



## **AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

Action Item for the City Council Meeting June 24, 2025

**DATE:** June 24, 2025

**TO:** Peter Zanoni, City Manager

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### **Purchase of a Mobile Lift Trailer for the Corpus Christi Police Department**

#### **CAPTION:**

Resolution authorizing the purchase of a new 2025 Low Profile Deck Trailer from Mobile Lift Concepts, of Corona, California, for on-site vehicle inspections and catalytic converter investigations for the Corpus Christi Police Department's Auto Theft Task Force, for a total amount of \$59,000.00, with FY 2025 funding from the Police Grants Fund

#### **SUMMARY:**

This resolution authorizes the purchase of a new Low Profile Deck Trailer from Mobile Lift Concepts, of Corona, California, for the Corpus Christi Police Department. The additional custom-built mobile lift trailer will be used for on-site vehicle inspections and catalytic converter investigations by the Corpus Christi Police Department's Auto Theft Task Force.

#### **BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

The Corpus Christi Police Department's (CCPD) Auto Theft Task Force focuses not only on detection and apprehension of stolen and burglarized vehicles, but also on motor vehicle fraud and proactive policing of automotive businesses in the City and County to reduce the sale of stolen vehicles and parts. Additionally, the Auto Theft Task Force conducts an extensive public awareness campaign which includes crime prevention programs focusing on reducing motor vehicle crime.

CCPD will use funding from the FY 2025 Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MCVPA) grant to purchase a new 2025 Low Profile Deck Trailer for personal cargo trailer registration inspections and for catalytic converter investigations conducted by CCPD's Auto Theft Task Force. The personal cargo trailer registration inspections are conducted on a weekly basis by CCPD at the Corpus Christi Police Impound yard (5485 Greenwood Drive). The purpose of these inspections is to identify the personal cargo trailers'

Vehicle Identification (VIN) numbers, as well as the year, make, and model. These inspections are required for the owner to obtain state registration for their personal cargo trailer. CCPD offers the personal cargo trailer registration to all residents of Nueces County. In addition to the personal cargo trailer registration process, CCPD receives requests from surrounding law enforcement agencies to inspect the VIN numbers and other information on personal cargo trailers in their possession that have been involved in crimes.

Currently, CCPD inspectors have to crawl under the cargo trailers as part of the inspection process which poses safety issues as well as longer turn around times for the inspections to be completed. Some cargo trailers do not have enough room for CCPD inspectors to crawl underneath them, so CCPD has to transport those cargo trailers to another site in order to use a lift to raise the vehicle so that they can inspect underneath it. The purchase of the 2025 Low Profile Deck Trailer will allow CCPD's inspectors to raise each cargo trailer on-site, which will prevent them from having to crawl under them or transport them off-site to have the cargo trailer put onto a lift. This will increase safety for CCPD's inspectors and increase the number of inspections that CCPD is able to complete.

CCPD will also use the 2025 Low Profile Deck Trailer for catalytic converter investigations. As part of the catalytic converter investigations, CCPD inspectors have to look for the VIN number in multiple locations including underneath the vehicle. As with the personal cargo trailers, if there is not enough room under the vehicle then CCPD inspectors have to transport the vehicle off-site to a lift so that the vehicle can be lifted and the CCPD inspectors can continue their investigative work.

The 2025 Low Profile Deck Trailer being purchased is a specialized, self-contained vehicle lift trailer that has been designed specifically for the Corpus Christi Auto Theft Task Force to inspect vehicles during catalytic converter investigations. The trailer is designed specifically to enhance safety and efficiency during operations, especially in remote or outdoor settings. The trailer will include a 70" lift, generator, compressor, battery charger, operator chair, stabilizer jacks, and a winch (all built specifically for field vehicle inspections).

The trailer's towable lift system features a patented sliding ergonomic undercarriage inspection chair that enables law enforcement personnel to lift and inspect vehicles more efficiently and safely. This will enable investigators to inspect for missing, tampered, or altered converters in the field. The mobile lift trailer also allows for secure and elevated vehicle inspections onsite, including Vehicle Identification Numbers (VIN) verifications and undercarriage assessments on automobiles and trailers as part of investigations into stolen vehicles. Lastly, this trailer will also enhance community outreach efforts, as it can be used during converter etching events to deter theft and assist with recovery and identification.

CCPD's Auto Theft Task Force does not currently have any trailers. Traditional automotive trailers are primarily designed for transportation, not inspection, and they typically lack onboard power, lifting mechanisms, or operator safety features. Conversely, the mobile lift trailer from Mobile Lift Concepts is significantly more advanced than a typical utility or transport trailer. In addition to enhanced safety and efficiency, the purchase of this trailer will increase CCPD's ability to meet several MVCPA grant performance goals, many of which are tied to mobile enforcement and outreach events.

The mobile lift trailer from Mobile Lift Concepts will be the first of its kind for CCPD and the Auto Theft Task Force. This is the first time that CCPD has purchased trailers from Mobile Lift Concepts. As part of the FY 2025 MVCPA grant award, the grantor awarded funds to CCPD for the purchase of a mobile lift trailer. This specific unit was strongly recommended by the MVCPA grantor due to its proven effectiveness in law enforcement operations. Several other Auto Theft Task Forces across Texas, including Lubbock, Eagle Pass, Laredo, and Kleberg County, have purchased the same low-profile deck trailer and have shared highly positive feedback regarding its safety, functionality, and impact on their field investigations. Furthermore, there is no equivalent mobile lift trailer to the one manufactured by Mobile Lift Concepts.

### **PROCUREMENT DETAIL:**

This procurement is a direct purchase with Mobile Lift Concepts, for one additional custom-built mobile lift trailer, under the Local Government Code, Section 252.022(a) (7), items that are available from only one source because of patents, copyrights, secret processes, or natural monopolies.

This is the first time that CCPD has purchased trailers from Mobile Lift Concepts. As part of the FY 2025 MVCPA grant award, the grantor awarded funds to CCPD for the purchase of a mobile lift trailer. This specific unit was strongly recommended by the MVCPA grantor due to its proven effectiveness in law enforcement operations. Several other Auto Theft Task Forces across Texas, including Lubbock, Eagle Pass, Laredo, and Kleberg County, have purchased the same low-profile deck trailer and have shared highly positive feedback regarding its safety, functionality, and impact on their field investigations. Furthermore, there is no equivalent mobile lift trailer to the one manufactured by Mobile Lift Concepts.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

The alternative is not to approve the purchase; however, without this mobile lift trailer, CCPD will have to continue using outdated and less safe methods for conducting undercarriage inspections. This will increase the safety risk to police officers and limit efficiency during field operations. The lack of proper equipment will also impact CCPD's ability to meet several MVCPA grant performance goals, many of which are tied to mobile enforcement and outreach events. Falling short of these objectives will affect the City's competitiveness for future grant funding.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The FY 2025 fiscal impact of this purchase is in the amount of \$59,000.00 with funding from the Police Grants Fund. The purchase of a new 2025 Low Profile Deck Trailer was planned as part of the FY 2025 MVCPA Grant award, which the City previously received.

#### **FUNDING DETAIL:**

Fund:	1061 Police Grants
Organization/Activity:	89 Grants & Capital Project Funds
Department:	29 Police
Project # (CIP Only):	822523S SB224 Catalytic Converter Grant
Account:	550020 Vehicles & Machinery
Amount:	\$59,000.00

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of this item authorizing purchase of a new 2025 Low Profile Deck Trailer from Mobile Lift Concepts of Corona, California through statutory exemption for the Corpus Christi Police Department, as presented.

#### **LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Resolution  
Price Sheet