

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN

DATE: August 11, 2025

FROM: Josh Russell, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Purchase of a Wheel Loader through Statewide Contract

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this agenda item is to request Board approval for the purchase of a new Caterpillar 926 Wheel Loader, along with the necessary modifications to an existing grapple bucket attachment to ensure compatibility with the new equipment.

BACKGROUND:

A Wheel Loader is a type of heavy equipment with a front-mounted, wide bucket attached to lifting arms. It is used to scoop and transport loose materials without pushing them across the ground. Wheel loaders are commonly used for loading materials into dump trucks or moving materials into trench excavations.

In the Streets and Drainage Division, wheel loaders are utilized for the following tasks:

- Loading sand and gravel for road repairs
- Moving brush at the mulch site
- Transporting dirt and debris during drainage repairs
- Handling large volumes of material during major street projects
- Loading salt in Spreading Trucks

DISCUSSION:

Staff is requesting approval to purchase a new CAT 926 Wheel Loader, which was approved in the FY26 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The new unit will replace Unit #255, which will be 20 years old at the time of replacement.

Unit #255 will be traded in, and Thompson Machinery has offered a \$22,000 trade-in allowance. This credit will reduce the total purchase price of the new wheel loader to an amount that is \$20,068.11 below the budgeted amount for this equipment replacement.

The new wheel loader will be delivered with a standard 3-yard bucket and pallet forks, making it a versatile unit suitable for a wide range of operations.

In addition, Thompson Machinery will modify the Town's existing grapple bucket to be compatible with the Fusion quick coupler system on the new loader. This will allow continued use of the existing grapple attachment, avoiding the need to purchase a new one and resulting in a cost savings of \$28,517.00. The modification will cost \$5,555.56 and will be completed after delivery of the new unit due to the time required to perform the necessary work. While this modification is a separate transaction and not included in the purchase price of the new wheel loader, staff is also requesting Board approval for this modification, which is reflected in the budget portion of this report.

Quotes for the wheel loader and grapple bucket modification from Thompson Machinery are attached for reference.

BUDGET IMPACT:

FY 2026

Fund	Dept.	Obj. Code	Description	Approved Line Item Budget	Previous Expenses	Proposed Expense	Balance	Budget Impact
321	43120	940-202601	Wheel Loader & Bucket Modifications	\$195,000.00	\$0.00	\$180,487.45	\$14,512.55	N/A

Of the \$180,487.45 proposed, \$174,931.89 is for the purchase of the new 926 Wheel Loader. The remaining \$5,555.56 is for the modification of the existing grapple bucket.

ATTACHMENTS:

[FY2026 Wheel Loader SWC Quote.pdf](#)

[Thompson Grapple Bucket Modification.pdf](#)

PROPOSED MOTION:

To approve the trade-in of Unit #255, a 2006 Case 521D Wheel Loader, for \$22,000; to authorize the purchase of a new CAT 926 Wheel Loader from Thompson Machinery in the amount of \$174,931.89; and to approve Thompson Machinery performing the modification of the existing grapple bucket for \$5,555.56, utilizing Tennessee Statewide Contract #1000171679.

Board Action: Motion By _____ Seconded By _____

Vote Total	Hall	Jordan	Robbins	Marshall	Stamps	Fraser
Yes						
No						
Abstain						