

Response to Questions on the FY 2011 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Cook

Question: What is the replacement schedule for County vehicles, what savings could be achieved by lengthening the cycles, and what would be the potential downsides?

Response: The replacement schedule for County vehicles varies, depending on the category of the vehicle. For most vehicles, replacement criteria includes both the age of the vehicle as well as a mileage requirement. For other vehicle types, the replacement criteria is based solely on age. A few examples of the published replacement criteria follow:

Vehicle Category	Age	Miles
Sedans, Police Package	4	80,000
Sedans, Midsize	6	85,000
Mini Pickups/Mini Vans	6	90,000
Trucks/vans up to 1 Ton	8	110,000
Cargo Vans, 12-15 pass vans	9	110,000
Medium/Heavy Duty Vehs	9	135,000
School Buses	12	N/A
Fire Apparatus	12	N/A
Ambulances	10	N/A
Trailers, mounted equipment	6-12	N/A

In October 2008, the County Executive decided to suspend vehicle replacements, other than those that are uneconomical to repair, for FY 2009. This action, which in essence resulted in a one year moratorium on vehicle purchases, provided a one-time savings of \$5 million by extending the life of vehicles in the County's fleet by one year. It should be noted that this action included all vehicles except those such as ambulances, large fire apparatus, school buses, and police helicopters which require multiple-year processes to procure and replace.

In September 2009, senior staff discussed extending the moratorium one additional year by adding a second additional year to the replacement criteria. The discussion included the risks of an older fleet, combined with the one-time savings to be gained from the extension. After these discussions, the decision was made to extend the criteria a second year, with the same vehicle class exceptions noted above. This action will result in a one-time savings of approximately \$4 million. Therefore, during the two year period from October 2008 to October 2010, the Department of Vehicle Services (DVS) will only replace vehicles that are uneconomical to repair. The impact of this action will be to effectively extend the vehicle replacement criteria by two years. DVS has committed to this action until such time as the County's budget situation has improved. When that time occurs, DVS recommends a slow transition back to the published replacement criteria, over time, as the budget will allow.

DVS recognizes the risks of an older fleet, which can include increased maintenance costs and possible vehicle breakdowns and decreased vehicle reliability. However, in order to achieve necessary budget savings, DVS supports this action and will work to mitigate the impact to customer agencies. Due to potential safety problems and increased maintenance costs, DVS does not recommend that the replacement years be extended out past the two additional years already added.

Filename: 10-13 Cook DVS Replacement Schedules
Directory: P:\Annual\Addon\Q&A\Responses-Pkg2
Template: W:\Templates\Addon\Q&A.dot
Title: Q & A
Subject:
Author: bheffe
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 10/21/2009 8:31:00 AM
Change Number: 12
Last Saved On: 11/11/2009 10:40:00 AM
Last Saved By: bheffe
Total Editing Time: 29 Minutes
Last Printed On: 11/24/2009 12:50:00 PM
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 2
Number of Words: 442 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 2,523 (approx.)