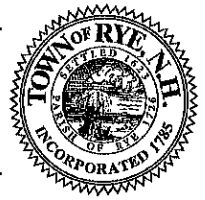




RYE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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To: Rye Select Board
From: Chief Kevin Walsh *KW*
Date: August 28, 2023
Re: Town Vehicle Inventory and History

I believe it was the year 2000 when the Rye Select Board started the practice of using decommissioned police cruisers for other town departments. The Police Department has turned in one vehicle a year since the year 2000. The decommissioned cruisers mileage on average is about 120,000 to 130,000 miles.

Some of the challenges with the decommissioned police cruisers are rust from snow, salt, and sea water and the hours a cruiser idles. For the first two years of ownership with the Police Department, the cruiser is driven 24 hours/7 days a week. The second and third year they are driven up to 16 to 20 hours/7 days a week. The Police Department tries to keep vehicles for four years in the patrol function. The Chief's vehicle is taken in the second or third year to allow the Chief to keep the vehicles for four to five years. This saves on equipment change over costs because only one cruiser is getting equipment installed.

The newest cruisers average 50,000 to 60,000 miles a year depending on the shifts the cruisers are assigned. As part of the agreement when Rye Police and the Town of Rye accept Highway Safety Grant funds, the Police Department assumes the cost of fuel used, maintenance for all vehicles used, and the equipment. This is another reason the mileage is high each year. The Highway Safety shifts are a necessity based on input from Rye citizens.

The ACO vehicle was purchased in 2018. The Animal Control program is an outreach for domestic and wildlife requests from the community to help with education and awareness. Rye Recreation staff have done some programming over the years with a small number of customers and have used the ACO vehicle as a passenger car. That was the purpose of having a passenger vehicle and the capability to handle small animals and ACO equipment. The two previous employees that have been Animal Control Officers said it meets the needs.

The last six years have been challenging with vehicle rotations. The cost of police cruisers is significant, and the supply of cruisers is minimal. Sometimes you can't get a cruiser and the cost to outfit a cruiser has increased a lot. Due to significant body style changes, even purchasing the same make and model made by Ford, new interior equipment had to be purchased because old equipment no longer fit. The older cages, seats for customers, and center consoles do not fit newer model Fords.

Approximately in the year 2019 the DPW Director's vehicle engine seized. To adjust for this loss, I released the oldest cruiser being turned over to the town early, to help meet the town wide vehicle demand for services. A new engine or equipment inside the old engine would have had to be replaced. To do this would have been like throwing cash in the fireplace; it was not worth it. Approximately in the year 2020, the Covid 19 year, a cruiser was not purchased and therefore no vehicles were turned over to the town. All vehicles town wide continued to be used under the assigned functions. Maintenance costs increased while parts were on back order. Some vehicles were even driven with check engine lights on. These warning lights were evaluated to ensure no safety concerns existed.

In the year 2022 two cruisers were purchased. One cruiser for the year 2020 and one for the year 2021. The two cruisers that were decommissioned, one could not pass inspection due to under carriage rust, the other needed new tires, brakes, and \$5,000.00 for transmission repair. The estimated cost to get the 2017 Ford Explorer operable and to pass state inspection laws, estimated \$6,000.00 in the year 2022.

If you do the math, between the years 2019 to 2023 two vehicles were not turned over to the town. To demonstrate the team work between departments, the Police Department turned the cruiser over early to prevent the "Money Pit" with the DPW Director's vehicle. This calculates to three vehicles being turned into the town to be repurposed for other town business over the last five years, including this year, 2023.

To outline the vehicle uses

1. Ford Crown Victoria, Rye Recreation car is used for low mileage day to day recreation business. For specific recreation program trips the ACO vehicle may be used for a two- or three-person program. For larger groups, buses are hired.
2. Ford Crown Victoria, DPW - building and grounds for day-to-day business, retrieve parts and supplies out of town rather than using a truck, gas savings. Also used for out-of-town training.
3. Ford Crown Victoria, DPW - any town department. Police use in poor weather for parking enforcement. Town does generate revenue during poor weather events from people not following parking rules. Also used as a spare for parts not available and used as a spare for the Recreation Department and Building & Grounds when a Ford or Chevy is in the shop for repairs, town business can still continue.
4. Chevy Caprice, Building Inspector, to go out and do inspections at job sites.

I bring this to your attention for multiple reasons. The Police Department did not purchase a cruiser for the year 2023 due to no funds in the Outside Detail Fund. During Covid no details were worked, therefore no revenue went into the fund, and the cost of everything has doubled. The Fire Department is planning on incorporating another vehicle into the fire fleet for the new Deputy Fire Chief position and may request the use of a decommissioned cruiser as well. All three Ford Crown Victorias will not pass state inspection laws after September 2023.

The Police Department using the Outside Detail Fund for cruiser purchases must change. It is recommended that using the Outside Detail Fund to outfit the cruisers and the purchase of the cruisers be put back into the operating budget for 2024. I am recommending two cruisers be purchased for the year 2024. The police fleet needs to maintain mileage under 100,000 miles for main line cruisers. The cruisers respond to emergencies, and I want the best vehicle to ensure safety for all. This will allow the town to have two decommissioned cruisers to replace the failing town fleet. The two replacements currently have approximately 157,549 and 156,525 miles on them.

Attached are the Rye Public Works maintenance records for the three Ford Crown Victorias as well as a spread sheet outlining vehicles by departments and approximate mileage.

The unintended consequences of not purchasing cruisers every year and re-purposing decommissioned cruisers has structural barriers in providing basic town services.

Cc: Town Administrator Matt Scruton
Assistant Town Administrator Becky Bergeron
Rye Highway Director Jason Rucker
Rye Fire Chief Mark Cotreau
Rye Recreation Director Dyana Martin
Rye Building Inspector Chuck Marsdon

Town Vehicles

Police

Mileage 08/28/2023

2022 Ford Explorer Car # 3	47,391 Patrol
2022 Ford Explorer Car # 4	61,422 Patrol
2021 Ford Explorer Car # 5	44,884 Chief's
2021 Ford Explorer Car # 2	156,525 Patrol
2018 Ford Explorer Car # 1	157,549 Detail/Admin duties
2019 Honda Rukus Moped	25,438 Parking
2020 Honda Rukus Moped	11,735 Parking

DPW

2011 Ford Town Wide	195,000 No inspection
2011 Ford building and grounds	160,000 No Inspection

Building Department

2015 Chevy building inspector office	120,742 in for repairs No inspection
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Rye Recreation Department

2011 Ford Rye recreation	169,757 No inspection
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Rye Fire Department

2020 Chevy Tahoe Fire Chief Vehicle	mileage ?
Chevy pick up utility	39,373