

The iconic police vehicle, the Ford Crown Victoria, was discontinued in 2011. As a result, police agencies had to select a replacement vehicle; this included the City of Menasha. After considerable research the Police Department decided that the Ford products were the best fit and cost for the community.

In 2012 Menasha purchased 1 Ford Utility Interceptor and 1 Sedan Interceptor. Those models may be familiar as the Utility is based on the Explorer body style and the Sedan is based on the Taurus body style. However, that is where the similarities end between the police models and the civilian models. The police models were designed for the rigors of law enforcement vehicle operation and include features not available in the civilian vehicles.

During 2012 Menasha officers were able to drive and provide feedback on each of the Interceptor models. This feedback, as well as other documentation, articles and a statistical analysis demonstrated how the Utility Interceptor is far superior than the Sedan.

Here is a list of the common reasons that officers preferred the Utility over the Sedan.

- **Ergonomics:** Officers who have driven both the Sedan and Utility prefer the Utility due to the extra hip room and ease of entering and exiting the vehicle. The Sedan was more difficult to enter/exit due to the design and positioning of the front seat. The following photos show the difference in hip room between the two models. There is some concern on how the Sedan could lead to work related injuries and more stress/damage to the vehicle based upon the way an officer in full duty gear must exit the vehicle.



This photo depicts the available hip room in the Sedan Interceptor after the installation of the aftermarket police equipment.

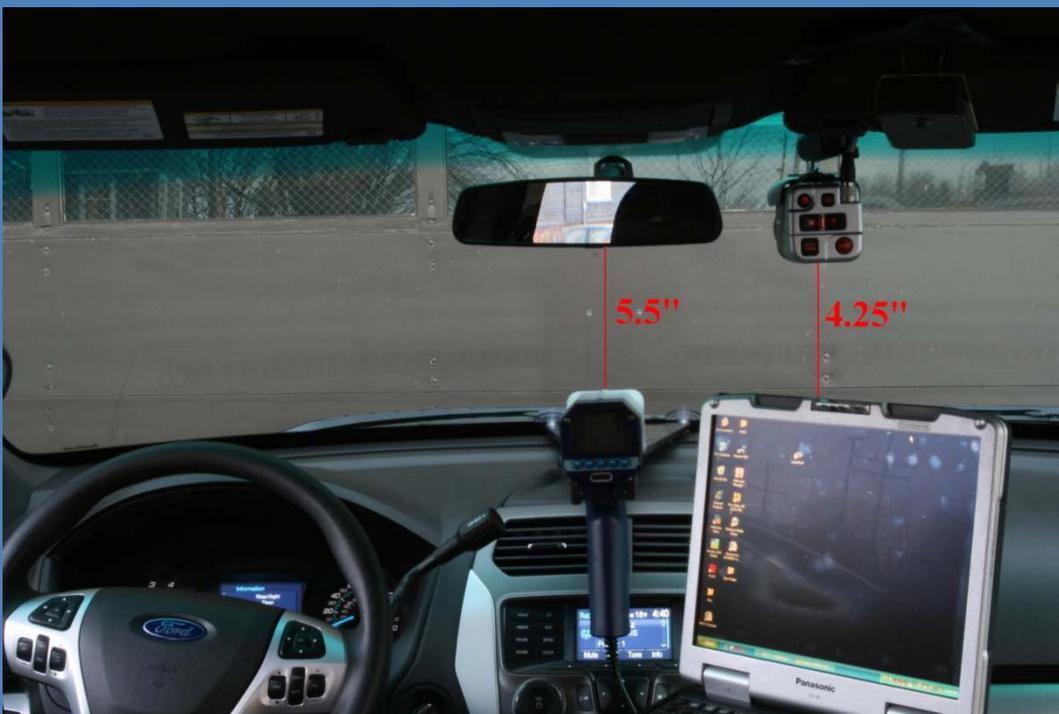


This photo depicts the available hip room in the Utility Interceptor after the installation of the aftermarket police equipment. The additional space gives the driver greater comfort while operating the vehicle in their police gear.

- **Visibility:** Visibility is a major safety consideration. Based upon the equipment in the vehicle visibility is reduced from a “regular” vehicle. As the pictures demonstrate there is much greater visibility out the front of the Utility after the installation of the aftermarket law enforcement equipment.

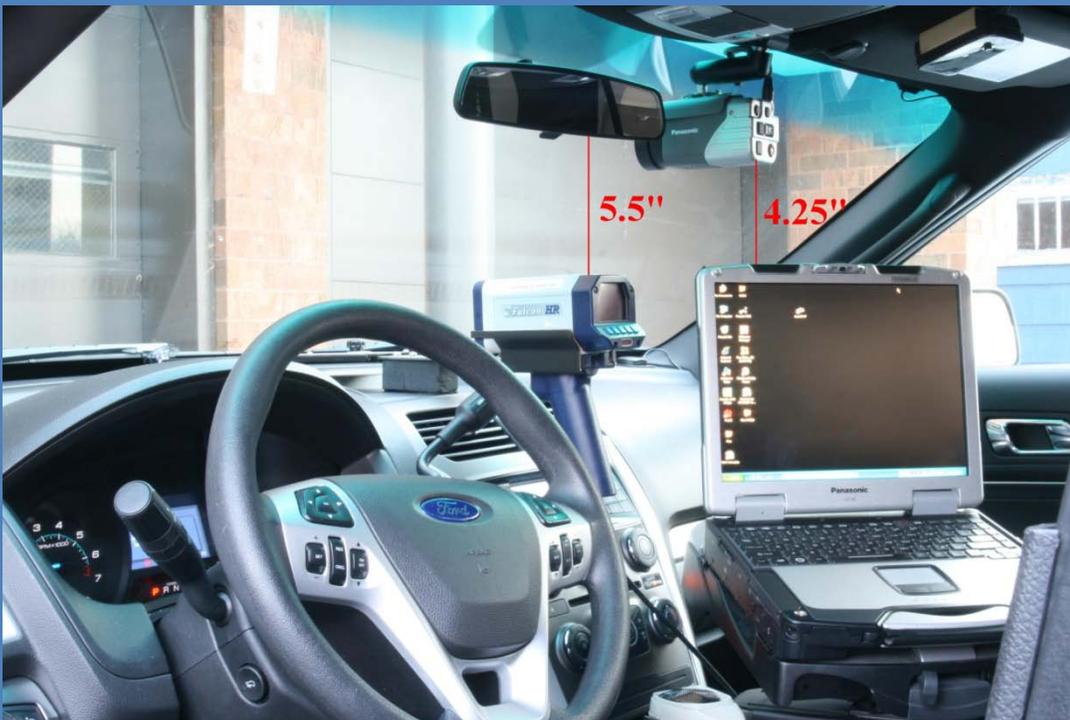


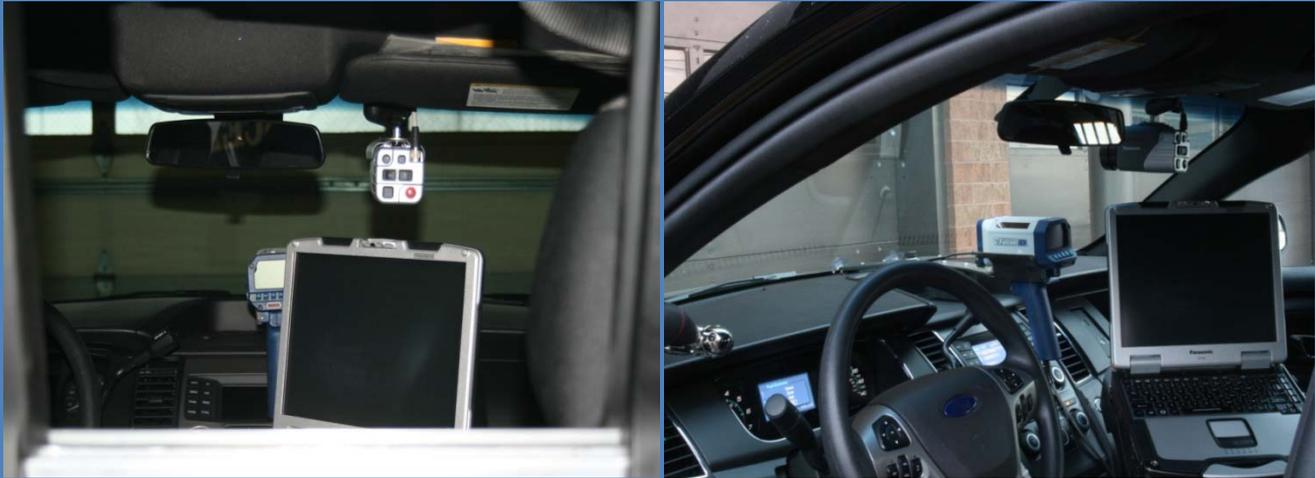
The above photo is a view out the front of the Sedan and the photo below is the view out the front of the Utility. Note the difference in the open area as depicted in the measurements. The design of the Utility allows for an increased field of vision for the driver. The increased field of vision in the Utility allows for safer operation of the vehicle.





These photos depict a view similar to what a driver of these vehicles would experience while looking towards the left side of the windshield. The photo above illustrates the Sedan and the photo below illustrates the Utility. Note the additional viewing area between the video camera, radar, and computer in the Utility.





Sedan Interceptor

These are the same 4 photos described previously without the measurements illustrating the increased visibility in the Utility.

Utility Interceptor



- **Storage:** The Utility has more cargo space than the Sedan, allowing for better organization of and access to all of the equipment officers carry with them in patrol vehicles. The Sedan has 16.6 cubic feet of trunk space and the Utility has 48.1 cubic feet of cargo space. The Utility can also carry twice as much cargo weight compared to the Sedan.



A look inside the trunk of our current Sedan Interceptor. The trunk is nearly full leaving little to no room available for transporting items that officers encounter during their duties, such as evidence and found property.



A look inside the cargo area of our current Utility Interceptor. Utilizing a storage drawer for organization the increased cargo space provides enough room for the standard equipment officers carry yet has the space to transport other items the officers may encounter.



While all of the specifications indicate the Utility is far superior to the Sedan, it was essential to determine the costs to both purchase and operate a Utility Vehicle vs. a Sedan to reach a decision.

- **Cost:** The Utility Interceptor's initial cost is approximately \$2,250 more than the Sedan; however past history has shown that SUV style vehicle hold their resale value much better than the sedan style vehicles we have sold. Our most recent SUV sale netted about \$2,500 more than we have been receiving for our sedans. That SUV was 7 years old, had a major transmission issue and had higher mileage than what we usually have on our patrol vehicles when they are retired. The projections are the Utility will have a much higher re-sale value which will offset the higher initial purchase cost, making the Utility actually cheaper.
- **Fuel Economy:** A major concern with an SUV is gas mileage being much worse than a sedan. However, this is not the case. Fuel efficiency has increased in many vehicles throughout history and law enforcement vehicles were not excluded. Currently, our Utility Interceptor is averaging about 14 MPG and our Sedan Interceptor is averaging 12 MPG. In comparison, our old patrol cars, the Crown Victoria, averaged about 10 MPG. One may wonder why our average miles per gallon are so low. Our patrol vehicles do a significant amount of stationary idling, compared to most vehicles. Any time a patrol vehicle is at an accident, conducting a traffic stop, using the emergency lights, keeping the windows clear in inclement weather and without having indoor storage the electronics have to stay warm inside the vehicle during periods of extreme cold the vehicle is idling. All of these factors can impact the miles per gallon average pushing them below regular consumer levels.
- **Warranty:** The Utility and the Sedan come with a 5 year, 100,000 mile power train warranty. This will help control some of the maintenance costs.

Based upon the factors listed in this report, the most economical and best suited vehicle for patrol operations at the City of Menasha Police Department is the Ford Utility Interceptor.