

Investigation Update Sheriff Department Vehicle Maintenance Response

This is a follow up report to the Sheriff Department Vehicle Maintenance report issued January 25, 1996 by the 1995/96 Ventura County Grand Jury.

Ventura County Sheriff Larry W. Carpenter in a letter dated March 27, 1996 responded to the January report. The Grand Jury has subsequently met with the Lieutenant in charge of the Information Services Bureau and separately with members of Network services (communications equipment) and Fleet Services (vehicle maintenance & repair).

The Grand Jury was provided copies of written policies and procedures used by the Sheriffs Patrol Officers that include the following:

1. Vehicle Operators Handbook.
2. Preventative Maintenance (PM) Service Schedules.
3. Vehicle Replacement Policy.
4. Patrol Log that includes vehicle condition.
5. 1996/97 Projected Replacement Vehicles List.
6. General Order for Vehicle Use and Assignments.
7. General Order for Vehicle Maintenance
8. General Order for Vehicle Accident & Towing
9. General Order for Vehicle Fuel Sources
10. General Order for Vehicle Pursuit Policy
11. Budget Development manual for Fiscal Year 1996/97 for Vehicles.

An update of the Standard Operating Procedure regarding the inspection of patrol vehicles by deputies is in the review/approval cycle. The Patrol Log is also in further development to expand on the level of detail by means of a vehicle condition checklist and equipment inventory list.

A service agreement for fiscal year 1996-97 is now in draft form for General Services Agency (GSA) Fleet Services and the Sheriff's Department.

The most notable effort underway is the establishment of a new Patrol Loaner Pool. This loaner pool will consist of five new fully equipped patrol cars for use throughout the county on a greatest need basis. The rules for the patrol area stations are in draft form at this time and the pool is planned to be operational during July 1996.

An ongoing effort to be commended is the recent addition of two mountain top communication towers that have reduced the number of communication "dead spots". Additional sites are under consideration including site suitability testing.

RECOMMENDATION

The 1995/96 Grand Jury recommends:

The Sheriff's Department Supervisors should periodically remind the Patrol Officer that they personally are responsible for the condition of their assigned vehicles and the installed equipment.

The supervisors should verify that policies and procedures are carried out.

RESPONSE NOT REQUIRED