



Jess L. Greenwood, P.E.
Public Works Director – County Engineer

2140 Pioneer Road
Red Wing, MN 55066
Office: (651) 385.3025

TO: Honorable County Commissioners
Scott Arneson, County Administrator

FROM: Jess L. Greenwood, P.E. – Public Works Director

RE: 03 December 2024 County Board Meeting
Consider the purchase of a motor grader roller/compactor

Date: 26 November 2024

Summary

It is requested that the County Board consider purchasing a used motor grader roller/compactor to increase efficiency and provide immediate compaction efforts to help retain aggregates during blading operations.

Background

Public Works is responsible for the maintenance of several miles of aggregate surfaced roads as well as several hundred lane miles of aggregate shoulders. Typically, when performing routine blading operations, materials are bladed and minimal compaction efforts can be made. This is due to the lack of availability of additional staff and equipment. The exception to this is when shoulders and aggregate roads have new material added to them. To accomplish compaction a tractor and pull-behind roller are used.

When considering options to provide increased efficiency and additional compaction that we are not realizing now, staff explored motor grader mounted rollers (see photo at end of report). This type of roller meets the objectives of providing compaction during routine blading operations and increases efficiency and effectiveness of our work. Aggregate loss should be reduced which will help keep our roads and shoulders in better shape. This would be a new piece of equipment for Public Works, and if approved it will be analyzed to determine its overall effectiveness.

Staff is aware of a lightly used roller that is available locally for purchase and is 5-6 years old. The asking price is \$15,000. A new model can price out in the \$30,000 - \$40,000 range depending on model and size. With realized savings from an unusually warm 2023/2024 winter, this purchase could be made using those dollars.

Alternatives

- Approve the purchase of a locally available, used motor grader roller/compactor, utilizing dollars available in the current 2024 budget.
- Approve the purchase of a locally available, used motor grader roller/compactor, and identify another funding source.
- Consider including this type of equipment in a future capital plan and purchase a new roller at that time.
- Take no action.

"To effectively promote the safety, health, and well-being of our residents"

Recommendations

- It is the recommendation of staff that the County Board approve the purchase of a locally available, used motor grader roller/compactor, utilizing dollars available in the current 2024 public works budget.



"To effectively promote the safety, health, and well-being of our residents"