

Fundraising underway for Santa Fe 2926 tool car

By Steve Glischinski | January 24, 2018

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ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The New Mexico Steam Locomotive and Rail Road Historical Society is seeking funding for the rebuilding and movement of a former Santa Fe baggage car to serve as the tool car for Santa Fe 4-8-4 No. 2926. The Northern-type steam locomotive is in the final stages of restoration in Albuquerque.

The car is former Santa Fe baggage No. 3939 and was built by Pullman Standard in 1965 for general service on Santa Fe trains. It was part of an order for 25 baggage cars placed in December 1963 and delivered as shells in December 1965. The cars were completed by AT&SF at its Topeka (Kan.) Shops between 1965 and 1966. The car went to Amtrak in 1971 as No. 1080 and later was converted to maintenance-of-way car No. 17075.

Rick Kirby, chief mechanical officer of the society tells Trains News Wire in an email that the tool car story began several years ago in Reno, Nev., at the Railroad Passenger Car Alliance Convention. Curt Potter, who runs New Hampshire's Passenger Equipment Parts, approached Kirby. He said he owned No. 3939 and wanted to donate it to the society so it



Former Santa Fe baggage car No. 3939 is slated for restoration as a tool car behind a Santa Fe steam locomotive if volunteers can raise enough money for the effort.

New Mexico Steam Locomotive & Rail Road Historical Society

could once again run with AT&SF power on original Santa Fe rails. At the time the society was immersed in work on No. 2926 and could not afford to transport the car to New Mexico from storage in Ohio.

The car remained in Bellevue, Ohio, until 2017 when the society decided to move ahead on the tool car project since the restoration on the steam locomotive was soon to wrap up. Acquiring the car would also provide work for volunteers who would have less to do as 2926 was completed.

The Society needs to bring the car up to Amtrak standards, overhaul the trucks and air brakes, and outfit the car for use behind the 4-8-4. Estimates are the work would cost \$150,000. The society launched a GoFundMe campaign and has raised a little more than \$100,000 so far.

Repair work is being performed by Mark Majors in Bellevue, Kirby says. The car is now on blocks with both trucks removed and the “B” end truck has been disassembled. Work is now on partial hold due to winter weather.

Kirby says the society expects delivery of the car sometime this summer. It will require repairs to the floor, and all four baggage doors will be refabricated. The car will house tools; equipment, lubricants and spare parts as needed that will require built-in shelving and bins. It will also be repainted.

“We will need to procure an under car generator to provide power for the large screw compressor we have to cold start the locomotive and other electrical requirements. Additional electrical wiring required by Amtrak will also be installed,” Kirby said.

[The GoFundMe page is live.](#)

[More information is available online.](#)

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