

Princeton Police Department



To: Princeton Mayor and Members of Council
From: Chief Nicholas Sutter
cc:
Date: July 7, 2014
Re: Police Vehicle Purchases

The Princeton Police Department has suggested the purchase of five (5) Dodge Charger vehicles for replacement of five (5) vehicles in the current police fleet. A vehicle replacement plan has been enacted within the department with guidance from Mr. Larry Churchwell of the Department of Public Works.

The police department formed a committee several months ago to research available police vehicles under New Jersey State Contract. A number of vehicles were evaluated and tested. Factors such as all-wheel drive, fuel economy, reliability, safety and cost were examined. The committee also spoke with police departments currently deploying the vehicles to obtain opinions from officers actually using them.

The conclusion of the committee was to purchase the Dodge Charger. The Dodge offered the best combination of all of the factors listed above at a reasonable price point. The Charger provides all-wheel drive with excellent ratings in snow and inclement weather. The fuel economy is much better with the Dodge than with the vehicles currently deployed by the department.

In evaluating the purchase of a Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) the committee suggested that it was cost prohibitive at this time given that the current New Jersey State Contract price of the Chevrolet Tahoe is nearly double that of the Dodge, therefore allowing us to replace two (2) vehicles for the cost of one SUV. The committee concluded that it was more imperative at this point to replace five (5) of the badly deteriorating patrol sedans in our current fleet. The replacement of our current Sport Utility Vehicles has been scheduled in our replacement policy.

You may also recall that just after consolidation we reduced the size of the patrol fleet by nine (9) vehicles. Many of those vehicles were re-purposed to other departments. I have spoken to Mr. Churchwell concerning the re-purposing of the vehicles scheduled for replacement. Several if not all of these vehicles may not be suitable for further use due to their state of disrepair.

**RESOLUTION 2014
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF PRINCETON
AUTHORIZING THE USE OF STATE CONTRACT FOR THE
PURCHASE OV VEHICLES**

WHEREAS, Princeton wishes to purchase vehicles through the New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12) and;

WHEREAS, Carman Dodge, Inc., 196 S. DuPont Highway, New Castle, DE 19720 has been awarded New Jersey State Contract #A82927 for the 2014 Dodge Charger Police AWD Vehicles and;

WHEREAS, the vehicles cost \$21,083 base contract price and the appropriate monies are provided in the Police Department Trust Fund Budget and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor & Council of Princeton, New Jersey authorize the Administrator to purchase five (5) 2014 Dodge Charger Police Pursuit AWD Vehicles for the Police Department under State Contract from Carman Dodge, Inc.

I, Linda S. McDermott, Clerk of Princeton, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council at its meeting held July 14, 2014.

Linda S. McDermott