

Seattle Police Vehicle Lease Overview

The City of Seattle's fleet leasing program works much differently than the private leasing programs one sees advertised. The lease rate covers the depreciation costs (the "consumption" of the current vehicle), an inflation factor to pay for the increased cost of the next vehicle, all regular maintenance and repair, and an overhead charge for administering the program. The Fleets and Facilities Department (FFD) collects enough money through the lease rates to cover the costs of replacing vehicles at the end of their life cycles with new vehicles, paying mechanics to repair the vehicles, and paying for parts and outside work that may be needed to make repairs. FFD's patrol car and motorcycle lease rates are structured to keep the vehicles on the road and ensure they are replaced in a timely manner at the lowest cost possible to the Police Department.

Patrol Cars

Patrol car lease charges break out this way: 55 percent covers depreciation and inflation ("capital replacement"), 42 percent covers maintenance, and 3 percent covers overhead.

Under the City's financial guidelines, when vehicles are added to the fleet, departments must either provide the money to buy the first vehicle or borrow the money for the first acquisition — after that, all replacements are covered through the lease rates as previously described. Once a vehicle has been added to the fleet, a portion of the lease rate funds perpetual replacement in accordance with established life cycles. In addition, the following services are provided and included in the patrol car lease cost:

- **Vehicle acquisition.** Development of specifications, soliciting bids, awarding contracts, placing orders, receiving.
- **Financing the replacement vehicle purchase price.** Cost for a 2009 patrol car: \$27,219
- **Outfitting of the vehicle by FFD to user specifications.** Average cost per patrol car: \$6,600*
 - Install decals
 - Install lights and other accessories:
 - Front strobes
 - Headlight wig wags
 - Light bar
 - Taillight/back-up light flashers
 - Siren speaker
 - Install console, switch panel, and 12v power outlets
 - Install prisoner screen
 - Manufacture and install dual gun mounts
 - Install fire extinguisher
 - Install prisoner door panels
 - Install key lock box
 - Install prisoner seat
- **Lifetime preventive and breakdown maintenance.** All periodic inspections, oil changes and manufacturer-specified services. Also includes annual emissions test as required by state law. All repairs, except those caused by damage, are covered under the

**Includes all labor and parts*

lease, including tune-ups, brake relines, tires, and engine and transmission repairs.
Average cost per patrol car: \$399/month

- **Car Washing & Vacuuming.** Use of vehicle cleaning facilities at FFD shops.
- **Decommissioning and disposal of vehicles.** Removing specialized equipment and markings, marketing of vehicles and transfer of ownership. Proceeds from sale are returned to user department's vehicle replacement fund.

The current monthly cost for lease of a patrol car from FFD:

- **Average lease rate for patrol car on four-year life:** \$1,019/month (overhead - \$32; capital replacement - \$588; maintenance - \$399), which amounts to \$48,912 over the life of the car.
- **Average lease rate for patrol car on five-year life:** \$902/month (overhead - \$32; capital replacement - \$471; maintenance - \$399), which amounts to \$54,120 over the life of the car.

Motorcycles

Motorcycle lease charges break this way: 57 percent covers depreciation and inflation, 39 percent covers maintenance, and 4 percent covers overhead.

As for patrol cars, once a motorcycle has been added to the fleet, a portion of the lease rate funds perpetual replacement in accordance with established life cycles. In addition, the following services are provided and included in the motorcycle lease cost:

- **Vehicle acquisition.** Development of specifications, soliciting bids, awarding contracts, placing orders, receiving.
- **Cost of the initial purchase price.** Cost for a 2009 Police motorcycle: \$18,818
- **Outfitting of the vehicle by FFD to user specifications.** Average cost per motorcycle: \$7,852
- **Lifetime preventive and breakdown maintenance.** All periodic inspections, oil changes and manufacturer-specified services. All repairs, except those caused by damage, are covered under the lease, including tune-ups, brake relines, tires, and engine and transmission repairs. Average cost per motorcycle: \$254/month
- **Decommissioning and disposal of vehicles.** Removing specialized equipment and markings, marketing of vehicles and transfer of ownership. Proceeds from sale are returned to user department's vehicle replacement fund.

The current monthly cost for lease of a motorcycle from FFD:

- **Average lease rate for motorcycle on five-year life:** \$634/month; \$38,040 over the life of the motorcycle.