



INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
FROM: Henry Hash, Public Works Director
BY: Bryan Still, Operations Manager
DATE: July 12, 2019
SUBJECT: Public Works Capital Purchase
Purchase of Snow & Ice Response Equipment

ISSUE

Approve purchase of 10,000-gallon storage salt brine tank with 180 GPM pump, 325-gallon anti-ice sprayer, 2-cubic yard poly sander, and an 8-foot plow for a 1-ton dump truck.

ANALYSIS

During the winter months, there is a need to use a de-icing agent to prevent roads and bridge decks from freezing and becoming dangerous for traffic throughout the City. Tukwila has an ongoing contract with the City of SeaTac to purchase a salt brine solution as SeaTac owns a salt brine production plant at their city maintenance yard.

After the snowstorms in February 2019, staff determined that winter operations would be more efficient and reliable with a salt brine storage tank on site. Benefits of a storage tank at the Public Works Shop would include; elimination of multiple trips to SeaTac to obtain brine solution as the crew can only fill a 325-gallon tank at a time; avoid waiting in long lines for brine with other municipalities; and have de-icing operations halted if the brine maker is out of operation. In 2019, the crew took 52, 40-minute roundtrips to SeaTac to obtain brine. Having a tank on site would save approximately \$4,992 in labor, fuel, wear and tear on vehicles, and improve customer service by reducing response time. The Street crew would be able to de-ice most of our City streets with a 10,000-gallon storage tank, saving 31 trips to SeaTac. The anti-ice sprayer, sander, and plow would be used to equip a Facilities Maintenance truck to remove snow and ice from City facilities, which was needed this last winter.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Costs paid to SeaTac for the salt brine have averaged \$2,470 a year since 2015 and these brine costs would continue, but our efficiency to de-ice City streets would significantly improve. Due to savings in labor costs, the storage tank should pay for itself in two to four years.

Equipment would be purchased from the street maintenance fund. Due to unexpected expenses related to the Seattle City Light incident and the February snowstorms, this fund is overbudget. However, the City will be reimbursed for our costs related to the Seattle City Light incident. Purchase of unbudgeted capital equipment of \$5,000 or more requires Council approval per Policy FP-7.

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Amount. Items include 10,000-gallon salt brine storage tank with pump (\$19,950.00), 325-gallon anti-ice Sprayer (10,083.00), 2-cubic yard poly Sander (10,608.00), 8-foot Plow (6,872.00), Sales Tax (4,751.30), and Total (\$52,264.30).

RECOMMENDATION

Council is being asked to authorize purchase of a 10,000-gallon salt brine storage tank with pump, 325-gallon anti-ice sprayer, 2-cubic yard poly sander, and 8-foot plow in the amount of \$52,264.30 and consider this item at the July 22, 2019 Committee of the Whole and subsequent August 5, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Attachment: Photos of equipment



10,000 Gallon Salt Brine Storage Tank



325 Gallon Anti-ice Sprayer



2 Cubic Yard Poly Sander



8-Foot Plow