



The Township of Byram  
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[www.byramtwp.org](http://www.byramtwp.org)

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## Summary

This memo provides an overview of the need to replace two aging Public Works vehicles: a 2017 Ford F-250 Extended Cab with lift gate and a 2017 Ford F-350 Dually 4x4. Both vehicles have provided reliable service to the department; however, each is now experiencing significant mechanical deterioration that makes continued operation neither dependable nor cost-effective.

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### Vehicle 1: 2017 Ford F-250 Extended Cab with Lift Gate

- Mileage: Over 105,000
- Current Issues: Engine noise, worn suspension components, and malfunctioning 4x4 system
- Operational Limitations:
  - The lift gate prevents use for salting operations
  - Only limited plowing capability
- Replacement Status:
  - Replacement was approved last year, but purchase was deferred due to increased costs related to the roadside mower acquisition

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### Vehicle 2: 2017 Ford F-350 Dually 4x4

- Mileage: Over 70,000
- Operational Role:
  - Primary salt and plow vehicle for a tight-access route that relies on only one other compatible truck
- Current Issues:
  - Recurring electrical problems
  - Repeated front-end repairs
- Operational Impact:
  - Decreasing reliability during critical winter operations

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### Cost-Saving Measures

To minimize the overall replacement cost, the following components will be reused whenever possible:

- Existing plows
- The salter and aluminum flatbed from the F-350
- The lift gate from the F-250, if compatible with the replacement vehicle
- Existing emergency lighting from both vehicles

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### Fleet Overview

- Total Fleet: 20 vehicles
- Front-Line Salt/Plow Trucks: 13, each designated and sized for specific plow routes
- Backup Resources: 6 additional non-route-specific trucks available for temporary deployment

## **Operational Constraints**

- Route-designated plow trucks cannot be efficiently substituted due to specialized sizing and equipment configurations
  - Removing or transferring salters requires chain lifts and heavy equipment, creating safety concerns—especially during emergency conditions
  - Frequent removal and reinstallation of equipment increases the risk of damage and operational delays
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## **Conclusion**

While both vehicles appear well-maintained externally, a testament to staff pride and diligent care, the underlying mechanical issues have reached a point where continued use present operational, financial, and safety risks. Their replacement has long been included in the department's 10-year capital plan and has been discussed throughout the budget process. Furthermore, while the model year of the trucks is 2017, they were both placed into service in late 2016 just prior to winter. Also, due to budget approval and order timeline we will not receive the replacement trucks until late Q3 of 2026.

Furthermore, a good example of the need for these vehicles occurred at the start of the recent storm. Two trucks suffered mechanical failures, both of which are not repairable in house. Two backup trucks had to be placed into operation and snow routes changed due to the failures.

I respectfully request approval to proceed with the replacement of these two Public Works trucks. Please let me know if any additional documentation or vehicle inspection reports are required.

**Michael Orgera**  
**Superintendent Department of Public Works**