



# Town of Johnstown

## TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA COMMUNICATIONS

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**AGENDA DATE:** August 21, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Chassis Equipment Purchase - Snowplow

**ACTION PROPOSED:** Consider an Accelerated Purchase of a Snowplow

**ATTACHMENTS:** 1. Chassis Purchase Proposal

**PRESENTED BY:** Jason Elkins, Public Works Director

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### AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION:

As part of the annual budget process staff prepares and presents a 10-year Capital Improvement Program to Council. The CIP provides a list of all capital projects, capital needs, and their estimated timing and costs. The CIP is a living document, and as such, it is reviewed and updated on a regular basis as market cost and availability change over time.

The current CIP was formulated based on the assumption that a lot of the impact that COVID has had on the market would be resolving by the middle/end of 2023. While we are seeing some things settle out, that assumption is not proving to be true for all items. The market for large equipment/vehicles is not normalizing as anticipated, making it necessary to review and when presented with an opportunity, shift the timing on purchases of capital items that have long lead times. Currently, large equipment/vehicles and vehicle conversions have extended delays that are averaging 18 to 24 months from the date of order.

The FY 2024 budget requests from Public Works includes a capital request for a tandem snowplow. As part of our due diligence in understanding the pricing, it has been presented from Transwest Truck that a 2024 Freightliner 108SD chassis is going to be available soon that was recently canceled by another municipality. Recognizing this as an opportunity to prevent the extended delays, Staff is requesting that Council consider authorizing this purchase at this time. Purchase of the chassis will take place this year at a cost of \$132,979. The chassis will then be outfitted with a stainless steel dump body, a tandem plow with a wing, and liquid spraying capabilities. Delivery of the plow truck would likely be completed at the end of February 2024.

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This vehicle will be used for the purposes of snow removal on our streets and for operations and maintenance of our transportation network. Given the amount of snowfall last year and the challenges staff faced to keep the roads open, seizing this opportunity and expediting the acquisition of this snowplow is in the best interest of the Town. Also, with the addition of this new snowplow, the Town will be able to provide a higher level of service with the ability to apply a liquid pre-treatment to our transportation network. This operation will prevent snow and ice from bonding to the pavement, which provides better traction for automobiles and allows for easier removal of snow and ice from paved surfaces.

The snowplow total cost with outfitting is roughly \$416,000. This request is only to move forward with the purchase of the chassis at a cost of \$132,979 as shown in the attached quote.

**LEGAL ADVICE:**

Not applicable.

**FINANCIAL ADVICE:**

This purchase may require a budget amendment later in the year, as this item is unbudgeted in 2023.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve the purchase of a 2024 Freightliner 108SD in the current year.

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**SUGGESTED MOTIONS:**

**For Approval:** I move to purchase a 2024 Freightliner 108SD and authorize the Town Manager to execute the purchase invoice as appropriate and necessary to procure the tandem snowplow vehicle.

**For Denial:** I move to deny the purchase as presented.

*Reviewed and Approved for Presentation,*

  
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Town Manager