



**APPLETON
POLICE
DEPARTMENT**
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Date: April 14th, 2026

To: CEA Committee

From: Assistant Chief Gary Lewis

Subject: 2027 Community Service Ford Transit Vans Upgrade

In 2023, Appleton PD started the transition to the Ford Transit van as a Community Service designated vehicle. The change was prompted by the discontinuation of the Dodge Caravan. As a cost savings measure the initial Ford Transit vans were purchased with a rear-wheel-drive drivetrain.

APD is requesting CEA to authorize an upgrade to our Community Service Ford Transit van fleet. The vans are due to be replaced in 2027. APD is requesting an upgrade to an all-wheel-drive drivetrain. The Ford Transit platform from the Dodge Caravan was a significant upgrade and allowed for a purpose built, professionally designed cargo van. The RWD's limiting factor came during times of significant snowfall. During major snowfalls the vans routinely get stuck or become "grounded" as road conditions do not allow for their safe use. These conditions are also the time when our Community Service Officers can be a force multiplier however we cannot deploy them to assist stranded motorists or assess community damage.

The cost to upgrade from the RWD to an AWD drivetrain is \$3,800 per vehicle.

Appleton PD will budget in 2027 for this initial upgrade through our operations budget and recognize that our monthly CEA cost will increase to fund the future replacement vehicles. In 2027, we are requesting to upgrade the three CSO vans, units 1047, 1048 and 1049.

Cost Analysis

Equipment	Recommendation	Proposed
Ford Transit Van	Upgrade	\$11,400

Thank you for your consideration.