



Platte County

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TO: Platte County R-3 Board of Education
FROM: JT Thomas, Director of Transportation
RE: School bus purchase recommendation
DATE: May 12, 2022

Recommended Action: It is recommended that the Platte County R-3 Board of Education approve the school bus bid from Midwest Transit Equipment, Inc., for the five (5) year lease of twenty (20) Integrated Coach (IC) 77-passenger school buses and two (2) IC wheelchair lift buses, less the trade-in of twenty (20) of the current fleet buses for a total annual lease price of \$298,489.

Rationale & Overview: This RFP is a change from our past bids in that the RFP was for buses that have been previously leased versus new buses. The rationale for this was two-fold. First, delivery of new buses is currently projected to be, at least, one year from order date. The last purchase of three (3) buses was delayed for 6 months past original delivery date. Secondly there are, minimally, twenty (20) buses that need to be replaced due to body issues, engine issues, and age/mileage. Additionally, there is the need to add two (2) buses for the addition of routes in SY22-23. To address the problem, leasing buses, which would include warranty for the life of the lease, was investigated. In addition to the leasing options, an out-right purchase option was reviewed. To acquire the twenty-two (22) buses, the one-time cost (including added warranty) was \$1,691,000. A key deciding factor in the recommendation that is being presented, was the delivery of the buses – all will be delivered by September 2022.

There was a total of three bidders (see bid tabulation), one bid offered all new buses and two (2) used lift buses and the second two bids offered all previously leased buses both 77 and 71 passenger buses. There was one “no bid.”

	3 Yr Lease /Warranty	5 Yr Lease /Warranty	5 Yr Lease/Purchase /warranty
Central States	No bid - only New Buses	No bid - only New Buses	No bid - only New Buses
Midwest Bus	\$ 366,424	\$ 347,259	\$ 512,496
Midwest Transit	\$ 342,036	\$ 298,489	\$ 309,042
Delta to Low Bid	\$ 24,388	\$ 48,770	\$ 203,454

Summary: After carefully analyzing all of the bids submitted in compliance to the RFP, it is recommended that the bid offered (low bid and best matching) by Midwest Transit Equipment, for twenty (20) IC 77-passenger buses and two (2) IC wheelchair lift buses be accepted at a net bid price of **\$298,489** after trade-in allowance and including warranty.