Hi Mike,

  I wanted to give you an update on our 200​8​  Chevrolet Dump Truck that has t​wo​

 cracked frame ​ members​.

The truck is a medium-duty truck with a small dump body. It's used for snow plowing and multiple functions throughout the year. Two weeks ago we noticed that the front of the truck seemed to list forward when we picked up the plow. After inspecting the underside of the truck on lift, we noticed that the two frame members of the truck were cracked. The metal must have fatigued to point and broke during a plowing operation after hitting a hard object. These trucks do not have the same type of a frame as our larger trucks and cannot withstand the pounding and abuse that can occur during plowing.

  The loss of the truck has required us to make some adjustments to our plowing program. Since being taken out of service, we have transferred the streets usually done by this truck to another unit and have been using our 2011 GMC pickup that has a smaller plow on it to plow the Fire Station, Police Station and Town Hall. We can get through this winter, but it doesn't address the need for a truck for other functions such as patching, cleaning catch basins or doing interments at Riverside Cemetery.

  To see if this was an isolated case, we reached out to Scarborough DPW and they have had a problem with units they owned of a similar size. They replaced the frame on one unit "in-house" and contracted out the others. We also contacted a local Chevy dealer to see if there was a safety recall and to see what the repairs would cost. No recall notice, but they said they could possibly repair the frame for around $4,000. We asked them if they would come out and look at the truck, but they seem reluctant to do so, which would require us to have the truck towed to them. We also reached out to the company that did the frame repairs on our 2000 International (Truck #11) last spring (Wagon Masters). They came out and looked at the truck but did not want to provide a quote since they could not guarantee the repairs given the extent of the cracks on each frame member. These folks do much of the heavy truck repair in the area, so if they don't want to touch it that may be a sign. A rough estimate to replace the frame members is around $10,000.

  I also contacted Debbie Marquis at MMA and she was not confident the truck would be covered under our insurance given that it was not involved in an accident combined with the uncertainty of when the damaged occurred. She said we could file a claim, but it would probably be denied. Even if they did approve the claim, they would only give us the book value, which is considerably less than the cost of a new chassis.

  There are no available maintenance funds to replace the frame of the truck. We have already exhausted savings in the CIP budget and the maintenance account in the 310 budget will be over budget shortly. I am very concerned that the budget as a whole will be in the red by June 30, 2016 since we still have 2 months of winter to deal with and we continue to experience mechanical issues with some of the existing equipment.

  We need a medium-duty dump truck at our disposal for highway-related functions. The existing truck is on the road daily and used for a multitude of tasks, such as  patching. The truck is easier to get in and out off given it's low ground clearance. Yes, we can use one of the larger trucks, but they are higher and require steps to get into them. This unit is also used extensively at Riverside Cemetery. It is lighter and can traverse the narrow lanes to access plots off in the rear of the access roads. The truck body has lower sides so excavated material can be loaded more easily with the backhoe. It is also the primary unit used for for maintenance of our catch basins. It has the low ground clearance to facilitate multiple exits/entries and the lower sided body make it easier to shovel material into. I could go on and on, but I think you can see that it is an integral part of our fleet.

  After careful consideration, I feel we should replace the cab and chassis with a new unit.