

Municipalities interested in joint camera purchase

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Local municipalities can potentially save a lot of money if they combine to purchase a camera that is designed to go inside sewer lines, one local official says.

Dan Guydish, executive director of the Mountain Council of Governments (MCOG), said the organization has the opportunity to get a 50-50 Community Revitalization matching grant from the state Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

So an equal local match of dollars would have to be raised. Guydish said that's not expensive - compared to what a municipality would have to pay for a camera if there were an emergency that required one.

"The most it would cost a municipality would be \$4,000 a year for three years, and then we'd own it," Guydish said. "The more municipalities that participate, the cheaper it becomes for everybody."

The whole purpose behind owning a camera is saving money, Guydish said.

"If a municipality needs a camera now, they would have to rent it at \$1,000 a day," he said. "If someone uses it for four days, there's \$4,000 just for renting it."

And Guydish said a statewide crackdown on

rainwater infiltration into sanitary sewer lines makes owning the camera even more attractive.

"The state is really getting tough on infiltration," he said. "Municipalities have to be on top of infiltration. Some sewer lines are combined and they're not supposed to be."

Guydish said the entire cost of the endeavor would be about \$74,000, but municipalities would share the cost.

"We would be getting state-of-the-art equipment," Guydish said. "It's expensive, but it can do a lot of things. It has a swivel head and large tires. (Computer) software comes with it. When a line check is done, the camera can make video and audio recordings, which can be dated. If a contractor damaged a sewer line after the date on the recording, the municipality would have a record that the line was OK (before the work was done)."

And because the grant application is for a number of municipalities, Guydish said the state would give it priority status when funding such grant requests.

Guydish said three local municipalities are interested in participating in the purchase of the camera, while several others have also expressed some level of interest.

"In all, there are eight potentials," he said.