

WOODBURY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM(S) REQUEST FORM

Date: 07/23/2025 Weekly Agenda Date: 07/29/2025

ELECTED OFFICIAL / DEPARTMENT HEAD / CITIZEN: Laura Sievers, PE, County Engineer

WORDING FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Proposed Purchase of Tandem Truck Pup Trailers

ACTION REQUIRED:

Approve Ordinance

Approve Resolution

Approve Motion

Public Hearing

Other: Informational

Attachments

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Redirect funding from the Granular budget to New Equipment budget to purchase pup trailers

BACKGROUND:

Secondary Roads proposes to purchase pup trailers to increase gravel hauling efficiency. The cost for three trailers would be covered by pausing FY 2026's contractor stockpile gravel hauling, redirecting those funds from the Surface Maintenance budget to the New Equipment budget.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Redirect funds in the 461 Surface Maintenance – Granular budget by a future budget amendment to the Line 610 – New Equipment.

IF THERE IS A CONTRACT INVOLVED IN THE AGENDA ITEM, HAS THE CONTRACT BEEN SUBMITTED AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR AND ANSWERED WITH A REVIEW BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE?

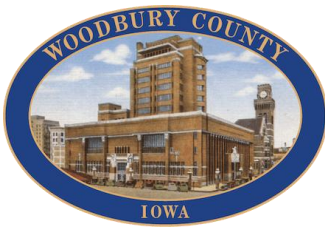
Yes No

RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend the Board approve to redirect the funding from the Granular budget to New Equipment budget to purchase pup trailers via a future budget amendment

ACTION REQUIRED / PROPOSED MOTION:

Motion to approve to redirect the funding from the Granular budget to New Equipment budget to purchase pup trailers



Woodbury County Secondary Roads Department

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**To: Woodbury County Board of Supervisors
Woodbury County Finance Director**

From: Laura Sievers, PE, Woodbury County Engineer

Date: July 24, 2025

Subject: Proposed Purchase of Tandem Truck Pup Trailers

In coordination with the Equipment User Group, we have evaluated our current gravel hauling capabilities and discussed ways to improve operational efficiency. While our semi-trucks offer significant hauling capacity, often double that of tandem trucks, their use is limited to the gravel hauling season. These vehicles typically sit idle from November through April. Given that our current fleet includes four semis, I do not believe adding more is a sound investment with our restrictive budget.



As an alternative, I propose the purchase of pup trailers to be pulled behind our tandem gravel trucks. This configuration, already adopted successfully by several Iowa counties, nearly doubles the hauling capacity of a tandem truck, approaching the capacity of our semi/belly dump combinations. The advantage is that we retain the same operator, fuel, and labor costs while increasing productivity. Reports from other counties indicate the tandem truck fuel usage increases only slightly.

Funding Consideration

We currently have \$750,000 budgeted under Line 461 – *Surface Maintenance – Granular*. This line item supports materials, labor, and placement efforts such as gravel and concrete crushing, and contracted stockpile hauling.

While it may be technically possible to fund trailer purchases from this line item, I feel it is not the most appropriate source. My preference is to utilize Line 610 – *New Equipment*, unfortunately those funds have already been fully allocated for this fiscal year.

To make the trailer purchase feasible, I propose pausing the annual contracted hauling of stockpile gravel for our current Fiscal Year 2026. I have checked with the Foreman, and they say the current maintenance gravel stockpiles located throughout the County are sufficient. This activity is not performed every year, and expenditure has varied considerably based on the needs of each year:

Fiscal Year	Trucking
2024-25	\$ 680,773.00
2023-24	\$ 228,639.00
2021-22	\$ 205,560.00

By redirecting FY 2026’s stockpile hauling funds, we could purchase up to three pup trailers at \$78,500 each, totaling \$235,500. The remaining \$514,500 will be allocated for concrete crushing, as those piles are nearly diminished and we could still afford to potentially produce approximately 100,000 tons. This plan fully utilizes the funds initially placed in the 461 Surface Maintenance – Granular budget, by moving \$235,500 by budget amendment to the Line 610 – New Equipment.



Again, our current maintenance gravel stockpile inventory is more than sufficient to meet maintenance needs this fiscal year. Additionally, Hallett (Anthon pit) and Bedrock (Little Sioux pit) will continue with the contracts for crushing gravel for the Gravel Road Project material.

Vendor and Equipment Background

The proposed trailers would be manufactured by [Boyer Ridge Manufacturing, Inc.](#) in Early, Iowa. Both Ida and Sac Counties have purchased full-size belly dumps from this vendor and report that the trailers are well-built, and the purchasing experience has been positive. I have also received personal endorsements from local contacts familiar with the owners and their work.

Boyer Ridge would be able to build the shortened pup version of their belly dump trailer this year for us. I believe this model we're requesting would gain popularity among other counties once built and used here in Woodbury County. The belly dump style trailer resolves concerns with telescoping hydraulic cylinder end dump trailers that may not do well on our curvy, treelined gravel roads. A photo of the proposed cross clam belly dump trailer is included below:



Strategic Fit

This proposal aligns with our anticipated receipt of three new tandem trucks (one from FY 25 and two from FY 26) that have been outfitted to handle a trailer this year and would help us maximize their use during our gravel hauling season. If upcoming budget conditions allow and the trailers are a success, I would support adding pup trailers to future tandem truck purchases until each tandem has one. Trailers like this last a very long time with minimal upkeep, so these would not cause concerns in our future equipment budgets after the initial purchase. The foremen have been in contact with the Iowa DOT regarding maximum legal trailer axle weights and will continue to work with both the manufacturer and DOT to explore further payload optimizations.

Next Step

Asking the Board to approve the purchase of 3 cross clam belly dump trailers, which would then require a budget amendment for the Granular and New Equipment line items.