

Legislation Text

File #: 15-22250, Version: 1

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