

Police dept. ready for new vehicle

Written by Chris Lee

Holyoke Police Department will soon have a new vehicle added to its fleet.

City Council members unanimously voted Tuesday, Jan. 17 to approve a purchase request from HPD to buy a 2012 Dodge Charger from Wolf Auto to be used as a police vehicle.

The department will trade in the 2002 Jeep that is currently being used by HPD.

During budget time, police chief Doug Bergstrom presented the police committee with four different options for vehicles. The Charger was the cheapest on the list at \$27,822. . That price comes down \$4,000 with the trade-in of the Jeep Liberty.

Lights and other components will increase the price. The council approved the purchase if the price of the extras doesn't exceed \$6,000. \$35,000 was initially budgeted for the vehicle.

Two of the other vehicles that were looked at were four-wheel drive, which the council feels they don't need. The Jeep and Crown Victoria currently being used by the department were two vehicles that were looked at to get rid of. The Crown Victoria just received a new transmission while the Jeep is beginning to show some wear, according to Bergstrom.

Reports of city officials

Council members heard reports from city supt. Mark Brown and police chief Bergstrom.

Brown said they are looking into repainting the swimming pool and have tentatively scheduled

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to close it on Jan. 30 for about two weeks. He noted the date could change due to the availability of the paint and supplies.

Council member David Churchwell questioned Brown and the rest of the council about residents parking vehicles on lawns. Churchwell said he has received some complaints from people around town. Brown noted they have had people express their concern about different situations as well.

Churchwell said he spoke with the code enforcement officer and there isn't currently an ordinance that prohibits people from parking cars on lawns.

Police chief Bergstrom said he received 11 applications from Colorado-licensed potential officers. He hopes to set up a testing date for Saturday, Feb. 4 to begin narrowing down the applicants.

Other business

In other business Jan. 17, council members:

—voted to purchase a 21-cubic-foot Whirlpool top freezer refrigerator for the office from Sullivan's Appliance at a cost of \$799.

—voted to purchase one standard rotary combo chain and teeth from Vermeer Sales and Service for the trencher in the electric department at a cost of \$2,223.51.

—approved request to transfer a lease for an airport hangar.

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—accepted the offer from the Holyoke Aviation Association to replace the old furniture in the airport pilots' lounge. The aviation association is willing to supply the furniture for the project.

—approved 2012 wage proposal for city employees.

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