
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: DR. JAMES FRANCHINI, SUPERINTENDENT
FROM: MICHAEL OUIMET, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR BUSINESS
SUBJECT: PICKUP TRUCK REPLACEMENT
DATE: FEBRUARY 3, 2021
CC: BOARD OF EDUCATION, MARK PREMO – TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR

I am recommending the District seek voter approval on May 18, 2021, to spend \$53,711 to purchase a 2022 Chevrolet 3500 Rack Truck with snow plow and lift gate. This purchase would replace the District's existing 2011 RAM 2500 pickup/plow truck that over the past nine years has served as a snow removal vehicle, salting, sanding and heavy load hauling vehicle of the Buildings & Grounds fleet. Heavy load hauling capability is essential for the transport of portable generators in the event power outages and the extrication of snow bound buses. Furthermore, the gate lift will allow for less physically stressful loading of portable equipment such as snow blowers and palletized supplies such as sidewalk salt.

The 2011 RAM 2500 has 72,652 miles. Over the past three years the District has performed several repairs, replacing multiple front end parts, the power steering lines and pump and electrical wiring replacement. The District has used significant in-house mechanic labor hours to keep this vehicle as operational. Further, the District has identified multiple additional major mechanical conditions, including oil leakage through the cylinder-head, wiring harness corrosion power steering issues and body rust, all that will require expensive repairs that will not meaningfully extend the vehicle's useful life.

Please find attached pictures of the existing 2011 RAM 2500 that illustrate the significantly deteriorating condition of this vehicle.

The proposed replacement rack truck is available via "piggy back" contract from Onondaga County at a cost of \$53,711. We anticipate the resale value of the District's existing truck to be approximately \$4,000, an extremely low salvage price which reflects the deteriorated condition of the RAM 2500.

Please find attached pictures of a vehicle similar to the proposed 2022 Chevrolet 3500 Rack Truck, along with vehicle specifications and bid information.

The net purchase price of \$53,711 would be financed, in conjunction with the District's bus replacement proposition, over a five year period. Using an estimated 1.25% interest rate, annual principal & interest debt payments will be \$11,148 with total interest expense over the 5-year period of \$2,031.

Unfortunately, this purchase is not an aidable transportation expense. However, significant savings and efficiency achieved by performing in-house snow removal rather than contracting for these services. District control over snow removal, salting and sanding are critical to ensuring the safe and efficient operation of the District's facilities and as such requires that the equipment used to accomplish these functions are at the highest level of reliability and performance. This purchase is consistent with our long-term White Fleet (Non-yellow bus vehicles) vehicle replacement plan.

Please find attached our current White Fleet inventory.

It is my recommendation that in order to continue to ensure snow removal and other operational functions requiring heavy load transport are executed without interruption or compromise, the District should replace the existing 2011 RAM 2500 with a 2022 Chevrolet 3500 Rack Truck.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.