

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:** FLEET REPLACEMENT PROGRAM – POLICE UTILITY PATROL VEHICLES

**BACKGROUND:**

Bids recently were solicited for two Police utility patrol vehicles. Because of the immediate need for two replacement vehicles, the bid documents asked for the vehicles to be able to be delivered within two weeks. In addition, the solicitation asked for prices and preferred options to assure that the features on the new vehicles are consistent with the existing patrol fleet.

Bids were received from dealers as follows:

Bidder	Description	Price for two Units	Preferred Options Extra Cost	Total
Stiver's Ford Lincoln	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	\$56,136	\$557.56	\$56,693.56
Charles Gabus Ford	Ford Police Interceptor Utility	\$57,100	\$1,960.00	\$59,060.00

Funding is available in the patrol replacement fund in the amount of \$379,250.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve and award this contract to Stiver's Ford Lincoln of Waukee, for two Ford Interceptor Utilities for \$56,693.56.
2. Approve and award this contract to Charles Gabus Ford for two Ford Interceptor Utilities for \$59,060.
3. Reject award of bid.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

In a report presented on February 23, 2016, staff advised the City Council its desire to purchase larger Utility vehicles for the Police Department in lieu of the smaller Sedans that have been purchased in the past. It was pointed out in this report that the estimated

life-cycle cost of the Utility would be approximately \$2,755 more than the standard Sedan. However, because of the need for greater space for the officers, passengers, and storage that the Utility vehicles offer, the additional cost per vehicle was warranted.

Having been made aware of the impact of idling on the overall efficiency of operating a patrol vehicle, staff experimented with various idling mechanisms that are on the market. Hoping that the operating costs on a Utility could be reduced with this type of add-on equipment, two idle management devices were used in a comparative study. The lowest cost option showed no tangible benefits, while the higher cost unit, with an extra heater and battery, did reflect improvement in vehicle mileage for the Utilities.

While reducing idling, the higher cost unit did create some officer safety issues due to operating incorrectly. One example of this is related to the windows frosting over due to issues with the heater fan. Fleet Services staff believes that these issues relate to the vendor's equipment not being able to communicate correctly with a newer version of the vehicle. Based on the results of the study, the staff is not supporting the use of add-on idling devices on patrol vehicles. It is expected that in the near future idling controls will be built into the standard police package.

It should be noted that the one Utility vehicle without an idling device in our study registered 9.7 miles per gallon, while the average fuel consumption of the other standard Sedans in our patrol fleet is slightly less at 9.6 miles per gallon.

**Although the estimated life-cycle cost of the Utility police vehicles is greater, the ability to accommodate the much needed additional space makes it preferable over the standard Sedan. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council support Alternative #1 thereby approving the award of this contract to Stiver's Ford Lincoln of Waukee, for two Ford Interceptor Utilities for \$56,693.56.**