

Memo

To: City Council
From: Amy E. Gilson, P.E., Director of Public Works
Date: July 23, 2020
Re: Valve Maintenance Machine Purchase



In your packet you will find a resolution to approve the purchase of a valve maintenance machine. DPW staff has researched and contacted three vendors of the specialty equipment for a demonstration and quote of similar machines. Only two vendors were responsive.

Two vendors brought machines to the City and actually turned stubborn valves with their machines. A committee of the foreman, mechanic and lead worker were present to evaluate the operation, durability, and other aspects of each machine.

After reviewing the two machines, the preference of staff is to purchase the Wachs machine. The biggest factor is that the Wachs is computer driven and has the ability to vary the torque on the valve as well as move it back and forth. The Spin Doctor has torque that is manually set and static. The user has the ability to increase it by set increments, but that increases the chances of breaking a valve which leads to costs for replacing a valve.

In addition, staff also spoke to other municipalities about their valve turners, and the Wachs got great reviews from others who use them.

We are recommending through the resolution that the DPW can purchase the Wachs valve maintenance machine and the funds for it be charged to the Motor Vehicle Pool where it was budgeted.

Please let me know if you have any questions.