

**Subject: DES- Clarification on Electric and Hybrid Light Vehicles in Fleet**

**FY 2019 Proposed Budget  
Budget Work Session Follow-up**

**3/29/2018**

The following information is provided in response to a request made by John Vihstadt at the work session on 3/9/2018, regarding the following question:

Web page 947; ELECTRIC VEHICLES: The number of electric light vehicles in the fleet has plateaued at 5, and the number of hybrid light vehicles in the fleet is steady at 120. Is this leveling out due to cost constraints, doubts about value, or other reasons?

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Supporting Measures	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Estimate	FY 2019 Estimate
Electric Light Vehicles in Fleet	1	2	2	4	4	5
Heavy Vehicles in Fleet	197	201	206	204	210	210
Hybrid Light Vehicles in Fleet	118	118	118	127	120	120

DES looks to appropriately balance fiscal and environmental sustainability through our fleet sizing and offerings. However, the significant purchase premium for electric vehicles requires that we selectively target electric vehicle purchases for high-mileage uses, to ensure the fuel savings is achieved and the vehicle is cost-effective. The number of electric vehicles in the County’s fleet has leveled out as the County is unable to identify many more vehicles each year where it makes economic sense to replace it with an electric vehicle.

Within the Department of Environmental Services, the fleet management and the Arlington Initiative to Rethink Energy teams will continue to work collaboratively to identify grant funding opportunities for vehicles and charging stations, while monitoring the technology as it continues to become more viable and economical. We continue to monitor the electric vehicle market, which is becoming more reliable and cost effective. We anticipate that electric vehicles will become a larger component of our passenger vehicle fleet over the next decade as these trends continue.

As for hybrids, many manufacturers have managed to increase the fuel efficiency of their non-hybrid models matching those of hybrids and concurrently revising their hybrid offerings. The Ford Escape all-wheel drive hybrid, for example, which sold in recent years for roughly \$29,000 and advertised fuel mileage in the mid-30 range, is no longer available. It has been replaced with a non-hybrid version for \$21,000 with roughly the same fuel economy. These non-hybrid, fuel efficient, and cost effective models have made it possible for the County to continue to emphasize environmental sustainability while keeping our hybrid fleet population roughly the same. We will continue to provide the County with vehicles that are safe, energy efficient, environmentally friendly, mission oriented and all within reasonable budget parameters.