



# inroads

September 2017

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**After Hours Emergencies**  
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 Your call will be answered through  
 the Department of Energy and  
 Environmental Protection Dispatch  
 Office, which will assist you.

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 Go to:  
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 OPERATIONS** for additional infor-  
 mation on fueling locations, acci-  
 dent forms and mileage reports.

## Fleet Maintenance

The number of vehicles that state agencies lease from Fleet Operations has remained in the 3,300-3,400 range for the past eight to nine years. This total represents roughly 20% fewer than the more than 4,100 vehicles used by agencies prior to a downsizing initiative in 2008.

Far and away the biggest expense of DAS Fleet is the purchasing of our vehicles. But the costs don't end there. Vehicle maintenance, along with insurance and employees, all represent large portions of our budget.

One area where Fleet Operations has significant exposure is maintenance and repair. When you are responsible for the mechanical upkeep on vehicles that travel in the range of 40 million miles a year collectively, as the DAS fleet does, staying on top of maintenance issues is an essential part of vehicle ownership. Fleet Operations is fortunate to have experienced and knowledgeable staff at each of our maintenance locations to provide timely and cost-effective repair services. This goes a long way towards keeping our expenses in check and providing the greatest value to you, our customers.

As evidenced in the chart below, our experience with the 'Maintenance & Repair' category and the 'Parts' account have been excellent (including things like glass repair and work performed by outside vendors such as a transmission rebuild). Despite price increases over the past six years, in fiscal year 2017 we actually spent less in these areas than we did back in 2011! Regarding parts, the trend has been downward each and every year for six years in a row!

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Maintenance &amp; Repair</b>	290,000	334,000	372,000	415,000	466,000	313,000	279,000
<b>Parts</b>	1,372,000	1,240,000	1,206,000	1,196,000	1,080,000	1,041,000	1,016,000
<b>Total</b>	1,662,000	1,574,000	1,578,000	1,611,000	1,546,000	1,354,000	1,295,000

These results go a long way to explain why Fleet Operations has been able to maintain a monthly administration rate at \$188, only \$2 more than it was six years ago, with no increase expected for FY 2018 or 2019.

# Ford Interceptor

You may have heard recent concerns about carbon monoxide leaking into the Ford Interceptor Utility used by police. Since DAS has roughly 45 of these vehicles in use at several agencies we wanted to share what we know about the situation.

Ford issued a release on July 28 that included the following;

- Drivers of regular, non-police Ford Explorers have no reason to be concerned.
- The investigation is ongoing. However, the company has discovered holes in the back of some Police Interceptor Utilities that had police equipment installed after leaving Ford's factory.
- Routinely, when a police or fire department install lighting, radios and other equipment, they have to drill wiring access holes into the rear of the vehicle. If the holes are not properly sealed it creates an opening where exhaust could enter the cabin.
- Ford will continue to investigate all reports from its police customers, including the exhaust manifold issue referenced by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

In Connecticut, DESPP generally uses the Interceptor sedan, however, they also have about 70 of the Utility model. The upfitter used by DESPP is MHQ. Besides Connecticut, MHQ does the upfitting for Massachusetts State Police vehicles, including many hundred of the Interceptor Utility, along with many municipalities. MHQ and Ford have tested numerous Massachusetts Police Utilities and have not found any with an elevated level of carbon monoxide.

Ford representatives met with DESPP and DAS to communicate that the vast majority of Utility models, which have been inspected nationwide, have no issues and their findings indicate upfitter error on the few that have been identified.

As Ford provides additional updates we will share them with you. In the meantime, if you get a report from an employee complaining about headaches or an exhaust odor pertaining to a particular car, notify Fleet Operations so that we can arrange for that car to go to the dealer for a thorough inspection. This applies to the Interceptor Utility, Explorer, or any vehicle owned by DAS.