



"A LITTLE BIT OF COUNTRY"

LINDON CITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2010

Mayor

James A. Dain

City Center Offices

100 North State Street
Upper Level
785-5043

Community Development

100 North State Street
Lower Level
785-7687

Public Works

946 West Center Street
796-7954

Justice Court

100 North State Street
Upper Level
785-1971

Police

100 North State Street
Lower Level
Emergency - 911
Non-emergency Dispatch
229-7070
Police Department Offices
769-8600

Fire

Emergency - 911
Non-emergency Dispatch
229-7070
Other Fire Services
229-7327

Aquatics Center

60 West 60 North
610-4160

City Website

www.lindoncity.org

Why Did the Police Cars Change Color?

By now, many of you have probably noticed that our fleet of City Police Cars now looks different than it has for the past 2 years. You may be wondering why this happened? First of all, it wasn't because we no longer liked the old colors! We actually loved them, and so did everyone who saw them! (Disclaimer: Unless they were pulling behind you with lights flashing.) The Lindon City Police Department actually won the Law and Order Magazine "People's Choice Award" nationally in 2009 for the design and look of our cars. That was kind of a big deal, as it is the first time that an agency from Utah has ever won the award and yes we are a little proud of that fact. No, the reason that we were forced to change is because despite all of their assurances, Ford didn't make a standard brown vehicle this year! Not one.

Perhaps I should explain how our fleet works. We lease our fleet of police vehicles on a governmental 2-year lease plan. This plan incurs a payment of a little less than \$100,000 per year for 2 years. For that payment, we lease all the vehicles, the markings, lights, sirens, emergency equipment etc. Every two years we re-do the lease and start over with new equipment. But why do we do it this way? This answer is because it saves money. For example, if when we started two years ago Lindon City had purchased the vehicles in our lease along with all the emergency equipment. It would have cost the city approximately \$480,000 dollars. Those vehicles and equipment would have an average useful life of about four years and in that time would have incurred an industry standard average of over \$24,000 in depreciation and maintenance costs per vehicle. The 4 year cost then would be at approximately \$840,000 of which hopefully \$8,000 per vehicle, or \$120,000 would be recovered when you sold them. The average per year cost would then be \$180,000.

Under our fleet lease plan, we pay a little less than \$100,000 per year for the whole fleet. All repairs are covered under warranty and there are no depreciation costs. We pay for regular maintenance (oil, lube etc.) and things like tires and broken windshields. In our first 2 years we saved over \$60,000 per year leasing instead of purchasing and remain in new, dependable equipment that is capable of doing the job. Lindon City was one of the first departments on this program which is only available to municipalities and which is now widely becoming the industry standard for smaller departments in the state. Oh yeah, Ford Motors loves it as well because they receive back low mileage, well taken care of cars, with maintenance records which they can sell almost immediately as there is also less depreciation on their end.

To answer the next inevitable question, we lease 4WD SUV's and Trucks in order to be able to reach our foothills and hilly areas of town in bad conditions. I believe that this service capability is far more important than to drive a cop car which will go 140 miles per hour! We are also getting better gas mileage than traditional police cars. Remember that Cops drive differently than you do in your car and there is a lot of idling time figured in! Using data provided by other area departments which drive Ford Crown Victoria's and Dodge Chargers, the Charger's average about 8 mpg and the Crown Vic's about 9.4. Our Explorers are averaging 11.4 mpg and our F-150's are at 14.2 mpg.

So hopefully the new look of the police cars will catch on and we may consider changing back in a couple of years. Until then remember to watch for silver, not brown when you're in a hurry. Because they're always out there!

Cody Cullimore, Chief of Police

COMMUNITY SURVEY

What do you want Lindon to look like in 20 years?
Give us your input!!!
Take the community survey on line at
www.lindoncity.org