

Town of Underhill ARPA Funds Application: Phase 1

Committee/Group/Individual Requesting Funding: Underhill Energy Committee

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Proposal Name/Brief Description: Purchase a 100% electric pickup 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 carbon/energy footprint, representing about ½ and ⅔ of each, respectively.
- Both town residents and staff/crew have periodic need for light truck capabilities. Most residents have only occasional need/use for such capability that makes it uneconomic to own/operate a pickup themselves, yet would benefit greatly from having occasional access to one. By operating such a vehicle and basing it at the Town Hall or Town Garage, this service could be made available to both townspeople and town crews without adding to the town's energy/carbon footprint.
- 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 a vehicle when they need it.
- At the same time, Town staff/crews would have access to lower energy/zero carbon light hauling and transport capability for routine operations, reducing both costs and environmental/climate impacts.
- A single Town EV pickup 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., ~ \$0.09 per mile for electricity vs ~ \$0.20 per mile for gasoline, no oil changes, no spark plugs, no exhaust system replacements.
- In addition, the truck could serve as a mobile source of backup electricity when needed.
- 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):

Ford F-150 Lightning	~\$80,000	(we may be eligible for several credits)
Level 2 Charger	~\$1,000	(installed; may get reduced price from GMP)
Snow Tires	~\$1,800	(initial purchase; will need replacements eventually)
Subtotal:	~\$82,800	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.