



SOUTH HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
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MARK McLAUGHLIN
Superintendent

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Assistant Superintendent

To: Capital Planning Committee

From: Mark McLaughlin, Superintendent and Jennifer Voyik, Assistant Superintendent

CC: Lisa Wong, Town Administrator and Charles Romboletti, Assistant Town Administrator

Date: Monday March 3, 2025

Subject: Proposal for the Purchase of 15 Vans to Improve Specialized Education Transportation and Achieve Long-Term Savings

Introduction

We are writing to request approval for the purchase of 15 specialized vans for the transportation of students. The current system, using a vendor to provide transportation, has resulted in significant costs for the district that continue to rise each year. As a result, we believe that bringing specialized transportation in-house will provide substantial savings and improve efficiency in the long term.

Current Transportation Costs

For the upcoming fiscal year, we are projected to pay \$1.9 million for specialized transportation services in FY26. The current arrangement with our vendor requires the use of 32 individual vans for our specialized education students, each of which is used to transport students to different schools. On average, the district is paying \$192 per van, per school day.

Proposed Solution

We propose the purchase 15 vans to bring specialized transportation in-house. This will allow us to combine routes, reducing the number of vans required to transport our students. Additionally, by optimizing these routes, we anticipate significant savings both in terms of operational costs and overall transportation efficiency.

By consolidating transportation and reducing the number of vans to 15, we estimate that we will save approximately \$800,000 annually to the school's budget. Considering that there will be additional benefits and insurance costs to the town's budget we expect a combined savings ranging from \$500,000 to \$600,000.

Additional Benefits

1. Vocational Transportation: One of the 15 vans will be utilized for vocational transportation, further contributing to the savings and allowing us to consolidate multiple transportation needs into a single vehicle.
2. Long-Term Financial Impact: As transportation costs are projected to increase by 5% to 10% annually, the investment in these vans will not only result in immediate savings but also help mitigate the rising costs of outsourced transportation services in the future.
3. Increased Control and Flexibility: Bringing the transportation in-house will provide the district with greater control over scheduling, routes, and service quality. This added flexibility will allow us to better meet the needs of our specialized education programs while ensuring that students receive timely and reliable transportation.
4. Utilization for Sports Teams: These vans will also be available for smaller sports teams that currently rely on renting vans from local dealerships for transportation to games and events. By utilizing the district-owned vans in the evenings, we can eliminate the cost of rental fees and provide a more consistent and reliable option for our sports teams, resulting in additional cost savings.

Conclusion

While we acknowledge that the purchase of 15 vans is a significant investment, we believe this approach is the best option for addressing our specialized transportation needs in the long term. With rising costs each year, this investment will provide substantial savings, improve efficiency, and allow the district to have greater control over transportation services. Additionally, the ability to utilize the vans for sports teams further enhances the overall value of this investment.

We respectfully request that the Capital Planning Committee approve the purchase of 15 vans to support the ongoing success of our specialized education programs and additional district needs.

Thank you for considering this proposal. We are happy to provide any additional information or answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Mark McLaughlin and Jennifer Voyik

Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent

Bringing Specialized Transportation In-House: A Strategic Proposal - updated 5/9/25

Role	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	FY33	FY34	FY35
<i>Director of Transportation</i>	\$80,000	\$82,400	\$84,872	\$87,418	\$90,041	\$92,742	\$95,524	\$98,390	\$101,342	\$104,382
<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	\$45,000	\$46,350	\$47,741	\$49,173	\$50,648	\$52,167	\$53,732	\$55,344	\$57,005	\$58,715
<i>Start Up Costs</i>	\$3,000	\$3,090	\$3,183	\$3,278	\$3,377	\$3,478	\$3,582	\$3,690	\$3,800	\$3,914
<i>Drivers (15)</i>	\$434,700	\$447,741	\$461,173	\$475,008	\$489,259	\$503,936	\$519,055	\$534,626	\$550,665	\$567,185
<i>Summer Drivers (7)</i>	\$22,540	\$23,216	\$23,913	\$24,630	\$25,369	\$26,130	\$26,914	\$27,721	\$28,553	\$29,410
<i>Monitors (10)</i>	\$214,200	\$220,626	\$227,245	\$234,062	\$241,084	\$248,317	\$255,766	\$263,439	\$271,342	\$279,482
<i>Summer Monitors (5)</i>	\$11,900	\$12,257	\$12,625	\$13,003	\$13,394	\$13,795	\$14,209	\$14,635	\$15,075	\$15,527
<i>Trainer Stipend</i>	\$10,000	\$10,300	\$10,609	\$10,927	\$11,255	\$11,593	\$11,941	\$12,299	\$12,668	\$13,048
<i>Mechanic</i>	\$60,000	\$61,800	\$63,654	\$65,564	\$67,531	\$69,556	\$71,643	\$73,792	\$76,006	\$78,286
<i>Supplies</i>	\$35,000	\$36,050	\$37,132	\$38,245	\$39,393	\$40,575	\$41,792	\$43,046	\$44,337	\$45,667
<i>Sub Drivers (2)</i>	\$57,960	\$59,699	\$61,490	\$63,334	\$65,234	\$67,192	\$69,207	\$71,283	\$73,422	\$75,625
<i>Sub Monitors (2)</i>	\$42,840	\$44,125	\$45,449	\$46,812	\$48,217	\$49,663	\$51,153	\$52,688	\$54,268	\$55,896
<i>Gas/Electric</i>	\$76,800	\$79,104	\$81,477	\$83,921	\$86,439	\$89,032	\$91,703	\$94,454	\$97,288	\$100,207
Subtotal - School budget	\$1,093,940	\$1,126,758	\$1,160,561	\$1,195,378	\$1,231,239	\$1,268,176	\$1,306,222	\$1,345,408	\$1,385,770	\$1,427,344

Benefit (annual increase)	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	FY33	FY34	FY34
<i>Health Insurance (10%)</i>	\$156,301	\$171,931	\$189,124	\$208,037	\$228,841	\$251,725	\$276,897	\$304,587	\$335,046	\$368,550
<i>Retirement (5%)</i>	\$147,618	\$154,999	\$162,749	\$170,886	\$179,430	\$188,402	\$197,822	\$207,713	\$218,099	\$229,004
<i>FICA (3%)</i>	\$19,383	\$19,964	\$20,563	\$21,180	\$21,816	\$22,470	\$23,144	\$23,838	\$24,554	\$25,290
<i>Workers Comp (2%)</i>	\$9,691	\$9,982	\$10,282	\$10,590	\$10,908	\$11,235	\$11,572	\$11,919	\$12,277	\$12,645
Subtotal - Benefits	\$332,993	\$356,876	\$382,718	\$410,693	\$440,994	\$473,831	\$509,435	\$548,057	\$589,975	\$635,489

Total Inhouse	\$1,426,933	\$1,483,635	\$1,543,279	\$1,606,071	\$1,672,233	\$1,742,008	\$1,815,657	\$1,893,466	\$1,975,745	\$2,062,833
Vendor cost comparison	\$1,900,000	\$1,995,000	\$2,094,750	\$2,199,488	\$2,309,462	\$2,424,935	\$2,546,182	\$2,673,491	\$2,807,165	\$2,947,524
Savings if Inhouse	\$473,067	\$511,365	\$551,471	\$593,417	\$637,229	\$682,927	\$730,525	\$780,025	\$831,420	\$884,691
Total Cumulative savings	\$473,067	\$984,432	\$1,535,903	\$2,129,320	\$2,766,548	\$3,449,476	\$4,180,001	\$4,960,026	\$5,791,446	\$6,676,137

Capital Investment	\$1,200,000 assuming initial depreciation of 20%, then 10%									
Asset Value	\$960,000	\$864,000	\$777,600	\$699,840	\$629,856	\$566,870	\$510,183	\$459,165	\$413,249	\$371,924