

## **MEMORANDUM**

To:

Mayor and City Council

From:

Michael McDonald, Deputy City Manager

Date:

December 7, 2012

**Subject:** 

Council Item to Purchase New Police Vehicles

On December 13, 2012, the City Council will consider an item to purchase ninety-seven additional police vehicles – ninety-one replacements and six additions. As you may recall, in 2011 the Council approved the purchase of additional vehicles for deployment in FY12 due to the forthcoming discontinuation of the Ford Crown Victoria, which has long served as the Austin Police Department's standard patrol vehicle. Acknowledging this soon-to-be discontinuation, the department was charged with using FY12 to evaluate potential replacement options. After thorough assessment, the department has recommended the Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle (PIUV) to replace the Crown Victoria as its new standard patrol vehicle. Of the ninety-seven vehicles included in this purchasing item, sixty-seven will be the newly recommended PIUV. This vehicle has many notable advantages and benefits, all of which are outlined in the attached memo detailing the department's findings and recommendations.

Should you have any questions, please let me know.

Attachment: Memo from Austin Police Department – Selection of FY13 Police Vehicles

x.c. Marc A. Ott, City Manager Ray Baray, Chief of Staff Art Acevedo, Police Chief Gerry Calk, Fleet Officer



## **Austin Police Department**

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To:

Michael McDonald, Deputy City Manager

From:

Art Acevedo, Chief of Police

Date:

**December 4, 2012** 

Subject:

**Selection of FY13 Police Vehicles** 

In 2011, City Council approved APD's purchase of additional replacement patrol vehicles to deploy in FY12 since Ford was ceasing production of the Police Crown Victoria. These additional vehicles were deployed during FY12 as scheduled. During this same time, APD conducted an analysis of potential replacement vehicles for the Crown Victoria patrol car. This memo documents our findings and recommendation based on this analysis.

As you know, the Ford Crown Victoria has been APD's standard patrol vehicle for well over a decade; the recent decision by Ford to discontinue the Crown Victoria prompted APD to evaluate other vehicle options as a replacement.

The APD Fleet and APD Technology units have concluded their evaluations of these options and selected the Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle as the future APD standard patrol vehicle. The City Fleet Department has concurred with this selection.

Other vehicles considered were the Dodge Charger, Chevrolet Caprice, Chevrolet Tahoe, and Ford Police Interceptor Sedan. These vehicles were rejected for various reasons, including:

- Dodge Charger The Police Technology Unit stated that the trunk access and space in this vehicle was insufficient to house the myriad of electronic and other equipment used by Patrol officers; the vehicle is also more expensive than the Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle. This vehicle does not offer E85 in the 8 cylinder model.
- Chevrolet Caprice this vehicle was eliminated from further consideration because the gear shift lever is mounted on a center console which would prevent the installation of existing radio and computer equipment; the vehicle is also more expensive than the Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle.
- Ford Police Interceptor Sedan this vehicle was rejected because of minimal ground clearance, inadequate rear seat room for safely securing and transporting prisoners, and reduced front seat room for officers. It is slightly less expensive than the Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle but the fuel economy is almost identical (within 1 mpg according to Ford).



The Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle was selected for several reasons, including:

- Adequate room for electronic and other equipment.
- Adequate room for safely and securely transporting prisoners.
- All-wheel drive for improved handling, especially in adverse weather conditions.
- Higher ground clearance is expected to reduce maintenance costs associated with undercarriage damage.
- Fuel economy estimates that exceed the current generation of Crown Victoria and is comparable to or better than the other current options.
- Uses E85 Fuel.
- Cost was better than all current options except the smaller Ford Police Interceptor Sedan.
- The vehicle has an increased ground clearance but is still stable in emergency driving situations.
- Some existing equipment in the existing Crown Victoria will fit and can be utilized in the Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle.

For comparison purposes, APD made an inquiry with the Department of Public Safety Fleet Division regarding their vehicle evaluations. DPS Fleet utilizes over 2700 marked vehicles. Their primary replacement vehicle will be the Dodge Charger. It should be noted that DPS has different space requirements for their patrol vehicles; for example, they do not utilize prisoner cages in the vehicles and they mount less equipment in the vehicle itself. Also, as previously noted, the Dodge Charger is considerably more expensive than the Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle. DPS Fleet indicated that they will be buying numerous Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicles primarily for north Texas and the panhandle region; they were doing this because the Utility Vehicle's all-wheel drive is expected to perform better in the weather conditions common in that area. DPS was not purchasing any Ford Police Interceptor sedans.

For FY13, APD has been allocated six new additional patrol vehicles to accommodate the new officer positions that were authorized by Council. All remaining vehicles will be purchased to replace high-mileage vehicles or vehicles that have been permanently removed from service due to collision damage or mechanical failure that is not cost effective to repair.

For FY12, only a limited number of non-patrol vehicles were purchased. This occurred because two vehicle purchasing periods were authorized in FY11 – the first of these occurred as usual in the early part of the year; the second occurred later in the year so that APD could obtain a supply of Crown Victorias before Ford discontinued manufacturing them. The vehicles purchased in the second purchase were in lieu of the annual patrol car purchase for FY12. Had Ford not ceased production in 2011, these vehicles would have been purchased in FY12. With the exception of 17 new additional vehicles for authorized additional FTEs, all of the other vehicles purchased in FY11 were scheduled and used to replace existing vehicles that were either at the end of their life cycle or were damaged beyond repair.

In FY10, only 75 replacement vehicles were purchased.

xc. Brian Manley, Assistance Chief of Police

