

Vehicle purchased for Holyoke PD

Written by Chris Lee

Holyoke Police Department vehicles were evaluated, and City Council members approved the purchase of a 2008 Dodge Dakota pickup for HPD at their Feb. 2 meeting.

Police Chief Phil Biersdorfer said two of the vehicles they use now need to be replaced or maintenance needs to be done on them. He said the transfer case in the code enforcement Jeep is going bad and the Crown Victoria needs some maintenance work.

Councilman Barry Winckler said they have been lucky finding vehicles in the past that were either free or purchased for a minimal amount. But those vehicles turn out needing adjustments and repairs on down the road.

The council approved moving the Crown Victoria to Code Enforcement while getting rid of the Chevrolet Caprice and Jeep by putting them up for a sealed bid.

Councilman Ray Bailey said he had visited with another agency who used grants to purchase vehicles and asked whether or not grants had been applied for to use for the purchase of the pickup. Biersdorfer said the grants he has applied for have all gone toward equipment for the department and not vehicles.

Bailey then asked if bids had been sent out to different dealerships. Biersdorfer said he had contacted two different dealerships about his interests and Bonanza in Wray came through first.

The 2008 silver Dodge Dakota will be purchased for \$20,000.

The Chief said he had researched new vehicles while coming up with the budget but thought the prices were going to be too high.

Winckler said it would be smart for future councils to take into consideration the quality of vehicles being purchased. This comes from looking at two of the cars (Crown Victoria and Jeep Liberty) now in use that will need to be looked at in the near future. He also suggested the idea of utilizing a day shift and night shift vehicle instead of take home vehicles.

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Council members also approved the purchase of a 2010 Walker Lawn mower for the cemetery. \$5,000 received from the Heginbotham Trust will go toward the purchase. \$3,625 was received for the old mower, according to City Supt. Mark Brown.

Brown was questioned about the possibility of using the old mower at the golf course and he said it probably wasn't an option. The price they are getting for it looks pretty good.

Reports of city officials

Police Chief Biersdorfer reported Damon Ellis has completed his first year and has his Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certification.

Biersdorfer and Ellis attended a two-day standardized field sobriety testing class held in Holyoke on Jan. 13 and 20. Both received certificates.

Council members entered into a 1 hour 10 minute executive session for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations and/or constructing negotiators.

A work session was held after the meeting was adjourned to discuss ballot questions. City Attorney Al Wall said to make the question a yes or no option with regard to the daily sirens.

One way to word the question was suggested and read, "Shall the City of Holyoke turn off routine daily sirens, not to include fire or tornado?"

City Clerk/Treasurer Kathy Olofson said if only three nomination petitions are filed for the three open seats, then the election will be canceled. It was said there is still time to think about exactly what to include on the ballot.

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Other business

In other business Feb. 2, council members:

—approved 2009 year-end transfers.

—accepted travel requests for Zeke Finch to attend meter school and Mike Roll to attend Annual Rocky Mountain Asphalt Conference and Show.