



## MEDIA RELEASE

### OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

SHERIFF PAUL N. WHITE

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Sheriff's Deputies Patrol In New Fuel Efficient Cars

Anderson County Sheriff's Deputies will soon be driving sleek new Dodge Chargers. With their low profile tires, black wheels, and protective front bumper, the cars are impressive. More important than how the new police cruiser looks, is how much gas it uses.



Using fewer gallons of gas was the primary factor in the department's decision to purchase the seven Dodge Chargers instead of Ford Crown Victorias that have been used for many years. The Charger has a V-6 engine instead of a V-8 and is rated for an average of 20 miles per gallon. The Crown Victoria is rated about 16 miles per gallon. While that doesn't sound like much difference, with patrol deputies each driving some 30,000 miles a year, the savings would definitely be seen. With gas prices at \$4.00 a gallon, less fuel consumption is a plus.

*"That's why we switched to the Dodge, the mileage was one of the biggest motivators," said Sheriff Paul White. "These seven new cars will help in saving gasoline."*

Not only has the cost of gasoline increased but the workload of the department continues to increase as well. Calls for service, the number of civil and criminal papers served, and other mandated duties all have risen dramatically over the last few years. Patrols of the rural areas have been beefed up in an effort to reduce crime. All of these increases cause deputies to drive more miles and use more gas.

Six of the new Chargers will be marked with the Sheriff's Department decals and visible green stripes while one is unmarked. The Charger is priced around the same as a Crown Victoria, about \$22,000. Fully outfitted with radios, lightbar, siren, and the many other pieces of equipment, the cost is around \$30,000 each.

The six marked Chargers will be issued to the department's patrol supervisors who will evaluate the cars over the next year. The tried and true Ford Crown Victoria has served the department well over the years. As patrol cars often are used to 200,000 miles or more, any car purchased must be durable and have a long life. This "test" will determine if the Dodges hold up as well as the Fords.

The Sheriff's Department is trying other ways to use less gas. Idling only when necessary, car pooling to training schools, and making sure the cars are tuned up and the tires are properly inflated will also help. The recently purchased laptop computers have reduced the number of trips back to the office to fill out reports and is saving fuel as well. All eight of the cars used by the School Resource Officers are six cylinders bought by the school department. The department is also looking to replace the cars used by civil process officers with those that are even more fuel efficient.

But the department will not cut back on patrols. *"If we cut back the general public suffers, and we definitely don't want that to happen,"* said Sheriff White. *"Providing law enforcement protection to the rural areas of the county is of primary importance."* *"We will continue to patrol the county roads in an effort to deter crime."*

The new cars are being equipped and should be on patrol within a few weeks.

**PHOTO: Sheriff Paul White shown with a new Dodge Charger.**

**Sheriff Paul White**