

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Michael Zito, Interim County Administrator

FROM: Richard B. Szyrka, P.E., Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Request for Funding and Authorization to Purchase a Motor Grader

DATE: April 10, 2023

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS

Public Works currently grades approximately 250 miles of unpaved roadways within the County. This task is accomplished with eight graders operating full time with one spare used for when a grader needs normal maintenance or a grader experiences a mechanical failure.

Our current fleet of graders is aging and we are experiencing multiple mechanical failures at the same time. Our current fleet of graders consist of the following:

2009 Caterpillar 120M with 20,972 Hours
2009 Caterpillar 120M with 17,537 Hours
2011 Caterpillar 120M with 19,300 Hours
2012 Caterpillar 120M with 18,439 Hours
2013 Caterpillar 120M with 16,435 Hours
2015 Caterpillar 120M with 10,250 Hours
2015 Caterpillar 120M with 8,006 Hours
2018 John Deere 620G with 8,238 Hours
2019 John Deere 620G with 7,831 Hours

Due to other capital needs within the Public Works Road and Bridge Division, the purchase of new graders over the past several years was not possible.

The construction industry has seen a shortage of available parts for repairs over the past two to three years, along with long lead times for the purchase of construction equipment. Normal lead times for the purchase of graders is currently nine to twelve months. However, in researching the availability of graders for possible monthly rental to help with the back log of roadway grading due to mechanical failure, both John Deere (\$295,852.75 available in May 2023) and Caterpillar (\$315,501.00 available in June 2023) have a grader available for purchase that can be delivered to us in four to eight weeks. After comparing the specifications for the available graders with the specification for graders utilized by the County, we find that the Caterpillar grader meets our specification for operation and maintenance parameters, while this particular John Deere grader has features that are not needed and some features that are needed.

Currently, funding for the purchase of this capital item is not available in the current year Public Works budget. After discussions with the Budget Director, funding for this item could be made available from Transportation Fund, fund balance if the Board so desires.

FUNDING:

Funding in the amount of \$315,501.00 for the purchase of a 2023 Caterpillar 120 will be made available from the Transportation Fund/Cash Forward Oct 1st, account number 111039-389040 to Transportation Fund/Road & Bridge/Heavy Equipment-Wheel Track, account number 11121441-066430 via a future budget amendment.

Account Name	Account No.	Amount
Transportation Fund/Road & Bridge/Heavy Equipment-Wheel Track	11121441-066430	\$315,501.00

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the availability and specifications for graders used by the County, Staff recommends the Board authorize funding in the amount of \$315,501.00 from Transportation Fund, fund balance for the purchase of a 2023 Caterpillar 120 motor grader.

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR: April 18, 2023