

# *Eatonville Police Department*

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19 December 2011

To: Eatonville Town Council Members

From: Officer Jason L. McGuire, Vehicle Fleet Manager, Eatonville Police Department

Subject: Police Department Vehicle Fleet

Council members,

Chief Wade requested I write a letter to the council detailing how, why, and where vehicles in our fleet are used. This department currently has a fleet of 8 vehicles consisting of four Ford Expeditions, two Dodge Chargers, one Ford Crown Vic, and one Incident Response Van.

As you well know the department is currently short staffed leaving a surplus of one Expedition and one Charger. As of January 2012 the Charger will be assigned to our new officer who will graduate the police academy. The Expedition is currently assigned to Reserve Officer (RO) Smith and is the vehicle without a light bar. RO Smith is our evidence custodian, firearms and taser instructor, and has been using this vehicle to attend mandatory training, transport evidence for destruction, and patrol the town of Eatonville.

This Expedition is also the vehicle that will be assigned to our sixth officer who has resigned and allows us to replace this individual for 24 hour coverage.

The Crown Vic is our department reserve vehicle. RO Shoopman has received donated money to have the vehicle repainted and restriped due to it sitting for a long period.

Concerns have also been raised about the light bar requested in the 2012 budget. It should be noted this was also in the 2011 budget at my request. Former Chief of Police Jim Lewis had made it known to me that the Town Council mandated all police vehicles, with the exception of the Chief of Police, be equipped with an over head emergency light bar for easy identification.

Another concern raised by the council has been reserve officers taking patrol vehicles home. This practice has been beneficial in allowing quick backup for town officers who need a second officer when state or county are not available. I assure you this is not a waste of resources or funds when you are the one calling for priority backup.

Finally I would like to address the concern of money being wasted on patrol vehicles. These vehicles are used ten plus hours a day at least four days a week as a patrol vehicle. It is hard for citizens to understand the abuse these vehicles take even with the most careful officers.

I can promise you that this department has not wasted the town's money on any equipment bought by this department. I might point out that in the past much of the equipment used in these vehicles has been funded by grant money. Unfortunately, grant money is rarely available due to the economy.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at any time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason McGuire #05". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

Officer Jason McGuire #05  
Eatonville Police Department

CC: Mayor Raymond Harper, Town of Eatonville  
Town Administrator Doug Beagle, Town of Eatonville  
Chief Kevin Wade, Eatonville Police Department