



UNITED TOWNSHIP

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 30

To: Board of Education
From: Janice Roome, Comptroller
CC: Dr. Jay Morrow, Michael Van Belle
Date: February 10, 2025
Re: Permission to purchase one new bus for the 2025-2026 school year

Background Information

Transportation Supervisor Michael Van Belle would like permission to seek bids for the purchase of one 48-passenger wheelchair lift gasoline bus. We would trade in one 71-passenger bus (2018 model with mileage exceeding 100,000). If approved, the bus would be received during the 2025-2026 school year.

Administrative Considerations

The last several times we have gone through the bid process for buses, there has been only one bidder, Central States Bus Sales, Inc., Oswego, IL. The state has already gone through the bidding process and has a contract with Central States Bus Sales, Inc. We are able to purchase buses under that contract through our membership in the Sourcewell purchasing cooperative without going through the bid process again. Buses purchased for the 2024-2025 school year were purchased in this manner.

Options Considered

We have typically purchased two buses per year. We plan to purchase only one bus next year. Due to the increase in number of students, number of double runs on many routes, and the high mileage of some buses, we will probably need to purchase two buses for the 2026-2027 school year. The increase in the number of special education students has created the need for an additional wheelchair lift bus. The quoted price received is \$155,700 (see attached quote) which includes all fees, camera system, and five-year warranty. There is potential for a 5% tariff surcharge at the time of invoice based on implementation of new import tariffs on Mexican, Canadian, and/or Chinese imports. The price for the buses purchased earlier this year (no wheelchair lifts) was \$144,950 each. The quoted discount for the trade-in is \$20,000. The trade-in received for the buses purchased this year was \$12,000.

Fund Source

The bus will be paid for from the 2025-2026 Transportation Fund budget.

Recommendation

We recommend the Board of Education approve the purchase of one new wheelchair lift gasoline bus for school year 2025-2026 under the state purchasing contract, including the trade-in of one regular bus.