Equipment acquisitions can be economical

Obtaining appropriate equipment when it is needed and within a specific budget can be a problem. A solution may be contacting a General Services Administration (GSA) Area Utilization Officer (AUO).

The GSA is responsible for government owned real estate and surplus property generated by federal agencies such as the military, the Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Forest Service. Surplus ranging from work clothing to heavy equipment are available to tribes and government agencies.

Surplus equipment is available at no cost because it is a transfer of inventory from one government agency to another. When a tribe receives the equipment, ownership is transferred to the BIA.

The only cost incurred is transporting the equipment from the surplus location to the tribe's desired location. The tribe is also responsible for maintaining and utilizing it.

A creative solution

Tribes who have participated in this program have received bulldozers, dump trucks, vans, backhoes, tires, and work clothes. The condition of the surplus is not always perfect, but it can usually be improved. For example, in Wisconsin, the St. Croix Chippewa Indians received ten pickup trucks. One truck was missing a radiator, another needed electrical work, and some needed batteries. With a little effort, the tribe ended up with six trucks at almost no cost after using the other four for parts.

Regular contact with surplus yards makes finding useful equipment easy. Pieces such as end loaders and backhoes are in most demand. When this equipment is available it is distributed quickly, so the best way to obtain popular surplus is to check regularly and tag it first.

**Inspection and acquisition**

To have access to this surplus, the tribe must pass a resolution authorizing two members to apply for and use a screener card. The screener cards are proof of tribe authorization as well as personal identification for admittance. The card holders may be tribe members or employees. A card holder must accompany anyone who screens and acquires equipment. An application from the BIA must be completed and approved by the area agency supervisor.

When the tribe passes a resolution authorizing screener card applicants, it should consider carefully who should apply. According to Mike Berlin, Great Lakes Agency Road Maintenance, "Most tribes are aware this program is available, but the people who have the screener cards don't have the time to devote to taking advantage of this resource." The members who apply for a card should have time to check the surplus regularly, be aware of what the tribe needs, and be able to choose equipment that is in a condition that the tribe can manage.

**Screening process**

A qualified tribe member can visit the surplus locations as often as necessary to inspect and acquire surplus at any Department of Defense base, GSA regional office, motor pool and yard, and other federal agency with declared excess and surplus property.

The equipment is distributed on a priority basis according to need. This means that tagging equipment doesn't guarantee that an

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Transportation Technology Transfer Center
Michigan Technological University

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Tourism and recreational travel technical assistance is available

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) mandates that the Local Technical Assistance Programs (LTAP) provide technical assistance to communities in tourism development. The goal of this aspect of ISTEIA is to provide communities with technical assistance in transportation as it relates to tourism.

The Tribal Technical Assistance Program will assist in this process by providing technical assistance in transportation to Native American communities that intend to develop tourism and recreational travel.

TTAP will serve as a clearinghouse for any transportation questions related to tourism and recreational travel for Native American communities.

Self-help guides, instructional video tapes, facilitator guides, workshop materials, and surveys will be generated by various agencies that can be used to guide communities through a strategic planning and education process. This process determines a community's capability for effective tourism development.

The TTAP responsibilities include aiding the assessment of the state of tourism and economic development planning and providing information on development of tourism and recreational travel through Pathways, publications, video tapes, workshops, and its information service. The various publications created by other governmental agencies will be available from TTAP as well.

Technical assistance is provided based upon tribal requests. Contact the TTAP with workshop, publication, article, or videotape requests or ideas to ensure that appropriate technical assistance is provided.

ISTEA and 23 U.S. Code

Copies or portions of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act and 23 United States Code are available. ISTEIA updates 23 U.S.C. Use these documents together as references for transportation legislation and funding questions.

These documents are available free of charge to tribes and public agencies. Call the TTAP at (906) 487-3164 for a copy.
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(518) 377-7071

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Surplus  
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organization will necessarily receive it. However, Ed Perry, who has been a screener for St. Croix for two years feels that, "Often, if you go and tag a piece of equipment, you'll get it."

The process for acquiring the surplus involves finding the equipment and tagging it. Tagging the equipment holds it for the tribe. It takes about 10 days to process the request and then the tribe has 15 days to pick the equipment up.

Equipment availability  
Catalogs are available; however, only about 15% of the equipment listed is still available and the rest has been distributed. The best way to find useful equipment through this program is to have screeners visit surplus locations regularly and keep close contact with yard personnel and utilization officers.

Contact the ITAP at (906) 487-5164 or the utilization officers for more information on how to take full advantage of this resource.
2% Planning Funding Proposal

In response to requests at recent workshops, a sample of a 2% planning funding statement of work is available. This statement of work was successful in obtaining funding for one tribe's planning purposes. Use this example as a reference when creating your 2% planning funding proposal. The statement includes sections covering:

- Data Collection
- Comprehensive Study and Analysis of Transportation Needs
- Design Transportation Management System
- Finalization of Study

Note: This sample does not contain a budget due to the differences in planning funding needs between tribes.

Call the TTAP at (906) 487-3164 for a copy today.