00 + \$2,200.00 for the 5-year 100,000-mile warranty + \$3,212.00 for the emergency equipment upfit. **Total of \$32,860.00**

All three of these vehicles will be equipped with emergency lights and a radio which the agency has as spares (no cost for the radios). One of the Ford Edges will be issued to the Chief of Police and the other will be issued to the CID Sergeant. The Ford Ranger will be issued to the Deputy Chief of Police. When looking at vehicle options for these positions it was determined that they

do not need a pursuit rated vehicle of the Ford Police SUVs which resulted in savings. Additionally, there are cost savings for these vehicles due to the lack of need for certain upfit equipment needed for marked vehicles.

Marked Patrol Vehicles

I am formally requesting to purchase six (6) 2022 Ford Utility Police Interceptor vehicles. The cost per vehicle is \$34,313.00 totaling \$205,878.00. The upfit of emergency vehicles will be \$21,396.00 each totaling \$128,376. The grand total for six marked vehicles is \$334,254.00. The upfit does not include the in-car video system from Axon. The in-car video systems for these six vehicles are in addition to our current contract with Axon. The additional cost for these systems will be \$7,611.18 which will be due upon approval and \$15,222.39 additional cost in January of 2023 and 2024 when the current contract costs is due.

The vehicles will be white in color and have a V-6 engine and not a hybrid engine due to Ford not producing any additional hybrids this year. Selecting the V-6 engine also gave a \$3,083.00 in savings for the vehicles alone. Additional cost savings were found by using a different outfitter than the past and not purchasing RADAR units for these new vehicles. The cost savings was \$9,104.00. The vehicles will be upfitted like everything that the current Ford SUVs have minus the RADAR units. The RADAR units were removed due to not every officer being certified, but more importantly to change the image of the agency being a speed trap. The graphic package is also included in the upfit cost where in the past another vendor completed the graphics at an unknown additional cost. Finally, new radios are not being purchased for in the vehicles which were purchased in the past, and we will just remove them from the old vehicles and reinstall them in the new.

Purchasing Options

Total cost of nine vehicles with extended warranty and upfit is \$470,330.00

The Ford Motor Company offers a lease program for state and local governments to assist with the initial upfront cost of purchasing this number of units at once. The program allows for term lengths of four to five years with maintenance packages available. The benefit of this program is the ability to obtain needed vehicles immediately and spread the cost over several years. This would allow the City of Avondale Estates to reserve funds for other projects where leasing is not an option. At the end of the lease, the city will pay \$1.00 to own the vehicles. Additionally, through the Ford lease program, the vehicle upfit can be included thus outside the lease payments the only additional cost will be for the in-car cameras through Axon.

The Ford Motor Company's proposal is currently \$9,225.11 a month over 60 months at 6.79% interest. This would be a total of \$110,701.32 annually and a total of \$83,176.60 in interest for the life of the loan.

Ameris Bank can offer financing for this expenditure. The estimated terms from Ameris are 60 months at 4.29%. The monthly payments will be \$8,723.53 totaling \$104,682.36 annually. The interest for the life of the loan will be \$53,081.36. Additionally, there is an upfront cost for the attorneys to prepare the loan documents in the amount of \$5,000.00

Georgia Municipal Association also offers financing for this proposal. Their offer is at 3.26% interest over 60 months. Additionally, they are offering two payment options. The first is an annual payment of \$103,462.32, but the interest is compounded which causes an increase of \$1,382.28 over the second option of monthly payments. If chosen, the monthly payments will be \$8,505.67 for a total of \$102,080.04 annually, with a \$6,911.40 savings in interest for the life of the loan.

The city also has the option to pay for these vehicles upon delivery of each unit for a total of \$470,330.00.

The vehicle warranty options can be leased or purchased for an additional cost per vehicle. I would recommend that the extended five-year 100,000-mile warranty be purchased for all vehicles to reduce future maintenance cost once the factory warranty of three-years 30,000 miles expires.



Harry Hess, Chief of Police
Avondale Estates Police Department