



Department of Public Works | 860.584.6125

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 7, 2021

TO: Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu
Board of Public Works

FROM: Raymond A. Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works

RE: DPW Snow Plow Contractor Fees and Salt Costs

In recent years, the Department of Public Works has been experiencing problems obtaining quality, private contractors to plow City roads. Although we have a number of vendors, which provide a high level of service, we have been experiencing problems with some contractors associated with delays in response time, failure to show/perform work when contacted, quality of equipment and failure to stay the required hours. For the past few years we have attracted approximately 43 contractor trucks which represents the minimum required by PDW. Ideally, the DPW would have additional trucks available, which would serve as a reserve and allow the Department to dismiss vendors that are not providing adequate service.

One of the primary difficulties with attracting snow plowing vendors is that DPW does not utilize them in every storm. DPW only uses them in larger storms (typically over 4-6 inches of snow). As a result, the City does not attract the larger City contractors. In order to increase the ability to attract quality contractors, DPW has increased snow plow rates as indicated below:

<u>Vehicle class</u>	<u>2021 rates</u>	<u>2022 rates</u>
GVW greater than 24,000 lbs	150.00 / hr	160.00 / hr
18,000 lbs. and 23,999 lbs	125.00 / hr	140.00 / hr
10,000 lbs. and 17,999 lbs	100.00 / hr	115.00 / hr
8,000 lbs. and 9,999 lbs	85.00 / hr	90.00 / hr
3 yard loaders w plow	n/a	170.00 / hr
3 yard loaders w bucket	n/a	160.00 / hr

It is estimated that increasing snow plow truck rates will increase DPW snow operation costs by approximately \$25,000; however, the Department feels it is necessary to maintain the required level of snow removal services. It should also be noted that the rates have been adjusted to promote acquisition/use of larger/ heavy duty trucks, desired by DPW for snow operations. In



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general, smaller pickup trucks have difficulty pushing snow to the curb line. The Department has also increased use of its own trucks and personnel with the recent purchase of trucks. DPW is also assisted by the Water and Parks Departments, however, additional truck would be beneficial.

In addition to the increased cost for snow plowing services, the cost of treated salt, used by the Department, has increased \$5.72/ton from \$63.13/ton to \$68.85/ton. Based on the quantity purchased in FY 2020-21, there will be an increase of \$41,756 for the purchase road salt. The Department also remains concerned with the supply of salt available in the State. Last winter, one of the two major distribution points was forced to close and availability of salt was in short supply. In anticipation of shortages, the Department's salt domes are currently approximately 80% full (i.e. actual purchased volumes may be less than the prior year).

Please feel free to contact me with any question at 860-584-6113.