



Meeting Valdez's Fleet Demands with a New Mechanic

Public Works Department,
Street/Shop Division

A brief overview of the need for an additional full-time mechanic in the Public Works Department. The presentation highlights current staffing challenges, growing fleet demands, and how this position will reduce downtime, prevent burnout, and improve citywide service efficiency.

Why We're Here

Requesting one additional
Lead Mechanic position



Support Operational Readiness

Ensure essential City services stay on schedule by reducing vehicle and equipment downtime.



Prevent Staff Burnout

Provide relief to current mechanics facing unsustainable workload.



Meet Growing Demands

Keep pace with an expanding and aging fleet that requires increased maintenance and repair capacity.

Based on a 2023 internal survey of Alaska and national municipal fleets, a 1 mechanic per 50 vehicle ratio is widely recognized as an appropriate standard — particularly for heavy-use, in-house maintained fleets like ours.

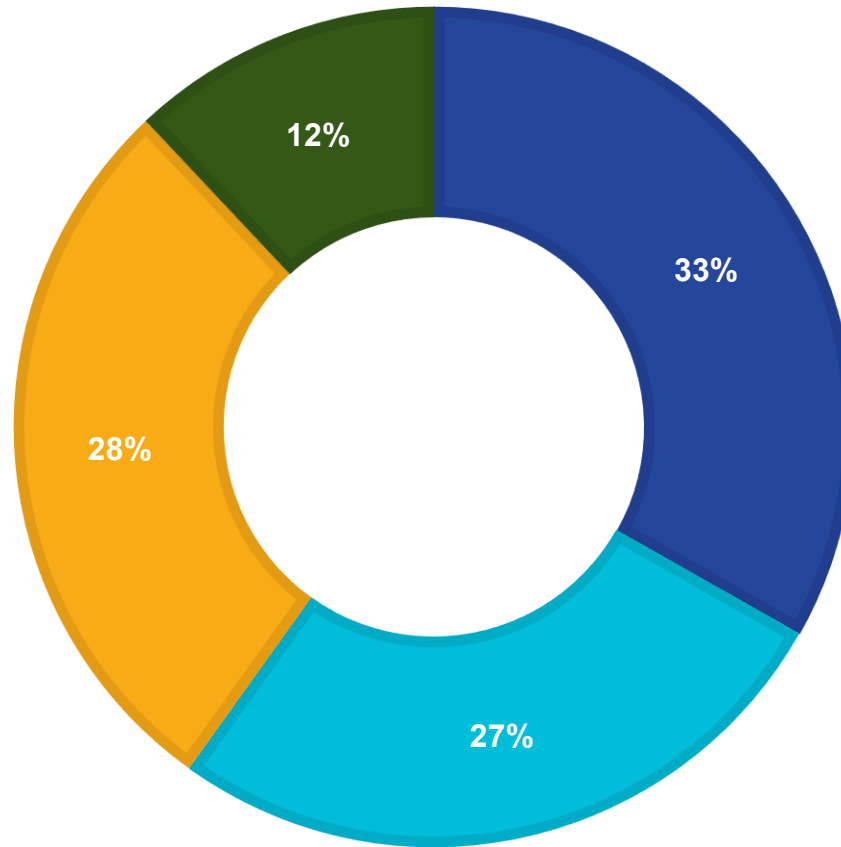
Breakdown of 2025 Municipal Fleet by Category

Boats & Trailers 12%

Covers watercraft used for marine operations along with trailers that support equipment transport and storage across various departments.

Specialty Equipment 28.1%

Includes specialized municipal equipment such as lifts, forklifts, sweepers, compactors, and critical emergency vehicles like fire trucks, pumpers, tankers, ambulances, and rescue units.



Heavy Equipment 33.2%

Includes large machinery used for road construction, snow removal, grading, excavation, and other heavy-duty public works tasks.

Light Equipment 26.7%

Consists of lighter vehicles such as pickups, SUVs, vans, and smaller utility vehicles used for daily operations, inspections, and transport.

Fleet Growth & Staffing Timeline:

2023:

- Fleet Size: **153 known vehicles**
- Staff: **1 Mechanic + 1 Fleet Manager (50% mechanic)**
- Mechanic-to-fleet ratio: **1 mechanic per 102 vehicles**
- Industry benchmark established: **1 mechanic per 50 vehicles**
- All mechanics support snow removal efforts.

2024:

- **Mechanic Assistant added**
- Fleet Size: **157 known vehicles**
- Effective mechanic coverage: **2 Mechanics + 1 Fleet Manager (50% mechanic)**
- Mechanic-to-fleet ratio: **1 mechanic per 64 vehicles**
- Modest improvement, but demand still outpaces capacity
- All mechanics support snow removal efforts.

2025:

- **Conducted a full fleet audit**
- Fleet Size: **217 units / Weighted count: 191.5** (adjusted for trailers/boats)
- Current staff: **2 Mechanics + 1 Fleet Manager (50% mechanic)**
- Current ratio: **1 mechanic per 76 vehicles**
- All mechanics support snow removal efforts.

2026 Positive Outlook:

Additional Mechanic Approved

Fleet Growth:

- Projected fleet size: **192.5 vehicles**

Staffing Improvement:

- Restructure: Fleet Manager to oversee Street & Shop Departments
- Adding 1 full-time Mechanic
- Total: 3 + 1 Fleet Manager (50% mechanic time)
- Mechanic-to-fleet ratio improves to **approximately 1 mechanic per 55 vehicles**
- Closer to the industry benchmark of 1:50

Fleet Management Software:

- Implemented to track work orders, maintenance schedules, and inspections
- Enhances maintenance planning and response times

Benefits:

- Increased vehicle uptime and availability
- Faster and more efficient maintenance operations
- Improved safety through proactive inspections



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Questions