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Perry Stokes
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RE: Bookmobile Work Required

Current:

The Library Bookmobile is an essential part of our mission to our patrons. Many in the rural areas of the County depend on our Bookmobile for access to our Library services. It is a vital part of the Library's commitment to our rural county's voting public, and, hence, important for the Library revenue base.

Reliable function of the Bookmobile is important to insure the safety and comfort of our district employees. It is a very grave concern that the driver and vehicle could fail in the often-extreme driving conditions. The cost of a new unit is prohibitive. Current prices start at \$125,000.00 and up depending on the level of customization required.

The Library has invested ongoing maintenance monies into the Bookmobile. Please note a few examples:

- The internal generator was replaced with a new unit in 2021.
- The radiator was replaced with a new metal radiator of increased capacity in 2019
- All new DOT rated tires in 2022.
- Ongoing work on brakes, front suspension 2020 to 2023
- Construction of a new access door over the generator November 2023

The Bookmobile was acquired in 2003, and has been in good service to our rural patron base since then. It is in good cosmetic shape. While overall condition warrants continued investment, this hard use over the years, with the odometer at 385,000 miles, has necessitated

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mechanical problems which require substantial work. It is obvious that a repair and recondition of the Bookmobile, vs. replacement, is the best option.

Multiple consultations with Grumpy's Repair (Baker City), Pat with Baker Welding, talk with Library operator, and review of GSA maintenance interval datum confirm that service life issues of the assembly are to be expected. The issues are listed below. Here is a breakdown:

The engine has reached a point of failure.

Grumpy's, Ed, and Donna (employee operator) have been adding oil to compensate for the numerous leaks of oil from the engine over the years. The engine generates a lot of "blow-by", a condition resulting from the piston rings extreme wear allowing air and exhaust gas to be forced into the crankcase as the engine runs, increasing internal pressure to force engine oil out of every available orifice. The oil leaks have increased in volume slowly over the last year, along with excessive exhaust smoke, excessive fuel consumption, oil dilution, and low torque, again all caused by worn piston rings.

We had a dramatic engine failure today. Donna drove the Bookmobile to Baker Welding for the door repair this morning. The front main seal on the crankshaft finally failed, spewing most of the engine oil out. This necessitates repair of the seal and crankshaft assembly at substantial cost for the old bus to function at all. It is illogical to throw monies at an engine which has so much wear and extended mileage. It is the conclusion of Facilities, after numerous consultations with local tradesmen, that the engine should be replaced *en toto* with a remanufactured or new engine, turbo assembly, and fuel injectors.

The Bookmobile is totally not functional until this repair work is done.

The Vehicle has substantial wear and tear throughout the assembly.

Please keep in mind the very high mileage on the total vehicle assembly. These drive train and drivability issues must be resolved as well:

- The clutch is loose, pressure plate springs are missing, worn, or broken in place. The disc is glazed. Complete assembly replacement.
- Radiator hoses and belts are soft and cracked. Replacement.
- Water pump. Current unit has a shaft leak. Replacement.
- Heater hoses are soft and cracked. Replacement.
- All four shock absorbers are leaking and not functional. Replacement.
- Suspension work. King Pin (suspension pivots) are worn. Rear springs weak, body canted to the rear with lots of sway from the "soft" rear springs. Front wheel bearings. Rear wheel bearings. Recondition and /or replacement.

Narrative:

The Bookmobile is currently serviced by Grumpy's (JR) Repair here in Baker City. Their service and efficiency have proven to be excellent. Their excellent local reputation is warranted by our experiences with JR (owner of Grumpy's). Having a very good local vendor is both a convenience and contributes to overall effective service work. However, it is a legal and ethical necessity that every good faith attempt be made to secure effective presentation to all eligible vendors in our locale.

Ed Adamson (Facilities) approached local vendors to determine who would be capable of working on the Bookmobile, and thus provide the Library with the meaningful, verifiable responses required by regulation for vendor selection. The necessary logistics for service work on this large vehicle require an extensive array of qualifications:

- An extensive service facility, not only for this work, but for the normal maintenance work necessitating a longterm relationship. This must include the presence of vetted and qualified service personnel. The time and expense to have credentialing through ASME or any of the Manufacturers schools is a strong indicator of the necessary depth we require in the vendor for such a critical Library asset.
- A substantial business presence. This is a necessity should legal action be required, as any recovery would be dictated by the assets of the vendor. Insurance does not cover defective workmanship.
- Necessary insurance for any Liability issues with the service work not related to product defect. Workmen's comp insurance is also required to prevent site seizure of assets (our Bookmobile) to pay for long term medical care of an injured worker, should the employer not have workmen's comp on the employee.
- Ability to effectively respond to service problems quickly. This is a must for Baker County, as our remote rural service locations view any service interruptions in a negative light; Bookmobile must be returned to service quickly should there be problems.
- Good local vendor reputation. This is an indicator of direct commitment to long term business presence through maintenance of customer satisfaction. Our small community places great value on reputation, with good reason; lots of eyes insure a direct evaluation of tradecraft.
- Time. The vendor must obtain the necessary parts on a timely basis. The vendor must be able to get the work done on a timely basis. The Library requires an absolute minimum of down time, as rural Library patron service must be re-established as soon as possible.

Facilities is proceeding on the basis that we must have a return to service not later than January 1 to preserve our relationship with our rural patron base.

The necessary subassemblies and various parts will have a normal shipping delay once ordered, so up to one month will be necessary for the parts to arrive after an order has been placed. The work must then be done, which will take up to another two to three weeks. This factor of timeliness has an indirect affect on this whole process. Two of our potential vendors have stated that they will not consider bidding or working on our Bookmobile until January. It is therefore safe to conclude no mechanics shop will order the necessary parts, which has to include a remanufactured complete block assembly, until a signed work

order is in place. Thus, parts ordered for these two vendors in January will not be here until February. These factors have the potential to delay our Library Bookmobile return to service until February, March, or April, as these vendors could not / would not order the parts without a signed work order, and an allowance has to be made for the time required to do the actual work. Recent supply chain problems could further complicate the timing.

Vendor Selection:

Locating a vendor locally with these characteristics has been difficult. A strong consideration must be the state of affairs with the Bookmobile in a nonfunctional status, as we are depriving an important part of our patron base access to County Public Library resources without a bookmobile in place. Here is a synopsis:

Baker City School District / Bus Barn. (541 524 2260.) Mr. Wayne Paxton, transportation coordinator for the Baker City School District, met with me informally December 4. Mr. Paxton indicated he could not work with the Library on the Bookmobile. He recommended the Library work with Grumpy's or O'Neals.

Grumpy's Repair: (541 5323 3200) JR, with Grumpy's, is the current servicer of our Bookmobile. The facility is substantial. The mechanical work has been great. Their customer service is outstanding. Note that Grumpy's will not order any parts without a signed work order. All on site mechanics are ASME certified.

O'Neals Auto: (541 523 8345). Bryan has a facility that is capable of handling the work. However, Bryan is selling the business as of the end of December, so he is declining any work until the sale. The purchaser has the ability and inclination to do this service work for the Library. I am to meet with him next week for a brief review. It is a concern that O'Neal's (the business) has stated that no bidding will be considered until January. I will determine next week if O'Neal's is viable within our time requirements, after I meet with the new purchaser. Bryan did indicate he would not order any parts without a signed work order.

Freightliner: (541-562 5937). Andy Ford. Freightliner is the original manufacturer of the chassis and drivetrain for the Bookmobile. Andy expressed a strong interest in working with the Library, but is not sure of his logistical abilities. He did raise the possibility of a crate (new) engine from Freightliner. He very much wanted the statement of work sent to him. Major downside is that Freightliner is based in LeGrande.

Robbins Equipment: (541 377 7998). Jim Devlin, service manager from La Grande, indicated that they did not have the necessary techs or facility in Baker City to adequately service our Bookmobile. He will forward a letter to that affect. He (Jim) recommended that I contact Darin Vandyken, A&D restoration.

Darin Vandyken, A& D Restoration: (541 523 3149). Darin indicated he was having surgery, so he declined the work for now. Darin volunteered to prepare an estimate for us if he recovers in two to three weeks, but he is uncertain when and if he can do the work, depending on his health status / surgery

outcome. This is obviously problematic. A hard copy of his email is attached. Darin indicated that he would order no parts until he has a signed work order in hand.

Hills Auto Repair. Derek Neuman: (541 519 1012). Mr. Neuman stated he did not want to take on the work, as his facility is small, and the winter weather is fast becoming an issue. Said to call him in the Spring.

Ben's Truck Repair (Huntington): (541 869 2002). Laura. Laura indicated Ben's could not do any work on a vehicle with a clutch. She also indicated a reluctance to take on this scope of work right now.

East Side Auto Repair. (541 962 5937). Bill. I contacted Bill on Friday afternoon, December 1. Bill indicated he would meet with me at Baker Welding to check out all late Friday. I then contacted him when he did not show up on Friday, and we agreed to meet on Saturday morning, December 2. He did not call or show up on Saturday. His mailbox is full, but I have sent him text messages. So far, no response.

Premier Autobody. (541-523-5223). Adam. I contacted Adam on Monday morning, December 4. He indicated he could not take on work on scale with the Bookmobile for some time. He is booked up. Had no suggestions.

Vendor Recommendation: