



Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

September 14, 2009

Agenda Item No. 45C

Roll Call No. 09-

Communication No. 09-639

Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp, Director
of Park and Recreation

AGENDA HEADING:

Recommend approval to purchase forty-five (45), eight (8) cubic yard, front loading dumpsters from Eddy-Walker Equipment Co. Donald N. Eddy, President, 4044 E. 14th, Des Moines, IA., in the amount of \$43,155.

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval to purchase forty-five (45), eight (8) cubic yard, front loading dumpsters from Eddy-Walker Equipment Co., to improve the current efficiencies of refuse collection within the properties managed by the Park and Recreation Department. The Procurement Division solicited bids by advertisement and mailing Invitation to Bid V09-140 to three (3) potential bidders with three (3) bids received. The low dollar compliant bid was received from Eddy-Walker Equipment Company at a total cost of \$43,155.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$43,155

Funding Source: GE001-PWK100122; Municipal Trash, Collection; page 257.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

As was presented in the budget reduction/savings actions to Council, the City Manager directed the Park and Recreation and Public Works Departments to review their current operations, and with assistance from the Finance Department, research and evaluate the potential of efficiencies by transferring work to one another, sharing workforces, sharing equipment and ordering similar product needs in bulk.

As part of the inter-departmental reviews, the departments implemented a plan to transfer the responsibility for the collection of parks refuse to Public Works. This action was implemented in the spring of 2009. Prior to that, Park and Recreation Department had collected refuse with the operation of one rear loading refuse truck and one full-time employee (truck driver), employing two 120 day casuals during the busiest summer months, and utilizing various full-time staff to assist in the operation during the fall and winter months. This change allowed for the removal of the refuse truck from the City Fleet, avoiding \$150,000 for future truck replacement costs, and combining operations achieved efficiencies saving at least \$10,000 annually.

Now that the new partnership has been operating successfully for the past six months, staff from the Department of Public Works, Park and Recreation Department and Finance Department are

recommending converting the current inventory of dumpsters from rear loading to front loading units. The current inventory of dumpsters are in need of replacement and the recommendation to purchase front loading dumpsters offers further savings to the general fund. The estimate for the Department of Public Works to continue to provide trash collection service with rear loading units (including labor, equipment, landfill fees, and overhead charges) is \$87,000. The projected cost if a conversion to front loading units were approved would be approximately \$52,000 annually. This cost does not include the onetime expenses of \$43,155 in purchasing the new units. Converting to front loading dumpsters will also decrease the potential for employee injuries and associated costs. This change would lead to the review of equipment use and future purchases and could result in similar changes being proposed in other areas, such as municipal trash, which could result in additional general fund savings.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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