

## FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

February 14, 2023

6:45pm

PRESENT: Chairperson Rusniak, Members Sikora and Fulop, and Alternate Hegy  
ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Steve Volkert, Chief of Police Scott MacFarlan

Call to Order – Chairperson Rusniak called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers of Hartford City Hall, 109 North Main Street.

Roll Call – All members were present.

Public Comment Period – None.

Discussion and consideration of authorizing appropriate City officials to purchase two 2023 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Hybrid squads from Ewald Automotive Group, for a price not to exceed \$45,199 per vehicle – Chief MacFarlan explained that two new squads were approved to purchase through the 2022-2026 CIP plan. Those squads were ordered in February 2022. In January 2023, Ewald notified Chief MacFarlan that the order was canceled. Ewald also notified Chief MacFarlan that the 2023 ordering cycle was closed due to over-ordering. In addition, the 2024 ordering cycle has not yet been opened. As a solution, Ewald offered two fleet vehicles, which haven't been built yet, but will be guaranteed. The new order is \$7,142 more than what the original order was, also putting the purchase over what was budgeted. Chief MacFarlan also explained that although this option is over budget, it is the least expensive of the available options.

Aldersperson Rusniak asked about cost savings of purchasing hybrid vehicles. Chief MacFarlan explained that while the hybrid models are more expensive up front, the amount of money saved in gas would surpass that cost difference. There are local agencies that are already seeing cost savings in gas.

Aldersperson Fulop asked about data analysis regarding fuel cost and mileage comparisons for gas model versus hybrid model vehicles. Chief MacFarlan explained that fuel and mileage data is recorded for each squad and could be compiled into a comparison report. This would be the first year of using hybrid vehicles, so that data would be collected in the same way and then used for comparison. Aldersperson Fulop then asked about the capabilities of the vehicles themselves, making sure they are specifically built to handle law enforcement activities. Chief MacFarlan explained that yes, these vehicles are specifically built for law enforcement, and only law enforcement are able to purchase and use these vehicles. Aldersperson Fulop asked about a quote for a different model of squad car, as it was mentioned that there might have been an option to purchase a Dodge Durango squad car. Chief MacFarlan explained that the option of purchasing a different model was not appealing because the equipment that needs to go into the squad car is completely different from model to model. In order to save money, the equipment from an old squad is usually transferred to a new squad, instead of buying all new equipment. He also said the city could look at bidding a different manufacturer or even leasing the vehicles. The cost analysis isn't complete on each of those options. He also stated that it is very difficult to get supply on these vehicles, which is pushing revenue that comes back from auctioning old vehicles down.

MOTION by Aldersperson Fulop, seconded by Aldersperson Sikora authorizing appropriate City officials to purchase two Ford Police Interceptor Utility Hybrid squads from Ewald Automotive Group, for a price not to exceed \$45,199 per vehicle.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment – MOTION by Aldersperson Fulop, seconded by Aldersperson Hegy for adjournment at 7:00 p.m. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Hetzel, City Clerk

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Compiled by Samantha Walters, Deputy Clerk