



Council
Communication
Office of the City Manager

Date July 9, 2007

Agenda Item No. 45
Roll Call No. 07-
Communication No. 07-389
Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp, Park and Recreation Director

AGENDA HEADING:

Accepting low dollar complaint bid for purchase of a brush chipper.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval to purchase a brush chipper from Vermeer Sales & Services, (Kenrick Boat, owner, P.O. Box 168, Pella, Iowa, 50219).

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$33,500

Funding Source: Fiscal Year 2007-08 Operating Budget, Park and Recreation Department, Horticulture Maintenance, GE001 PKS070400, page 233.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Park and Recreation Department requested the Procurement Division to solicit bids for the purchase of a brush chipper for use throughout the parks system. The chipper allows park maintenance crews to clean up the limbs and debris from over seventy City parks throughout the year. It is also useful for the occasional cleanup from the aftermath of seasonal storms. The Parks and Recreation Department explored the possibility of using the Public Works Department's brush chipper, but it was determined that both departments often require a chipper at the same time, particularly after a storm. Given the extensive urban forest found within the City's park system as well as the number of the trees located in the City's right-of-ways, the sharing of one brush chipper would result in significant delays in the clean-up of fallen branches. On the other hand, with the purchase of a brush chipper by Parks and Recreation, the City's Forestry Division, which now relies on the Public Work's brush chipper, would be able to trim trees in City parks and leave the limbs for disposal by Parks and Recreation. This would reduce clean-up time within parks and allow the Public Works brush chipper to be utilized in City right-of-ways.

Bids were solicited by advertisement and by mailing invitations to five potential bidders. The five potential bidders were Rexco Equipment, Inc.; Mid Country Machinery, Inc.; Aspen Equipment Company; Midwest Underground Supply, LLC; and Vermeer Sales and Service, Inc. Three bids were received, with no response from Rexco Equipment, Inc., and Mid Country Machinery, Inc. Two of the three bids received (Aspen Equipment Company, \$29,643 and Midwest Underground Supply, LLC, \$30,900) did not meet the required specifications. Unmet specifications included gas tank size, smaller tires, horizontal vs. vertical blade arrangement, and cold weather battery amperage. All of these items are necessary for year-round operating efficiency. Only Vermeer Sales and Service, Inc. provided a bid

that was compliant with the specifications. The equipment offered by Vermeer has a proven history of reliable operation, available parts and good service from the distributor.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE