

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
DES MOINES, IOWA**

**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 96-210
MAY 20, 1996 AGENDA**

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
EMERGENCY PURCHASE — TRI-STATE TURF EQUIPMENT	RESOLUTION ORDINANCE ◆ RECEIVE/FILE	DONALD TRIPP PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

SYNOPSIS —

A purchase order was issued to Tri-State Turf Equipment for the purchase of two Toro tee and collar mowers under the City's emergency purchase procedures.

FISCAL IMPACT —

The purchase amount was \$14,500, less trade-in value of \$5,500.

RECOMMENDATION —

Receive and file.

BACKGROUND —

Three riding tractor mowers were purchased for the City's golf courses in 1993. The low bid was awarded to Big Bear Turf Equipment Company for the Ransome 180 tee and collar models. Since that time the City has experienced an unusually high degree of difficulty in maintaining two of these units—motor lockup, burned up electrical system, discharging batteries, and starters that will not disengage. The high cost and frequency of sharpening blades have further added to the unacceptable performance and inefficiency of these mowers. As the 1996 golf season began, repair and maintenance expenses were expected to reach \$8,000. Because of the daily reliance on these mowers at the golf courses, it was necessary to trade these two models for more reliable, trouble-free mowers. The third machine has been used early on as a backup mower for an older, less troublesome Toro mower and has manifested only a few of the problems of the others to date.

In order to provide the needed maintenance of the golf course, the Park and Recreation Director requested that an operating emergency be declared. Under paragraph 2.88(b) of the Municipal Code, the City Manager may authorize the purchasing agent to purchase, in the open market without filing a requisition or estimate, and without advertising, any supplies or material for immediate delivery to meet bona fide operating emergencies if individual amounts do not exceed \$25,000.

The City Manager is required at the next immediate meeting, to formally communicate the emergency expenditure to the City Council.