This staff report provides a summary of steps taken to date toward launching the use of telematics in a pilot program for the purpose of optimizing fleet vehicle utilization.

PURPOSE OF WORK SESSION

Inform Council

BACKGROUND

The depreciated value of Summit County’s fleet (all on and off-road vehicles) is in the neighborhood of $4M. Fuel costs typically range $500K - $550K per year. Vehicle registration, insurance and maintenance costs contribute to the total annual operating cost of the fleet that is required to conduct county business.

In addition to the operating cost, the fleet has an environmental cost associated with tailpipe emissions that contribute to climate change and diminishing air quality. Fleet emissions make up 8% of the 2019 government operations greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

A Fleet Utilization Study was proposed in 2019 to determine if any changes could be made to optimize vehicle usage, decrease total operating costs and reduce associated greenhouse gas emissions.

It was quickly apparent that available vehicle and fuel records were insufficient to conduct a fleet utilization study. A telematic system would be necessary to obtain the necessary data to optimize the fleet. Various telematics systems were vetted and the GeoTab system was selected, funded and purchased for limited use during a pilot program in 2020.

STEPS TAKEN TO DATE

- Leadership agreed to monitor only vehicle optimization data during the pilot program period (40 vehicles for the remainder of this year).
- Existing vehicle records analyzed to select vehicles from cross section of entire fleet for inclusion in the pilot program.
- Initial outreach conducted to identify immediate concerns and inform development of education and outreach sessions.
- Determined optimal method for delivering employee outreach and education.

Legal implications considered

- The vehicle use policy was amended to inform all employees that only some vehicles will be enabled.
• Employees who are unwilling to drive a telematics-enabled vehicle have the option to use their own vehicle.
• Mileage reimbursement for use of personal vehicles will be paid at the mileage reimbursement rate that applies when a county vehicle is available but not used.
• The potential concern about monitoring one employee, and not another, will be eliminated if/when Geotab devices are installed on all fleet vehicles. Until then, compliance with county policies, including use of telematics vehicles, is a condition of employment.

HR implications
• Monitoring only a sampling of drivers’ safety-related habits, and not others, will not occur during the pilot period.
• Analyzing safety-related data may occur during the pilot period to determine if safety analysis should occur on all drivers/all vehicles in the future.

Cost/benefit of possible delayed implementation
• No need to delay

Pilot Program Timeline (2020)
Mar 30, Apr 2  Employee education and outreach
April  Installation of telematics units on selected vehicles
May – Dec.  Data collection and analysis
June-July  Initial results inform Fleet Review and Budget Committees
August  Pilot Program evaluation
August  Budget request, if expanded use is desirable
Jan, 2021  Discontinue, continue or expand use of telematics per evaluation and funding.

Other issues, concerns
• Increase in personal vehicle usage could skew vehicle optimization data collection.
• Coordination with Finance to determine if mileage reimbursement changes with deployment of GeoTab pending availability of records.
• If the Corona Virus Stay at Home order extends past May 1st, optimization data will be skewed.

NEXT STEPS
• County Manager announcement of Telematics Pilot Program to all employees via Zoom meeting (March 30 and April 2) with question and answer session.
• Vehicle Policy Amendments will be reviewed during employee education and outreach session and circulated to all employees.
• GeoTab units will be installed on vehicles.
• Staff will ascertain the viability of collecting vehicle mileage reimbursement data and begin collection, if reasonable.
• Data collection to begin in May and continue through year end.
• Staff will report results of pilot program to Council.