



City of Colusa California

STAFF REPORT

DATE: March 3, 2026
TO: Mayor and Members of Council
FROM: Jesse Cain, City Manager

AGENDA ITEM: Consideration to purchase of new Vacuum Truck (Vac Truck) for Water/Sewer Division – Grant Funded Sole Source Purchase

RECOMMENDATION: Council to adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a sole source purchase agreement with **GapVax** for the acquisition of a new vacuum truck for the Water and Sewer Division, fully funded through grant revenues, and authorize necessary budget adjustments if required.

BACKGROUND ANALYSIS: The Water and Sewer Division is requesting City Council approval to purchase a new vacuum (vac) truck to support critical wastewater and water system maintenance operations. City staff have spent significant time over the past several years planning for this replacement, developing specifications, and evaluating available manufacturers to ensure the City receives the correct unit to meet operational needs.

After reviewing multiple manufacturers and configurations, staff determined that purchasing the truck through a **sole source agreement with GapVax** is the most cost-effective and reliable option. This approach ensures the City receives the properly equipped unit while avoiding the risk of an RFP process that may result in bids for trucks that do not meet the City's specific requirements.

Importantly, this purchase is **100% grant funded**, with no impact to the City's General Fund. Vacuum trucks are essential tools used by the Water and Sewer Division for a variety of critical maintenance and emergency response functions, including:

- Sewer main cleaning and hydro-excavation
- Lift station and manhole cleaning
- Emergency sewer blockage response
- Storm drain maintenance support
- Water system utility locating and excavation

The City's current vac truck has reached the end of its useful service life and is increasingly costly to maintain. Replacement of this equipment has been part of the City's long-term infrastructure and fleet planning efforts for several years.

Sole Source Purchase Justification

While public agencies often utilize a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, staff determined that issuing an RFP for this specialized equipment would not be the best approach for the following reasons:

1. **Highly Specialized Equipment**

Vac trucks vary significantly in performance, configuration, and durability. The City requires a specific design that meets its operational demands.

2. **Risk of Receiving an Incorrect Unit**

An RFP process may attract bids that technically meet minimum requirements but do not provide the correct long-term solution for Colusa's needs.

3. **Cost Savings Through GapVax**

After speaking with multiple manufacturers, staff found that GapVax offers the most competitively priced option while still meeting all required specifications.

4. **Standardization and Reliability**

GapVax units are widely used across the industry, known for quality, and offer strong service and parts availability.

BENEFITS TO THE CITY

Purchasing a new vac truck will provide significant long-term benefits, including:

- Improved emergency response capability
- Reduced maintenance downtime and repair costs
- Increased efficiency in sewer and water system maintenance
- Enhanced staff safety and operational reliability
- Protection of public health and environmental compliance

For these reasons, staff recommend moving forward with a sole source purchase as the most efficient and cost-effective procurement method.

BUDGET IMPACT: The total cost of the vacuum truck purchase is 100% funded through grant revenues.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt a resolution 26 authorizing the City Manager to execute a sole-source purchase agreement with **GapVax**

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution 26-__

Quote