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DATE: July 7, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Marshall Moore, Wastewater Superintendent

THROUGH: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

SUBJECT: Replacement of Belt Filter Press Cake Conveyance Components and Associated Budget Amendment

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Staff recommends that the City Council take the following actions:

1. Approve the purchase of the AeroMod cake pump system, per AeroMod Quotation SO50551, in the amount of \$49,808 (equipment and freight), plus estimated California use tax of \$4,227, for a total estimated cost of \$54,035;
2. Adopt Resolution No. 1674-2026 amending the FY 2026-27 budget to appropriate \$54,035 from available Sewer Capital Fund (052) fund balance to capital outlay account 6200 08 052; and
3. Find AeroMod to be a sole source vendor under RDMC 3.30.070 as the original equipment manufacturer of the City's 1000 Series belt filter press, and authorize the City Manager to execute the purchase.

Alternatively, the City Council may:

Alternative A. Approve the replacement ribbon screw, per AeroMod Quotation SO50541, in the amount of \$28,020 (equipment and freight), plus estimated California use tax of \$2,321, for a total estimated cost of \$30,341, with a corresponding budget amendment appropriating that amount to the Sewer Capital Fund; or

Alternative B. Take no action and direct staff to reinstall the existing ribbon screw upon its return from JB Fabrication, recognizing that the recurring liner damage and periodic replacement labor will continue.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

The City's wastewater treatment plant uses a belt filter press to dewater biosolids. The press has been in continuous operation since 2014. Due to constant use, the ribbon screw that conveys dewatered solids has developed a bend and has begun digging into the press liner and hopper trough. This causes accelerated

wear of the liner, which the wastewater crew must replace periodically. Each liner replacement requires roughly one half day to a full day of work for the entire crew. The existing ribbon screw is currently out for evaluation at JB Fabrication.

Staff requested recommendations from AeroMod, the original manufacturer of the press. AeroMod presented two purchase options, plus the option of taking no action.

Option 1, Cake Pump System (recommended). Per Quotation SO50551, dated June 4, 2026: \$48,308 for the cake pump unit plus \$1,500 freight. This option replaces the existing screw conveyance, including the motor, drive shaft, and auger, with a cake pump that moves dewatered solids without a ribbon screw. Removing the ribbon screw eliminates the failure mode that is currently damaging the liner and hopper trough, and it eliminates the recurring liner replacement labor. The Wastewater Superintendent has confirmed that this system is the configuration that replaces the screw conveyance described above.

Option 2, Replacement Ribbon Screw. Per Quotation SO50541, dated June 2, 2026: \$26,520 for a new-design ribbon screw plus \$1,500 freight. This option restores function at a lower cost but does not eliminate the periodic liner replacement, because the screw conveyance configuration remains in place.

Option 3, Take No Action. Reinstall the existing ribbon screw after it returns from JB Fabrication. This avoids capital cost but continues the current liner damage and recurring replacement labor.

FISCAL IMPACT

Estimated cost by option:

	Equipment	Freight	Est. Use Tax	Total Est. Cost
Option 1, Cake Pump System	\$48,308	\$1,500	\$4,227	\$54,035
Option 2, Ribbon Screw	\$26,520	\$1,500	\$2,321	\$30,341
Option 3, No Action	none	none	none	Continued staff labor

Sales and use tax. AeroMod is located in Kansas, and the quotations show \$0 California sales tax, which indicates the vendor is not collecting California tax. The City is responsible for self-assessing and remitting use tax to the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration on equipment purchased from an out-of-state vendor for use in California. The totals above include estimated use tax on the equipment so that the appropriation reflects the full cost of the purchase. Freight is separately stated and is generally not included in the taxable base.

Capital classification. Both Option 1 and Option 2 exceed the City's \$5,000 capitalization threshold and are capital expenditures under GASB Statement No. 34. The expenditure belongs in the Sewer Capital Fund (052). The Sewer Fund is an enterprise fund reported on the full accrual basis, so the purchased equipment will be recorded as a capital asset and depreciated over its estimated useful life per the City's capitalization policy, rather than charged to an operating maintenance or repair account.

Budget authority. The FY 2026-27 budget was adopted by the City Council on June 2, 2026, by Resolution No. 1671-2026. This equipment need was identified after budget adoption and is not included in the adopted FY 2026-27 Capital Projects Summary. Section 3 of Resolution 1671-2026 provides that

budget adoption does not approve expenditures beyond existing purchasing authority, and RDMC 3.30 prohibits a purchase unless an unencumbered appropriation exists in the account against which it is charged. Council approval of either Option 1 or Option 2 therefore requires a budget amendment appropriating the total estimated cost to the Sewer Capital Fund. The accompanying resolution provides that appropriation.

Funding source. The appropriation would be funded from available Sewer Capital Fund (052) fund balance. The adopted FY 2026-27 budget projects an ending Sewer Capital Fund balance of \$806,963 and authorizes a \$490,000 use of fund balance in that fund. Appropriating an additional \$54,035 increases the authorized fund balance use to \$544,035 and leaves the Sewer Capital Fund with a positive projected ending balance. This is a local Sewer Fund expenditure and is not supported by the City's state-funded water infrastructure or disaster recovery programs.

Procurement. AeroMod is the original equipment manufacturer of the City's 1000 Series belt filter press, and the quoted components are proprietary to that equipment. Staff recommends the Council find AeroMod to be a sole source vendor under RDMC 3.30.070, which permits departure from competitive bidding when the equipment is available through only one vendor as determined by the City Manager. A copy of this finding will be placed in the procurement file.