



The Chemung County Library District, with neighborhood libraries in Big Flats, the Bookmobile, Elmira, Horseheads, Van Etten, West Elmira, and on the web at www.cclid.lib.ny.us

To: CCLD board of trustees
From: Jim Sleeth, Library Director
Dianne Patchett, Principal Library Clerk
Kim Jones, Bookmobile Driver
Joan Santulli, Administrative Assistant
Subject: Recommendation for purchase of a new CCLD bookmobile
Date: February 16, 2010

The CCLD staff concurs with the recommendation by our consultant, Michael Swendrowski, to purchase a new bookmobile from OBS, Inc. for a base price of \$207,500. We do so for the following reasons:

- (1) The OBS base proposal (\$207,500) is less expensive than that from Matthews Specialty Vehicles proposal (\$209,667). And while CCLD staff does not recommend the purchase of most options, even when the wheelchair door and lift are included, the OBS price is lower (\$217,140) than the Matthews price (\$219,180).
- (2) OBS provided significantly more information about their product in their bid response, including the location of product service centers and extended warranty options. Their bid response was clear and easy to evaluate. Both bid responses are available for review by the CCLD board.
- (3) With the possible exception of Alt2 / Wheelchair door and lift, CCLD staff does not recommend the purchase of any of the options in the bid responses. Some options are too expensive, like Alt1 / Hybrid power system and Alt6 / Electronic message board, while other options we just do not want, like Alt3 / Air-powered auxiliary step. Regarding Alt4 & Alt5 / suspension, it was believed that the air suspension provided by staff chairs was sufficient to meet our needs.
- (4) Regarding Alt2 / Wheelchair door and lift, CCLD staff is ambivalent. On the one hand, having a wheelchair door and lift would provide greater handicapped access to bookmobile services for a clientele not presently accorded access; on the other hand the increased maintenance issues and the reduction of interior shelving space means we would have fewer items to offer to the public. Finally, perhaps it is important to note that now all other CCLD-owned libraries have automatic entrance doors, making them fully handicapped accessible.
- (5) Regarding Alt7 / Graphics print and install, CCLD staff believe we should seek additional options. There must be local companies that can provide the service.