



TOWN OF JACKSON

TOWN COUNCIL

AGENDA DOCUMENTATION

PREPARATION DATE: July 6th, 2018
MEETING DATE: July 16th, 2018

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Public Works
DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR: Johnny Ziem
PRESENTER: Johnny Ziem and Todd Smith

SUBJECT: ATV Vehicle Purchase for the Police Department Parking Enforcement

STATEMENT/PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is for discussion and Council direction on the purchase of a new ATV vehicle that will replace the current all electric GEM that is being used for parking enforcement.

BACKGROUND/ALTERNATIVES

The Jackson Police Department is tasked with parking enforcement for the Town of Jackson 365 days per year. In 2015 the Town of Jackson implemented an electronic ticketing system accompanied with automatic license plate reader technology.

The first vehicle outfitted with the electronic program was a fully electric side by side vehicle produced by Polaris called the GEM. When the GEM first came out, Polaris advertised that the vehicle has a range of 37 miles. After 3 years of using the GEM, we have discovered that it struggles to get 10-12 miles before the batteries fail and the vehicle goes into a “turtle” mode, allowing the vehicle to only limp along at 1-2 mph, which is designed to get the vehicle back to a charging station. It then must sit for a minimum of 2-3 hours recharging before it has enough stored electrical energy to be put back on the streets for enforcement use.

The police department has struggled to find a solution to this problem, having tried an onboard generator to charge the batteries, a solar panel, and different battery configurations. To date, none of these solutions have solved the problem.

One parking round requires the vehicle to travel nearly 5 miles, thus leaving the GEM to only get 2 rounds of travel in before the vehicle requires charging of the batteries. The police department feels it has exhausted all options in trying to find a remedy to make the GEM functional and needs to replace it with an ATV type vehicle that is gas powered.

The police department already has a second vehicle outfitted on a Polaris Ranger and have found that platform to work very well, not requiring a charging of batteries mid-shift and is far more productive at doing 72-hour parking in the outreaches of the city streets, whereas the GEM can really only be used for limited 3 hour parking scenarios.

Recently the existing Polaris Ranger was involved in a minor accident causing it to go off-line while repairs were being made, leaving only the GEM to do parking enforcement. It was determined that the GEM is not a viable option for performing parking rounds with its limited ability to stay charged long enough to effectively do parking enforcement and had a dramatic impact on the parking program when it had to be relied upon for all of the enforcement.

ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC INTENT

- To provide the most efficient form of government services
- To support the economic sustainability of the Town of Jackson
- To support local merchants and businesses in the Town of Jackson
- Seek alternative sources of revenue to support core operations for the Town of Jackson

ATTACHMENTS

None at this time

FISCAL IMPACT

Fiscal impact for this item includes the cost of a new ATV style vehicle (\$20,000) and the cost to remove equipment (computer, camera, batteries, roof lights, etc.) from the existing electric GEM vehicle and reinstall on new ATV (\$4,000). There could additionally be notable negative fiscal impacts if we were to keep the GEM as part of the Police Department fleet due to the fact that it hampers parking enforcement.

STAFF IMPACT

Staff impact for this item requires time to bid/purchase this vehicle and labor-time to remove equipment and reinstall into the new purchased ATV. Staff will also spend some time working with another department to secure a new home for the electric GEM. There would be a significant positive impact on staff in the parking rounds will be conducted more efficiently and effectively reducing down time for staff.

LEGAL REVIEW

None at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the purchase of a new Police Department ATV style vehicle that will replace the existing all electric GEM vehicle that is used for parking enforcement.

SUGGESTED MOTION

I move to approve the purchase of a new ATV style vehicle for the Police Department that will replace the existing all electric GEM vehicle being used for parking enforcement.
