

**Subject: DES- Street Light & Mobile Commuter Store Vehicles**

**FY 2018 Proposed Budget  
Budget Work Session Follow-up**

**4/10/2017**

The following information is provided in response to a request made by Mr. John Vihstadt for the work session on 3/28/2017, regarding the street light program and Mobile Commuter Store vehicles:

A. The (enhanced) Street Light Program bullet notes the addition of two vehicles. Are these specially equipped vehicles? If not, why can't the need for extra vehicles be satisfied by use of vehicles in the motor pool not being used at the time?

There are two vehicles: one is a bucket truck that includes specialized equipment with a hydraulic lift to allow for above grade maintenance of street light fixtures and infrastructure. The other vehicle is a pickup truck needed for our supervisor at the Trades Center to perform the oversight of the contractors and check on field problems independent of our more specialized equipment. Both vehicles and staff will be mobilized out of the Trade Center where all the materials and supplies are housed for maintenance activities. The County's motor pool is located at Courthouse Plaza. Since the supervisor utilizing the pick-up truck is estimated to spend 75% of their time in the field checking on contractors and fixing problems, utilization of a pooled vehicle with other users would be difficult to manage and does not make sense for this program operation.

B. Regarding the three Mobile Commuter Stores, I have seen them deployed at the County Fair, Pike Blues Festival, Clarendon Day and other major community and special events. How often are all three deployed at once? Could the County get along with only two Mobile Commuter Stores without materially compromising their value? How much would retiring one mobile facility save annually and how might funds saved be redeployed?

The mobile units are assigned to cover an average of 48 – 50 location assignments per month (Monday through Friday with each assignment being of a six-hour duration). This schedule requires an average of 2.5 vehicles deployed per weekday plus additional scheduled time for servicing the vehicles. High customer traffic locations include the Pentagon, Pentagon City and Court House. The Mobile Stores have also begun to provide service to the County's high schools including the Career Center.

The program is not funded with net tax support, it is funded by a combination of federal/state grants and a percentage of sales revenues dedicated to running the ACCS program, including the Mobile Commuter Store.

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Reducing the program from three vehicles to two vehicles would require either reducing the number of locations served and/or reducing the time spent at each location by approximately 40%-50%. The current deployment schedule is designed to have maximum benefit and exposure to the high customer traffic locations mentioned above.

Annual savings would be minimal. The County would retain the extra vehicle for the downtime associated with repairs and maintenance of the two other vehicles since trading in the vehicle at this time would not be financially beneficial. The staffing currently in place would be deployed to other activities or, if the staffing was terminated, the funding from the federal and state grants would be reallocated to other transportation uses which qualify under the grant requirements.