



TETON COUNTY PROBATION
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MEMO

December 10, 2024

Att: Teton County Board of County Commissioners; and
Magistrate Judge Jason Walker

Greetings,

The purpose of this memo is to request approval for Teton County Probation Officers to take home department vehicles at the discretion of the Department Director. As we are all aware hiring and retaining qualified staff is challenging in the current economy we are experiencing in Teton County. There is a demonstrated disparity between the cost of living and the market wage making it difficult to attract competitive staff. Like many other county departments the Probation Department has felt the strain.

Hiring of staff from neighboring towns results in a costly commute, which could affect the retention of probation officer(s). The Probation Department has one vehicle and we are shopping for a 2nd vehicle approved for purchase in FY25. I am proposing, like the Teton County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) already practices, Probation Department staff have the ability to take home department vehicles with the approval of the Director.

Beyond the benefit to staff take home vehicles will provide the opportunity for officers to respond to department responsibilities with clients housed at the Jefferson County Jail; attend required training; and meet with neighboring Probation Departments and Social Service providers. Continuing to strengthen relationships with nearby stakeholders will benefit our clients and the Teton Valley Community.

As the Director I take on the oversight responsibility in accordance with the County's vehicle policy. The Department is grateful to have increased our fuel budget in FY25. I am committed to closely monitor the fuel funds to ensure it meets Department needs throughout FY25.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully, Director Tiffany Hicks

