

ITEM #: 26  
DATE: 01-23-24  
DEPT: Fleet

### COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: FLEET REPLACEMENT PROGRAM - POLICE PATROL UNITS**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Police Department has been using Ford Police Utility Interceptors as patrol vehicles for the last several years. The last two orders consisted of hybrid units. In the last two years, supply chain issues have made obtaining police vehicles and parts very difficult. Ford has announced that vehicles manufactured in the current model year, 2024, will only be available to fill previous orders from 2023 that went unfilled. In August 2023, Staff solicited bids for these vehicles, but did not receive any bids.

The lack of available parts and replacement vehicles for Police is uniquely problematic. While the service life of a typical City vehicle can be extended several months without significant issues, normal operations for police vehicles subjects them to increased wear and tear and a shorter lifespan. Additionally, these vehicles are more susceptible to collisions. Since August 2023, one patrol vehicle was taken out of service due to an accident and a previously retired unit was returned to service.

Due to these issues, Police and Fleet Services staff explored opportunities to obtain replacement vehicles. Staff recently learned that Stiver's Ford was receiving delivery of model year 2024 units that were available for purchase (presumably from orders placed by another agency, then canceled). Stiver's offered the City the opportunity to purchase up to two units at a cost of \$45,034 per unit, and could deliver them in March or April. **These units would be non-hybrid and purchased according to Stiver's specifications.** Also, Stiver's would require that any upfitting or switching of equipment would have to be done by Stiver's.

**Staff reviewed the proposed terms and verified that the price of the units and upfitting was appropriate compared to staff's previous experience with police vehicles. Additionally, staff contacted other Ford dealers in the area to inquire if any dealers either had vehicles available or if they could guarantee delivery of a vehicle in a similar timeframe. No other vendor had units available or could guarantee an order would be fulfilled.**

**While staff would prefer to have hybrids, the current climate of purchasing new units does not make that possible. Staff expects that the order bank for the 2025 units will open soon and a bid will be placed for hybrid units. The two new vehicles that will be purchased with this action will make sure that we have patrol units available until we can rotate to all hybrid units. Currently there is \$512,000 in escrow for the purchase and upfit of patrol units.**

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Waive the Purchasing Policies and Procedures requirement for competitive bids and award a contract for two Ford Police Interceptor Utilities to Stiver's Ford of Waukee, IA, in the amount of \$90,068.
2. Do not approve the purchase, and direct staff to identify other alternatives for Police vehicles until hybrids can be delivered. **Staff anticipates that hybrid units may not be available for another 12-18 months, at the earliest.**

**CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

With the difficulty in obtaining new patrol units, purchasing these units will allow for safe and reliable units to be in service until a formal bid for hybrids can be done. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, as described above.