

## AVIATION BOARD BACKGROUND LETTER

**Aviation Board Meeting Date:** November 15, 2021

**To:** Chair Richmond and Aviation Board Members

**Cc:** Mitch Reynolds, Mayor

**From:** Ian Turner, Director of the La Crosse Regional Airport

**Subject:** 21-1603 – Resolution allocating an additional \$45,000 to Capital Equipment  
Project 21-271 – Acquire Salt Truck with Plow

### Summary:

The Aviation Board and Common Council approved the 2021-2025 Capital Equipment Budget that included project 21-271 – Acquire Salt Truck with Plow. The budgeted amount for this acquisition is \$150,000. Bids were received on October 26, 2021, in excess of this budgeted amount.

### Previous Action:

The Aviation Board approved the 2021-2025 airport capital equipment budget by item 20-0115. The Common Council approved the amended City of La Crosse Capital Equipment Budget by Resolution 20-0249. Capital Equipment Budget item 21-271 included an allocation of \$150,000.

### Background:

Currently, the La Crosse Regional Airport owns and operates a 2007 International Work Star to clear roadways in and around the airport. This piece of equipment has seen an increased amount of maintenance in recent years and was scheduled for replacement.

In creating bids for a replacement truck, a few priorities were set. The first and highest priority required that the new equipment provide the same level of capability as the existing equipment. The next priority included a replacement truck capable of serving in a multi-purpose, or all seasons, role as opposed to only snow operations. To do this, the new truck needed to serve as a dump truck in addition to a salt and plow truck. The final, and lowest, priority was to acquire a truck that made more efficient and effective use of staff during high demand snow events. To achieve this, three options were included in the bid:

1. A stainless-steel spreader to extend the useful life of the truck and reduce long-term maintenance costs.



2. Add a wing-plow to widen the clearing width of the truck, push back snow berms/drifts, and reduce the overall amount of time needed to clear streets.
3. Add a spreader tarp to protect road salt from getting wet. Wet salt in a spreader solidifies and causes increased wear and tear on the equipment.

Base bids for the truck, not including any options, came to \$172,375. The three optional pieces of equipment would add \$18,008. Total vehicle acquisition cost equals \$190,383.

Due to material costs and supply chain issues, vendors have advised that bid prices could increase unexpectedly, even after bids are accepted. Given this unique situation, this resolution includes some contingency funding. It adds \$45,000, bringing the total acquisition cost potential to \$195,000.

**Financial Implications:**

\$45,000 for additional funding is available in the Airport Operating Fund (Fund 600) balance.

**Stakeholder Process:**

This item was included in the 2021-2025 Capital Equipment Process. The additional funding is before the Aviation Board for action prior to going to the Common Council Standing Committees and the Common Council.

**Alternatives:**

1. The resolution could be denied, in which all bids will be rejected due to lack of funding.
2. The resolution could be amended to include only funding for the base bid truck, plow, and spreader. This would require an additional \$25,000.
3. The resolution could be amended to include only certain optional items.

**Staff Recommendation:**

It is the recommendation of staff to approve the resolution.

**Attachments:**

None

