



Agenda Report

Fullerton City Council

MEETING DATE: JULY 6, 2021

TO: CITY COUNCIL / SUCCESSOR AGENCY

SUBMITTED BY: STEVE DANLEY, ACTING CITY MANAGER

PREPARED BY: ROBERT DUNN, CHIEF OF POLICE

SUBJECT: ASSET SEIZURE FUNDS TO MODERNIZE POLICE FLEET

SUMMARY

Staff requests City Council approval to use \$121,036.02 of Asset Seizure Fund Balance to purchase three police vehicles.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Appropriate receipt and use of \$121,036.02 Asset Seizure Funds (Fund 34) and authorize necessary budget adjustments.
2. Approve use of available Asset Seizure Fund balance to purchase three unmarked police vehicles.

PRIORITY POLICY STATEMENT

This item matches the following Priority Policy Statements:

- Fiscal and Organizational Stability
- Public Safety.

FISCAL IMPACT

Using Asset Seizure Funds to purchase police vehicles reduces the impact on the General Fund. The City has received asset seizure money and the funding is available. Staff recommends appropriating the funds and approve budget adjustments to purchase the police vehicles.

DISCUSSION

In the past three years, the Police Department has worked to modernize its aging fleet. The Department has identified several areas needing vehicle upgrades. Two areas have emerged with an immediate need.

The Traffic Bureau needs an unmarked pursuit-rated SUV to respond to fatal and near fatal traffic collisions. This vehicle must carry the requisite tools and equipment to investigate these types of collisions while still able to respond to emergent situations.

The unmarked detective / administrative fleet has languished since the last economic downturn. The fleet has twenty-nine unmarked vehicles, including utilitarian vehicles for Property and Evidence. Vehicles in the detective fleet range in age from 2004 to 2020 with roughly 65% of the detective fleet over ten years old. Many of these vehicles have had mechanical failures and often require towing, sometimes multiple times per month. To remain efficient, the Police Department needs to replace many of these vehicles with reliable and capable options.

The Police Department uses nearly all of the annual General Fund allocation for the police fleet to replace marked police vehicles. The replacement of unmarked police vehicles remains unfunded in the current budget. The Asset Seizure Fund (Fund 34) provides a one-time funding solution to purchase the vehicles. The Department has more than five vehicles needing replacement but will focus on replacing the three most unreliable vehicles. The Police Department will make similar future requests for these types of expenditures as the Police Department and Public Works continues to assess the Police fleet.

The Police Department's Asset Seizure Fund results from narcotics seizures by Fullerton narcotics officers, often in cooperation with federal agents, and processed through and shared with federal or state agencies. These funds provide important additional resources for the Police Department. The City may only use these funds for law enforcement purposes to supplement and enhance, not supplant, appropriated agency resources.

The Police Department proposes to purchase two unmarked police vehicles from Wondries Fleet Group in Alhambra at approximately \$39,101.41 (2020 Ford Police Utility Hybrid) and \$49,659.83 (2022 Chevrolet Tahoe LS) respectively. The City would purchase the unmarked police vehicles under the Sourcewell (formerly NJPA - National Joint Powers Alliance) public cooperative purchasing agreement master vehicle contract #120716-NAF which allows cities, educational institutions and non-profits to utilize NJPA's Request for Proposal process to purchase vehicles already competitively bid.

The nationwide scarcity of new vehicles due to an automotive chip shortage has made sourcing the three new vehicles a challenge. New car inventory across the country is low and prices of used vehicles have climbed nearly 30% according to published reports, most recently discussed in the Orange County Register (June 21, 2021).

The Wondries SUV fleet currently has only the previously referenced Ford Police Utility available for sale as a result of the South Pasadena Police Department ordering the vehicle and later deciding not to purchase it. Staff will order the Chevrolet Tahoe directly from the factory since there is currently no local inventory.

The third unmarked police vehicle, a 2020 GMC Acadia, will also be assigned in the unmarked detective / administrative fleet. It will replace a vehicle totaled in a non-preventable, not at fault collision involving Fullerton Police undercover detectives. The lack of inventory of new cars, specifically SUVs, also makes locating this vehicle a challenge.

The department did a search for new SUVs within 50 miles, specifically a GMC Acadia or Chevrolet Traverse (which are comparable GM products), in an effort to be as cost effective as possible. Three different dealers offer these vehicles, all model year 2020, as “dealer loaners”. These dealers are offering to sell the loaners as new vehicles simply due to the lack of new car inventory at each dealership. One of the three likely vehicles located is already scheduled for sale on June 24, 2021. The department has selected to purchase the lowest priced 2020 GMC Acadia which also has the lowest miles of all three, at approximately 1,700 miles.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – City of Fullerton Quote- Chevrolet Tahoe
- Attachment 2 – City of Fullerton Quote- Ford Police Utility
- Attachment 3 – City of Fullerton Quote- GMC Acadia 1
- Attachment 4 – City of Fullerton Quote- GMC Acadia 2
- Attachment 5 – City of Fullerton Quote- GMC Acadia 3