Barton Community College

Board of Trustees Meeting

November 24, 2026

Buses – Barton currently has four buses used for the transportation of all student groups. These buses consist of:

Barton Community College Vehicles					
YEAR	MAKE	Description	Capacity	Date of Purchase	Mileage
2019	Grech	Freightliner M2 106 Medium Duty	43	Purchased from Grech on 02-05-19	181,155
2007	MCI	White MCI J4500 BUS (410)	46	purchased 3-10-17	889,981
2006	Chev	AeroElite Bus	25	purchased 5-30-06	264,828
2006	MCI	White MCI J4500 BUS (200)	46	purchased 4-27-16	621,997

Currently, all four of the buses in our fleet are operational. We limit the AeroElite bus ("Plastic Bus") to closer trips as this bus was not designed for extended trips and has developed issues. This bus is much like the general transportation buses that the city uses.

The Grech bus has proved to be the most reliable bus we have; however, the student capacity is an issue. The Grech bus has worked out very well for us and it is the requested bus for both drivers and student groups. Many times, a van must also be used due to student capacity.

Both MCI buses are operational although they continue to develop issues due to their age and mileage. Most issues require the MCI buses to be taken to Wichita for service and typically are out of service for weeks when this happens. The

larger MCI buses are more difficult to find parts for, and the parts are much more expensive than the Freightliner (Grech) style of bus.

We are required to move student trips to vans when a bus develops an issue which is not be best alternative. In many cases, we end up taking 5-6 vans to replace a single bus when transporting larger student groups. Because of the number, this often requires students to drive the vans. Last academic year, more than once we had two of the four buses that were non-operational waiting for repairs to be made. Depending on the issue, it may take weeks before parts can arrive and repairs are made.

Bids have been secured to add an additional bus. This would be the same style as our current Grech, however the capacity would be higher. Bids received include:

Bus quotes				
11/9/2026				
	Model	**Capacity**	**Price**	**Location**
Grech Motors	2027 GRECH 40EG	40	$302,975	Riverside, CA
National Bus Sales	2027 Ultra Coachliner SE102	52	$332,900	Tulsa, OK
Masters Transportation	2026 Freightliner M2	51	$333,900	Kansas City, MO
Masters Transportation	2026 Supercoach XL45 Executive	57	$409,900	Kansas City, MO
National Bus Sales	2027 Ultra Coachliner DXL	56	$444,912	Tulsa, OK

Lead time on the buses is 4-6 months, which means more than likely the bus will be ready for us for next academic year. There will be additional items that we will need in addition to the bus itself.

- Connie will need to develop the art, and we will need to get the wrap /decals installed on the bus.
- We will need to add on to the end of the current bus barn. Our current facility is maxed out and with the investment of this type, we can't leave the buses sitting outside year-round. We are in the process of getting quotes to all on to the metal bus barn to allow for additional parking.

The new bus will be funded in part by our transportation budget for FY27 (already budgeted for vehicle replacement), and the remaining amount from capital outlay.

<u>Recommendation:</u> Administration is requesting that the Board approve the purchase of the 2027 Ultra Coachliner SE102 from National Bus Sales in the amount of $332,900.



