

STAFF REPORT



SUBJECT: IDS Utility Vacuum Truck
MEETING: Council Meeting – 04 JUN 2024
DEPARTMENT: Public Works – Water/Sewer
STAFF CONTACT: Nick Williams

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval to purchase a Utility Vacuum Truck from Houston Freightliner with funds approved in the adopted FY22-23 budget.

BACKGROUND:

The city utilizes a vacuum truck as a core piece of equipment to routinely maintain, clean, and unstop sewer and stormwater lines. The truck also provides the ability to safely hydro-excavate water and sewer lines and for potholing or performing repairs adjacent to sensitive or dangerous buried utilities such as fiber optic, electric, or gas lines.

On October 11, 2022, approval was received to purchase a Utility Vacuum Truck from Lonestar Municipal Equipment. The truck delivery has been delayed multiple times and the vendor estimates the truck may not be delivered until, two years later now, in late September of 2024.

PROPOSAL:

Attached is an HGACBuy quote received from Houston Freightliner for the purchase of a vacuum truck constructed by Industrial Disposal Supply (IDS) in the amount of \$549,988. The utility department tested and operated the IDS truck on city streets, storm lines, and sewer lines and has requested the IDS truck be purchased for this critical piece of equipment. The IDS truck is currently constructed and has an anticipated delivery date of the first week of August 2024. Additionally, the utility staff has stated a preference for the IDS's analog components allowing, not only the regular operator, but on-call staff, to operate the truck with minimal training.

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY:

The FY22-23 adopted budget included \$550,000 for the vacuum truck. These funds were encumbered and are still available. The total purchase cost of the machine is under budget at \$549,988.

The Purchasing Manager has confirmed the city is able to purchase this equipment through the HGACBuy cooperative purchasing agency and adhere to all purchasing requirements.

Lonestar Municipal Equipment Company has been contacted and indicated there is no problem withdrawing the purchase order as there is a backlog of production orders.

ALTERNATIVES:

The following alternatives are provided for consideration:

1. Do not recommend approval of the vacuum truck as presented, or
2. Purchase the vacuum truck with financing, or
3. Recommend an alternate vacuum truck.

ADVANTAGES:

1. The cost for the IDS truck is under budget.
2. The anticipated delivery for the IDS truck is in approximately 60 calendar days.
3. Approval secures the IDS truck chassis for Stephenville to purchase. According to Lonestar Municipal Equipment, the Gap-Vax truck is still not under construction and may be delayed further.
4. Securing the vacuum truck helps maintain prolong the life of the sanitary sewer collection system and creates safety for excavation operations in utility-dense areas.

DISADVANTAGES:

1. No disadvantages have been identified.

ATTACHMENTS:

[2024_05-23 – Houston Freightliner – IDS Vacuum Truck Quote](#)