



To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

September 9, 2025

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SUBJECT: COST OF FLEET MAINTENANCE

The purpose of this Informal Report is to provide the City Council information on the costs of maintaining the City's fleet internally through the Property Management's Fleet Division compared to outsourcing to third-party vendors.

As shown in the cost comparisons below for preventative maintenance and common repairs both labor and parts it is more cost efficient to maintain the fleet internally. Note the City of Fort Worth does leverage the use of outside vendors for heavy/specialized work and surge capacity. This is the industry norm and avoids costly facility expansions or inventory requirements for low-frequency, high-complexity repairs.

Preventative Maintenance

The Fleet Division is taking on a comprehensive approach to preventative maintenance by completing an interactive checklist (Exhibit A) during preventative maintenance visits and moving away from doing only quick visual checks. The new preventative maintenance strategy requires a full top-to-bottom inspection, wheels off and brake checks to assess key safety repairs that may be needed. While the City contractual rates for outside vendors are competitive, on average, the City will incur a higher cost by sending a vehicle to an outside vendor for repair.

Top 5 Preventive Maintenance Categories					
Category	Avg Internal Labor	Avg Internal + Parts	Avg Internal = Total	Avg Outside Vendors	Avg Savings
Glass	\$109	\$613	\$722	\$1,300	\$578
Charging & Starting (Electrical)	\$218	\$725	\$943	\$1,261	\$318
Preventive Maintenance (All Types)	\$251	\$518	\$769	\$899	\$130
Tire Repair & Replacement	\$138	\$615	\$753	\$829	\$76

Top 8 Major Repairs					
Category	Avg Internal Labor	Avg Internal + Parts	Avg Internal = Total	Avg Outside Vendors	Avg Savings
Transmission	\$483	\$2,471	\$2,954	\$5,047	\$2,093
Steering	\$456	\$2,368	\$2,824	\$4,740	\$1,916
Air Supply	\$516	\$1,812	\$2,328	\$3,795	\$1,467
Cooling Engine	\$514	\$1,736	\$2,250	\$3,598	\$1,348
Emission System	\$396	\$1,898	\$2,294	\$3,434	\$1,140



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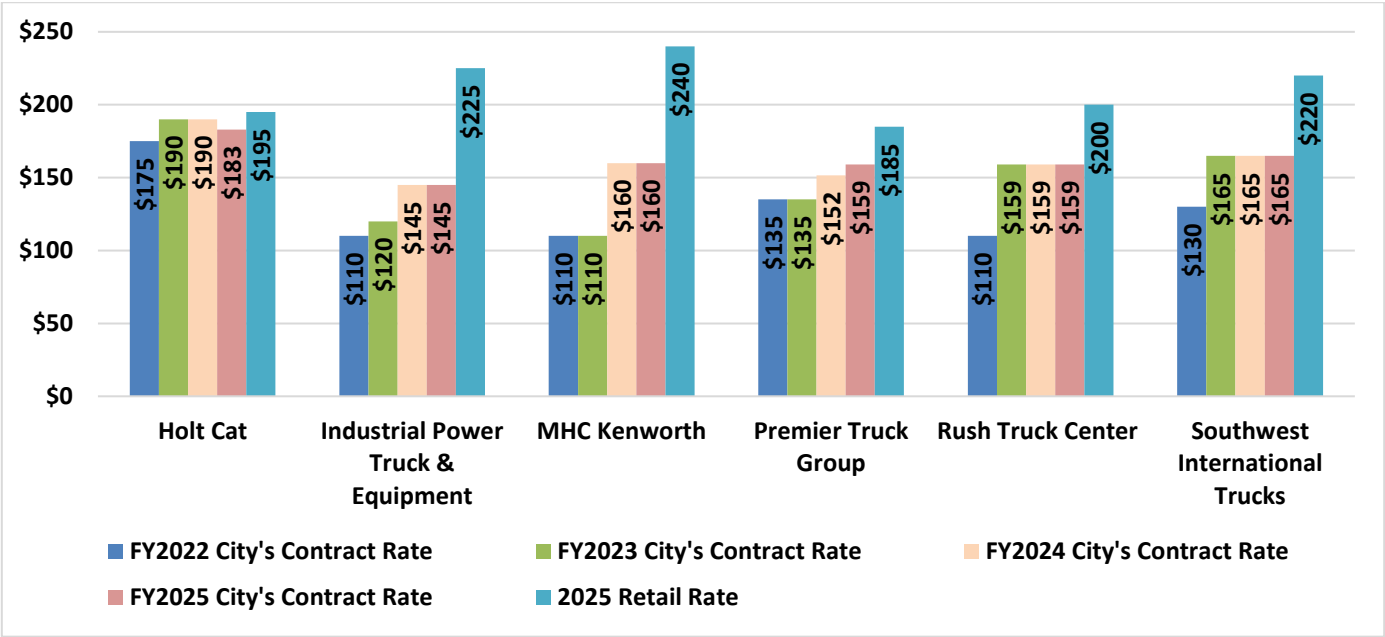
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Engine	\$413	\$1,763	\$2,176	\$2,948	\$772
Suspension	\$444	\$1,931	\$2,375	\$3,117	\$742
Brakes	\$489	\$2,157	\$2,646	\$2,998	\$352

Labor

The graph below shows the comparison of the City’s contracted hourly labor rates from FY2022 to FY2025 compared to the retail hourly labor rates for the top six vendors used in FY2025. The FY2025 labor rate charged to departments by Fleet Division Technicians is \$116 per hour.



Parts

The retail cost for parts is also higher than the City’s contracted rates with the parts vendor, NAPA. Below is a comparison of the most used parts at the Fleet Division Service Centers.

Part	Part Description	City Contracted Price	Retail Price	Savings
Batteries	Assorted Vehicle batteries for power and ignition	\$100.52	\$199.99	\$99.47
Reflective Safety Tape	Red/white 2-inch tape (150 ft) for marking vehicles	\$94.12	\$184.99	\$90.87
Brakes	Brake pads, rotors, and related components	\$46.35	\$118.23	\$71.88
Tires	Various tire sizes for fleet vehicles	\$147.11	\$209.99	\$62.88



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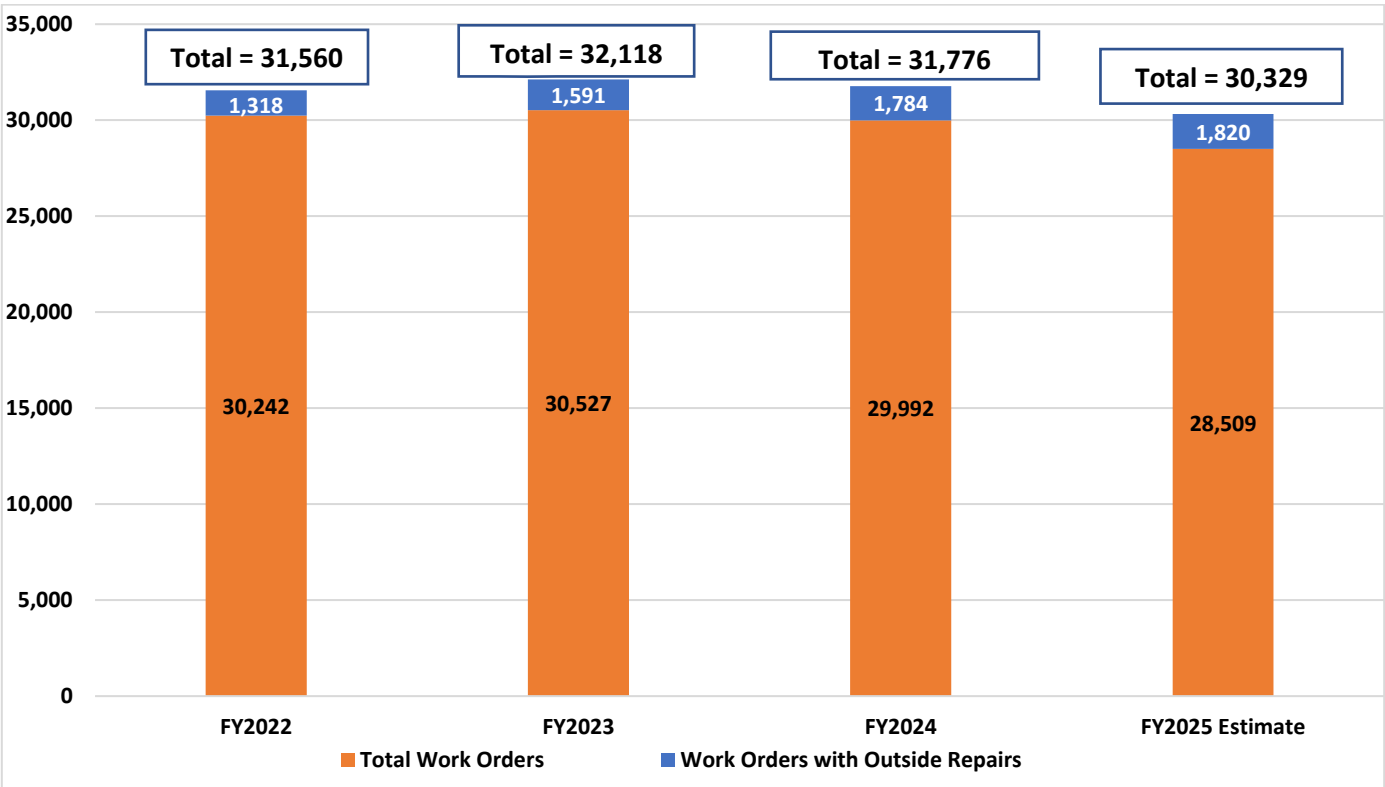
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Wiper Blades	Assorted windshield wiper blades	\$8.98	\$25.99	\$17.01
TPMS Sensors	Tire pressure monitoring sensors (TPMS)	\$18.00	\$29.95	\$11.95
Lighting	Headlight or auxiliary vehicle lamps	\$8.41	\$18.99	\$10.58
Filters	Assorted oil, hydraulic, air, cabin, and fuel filters	\$3.74	\$13.49	\$9.75
Wheel Nuts	Lug nuts for securing vehicle wheels	\$5.39	\$11.49	\$6.10

Work Orders

The graph below shows the number of maintenance and repair work orders for both the Fleet Division’s Service Centers and outside vendors from FY2022 through FY2024 and estimates for FY2025.



In summary, fleet maintenance performed internally is generally more cost-effective than outsourcing to contracted vendors. Internal labor rates are significantly lower than both retail and contracted external rates, and parts can be purchased in bulk to avoid retail markups—resulting in substantial savings. However, this report does not recommend bringing all heavy repairs in-house, as doing so would require significant capital investment and facility expansion. The City will continue to follow a balanced approach that combines in-house maintenance with strategic use of outside vendors for repairs.



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For questions regarding this information, please contact Marilyn Marvin, Property Management Department Director at 817-392-7708.

Jesus "Jay" Chapa
City Manager