

Fort Bend County Sheriffs' Office

This request is to retain two vehicles currently expected to be replaced in the current fleet cycle: FBCSO D002 and FBCSO D066. These vehicles are currently assigned to the Livestock and K9 Units and are needed as spares for use when these specially equipped vehicles are out of service for any purpose.

Livestock Unit

The Livestock Unit is comprised of a deputies assigned to investigate and respond to livestock-related issues and livestock violations within the County. Often, these investigations relate to community public health issues including diseases and outbreaks. The unit investigates animal cruelty cases within unincorporated areas of Fort Bend County and manages all reported estray livestock. Often, in the absence of property owners, and to prevent herds of livestock from entering roadways and highways, deputies also render immediate temporary repair to fencing.

In order to complete these duties, assigned Deputies drive trucks to pull livestock trailers of all sizes and types, including gooseneck style trailers. The Deputies haul fence repair material and tools, traverse uneven and off-road terrain, and manage temporary cattle fencing to restrain loose livestock. In many instances, the Livestock Unit has prevented traffic crashes and injuries by capturing loose livestock on roadways and highways throughout Fort Bend County. Deputies also transport livestock to auction or to corrals to hold them until owners are located. The need to have spare Livestock Unit trucks is of utmost importance for the completion of daily duties and responsibilities. The current fleet condition is dire, and there are insufficient spare vehicles to maintain this unit. Several issues are mechanical or natural and a hardship is created when a replacement vehicle with the above capacities is unavailable. A spare vehicle will enable the Livestock Unit to operate without disruption to a necessary service.

K-9 Unit

The Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office provides trained police Canine Team(s) to enhance the Sheriff's Office efforts in crime prevention, narcotics detection, criminal apprehension, officer safety and service to the community. Services provided by the Canine Unit also include explosives detection and searches of transport vehicles used by drug trafficking and criminal organizations and enterprises.

The K-9 Unit requires specialized equipment and components, such as internal kennels and temperature monitoring equipment inside the handler's patrol vehicle to accomplish their public safety mission. When a K-9 Deputy's vehicle is out of service, the team of officer and canine is unable to work. A police vehicle that is not equipped with the proper equipment does not properly house and protect the canine, and since the canine unit also serves a dual purpose, safety mechanism, the canine is unable to exit a vehicle when the handler officers life in peril or threatened. The specially- equipped vehicle can only be replaced with a vehicle holding the same capabilities as a canine unit.

The design of the K9 vehicle enables the team to respond appropriately when needed, and properly shelters the canine unit when on patrol and not yet deployed. K9 units are effective in deployment to crime scenes and surveillance, as well as to assist with the search and capture of dangerous and violent felons and fugitives. The investment in the police vehicle for K9s is substantial, and a spare must be available to enable police operations to continue when a vehicle is out of service for any purpose.

A spare vehicle with the appropriate equipment is necessary to enable K9 units to remain in service despite any repair or maintenance needed to the assigned K9 unit.