



## Community Supervision Vehicle Failures

### **District 1**

District 1 is made up of seven counties in rural areas with dirt paths, low lying flooding and beach areas. Some areas are surrounded by water with low lands having continuous flooding making it inaccessible to reach offenders homes. Officers have to park cars and walk to homes to in sandy/flooded beach areas with frequent high water issues and unpaved roads.

On the Currituck Outer Banks there is about 15 miles of populated area with no paved road with the only access with a four wheel drive vehicle. When the area of the Outer Banks and Hwy 12 incur Hurricanes, Northeasterners and other storms this area receives major flooding which sometimes makes these areas impassable without the assistance of a four wheel drive vehicle. When we receive requests from local law enforcement during these times to assist with local looting and evacuation, the four wheel drive vehicles are a necessity. When Officers are conducting home contacts if they do not have a four wheel drive vehicle they cannot access these areas. If Hwy 12 is flooded you can only access the Hatteras area by the ferry.

In the Perquimans county area of Snug Harbor and Holiday Island, the roads consist of one lane dirt paths with huge pot holes in them that if we receive rain these paths are inaccessible by the state vehicle as Perquimans County does not have any four wheel drive vehicles. The vehicle would get stuck if they proceeded down the path and they have been required to get out of their vehicle to walk to the offenders house.

On 10/27/13, Officer Leonard Sircey was working a weekend shift and driving his assigned vehicle, 2006 Chevy Trailblazer, vehicle number 66384 when the low beams on the lights failed to work. He drove several miles with high beams to the Manteo office and picked up another vehicle parked in the parking lot. He turned in the vehicle the next work day. The repair service coordinator informed Officer Sircey that the relay switch was inoperative and was replaced and corrected the problem.

### **District 2**

Karon Waters got called out on EHA call in reference to an absconder that had been picked up. I was at the office and rode with her to the jail. On our way back from the jail the car died at the intersection of 5th Street and Brown in Beaufort County. This location was a fairly low crime area. We pushed the car out of the intersection and called the tow truck. The car was taken to Ed's and was fixed. It was an alternator issue.

Jenni Kelsey was driving home one night while on call. She was on Hwy 17 near Vanceboro (rural low crime area), doing 55 miles an hour when her car just cut off. She lost all power. The car was towed and it was determined that it was an alternator issue.

Kiki Hampton's car failed to start after she cut it off at an offender's house one night checking curfews. The car was towed and it was due to the battery. Kiki had prior issues with her battery/alternator.

All of these issues have taken place within the last 6 months.

### **District 3**

On April 21, 2013, Officer Sarah Dudley was conducting home contacts. It had been raining and she was going to an offender's house for the first time at night. The driveway of the offender was very muddy and PPO Dudley got stuck in the driveway. She was in an area that had other houses around and just off of Hwy 70 on a service road. She called and got the Capital Police, who sent a tow truck to get her out. The vehicle did not have to be towed, just removed from the driveway.

On October 20, 2013, Officer Kevin Toler was in the field making home contacts, at night, when his vehicle quit. PPO Toler had to sit on the side of the road in his vehicle. He advised that it made a noise like the engine was going to blow up. He called the Capitol Police, who sent a tow truck. The vehicle had to be towed to an auto body shop. Another officer, John Real, was working that night and went to the aid of Officer Toler. Officer Toler, has since had the vehicle fixed (it took approx. 3 days) and is now driving it.

### **District 4**

Vehicle 45465 is assigned to PPO Tom Faulk. On 02/20/13 PPO Faulk was conducting a home visit at approx. 9:00 pm when the transmission went out on his vehicle. PPO Faulk called motor fleet and spoke with someone with the State Capitol Police. A tow truck from Buddy's Used Cars and Body shop was dispatched from Wallace NC to the location to tow the vehicle. The tow truck driver was only authorized by his company to tow the vehicle back to Buddy's Used Cars so he called his supervisor to get approval to tow the vehicle to Black's Tire Co. in Clinton. The vehicle was towed to Black's Tire Co. in Clinton. PPO Faulk rode back to Clinton in the tow truck and the driver dropped PPO Faulk off at the Sampson Co. Courthouse. PPO Faulk did not report any obstacles in the process. The incident took place in a rural area in southern part of Sampson County – not a high crime area.

Vehicle 55949 assigned to Curtis Jones. On January 30, 2013 Curtis Jones was driving and Regina Huffin was riding with him. They were conducting home contacts between Warsaw and Kenansville when the vehicle began jerking like the engine was not getting fuel. The area where the issues occurred is known as a high crime area. Officer Jones advised he was able to get the car back to the office and was not stranded. Officer Jones called Motor Fleet the following day and the car was taken to Blacks Tire Service in Clinton for a tune up. The problems found in the tune up included the battery connection and the starter.

#### **District 5**

On September 23, 2013 at approx 9:15pm- PO Robyn Keith was driving her state assigned - 2006 Taurus with approx 55,000 miles - in a rural area of Pender County at Blueberry Rd and Hwy 421 in Curry, NC. There was a smell like burning metal and then the car lost power and cut off. PO Keith called MFM who called Capital Police who called Empire Towing. PO Keith then called fellow officer Ali King who responded immediately to the area and waited with PO Keith until the tow truck arrived which was 30-40 minutes. The car was in the shop about 1 1/2 weeks. They replaced the AC compressor, belts and pulleys at approx \$1400.

#### **District 6**

March 8, 2013 - PPO Adam Buren was conducting home contacts at night in rural Bertie County on Highway 42 near Powellsville. NC. His state car, a Ford Taurus had a loss of acceleration and then a total loss of power causing PO Buren to be stranded on Highway 42. PO Buren contacted PO Charles Brooks who drove to his location to transport PO Buren to a safe area. The car was towed to a local service center for repairs.

May 27, 2013 - PPO Alton Brown was conducting home contacts at night in rural Bertie County when his state car, a Ford Taurus had a loss of acceleration. PPO Brown was able to drive very slowly to Hertford Fire Department in Hertford, NC and park the vehicle. At the time this occurred PPO Brown was in a very rural area of Bertie County which does not have any local convenience stores or police. On May 28, 2013, the car could be driven to a service center and repaired.

#### **District 7**

In 5070C PPO John Fordyce (exact date unknown) was in the Middlesex NC area conducting a home contact at night. When he returned to the vehicle it would not start. He called his CPPO and was advised to call Motor Fleet. The vehicle was towed. He was not in a high crime area that and another PPO came and picked him up without any incident. It is my understanding that the

car was left unattended until the tow truck arrived. It was later learned that the car had a dead battery. This could have been a dangerous situation for the PPO if he had been in a high crime neighborhood or if he was in the process of arresting an offender and did not have any transportation to transport him to the local jail

In 5070B PPO Kim Tilley was the only other incident of this happening. CPPO Pittman advised it was 8-8-13 at 9:25 pm. PPO Tilley called CPPO Pittman to advise of her car breaking down and MFM (Capital Police) had been notified and tow truck was in route. PPO Aftan Medlin was called and she arrived to wait with Officer Tilley until the tow truck arrived. It was not an unsafe environment. PPO Tilley removed all state issued equipment and the car was towed to Colony Tire in Wilson NC and PPO Tilley was brought back to the office by PPO Medlin. Officer Tilley called MFM the following day for authorization number to have the car repaired. This event happened while PPO Tilley was making home contacts in the evening. The vehicle broke down in the offender's driveway. This event happened in a rural area of Wilson County and the officer was not in danger at anytime. Luckily she was at a residence that was not in a high crime neighborhood.

#### **District 8**

On 12/29/12 at 7:04 pm, Officer Traci Sutton's state vehicle (# 45431) got stuck at the residence of an Offender in Goldsboro (trailer park). This location was not a high crime area and the officer felt she was not in any danger. There had been excessive rain in the area for several days and the officer was unable to get the vehicle out. CPPO Bevell was contacted regarding the incident. Officer Sutton was instructed to leave the vehicle at the residence if the offender had no objection. Motor Fleet was not contacted to request a wrecker to remove the vehicle. PO Sutton contacted PO Archie Daniels to pick her up from the residence. On 12/30/12, PO Sutton returned to the residence and was able to drive the vehicle from the residence. There was no reported damage to the vehicle.

#### **District 9**

On 11-4-12, Warren County Vehicle #170113 assigned to PPO Pam Waller broke down while she was returning from making a home visit. The vehicle had to be towed on 11-4-12. On 11-5-12, it was repaired at Raymond Dickerson Wrecker Service in Vance County. A front end ball joint and CV axle were replaced. The authorization number for this request was 20121105024. The total repair bill was \$485.81

Also, Vance County PPO Tonya Markham vehicle was surplused in January 2013 and has not been replaced.

## **District 10**

Vehicle 35013 - Date 10/9/13 at 8:00 PM, Location N. Wilmington Street in Raleigh, Problem: Car stalled and would not start. It was towed and turned out to be a bad fuel pump. PPO Maichle Gould's vehicle 35013 broke down on October 9, 2013 at 8:00 PM while he was traveling on N. Wilmington Street in Raleigh, NC The vehicle stalled and cut off. The vehicle could not be restarted. PPO Gould was attempting to complete home contacts when this occurred. He was in the inner city area of Raleigh and had to have two other PPOs along with a Raleigh PD officer push his vehicle out of the road while it was raining due to the vehicle breaking down mid turn in the middle of the road.

Vehicle 45521 - Three different occasions.

First night was 9-24-13 at approx 7:30 pm in Apex on Hwy 55. The car began to slow down; all lights went out and the engine would not start. The vehicle was towed. On 10-1-13 at approx 6:30 pm on Penny Rd. the car did the same thing; all lights went out and began slowing down and eventually stopped. The vehicle was towed again that night. Lastly on 10-9-13 at approx 12:30 pm the car broke down again in the New Hope Rd. parking lot. Vehicle was towed again. PPO Karen Buie's (Vehicle # 45521) has recently broken down on three separate occasions. First night was September 24, 2013 at approximately 7:30 pm on Highway 55 in Apex, NC. PPO Buie was conducting home contacts. The vehicle shut down and all of the lights on the driver's panel went dim. The area was not well light and there was no shoulder on the side of the highway and the officer's safety was at risk. PPO Buie was able to get the vehicle off of the road before it completely died. Several firemen from the fire station nearby came and checked on PPO Buie. The vehicle was towed on this date. MFM stated it was the battery and they changed the battery. On October 1, 2013 at approximately 6:30 pm on Penny Rd. in Raleigh, NC in a very rural area, the vehicle did the same thing as it did on September 24<sup>th</sup> – all the vehicle lights went out and the vehicle began slowing down and eventually stopped. PPO Buie was conducting home contacts at this time. She was able to coast to a gas station before the vehicle died. The vehicle was towed again that night and MFM stated it was the alternator. Lastly on October 9, 2013 at approximately 12:30 pm PPO Buie was returning from the court house and the vehicle began to jerk approximately 2 miles from the office location. PPO Buie was able to drive the vehicle at approximately 25 MPH and coast back into the New Hope Road location parking lot. The vehicle was towed again. The vehicle has since been returned to PPO Buie and they gave her a list of repairs that were completed but she could not recall the specifics of the repair.

Vehicle 35022 - On several different occasions my assigned state vehicle has turned off as I sit at a stop light waiting for the light to turn green, and on at least 3 occasions it has turned off while I was actually driving. It typically takes me waiting for at least 5-10 minutes before the engine will start again. On these occasions I have not had to have the vehicle towed. PPO Antron Kent's vehicle # 35022 has had issues on several different occasions. The vehicle has cut off as PPO

Kent is sitting at a stop light waiting for the light to turn green. On at least 3 occasions the vehicle has turned off while PPO Kent was actually driving. It typically takes PPO Kent waiting for at least 5-10 minutes before the engine will start again. On these occasions PPO Kent has waiting for the vehicle to crank and has not had the vehicle towed. PPO Kent has been out conducting home contacts when these issues have occurred. PPO Kent stated this issue has occurred in high crime areas and on some occasions he has felt that his safety could have been endangered.

PPO Maggie T. Brewer's vehicle (# 34147) broke down on Monday, 8/19/13 at approximately 3:30 pm while PPO Brewer was conducting home contacts. The car completely shut down and would not start while PPO Brewer was traveling on Correnna St in Apex, NC which is a high crime neighborhood. PPO Brewer called Motor Fleet to advise the vehicle had broken down. Before the tow truck arrived, PPO Brewer was able to get the vehicle cranked and she drove the vehicle with the hazard lights on at approximately 25 mph from Apex, NC to Motor Fleet on Blue Ridge Road.

#### **District 11**

I-95 in Four Oaks, NC (Johnston County) flat tire in 2002 Dodge Stratus Raleigh, NC (Wake County) on the way to Motor Fleet to take state car to be worked on not sure exactly what was wrong with it I think it ran hot and cut off.

Officer Ali Perry:

**8-11-2010**

2769 Micro Road

Selma, NC 27576

Offender's residence

**Dodge Stratus-2003**

**Battery died**-afterhours-1-800 # rang to Capital Police who were not very helpful. Offender tried to jump vehicle with no success. Vehicle towed the following day. Fellow officer picked me up.

#### **District 12**

PPO Enloe stated his vehicle broke down the evening of Wednesday, October 9, at Burger King (Raeford Road near Hope Mills Road). He called Motor Fleet and the car was towed in by Triple A Towing. He picked it up from Raynors on 10/11/13 and I was given paperwork showing that the starter had been replaced.

### **District 13**

Vehicle 34950 broke down at offender's home at night during curfew check. Was just a battery issue but not sure of date. Car has since been surplused and replaced. PO Jones was completing home contacts in a rural part of Columbus County at night. She visited an offender's residence and when she was leaving she noticed the vehicle's tire had gone flat. PO Jones changed the tire and drove the vehicle back to her office location. She reported the incident to motor fleet the next morning and was approved to have a tire placed on the vehicle. The residence was not in a high crime area but due to the fact it took place at an offenders residence in rural Columbus County during evening hours gives cause for concern regarding officer safety. PO Jones advised the vehicle tires were in good shape and she had not previously requested the tires needing to be changed prior to the incident.

Vehicle 56327, winter 2012- car broken down on I-40 around 6pm. Transmission was replaced. At the time car was assigned to assistant administrator but is now assigned to District 13 officer. Lewis Adams was driver. Assistant Administrator was on his way to community parking spot when transmission went out. He was on I-40 at Mile Marker 383. Motor Fleet was contacted and they dispatched Highway Patrol and a wreck. Staff stood on side of I-40 1 ½ hours waiting for tow company to come get car. Transmission was replaced a returned to department. Car is currently assigned to PPO Drake in District 13. She advised that the vehicle has never left her stranded but it sometimes will not start immediately and takes more than one attempt. She advised she normally has to push the gas for it to start.

Vehicle 55960, PO Sheri Blackburn on 7/12/13 was conducting a home visit in rural Columbus County at approximately 10:33 pm. Her vehicle broke down on a dirt road leading to the offender's residence. She contacted CPPO Larry Suggs and the vehicle had to be towed. This was a result of the gas throttle being stuck per the repair facility.

Vehicle # 45292 - PO Neilsen was driving the vehicle on 5/14/13. He was on I-40 1 mile south of exit 298 (Burgaw) when all electronics in the vehicle shut down. This was approximately 3 pm. He advised that he was going 70 MPH (Speed Limit) when electronics began going out. He advised it was very hot after the air went out and the windows stopped working which prevented him from getting fresh air. PO Neilsen advised soon after these functions shut down the entire vehicle shut down and he was stranded on the side of the interstate. The vehicle was towed to Blacks Tire in Castle Hayne, North Carolina. It was determined the alternator went bad. Car is assigned to PPO Christy Kleszczowski. Car is currently in shop for strong gas odor. This is the second time.

#### **District 14**

On 9/25/13 at approximately 1330 hours, state car 91897 would not start while being used by JSC Murray to retrieve judgments from the Chatham County Clerk of Courts. The car was towed to Downtown Automotive in Siler City and the alternator was replaced. All required authorization was obtained from NC Motor Fleet prior to having the car towed and serviced.

PPO Kelly Hartley's state vehicle 45131 had a flat tire while conducting field contacts on 03-4-13 on Guthrie Street Durham, N.C. PPO Hartley was able to drive back to the office but could not continue to conduct field contacts with this vehicle. The vehicle was towed on 03-06-13 to Tire King Mr. Tire Auto Center at 3738 Chapel Hill Blvd, Durham N.C. The vehicle received service for an oil change and the tire was replaced with a new tire. The vehicle also received a service for wheel alignment and balancing.

#### **District 15**

Vehicle 56158, PPO Jolly went to see an offender Kavid Haith, for a home visit during night hours on 3/18/13. The Burlington Police came to the residence and used jumper cables to start PPO's car. The battery was replaced the next day at Bulla-Warren in Graham, NC. PPO stated he did not feel unsafe during this time.

#### **District 16**

Vehicle 56160, 10/21/13 at 11:30 officer had gone to serve violation report on absconder that SHP had picked up. On way back he stopped at store in Pembroke to get a soft drink and car would not start back. After getting assistance from UNC Pembroke police, he was able to get it started. There was something wrong with cable wires on battery and was repaired the next morning at Car Quest in Pembroke at no charge.

Officer Charles Jackson driving car # 056160 on 10/22/13 at 1:45am, Pembroke, NC and the car would not start; UNC-Pembroke Police responded with jump box, but would not start; cable wires were loss on the negative pole. Wires were attached and car was driven back; car did not need towing and the car was repaired later that day. This was in high crime area, but was able to pull into well lighted store

Vehicle 180098, about two weeks ago, car was towed while in St. Pauls. Battery was not operable. Officer was not available to get more information. Officer Jerry Lowery. Officer was doing home contacts and the car began to have trouble. Pulled into convenience store; car would not start; originally thought it was alternator, but car was towed next morning and battery was replaced. Officer Lowery was fortunate to be able to make it into the city limits of St Pauls, NC



and pull into a well lighted convenience store. The area is high crime. The officer's safety was enhanced by the city limits and people at the store as well as St Pauls Police Department.

Vehicle 45536, engine light is on and can't be inspected. The car has been this way since February 2013. Car is being taken to MFM next week.

#### **District 17**

Vehicle 45265 would not start when leaving an offenders house, offender tried jumper cables, still could not start, another officer picked up officer. Vehicle towed. (approximately 2 years ago). At the time of the breakdown the officer driving the vehicle was Terry McCann, but since that time the vehicle was reassigned to PPO Larra Martin. The incident occurred in a rural setting while conducting home contacts, offender even assisted with jumper cables. Incident did not occur in a high crime area, but was in a rural setting which was dark and desolate. The officer safety concern is that if there were issues with this offender or offender's family /acquaintances during the home contact and officer then attempted to leave in his vehicle he could not have done so. It should be noted that this vehicle is still in service with ending mileage as of August 31, 2013 of 123,081.

Vehicle 55797 is assigned to PPO Kevin Ketchie. Vehicle has never failed to restart at an offender's residence, but it has failed to start on other occasions including in Spring 2013 when officer was at firearms training in Mt. Airy (1.5 hours from his duty station). Vehicle was towed to Mt. Airy Tire and the officer rode with another officer back to his duty station. It should be noted that this vehicle is still in service with ending mileage as of August 31, 2013 of 124,732.

Vehicle 45776 was assigned to PPO Marty Johnson; it was towed back to MFM on 12/11/12 and has yet to be replaced. Officer was leaving an offender's residence when vehicle would not come out of 2nd gear, he drove a short distance to repair shop at a slow rate of speed. Residence was not in a high crime area and actual breakdown did not occur at the residence. At the time of the vehicle's return to MFM it had almost 140,000 miles on it.

All of these vehicle breakdowns endanger officer safety as we are continually putting high mileage, undependable vehicles on the road at the sake of our staff's well-being.

#### **District 18**

PPO Birth (Guildford County) Greensboro NC was assigned to the security vehicle (cage car). This vehicle has been surplused since approx. March of 2013. Greensboro no longer has a security vehicle, therefore leaving this officer with no vehicle to drive, except borrowing other

officer's vehicle. This makes it very difficult for me to conduct my required contacts in a timely manner. Transporting offenders with violent crime histories, a security vehicle is a necessity, especially when traveling for hours at a time, and making an arrest that may lead to transporting angry offenders to the county jail.

Reference the same car. PPO Birth took vehicle in for the 5000 miles maintenance. Per Casey's service station they advised motor fleet that the battery in vehicle was weak and needed to be replaced. Motor fleet denied their request and stated the officer didn't advise them of the problem, so the battery was never replaced. A few days later I arrived at offender's residence left parking lights on for approximately five minutes or less, to conduct a curfew check. The offender was not home. PPO could not leave residence. When I arrived at the vehicle it would not start. This incident happened approximately at 10:30 pm. in a drug infested area of Greensboro. I called motor fleet with no answer, but got the SHP dispatch. Had to call another PPO who lived in the Greensboro area to provide me with jumper cables and he assisted with jump starting the vehicle with his personal vehicle. PPO then drove vehicle to designated parking site. The next day PPO arrived at vehicle, it would not start. PPO had to use personal vehicle to jump start car.

PPO had to travel 3 hours one way on a Sunday to parole an offender from prison. Approx. 2hr into the trip the car had a blow out. Called Motor Fleet and they could not assist me. PPO had to change the tire and make the decision to travel on with no spare tire or turn around and go back to Greensboro. PPO went back to Greensboro on the spare tire. PPO got another vehicle traveled 3hrs to destination paroled offender and traveled 3hrs back to Greensboro.

Vehicle 34929 assigned to PPO Linda Kropp is a 2003 Dodge Stratus. The car has a continuous smell of oil within the cabin. The engine oil light has always given us trouble, but has now gone off. My belief is that it was on so long it simply burnt out. The car's heater also does not function. Sometimes it will come on after about 25 minutes of operation. This car has high miles on it at this time.

Vehicle 91114, assigned to PPO Gary Blaylock is a 1999 Dodge Intrepid. The car has high miles at this time. The offender was in the field working this morning when the car began to die on him. It did this in the middle of the road in a heavy traffic area. The officer somehow got the car started again only to have it die on several more times before being able to coast into a parking lot in front of the building. It has now been taken to the shop again.

On 10/23/2013 at approximately 8:00 pm., I was making home contacts when the vehicle needed gasoline. I stopped at the local gas station and filled the tank. The car would not start back. The battery was dead. Luckily, a passerby was kind enough to jump start the car. The remainder of my plans for the evening had to be altered, because I knew the car would not restart once I turned

it off. The battery was replaced the next day, along with some repairs to the brakes. The vehicle in question is a 2002 Chevrolet Impala with 109,000 miles.

August 2012 vehicle 25297 broke down on main road way during very heavy rain with poor visibility. Local police department was called so disabled vehicle would not be rear ended. Greensboro police officer drove PPO pick up personal vehicle so PPO could return to work. Vehicle was towed and determined fuel pump went bad. Fuel pump replaced.

On another occasion PPO requested tires on same vehicle (25297) to be replaced. Service center requested same from MFM and MFM refused. Heavy rain after PPO picked up vehicle. PPO had to pull over for extended period of time because constantly losing traction.

### **District 19A**

Vehicle 170003 assigned to PPO Jaquetta Ingram. PPO was getting gas at a public gas station around 7:30 p.m. between home contacts. PPO called State Police and they called a tow truck, which took approximately 30 minutes to arrive. It was a busy intersection in China Grove. The alternator and battery had to be replaced. This vehicle had been in the shop in the past due to not starting.

Vehicle 5300 assigned to PPO Roberto Munoz. Vehicle would not start as officer was attempting to leave an offender's residence. This occurred at night in a residential area in Kannapolis. It was very dark with no outside lights, not in town but not in the country. It is a high crime area in Kannapolis. The PPO had just conducted a walk thru of the residence. It was about 9:00 p.m. PPO was alone. When he put the key in the ignition, the ignition lock was broken and the key would not turn. It took 45 minutes for the tow truck to arrive. PPO called another officer and they waited together until vehicle was towed. Repairs made but officer was advised of issues with axle / suspension. Motor Fleet will not authorize repairs to suspension. Officer reports that when driving this vehicle, it is "all over the road."

Vehicle 55517 assigned to PPO Omar Smith. Vehicle overheated on this date during officer's evening shift in downtown Concord while conducting home contacts. Officer let vehicle cool down, he checked the water levels. The vehicle checked on 10/28/13 at local vendor. A/C Compressor was broken and repairs have been made. Downtown Concord borders a high crime area.

### **District 19B**

Vehicle 45561 - Working on a weekend. Had driven the car all day. Went to a house to make a home contact and turned car off. Car would not start back. Tried to call motor fleet, but on

weekend they are not there. Called several other numbers and finally got in contact with a tow truck. After about an hour and a half, the car started. I called the tow truck people back to cancel the tow. Thomas tire could not find anything wrong with vehicle. Drove vehicle two days later, and it did the same thing, but started after about 15 minutes. I called Motor Fleet and drove the vehicle directly to the shop. They could not start car to pull in the bay. Starter had gone bad and when it got hot would not start. It was at night, but it was not in a high crime neighborhood.

Vehicle 55522 - While doing home contacts stopped by gas pumps to get gas, and the car didn't immediately start. After several tries, the car started. The car wouldn't go over 30 miles an hour. It would not get out of first gear. The next day it went to Thomas Tire and they put a new battery in the car. It was at night, but it was not in a high crime neighborhood.

## **District 20**

PPO Karen Davis (Union County), Vehicle #65271 periodically stalls and officer has to coast to the side of the road. After the car sits for a few minutes, it will start. The car has been checked and nothing is found to be wrong. This has occurred during both day and night. This is a concern due to heavy traffic during the day and the risk of this happening in a high risk area at night.

PPO Margie Crane (Union County) has had two incidents. The first involved her return from Basic Training where a Ford Taurus she was driving broke down while going through Fayetteville at approximately 7:00 pm. Motor Fleet was closed for the night. PPO Crane was stranded by the side of the road until a Trooper came by and drove her to a gas station. The trooper arranged for a tow truck. PPO Crane waited approximately 2 hours for officers from Union County to drive down to pick her up.

PPO Crane was operating a state vehicle conducting home contacts at approximately 8:00 pm when her state vehicle cut off and would not start. PPO Crane called another officer and had to wait for another PPO to arrive. The area was in the country and very isolated. The car was towed.

PPO Robin Smith (Anson County), Vehicle #34295 has had the state vehicle in the shop to fix the following problem, but it has not been corrected: while sitting at a stop light/stop sign with her foot on the brake, the car will rev to approx 3000 RPMS and the car tries to lunge forward. There are times the car will travel without applying gas. When putting it in drive, it will lunge forward

PPO Lee Williams (Stanly County) had a flat tire at 5:01 pm and called Motor Fleet who was closed. PPO Williams was able to get the car to Pro Tire who replaced the tire with a used tire until he could get authorization the next day. PPO Williams was able to finish his shift work.

PPO Brian Taylor (Richmond County) was working on 7/14/13 at approximately 8:00 pm when the alternator on his car went out. He was able to get the car off the road. He contacted Motor Fleet, spoke to Capital Police and they dispatched a wrecker. PPO Taylor waited a lengthy amount of time before the wrecker arrived. Another PPO took PPO Taylor back to the office where he finished his shift in the office.

PPO Robert Lott (Richmond County), Vehicle #55579, has had the bumper repaired on his state vehicle several times due to it coming loose. He still has the same problem.

PPO Leroy Reid (Anson County) was driving a loaner car in February 2013 that had idle problems. PPO Reid had to drive with one foot on the brake and the other on the gas to keep it running. Motor Fleet authorized for it to be cleaned out and the problem returned after two weeks.

### **District 21**

Kathy Weaver use to drive a Breeze that has since been turned in. That car would literally cut off for no reason while driving down the road. It had gotten so bad that the owner of Northside Garage gave her his personal cell number and she called him to arrange for a tow truck. Calling Motor Fleet at night can take forever to get help so the local people helped her out. That car has since been turned in.

### **District 22**

Dean Eggers state vehicle (2005 Chevy Impala) would not start for him on May 14th, 2013 at approximately 8:15pm while conducting home contacts. The vehicle had to be towed. This incident occurred on Hwy 127 in Taylorsville, NC. The area was not a high crime neighborhood, but any time an officer is stranded, it could endanger safety.

Elizabeth Clark's state vehicle (2007 Chevrolet Malibu) would not start for her on October 28th, 2013 at approximately 8:30pm while conducting home contacts in a high crime neighborhood which put the officer's safety at risk. The CPPO went to her location and jumped her car with cables, followed her back to the office and provided her with another vehicle to finish her shift work. The following day, her state vehicle had to be jumped again to be taken to the mechanic for a new battery.

If you have a meeting with Motor Fleet, you may want to ask them about their policy on replacing windshield wipers. We have consistently told no about wipers and this DOES pose a safety risk to officers who conduct contacts at night and in the rain.

We also have a vehicle with a tire rod damage that Motor Fleet refuses to repair. There have been some reports that tire rods has led to car accidents which resulted in fatalities.

**District 23:**

Wilkes County:

Danielle Shore: (118,000) Vehicle just quits on her without notice, driving down the road or in driveways. It has been to the shop several times with no results to fix. It also revs up without notice, at stop lights or stop signs this becomes a safety issue if she does not hold her foot on brake very hard. The transmission slips. Car also leaks fluids, oil and transmission.

Ralph Johnson: (141,330) 4 wheel drive...bad oil leak, transmission slips, steering is very loose, headlights switch is held together with duck tape, tires need to be replaced, shocks are bad, brakes squeak and seem loose. Vehicle is worn out.

JL Chapell: (125,835) bad oil leak, head lights are very dim, service engine light keeps coming on and off.

Keith Absher: (105,000) bad oil leak, head lights are very dim, engine runs ruff.

Marty Bell: (116,500) Brakes are bad and engine ruff. Head lights dim. Higher miles

Ana Knapp: (111,224) Higher miles and vehicle is in rough condition inside and out.

Mark Love: (114,500) Higher miles and vehicle is in rough condition inside and out.

Kevin Hincer: Still waiting on a vehicle replacement...his was a 4 wheel drive

Eric Presnell: Does not have a vehicle assigned to him yet. He should get the cage car that we did have assigned to our unit. It has not been replaced.

Wilkes County ranks in the top 2 or 3 counties for the number of dirt road miles in the state. Gravel or dirt is very hard on a vehicle. The four wheel drives would be much safer and feasible for this area. Also we tend to have areas with a good bit of bad winter weather, especially in the Northern and Western parts of our county which are mountainous.

Also, we desperately need a cage car for our county. We have made due for a long time without a decent car with a cage. It is only a matter of time before we have an incident transporting someone where the cage would have saved an injury or worse.

### Ashe/Alleghany

Tim Moretz: vehicle has 120,000 and is still causing problems with the 4 wheel drive. He was working last night and it automatically locked in 4 wheel drive and is sometimes difficult to get back out of 4 wheel drive. He has advised motor fleet of this problem several times and they advised to wait and see what happens.

Note: Neither Ashe nor Alleghany county has a cage car, which is a safety concern. There is only one four wheel drive vehicle in Alleghany and only two four wheel drives vehicles in Ashe. Both counties experience severe winter weather and include mountainous terrain.

### Yadkin

Scott Cooper: The last service in October 2013, the mechanic indicated that this vehicle will need brakes, rotors and tires before the next oil change. Also the belts squeal all the time. The mechanic said the belts look almost wore out too.

Over the past year the car has developed a popping noise in the shocks/struts front and rear. The power steering is stiff when it is cold and could go out anytime. The rear passenger side door leaks around the window and holds water in the bottom of the door. Due to the water in the door, it leaves a moldy odor in the car. Due to the water in the electrical system none of the electric door locks work and the windows in the rear do not work. The transmission has been skipping during cold mornings. Headlights have been replaced and the lenses need to be cleaned or replaced again and bulbs seem to go out often, needs a bulb now for low and high beam. Black foam has started blowing out of the air vents in small pieces and larger pieces clog up vents. There is over 135,000 mile on the car.

Tony Poindexter: four wheel drive vehicle was surplused over a year ago and has not been replaced.

Glen Oaks: cage car has in excess of 120,000 miles. Not reliable for long distance transports.

Mark Reinhart recently had to get the ball joints replaced on one side of the car, during last oil change and tire rotation the mechanic indicated that the other side needs to be replaced. The belts make noises and when it is cold the transmission skips. One of the spark plugs had to be replaced due to breaking. The mileage is high on the car, it has over 140,000 miles. When making any turns the brake light comes on. The car pops and squeaks when making turns, and the front end makes loud noises when backing out and cutting the steering wheel, the car is also hard to steer due to the power steering not working well.

Shane Shore: Currently driving a 2004 Ford Taurus with 124,330 miles. The only mechanical problem at this time is the (ABS) brakes do not work. I still have brakes just not (ABS).

JDM vehicle has in excess of 105,000 miles. JDM would like a four wheel drive vehicle.

#### **District 24:**

Judicial District 24 consists of five counties located in the far western part of the state bordering Tennessee. The district's terrain consist almost exclusively of mountainous areas with elevations that range anywhere from 2000 to over 6000 feet. The district is also prone to extended winters with severe conditions including frequent snowfall with significant accumulations. A large percentage of unimproved roads coupled with the steep terrain often make 4x4 vehicles necessary even under the best of weather conditions. A considerable portion of our operational area is inaccessible with the current state issued vehicles at our disposal.

The staff makes every effort to share our existing vehicles, including the remaining 4x4s. However, despite their best efforts, the available vehicles are not always sufficient for the officers to maintain the required sustained operational tempo. Below is a list of current vehicle needs/issues for your review.

Vehicle #34746(4WD Tahoe) was replaced in December 2012 with vehicle # 220198 (2WD Malibu)

Vehicle #35146 (4WD Explorer) was surplused in March 2013 and has not been replaced

Vehicle #45916 (4WD Explorer) was surplused in March 2013 and has not been replaced

Vehicle #35127 (2WD Taurus) was surplused in March 2013 and has not been replaced

Vehicle#45704 (2WD Impala Cage Care) was surplused October 2013 and we are waiting for replacement. This leaves one operational cage car for the entire district.

Vehicle #34535 (4WD Explorer) has on-going transmission problems after having recently received extensive repairs.

Vehicle # 34479 (4WD Explorer) has on-going transmission problems and was most recently sent for repairs regarding the transmission in September of 2013

#### **District 25**

Vehicle 55590 (Catawba County): On 10-29-13, PO Amanda Trivett was working a shift. At approximately 4:00 PM, she was preparing to leave the Catawba Justice Center parking lot to begin doing field work. However, vehicle would not start. The car was started using the portable jump start battery device while still in the parking lot. As a result, her departure to begin doing field work was delayed by approximately 20 minutes. We believe the issue was caused from charging the flashlight. The vehicle has been fine since this issue.



Vehicle 45027 (Caldwell County): On 4-21-13 (Sunday) this vehicle was being driven by PO Amanda Presnell to conduct home visits. At approximately 1800 hrs, while traveling on Hwy. 64E in Caldwell County, the car started overheating. As a result, PO Presnell had to pull over on the side of the road and call another officer for assistance. There was a hole in the coolant line that made the vehicle run hot. The other officer assisted by waiting with PO Presnell and eventually taking her back to the unit to obtain another vehicle. This caused PO Presnell a few hours delay in completing her field duties. Hwy. 64E is a very high volume highway. As a result, PO Presnell and the assisting officer's safety may have been put at risk while on the side of the highway waiting for assistance to arrive. The car was towed to Clark Tire in Lenoir, NC that same evening and the repair work was completed on 4-22-13.

### **District 26**

170474----On 10/15/13 Officer Samantha Stevenson was doing home visits. The vehicle would not start and had to be towed from the offender's residence (evening hours).

34264----FS John Hegger's vehicle was in the shop twice in June 2013 while he was on assignment in Greenville. On October 22, 2013, while traveling back from Morganton the vehicle broke down at approximately 1700 hours and had to be towed.

34592---- On 9/3/13, Officer James Stephens was doing home visits when the vehicle would not start (evening hours). Towed to District Office and then to DL Garage. To date, the needed repairs have not been approved. Vehicle has been parked since 9/3/13.

55605---On 9/5/13, Officer James Little was conducting home visits when the vehicle died and would not start (1845 hours). Vehicle was towed to a garage.

55784----On 9/12/13, Officer Tamara Brown was doing home a visit while leaving the offender's residence the accelerator got stuck (evening hours) — towed to the garage they can not find the problem and advised the officer not to drive the vehicle. Vehicle is parked.

55582---On 10/25/13, Officer Charisse Hurdle was conducting home visits when the vehicle would not start at an offender's home (evening hours). Vehicle towed to a garage. The needed repairs have not been approved. Vehicle is parked.

34143---On 3/23/13, Officer Teresa Broadway's vehicle stalled while conducting home visit (evening hours) and had to be towed to a garage. The needed repairs have not been approved.

56458---On 6/12/13, Officer Jason Bensavage's vehicle would not start after a home visit (2042 hours). Vehicle was towed to a garage.

45429---On 10/12/13, Officer Kelly Mitchell requested repairs for power steering and braking issues. Repairs refused due to high mileage on the vehicle. Vehicle is parked at District Office awaiting further instructions.

#### **District 27**

Officer Jovan White (#55743) lost transmission on 10-29-13 in an area that is a high crime neighborhood. He had another officer pick him up and the car was towed to Clark Tire. This was the second time this has happened.

Another incident occurred in which several officers were in State Vehicle and going to firearms training, the car stopped on them on I-85 during rush hour traffic.

#### **District 28:**

Dodge Stratus-55597-The seat broke in the vehicle and when motor fleet fixed it. I picked it up only to find it was a different color seat than the interior of the vehicle. It only had 70,000 miles on it at the time. I called Tom at MFM and he had the repair performed. I explained it was difficult to have staff take ownership in vehicles when they refused to fix them appropriately. Current mileage is 97,657 miles.

Ford Explorer-34358-When we requested tires early in the year MFM denied it saying the vehicle was on the surplus list, due to amount of money previously spent trying to get rear end fixed. Then they subsequently "unsurplused" it and put tires and windshield wipers on it. The vehicle pops out of gear as you are traveling down the road and goes into neutral. I will not let staff drive this car unless it is to go to specific places that a 4-wheeled drive is needed. It is the only 4-wheeled drive in the District. Current mileage 130,468

Chevy Malibu-56004-8/14/2013 she took her vehicle to Mountain View Tire on Patton Avenue and they stated that her vehicle needed brakes and a new battery. She stated that MFM refused to fix this and the vehicle still has not had a new battery or new brakes installed on the vehicle. Current mileage 97,488

Ford Taurus-45383-have asked several times for Motor Fleet to approve a repair for my directional signals. After making a turn, the turn signals do not automatically turn off. They have to be turned off manually. If the driver forgets, they remain flashing. Mountain View tire advises that is just a switch that needs to be replaced. Motor Fleet has denied this repair twice. I

was told the one time that I will need to be more aware of whether the signal is activated. Current mileage 125,225

Dodge Stratus- 34070-Keys will come out of ignition when car is in drive. She was advised by MFM to remember to put it in park and that she will have to live with it. This issue with the car caused Officer Keisow to actually have an at fault accident due to the car rolling into another vehicle when the keys were removed while not in park but drive. Also, the front right passenger and left back passenger windows do not roll down and she was advised that it was too expensive to fix. Current mileage 131,853.

Ford Taurus- 56360- Took vehicle to Raleigh to get vehicle fixed upon arrival to Buncombe the check engine light came on again. Awaiting decision from MFM about what to do. Current mileage 109,586

Chevy Caprice-#92036- Had vehicle sent to MFM on four different occasions to have transmission fixed and two of the times it didn't make it back to Buncombe County without it breaking down again. The last time it only made it to Statesville and they had to come get it. Current mileage 137,815

Chevy Malibu-Has since been surplused-Vehicle had reoccurring brake problems MFM would not fix. The car had a sensor which was bad that would show the vehicle had been stolen. While conducting a home visit at night the sensor came on and would not allow the car to start. MFM refused to fix it. A local vendor told him how to bypass the failure to start but it still would not start for ten minutes this was a daily occurrence.

Ford Taurus-Vehicle #65259 - While assisting with interviews at the JDM office; an applicant backed into his state car after the interview. Asheville Police Department found other driver responsible or at fault. The damage was on driver side bumper area. Officer Wilson got two estimates to get it fixed. MFM declined to fix it even though the officer was not even in the vehicle at the time it occurred. Vehicle has also been taken to Motor Fleet Management twice to repair the brakes. Current mileage 94,190

Ford Taurus-55699-Bumper had a hole in it they refused to fix it, it is covered with black duct tape. Current mileage 121,350

Ford Taurus-34961-Has had break issues, broke down on an officer returning from Raleigh, was repaired and we had to return to pick the vehicle up. Had problems getting the windshield wipers fixed, the cleaner doesn't work and they refuse to fix it. It leaks oil daily, the trunk has mold in it. Driver window will not roll down. Current mileage 138,731

It appears to be a common occurrence where in lieu of fixing the vehicle locally they will come get the vehicle, haul it back to Motor Fleet Management in Raleigh then call advising it was fixed and same problem occurs again prior to even making it back to Buncombe County.

Due to local climate and terrain there are areas where when it rains or snows we have residences that we cannot reach without a 4-wheeled drive. With 45 certified PPO's the District needs more than 1 assigned vehicle to ensure that operations are met, especially in the winter months and during periods of rain.

#### **District 29:**

Many of the Henderson County staff advised that their car brakes continue to make noise, grinding, squealing, etc. Van at Vans Automotive insists the brakes are good and they can just lubricate with a spray to reduce the noise. He blames on the quality brake that the state uses (inferior materials for brake pads). Officers have spoken with MFM about the matter and they are not budging on replacing brakes. We will continue to notify MFM that this is a continuing problem, at that time.

McDowell's and Polk's response: Former PO Evans car, #56287 is the only one in McDowell that had problems and it sounds like it is emissions, But did not break down at night. Also, the Explorer in Polk Co. assigned to Jamie Shelton, #45911 will do the same thing from time to time but the shop did not show any problems when car was taken in. These cars sputter and act like the car is going to stop. OA III Hink took Evan's car to Raleigh and had to pull over. She continued to crank car until it finally started and was able to make it back to Marion, NC.

Rutherford: Ashley Grzeslo, vehicle #45488 had alternator go out on her car in Jan 2013 while doing home visits around 3:00pm. She had to have Jimmy Davis come and pick her up and the car was towed. Also, Ashley was on her way to Women's prison in Raleigh to pick up parole case in Officer Susan Collins car, #180377 when the car stopped running. She got it started, picked up parolee and drove back to Rutherford co. Happened on 7-14-13. She took Susan's car to Cowan's and they had to replace computer in car.

Trae Smith's vehicle, #45092 has a history of not starting. He said that it may start one day and the next day it will not start. He said motor fleet will not give him the authorization to get it checked and afraid it may happen at an offender's residence. We can not be specific as to the date but most recently was last week. We have asked for a replacement of this vehicle due to safety concerns. See chart below.

District 29 is a multi-county district with numerous mountainous areas and unmaintained roads throughout the five counties. We are in great need of 4-wheel drive vehicles due to inclement weather and treacherous conditions throughout the year whether it is rain, ice, or snow. Many

offenders' driveways can't be reached because of the conditions of roads and the driveways. We would request for consideration that the cars listed below be replaced with 4-wheel vehicles.

- PPOII Maggie Flynn Request vehicle assignment - vehicle shortage (Rutherford County)  
PPO II VACANT new position Request vehicle assignment - vehicle shortage (Rutherford County)
- PPO II Stephanie Hessler, (#56159) Request Replacement: (Rutherford) Is 8 yrs old. Gas pedal sticks in beginning of day or when car is cold; runs rough & shakes even though tires have been replaced & balanced; has 90,000 miles.
- PPOII new PPO position-vacant Request vehicle assignment - vehicle shortage (Henderson County)
- CPPO Ben Lynch, Request Replacement: (Multi-County CPPO)has 135,400 miles, is 11 yrs old and is continually having problems w/the air conditioning - vehicle #25257  
PPOII Clyde Smith, III #45092 Request Replacement: Brake caliber sticks -has been looked at & repaired, but continues to have problems w/brakes; has 109,178 miles & is 9 yrs old.
- Field Specialist Tim Gasperson - Will need vehicle to travel in a multi-county District (5 counties in JD29)

### **District 30:**

#### **This is a recent history of vehicle and travel issues in District 30**

Our local area of operations in District 30 consists of steep mountainous terrain in most areas, with small rural towns in the valleys. Many Roads or driveways in our District become dangerous or barely passable during inclement weather, even in summer due to flooding. Driveways in out areas are actually roads, not short paved parking areas. There are still a number of "low water" bridges and fords in our area, and officers sometime have to drive through creeks and branches to perform home visits. Pictures of one local ford that PPO Paul Calascione had to drive through with a Dodge Avenger are attached. We have a high incidence of snow and ice in winter month; heavy rains and flash floods in the summer months. Due to our topography, main roads, valley and south facing mountains may be clear of ice and snow during winter months, but roads and streets on north facing ridges and mountains will maintain snow and ice coverage for weeks, so officers cannot always wait for the ice/snow to melt. They often come across it unexpectedly even during sunny days. Secondary roads are mainly gravel or dirt, winding and at minimum hilly, and often very steep and mountainous.

Counties with/without 4/4 vehicles assigned.

**Cherokee-** JDM has 4x4 Explorer. 1 PPO has 4x4 Ford Explorer recently moved from Graham County with position reallocation. North and east end of the county are very mountainous.

**Clay**- 4x4 vehicle assigned to PPO salvaged in spring 2013. No current 4x4 vehicle. County has very high mountainous terrain on north and east consisting of the Tusquittee, Fires Creek and upper Nantahala areas.

**Graham**- No 4x4 vehicle assigned. Entire county is rough mountain terrain. Some roads are actually internationally known for their rough and curvy topography. Hwy 129 (The Tail of the Dragon) and Highway 28 (The hellbender). Many accidents and deaths on local roads among locals and tourist. (My cousin's daughter was killed on Santeetlah Road on July 26, 2011 in a civilian accident.)

**Swain County**- 4x4 Chevy Trailblazer assigned to PPO. Swain county has some of the highest mountains in the Eastern U.S. and some of the roughest terrain accompanies. Bordered by the Great Smokey Mountains National Park (GSMNP). Also includes the Cherokee Indian reservation which has many poor and rough roads and driveways.

**Macon County**- No 4x4 assigned. Macon County borders Clay and Swain county is surrounded on three sides by some of the highest and roughest mountain in NC.

**Jackson County**- 4x4 Jeep Liberty assigned to PPO- Jackson County also contains very high and rough mountain terrain and part of the Cherokee Indian Reservation. It also adjoins the GSMNP.

**Haywood County**-4x4 Ford Explorer assigned to PPO Haywood County is surrounded by very high mountainous terrain with the Pigeon River in the Valley. It also Borders the GSMNP. It receives some of the highest snowfall and ice in the Western Part of NC when other counties in District 30 do not.

JDM Dallas McMillan 2004 Ford Explorer #45765(Cherokee County) broke down about 4 years ago at 7:30 pm in Nantahala Gorge (rural area) while I was coming back from a meeting in Raleigh. It took the Swain County EHA on-call officer and the trooper an hour to get to me. The officer was an hour away in Big Cove area of Cherokee when he was contacted through the EHA base station paging. Only One Trooper was on Duty and he was on dinner break when dispatched by the Capitol Police. The Capitol Police dispatched a wrecker since MFM was closed at 5pm. The wrecker took two hours to come and get me. The transmission went out and had to be replaced. PPO had to give me a ride from the Gorge all the way to Murphy. The vehicle had to be towed due to transmission failure. The area where the vehicle died was dangerous as it was in a gorge area with very little roadside pull off area. Nantahala Gorge is more of a wilderness area than a rural area. Two years ago in this same vehicle, the front left spindle broke off the vehicle, leaving the JDM stranded again on Hwy 74 in the Almond Area, about 5 miles west of Bryson City. As this occurred during regular business hours, I was not

stranded for more than 20 minutes before receiving assistance from local staff. The vehicle was towed to a local mechanic shop and repaired.

In winter 2011, I was requested by PPO Stacy Denny in assisting her to do a home visit on a House Arrest offender in the Hot House Community of Cherokee County. The offender's driveway was too muddy for her assigned Ford Taurus to travel. We took the above Ford Explorer and upon arriving at the driveway, it had no gravel and consisted of red clay mud up to 12 inches or more deep and was severely rutted, with small boulders mixed in. I used the 4x4 in 4-low and was able to traverse the steep, muddy uphill driveway for approximately 1/4 mile to the residence. The offender and his family expressed surprise at our arrival because they were only going up the driveway on 4x4 utility vehicle/quads.

Offender Harold Parker lived in the Rainbow Springs area of Clay County. He is assigned to PPO John Coker who had a 4x4 Ford Explorer 2003 # 34461 which has since been salvaged by MFM due to continued mechanical issues. The only way to access the offender's house was to cross the Nantahala River and the only way to cross the Nantahala River is to ford the river in a 4x4. There is no bridge at the location. The offender eventually moved, but now is planning on moving back there probably before Christmas. He currently lives off Muskrat Branch Road in Clay County at his brothers and you have to have a 4x4 to access that house also. His brother is kicking him out and he will be back at rainbow springs soon. Since the salvaging of the above 2003 Explorer, the PPO has been just walking up the driveway. Without a 4x4 there no way to access except by foot. In another Clay County case, Offender Dennis Engelskind lived with his brother a short time, impossible to get up without 4x4. The Clay County PPO's had to walk up the driveway even though they drove half way up but it got too bad. Since then it has been fixed a little but a 4x4 is still needed. An additional dilemma with issues such as these is that the officers are unable to surprise the offenders when they get stuck and have to walk to the offender's residence. The offender hears the vehicle coming and knows the PPO's will have to walk the rest of the way to the home and that gives them time to hide/destroy contraband or run into the woods if evading arrest. The above offender is a registered sex offender and could never be surprised with an unannounced search. In addition, officers having to leave their vehicle such as above have abandoned their escape route in the event of a critical/deadly incident. PPO's do not need to be running down the road to ask for assistance from local LEOs or to escape an offender with a firearm who is waiting in ambush. Areas such as the above describe dictate an approach of caution and "come back another day with backup" in the event of an incident unless prearranged backup was on hand. Local LEO backup would be many minutes or even hours away. Staff need to be able to drive away and come back later if needed. Since #34461 has been salvage, MFM informed CPPO Steve Stiles that there is a year waiting list for the vehicle to be replaced and no 4x4's in the replacement pool. There are no other assigned 4x4's in Clay County.

PPO Alise Sutton in Macon county has two offender address's that she can not get to at all due to not having a 4x4 vehicle. She reports she has to have the defendant meet her at the bottom of

the drive. She states she knows this is against policy but it is the only way she can make home contact. The roads to these two addresses are steep and very muddy. Her currently assigned vehicle is a 2012 Chevy Malibu. She would occasionally borrow the 4x4 assigned to Clay County Officer John Coker, but that vehicle has since been salvaged. The roads described above are Cals Cove road off hwy 441 near the Georgia State Line and Stiwinter Mountain Road in Macon County.

Currently in Swain County, three officers have at least five offenders at this moment that require the use of a 4x4 vehicle to reach their residences. Regular sedans cannot traverse the roads/driveway to the offenders' residences.

PPO, Kelly Holder's car (Swain County), a 2002 Ford Taurus (#55755) broke down in Big Cove rural area of Cherokee on a Sunday afternoon around 1:00 pm about a year ago. No cell phone service. The officer had to use offender's landline to call her CPPO for assistance. It took an hour and a half for wrecker to show up, which has the same effect as breaking down at night. While not a specific high crime area, the officer was stuck at an offender's home in a very rural area on the Cherokee Indian Reservation many miles from town. The failure occurred during home contacts on the weekend, outside normal business hours. The car would not start as the starter died, and the vehicle had to be towed. The officer was stranded at the offender's house for a couple of hours. When the vehicle was originally assigned to PPO Holder, it came from MFM with a medium size dent in the roof that looked as if a six inch thick tree had fallen on it at some time.

Jeep Liberty (#25363) has been in the shop at least two different times in the past 12 months about the lights going on and off while driving. The issues still have not been completely fixed. This began occurring around Halloween 2012 according to the officer assigned to the vehicle.

Vehicle Number 25330. Vehicle ignition was stuck. Car had to be towed to Mountain View Ford. After they replaced the ignition switch the gages did not work and the car would occasionally cut off while driving or not start at all. Took the car back and they worked on it again. After a short time the problems continued. The car then went to Earl's Automotive where it stayed for at least a month. Once the car was back on the road it began having same issues. This was around December 2011. After multiple attempts at repair and replacement of tires with a smaller set, officer pulled out from a stop sign and the bottom of the engine carriage got hung on a manhole cover that had been recently repaired by the town and was too elevated from the pavement and the airbags deployed injuring Officer Dockrey and Officer Massie. The car then went to Motor Fleet where the window was replaced; the airbag was repaired and was picked back up. This was about June 2012. While working nightshift, traveling on Highway 23-74 in a west bound lane the car shut off and lost all power. This was after several attempts to have the electrical system repaired. The officer had to maneuver the unpowered vehicle through traffic in



order to not be run over. The car was then taken to Rider's Garage in Waynesville. After several weeks there the car was back on the road, only to overheat (no warning lights) and cut off. It would not restart. It was hauled off as salvage on roll-back and then officer was told it would not be coming back as the head was blown. This was in December 2012.

Vehicle #62214 1996 Geo Tracker. Vehicle was rusting out with many holes in the body panels. At one point the muffler was held on with coat hanger wire. Rear hatch has rusted shut and cannot open. Duct tape was used in several places to cover holes that allowed in cold air in winter and moisture in wet conditions. Interior components were also duct taped in place. License plate cover and light fixture was duct taped in place to keep from falling off. Vehicle mechanically ran well, but had the appearance of a vehicle used in northern (salted road) latitudes.

Another aspect of vehicle operations in District 30 is distance (combined with vehicle reliability). We are the furthest western district in the state. In the event of trainings or Division meetings, our staff travels many hours to trainings. Travel time to Asheville from the Cherokee county office is 2 ¼ hours. Many of our recent trainings have been in Marion and Morganton. Travel time from Cherokee County to those locations is 3 and 3 ½ hours respectively. Travel time to Raleigh for meetings and training is 6.5 to 7 hours from Cherokee county. I currently have a Macon County PPO in basic Training at Forth Fisher on the coast. Travel time from Macon County to Forth Fisher is approximately 9 hours. My Office Assistant IV last week had to attend a mandatory training in Apex at OSDT. To avoid leaving home at 2:30 am, she traveled the evening before to her father-in-law's house in Rutherford County then met other OA IVs in Hickory the morning of the training to carpool. They ended up using our vehicle to travel to Apex as it was in better mechanical shape than the other OAIV vehicles. My OAIV had actually checked three different vehicles to borrow from staff before she found one she felt was in reliable enough mechanical shape to safely drive to Apex and back to Murphy. Her description of those vehicles below:

**Vehicle #45372 - 2004 Ford Taurus**

The car is in terrible operating shape. The engine sounded like an airplane ready to land. Steering wheel was very stiff and hard to keep straight. The vehicle shook when went over 50 miles and barely could go up the mountains. Very hard to control when going down also. I drove the vehicle to Macon County and picked up a newer model to drive to Apex for training last week.

**Vehicle #170242 - 2007 Chevy Malibu**

**Vehicle #180092 - 2008 Avenger**

I have driven both of these cars in the last 6 months and the brakes were horrible. The break warning lights kept popping on and vehicles shook something terrible when reached certain speed and worse when going down the mountains.

Sex Offender: Roy Gibson lives at top of Pollyanna Creek in Bethel. It is a rocky and gnarly road that the new cars will not go up. Older cars have to ride the ridges and can't make it at all if weather has been wet.

Cody Bryson lives at Combo Court and you have to park at a neighbors and walk down a mountain. (Passing some places with Pitbull Dogs on foot)

Ebb Drive is impassible during snow, rain or icy conditions without a 4x4

### **DCC Admin – US Marshals Fugitive Task Force Officers**

In regards to my state vehicle, there are several mechanical issues that are currently going on with it. My state vehicle currently has 106k miles and I am putting between 1,200-1,500 on it a month. Presently my car is having starting issues and at least once a day it will not start. I have checked the battery and it appears to be producing normal voltage, so the starter may be on it's way out. My brakes are also in need of repair. They sound awful of metal on metal are in need of replacement. My transmission was suppose to be fixed several months back but I have had issues where the accelerator sticks and my car attempts to move forward and accelerate with my foot on the brake. Working in a sometimes undercover and covert status, my state vehicle has been "made" or recognized several times. One time in particular, I happened to be on the phone with Jeff Sipes, when a SUV made my vehicle and backed up in reverse at a high rate of speed and came barreling toward my vehicle. Myself, Deputy US Marshals and TFOs that were in the vehicle had to pull our weapons to protect ourselves from some sort of ambush. Also with my state vehicle is the space in the trunk and securing of our weapons. So far, we have accumulated a lot of wonderful gear and weapons to utilize for our duties but we do not have the adequate space in the trunk to accommodate all of this gear. Securing our weapons is a big worry for me and the others. Every night I have to take my weapons, vest and radios out of the vehicle and secure them in my personal safe, in fear of the vehicle being broken into and these items being stolen.

State vehicle assigned to me has a long history of the engine shutting off while driving. After numerous times to in the shop, it continues to have this occur, even as recently as a week ago. Numerous parts have been replaces and "fixed", however, continues to occur. The incident last week was a little different due to the circumstances of driving past a fugitive's residence in order to obtain license plates, surroundings of home, etc., and vehicle engine shut off within 50 yards of the residence. The positive it, to this point, it has always started back up.

Trying to do surveillance on a house and because of the yellow tag we were unable to disguise ourselves effectively. Watched a vehicle pull away with a possible offender in the vehicle but could not pursue because we did not have blue lights to affect a stop. My check engine light is now on and my brakes are still questionable but those issues have not affected the job yet. I was conducting surveillance on a house here in Greensboro and had my state car shut off. When I tried to restart it the first time it wouldn't crank so I tried it a second time and it started up. I also have had issues with my trunk not wanting to close when it's open and to close it you have to slam it several time in order for it to close.

No room for all equipment

Can't use to transport because equipment in back seat also due to lack of room

Can't use for rescue vehicle if officer hurt because no room in back seat

USMS doesn't want us taking because get made right away so leave parked in bad areas. Then have to move equipment to someone else vehicle sometime at 5am or late at night

Can not perform surveillance because known probation cars

People scatter as soon as pull in neighborhoods

## Division 2 Surplused Vehicles

	District	Vehicle Number	Surplus Date	Employee
1	9	62646	SURPLUS- 1/23/13	Tonya Markham
2	10	5986	SURPLUSED--10/8/13	MONROE, NANCY A.
3	10	15064	SURPLUSED--1/30/13	PLESCHER II, JAMES
4	10	34613	SURPLUSED--10/7/11	COBLE, CRYSTAL
5	10	45575	SURPLUSED--6/11/13	ORR, KEISHA A.
6	10	65012	SURPLUSED--10/7/13	FLOWERS, MARY M.
7	10	65051	SURPLUSED--10/1/13	PARROTT, OLIVIA
8	11	5286	Surplused 10/11/13	JONES, DAISY W.
9	11	6506	Surplused 08/23/13	LOTT, GEORGIA E.
10	12	56359	SURPLUS 7/12/13	FRYE, PATRICK O.
11	12	82472	SURPLUS 9/12/13	GAINES, NICHELLE
12	12	25310	SURPLUS 9/12/13	PORTER, ROBERT
13	12	55922	SURPLUS 9/20/13	GALLOP, TERRELL
14	13	25349	Surplus 10/16/13	Maultsby, Christina
15	13	65209	surplused	Suggs, Larry
16	13	81089	surplused	BRUTON, MEDEANA
17	14	06395	Surplus 05/30/13	SUDDRETH, JILL
18	14	06458	Surplus 05/20/13	BEST, CHENITA A.
19	14	06549	Surplus 09/13/13	COX, ARIES E. (JSC)
20	14	15182	Surplus 09/27/13	BROWN, ASHLEY
21	14	15231	Surplus 04/16/13	BYERS, QUANITA
22	14	34058	Surplus 04/04/13	HUTCHINS, BETH
23	14	55749	Surplus 09/20/13	MAXEY, MICHAEL J.
24	14	56095	Surplus 09/13/13	NEWCOMER, THOMAS
25	16	06406	SURPLUS	Ronnie Hardin
26	16	15063	SURPLUS	NONA HUBBARD
27	16	34294	SURPLUS 4/2013	ROBIN DIAL
28	16	34902	SURPLUS 4/2013	DUEL SHEPPARD
29	16	55490	SURPLUS	DONNA STONE
30	16	81421	SURPLUS	NONA HUBBARD