Agenda Date: 8/14/2007
Agenda Placement: 6H

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Letter

TO:	Board of Supervisors
FROM:	Michael Stoltz for Peterson, Robert - Director Equipment Pool
REPORT BY:	Kimberly Payne, Staff Services Analyst I , 259-8603
SUBJECT:	Replacement Vehicle for Sheriff Unit 1079

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Public Works and Sheriff request authorization to purchase one four wheel drive Ford Expedition in lieu of one Ford 4 door F250 4x4 with tow package as approved in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 budget as the replacement vehicle for unit 1079.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Board approved, as part of its fiscal year 2007-08 budget, the replacement of unit 1079 with Ford 4 door F250 4x4 with tow package. Upon further consideration as to how best utilize existing resources to achieve its programmatic mission, the Sheriff has requested that a modification be made to purchase a four wheel drive Ford Expedition in lieu of the Ford 4 door F250 4x4 with tow package.

This modification will provide better clearance and storage capacity for a vehicle intended to be used for command level field operations for either critical or emergency conditions. Higher clearance levels are required to access remote areas and navigate either difficult terrain or high water. Secure storage is required to protect and shelter essential equipment.

There is no fiscal impact given that it is anticipated that the cost of the Ford Expedition will be comparable to the F250.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Upon further consideration as to how best utilize existing resources to achieve its programmatic mission, the Sheriff has requested that a modification be made to purchase a four wheel drive Ford Expedition in lieu of the Ford 4 door F250 4x4 with tow package. The Sheriff intends that this vehicle be assigned to Administration with another vehicle in Administration being assigned to Field Operations. The Ford Expedition will be used in everyday operations along with being utilized as a command level field vehicle for critical or emergency operations.

This modification will provide better clearance and storage capacity. The Expedition has a higher clearance level of 8.7 inches as compared to the Ford 250 with a clearance level of 7 inches. The Ford Expedition also has a smaller turning diameter of 40.8 inches in comparison to a turning diameter of 51.8 inches for the Ford F250. These factors will provide better ability to get into dangerous or hard to access areas in difficult conditions such as rising water. The vehicle is also completely enclosed and can therefore safely secure the equipment that will be necessary to the vehicles's purpose. The equipment to be stored is related to command level field operations in emergency or critical situations. Such equipment cannot be safely stored in a pickup truck as it would be subject to inclement weather and possible theft.

In addition to these considerations, the Ford Expedition has a better Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Green rating for air pollution of 7 points out of 10 in comparison to the Ford F250 rating of 3 out of 10 points. The Ford Expedition also has an estimated overall gasoline utilization of 15.5 miles per gallon in comparison to the Ford 250 estimated gasoline utilization of 11.5 miles per gallon.

Given the County's commitment to greening its fleet, the use of a hybrid SUV was considered. There is not, however, sufficient data on tests conducted of such vehicles for law enforcement uses and applications. Existing data from the 2007 Michigan State Police Vehicle Test report give lower scores to the only hybrid SUV tested, the Ford Escape. Besides performance deficiencies for law enforcement purposes, the Escape had a less ground clearance, less size and significantly less storage space than the Ford Expedition.

Additionally, the electrical emergency operations equipment that will be installed in the vehicle requires a significant power source. There is insufficient data to support that present hybrid technology can provide sustained use of such equipment in an emergency operation as the affect of such a draw on the electrical system on the overall engine and electrical system performance and operation is not known at this time.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi