

Board packet May 19, 2020: Library Van Purchase

Ryan Livergood

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Good afternoon,

I reached out to our attorney, Roger Ritzman, to get his legal opinion on how to approach the library van purchasing process. With an expenditure of this amount, I was thinking an open bidding process would be the right approach, but I had my concerns. My primary concern was the need to purchase this van locally, as we wouldn't want to have to drive to a dealership far away to get it serviced. Roger told me that the approach we need to take with the library van is to do a request for proposals (RFPs) with local dealerships. He says this is an instance of a contract that, by its very nature, is not adapted to the competitive bidding process. The RFP process (which can, in theory, move faster than the competitive bidding process) will result in WNPL getting a very competitive price on a vehicle that must meet the specifications we will spell out in the RFP.

We are looking into the steps involved in the RFP process and may ask the Board to consider approving a library van purchase in this current fiscal year if we think we can complete the RFP process prior to July 1, 2020.

Thanks,
Ryan

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"Congratulations on the new library, because it isn't just a library. It is a space ship that will take you to the farthest reaches of the Universe, a time machine that will take you to the far past and the far future, a teacher that knows more than any human being, a friend that will amuse you and console you---and most of all, a gateway, to a better and happier and more useful life."
– Isaac Asimov

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