



Department of Public Works
Infrastructure Services Division

Jerrel Kruschke, P.E.
Commissioner of Public Works

Kevin J. Muhs, P.E., AICP
City Engineer

Timothy J. Thur, P.E.
Infrastructure Administration Manager

October 22, 2025

City Services Commission
Department of Employee Relations
City Hall, Room 706

Request: 2025 Seasonal Layoff Plan for Bridge Operators

Dear Commissioners,

The Department of Public Works (DPW) – Infrastructure Services is presenting the seasonal layoff plan of its Bridge Operators to the City Service Commission. DPW employs Bridge Operators to operate and maintain bridge openings along the riverways. Each winter, a number of bridge operators are seasonally laid off when the rivers freeze and boat traffic decreases.

All Bridge Operators who were involved in this layoff plan were asked if they were interested in the City Laborer re-assignment. Per management, two accepted.

DPW intends to seasonally lay off two (2) bridge operators effective Sunday, November 9, 2025 with plans to recall the bridge operators mid-April 2026. These employees are Edward Seaver and Mark Tufte. Edward Seaver accepted to be voluntarily laid off. Mark Tufte will be seasonally laid off based on seniority.

These two (2) employees will have appeal rights if they believe that they have been adversely affected by this layoff in the manner provided in Rule XIII, Section b of the City Service Rules, which are included as an attachment.

Jacob Hoffer and Robert Smith will be re-assigned to temporary appointments as City Laborers.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Karen Biernat, Human Resources Analyst Sr., at [DPW-Infra HR@milwaukee.gov](mailto:DPW-Infra_HR@milwaukee.gov), with any questions in regards to this request.

Sincerely,

for Kevin Muhs
City Engineer

Cc: Tim Thur, Andrew Simons, Tom Tarkowski, Nicholas Goodwin, Karen Forlenza, Edward Seaver, and Mark Tufte.

Bridge Operators

Rank	Employee Name	Seniority Date	Comments
1	Paulsen, Robert	5/3/2004	
2	Harley, Jane	4/25/2012	
3	Williams, Tommy	4/22/2014	
4	Uniewski, Robert	4/10/2016	
5	Allen, Gemika	6/6/2016	
6	Robinson, Michael	5/8/2017	
7	Gabbei, David	5/8/2017	
8	Seaver, Edward "Ted"	5/7/2018	Voluntarily requested seasonal layoff
9	Egner, Philip	5/21/2018	
10	Shinkle, Paul	4/22/2019	
11	McGuire, Thomas	6/17/2019	
12	Hamilton, Dante	5/24/2021	
13	Spera, Francisco "Frank"	9/6/2022	
14	Nuness, Luther	4/17/2023	
15	Lucas, David	5/15/2023	
16	Sharrard, Melissa	5/15/2023	
17	Tufte, Mark	4/15/2024	Seasonal layoff based on seniority
18	Metcalf, Ryan	7/8/2024	Accepted position with DPW-Operations, with a 11/9/2025 tentative start date
19	Hoffer, Jacob	7/8/2024	Opted to be reassigned seasonally to City Laborer
20	Smith, Robert	7/21/2025	Opted to be reassigned seasonally to City Laborer
21	VACANT		
22	VACANT		

Layoff for '25-'26

Layoff for '25-'26, yet are to be reassigned seasonally to City Laborer position



Department of Public Works
Administration

Jerrel Kruschke, P.E.
Commissioner of Public Works

Dan Thomas, M.P.A., J.D.
Director of Administrative Services

Notification and Agreement of Voluntary Layoff

The Department of Public Works has work for you at your job title: Bridge Operator.

I understand I am accepting a voluntary layoff and that the City of Milwaukee - Department of Public Works will contest any unemployment benefits claim, since work is available for you.

I understand it is my responsibility to contact the Department of Employee Relations, Benefits Section to fully understand how a voluntary layoff may affect medical/dental insurance plan, as well as all compensation and/or benefits.

While you are on layoff, it is very important that your manager, Nick Goodwin, has your current email address, telephone number and address. It is your responsibility should your residence (address) change to complete and submit the *Residence Statement Form* within 72 hours of moving to a new residence to both your manager and payroll.

In the event that we cannot reach you within three (3) working days for a recall (first a registered letter and/or email, and if no response, then a telephone call), we will proceed to the next person and may consider your failure to respond a resignation of employment from the City of Milwaukee. It is important to monitor your email and/or other means of communication while laid off from your position.

By your acknowledgement and agreement, you will be laid off starting on November 8, 2025.

Name of Employee Edward Seaver

Peoplesoft #: 029663

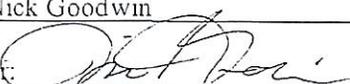
Signature of Employee: 

Date: 10/24/2025

Employee Email Address: ted.s_iv@yahoo.com

Employee Phone Number: (1) 414-339-9875 (2) _____

Name of Manager: Nick Goodwin

Signature of Manager: 

Date: 10/23/25