

Good Morning,

Lake Norden Police Department has taken possession of our new 2021 Chevy Tahoe 4X4 PPV. It has been a very bumpy road to say the least.

The process started in 2020 sending out letters to attempt to raise funding to lessen the burden on the tax payers of Lake Norden. We received a great response from local business and national organizations. We were able to receive funding in both grants and other funding in the amount of \$39,850.00. This is a huge chunk of the cost of the vehicle.

I would like to thank Agropur, First Premier Bank, US Deputy Sheriff's Association, TC Energy, Halme INC, J&R Feeds, Hamlin Building Center, Drumgoon Dairy, Blattner Energy, Weiland Marine, and Eframason Electric for their generous donations. We also received an AED from the Helmsley Grant to be used in the vehicle. We received additional funding also for the purchase of the mobile digital radio for the vehicle. All and all, this would not have been able to happen without the generosity of the local businesses in and around Lake Norden.

The bumpy road started when we had gotten approval to order the new vehicle. We originally had it set to order a vehicle from an emergency vehicle upfitter in Texas. This was a Chevy Tahoe PPV (Police Pursuit Vehicle) 4X4. It had all the lights and equipment installed and ready to hit the road. When we ordered it, we were informed that Chevrolet closed down orders for fleet vehicles and could not get us the vehicle we wanted. We started at square one looking for a police vehicle. Ford and Chevrolet were unable to provide a fleet vehicle. In talking with a local Ram dealer, I was told we could still get a Ram 1500 Special Services vehicle. So, we put in the order for that. We waited, and waited, and waited. Our order ended up getting canceled due to lack of vehicles. The COVID pandemic was hard on vehicle manufacturers. So, back at square one yet again, we located an upfitter in Des Moines Iowa that had ordered roughly 400 Tahoe PPV 4X4's at the beginning of the year. I called and spoke with the manager who informed me that they had 3 that were not spoken for. So, we jumped on the opportunity and my wife and I took off for Des Moines as we were not going to let this one slip through our fingers.

We have received our Tahoe and could not be happier with the vehicle. Again, I can not thank the businesses that contributed to our vehicle. Like I said, without their assistance, it would not have been possible.

Tony Aas

Lake Norden Chief of Police