

2023 CAPITAL FUNDING REQUEST**Department Name:** Transit **Department Head:** Megan Dunneisen**Capital Project/Purchase:** Rear or Side Load Ford Transit - ADA Compliant (Application for grant not out as of 9-14-2022)**Cost Estimate:** \$ 70,000.00 **Estimated Useful Life:** 7-10 years**PROJECT/PURCHASE INFORMATION****Define the need for this capital project/purchase:**

The Transit System fleet requires vehicles to better serve the citizens of Watertown with transportation needs. This vehicle would replace an aging vehicle. Transit vehicle purchases are made largely with grant funds and are not included in the anticipated City borrowing to fund capital projects. The 80% grant match anticipated is listed in the revenues of the Capital Projects fund so the net cost of this vehicle is estimated to be \$14,000. NOTE: The City will not find out which requested vehicles, if any, will be approved for the grant until spring, 2023. If no grant funding is approved, this purchase will not occur.

Explain the future maintenance/operational costs of this project/purchase (if any):

Transit vehicles are leased to the City's contracted transit provider, Passenger Transit. Passenger Transit is responsible for insurance and maintenance of the leased transit vehicles.

How does this project/purchase benefit the citizens of Watertown?

The Ford Transit, rear or side load ADA complaint vehicle, allows the Watertown Transit System to offer rides to customers that require accomodation. These customers sometimes experience longer wait times for a ride if an equipped vehicle is not available at a specific time. These vehicles also help the transit system serve students in the area for rides to and from school.

How does this project/purchase meet the goals identified in the priorities meeting?

This purchase complies with limitations on the amount of borrowing for capital projects as purchasing these vehicles does not require use of borrowed funds. This purchase meets the goal of maintaining a safe and healthy community by offering low cost transportation to allow citizens who do not drive or have a car to travel to work as well as perform essential errands such as picking up groceries and prescriptions and attending medical appointments. Vehicles like these are also heavily used during the school year to provide transportation to students to attend school. Because the school district does not provide bus service in the City (except under limited circumstances), the City's transit system contract with Passenger Transit requires them to provide "corner service". Students are picked up at designated stops throughout the City and dropped off at area schools for a low cost.