



## CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS

### Committee of the Whole Agenda Communication

**Meeting Date:** Monday, May 12, 2025

**Prepared By:** Brian Rittenhouse – Public Works Director

**Agenda Item:** Discussion – Jetter Truck Replacement

**Explanation:** The City purchased a Vac-Con Jetter Truck in 2017. It was replaced, free of charge, with a new 2019 unit after a few major issues in the first couple of years. In fiscal year 25-26 the Jetter Truck will be 6 years old. There are concerns that over the next two, three or four years there is a high probability that it may need some sort of major repair or repairs. Staff saw this scenario with the street sweeper when it required \$40,000 in repairs in year 7. Keeping larger critical equipment, used in extreme conditions, for long periods of time may not be the best practice. The potential for costly repairs and downtime increases as we keep equipment in the fleet for a longer period.

Staff's goal is to clean 100,000 to 125,000 feet of Storm and Sanitary Sewers this year. To hire it out this routine cleaning could cost over \$250,000 per year. Staff estimates it would cost another \$300/Hour (\$2,400/Day) to hire out any day-to-day work not associated with routine cleaning.

Jetter Trucks are a specialized piece of equipment that must be built. You cannot go to a dealership and just purchase one. Waiting for maintenance issues to start and then beginning the process of ordering a new one could take up to a year from start to finish.

Staff was told that the new EPA emission requirements could cause the 2027 model chassis to increase 30k to 50k, because of the equipment needed to meet the standards. The two quoted Jetter trucks are with a 2026 model Chassis.

Staff received Sourcewell Quotes from COE Equipment and EJ Equipment.

COE Equipment		EJ Equipment	
Vactor		Vac-Con	
New	\$538,206.62	New	\$624,583.75
Trade-in	\$190,000.00	Trade-in	\$292,847.00
	<u>\$348,206.62</u>		<u>\$331,736.75</u>

As you can see, a new Vac-Con is \$16,469.87 less than the Vactor.

The current fund balance, in the MERF Fund, allocated to this piece of equipment is estimated to be \$391,000. This would cover the cost after trade. The estimated delivery time frame is 4 to 6 months, depending on current availability of the chassis.

## **Current 10-year MERF Schedule**

### Benefits

- Funding – Funding is spread out over 10 years which keeps yearly transfers low.

### Drawback

- Aging Unit – The Sweeper starts to look its age.
- Maintenance – Increase in yearly maintenance cost due to age and use.
- Downtime – With increased maintenance comes more downtime.

Staff has spoken with EJ Equipment, who reps Vac-Con, and they have submitted a proposal for a buyback program that would guarantee the City a known trade in value in 5 years if the agreed upon maintenance takes place. EJ's Staff, at their cost, would come look at the equipment twice a year for maintenance inspections. Please note this would not obligate the City to purchase Sweepers, from EJ Equipment, every 5 years.

## **5-Year MERF Schedule with known Trade Value**

### Benefits.

- New Unit – New Jetter Truck every 5 years.
- Warranty – Most components are under warranty for 1-5 years.
- Repairs – Avoid repairs that come with long-term use and wear.
- Funding – Funding will level off with small increases every 5 years.

### Drawback

- Agreed upon price could change, if something major occurred.

**Fiscal Impact:** There are sufficient Funds in MERF to purchase either a Vactor or Vac-Con as quoted.

**Staff's Recommendation:** Staff would recommend the Council consider replacing the Jetter Truck with a new Vac-Con this FY 25-26.

**Action Requested:** Council discussion and direction

