



March 17, 2021

Memorandum

To: Steve Giesbrecht, Borough Manager  
CC: Mayor Jensen and Members of the Borough Assembly  
From: Chris Cotta, Public Works Director  
Re: Purchase of Mobile Column Lifts

In FY21 the Borough budgeted for the purchase of a 4-column mobile vehicle lift system. This budget request was made in response to a longstanding need in the Motor Pool Dept for a lift which would facilitate the safe elevation of larger trucks. Many newer vehicles, even trucks, are built lower to the ground and there is very little clearance underneath for mechanics to work. The mobile lift system will solve this problem and will also reduce the chances of worker injury caused by unsafe working positions or ad-hoc lifting solutions.

Purchase of this lifting system will be split evenly 3 ways between the motor pool balances of Public Works, the Fire Department, and Power & Light. These 3 depts all have larger trucks and use of the lifts will benefit each of those departments accordingly. A quote for the lifting system (attached for reference) was obtained through Vehicle Service Group (VSG). They supplied a quote of \$54,952.47 which includes shipping to the Public Works site. Setup and training are also included, and training will be provided onsite by factory representatives. Although the quoted amount slightly exceeds the budget of \$54,000, the extra \$952.47 can be easily absorbed by the motor pool reserves in each of the departments that are funding this purchase.

The above referenced quote includes State of Alaska contract pricing through NASPO (National Association of State Procurement Officials), a purchasing cooperative that bids out equipment contracts for state government entities. Borough Code Section 4.04.040 (Exceptions to Bidding), Section G States: *When it is advantageous to the borough to enter into a contract with a bidder for the same supplies or services such bidder is providing another Alaskan local government, the state of Alaska, a cooperative purchasing association composed of government agencies, or the United States, where such supplies, equipment or services are being provided to the other governmental unit or association on the basis of competitive bids submitted; and where the borough contract is on substantially the same terms as those bid; or to contract with or through such other governmental unit or association so that the benefit of the responsible bid accrues to the borough;*

Since this proposed equipment acquisition was approved in the FY21 budget; meets a well-defined need within the department; and adheres to Borough purchasing code; Public Works recommends award of this equipment purchase to Vehicle Services Group for the quoted price of \$54,952.47. If you agree with this recommendation, please forward it to the Borough Assembly for consideration at their next regular meeting on March 22, 2021. Thank you.

Attachments: VSG Quote (2 pages)  
FY21 Motor Pool Budget Memo: (2 pages)