

Special Meeting of the Vilonia City Council
March 26, 2025

Members present: Mike Matos, Brady Zweifel, Joe Maxwell, James Firestone, Lacosta Beene, Steven Craig

Meeting called to order by Mayor Preston Scroggin.

Established quorum.

This meeting was requested by Police Chief Brad McNew to discuss the purchase of a new police vehicle.

McNew stated the insurance was expected to pay out in the amount of \$58,225, including equipment and vehicle. The vehicle purchase price approved at the last meeting was \$48,500. Total cost of an equipped vehicle is \$81,179.37. By purchasing and installing equipment from the dealer, we do not pay sales tax. If we purchase the vehicle and then install equipment, we do not pay sales tax on the vehicle but we would on the equipment. Without sales tax, the equipped vehicle would cost \$22,954 more than the insurance payout. McNew suggested using the accumulated funds in the Act 209 court account to pay the difference; that account has roughly \$57,000 in it right now. McNew stated the insurance payout covered less than expected because of inflation in vehicle and equipment prices.

Matos requested clarification on how the Act 209 money is usually used. McNew stated it was for transportation of prisoners and the fund had been around for years but was rarely used. Some months, the fund received \$200 and sometimes \$500. The fund comes from court fees and is overseen by the judge.

Motion to approve \$81,179.37 to be used to purchase a new, fully equipped, F-150 police unit to replace the one lost in the accident, with the amount to be made up from insurance and Act 209 money, and replacing the approval made at the previous meeting for the approval of a \$48,500 vehicle purchase, made by Maxwell, seconded by Beene, all in favor, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Date: 4/15/25

Mayor: 

Recorder: 