

**Town of Underhill
ARPA Funds Application: Phase 1**

Committee/Group/Individual Requesting Funding: Underhill Energy Committee

Contact Name: Michael Oman, Chair

Phone Number: 802 899-3146

Email: mfo337vt@gmail.com

Date: January 20, 2023

Proposal Name/Brief Description: Purchase a 100% electric vehicle for Town employee and citizen use

- Underhill is committed to reducing the carbon footprint of the Town and its residents.
- Transportation is the single largest contributor to Underhill's energy/carbon footprint, representing about ½ and ⅓ of each respectively.
- Although public transportation (e.g., GMT) is an effective way to reduce local carbon footprint, it has been historically difficult to implement in rural areas such as Underhill.
- Carshare/rideshares can be an effective alternative to conventional public transportation, especially in lower density areas.
- Residents may find that they can reduce the number of vehicles they own (and all the associated environmental impacts) if they know they have easy, low-cost access to an additional car when they need it.
- At the same time, Town staff have frequent need for short local trips (e.g., Post Office and site visits). At present they use their own vehicles resulting in higher expense plus higher energy/carbon footprint. These types of frequent short trips would greatly benefit from EV substitution plus easy charging.
- A single Town EV could offer both convenient staff use and reserved public use.
- Annual operation and maintenance costs will be significantly less than a gasoline-powered vehicle, e.g., ~\$0.04 - \$0.05 per mile for electricity vs ~ \$0.10 or more per mile for gasoline, no oil changes, no spark plugs, no exhaust system replacements.
- The program would allow EV-curious residents to get used to the ins and outs of EVs prior to purchasing their own.

Estimated Cost/Description of Estimate Process (use the space here and attach additional pages and any supporting documents):

Chevy Bolt	~\$40,000	(we may be eligible for several credits)
Level 2 Charger	\$0	(required charger covered in separate ARPA application)
Snow Tires	~\$900	(initial purchase; will need replacements eventually)
Total:	~40,900	capital cost (ARPA request)

Underhill Energy Committee would undertake to provide for the management/allocation of this resource unless Town staff would prefer to retain that control.

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Please Answer the following questions by marking the answer in the space provided.

Benefit to Town of Underhill

Does this proposal	Yes	No	?
Invest in the town without creating a need for additional revenue?		1	
Benefit a population that was disproportionately impacted by the pandemic?		X	
Benefit a population underserved prior to the pandemic?	2		
Mitigate the effects of climate change?	X		
Improve or create infrastructure for water, sewer, or broadband?		X	
Align with the broad goals and priorities of the Town Plan?	X		

Feasibility of Project

Can this proposal	Yes	No	?
Be fully planned, estimated, and obligated to the town budget by March 2024?	X		
Be fully completed and paid for by the end of 2026?	X		
Be completed within the constraints of local staffing shortages?	3		
Gain the support and approval of a majority of Underhill residents?	4		

Notes:

1. As is the case for any town investment, there will be upkeep etc. for this asset. In addition, insurance will be required. To some degree, we expect this to be offset by reduced private vehicle expenses for staff.
2. Lower income residents are most seriously hindered by transportation deficiencies and uncertainties. This provides an available alternative.
3. UEC is prepared to provide for scheduling and operations to the extent that Town staff don't wish to.
4. Townspeople have expressed a desire for transportation options/alternatives in the past and we believe that they are likely to continue to do so in this instance.