

SEQUIM CITY COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

First Discussion Date	Second Discussion Date	Third Discussion Date	Other Dates
Fall / Wtr 2007 Budget Process	February 25, 2008		

MEETING DATE: February 25, 2008

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

THRU: William B. Elliott, City Manager _____
Initials

FROM: Chief Robert L. Spinks _____
RLS
Initials

SUBJECT/ISSUE: Approval of 2008 Police Department Vehicle Replacement Order

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The police department maintains a detailed vehicle maintenance and replacement schedule for both assigned police vehicles and the more specialized use vehicles that the department operates. The current system of assigned vehicles has allowed the Department to get significantly longer life from its vehicles – in many cases police vehicles last up to an in some cases in excess of ten (10) years. In the policing world, that is an extraordinary vehicle long life span – this is directly attributable to our take-home vehicle program.

The approved 2008 police budget includes funding to follow the current police multi-year vehicle maintenance and replacement schedule that lists the replacement of two (2) Crown Victoria patrol vehicles and one (1) unmarked patrol vehicle.

Last year, the Council raised the idea for the police department to evaluate the use of hybrid vehicles when such would be conducive to the stated use of the vehicle. At that time the Council had just begun discussions about climate change and the importance of considering environmental friendly opportunities in City purchases. In keeping with that directive, the police department has looked seriously at how hybrid vehicles could be used in some support or administrative vehicle uses. The Council has the opportunity this year to invest in two hybrid vehicles for police usage in our three vehicle

purchase request or as an alternative all three vehicles could remain as traditional vehicle purchases.

TABLE OF CONTENTS OR LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – [Memo and Survey of Police Hybrid Use](#)

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

The police department utilizes the State of Washington state bid program to purchase new vehicles, making use of volume pricing discounts that the State, as well as counties and cities utilize. No additional local bidding process is required under either state law or city purchasing policies.

To pursue green goals proposed by the city, the Police Department is offering the Council a choice in our purchase:

1. **Option 1 Hybrid Vehicles** - Purchase two (2) unmarked hybrid Ford Escape vehicles for administrative assignments and place those currently assigned vehicles for those two positions in the patrol fleet. The third vehicle would be a traditional fully marked Ford Crown Victoria to replace our current K-9 patrol vehicle.

- or -

2. **Option 2 Traditional Vehicles** - Purchase two (2) fully marked Ford Crown Victoria 4-door sedan police package vehicles and one (1) unmarked Chevrolet Impala police package sedan.

These new purchases will replace a 1999 Crown Victoria patrol vehicle and a 2000 Crown Victoria K-9 patrol vehicle. The 1999 patrol vehicle will have approximately 90,000 miles at the time of replacement and has some significant pending repair work necessary making it unusable (not cost-effective) for future patrol purposes - it will be sold as surplus after its replacement. The 2000 Crown Victoria K-9 vehicle has some useful life left and will be kept as a back-up vehicle for those times the replacement K-9 vehicle may be unavailable such as when it is in for maintenance, damaged, etc. Because K-9 vehicles have specialized equipment such as a built in K-9 cage, having a back-up vehicle is extremely important in order to have continuous use of the dog.

One vehicle replaced by the Ford Hybrid would be Chief Spinks' 2007 Ford Explorer, which would then be re-assigned for use by a patrol sergeant.

One unmarked Chevrolet Impala police package sedan will be ordered as an unmarked unit to replace a 2001 Ford Taurus. The 2001 Ford Taurus was purchased as a used

car from a local car dealer to outfit the Detective's position with an unmarked vehicle. As such it has always lacked the extra electrical and suspension add-on's that a police package state contract vehicle offers. Though the 2001 Taurus is no longer suitable for unmarked police usage it will be retained and used for staff transport. The Taurus has fuel usage of up to 30 mpg and will be used for staff when attending out of town training and meetings as well as used by staff when needed for local travel.

The Hybrid vehicle option is typically limited to non-patrol police type functions. After reviewing available hybrid options the only vehicle that could meet basic police needs is the Ford Escape Hybrid 4-door vehicle; if the City Council opts to purchase the two vehicles used by administrative staff.

Typical gas mileage for SUV's or Crown Victoria vehicles that the Department routinely purchase to outfit the fleet ranges from 8-15 mpg. The hybrid Ford Escape has mileage estimates in the 30-34 mpg range. Using a higher mpg vehicle could save the City as much as \$500-\$1500 per year, per vehicle in gas expenses. These savings should be weighed with future unknown potential expenses such as the replacement of the Hybrid battery (some estimates place that at up to \$5,000). Though Hybrids are used in many governmental settings there are concerns that there may be unknown long-term expenses that may offset the yearly savings in gas costs. Anecdotally, the Prius which uses a similar battery has been around long enough that battery replacement issues have not been a significant hindrance to consumers. Also, warranty options exist to cover battery replacement issues through the 10 (ten) year period the City is likely to maintain the vehicle in its' fleet making this option less risky financially.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

Option 1 – Hybrid Vehicles

The state contract price for the Crown Victoria sedan is projected to be \$25,396.20 with taxes. Funds for this purchase will be drawn from the Criminal Justice Fund under the Machinery and Equipment line item. There will be approximately \$10,000 in additional expenses for equipment and labor for installation to make the K-9 vehicle police ready for use. Equipment includes, but is not limited to: light bars, mobile radios, sirens, k-9 specific cage, consoles, etc.

The state contract price for two Ford Escape HEV Hybrid Small Utility Vehicles totals \$50,848.56 with taxes. Funds for this purchase will be drawn both from the Police General Budget, capital items and the Criminal Justice Fund. There will be an additional approximate \$8,000 each in expenses for equipment and labor for installation to ready these vehicles for police use. Equipment includes, but is not limited to: emergency lights using LED's (for reduced electrical drain), mobile radios, sirens, consoles, etc.

Option 2 – Traditional Vehicles

The state contract price for each of the two Crown Victoria sedans is projected to be \$25,396.20 each with taxes. Funds for this purchase will be drawn from the Criminal Justice Fund under the Machinery and Equipment line item. There will be approximately \$8,000 each in additional expenses for equipment and labor for installation to make each vehicle ready for use. Equipment includes, but is not limited to: light bars, mobile radios, sirens, k-9 specific cage, consoles, etc.

The state contract price for one Chevrolet Impala police package sedan is projected to be \$19,477.80 with taxes. Funds for this purchase will be drawn from the Police General Budget, capital items. There will be an additional approximate \$8,000 in expenses for equipment and labor for installation to ready this vehicle for use. Equipment includes, but is not limited to: light bars, mobile radios, sirens, consoles, etc.

RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1 – Hybrid Vehicles (total estimated cost of \$102,244.76 + estimated fuel savings of \$10,000 to \$30,000 over a 10-year period)

Move to approve the purchase of one Crown Victoria Patrol vehicle at the Washington State bid contract price of \$25,396.20 and the purchase of two Ford Escape HEV Hybrid Small Utility Vehicles unmarked sedans at the Washington state bid contract price of \$50,848.56 including taxes for the police department as well as the purchase of approximately \$26,000 of vehicle equipment and associated labor installation expenses.

-or-

Option 2 – Traditional Vehicles (total estimated cost of \$96,270.20)

Move to approve the purchase of two Crown Victoria Patrol vehicles at the Washington State bid contract price totaling \$50,792.40 and the purchase of one Chevrolet Impala unmarked police package sedan at the Washington state bid contract price of \$19,477.80 including taxes for the police department as well as purchase of approximately \$26,000 of vehicle equipment and associated labor installation expenses.