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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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MEMO

To: CEA Review Committee

From: Nate Loper, Deputy Director of Public Works

Date: April 3, 2019

Subject: Request to eliminate automated recycling truck #65 and purchase a mini excavator in 2020

The Department of Public Works is proposing the following equipment changes in 2020 to better meet our operational goals:

- Eliminate automated recycling truck (#65) from the sanitation division fleet
- Purchase a mini excavator and trailer for the stormwater division fleet

Truck 65

Truck #65 is a 2014 automated recycling truck that is used to collect recycling from approximately 300 commercial properties in Appleton. This truck is due for replacement in 2020. However, upon review of our current operations, we are recommending that we eliminate truck #65 and the commercial recycling service as a cost saving measure. The estimated cost to replace truck #65 is \$265,000.

Mini Excavator

We are requesting permission to purchase a new mini excavator in 2020. The proposed excavator would be a 20,000-pound mini-hydraulic excavator with a dig depth of 15 feet. The excavator would be track driven and have a small front mounted dozer blade for leveling and moving material and a hydraulic thumb for picking and placing material.

This new excavator would primarily be utilized by the stormwater facility maintenance crew. This crew is responsible for a very long list of maintenance projects associated with over 50 stormwater ponds and facilities (not including ditches and ravines). The uses for stormwater operations would include excavating ditches, repairing outfalls, placing rip-rap and removing silt and debris from ponds and streams. Accessibility and safety would be greatly improved with a tracked machine. The pond sites are typically very soft and wheeled machines cause severe rutting which results in extensive repairs to the disrupted prairie plantings. The slopes of the ponds can also be difficult to traverse safely with wheeled machines. This 360-degree tracked machine will allow us to work more efficiently and access sites that are currently off-limits.

Currently, the stormwater division does not have a backhoe or excavator in its fleet. Therefore, the crew relies on borrowing a wheeled backhoe from another Public Works division or renting an excavator. Due to the high demands on our backhoes during the construction season the stormwater crew has been renting a mini excavator for several weeks each summer. This comes at an average cost of about \$4000 per year and can be higher when we experience delays due to weather.

In addition to the advantages for the stormwater division, our water division would also benefit from utilizing this machine. The 360-degree swing will allow us to work on busier streets without having to close the entire road since the dump truck can occupy the same lane as the excavator. Also, our current wheeled backhoes only have a dig depth of about 8 feet. The longer reach (15 feet) of the mini excavator would allow our water crew to dig and repair water mains that they can't reach now. In addition, there are several "off-road" sites that our backhoes cannot access due to slope and/or soil conditions. Having a tracked mini excavator would allow us to be more versatile and self-sufficient. In most cases we should avoid the need to hire private contractors to mobilize, dig and repair these water mains. Currently we budget \$5000 each year for this contracted work.

We are requesting permission to use the savings from not replacing truck #65 to purchase the new mini excavator and trailer. The replacement cost for truck #65 is \$265,000. The estimated cost to purchase the mini excavator, trailer and attachment is \$165,000. These changes will result in a savings of approximately \$100,000 and will better help us meet our operational goals.

Thank you for your consideration.