

WHATCOM FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE

CARES FUNDING FOR FOOD BANKS PROPOSAL

SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

OVERVIEW: WHATCOM CARES FUNDING FOR FOOD SECURITY

- The Whatcom Food Security Task Force (FSTF, was established in March 2020 to address COVID-related emergency food needs throughout the County, including supporting food banks and feeding organizations revamp their operations
- The FSTF Food Banks Working Group has convened over the past month to discuss and agree a path forward for spending the \$600,000 CARES funding the City/County have allocated for food security.
- **The FSTF conducted a survey of needs, which served as the initial basis for this discussion. Community-wide needs reflected here DO NOT reflect the full requests from the survey: The recommendations here have been tailored to ONLY reflect needs of Food Banks/Primary Feeding Organizations (listed to the right)**
- The **GOAL of this process** is to **maximize use of available CARES funding** for **maximum impact of identified needs** in an efficient manner **while minimizing the administrative burden** of the process by centralizing procurement efforts where possible

FSTF Food Bank Working Group Participants

- ▶ Bellingham Food Bank (BPB)
- ▶ Blaine Food Bank
- ▶ Ferndale Food Bank
- ▶ Foothills Food Bank
- ▶ Project Hope Food Bank (Lynden)
- ▶ Salvation Army
- ▶ Nooksack Valley Food Bank
- ▶ Whatcom Council on Aging/ Meals on Wheels

- ▶ Whatcom Community Foundation serving as convener

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDED WAY FORWARD

- **High Level Findings:**

1. **Equipment needs, especially for vehicles including refrigerated vehicles, are essential for meeting changed operations.** Bellingham Food Bank (BFB) serves as the county hub for all food banks and has been receiving significantly higher quantities during COVID from a variety of new sources . Much of this food requires cold storage just for transport back to the rural food banks. The need for home deliveries has also grown exponentially during COVID.
2. Food purchase needs are secondary priority RIGHT NOW because other programs are filling the gap, but this can change significantly when unemployment benefits or programs change.

- **Agreed Recommendations/Way Forward:**

1. **Although several organizations have operating/facilities needs that are critical path, because the surveyed needs far outweigh the funding available, the Working Group agreed to focus their spending on Equipment and Food Purchases to help to streamline the process**
2. **The recommendation is to purchase the requested Equipment first. Any remaining funding beyond that would go toward a bulk food purchase.**
3. **Bellingham Food Bank (BFB) will serve as the central administrative body for funding, procurement and reporting of the CARES dollars.**

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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & DIRECT LINKAGE TO COVID-RELATED NEEDS

- **High Level Eligibility:**

1. **Food Banks and Feeding Organizations ONLY**

- Only Whatcom County-based Food Banks and Feeding Organizations which are already qualified to receive state and federal funding and have primary feeding operations have been included to receive CARES funding. A list of these organizations is to the right.

2. **Expenses directly related to COVID-19 emergency response.**

- All proposed expenses, including the purchase of equipment, are DIRECTLY related to changes or needs that these organizations have in direct response to COVID-19. Please see additional details on the next page.

Whatcom County Food Banks/Feeding Organizations to receive CARES funding

- ▶ Bellingham Food Bank
- ▶ Blaine Food Bank
- ▶ Ferndale Food Bank
- ▶ Foothills Food Bank
- ▶ Project Hope Food Bank (Lynden)
- ▶ Salvation Army
- ▶ Nooksack Valley Food Bank
- ▶ Whatcom Council on Aging/Meals on Wheels

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & DIRECT LINKAGE TO COVID RELATED NEEDS

Equipment Need & Eligibility

1. Why are these purchases necessary?
 - The Food Banks Working Group went through an extensive process to identify these needs as necessary to address existing and future operational needs related to COVID. Specifically, all of these feeding organizations have seen significant changes in their logistics and feeding operations. This has included not only an increased need for services and food distribution but also the need to evolve their food distribution to include food delivery for vulnerable populations.
2. What is the current state including existing equipment?
 - In all cases, the equipment that is being purchased is new equipment (not replacement of existing) that addresses and supports the evolving needs of these feeding organizations to be able to accommodate food deliveries to vulnerable populations in our community.
3. What is the problem being solved?
 - Bellingham Food Bank (BFB) serves as the county hub for all food banks and has been receiving significantly higher quantities during COVID (please see supporting data on slide 7) from a variety of new sources. Much of this food requires cold storage just for transport back to the rural food banks, effectively requiring at least one dedicated vehicle or refrigerated truck per food bank just to pick up their food distribution from BFB.
 - The need for home deliveries has also grown exponentially during COVID, and the delivery of fresh foods, dairy and meats requires refrigerated vehicles in some cases, especially for food banks that serve long delivery routes (for example, Nooksack's furthest customers are 50 miles away).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & DIRECT LINKAGE TO COVID RELATED NEEDS

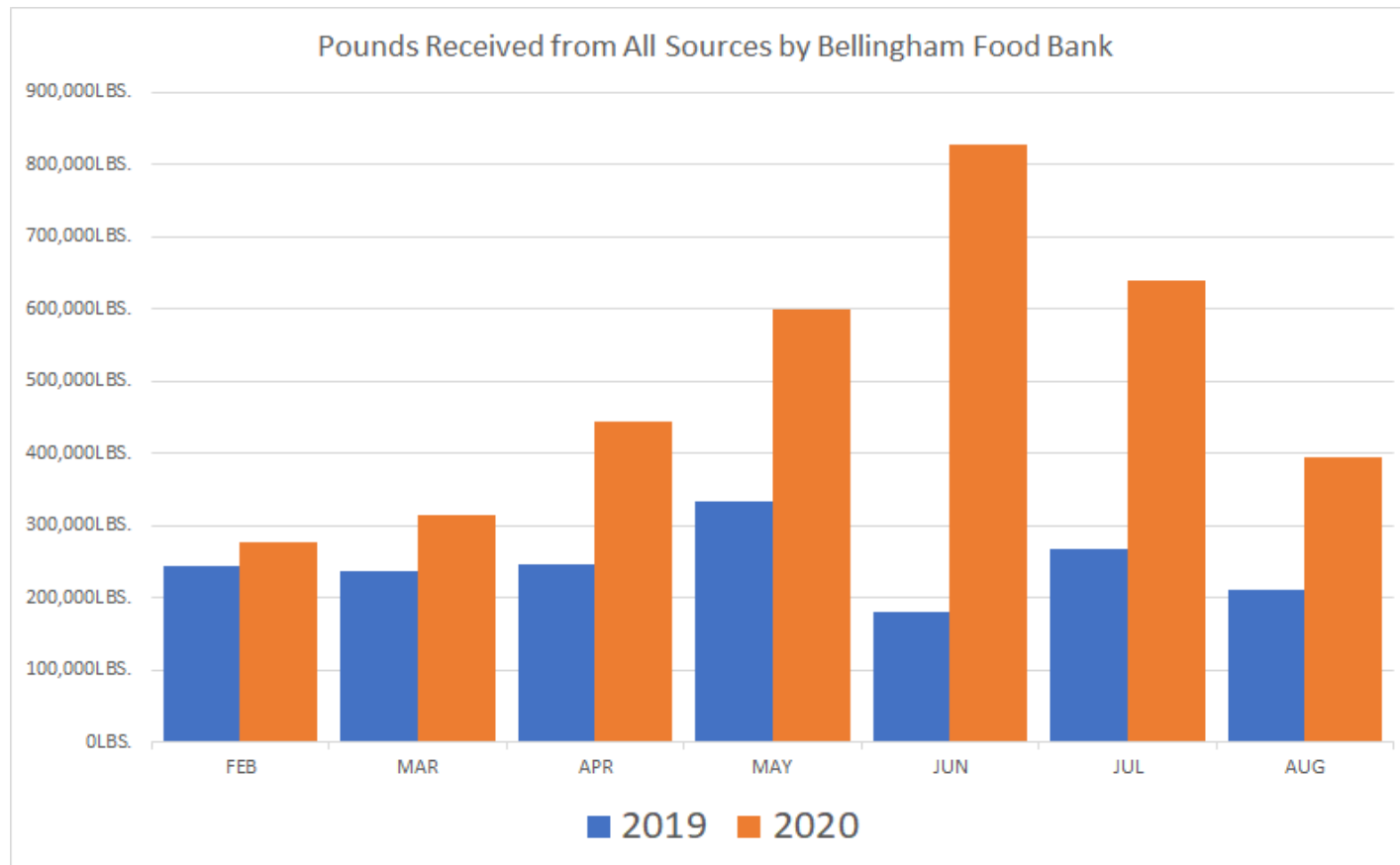
Equipment Need & Eligibility

4. What options were considered and why is this the best option? Were rental and lease options seriously considered?
 - Two sets of equipment have been included in the purchase request: vehicles and logistical equipment like palletjacks and tents.
 - For vehicles we investigated several options to address this need but there is not a viable rental or leasing market for refrigerated food vehicles. Moreover, the specifications for this use are mostly tailored to the needs of these feeding organizations making even a purchase in a secondary market difficult.
 - There is no secondhand or viable leasing market for palletjacks and tents.

5. Explain why these needs did not exist prior to COVID.
 - COVID has dramatically changed the operational protocols of these organizations given health guidelines and social distancing requirements, forcing each of them to seriously overhaul their pick-up service and add a home delivery service given the needs of high risk and vulnerable populations in our community.

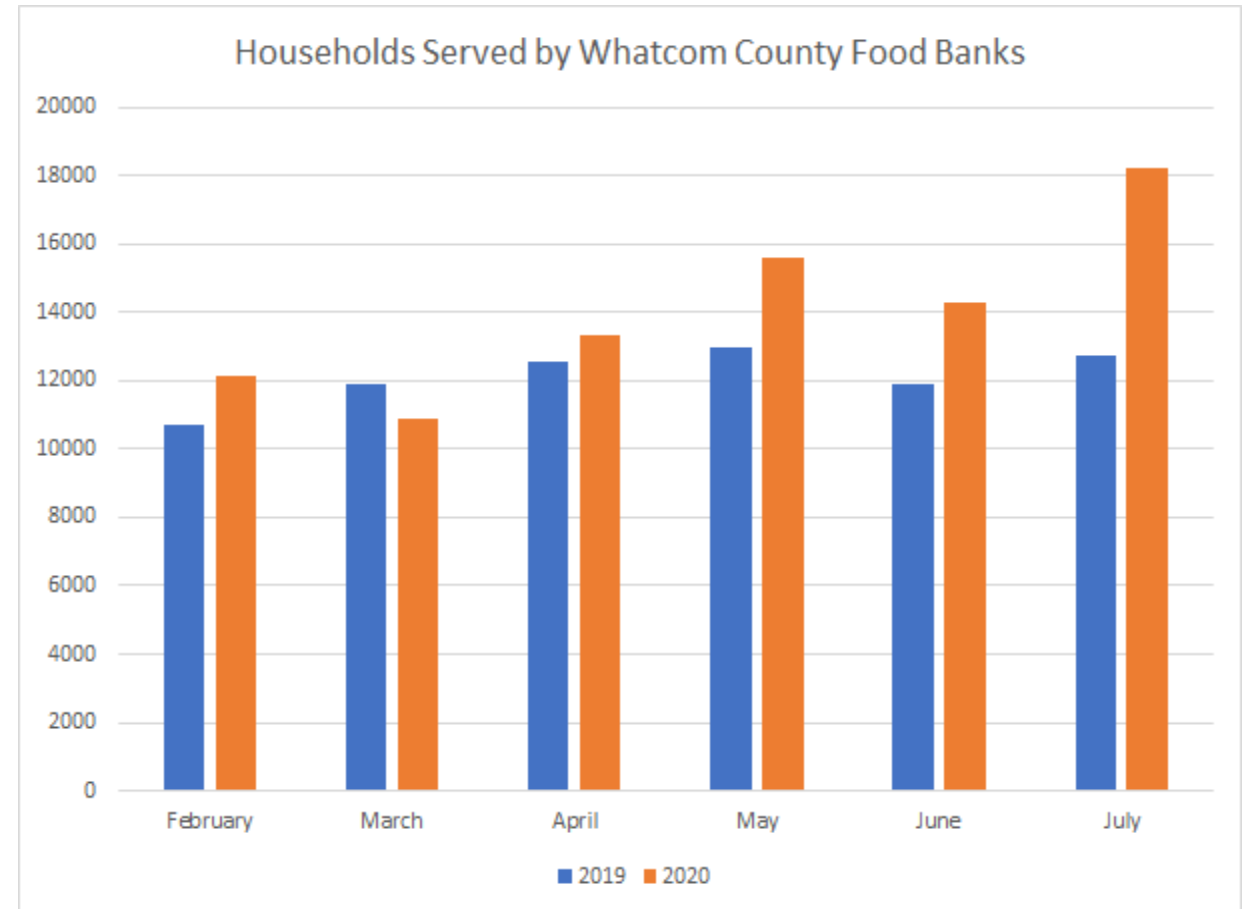
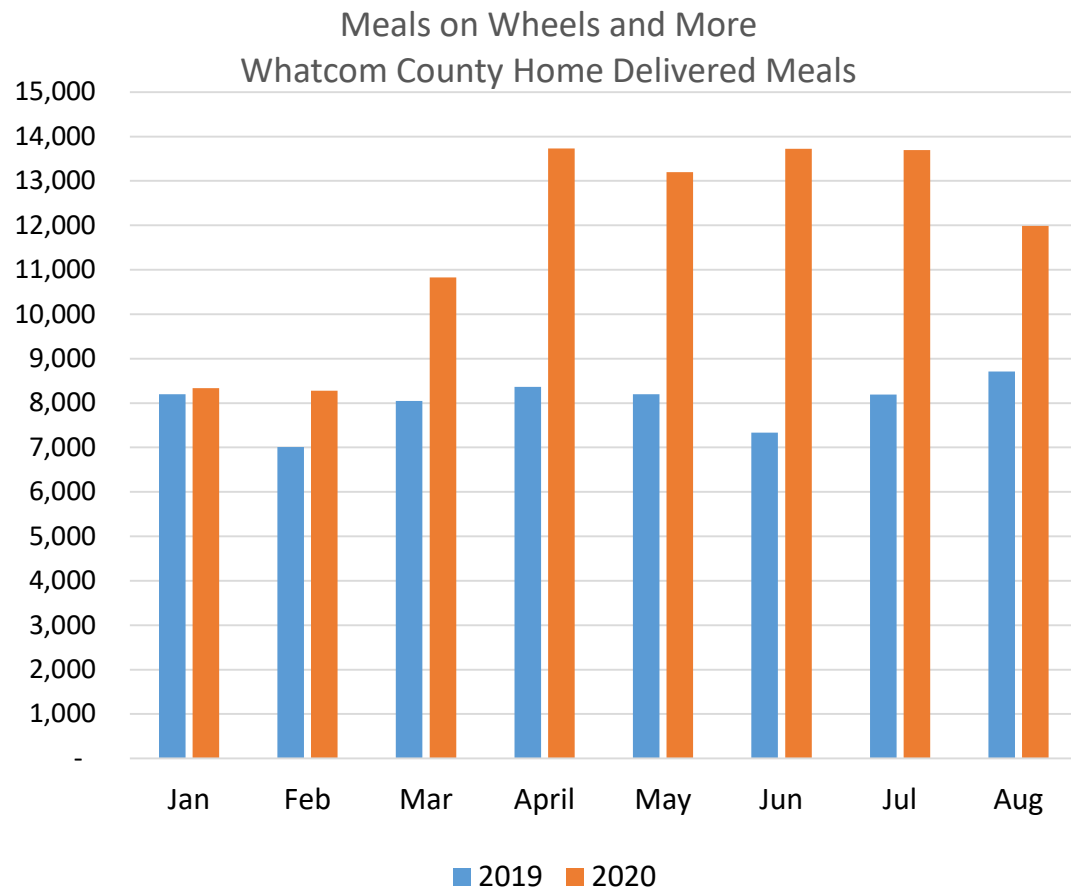
COVID-RELATED DISTRIBUTION INCREASES

As the receiving hub for Whatcom County, Bellingham Food Bank has handled a significantly higher volume of food coming in from state, federal, and non-governmental organizations. Since the start of the pandemic, Bellingham Food Bank has received and redistributed an estimated **44 more full semi-truckloads of food** compared to last year.



COVID-RELATED DISTRIBUTION INCREASES

Service levels for Whatcom County food banks and the Council on Aging have been consistently higher since the onset of COVID-19, compared to pre-pandemic numbers and compared to the prior year.



FINAL RECOMMENDATION FOCUSES ON EQUIPMENT & FOOD

Organization	Type of Equipment	Equipment Needs Total (estimate)	Food Purchase Needs	
Bellingham Food Bank	N/A	\$0	\$100,000 (reimbursement)	
Blaine Food Bank	Refrigerated Truck Pallet jack Forklift	\$130,000	<p>*Roughly \$25,000 in food bulk purchase. We would maximize this amount for up to the remaining amount of \$600,000 depending on actual costs of equipment purchase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This purchase would be allocated based on discussions with the Working Group and the needs of each food bank and their availability to receive deliveries 	
Ferndale Food Bank	Vehicle	\$50,000		
Foothills Food Bank	Refrigerated Truck	\$95,000		
Project Hope	Pallet jack Tent	\$10,000		
Salvation Army	Refrigerated Truck Pallet stacker	\$105,000		
Nooksack Valley Food Bank	New computer Vehicle	\$40,000		
Whatcom Council on Aging	Refrigerated Vehicle	\$45,000		
Total:		<u>\$475,000 (estimate)</u>		<u>\$125,000* (estimate)</u>

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION & BID INFORMATION

AUGUST 14, 2020

FERNDALE FOODBANK

Equipment Type	BID 1	BID 2	BID 3
Ford Transit 250 Cargo Vehicle	\$43,098	\$43,234	\$48,120

1. Why are these purchases necessary?

Ferndale Food Bank has experienced a large demand for home deliveries. Our one truck is no longer adequate to meet our transport needs.

2. What is the current state including existing equipment?

The Ferndale Food Bank owns one sprinter van. This Ford Transit 250 Cargo Vehicle would be our second vehicle.

3. What is the problem being solved?

Our sprinter van has served us well. It can carry up to three (3) pallets and accommodates approx. 7,000 lbs. However we cannot be in two places at one time. The primary purpose of the sprinter van is to pick up allotments from government commodities, and donations from outside agencies like NW Harvest or Food Lifeline. We also pick up daily grocery rescue from 3 local grocery stores. This does not include home deliveries or other donations that come our way (which we often lose out on or have to decline because we cannot pickup). Our VOLUNTEER team is stressed and sometimes behind the wheel for 5 or 6 hours nonstop. Having a 2nd vehicle available makes it possible for us to accommodate the request for home deliveries for vulnerable populations in our community.

FERNDALE FOODBANK

Equipment Type	BID 1	BID 2	BID 3
Ford Transit 250 Cargo Vehicle	\$43,098	\$43,234	\$48,120

4. What options were considered and why is this the best option? Were rental and lease options seriously considered? Rental and leased options are expensive, inconvenient and do not provide a consistent solution to the logistical constraints that we face. 10 years ago, the Ferndale foodbank exclusively rented trucks when we needed them, but this was prohibitively expensive. By owning our vehicles we are able to control availability, maintenance and upkeep, and this is particularly important in the COVID environment when we are trying to serve vulnerable populations through home delivery.

5. Explain why these needs did not exist prior to COVID.

Prior to COVID19, we provided home deliveries focusing on clustered groups of seniors. The pandemic has identified a large vulnerable population in Ferndale and out in the county that have a hard time accessing transit and that have pre-existing conditions that make going into public settings a danger. COVID has made it impossible for these members of our community to access the foodbank in traditional ways, and by augmenting our normal pick-up services with home deliveries we have been able to meet these needs in our community. We need a second vehicle to make this work possible.

WHATCOM COUNCIL ON AGING

Equipment Type	BID 1	BID 2	BID 3
Ford Transit Connect	\$43,816	\$42,249	\$42,890

1. Why are these purchases necessary?

While the demand for Meals on Wheels by homebound seniors in Whatcom County has been growing steadily (75% increase in #meals delivered between 2014 and 2019), COVID-19 brought a rapid increase in requests for our services by homebound and self-isolating older adults. In April, 2020 we delivered >60% more meals to 37% more seniors than in January, 2020, and the demand remains steady. In response to this growth we have expanded and added several new delivery routes. This additional vehicle makes it possible for us to keep up with the demand for home delivery of meals among our vulnerable seniors' population.

2. What is the current state including existing equipment?

Our current vehicle fleet includes one refrigerated truck and one Subaru Outback. Both are utilized daily for deliveries throughout Whatcom County. (The majority of Bellingham deliveries are made by volunteers). The refrigerated truck is also used to transport and hold frozen meals during to-go meal distributions. A second refrigerated truck will allow us to deliver more frozen meals safely throughout the County.

3. What is the problem being solved?

In mid-March Whatcom County senior centers closed and we transitioned our congregate meal program to a to-go only program. We began offering a weekly bag of 1 fresh meal and 6-house prepared frozen meals at the Bellingham, Blaine, Ferndale, Sumas, and Everson Senior Centers as well as bi-weekly meals at the Point Roberts Senior Center. In May we also began distributing senior to-go meals weekly at the Foothills Food Bank in East Whatcom County. We are requesting a second compact cargo van as it is easy for most of our volunteer staff to drive, provides adequate cargo space, and is better suited to making multiple stops in residential areas than a larger vehicle.

WHATCOM COUNCIL ON AGING

Equipment Type	BID 1	BID 2	BID 3
Ford Transit Connect	\$43,816	\$42,249	\$42,890

4. What options were considered and why is this the best option? Were rental and lease options seriously considered? Rental and leased options for this type of refrigerated trucks to serve meals are not commercially available. The only option we have is to purchase a vehicle to the specifications we need.

5. Explain why these needs did not exist prior to COVID.

Our entire client population are seniors in our community who are all high-risk population related to COVID. In April, 2020 we delivered >60% more meals to 37% more seniors than in January, 2020, and the demand for home delivered meals remains steady. In response to this growth we have expanded and added several new delivery routes. This additional vehicle makes it possible for us to keep up with the demand for home delivery of meals among our vulnerable seniors' population.

PROJECT HOPE FOOD BANK (LYNDEN)

Equipment Type	BID 1	BID 2	BID 3
Pallet jack	\$4,240	\$3,152	\$3,478
Outdoor Tent	\$1,800	\$1,730	

1. Why are these purchases necessary?

THE PANDEMIC HAS SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED BOTH THE VOLUME OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS WE SERVE AS WELL AS HAS REQUIRED A CHANGE (CURBSIDE DISTRIBUTION TO ENSURE SOCIAL DISTANCING) IN HOW WE DISTRIBUTE FOOD. THEREFORE, THE TWO REQUESTED EQUIPMENT ITEMS (PALLET JACK AND TENT) ARE BECOMING NECESSITIES. THE REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR FOOD PURCHASES IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE DEMAND FOR FOOD BANK SERVICE. WE ARE ALSO FINDING THAT ALTHOUGH WE HAD RECEIVED A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL GIFTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PANDEMIC, WE ARE SEEING THOSE FINANCIAL DONATIONS DECLINING SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS PROBABLY DUE TO THE CUMULATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC. THEREFORE, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ENSURE ADEQUATE FOOD RESERVES AND SUSTAINABILITY IS IMPORTANT.

2. What is the current state including existing equipment?

WE HAVE AN OLD MANUAL PALLET JACK THAT IS BARELY FUNCTIONING. BECAUSE OF THE GREATER DEMAND FOR FOOD DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, AND BECAUSE WE LOAN OUR PALLET JACK (WHICH WE HAVE TO TRANSPORT BACK AND FORTH ON A WEEKLY BASIS DURING THE SUMMER) TO OTHER PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE AGAPE SERVICE PROJECT WHO SERVE MIGRANT CAMPS DURING THE SUMMER, A WELL-FUNCTIONING AND EXTRA PALLET JACK WOULD BE MOST VALUABLE. BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THE PRACTICE OF CURBSIDE FOOD DISTRIBUTION WILL CONTINUE INTO THE FALL AND POSSIBLY EVEN WINTER, A TENT (WHICH WE DO NOT NOW HAVE) WOULD BE INVALUABLE TO PROTECT OUR CLIENTS, VOLUNTEERS, AND FOOD DURING THE CURBSIDE DISTRIBUTION PROCESS.

PROJECT HOPE FOOD BANK (LYNDEN)

Equipment Type	BID 1	BID 2	BID 3
Pallet jack	\$4,240	\$3,152	\$3,478
Outdoor Tent	\$1,800	\$1,730	

3. What is the problem being solved?

THE PROBLEMS BEING SOLVED IS A TOOL (PALLET JACK) WHICH WILL HELP US MORE EASILY TRANSPORT FOOD STOCK FROM OUR VEHICLE TO OUR STORAGE AREA AND WITHIN OUR STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION AREAS. THE PANDEMIC HAS INCREASED THE AMOUNT OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS WE SERVE, AND THEREFORE, MORE FOOD NEEDS TO BE TRANSPORTED. A FUNCTIONING PALLET JACK IN LIGHT OF HAVING LESS AVAILABLE VOLUNTEERS (WE HAD TO ASK OUR OLDER, MORE HEALTH-VULNERABLE VOLUNTEERS NOT TO CONTINUE.) TO ASSIST, THIS TOOL WILL BE INVALUABLE BOTH NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE. THE TENT WILL SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF NOT HAVING AT LEAST SOME PROTECTION FROM THE WEATHER FOR OUR CLIENTS, VOLUNTEERS, AND FOOD AS WE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE CURBSIDE DISTRIBUTION INTO THE FALL AND POSSIBLY WINTER.

4. What options were considered and why is this the best option? Were rental and lease options seriously considered?

FRANKLY, RENTAL/LEASE WERE NOT CONSIDERED. THE ISSUES DESCRIBED ABOVE DICTATE THESE PURCHASES AT THIS TIME, AND THEIR USAGE WILL BE OF BENEFIT TO THE FOOD BANK - REGARDLESS OF CONDITIONS - WELL INTO THE FUTURE. BECAUSE THESE PURCHASES WOULD HAVE LONG-LASTING USAGE, A RENTAL/LEASE WILL NOT BE EFFECTIVE.

5. Explain why these needs did not exist prior to COVID.

THE PANDEMIC HAS INCREASED THE AMOUNT OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS WE SERVE, AND THEREFORE, MORE FOOD NEEDS TO BE TRANSPORTED. We've also modified our operations to largely be outdoors given COVID, and an outdoor tent is a critical piece of equipment for that.

BLAINE FOODBANK

Equipment Type	BID 1	BID 2	BID 3
16' Isuzu Refrigerated Truck	\$90,420	\$124,934	
Pallet jack	\$3,940	\$4,076	
Forklift	\$38,730	\$30,999	

1. Why are these purchases necessary?

Like the other food banks, we have seen an increased need for our services since the outbreak of COVID.

The refrigerated truck is required to meet many pick-ups from the central BFB warehouse that provide us with meat, dairy and produce from partner non-profits. We also have grocery store food rescue pickups, seven days a week at eight separate stores in the county, and in addition, we are providing home delivery service to many high-risk home-bound clients. We pick up and deliver perishables, dairy, meat and produce. A refrigerated truck is essential to ensure safe transport.

Our forklift and pallet jack are utilized seven days a week loading, unloading and moving products from one location to another. As a result of COVID we have moved our operation outdoors under a 20'x30' tent and our distribution area is stocked with pallets of products that are moved out for distribution and in for storage. Trucks bringing grocery products, as well as supply pickups from our central BFB warehouse must be unloaded. A pallet jack is essential to our operation because we have a very small food bank, and any products brought indoors for cooler, freezer or dry storage must be transported on a pallet jack. We work in very limited space, and deal with a lot of product.

2. What is the current state including existing equipment?

We currently have one refrigerated truck that is used for as many pick-ups as possible, however we must utilize a non-refrigerated truck for many other pick-ups as volume has dramatically increased. We have a manual pallet jack that has been adequate until our volume exploded and our operation moved outdoors. It would be much easier for our retired volunteers to move products with an electric pallet jack.

We have a very old forklift that has served us very well over the years. It is running 7 days a week loading and unloading. We cannot continue to handle the volume of food that we rescue and distribute without a more reliable forklift.

BLAINE FOODBANK

Equipment Type	BID 1	BID 2	BID 3
16' Isuzu Refrigerated Truck	\$90,420	\$124,934	
Pallet jack	\$3,940	\$4,076	\$3,275
Forklift	\$38,730	\$30,999	\$29,015

3. What is the problem being solved?

With this new equipment we would continue to serve the over 400 families, 162 school children and make 92 home deliveries each week in a safe and efficient way.

4. What options were considered and why is this the best option? Were rental and lease options seriously considered?

For vehicles we investigated several options to address this need but there is not a viable rental or leasing market for refrigerated food vehicles. Moreover, the specifications for this use are mostly tailored to the needs of these feeding organizations making even a purchase in a secondary market difficult.

5. Explain why these needs did not exist prior to COVID.

We are the second busiest food bank in Whatcom County. We are currently serving over 400 families each week in an outdoor market style distribution. Prior to COVID we only provided emergency home deliveries. We now provide 92 individual home deliveries east, west and south of Blaine within a 15-mile radius

Prior to COVID and school closures, we provided 30 children with weekend meals. We now provide 162.

Prior to COVID Bellingham Food Bank rescued food from most of the major grocery stores. We have taken over the bulk of those pickups. We rescue grocery 7 days a week from 8 major grocery stores throughout Whatcom County. In addition, we have lost about 75% of our volunteers due to high risk and vulnerability to COVID, so we totally reworked our operation to manage with the minimum number of volunteers. It is important to work as smart and efficiently as possible, and the equipment that we have requested will greatly help us to better serve our communities.

FOOTHILLS FOODBANK

Equipment Type	BID 1	BID 2	BID 3
16' Isuzu Refrigerated Truck	\$90,420	\$124,934	

1. Why are these purchases necessary?

Like the other food banks we have seen an increased need for our services since the onset of COVID. This truck is required to meet the increased supply picks ups from the central BFB warehouse, especially now that we have increased volume and perishable items like dairy and meat that need to be refrigerated. We have also seen huge increase in the need for food home deliveries to vulnerable populations in our community since the onset of COVID. We do not currently have a refrigerated vehicle that can safely deliver dairy and meat to our clients, especially given that just the roundtrip drive from GlenHaven to our food pantry is 45 miles and our furthest home delivery route is about 50 miles.

2. What is the current state including existing equipment?

We do not currently have a refrigerated vehicle. This new vehicle would serve two main functions: picking up non-shelf stable items from central warehouses (including from Bellingham Food Bank which is doing much of the bulk purchasing for other food banks in our community) and conducting home deliveries to vulnerable populations in our community who can not come to the food bank in person.

3. What is the problem being solved?

We do not currently have a refrigerated truck to address our operational needs and safely transport perishable items like dairy and meats. This vehicle is needed to safely continue our home food deliveries.

FOOTHILLS FOODBANK

Equipment Type	BID 1	BID 2	BID 3
16' Isuzu Refrigerated Truck	\$90,420	\$124,934	

4. What options were considered and why is this the best option? Were rental and lease options seriously considered? For vehicles we investigated several options to address this need but there is not a viable rental or leasing market for refrigerated food vehicles. Moreover, the specifications for this use are mostly tailored to the needs of these feeding organizations making even a purchase in a secondary market difficult.

5. Explain why these needs did not exist prior to COVID.

The amount of perishable food supply we need to pick up on a regular basis from the BFB warehouse has increased significantly since COVID, and these food supplies come from a variety of different sources (we are not always in charge of what we receive in bulk orders from the state etc). Our food home deliveries has also seen a significant increase since the onset of COVID as we try to continue to serve vulnerable populations in our community who are high risk and can not come to the food bank in person.

SALVATION ARMY

Equipment Type	BID 1	BID 2	BID 3
16' Isuzu Refrigerated Truck	\$90,420	\$124,934	
Pallet stacker	\$29,013	\$28,800	\$22,672

1. Why are these purchases necessary?

The demand for our food bank has skyrocketed to 400% of normal. While we have ramped up to meet this need, these purchases are necessary to continue our service at this level.

2. What is the current state including existing equipment?

Our current box truck is a 2005 with over 200,000 miles on the clock. It has broken down on us twice during this pandemic. We have manual pallet jacks to move inventory off the truck and into our gym.

3. What is the problem being solved?

The problem solved by a refrigerated truck is that we will have a reliable vehicle that can handle the much greater amount of donations we have to transport. It will enable us to transport fresh produce over greater distances. Also the truck can be used as auxiliary overnight refrigerated space, as necessary.

The pallet stacker would solve the problem of unloading and moving 35-40 pallets of 1000-2000lbs of food each week. Currently this has been done manually with pallet jacks which has been incredibly difficult on our staff and volunteers. It's simply not sustainable to continue. An electric pallet stacker would enable us to unload from our truck, transport the pallets through our standard sized gym doors and stack the pallets. Stacking would also save space in our gym.

SALVATION ARMY

Equipment Type	BID 1	BID 2	BID 3
16' Isuzu Refrigerated Truck	\$90,420	\$124,934	
Pallet stacker	\$29,013	\$28,800	\$22,672

4. What options were considered and why is this the best option? Were rental and lease options seriously considered?

Rental and lease options were seriously considered and researched both by the Food Security Taskforce and our own organization. The difficulty with refrigerated trucks is that they are not readily available for lease, and very expensive. We must face up to the fact that this emergency is not ending anytime in the near future. As organizations tasked with food security, we must prepare ourselves to sustain this demand, and to provide economic relief for the most vulnerable families in our community. Purchasing equipment will set us up to do this in an economically efficient and responsible way.

5. Explain why these needs did not exist prior to COVID.

The demand for our services and collecting the food necessary to meet this demand has created these needs. Prior to COVID we did mostly food recovery pickups from grocery stores. We have ramped up our grocery pickups, and also pick up 35-40 pallets per week of food for food box building. Prior to COVID a regular week would be 75 to 100 boxes. We have seen a peak of 1650 food boxes dispensed in the second week of June, and since then have not dipped below 1000 food boxes per week.

NOOKSACK VALLEY FOODBANK

Equipment Type	ACTUAL	COMP 1	Comp 2
Reimbursement for Vehicle	\$38,623	\$41,932	\$40,727
HP Computer	\$588	\$620	\$699

1. Why are these purchases necessary?

Like the other food banks we have seen an increased need for our services since the onset of COVID. This vehicle was purchased in April 2020 to address our operational needs.

2. What is the current state including existing equipment?

We did not have a vehicle for use at the food bank, this vehicle serves our main operational needs in terms of picking up food from main distribution sites and deliveries when needed.

3. What is the problem being solved?

We are logistically constrained by not having a dedicated vehicle for use by the food bank which made coordination for food pickup and deliveries difficult. This vehicle has addressed a core need of our organization.

4. What options were considered and why is this the best option? Were rental and lease options seriously considered?

Renting vehicles is prohibitively expensive, especially for a need like this which puts a lot of miles and is intensive use on the vehicle.

5. Explain why these needs did not exist prior to COVID. We are doing more and more central purchasing and pickups at the Bellingham Food Bank as a result of COVID.