

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Michael Fischer, Interim City Administrator

DATE: October 11, 2012

SUBJECT: Capital Improvement Plan

At the October 1, 2012 Council Workshop, beginning discussions were held regarding the Capital Improvement Plan. As there were specific questions which were raised regarding various projects or equipment, the following is additional information obtained by the department heads:

Park Department

With regard to the request for a new tractor for the Park Department, the proposed tractor would be a mid-sized unit capable of plowing sidewalks and trails. The tractor would be used year-round for other purposes as well.

The requested 16-foot wide mower would be used within the Caswell North Soccer Complex beginning in the summer of 2013 to prepare the fields for use in 2014. The mower would also be used to maintain the additional right-of-way as part of the extension of Howard Drive West, Carlson Drive and CSAH 41.

In response to the resealing of the trails in Benson Park and Spring Lake Park, the Park Superintendent indicates this is preventative maintenance.

Street Department

The Street Department is requesting the purchase of two (2) used 1-ton trucks to replace 1987 and 1990 1-ton vehicles. Due to the poor condition of the existing vehicles and that there is no opportunity to shift vehicles among other departments, the Street Superintendent requests the purchase of 2 used 1-ton vehicles.

Regarding the proposed street sweeper requested by the Street Superintendent, the purchase of a new sweeper would replace an existing 1997 sweeper. As there was discussion regarding the potential to share the cost and use of a street sweeper with the City of Mankato, staff believes coordination of the use would be difficult. For example, use after storm events, accidents or seal coating. Additionally, as these units are high maintenance, concerns for repair responsibility were identified.

According to the Street Superintendent, the proposed backhoe would have priority over the street sweeper and the 1-ton vehicle replacements. Furthermore, priority was given to the installation of storm sewer and replacement of sanitary sewer from the end of Belgrade Avenue to Roe Crest Drive.

It was noted the last street reconstruction project occurred in 2008/2009.

Water Department

According to the Water Department, due to the fact that water capacity is needed on the hilltop, obtaining water from the City of Mankato would be challenging. The Water Superintendent would recommend a new well versus a high pressure line from the Mankato Water Department. It is expected the cost of the high pressure line would be equal or greater than a new well. Staff indicated that the well has been eliminated from the budget for the last 3 to 4 years.

Building Inspection

The Building Inspection Department is requesting the replacement of a two-wheel drive pickup with a four-wheel drive for the Building Inspector. Quite often the roads are not complete in new construction sites and a two-wheel drive vehicle cannot always drive to the building. Due to the locations the Building Inspector is required to go to perform inspections, a four-wheel drive vehicle is preferred. The existing two-wheel drive vehicle would be transferred to the Park Department.

According to the Inspections Department, the requested GPS equipment would allow staff to perform certain surveying resulting in reduced surveying costs from Bolton & Menk. This will also allow for just one employee in the Construction Inspection Department for a time.

Recycling Center

The proposed auto-tie baler for the Recycling Center would allow for more efficient distribution of labor hours, not necessarily increase safety.