

Donald J. Lee, Jr.
Chief of Police



Key West
POLICE DEPARTMENT

TO: Mr. Jim Scholl, City Manager
FROM: Donald J. Lee, Jr. Chief of Police
DATE: February 8, 2011
RE: Authorize the purchase of 2 Police K-9 Specialty vehicles from Niles Chevrolet at a total cost of \$64,605.

Action Statement:

This resolution authorizes the purchase of two (2) 2011 Chevrolet Tahoe Police K-9 Specialty Vehicles at a total cost of \$64,605 from Niles Chevrolet, the awarded dealer who matched the 2010/11 Florida State Contract bid # ITB 071-000-S, Motor Vehicles. This purchase is authorized through City Ordinance Sec 7-797 (3) (Purchases and Acquisitions Under Contracts of Federal Government and the State or its Political Subdivisions) and City Ordinance Sec 7-798 (Local Business Enterprise Preference).

Background:

These two (2) vehicles will be used and equipped specifically for K-9 duties and narcotic operations. One vehicle will be marked and assigned to the Patrol Division. The second vehicle will be unmarked (no exterior graphics, or light bar) and equipped the same as the marked patrol K-9 vehicle. This vehicle will be assigned to the Special Operations Unit Supervisor for special operations unique to that unit.

The Office of Law Enforcement Standards (OLES) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology develop equipment standards based on laboratory evaluation of commercially available products. Police vehicles are part of the equipment tested annually by the State of Michigan Department of State Police. A comprehensive evaluation is completed on the vehicles that meet the standards established by OLES.

The 2011 Evaluation included five vehicle recommendations for police use:

- Ford Police Interceptor (E 85 flex fuel)
- Chevrolet Impala (E85 flex fuel),



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- Chevrolet Tahoe / Police Special Service SUV (E85 flex fuel)
- Dodge Charger (no alternative fuel option offered)
- Dodge Magnum (no alternative fuel option offered)

The current vehicles in use, the Ford Expeditions, were not evaluated because they do not meet OLES standards and are unsuitable to handle the rigors of police duty. The Expeditions have demonstrated numerous and constant reliability complaints, electrical issues, and ergonomic limitations. The Chevrolet Tahoe SUV is a Police Special Service Vehicle built specifically for use by K-9 teams.

Based upon the above data, evaluation, standard equipment, 5 star NHTSA frontal crash test rating, fail safe cooling systems, mission specific build, dealer relationship, city maintenance history and manufacturers commitment to law enforcement the Fleet Services Division of the City of Key West recommends the Chevy Tahoe Police K-9 vehicle. The Tahoe is also E85 flex-fuel compliant.

Purpose and Justification:

The vehicles described are necessary to maintain proper function of essential K-9 duties of the police department.

Vehicle specifications and cost are as follows:

(2) Chevrolet Tahoe Police Package, E-85 Flex-fuel 5.3L V8 engine, automatic, white, power windows and locks, remote keyless entry, side assist steps, vent shades, anti-theft system, dome light, American Aluminum Brand K-9 container, hot and pop pro remote door opener controller, cool fan and heat alarm, Whelen premium unmarked package (1 vehicle), Whelen premium one tier all LED light bar package(1 vehicle), Whelen CENCOM controller, Whelen vertex corner LED's, Whelen grill LED's, Whelen siren, speaker and bracket, Havis center console with: three bank DC outlet, cup holders, armrest, faceplates for controller, radio, monotone paint.

1 marked Chevrolet Tahoe Police Package @ \$32,443

1 unmarked Chevrolet Tahoe Police Package @ \$32,162

Options:

An option is to purchase the vehicles from Niles Chevrolet, the local vendor, which is in compliance with City Ordinance Sec 2-798(b)(1). Niles Chevrolet matched the low bid from Garber Fleet Sales, the state contract awarded non-local bidder. This option would allow for the City of Key West to purchase



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the needed vehicles according to the exact specifications required and at the lowest cost to the City of Key West. The purchase of these vehicles provides important tools for public safety, worker efficiency and delivery of professional police service to the community.

The City may opt to forgo the purchase of the vehicles. This would result in the continued lack of functionality of the K-9 unit, increased public safety risks and increased cost to maintain the aging fleet.

Financial Impact:

The Fiscal Year 10-11 Budget included an appropriation for the purchase of 2 Police K-9 Specialty vehicles. However, to meet our specification requirements the 2011 State Contract bid matched by the local vendor reflects a \$2,605 total price increase for this purchase. The original budget for this item did not reflect necessary changes to the vehicles configurations and specifications. A budget transfer from Fund 101, Account 101-1900-519.91, Reserves, will be required to facilitate this purchase.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the purchase of two (2) Vehicles from Niles Chevrolet for a total of \$64,605.



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