



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

City Council Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: March 6, 2020

Prepared By: Chief Michael D. McCoy and Deputy Chief Jeff Stevens

Agenda Item: Pool Vehicle Replacement – Purchase Authorization

Explanation: The Department uses a pool vehicle for transportation that does not require full police markings or equipment, such as for training, moving evidence for analysis or storage, or investigations use. The vehicle is particularly useful in transporting controlled substances for analysis, in that we do not need to use a sworn officer in an equipped patrol car for that duty. Our investigations use of the vehicle is a significant consideration because it allows use of a vehicle that does not announce the presence of police in situations where that obvious presence would be a practical hindrance to investigation.

The pool vehicle was damaged in a collision and the City received an insurance payment of \$20,450 for its replacement. Additionally, the City accumulates funding in the MERF for this vehicle. To date, that total amount held for replacement of the vehicle is \$24,098.

Once the Department verified receipt of the insurance payment, we sought bids from licensed dealers for used vehicles that would meet our requirements. As used vehicle dealers locally list inventory online, we identified specific vehicles in their inventory as examples of vehicles that met our criteria. We sought bids from 5 local dealers. Two dealers responded. One dealer provided pricing other than what was listed on its website. We intend to examine bids to determine the best value for the City of Washington. That value is determined by how closely the vehicle meets our requirements and the impact of its purchase locally, with an assumption that a purchase in the City has more value than a purchase outside, a purchase in Tazewell County has more value than elsewhere, and a purchase nearby has more value than a purchase from a non-local dealer. If the vehicles initially identified are still available, we can choose from vehicles sold by a Washington dealer, or dealers in Morton or Roanoke (based on advertised price only), within a spread of less than \$1,000, all while maintaining our accrued MERF capital, using only the insurance reimbursement. If those vehicles are not available, or upon examination do not have a reasonable value for the price, we would seek additional bids in the same manner or examine other vehicles in the larger range provided by the accrued.

Our preference, all else being equal, is to use the insurance reimbursement to purchase this replacement, thereby maintaining MERF funds and the current replacement schedule.

Fiscal Impact: The purchase price of up to \$24,098 is a combination of accrued funds designated for the replacement of this vehicle and an insurance payment for the replacement of this vehicle. Funds for planned vehicle replacement are accumulated in the City's Motor Equipment Replacement Fund over the expected life of the vehicle.

Action Requested: Authorization by the City Council to proceed with the purchase as described, not to exceed \$24,098, of a vehicle to replace the pool vehicle destroyed in a collision.