
Your County Vehicle Is a Total Loss, Now What?

You have been in an accident involving a county vehicle. You have submitted your claim to the CAPP claims department for payment. What happens if the vehicle is a total loss? A car is considered a total loss if the cost to repair the damages exceeds 80% of its current value.

If the county vehicle is declared a total loss, the adjuster will calculate its actual cash value, using accepted industry research guides, the mileage of the car, and other similar factors.

Once the value is determined, CAPP will write a check to the county less the \$500 deductible. Under some circumstances, CAPP will sell the vehicle for salvage and reimburse the pool thereby lowering the amount of the county's claim. If CAPP opts not to retain the vehicle for salvage, the county may choose one of the following options for the vehicle. The county may want to keep the total loss vehicle to use for parts, sell the vehicle, or repair and use the vehicle. You will want to let your CAPP claims adjuster know your choice as soon as possible.

Whatever decision the county makes, if the vehicle is in a storage yard, it is the responsibility of the county to have the vehicle moved to avoid ongoing storage fees charged against CAPP. If CAPP salvages the vehicle, CAPP will arrange for the vehicle to be moved from the storage yard. The county and the claims adjuster need to communicate about the storage status of the vehicle.

If the county opts to repair the vehicle, the county is responsible for having it repaired to a safe driving condition, inspected by the Department of Motor Vehicles, and acquiring a salvage title. After these steps, the vehicle is now street worthy, legal to be driven on Colorado roads, and is insurable—to a degree. The county will only have liability insurance on a vehicle with a salvage title. There will be no collision or comprehensive coverage as CAPP has already paid the value of the vehicle.

Should a county driver be responsible for an accident involving a third party, the county is provided liability coverage to the third party under the CAPP policy. However, if the county vehicle is damaged, CAPP will not provide collision or comprehensive coverage.

What This Means to Counties

Counties should evaluate more than just the amount of reimbursement they will receive for keeping a total loss vehicle. The cost of repair, storage, and future costs should the vehicle be in another accident should also be considered. Your CAPP claims adjuster is available to help you decide on the best course of action. 