

Mayor's Message

Craig A. Stough – April 26, 2018

“Police Vehicle Updates”

Thanks to Sgt. Danilynn Miller for the following update about the Sylvania Police Division's newest vehicles.

The Sylvania Police Division has had several recent changes to its fleet of marked patrol units. The most notable, or perhaps the one less likely to be seen, is the stealth vehicle that has been put into service. Patrol vehicles that are “stealth” are vehicles that have a subdued outward appearance and are not quickly identified as a marked patrol vehicle. The graphics on the vehicle match the design of the marked patrol units; however they are only a few shades lighter than the black paint of the vehicle. This makes the graphics viewable only from certain angles. For safety reasons, the graphics are reflective, and will reflect in the headlights of other vehicles at night. The light bar that one would see on the top of a traditional police vehicle has been removed and in its place are LED red and blue lights that have been integrated into the body of the vehicle as well as the interior.

While purchasing a vehicle specifically for this purpose would be an expensive undertaking, the Sylvania Police Division opted to repurpose one of its existing 2013 Ford Police sedans. The old white door wraps and roof wraps as well as all the decals were removed. The vehicle was painted a solid black color and the chrome wheel covers were painted black as well. New stealth graphics were installed on the vehicle. All this was approximately \$2800.

Vehicle lighting was the next undertaking to complete the project. Working closely with the city vehicle maintenance department, a plan was developed and all new lighting was able to be purchased for \$1740 and installed in house. The costs for a new vehicle may range anywhere from \$35,000 to \$43,000 depending on the options and equipment purchased for it.

Most citizens may first notice this stealth vehicle when it has a vehicle pulled over or when it is at a crash scene with all its red and blue lights on. The vehicle is meant to enhance the police department's ability to quickly and effectively get into areas where criminal activity is present without being as noticeable to the criminals.

The Sylvania Police Division has also added two new 2018 Ford Police Utility Vehicles to its fleet. These vehicles took the place of the other two 2013 Ford Police Sedans which have been reassigned to the department's School Resource Officers. These 2018 Utilities have new light bars. The light bars that are on the rest of the patrol fleet are reaching the end of their serviceable life and by replacing the lights bars as the vehicles are replaced we will have parts available to keep the others in service until they can be replaced. These patrol vehicles are also equipped with a new electronic monitoring and programming system called bluePRINT. This allows for all electrical equipment, light bars, siren, in car camera system, in car computer, etc. wired into one main component with programming capabilities to control how and when certain equipment works. These two new marked utilities were purchased from and outfitted by Statewide Ford in Van Wert, Ohio for \$43,250 each.

This starts the beginning of replacing vehicles in our fleet of marked patrol vehicles. In 2019, we will replace two of the four 2014 Ford Utility vehicles with the other two 2014 Ford Utility vehicles scheduled to be replaced in 2020. Costs for these vehicles will be slightly less due to the transitioning of equipment from our 2014 Ford Utility vehicles into these new 2019 and 2020 Ford Utility vehicles.

