

**CITY OF SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL****AGENDA ITEM REPORT FOR MEETING OF:****October 20, 2026**

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To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
From: Oriana Hart, Public Works Director
Department: Public Works
Subject: Approval of Financing for Replacement Vactor Truck

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute financing documents for the purchase of a replacement Vactor truck at an acquisition cost not to exceed \$521,786.53, with a \$100,000 down payment and the remaining balance financed, subject to the following parameters: a financing term not to exceed five years, an interest rate not to exceed 6.13%, and quarterly payments, or more favorable terms. Staff will obtain and confirm updated financing terms prior to execution of the financing agreement.

PROCESS OF AGENDA ITEM:

- Presentation of Agenda item by the Requestor or Responsible Department
- Questions and Discussion from Councilmembers
- Public Comment Period
- Presentation Received

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Public Works Department relies on its Vactor truck as essential specialized equipment for maintaining the City's wastewater, storm drain, and water infrastructure. The existing Vactor was manufactured in 2008 and has been in service for approximately 17 years. The truck is used routinely to clean sewer mains and manholes, clear storm drains, respond to sewer emergencies, perform hydro-excavation, and support water and utility repairs.

The existing truck has reached the end of its anticipated service life and is increasingly difficult and costly to maintain. A failure of this specialized equipment can directly affect the City's ability to respond to sewer blockages, overflows, storm drainage issues, and emergency utility repairs. Replacement of the vehicle will provide a more reliable asset for services that are fundamental to daily Public Works operations. In addition to its age and increasing maintenance needs, the existing Vactor is no longer compliant with current California Air Resources Board (CARB) emissions requirements. The truck is a 2008 model-year vehicle equipped with a 2007-model-year MaxxForce DT diesel engine and emissions-control technology that predates current California requirements for municipal heavy-duty diesel vehicles. Replacement with a current model Vactor will address the vehicle's emissions compliance requirements while maintaining the specialized equipment necessary to operate and maintain the City's infrastructure.

BACKGROUND:

The Public Works Department maintains specialized equipment necessary to operate and maintain the City's water, wastewater, storm drainage, and street infrastructure. Because this equipment is used for essential services and often cannot be readily substituted with standard fleet vehicles, Public Works has historically targeted a 15- to 20-year replacement cycle for major equipment.

The existing Vactor truck was manufactured in 2008. It is an International 4300 SBA 4x2 equipped with a MaxxForce DT 225-horsepower diesel engine and a 25,999-pound GVWR. The vehicle has been in service for approximately 17 years. The Vactor is one of the City's most heavily relied upon specialized pieces of equipment. It is used throughout the year for routine maintenance as well as emergency response activities involving the City's sewer, storm drain, and water systems.



The existing vehicle has exceeded the City's targeted replacement age. Continued operation of an aging specialized vehicle increases the likelihood of mechanical failure, unplanned downtime, and escalating repair costs. The existing vehicle's emissions configuration also predates current CARB requirements applicable to municipal heavy-duty diesel vehicles. The vehicle is therefore no longer compliant with current CARB emissions requirements, providing an additional reason for replacement.

DISCUSSION:

A Vactor truck combines high-pressure water jetting and vacuum capabilities in one specialized vehicle. Public Works uses the truck to clean and maintain approximately 30 miles of gravity sewer and associated manholes, clear storm drain infrastructure, respond to sewer blockages and overflows, vacuum material from utility structures, and support emergency water and sewer repairs. The truck can also be used for hydro-excavation when work around existing utilities requires controlled excavation. This capability is particularly valuable when locating or exposing existing underground utilities without the use of conventional mechanical excavation equipment.

The Vactor is critical to the City's sewer collection system. Routine sewer cleaning helps maintain system capacity and reduces the potential for blockages and sanitary sewer overflows. During an emergency, the ability to immediately vacuum and jet a sewer line can make the difference between resolving a blockage quickly and experiencing a prolonged service disruption or overflow. The equipment is also routinely used for storm drain maintenance, including removing accumulated sediment and debris from storm drain structures and pipelines. During water main and other utility repairs, the truck can be used for excavation support, debris removal, and other activities that would otherwise require additional equipment or outside contractors. Without an operational Vactor, the City would need to rely more heavily on outside contractors for sewer cleaning, emergency blockage response, storm drain maintenance, and certain utility repairs. Contractor availability during an emergency cannot be guaranteed, and reliance on outside services can increase both response time and cost.

The existing Vactor was manufactured in 2008 and has now reached approximately 17 years of service. The vehicle is beyond the City's typical 15- to 20-year fleet replacement period and is increasingly difficult to justify maintaining as a primary emergency-response asset. CARB compliance is an additional consideration. The existing Vactor's 2007-model-year diesel engine and associated emissions-control technology no longer meet current CARB emissions requirements for municipal heavy-duty diesel vehicles. Replacing the vehicle with a current model Vactor will bring the City's equipment into compliance with the emissions requirements applicable to the replacement vehicle.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

Staff recommends replacement of the existing Vactor based on its age, essential operational function, increasing risk of equipment downtime, escalating maintenance costs, and CARB emissions compliance requirements. The existing Vactor is approximately 17 years old. While the City has continued to maintain the vehicle and keep it operational, the age of the chassis, engine, and specialized Vactor equipment increases the likelihood of significant repairs and extended downtime.

The Vactor is not comparable to a standard fleet vehicle that can be temporarily substituted with another truck. It is a specialized piece of equipment that combines vacuum, high-pressure water jetting, and other capabilities in a single unit. The City's ability to maintain its sewer and storm drainage systems and respond to emergencies depends on having this equipment available. Staff anticipates a service life of approximately 15 years for the replacement Vactor. This is consistent with the City's general 15- to 20-year replacement approach for major fleet equipment and recognizes the long service life typically expected from specialized municipal equipment.

The proposed replacement has an acquisition cost of \$521,786.53. The City proposes to make a \$100,000 down payment and finance the remaining \$421,786.53.

Based on the financing proposal received from Ascentium Capital, the following terms were provided:



Purchase Price: **\$521,786.53**

Down Payment: **\$100,000**

Amount Financed: **\$421,786.53**

Option	Financing Term	Annual Payment	Total Paid by City	Total Interest & Financing Cost
Option 1 (Recommended)	5 Years	\$98,584	\$592,921	\$71,134
Option 2	6 Years	\$84,523	\$607,138	\$85,351
Option 3	7 Years	\$74,583	\$622,082	\$100,295

The terms above are therefore provided as the basis for the requested financing authorization. Staff will obtain updated financing terms prior to execution and will accept only terms that remain within the parameters authorized by the City Council. The five-year financing option has the lowest overall financing cost and allows the City to match the financing period more closely with the useful life of the equipment. Staff therefore recommends authorization for a term not to exceed five years and an interest rate not to exceed 6.13%, with authority to accept more favorable terms if available.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS/PRIORITIES/AND OR GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY:

This agenda item represents the City Council goals/priorities as follows:

- Goal 3 – Infrastructure. Maintaining high quality infrastructure, facilities and services includes repairing/ replacing outdated city facilities, improving streets, stormwater and wastewater infrastructure.

This agenda item represents the City Council General Plan Consistency (if applicable):

- Circulation CIR 1-11: Provide high quality regular maintenance for existing and future transportation facilities including streets, sidewalk, and paths.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

This agenda item has been noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

This item has been noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date. As of the writing of this staff report, the City has not received any public comment on this item. However, if staff receives public comment from interested parties following the publication and distribution of this staff report, such comments will be provided to the City Council as supplemental materials before or at the meeting. In addition, public comments may be offered during the public comment portion of this item.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total acquisition cost of the replacement Vactor truck is \$521,786.53. Staff proposes a \$100,000 down payment, with the remaining \$421,786.53 financed. Based on the financing proposal received, a five-year financing term at 6.13% would result in quarterly payments of approximately \$24,646.05, or approximately \$98,584 annually. Under these terms, the City would pay approximately \$592,921 over the life of the financing agreement, which includes approximately \$71,134 in interest and financing costs.

The adopted FY 2026-27 budget includes the \$100,000 down payment, which is funded through a three-way allocation among the Streets, Water, and Wastewater funds. The remaining financed balance and future debt service payments would be allocated among those funds based on operational use of the vehicle and incorporated into future Public Works and utility budgets

Staff also evaluated longer financing terms. While longer terms would reduce annual payments, they would increase the total amount of interest paid over the life of the financing agreement. The five-year financing option has the lowest



overall financing cost and allows the City to retire the debt well before the anticipated 15-year service life of the replacement vehicle.

Staff will obtain updated financing terms prior to execution of the financing agreement. The City Manager's authorization will be limited to financing terms that do not exceed the parameters approved by the City Council.

Option	Annual Payment	Total Interest & Financing Cost
5 Years (Recommended)	\$98,584	\$71,134
6 Years	\$84,523	\$85,351
7 Years	\$74,583	\$100,295

RESTATED RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute financing documents for the purchase of a replacement Vactor truck at an acquisition cost not to exceed \$521,786.53, with a \$100,000 down payment and the remaining balance financed, subject to a financing term not to exceed five years, an interest rate not to exceed 6.13%, and quarterly payments, or more favorable terms.

CITY COUNCIL OPTION(S):

- Approve the recommendation as presented.
- Approve the purchase and financing with modified financing parameters.
- Do not approve the purchase and financing at this time.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1 – Resolution

APPROVALS:

Department Head Approval:

Approval Date: 9/8/26

CEQA Determination (Planning):

Approval Date: N/A

Administrative Services (Financial)

Approval Date: 9/23/26

Costs authorized in City Approved Budget:

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Account Code (If applicable)

Funds 100 / 500 / 510

City Attorney Approval:

Approval Date:

City Manager Approval:

Approval Date:

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
RESOLUTION NO. XXXX-2026

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEBASTOPOL AUTHORIZING FINANCING FOR THE PURCHASE
OF A REPLACEMENT VACTOR TRUCK**

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department utilizes a Vactor truck as essential equipment for the maintenance and operation of the City's water, wastewater, and storm drainage systems; and

WHEREAS, the existing Vactor truck was manufactured in 2008, has reached the end of its anticipated service life, and is increasingly costly to maintain; and

WHEREAS, the replacement Vactor truck has an acquisition cost not to exceed \$521,786.53; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to make a down payment of \$100,000 and finance the remaining balance under terms approved by the City Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Sebastopol hereby authorizes the City Manager to execute financing documents for the purchase of a replacement Vactor truck at an acquisition cost not to exceed \$521,786.53, with a down payment of \$100,000 and the remaining balance financed, subject to the following conditions:

1. The financing term shall not exceed five (5) years.
2. The interest rate shall not exceed 6.13%.
3. Financing shall provide for quarterly payments.
4. The City Manager is authorized to accept financing terms that are more favorable than those authorized herein and to execute all documents and take all actions necessary to implement this Resolution.

The above and foregoing Resolution was duly passed, approved, and adopted at a meeting by the City Council on the 20th day of October 2026.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the City of Sebastopol City Council by the following vote:

VOTE:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

APPROVED: _____

Mayor Jill McLewis

ATTEST: _____

Mary Gourley, City Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM: _____

Alex Mog, City Attorney