

# INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

## BOARD MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**THROUGH:** John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator  
Nancy A. Bunt, Assistant County Administrator

**FROM:** Addie Javed, PhD, PE, CFM, Public Works Director

**SUBJECT:** Funding Request and Authorization for the Purchase of two Motor Graders and a Vacuum Truck

**DATE:** December 17, 2024

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### **DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS**

Public Works currently maintains approximately 372 miles of unpaved roadways within the County, supported by a fleet of ten full-time graders. Additionally, two vac-trucks are used for cleaning, maintenance, and repairs, specifically for the removal of debris, sediment, and liquids from roadside drainage infrastructure.

Our current fleet of graders and vac-trucks are aging, and we are encountering multiple mechanical failures across these vehicles simultaneously. The following fleet is currently out of service and requires significant repairs:

#### **Motor Graders:**

- Grader #70 (2012 Caterpillar 120M2): 20,000+ hours. Original cost: \$182,185.00. Repair costs to date: \$305,333.02. The grader is currently at Caterpillar for repairs, with an estimated transmission repair cost of \$30,000+.
- Grader #165 (2009 Caterpillar 120M2): 19,909 hours. Original cost: \$192,500.00. Repair costs to date: \$333,468.83. The grader is currently at Caterpillar for an engine failure, with estimated repair costs of \$70,000 due to an engine failure.

#### **Vacuum Trucks:**

- Vac-Truck #437 (2007 International): Original cost: \$187,297.00. Repair costs to date: \$90,341.63.
- Vac-Truck #440 (2001 International): Original cost: \$194,293.00. Repair costs to date: \$194,990.06.

Due to the frequent and costly repairs required for these vehicles, Public Works is struggling to keep up with the demands of maintaining the County's unpaved roads.

Additionally, the construction industry is facing a shortage of parts, as well as long lead times for new equipment. Currently, the lead time for new graders is 9 to 12 months. However, we have identified the following equipment with shorter lead times:

- Caterpillar 120 Grader: \$339,130.00

- Peterbilt 537 Vac-truck: \$660,984.50

Due to other capital needs within the County and post-COVID constraints, the full replacement of our aging fleet with new equipment has not been possible in recent years.

Currently, funding for these purchases is not available within the Public Works budget for this year. However, after discussions with the OMB office, it is possible to allocate funds from the Transportation Fund balance, should the Board approve.

The proposed equipment is available for purchase through Florida Sheriff’s Association contracts. Quotes are available for review in the Public Works Department.

**FUNDING**

Based on the availability and specifications of fleet used by the County, Staff recommends that the Board authorize funding in the amount of \$1,339,244.50 from the Transportation Fund balance for the purchase of two 2025 Caterpillar 120 motor graders and one 2025 Peterbilt 537 vac-truck.

Account Name	Account No.	Amount
Transportation Fund/Road & Bridge/Heavy Equipment-Wheel Track	11121441-066430	\$1,339,244.50

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Board authorize funding in the amount of \$1,339,244.50 from the Transportation Fund balance for the purchase of two 2025 Caterpillar 120 motor graders, and one Peterbilt 537 vac-truck.