

COSAERT JOHN P  
Form 4  
December 16, 2011

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
COSAERT JOHN P

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
HEARTLAND EXPRESS INC  
[HTLD]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
  
(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
901 NORTH KANSAS AVENUE  
  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
12/14/2011

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
Exec Vice President

NORTH LIBERTY, IA 52317

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |                                                    |                                | (A) or (D) Price                                                  |                                                                                               |                                                          |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/14/2011                           |                                                    | A <sup>(1)</sup>               | 25,000 A \$ 0 74,745                                              |                                                                                               | D                                                        |                                   |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

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| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Nu Deriv Secur Bene Own Follo Repo Trans (Instr |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
|                                            |                                                        |                                      |                                                    |                                |                                                                                         | Date Exercisable                                         | Expiration Date                                               | Title                                      | Amount or Number of Shares                         |
|                                            |                                                        |                                      |                                                    |                                |                                                                                         | Code                                                     | V                                                             | (A)                                        | (D)                                                |

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

COSAERT JOHN P  
901 NORTH KANSAS AVENUE  
NORTH LIBERTY, IA 52317

Exec Vice President

## Signatures

/s/John P. 12/16/2011  
Cosaert

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
  - \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) The reporting person received 25,000 shares of Heartland Express, Inc. common stock as a grant of a restricted stock award plan. These shares represent a restricted stock award under the 2011 Restricted Stock Plan, as such plan may be amended from time to time. The award is subject to certain vesting and forfeiture provisions. The reporting person has voting power but does not have dispositive power until vesting requirements are satisfied.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.