



City of Hartford * County of Van Buren * State of Michigan

TO: Hartford City Commission

FROM: Quentin Clark, President, Certified Operator Services LLC

CC: Nicol Pulluam, City Manager 

DATE: July 27, 2026

RE: APPROVAL TO PURCHASE TUTTNAUER 2340M AUTOCLAVE

ITEM BEFORE THE COMMISSION:

Staff recommends that the City of Hartford approve the purchase of one Tuttnauer 2340M manual autoclave from USA Blue Book for \$5,558.00 to replace the existing Pelton & Crane autoclave at the Hartford Wastewater Treatment Plant laboratory.

BACKGROUND:

The Hartford WWTP laboratory currently relies on a Pelton & Crane autoclave for sterilizing laboratory glassware, media, and other materials used in routine wastewater testing. The Pelton & Crane unit is the oldest piece of equipment remaining in the laboratory and has become undersized for the volume and type of laboratory procedures now performed.

Because of its limited chamber capacity, staff must use smaller loads and additional sterilization cycles to complete routine laboratory work. This increases operator time, slows preparation of laboratory materials, and creates an avoidable bottleneck during periods of heavier testing activity.

Replacement of the existing autoclave is an appropriate next step in the City's continued effort to modernize the WWTP laboratory, improve workflow, and provide operators with equipment properly sized for current testing needs.

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Staff obtained two quotations for the same Tuttnauer 2340M autoclave. The proposed unit is a 120-volt, manually operated steam sterilizer with a 9-inch-diameter by 18-inch-deep chamber, approximately 19 liters of chamber volume, and three instrument trays. Tuttnauer markets the 2340M for high-volume laboratories and clinics, describing it as a durable, versatile tabletop sterilizer.

The larger chamber and tray capacities will allow the WWTP laboratory to process more glassware and materials per cycle than the existing Pelton & Crane unit can. The proposed model also includes safety