



Memorandum

To: Members of City Council
From: Richard J. Mastnardo, Jr., Commander
cc: Mayor David E. Weiss
Chief Administrative Officer Jeri E. Chaikin
Director of Law William Gruber
Date: March 3, 2023
Re: Emergency Purchase of Police Vehicles

The Shaker Heights Police Department is requesting approval for an emergency purchase of police fleet vehicles from Statewide Ford not to exceed eleven (11) vehicles. We are seeking approval to forego a formal bidding process due to the availability of inventory and the need to secure orders within a timely manner. We are requesting to use capital funds from years 2022 and 2023 that were appropriated for use by the Police Department for the replacement of police vehicles. The total appropriated amount from 2022 was \$270,000 and 2023 is \$325,000; totaling \$595,000.

The Police Department currently has twenty-three (23) marked police vehicles in the fleet. Ten (10) of the twenty-three (23) marked police vehicles are specialty vehicles, i.e. supervisor, traffic enforcement unit, and canine unit. Therefore, the vehicles available for routine patrol / emergency response by patrol officers is thirteen (13) vehicles. Our patrol division deploys a minimum of six (6) patrol officers 24/7/365. This does not include special events or officers deployed in the field to assist with traffic safety during road repair. On average, we deploy two (2) additional cruisers per day (M-F) to assist with extra-duty construction details. Additionally, we average one (1) vehicle out-of-service each day due to preventive maintenance and repairs.

Patrol officers drive a police cruiser on average 20,000 miles per year. The average life span of a cruiser is 3-5 years, depending on the mileage and engine idle hours recorded. Our fleet maintenance program ensures preventive maintenance checks on each vehicle every three thousand (3,000) miles to ensure all necessary measures are taken to keep our fleet in good working order and to address any repair needs in a timely manner. The preventive maintenance program allows the fleet coordinator to monitor each vehicle and limit the amount of down time each cruiser has due to repair/maintenance.

Over the past three (3) years, we have been challenged with procurement initiatives for police fleet vehicles due to supply chain disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic. Auto manufactures have experienced a global shortage of semiconductors, which has dramatically affected the production of police vehicles. This delay has resulted in extended lead times for orders of police vehicles. Ordering police vehicles from the manufacturer pre-pandemic typically took three (3) months to receive once ordered. To date, we have not received ordered patrol vehicles in over two (2) years. We ordered vehicles last year from Ford Motor Company in early February. The ordered vehicles were placed through the state bid holder for Ohio Procurement, Montrose Ford. The vehicles were scheduled to be built and delivered by June 2022. In late September 2022, Montrose Ford notified us that the manufacturer canceled our order due to their inability to meet supply demand. Montrose Ford advised the Police Department to resubmit their order in hopes of receiving the vehicles in early 2023.

In October of 2022, the state bid holder for Ohio Procurement was awarded to a different Ford Dealership, Chapman Ford. I contacted the representative from Chapman Ford and re-ordered our 2022 fleet order that consisted of five (5) patrol vehicles. Once the re-order was confirmed, the manufacturer and dealer notified us that each vehicle had a price increase of \$9,000 per vehicle, increasing our procurement order in 2022 by \$45,000.

In December of 2022, I ordered an additional six (6) patrol vehicles with the state bid holder, Chapman Ford. The addition of the six (6) patrol vehicles increased our total patrol vehicle order to eleven (11) vehicles for 2022/23 procurement years. Chapman Ford confirmed the orders and advised our police vehicles would be built and delivered in late February or early March of 2023. On March 2, 2023, I spoke with the representative from Chapman Ford and learned our vehicles had not been processed in the order bank with Ford Motor Company and have not been scheduled to be built. I was advised that a timeframe for the vehicles could not be given and a guarantee the vehicles would be built could not be guaranteed.

I learned that Statewide Ford in Van Wert, Ohio had an allocation of over 200 new police vehicles from Ford Motor Company. I contacted their representative, Mr. Tom White, and learned Statewide Ford would be able to fulfill our patrol vehicle order for 2022/23 by the third (3rd) quarter of 2023. Mr. White offered to sell the vehicles for one dollar (\$1.00) under the state bid pricing listed on the Ohio Procurement Contract. He confirmed all eleven (11) vehicles would be equipped with the exact options we initially ordered from Chapman Ford. However, the purchase of the patrol vehicles from Statewide Ford would require the police department to purchase “turn-key” vehicles. A “turn-key” vehicle includes all the up-fitting and equipment required for patrol vehicles, i.e. prisoner partitions, emergency lighting, computer mount, and installation.

The up-fitting costs are required once we purchase a patrol cruiser. Typically, we use an outside vendor to purchase the after-market emergency equipment for the patrol cars, and use a local vendor to install the equipment. The costs associated with up-fitting is around \$17,000 per vehicle. Statewide Ford costs for up-fitting is comparable to what we traditionally pay. Statewide has provided a written quotation to include all necessary emergency equipment, and installation, for \$16,600 per vehicle. That price is competitive to quotations received from local vendors.

The total cost from Statewide Ford for a patrol cruiser outfitted with emergency equipment (excluding graphics, computer, police radio, and in-car camera system) is \$57,518.00. This cost is approximately \$500.00 per vehicle less than what we anticipated paying for cruisers this year. The lack of inventory, and the disruptions and delays with the supply chain, are forcing us to find alternative ways to remain proactive with our procurement process for the police vehicle fleet. The disruptions in supply chain have severely affected our ability to remain proactive with procurement for the fleet. Additionally, consequences of supply chain disruptions are also affecting our preventive maintenance program with the fleet. Our police fleet vehicles are being kept in-service longer, which is increasing our rate of preventive maintenance. The increase in preventive maintenance is creating longer down times for the vehicles due to availability of parts required for preventive maintenance, i.e. brake pads, tires, filters, and normal wear and tear items. Over the past six (6) months, we have taken a vehicle out of service due to a manufacturer defect in the exhaust manifold. This vehicle has remained out of service for months at a time due to the availability of parts required to repair the problem.

Police vehicles play a critical role in public safety. The Shaker Heights Police Department has a long history of maintaining a sound fleet of police vehicles and adhering to the highest standards when it comes to preparedness and public image.

We request City Council's approval to purchase up to eleven (11) police vehicles from Statewide Ford without competitive bidding based on the City's Charter at Article VI, Section 7, and Section 141.03 of the Codified Ordinances. Additionally, we request that City Council pass the legislation on first reading and as an emergency.

WDH/sko

ORDINANCE NO.

BY:

Authorizing a contract with Statewide Ford, without competitive bidding, for the emergency purchase of up to eleven (11) fully-equipped police vehicles, in the total not-to-exceed amount of \$595,000 for the Police Department, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police determined that, due to supply chain disruptions from the pandemic, and the cancellation of the City's 2022 police vehicle order, and failure to accept the 2023 order, by dealerships under the state term contract, the replacement vehicles should be purchased from Statewide Ford, who will guarantee delivery of the replacement police vehicles by the third quarter of 2023; and

WHEREAS, City Council appropriated \$270,000 in the 2022 Capital Budget and \$325,000 in the 2023 Capital Budget for replacement of police vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Statewide Ford has an allocation of 200 new police vehicles from Ford Motor Company and will be able to fulfill the City's patrol vehicle order, including all needed equipment, by the third quarter of 2023 for the purchase of eleven (11) fully-equipped police vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 7 of the City Charter, and Section 141.03 of the Codified Ordinances, authorize Council to approve expenditures of the funds of the City without public bidding in dollar amounts exceeding the limit set by Council in specific cases, such as in the case of urgent emergency and for the public safety; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Chief of Police that the City enter into a contract with Statewide Ford for the emergency purchase of up to eleven (11) fully-equipped police vehicles without competitive bidding, in the total not-to-exceed amount of FIVE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$595,000).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Shaker Heights, State of Ohio:

Section 1. This Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with Statewide Ford for the emergency purchase of up to eleven (11) fully-equipped police vehicles, without competitive bidding, in the total not-to-exceed amount of FIVE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$595,000). Said contract shall be in the form as approved by the Director of Law.

Section 2. This ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare for the reason that it is necessary in the current operation of the City, and the vehicles, which are urgently needed for the public safety, have not been and are not otherwise available, and therefore, this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its enactment and approval by the Mayor.

Enacted

Approved this ____ day of _____ 2023.

DAVID E. WEISS, Mayor

Attest:

JERI E. CHAIKIN
Clerk of Council
coun23/0307StatewideFord-emergencyvehiclepurchase