



Twin Cities Police Department

To: Chief Craig Steckler, Fremont Police Department
From: Captain Mike McDuffee, Twin Cities Police Department
Date: June 26, 2006
Subject: Car Allowance Research

I received fifteen (15) responses to my inquiry using the Cal Chief's e-mail protocol. Here is how the car allowance program breaks down according to the 15 responses I received:

- The highest paid allowance was Clovis Police Department with an allowance of \$520 a month, plus .46 cents a mile after the first 100 miles driven to training, conferences, and meetings.
- The lowest was Torrance Police Department with an allowance of \$226 a month, plus mileage after the first 25 miles driven to training, conferences, and meetings. (Received a higher amount previously, but rolled half of the allowance into a "salary" increase to elevate reportable income to PERS.)
- The remainder of the police agencies that responded fell somewhere in the middle-range.
- Several of the agencies offer their command staff the option of a car allowance or a city issued vehicle.
- One benefit can be if the allowance is paid strictly in the form of a salary increase there is the boost to final compensation under PERS retirement.

Overall, there are very few benefits to receiving a car allowance. The downsides include a cap on reimbursable mileage, wear and tear on your personal vehicle, insurance costs, maintenance costs and proper recording of vehicle usage. Additionally, one must also consider the rising cost of gas. One agency, that currently provides an allowance, is transitioning back to city issued vehicles as there have been problems responding to crime scenes in personal vehicles.

The majority of respondents indicated that having an assigned vehicle is preferential to receiving a car allowance.

Regards,
Mike