



**CITY OF LAREDO**  
**TRAFFIC SAFETY DIVISION**  
Engineering Department

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**To: Ramon Chavez, P.E., Assistant City Manager**

**CC:** Alberto Quintanilla, P.E., Assistant Director, Eliud De Los Santos, P.E., Director

**From:** Robert Peña, Engineering Superintendent

**Date:** November 4, 2025

**Subject:** Request for **Replacement of Bucket Trucks** Due to Safety, Reliability, and Maintenance Burden

Date: November 4, 2025

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Dear Mr. Chavez,

I am writing to request urgent action regarding the replacement of our department's bucket trucks, which have become increasingly unreliable and costly to maintain.

**Background:**

Our fleet was reduced from four to three bucket trucks following a **fire incident in June 2024**, which destroyed Unit 2511 while it was in for service. Although insurance provided partial coverage, it **did not cover the full cost of replacement**, leaving us short one critical vehicle.

**Current Fleet Status:**

We now operate Units 2773, 2774, and 2628—all of which have experienced significant mechanical and safety issues:

- **Units 2773 & 2774:**
  - Traction control problems causing wobbling while driving
  - Multiple hydraulic system failures
  - Active recalls for **brake pressure switch** (fire hazard) and **engine control module**
  - Unit 2774 experienced a **drive shaft detachment while in motion**
- **Unit 2628:**
  - Has been largely out of service this year due to extensive hydraulic system failures
- **\* Maintenance Costs to Date:** (see attached)
  - **Truck 2773:** \$27,745.32
  - **Truck 2774:** \$17,855.49
  - **Truck 2628:** \$70,015.79



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These figures reflect an unsustainable financial burden and a serious risk to staff safety and operational continuity.

**Replacement Options:**

We have received quotations for new bucket trucks from Versalift:

- **Premium Option (In-Stock):**  
Ron Miller is holding a **ready-to-deliver unit** for us at a **premium price of \$204,000**.
- **Standard Build Option:**  
A new bucket truck can be **custom-built for \$184,000** with a lead time of approximately 90–120 days.
- **Current Budget Estimate:**  
Our allocated budget is ~~\$173,000~~, which falls short of both options.  
172,000

**Recommendation:**

Given the urgency of our operational needs and the safety risks posed by our current fleet, I recommend we pursue the **in-stock premium unit** if funding can be identified quickly. Alternatively, we should begin procurement for the standard build and explore supplemental funding to cover the budget gap.

I am available to discuss funding strategies, procurement timelines, and provide full documentation as needed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We need our trucks.

☒ Approved

☐ Not Approved

*For*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ramon Chavez, Assistant City Manager

*11/15/25*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date