



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – October 30, 2024 Agenda Item 7

Work Session

Single Reading Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of 12 Marked Police Fleet Vehicles

Recommended Council Action

Review and approve the ordinance authorizing the vehicle purchase.

Context with Key Issues

In accordance with the City's practice to replace vehicles pursuant to its vehicle replacement policy, the Police Department proposes the replacement of 12 marked patrol fleet vehicles (three carried over from FY24 and nine scheduled to be purchased in FY25); #280, #304, #305, #308, #310, #312, #323, #324, #326, #328, #329, #334. All of the vehicles being replaced have either been deadlined or are recommend to be deadlined by the City's Fleet Review Committee. All of the vehicles being replaced are conventional gasoline vehicles. The proposal is to purchase 12 marked conventional gas vehicles (Ford Explorer SUV's) to replace 12 marked gas Ford Explorer SUV's, and to outfit them with emergency equipment and radios.

All purchases will be done on established rider contracts, as outlined in City Code under 7.08.070 Procurements exempt from competitive bidding. These proposals were reviewed and approved by the Fleet Review Committee in accordance with the Vehicle Replacement/Addition/Transfer Policy and schedule. Funding for this purchase is included in the FY24 budget.

The 12 vehicles being purchased will be utilized by our Patrol Services Division for high visibility patrols throughout the city.

Staff evaluated the possibility of purchasing electric vehicles; however, the City currently lacks sufficient charging infrastructure to support electric vehicle purchases for staff assigned to Patrol. Additionally, the electric vehicle that was purchased by the Police Department for evaluation and consideration for a larger EV conversion has not demonstrated that electric batteries are capable of holding a charge that would last an officer's full shift while maintaining the necessary operations, nor does the City currently have sufficient on-site charging stations, nor required off-site charging locations.

Staff also evaluated the purchase of Hybrid vehicles. There is significant backlog for acquisition of Hybrid police vehicles. We are still awaiting delivery of five Ford Hybrid pursuit-rated vehicles that were approved by the City Council for purchase and ordered in FY22.

There are several issues that have caused the delays in manufacturing the five vehicles and other Hybrid police vehicles. The first delay was due to slowdowns in production during the COVID pandemic and later due to a computer chip shortage. These delays persisted into FY23 due to a shortage of rear axles and fuel tanks, and in FY24 due to production issues specific to the components of the Hybrid battery. Ford cannot provide any date for a possible build of these five vehicles. This issue is not unique to the Takoma Park police department. Agencies in the region and nationally are experiencing the same delays.

Staff from the Police Department and Public Works reached out to numerous dealerships across the country inquiring about the availability of Hybrid patrol vehicles. No dealership had any availability of Hybrid patrol vehicles or any anticipated timeline in which they would be available. All back orders, including our order of five vehicles in FY22, will need to be satisfied before any new orders can be made. The only pursuit-rated patrol vehicles currently available to purchase with an anticipated time line for delivery are conventional gas vehicles. Gas powered Ford SUV's have turnaround for delivery after purchase of 8-12 weeks.

Several vehicles in our fleet are in desperate need of replacement. Two-thirds of our patrol vehicles are recommended to be deadlined. Many have already been taken out of service, leaving us short of spare vehicles needed. These vehicles are breaking down frequently which is causing increased maintenance costs. In addition, paint on many of the vehicles is chipping and the graphics are fading, which does not support the professional image of our police department.

The purchase and acquisition of the twelve vehicles is critical to police department operations. We are at the point where our vehicles are unsafe. Due the condition of the vehicles and the need to deadline several of them, the Police department will reach the point that we do not have enough patrol vehicles to patrol the city if new vehicles are not purchased.

We currently have sixty (60) vehicles assigned to the Police Department. Almost half of the vehicles assigned to the Police Department fleet (28) are recommend to be deadlined. Ten (10) of these vehicles, while still assigned to the police fleet, are not in service. These ten (10) vehicles are in the process of being deadlined and sold. That leaves the Police Department with fifty (50) vehicles available for operations.

We currently have thirty (30) marked patrol vehicles within the police department. Two-thirds of our marked vehicles (20) are recommended to be deadlined. Twenty-seven (27) of the vehicles are assigned to sworn officers and three (3) are utilized as spare vehicles. Twenty-four (24) of the vehicles are gasoline and six (6) are Hybrid.

We have twenty (20) operational unmarked vehicles. Thirteen are Hybrid and three are EV's. These vehicles are assigned to command staff (six), to our detectives (six), our parking enforcement (two), property and evidence van (one), ERT van (one), and five are spares.

The Police Department will continue working with the vehicle replacement committee to develop an infrastructure plan to allow for the full conversion of all of the City's vehicle fleet to hybrid and electric as vehicles are replaced. However, at this point the need to provide public safety services to the residents of the city outweigh the potential benefits of purchasing Hybrid patrol vehicles, as opposed to gasoline vehicles.

Council Priority

A Livable Community for All; Engaged, Responsive and Service-Oriented Government

Environmental Considerations

The proposed vehicles have conventional gasoline engines. All are being replaced with conventional gasoline engine.

Fiscal Considerations

The price of the twelve Ford Patrol SUV's, to be purchased through Hertrich Fleet Services on a Howard County Contract is \$563,496 (\$46,958 x 12). The cost to outfit the vehicles with all emergency equipment through Frontline Mobile Tech on a Howard County Contract is \$228,860 (\$21,801 x 4 for vehicles equipped with arrestee transport barriers and \$17,707 x 8 for standard-equipped vehicles). The cost of the radios, to be purchased from Motorola Solutions on a Montgomery County Contract, is \$80,511.24 (\$6,709.27 x 12). The funding of the twelve vehicles will come from the Equipment Replacement Reserve (ERR).

The total proposed purchase price for the fully-equipped vehicles will be \$872,867.24. \$903,000.00 was allocated from the ERR (\$73,000 per vehicle for FY24 x/3 and \$76,000 per vehicle x/9 for FY25) to purchase the twelve vehicles. Due the lower cost of purchasing gasoline vehicles as opposed to Hybrid vehicles, the twelve vehicles have come in under the allocated budget in the ERR, by \$30,132.76. The \$30,132.76 savings will remain in the ERR and can be used to offset increased potential costs increases as the City transitions to electric vehicles.

Racial Equity Considerations

This purchase will not disproportionately impact any particular group.

Attachments and Links

- Draft Single Reading Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of 12 Ford SUV patrol vehicles from Hertrich Fleet Services, with outfitting by Frontline Mobile Tech and radios from Motorola Solutions

Introduced by:

Single Reading Ordinance

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
ORDINANCE NO. 2024-**

AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE POLICE VEHICLES

WHEREAS, the Police Department plans to replace twelve marked police gasoline patrol fleet vehicles in accordance with the City's vehicle replacement policy and the review by the Fleet Review Committee; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2025 budget has funds in the Equipment Replacement Reserve Account that will be used for the purchase; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department proposes to acquire 12 police gasoline patrol vehicles from Hertrich Fleet Sales at a cost of \$563,496 and to outfit the vehicles through Frontline Mobile Tech at a cost of \$228,860. The radio's will be purchased through Motorola Solutions at a cost of \$80,511.24. The total cost for the vehicles will be \$872,867.24; and

WHEREAS, the quoted vehicle pricing is based on a Howard County contract. The outfitting pricing is based on a Howard County contract, and the quoted price for the radios is based on a Montgomery County contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT:

SECTION 1. The City Manager or his designee is authorized to enter into an agreement with Hertrich Fleet Sales for the purchase of twelve vehicles, with Frontline Mobile Tech for the outfitting, and with Motorola Solutions for the purchase of radios.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2024 by roll-call vote as follows:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: