

To: Munster Town Council

From: Stephen F. Scheckel, Chief of Police

CC: Wendy Mis, Clerk Treasurer

Date: February 19, 2024

Re: Squad Car Purchases

The Munster Police Department is respectfully asking the Munster Town Council to consider implementing a Take Home Vehicle Program for the officers of the department. There are numerous studies to support the idea that after the initial outlay of funds to acquire additional vehicles the Take Home Vehicle Program will have cost savings moving forward as well as attract applicants and lateral transfers from other departments.

Currently, the patrol vehicles run 24/7 and are seldom shut off. Engine run hours are through the roof and add to increased maintenance costs. This results in the necessity of having to trade vehicles every two (2) to three (3) years. We are confident that we can expect an individual vehicle lasting five (5) to seven (7) years moving forward, all the while reducing the maintenance costs, if such a program is initiated.

Over the last ten (10) years the department has seen a dramatic decrease in applicants for the position of Police Officer. Surrounding communities such as Highland, Dyer and Griffith offer Take Home Vehicles as part of their employment package. We believe implementing Take Home Vehicles will make us more competitive in attracting qualified candidates and lateral transfers from other departments.

The department is requesting Town Council authorization to initiate the purchase of twenty (20) additional police vehicles in 2024. The vehicles need to be ordered in the next couple of weeks to ensure that we receive delivery this year. Currently, we are anticipating ordering thirteen (13) Ford Interceptors, and seven (7) Ford F150's from Sam Roberts Bloomington Ford. Sam Roberts Bloomington Ford is the State of Indiana Quality Purchase Agreement designee (QPA) which eliminates the requirement to seek alternate Bids.

The cost per vehicle is approximately \$48,350.00 along with an additional \$46,450.00 to equip each unit for patrol readiness. The price does not currently include any potential trade-ins. The total expenditure is expected to be approximately \$1,896,120.00.

Recommendation

By motion and roll call vote authorize the Police Department to order twenty (20) additional vehicles from Sam Roberts Bloomington Ford.