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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION

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September 26, 2022

The Honorable Karen Umberger, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court

and

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Executive Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a, VI, the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation, requests authorization to accept and expend American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) in the amount of \$175,000 for the purchase of a new trash collection and compaction truck vehicle, effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Executive Council approvals through June 30, 2023. This is an allowable use of ARPA SFRF funds under Section 602 (c)(1)(C) for provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds are to be budgeted in the following account: 03-35-35-351510-XXXXXX¹ - ARPA Parks Compactor Truck

Class-Account	Class Description	FY23 Current Adjusted Authorized	Requested Action	Revised FY23 Adjusted Authorized
000-400338-16	Federal Funds		\$175,000	\$175,000
	Total Revenue	\$0	\$175,000	\$175,000
030-500311	Equipment New Replacement		\$174,825	\$174,825
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside		\$175	\$175
	Total Expenses	\$0	\$175,000	\$175,000

EXPLANATION

The State has experienced unprecedented pressure on its existing workforce, seeing staff shortages across agencies and increased wage competition with the private sector, as the negative effects of the COVID-19 health crisis continue to unfold. This reality has forced State agencies to attempt to operate with a high number of vacancies and find other means to adapt in order to achieve core responsibilities and required outcomes or deliverables.

¹ All direct program costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602GS3501A and all administrative and indirect costs will be accounted for using activity 00FRF602GS3501Z. Accounting classifications may be subject to technical changes at the discretion of the Department of Administrative Services' Division of Accounting Services.

This has resulted in the development of the State Workforce Efficiency Enhancement Program (SWEEP), an initiative focused on one-time investments in technology, systems, or other tools that will make it easier for State agencies to perform required functions over the long term as they adjust their roles and needs to the realities brought on by the pandemic and move toward a more sustainable staffing model that helps avoid burnout and encourages retention. This request is part of the overarching SWEEP effort.

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation seeks to purchase a trash maintenance compactor truck in order to sufficiently respond to the increased volume of waste material generated out our Hampton Beach seacoast park location due to the spike in visitation growth while also increasing efficiency in use of time and resources to provide waste removal services through decreased staff needs for collection, decreased costs for vehicle operation due to less trips required and multiple vehicle use to maintain waste collection and thus, allowance of available resources to provide increased needed facility cleaning and maintenance services for visitors.

NH State Parks saw unprecedented visitation when the pandemic began. For example, despite limitations on the number of campgrounds sites that were available even after the 50% limitation was lifted, campground occupancy was up 7% over the previous year's overall, up 14% in August of 2020 and 35% in September 2020! These increases occurred even though five campgrounds were closed due to lack of staff, campground capacity limitations were still in place, **only** existing reservations were honored for cabins and dry camping was not permitted at Hampton South RV Park.

In another example, despite limiting capacity in the day use parks to support social distancing through the entire season (up to 50%) and stay at home messaging for out of state visitors, day use visitation was greater than previous years for the sites that were open.

The purpose of this request for investment in state parks is to ensure facilities are in a condition to be open and providing services to the public, to maintain capacity of services and maintenance standards to meet demand, and to provide a safe experience for the increasing numbers of visitors. Fundamentally, an overall spike in outdoor recreation and increased use of the statewide park system during the COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced this need.

In 2021, we were able to purchase a compactor truck to use so we could address the resource demands we experiences with the high increase of visitation. This helped to provide some cost savings and resource availability we needed to respond effectively and efficiently.

Specifically, without a trash compactor truck it takes approximately 4-6 people split between two one- ton trucks into two separate collection crews. It takes both crews combined, approximately 3 hours for a full waste collection run, equating to one- and one-half hours per crew of 2-3. To drop off the collected waste takes a combined total of 4-5 trips to the transfer station with at least at least two of those trips occurring during the morning shift, taking approximately one-half hour and two trips during the afternoon taking up to an hour depending on traffic. Additionally, costs must be incurred for waste receptacle liners which with the use of a compactor truck, are no longer needed.

In contrast with use of a compactor truck for waste pick-up, we use 2-3 people on the one compacting truck, can conduct a full collection of waste beach-wide in 1-2 hours and need only dump the truck 1-2 times a day. The purchase of a second trash compacting truck will help us maintain our current seasonal staffing goals without compromising the cleanliness and safety of the hundreds of thousands of Hampton Beach patrons. A larger capacity for waste collection also allows us to wait until the traffic volume decreases to increase time demand efficiency for trips to the transfer station.

The large crowds we experienced during Covid remain while hiring challenges are increasing. The purchase of a second trash compactor truck will create additional, and critical, efficiencies that will allow our park staff to maintain the high-quality customer service we strive for.

The following appropriations are being requested:


Class 030 – Equipment – Expenditures for purchasing a new trash compactor truck

Class 041 – Audit Fund Set Aside – at a rate of .001

In the event Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support these expenditures.

Respectfully submitted,




Sarah L. Stewart
Commissioner