



Office of the Fire/EMS Chief
312 W. Whitewater Street
Whitewater, Wisconsin 53190

www.whitewater-wi.gov
Telephone: (262) 473-0116

June 30, 2026

To the Members of the Common Council,

Attached in this packet is an updated spreadsheet regarding the council approved sale of used equipment since July 2025. The spreadsheet also includes the purchase of replacement equipment. All replacement equipment purchased to date has been funded entirely through proceeds from equipment sales and has not required the use of fund balance or borrowing.

Also included is an update regarding the trailer that was quoted in 2025 and approved as part of the 2026 budget. Due to manufacturer price increases, the purchase price has increased by approximately \$16,000 from the original estimate. Updated pricing was not available in time for discussion at the June 23 Finance Committee meeting. This increase will have no impact on borrowing or the 2026 budget, as the additional cost will be fully funded through proceeds from the sale of equipment reflected in the attached spreadsheet.

In addition to this update and the current positive cash balance of approximately \$31,500, I am seeking council approval to purchase a replacement truck for Utility 1270.

Utility 1270 is a 2006 Ford F-250 with approximately 20,000 miles. While the mileage is extremely low for a vehicle of its age, the larger concern is the long-term reliability of the engine. This vehicle is equipped with the 6.0-liter diesel engine, which is well known for requiring significant and costly repairs. In many cases, these repairs are not a matter of if they will occur, but when. Major repairs for this engine commonly exceed \$10,000.

Given that the vehicle's estimated value is between \$12,000 and \$15,000, it does not appear financially responsible to invest repair costs approaching the value of a nearly 20-year-old truck.

With council approval, I am requesting authorization to order a replacement vehicle and to place Utility 1270 on Wisconsin Surplus for auction. As with prior replacement purchases, this vehicle would be funded entirely through proceeds from equipment sales. This purchase would have zero impact on the budget and would not utilize any portion of the annual \$385,000 allocated for replacement equipment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kelly Freeman
Fire/EMS Chief