



Legislation Details (With Text)

<b>File #:</b>	15-22250	<b>Version:</b>	1	<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Type:</b>	Business Item	<b>Status:</b>		Agenda Ready	
<b>File created:</b>	2/9/2024	<b>In control:</b>		City Council Business Meeting	
<b>On agenda:</b>	2/26/2024	<b>Final action:</b>			
<b>Title:</b>	Civilian Crash Investigation Program				
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Budget Ordinance				

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
2/26/2024	1	City Council Business Meeting	Approve	Pass

**Civilian Crash Investigation Program**

**Action:**

**Adopt a budget ordinance appropriating \$1,271,000 from the Municipal Debt Service Fund to the Capital Equipment Fund for the purchase of vehicles for the city’s new Civilian Crash Investigation Program.**

**Staff Resource(s):**

Dave Johnson, Police  
Mike Harris, Police  
Christopher Rorie, Police

**Explanation**

- In summer 2023, the North Carolina General Assembly passed NC General Statute 160A-499.6, which allows cities to employ civilian personnel to investigate traffic crashes that solely involve property damage (i.e., no personal injury). This was a priority on City Council’s 2023 State Legislative Agenda.
- The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) plans to implement a program modeled from this legislation with 16 civilian crash investigators.
  - Investigators would work two, eight-hour shifts (6am to 2pm and 1pm to 9pm) Monday to Friday with eight investigators active on each shift.
    - In 2022 CMPD officers spent 31,262 hours responding to 23,992 qualifying crashes during this time frame. This volume of crashes would provide a full workload for 16 civilian investigation positions.
  - Civilian traffic investigators would be required to complete a training program designed by the North Carolina Justice Academy. CMPD is also planning to require investigators to attend an additional two weeks of CMPD-specific classroom training and four weeks of field training.
    - The uniform and vehicles of civilian investigators would be substantially different in color and style than those of sworn CMPD officers.
    - Civilian investigators would be unarmed and have no authority to arrest or issue any criminal process.
    - Sworn officers would be called to respond to any scenes involving personal injury, fatality, or evidence of driver impairment.
    - Annual operating costs for the program are estimated to be \$1,100,000.
- CMPD plans to implement the program in July of 2024 using a mix of hybrid and fully electric vehicles.

- This action would appropriate funding from the Municipal Debt Service Fund to purchase these vehicles in FY 2024, so that they may be available for use in early FY 2025.
- These vehicles would be based out of the West Service Center at CMPD's Freedom Division, located at 4150 Wilkinson Boulevard.

**Fiscal Note**

Funding: Capital Equipment Fund

**Attachment(s)**

Budget Ordinance