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TO: Honorable County Commissioners
Scott Arneson, County Administrator

FROM: Jess L. Greenwood, Public Works Director / County Engineer

RE: 03 September 2024 County Board Meeting – REGULAR AGENDA
Vehicle Hoist Replacement

Date: 28 August 2024

Summary

It is requested that the County Board consider replacing the vehicle hoists at the Public Works building in Red Wing prior to 2025.

Background

The Goodhue County Public Works building in Red Wing was constructed over a two-year period that began in 1987. A portion of the construction included a mechanic shop with two in-floor hoist systems: one for passenger vehicles and one for trucks and larger vehicles in the fleet. These hoists have been in operation since their installation, making them 36 years old.

At the July 16, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting Commissioners were presented the 2025 Capital Plan and began discussions concerning those requested needs. The hoists were shown and information concerning cost increases were available in the report.

On Monday, July 22, 2024, a scheduled inspection of the hoists was performed, and several defects were noted. The final report that was prepared raised a lot of questions by staff to determine whether they should remain in-service or not. To help make that determination staff reached out to SafeAssure, whom the County works with on all safety related matters and the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT). After providing both groups with the inspection report staff were recommended to stop the use of the hoists and move toward replacement. Once we had received the same recommendation from two separate sources, it was decided to lock-out/tag-out both hoists to prevent usage due to the safety concerns.

With these hoists being present in the 2025 Capital Plan, staff approached Administration with the issue and began discussing potential alternatives to advance the replacement of the hoists. With winter approaching and a need to continually perform maintenance on the Public Works fleet, moving toward a replacement option should be considered.

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When considering replacement of the hoists staff have researched other potential options that could work equally as well as the current systems. Many factors have been considered and examined such as, functionality, space, safety, and price amongst others.

For all intents and purposes, the current hoists have been exceptionally reliable and have provided for unrealized costs savings versus performing mechanic work at ground level. A relatively new option that now exists are portable rotary hoists that can be used to hoist several different types of vehicles. These portable units provide an opportunity to re-consider the layout of a portion of our shop and the orientation in which vehicles can be placed to perform work on them. Like many things, each hoist option presents different strengths and weaknesses. Without hoists there will be an inevitable need for equipment to be sent to other mechanic shops that are able to perform work that we cannot.

When looking at the 11 counties in Mn/DOT's District 6 there is not a consensus on what is the best hoist option. Each county does what works for them. One county out the group does not have any hoist option and must send equipment that requires a hoist for the repair to private mechanic shops.

Staff have been working to acquire updated quotes for the equipment that we are requesting to purchase. Here is a breakdown of that equipment and its associated cost:

<u>Hoist Type</u>	<u># of Units</u>	<u>Cost Per Unit</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Portable Rotary Hoist	4	\$14,580	\$58,320
2. In-Floor Truck Hoist	1	\$132,000	\$132,000

Additional costs would include, but are not limited to, portable hoist attachments, jack stands, old hoist removal, concrete work, and electrical. The estimated cost of for all equipment and labor is estimated to be around \$325,000.

As a part of the August 16th budget workshop presentation, the two hoists, originally listed in the 2025 capital plan, were shown to be 2024 purchases utilizing fund balance. While a figurative representation of what could be a possibility, a Board decision on that fund balance usage would need to be made.

Alternatives

- Advance the replacement of the Public Works hoists from the 2025 capital plan to a 2024 purchase utilizing fund balance.
- Delay replacement of the hoists until 2025 which will decrease the level of service provided to the public and increase repair costs .

Recommendations

Staff is recommending that the Board advance the replacement of the Public Works hoists from the 2025 capital plan to a 2024 purchase utilizing fund balance.

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