

TRASH: Wilkerson said side loaders to be considered at Aug. meeting, asks finance to see how trucks would affect budget

Continued from page A1

Anderson and Roberts floated the idea of reinstating curbside recycling pickup every other week after detailing the current conditions and future needs of the solid waste vehicle fleet.

There are eight automated side loaders (ASLs) in the fleet, including five that are on the road and three that are at a garage or with a dealer. The fleet also contains six rear loaders — three that are roadworthy and three spare. The solid waste department is composed of the superintendent, assistant superintendent, code enforcement/recycle coordinator and 16 technicians. Currently, there is one technician vacancy and of the remaining 15, 10 have their commercial driver's license (CDL) and five do not.

Anderson explained that each ASL has one driver and each rear loader contains a driver and, ideally, two technicians on the back. There are times, she said, when there is only enough staff for one tech on the back. The remaining technicians train others who do not have their CDLs and cover for vacation and sick leave.

Currently, the city provides weekly curbside waste pickup using eight trucks (five ASLs and three rear loaders) and 11 to 14 technicians (eight drivers and three on back of rear loaders). To provide both weekly curbside trash and recycling pickup, the city would need a total of nine trucks and 15 technicians (nine drivers and six on the back of rear loaders).

"What we're proposing to do is to reinstate curbside recycling at a slightly different schedule instead of doing it weekly, we're going to propose doing it every other week," Anderson told elected leaders.

"We've worked out a schedule where each residence maintains their current weekday collection. So if you're a Tuesday person, you're always going to be or you're going to maintain your Tuesday collections. It'll just be every other week — an A schedule and a B schedule."

She said it would take approximately six weeks to get everything in order such as updating the Frank Waste app, updating routes, retraining drivers and getting together a comprehensive outreach campaign.

The department has an immediate need for a small ASL and a large ASL. In the near future, a new boom truck, which is used for brush collection, will be necessary as the current one in use is a 2004 model. Another one or two technicians will be beneficial and Roberts would like to get back in the habit of replacing trucks on a regular basis.

"The problem that we're running into is we overwork the trucks," he noted.

He said the lifespan of an ASL is roughly five years because there are so many moving parts and they are high maintenance.

"And just to put that into perspective, our current fleet is 14 vehicles — eight of those are ASLs and, of our total fleet, only six of our trucks are five years old or younger. The remaining nine age from 2007 to 2019," Anderson added.

Commissioner Kelly May asked whether purchasing new vehicles each year would be an ongoing operational expense forever.

"Yes, it should be. We can look into it a little deeper, but two to three trucks a year is, I think, to be expected," Anderson replied.

In response, May inquired whether the trucks were included in the budget historically. Anderson responded that this year's budget did not include any capital purchases, but prior to her six-year tenure with the city the budget did contain two trucks per year.

Mayor Layne Wilkerson pointed out that the solid waste department getting two trucks a year coincided with the city charging a waste management fee.

"So there was money back then. No disruption in services then. We had adequate equipment," the mayor stated. "So once the fee went away ..."

Wilkerson asked if the city were to purchase a small ASL, a large ASL and add another technician, could curbside recycling pickup be operational by Oct. 1.

Roberts answered that the dealer had one ASL in stock last week, but the small ASL will need to be ordered and it would take roughly a year to get in.

"The way I see it, we could take action here today or at the voting meeting to get this thing operational again," Wilkerson said.

"I think the next step is to figure out what's next whether it is finding the revenue to give the public what they want or discuss other options."

Richardson brought up privatization, which has already happened at the county level, and asked for Anderson's opinion. After saying it was an option, Anderson went on to add that she initially thought it would take a long time to make privatization happen, but that it could actually occur in relatively short order — as in 60 to 90 days.

"I think that the service provided won't be at the same level. We provide a lot of extra services that probably are not available if we were to go that route," she explained. "I would want to put out kind of an a la carte bid proposal where we could say how much for this service and how much for that service and we could then kind of pick what we wanted based on prices. I would want to ensure that our staff are taken care of."

Richardson pointed out that he would not want to get rid of staff, but perhaps "reroute" some folks to different departments and still provide specialty services "that wouldn't be so taxing," such as brush pickup.

"It would depend on putting something out for bid and seeing what came back and what services we chose to go with if we were to privatize," Anderson responded.

May raised concerns about recycling loads being rejected by processors because the city is putting the responsibility of sorting on residents, who may forget whether its recycling or trash day.

"What I don't want to see us do is kind of rush to get into it because we want philosophically to be a city that recycles and offers that when in the long run though, we're not getting benefit out of it because we're getting all these loads rejected and sent back," he stated.

Roberts ascertained that his department will send everything to the landfill for the first few weeks while technicians will simultaneously perform spot checks on carts to make sure it's clean recycling and not garbage.

Wilkerson said the side loaders would be considered at the August voting meeting and asked that the finance department look into how the purchase of the trucks would affect the budget. Richardson directed staff to investigate charging a pickup fee, the cost for privatization and what would happen to staff were privatization to occur. The information is tentatively scheduled to be presented at a September meeting.

SCAM: Couple found out someone had charged \$5,000 of concert tickets on an account in their names

Continued from page A1

intercept calls and text messages, including those containing security codes for the victim's bank, email and social media, potentially leading to account takeover and financial loss.

"We got something from AT&T, a text and email, that people had ordered a couple of phones on my account and that I could say this wasn't me, and they would cancel the order, which they did," Branham said. "This was about two weeks before all this happened."

On April 10, while Branham was working from home, Dominick told her he'd gotten a text that his number had been ported and if it wasn't him to call AT&T.

"As his (phone) went to that SOS, where there's no service but you can use it for emergencies, I called and reported his (porting). I called to report his being out. They put in a case number, said it was fraud and all that.

"I was working and I get a text that says your number is being ported. If you didn't do this, call AT&T or go to the store. I called immediately. I was on the line maybe a minute, hadn't even gotten to an agent, and my phone just went dead. It wasn't like they gave you time to say 'this wasn't me.' Why is that the notice if it's not going to be acted on right away?"

Branham and Dominick went to the AT&T store to file a report and were told there would be a resolution in 24 hours. When they checked in the next day, they were told it could be up to 72 hours before the situation was resolved.

"In the meanwhile we're getting emails from credit card companies, our Amazon account and other things saying 'Congratulations on opening your account,'" Branham said.

The couple soon found out someone had charged \$5,000 of concert tickets on an account in their names.

"We knew we had to start dealing with that right away," Branham said. "We went out to AT&T again, and they said we can change your numbers. I've had that number for 21 years. No, I'm not changing that number."

Dominick also declined to change his number.

The couple went to Walmart, bought a flip phone for \$30 and took it to AT&T to have it activated so they could have a phone.

"All day that Saturday we were calling saying, 'no we didn't set up this account' because what happens is you have the dual authentication and you think that you're safe, but if somebody has your number, even if they don't have your phone, they can act like they're you."

That meant Branham and Dominick had to act quickly.

"We had to contact the credit bureaus to shut down our credit," Dominick said.

"They were opening accounts, and they have to go through the credit bureau, so you have to call them and freeze it.

"The credit companies, once you can get to somebody you can talk to, it's good. But it's going through all those, 'for this, press this.'"

A bright spot for Dominick was a local credit union.

"The only people that were really easy to work with was Commonwealth Credit Union," he said. "They were just great. I talked to them on the phone, and I just went over there and sat down with a guy and talked face-to-face. They even gave me hints on how to get through to the other places. I can't say enough about them."

er places. I can't say enough about them."

Ultimately Branham and Dominick didn't lose any money in the scam, but it cost them time and stress to make sure that was the outcome. They don't know how those who perpetrated the scam got their numbers.

"Who knew you had to protect your number? If you have your phone you think you're safe," Branham said. "But people

can just go and port out your number. You can go in and lock it, so nothing can be done online. You can't order phones online; you can't port your number out online. We've done that. If I had known I needed to do that, I would have done that before.

"It's easy to take on and off. That would be the top thing I would recommend people do."



We are honored for your support.
Now, please vote for us daily now through August 27 at midnight as your
Favorite Bar/Cocktail Lounge | Favorite Hot Brown
Carlos Ceballos - Favorite Bartender
Taylor Phillips - Favorite Server



Thank you to everyone for nominating us again this year.

NOW, PLEASE VOTE EVERY DAY THROUGH MIDNIGHT, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27 FOR US AS YOUR

- Favorite Place to Work Out/Gym • Favorite Business in the 2025 Frankfort's FAVES!




SERAFINI

Thank you everyone who nominated us again this year.

CLICK ON QR CODE TO VOTE.

