



TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

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Memorandum

DT: January 8, 2019
TO: Board of Selectmen
FM: Troy Brown, Town Administrator
RE: Command Vehicle Status
CC: Chief Fraitzl

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Board of Selectmen about the assignment and use of the Fire Department Command vehicle. The Command vehicle is a 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe 4x4 with 99,600 miles. It was purchased new on July 12, 2007 for \$32,672.00. It is equipped with low profile emergency lights in the front and rear, LED strobe lighting, siren and government plates. It is a safe vehicle for emergency and non-emergency use.

The vehicle was assigned to Thomas Schofield, former Fire Chief. He used it to respond to calls and commute to and from work. Chief Fraitzl was hired on March 14, 2012. His employment contract included use of a town vehicle (Exhibit A) but he used his personal vehicle most of the time to commute to and from work and attend other department functions. Since the Command vehicle was no longer used by the Fire Chief the on call officer took the vehicle home and was used for other administrative purposes. Within the past 3 to 4 months, Chief Fraitzl starting using a town vehicle in accordance with his employment agreement. Depending on department needs and work schedule different town vehicles are used by Chief Fraitzl but primarily he uses the Command vehicle.

In November 2018, Warren's Auto Body removed body rust and painted the rear quarter panels, front hood and other body parts. The rear tailgate door was removed and replaced because it was not cost effective to repair it. Warren's Auto Body removed some of the vinyl lettering and striping and because the remaining vinyl lettering and striping was faded and peeling, it was removed as well. Replacement would cost approximately \$2,500 and the vehicle is worth approximately \$5k to \$8k. For this reason, the department is not planning to replace the vinyl lettering and striping. In addition, since this vehicle is now being used by Chief Fraitzl for emergency and administrative purposes, it is common practice to not mark public safety vehicles assigned to police and fire chiefs. The Litchfield Police Chief and Police Captain vehicles are unmarked. They are used for emergency, administrative and limited personal use, and are taken home each night.

EXHIBIT A

“The Town shall provide a vehicle for use by the EMPLOYEE and all associated operating and maintenance expenses and insurance shall be paid by the EMPLOYER. Said vehicle is to be used by the EMPLOYEE in the performance of his duties, for official Town business, for his professional growth and development and any other occasions approved by the Board of Selectmen. It may be used by the EMPLOYEE at times in his best judgment for other reasons since the EMPLOYEE is “ON CALL” in the event of an emergency.”