

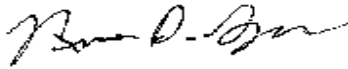
City of Calistoga

Staff Report

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TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Mitchell Celaya, Chief of Police
DATE: June 18, 2013
SUBJECT: Authorization to Purchase Patrol Vehicle for Police Department

APPROVAL FOR FORWARDING:



Richard Spittler, City Manager

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2 **ISSUE:** Adoption of a Resolution to authorize the City Manager to expend Asset
3 Forfeiture funds to purchase a patrol vehicle for the Police Department in the amount
4 not to exceed \$30,000.00.

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6 **RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the Resolution.

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8 **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:** The Police Department has historically operated
9 with seven vehicles. One vehicle is assigned to the Chief, 5 marked vehicles are used
10 for patrol and one unmarked vehicle had been used for transportation to and from court,
11 training evidence lab, and used for under cover operations. This seventh vehicle also
12 had towing capabilities and was used to move the radar trailer. Recently, this vehicle, a
13 1997 Jeep, was transferred to the Public Works Department due to its age and high
14 mileage.

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16 The five vehicles used for patrol are marked police vehicles, outfitted to comply with all
17 California regulations and equipped to handle high speed driving. These vehicles are
18 kept in readiness for response to all emergency needs. These vehicles are often used
19 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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21 Typically, patrol cars are rotated out of use at 80,000 miles. This limit is when the cars
22 start to degrade beyond safe usage, most notably in the area of high speed pursuits.
23 Another significant issue that arises is the increased maintenance issues and financial
24 burdens that occur as the fleet ages. In Calistoga, it generally takes a patrol car about 5
25 years to reach the 80,000 mile threshold.

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The make-up of our current fleet of patrol vehicle is:

Unit #	Year	Mileage	Assignment	
291	2008	65,000	Patrol	Operational
292	2008	73,000	Patrol	Operational
293	2010	50,700	Patrol	Operational
294	2005	116,585	Patrol-K9	Out of Service
295	2007	70,540	Patrol	Limited Service

In the past, the Department purchased one car every year. When the new car was purchased, the oldest car or vehicle in worst condition was taken out of the fleet. The last vehicle was purchased in 2010. It was bought by the Felgenhauer Trust and donated to the Department. In 2011 and 2012 no vehicles were purchased. This has resulted in some vehicles becoming dilapidated and incurring high maintenance costs. Not purchasing new vehicles has also put high mileage on the vehicles, meaning that most will reach the 80,000 threshold at the same time.

For this reason a patrol utility vehicle was submitted for purchase in the FY2013/14 budget proposal. However, due to the condition of the patrol fleet, two patrol vehicles needed to be taken out of service due to engine and transmission issues. First, the existing Patrol K-9 vehicle experienced significant transmission issues and was taken out of service. Vehicle 291 is currently being transitioned to replace the current K-9 vehicle (Vehicle #294). The proposed vehicle purchase in Fiscal Year Budget 2013/14 was to address this issue. Now, a second vehicle (vehicle #295) is operating under limited service due to possible engine and transmission issues. There is a dire need replace this vehicle as patrol fleet is down to four vehicles.

FISCAL IMPACT: The purchase and outfitting cost of a new sedan patrol vehicle and the outfitting of the vehicle is approximately \$30,000. Some of the necessary equipment to complete the outfitting the new vehicle can be re-used from the patrol unit being replaced.

Because the City's Police Department has the same specifications for patrol vehicles as the California Highway Patrol, it has been our practice to purchase replacement vehicles through the automobile dealer (contract vendor) who has already been awarded the State contract for CHP specification patrol cars. By doing this, we can "piggy back" off the CHP contract and are able to purchase a vehicle at the lowest possible price. Folsom Lake Ford Sales is the State contract vendor for the 2013 model year Ford police interceptor vehicle. The purchase price of the patrol vehicle includes certain dealer-installed equipment that renders the vehicle usable as a police vehicle.

Funds in the amount of \$30,000 are available from the Police Department Asset Forfeiture fund. The vehicle purchase and outfitting will not affect the General Fund. This will require transferring out \$30,000 from account #11-4700-4799 into account #15-3299 and making the actual expenditure from account #15-4957-4820. This budget adjustment will be addressed in a separate agenda item.

