

April 11, 2006

Mayor Bell & Members of the Common Council  
7525 W. Greenfield Ave.  
West Allis, WI 53214

Re: Safety Equipment Purchase

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

With the unfortunate and tragic accident of March 13 that left two Public Works employees severely injured, there has been a heightened sense of awareness relative to additional measures that may be taken to enhance the safety of our employees. By their very nature, there is inherent exposure to injury in a number of public works jobs. The Public Works Safety Committee has reviewed a number of work activities where the potential of injury is increased generally because of exposure to traffic traveling at or, in many cases, above posted speeds. Of specific concern are those "moving activities" (work activities requiring a short period of time to accomplish) that take place, in traffic, on streets where the speed limits are in excess of 30 miles per hour.

Such was the situation with the accident on March 13, 2006. While all safety procedures were in place, our employees were still hurt. In order to reduce the chances of this type of injury in the future, the Committee has recommended, and I have directed, that any moving work activities that take place on city streets where the posted speed limit is in excess of 30 miles per hour, that there be a blocking vehicle parked in front of the work zone. The blocking equipment should be properly fitted for this purpose. To this end, I am requesting the purchase of truck mounted attenuators and LED lamp arrowboards for the blocking vehicles as well as arrowboards for other non-blocking vehicles when public works operations are being conducted on the medians or curb areas of high traffic volume streets.

The Department is proposing to purchase two (2) truck-mounted attenuators to mount on dump trucks that will be used for blocking work zones. The cost of each attenuator is \$9400. Two LED arrowboards will also be mounted to each of these trucks. As noted above, an additional two arrowboards will be purchased for other operations. The cost of each arrowboard is \$2,030. All of the special safety equipment can be removed when not in use and the trucks can be used for other purposes.

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The total cost of this equipment, with shipping and tax will be \$28,665.00. The Department does not have money budgeted for this type of purchase. I would therefore respectfully request that the money for this purchase be transferred from the contingency fund. As an alternative, the Department will again be selling various pieces of dated equipment at the County's Spring Auction this spring. The proceeds from the sale of the old equipment could be used to pay for the new safety equipment.

I will be available to answer any questions regarding this request.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael F. Pertmer  
Director of Public Works

cc: Gordy Paprocki  
Gary Schmid