



**Purchasing Contract
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 19
AGENDA DATE: Thu 05/06/2004
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SUBJECT: Authorize execution of a contract through the Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments (HGAC) with their contract vendor PHILPOTT MOTORS LTD., Nederland, TX, for the purchase of four police pursuit sedans for Austin Police Department and two administrative sedans for Austin Fire Department in an amount not to exceed \$164,334.52.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding in the amount of \$39,124.84 is available in the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Approved Vehicle Acquisition Fund of the Finance and Administrative Services Department. Funding in the amount of \$125,209.68 is available in the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Approved APD Incident Management Program and will be reimbursed through an interlocal with Capital Metro.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

REQUESTING Purchasing
DEPARTMENT: for Police; Financial and
Administrative Services;
Purchasing; Financial and
Administrative Services - Fleet
Services;

DIRECTOR'S
AUTHORIZATION: Vickie Schubert

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Fudge, Supervising Sr. Buyer/974-2033

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

PURCHASING: Purchasing Cooperative.

MBE / WBE: N/A

This contract is for four additional Ford, Crown Victoria police pursuit sedans for Austin Police Department (APD) and two replacement Toyota, Prius sedans for the Austin Fire Department (AFD). The four police vehicles will be assigned to the Strategic Traffic Analysis Response (STAR) unit to improve traffic safety. The Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Cap Metro), through its interlocal agreement with the Austin Police Department, will fund the purchase.

APD will begin a stealth car enforcement program during the summer of 2004 to improve traffic safety so that motorists can travel more safely and efficiently on Austin roadways. It will utilize fully equipped, unmarked police units to enforce aggressive and impaired driving laws. These cars will blend in with other traffic and facilitate the apprehension of violators. This program will operate during both daytime and nighttime hours.

These vehicles will be used to target aggressive driving violations such as speeding, running red lights, cutting in and out of traffic, tailgating, and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. These violations are the most prevalent causative factors in collisions and merit additional attention. The cars will also be used by the Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) unit to conduct covert DWI enforcement when not in use by the other unit.



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The four police units will vary in color and will be equipped with a video recording device, mobile data computer, police radio, internal LED lights and siren, and a fold-down prisoner cage. The traditional APD decals will be subdued to blend in with the color of the car. This design will allow the police unit to blend in with traffic yet still afford the officers reflective APD identifiable vehicles protection at night.

These vehicles will be extremely useful given the on going construction on Austin roadways. Traffic delays increase motorists' drive times and increase driver frustration and aggressive acts. The traffic fatality rate during the first four months of 2004 is surpassing that of the trend over the past several years, and APD is taking additional steps to curb this trend. These vehicles are vital to the success of APD's plan to address the increasing number of fatalities and serious injury collisions. The target areas for this program will be the major thoroughfares that generally have consistently high volume traffic traveling at highway speeds.

The two Toyota Prius sedans will be assigned to AFD Inspections and Investigations Divisions. The Inspection Division uses this type vehicle for transportation to perform sprinkler inspections in night-clubs, new construction, and to issue Certificates of Occupation. The Investigation Division needs a sedan to respond to any suspicious fire incidents, as well as attending court proceedings when required. The Prius sedans will replace a 2002 year-model Prius totaled in a wreck and a 1996 Chevrolet Caprice with serious mechanical problems that are no longer economically feasible to repair any further.

Philpott Motors is under contract with HGAC to supply these vehicles statewide as a result of a competitive bidding process. Utilizing the HGAC contract provides volume discount pricing as well as the earliest opportunity to get the City's equipment ordered.