

CITY OF ALAMEDA

Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Ann Marie Gallant
Interim City Manager

Date: October 6, 2009

Re: Authorize the Purchase of Four Marked Ford Crown Victoria Police
Vehicles Through the Los Angeles County Vehicle Bid Contract at a Cost
Not to Exceed \$100,000.00

BACKGROUND

The Public Works Department is responsible for the Managed Vehicle and Equipment (fleet) Replacement Program. On May 2, 2006, the City Council adopted Resolution 13951 establishing guiding principles for the management of the City's fleet vehicles and equipment. The replacement program is based on the City's fleet replacement criteria, which consider the useful life of vehicles and equipment in terms of age, mileage (or hours), and usage. Vehicles and equipment scheduled for replacement are also reviewed and analyzed for safety history and operating performance to determine if it is appropriate to replace a vehicle or piece of equipment at a later date. In addition, vehicles and equipment are viewed to determine if the minimum use guidelines have been met. As required by the Managed Replacement Program, the Public Works Department has determined that four marked Police vehicles are in critical condition and must be replaced.

DISCUSSION

In Fiscal Year 2007-08, the City Council authorized the purchase of three Dodge Charger marked police vehicles. This particular make and model was a departure from the traditional Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor, which had been the Police Department's marked police vehicle of choice for nearly two decades. The Dodge Charger was selected to replace the Crown Victoria with the expectation that it would reduce fuel consumption and lower emissions.

Actual experience with the Dodge Charger model has not been satisfactory, as incidents of warranty repairs have occurred with greater frequency when compared to the Ford Crown Victoria. Additionally, there are issues associated with emergency equipment installation and functionality that are not present with the Ford. Lastly, there are visibility and ergonomic drawbacks inherent with the Dodge Charger's design, making it more difficult for the police officer to drive on a daily basis. It is for these

**City Council
Agenda Item #4-C
10-6-09**

reasons that the Police Department has recommended a return to the Ford Crown Victoria for its marked patrol fleet.

The Police Department's Fiscal Year 2009-10 budget includes the replacement of four police vehicles at a cost not to exceed \$100,000. The Police Department has identified a vendor in Southern California that has vehicles in stock ready for immediate delivery. This vendor has been awarded the Los Angeles County Vehicle Purchase Contract.

The replaced vehicles will be removed from the fleet inventory and sold at auction. Revenues raised will be deposited in the fleet replacement fund in accordance with Resolution No. 13951.

GREEN FLEET POLICY

City staff is in the process of retaining a consultant to assist with securing grants and converting the City's fleet to alternative fuel vehicles. This project will take approximately 12 months to implement. Even with the conversion of the City's fleet to alternative fuel vehicles, however, the City will need to retain some gas-powered vehicles for longer trips and emergency situations. Given the critical need to replace the four police cruisers now, staff recommends purchasing these gas-powered vehicles while moving forward with the alternative fuel vehicles strategy.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost for four vehicles, \$98,107.60, is included in the FY 2009-10 Equipment Replacement Fund 701. Whenever possible, existing safety equipment will be reused.

RECOMMENDATION

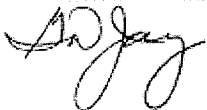
Authorize the purchase of four marked Ford Crown Victoria police vehicles through the Los Angeles County Vehicle Bid Contract at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.00.

Respectfully submitted,



Walter B. Tibbet
Chief of Police

Approved as to funds and account,



Glenda D. Jay
Interim Finance Director