

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nathan Poore
FR: Skip Varney, Director of Public Works
RE: Municipal Equipment Schedules
DA: January 14, 2008

Per the Council's request, I am writing this memo to provide additional information about the increased Public Works funding in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). I have contacted numerous communities to research why they have converted or are currently converting their fleet to International Trucks and to discuss their equipment replacement schedule. Communities contacted included Windham, Westbrook, Cumberland, Yarmouth, and Cape Elizabeth. Their replacement schedules reflect what is being proposed by this Department. The proposed schedule includes front end loaders on a 20-year replacement cycle instead of 32 years, plow trucks on a 12-year schedule and four wheel drive pick-up trucks are being replaced every 8 years.

The primary reasons for this proposed change include:

- International Trucks are high quality products that work well for the customer. They are heavy duty trucks that can survive harsh winter conditions.
- The trucks are ergonomically designed for drivers that have to spend long durations of time in the truck without breaks. The cabs and seats are equipped with air ride systems that provide comfort and stability; reducing physical fatigue and possible Worker's Compensation Claims.
- International Trucks have computerized sand and salt distribution systems that are not hydraulically driven which allows for better control and less wasted materials.
- The trucks have stainless steel bodies and pipes, as well as braided hydraulic lines that require less maintenance and promote longer reliable life.
- International Trucks have located their computer modules inside the truck, as well as lifted the cab bodies which helps protect them from the elements and allows easier access for cleaning. Currently, our vehicles prematurely fail or rust because we do not have this innovative design.
- International Trucks are serviced by Portland North in Falmouth. All surveyed communities are pleased with the quick response time and high level of service. While we service all of our trucks, in times of extreme demand, it is nice to have this alternative resource.

In summary, the current funding level for heavy duty trucks and tractors is inadequate. The life expectancy should be 8-10 years for most of our current low level industrial grade trucks instead of 15 years. The new CIP funding request reflects the changed life expectancy for heavy duty trucks from 15 years to 12 years (current industry standard). It is advantageous to purchase a better quality heavy duty truck with a stainless steel body and aluminum rims that is not susceptible to rust. Stainless steel bodies do not require sandblasting and repainting and could possibly be available for the life of two trucks thus reducing the town's acquisition cost.

The increased CIP cost is a result of the cumulative effect of higher truck costs along with a shorter life expectancy. The increased truck costs are two fold. Keeping the same style truck would increase our costs by \$11,000 per truck and moving to the heavy duty truck increases our cost by \$25,000 per truck. We are also shortening the life expectancy of the loaders (from 32 years to 20 years), which increases the funding per year to make up for reduced number of years. Due to moving the loaders up 12 years in the replacement schedule, one loader needed to be included in the current 10 year replacement schedule (\$140,000 in 2014). The town does not have any spare plow trucks. The Department needs to shuffle equipment and resources to cover breakdowns. One truck out of commission results in 18 lane miles not being plowed. We also want to replace a 2 wheel drive with a 4 wheel drive pick-up that can be used for light duty plowing during winter operations.

Additional justifications for reducing the number of years between equipment replacement include increasing trade in value, lowering maintenance costs (outside of normal routine maintenance), and reducing the risk of equipment failure. Thank you for your attention to this request.