



Blount County Budget Committee Memo

TO: Blount County Commissioners

FROM: Blount County Schools

DATE: October 24, 2025

RE: Purchase of a 2026 Chevrolet Equinox for the Family Resource Center

1. Proposal (what is the new item/service being requested) The purchase of a 2026 Chevrolet Equinox AWD LT 2LT to be used by the Family Resource Center.
The current vehicle is a 2013 Dodge Avenger with 139,600 miles. Although the mileage may not appear high the vehicle has frequent repair needs.
Only one vent produces heat and the steering has gone out twice over the past year requiring the driver to drift into a nearby parking lot.
2. Current Operations (how are operations without the request and impact if not funded)
The Family Resource Center operates based on donations which requires frequent trips to both collect and distribute donations to Blount County families in need. Last year the Family Resource Center made 140 home visits. This service is not possible without a safe and reliable vehicle.
3. Impact if funded (provide summary if the request is approved)
The vehicle will be ordered immediately and will go into service as soon as delivery occurs. The current vehicle will be presented as surplus to the Board of Education, and pending their approval, sold on GovDeals.

Budget Impact	
Original Budget	\$ 0.00
Amendment Impact	\$ 29,000.00
Proposed Revised Budget	\$ 29,000.00

Signature from Department Head/Elected (or designee)

Reset Form

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To: Blount County Schools Board of Education

Cc: Blount County Budget Committee

From: Brittany Spence, CFO

Date: October 24, 2025

Re: Family Resource Center Replacement Vehicle – 2026 Chevrolet Equinox AWD

The Family Resource Center strives to unlock potential for all students and families by removing non-academic barriers to learning. The FRC assists students and families in various ways and always strives to meet families where they are. During the 24-25 school year the FRC served 774 unduplicated students and conducted 140 home visits. In order to successfully and safely serve the students and families of Blount County the FRC needs a reliable vehicle. The current vehicle assigned to FRC staff is a 2013 Dodge Avenger with ~139,600 miles. Mechanical/computer panel issues are frequent and safety concerns continue to increase. Last year the steering went out requiring the driver to drift into a nearby parking lot. As we are approaching the winter months it is also worth noting that only one vent in the vehicle produces heat.

The replacement vehicle being requested is a mid-sized SUV which will significantly improve the FRC staff's ability to haul donations without making multiple trips. The FRC operates solely on donations so a vehicle with additional cargo space would be beneficial as they collect items from individuals, businesses, and churches (school supplies, food, hygiene items, household cleaning supplies, etc.). The FRC also delivers food boxes and other items to families, and more cargo space would allow the FRC staff to do more visits in one run rather than going back to their home base to reload. The requested replacement vehicle is also equipped with all-wheel drive capabilities. The FRC employees cover a lot of ground and often drive in remote areas, including up and down steep roads and driveways that are sometimes washed out with deep ruts. There have been times when FRC staff members have been unable to navigate driveways and had to park and walk to reach the home.

Providing a reliable vehicle equipped with additional cargo space and AWD capabilities will allow the FRC staff to serve our community in a safer and more efficient manner.