District of Barriere

REPORT TO COUNCIL
Memorandum

Date: August 31, 2026	**File:** 530.20/Rpts
To: Council	**From:** Public Works Manager Chief Administrative Officer
Re: Roads Department Progress Update	

Purpose
To provide Council with an update on the Roads Department.

Background
As part of the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan, Council, under Priority #2 Fiscally Responsible Operations, established Goal No 2 to “Develop a Strategy to mitigate cost increases and downloading pressures” which included the establishment of a Roads department with the following Result that Council wanted to see:

f. Subject to 2026 budget approval, ensure that the all-year roads department is fully operational by October 2026 for winter operations.

Since the budget approval, Staff have procured an International plow truck, a Ford F450 pickup truck with snow clearing equipment, and have filled a Public Works Coordinator position.

Currently in progress are the construction of the sand storage shed (with the completion expected in October 2026), the hiring of a Public Works Labourer 2 position, and sourcing of sanding materials. Overall, we are on track to substantially meet our established deadlines.

As Public Works team members previously were primarily focused on Parks related duties, Staff has also completed an assessment of our current Public Works employees, their skillsets, and an aptitude towards being part of a road maintenance program for winter and summer. An upskilling program has started to ensure that there are multiple staff that can operate a variety of equipment and vehicles. This ensures that team members are able to support each other across the various areas that make up our Roads, Parks & Facilities, and Solid Waste & Recycling program. A more formal fleet and equipment maintenance plan is also being explored to ensure that our vehicles and tools are functioning when we need them the most.

It has to be noted that the introduction of the roads program to this advanced level is bringing a lot of change to the organization and the team is adapting well to this challenge.

Budget:

As part of the 2026-2030 Financial Plan, to successfully establish the Roads Department, Council approved a $150,000 capital budget which included the procurement of equipment and tools and materials needed for the job, and the construction of the storage shed. Below is a high level summary of the expenses to date

Item	**Rough $ amount (inclusive PST)**
International Plow Truck	$48,000
Ford F450	$22,500
Various Smaller Tools & Equipment	$22,500
Sand Storage Design & Trusses	$7,000
Sand Storage Construction (estimated)	$25,000
TOTAL	$125,000

The next step is to procure an asset tracking platform that incorporates Global Positioning System (GPS) and the use of camera technology on some vehicles. The intent is to have readily available data on our key public-facing equipment to ensure complaints and feedback from the public are correctly addressed and potential insurance claims are mitigated. Further, the use of this technology will allow us to expedite reviews of alleged incidents which would result in more efficient operations.

A 3-year contract, to equip 12 vehicles with this system has an annual cost of roughly $8,500 plus taxes which include all of the hardware, full warranties and replacement for all devices installed, as well as an equipment monitoring system for proactive maintenance scheduling of our connected fleet devices. Future equipment can easily be added as well to the plan. During the initial 3-year contract we will review if the outcome was indeed as intended and if not, we would remove this system in future budget years once the contract expires.

There is full support from our frontline staff and CUPE for the installation of this system as it will not just help with snow clearing but also with solid waste and recycling collection and other public facing programs. This system would also support the protection of our frontline staff.

At present, with the GPS system included for 2026 the total projected cost would be $134,000, so still roughly $16,000 under budget.

Next Steps

- As outlined above.

Attachments

1. N/A

Prepared by:
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