



City of Homer

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Public Works

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Memorandum 22-009

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
THROUGH: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
FROM: Janette Keiser, Director of Public Works
DATE: December 15, 2021
SUBJECT: Sanding Truck Woes

Issue: The purpose of this Memorandum is to address the acquisition of a sanding truck.

Background

I. Situation

Public Works sands the tarmac and parking lot at the airport. The sanding truck that does this is dedicated to this purpose because it has a sanding attachment, which is designed to screen out larger gravel particles that could damage aircraft engines, per FAA regulations.

The FY 21 Capital Budget authorized the replacement of this truck, E116, a 2006 F350 Ford, for the purchase price of \$60,000. We ordered the truck in February and last we heard, our order has not yet hit the manufacturing floor! We have no idea when our new truck will arrive. Meanwhile, on Dec 14, 2021, the frame on E116 irreparably broke. While we may be able to weld it back together for light duty, it is no longer safe to use as a sanding truck, carrying the heavy load such work involves. We are re-purposing another truck, E134, a 2003 F550, 2-ton 4 X 4, also old and well-worn, to serve as the airport sanding truck. The fact is our aging fleet is wearing out faster than we anticipated. We need to expedite the purchase of replacements truck, because they take so long to get.

II. Funding

The City Council, on April 24, 2017, passed Resolution 17-038, which adopted the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails Program (“HART”) Manual. The HART Manual allows HART funds to be used for the purchase of equipment for roads and trails maintenance. The purchase price of the last truck we ordered was about \$50,000 and we can expect some inflation when buy the next one. The Ending Balance of the HART Road Fund is projected to be \$4,342,136 at the end of FY 23. We will re-calibrate the Road Financial Plan to account for the accelerated equipment purchases.

III. Recommendation. We recommend that the City Council authorize the expenditure of \$60,000 from the HART Road Fund to purchase a new F550 2 – ton 4X4 truck. When the new truck arrives, we will surplus one of our other trucks, depending on condition.