



Naperville

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Recommend the Award of Sole Source Procurement 15-198, Refurbishing of Leaf Collection Equipment

TYPE OF VOTE: Simple Majority

ACTION REQUESTED:
Approve the Award of Sole Source Procurement 15-198, Refurbishing of Leaf Collection Equipment to Bonnell Industries for an amount not to exceed \$176,705.

BOARD/COMMISSION REVIEW:

COUNCIL ACTION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN:

Date	Item No.	Action

DEPARTMENT: Department of Public Works
Procurement Services Team

SUBMITTED BY: Richard Dublinski, Director of Public Works
Rachel Mayer, Chief Procurement Officer

FISCAL IMPACT:
Budgeted Account: 502-4610-582.40-34
Budgeted Amount: \$281,254

BACKGROUND:
The Department of Public Works has the responsibility for the proper disposal of leaves citywide, and provides two leaf disposal options for residents. The first option residents have is to dispose of their leaves through our bagged leaf collection program. The second option available to residents is the mechanical bulk leaf collection program. This program is administered in-house with DPW personnel and contracted temporary labor. The mechanical bulk leaf collection program is structured so that the entire city has three curb side leaf collection

opportunities during the season, which is one pickup collection citywide every two weeks. The program has historically begun six weeks prior to Thanksgiving Day with the goal being to complete all three pickups in 30 working days, completing by the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving Day. In 2014, over 51,697 cubic yards of leaves were collected through the bulk leaf collection program.

DISCUSSION:

The leaf collection program includes the use of self-contained vacuum units and Autumn Mate leaf loaders. The City currently owns five Autumn Mate leaf loaders which were purchased in 1997. The leaf loaders are the most efficient method to collect leaves, and these machines collect approximately 80% of the leaves during the program. Without the leaf loaders we would not be able to complete the program as it is today. The vacuum units are much slower and we estimate that we would need more than 15 vacuum units to complete the collection that is currently done by the leaf loaders. Efficiency of the equipment is crucial to the program because of the small window of time from when the leaves fall and when winter operations begin.

The Autumn Mate leaf loaders are no longer manufactured, and after years of research we have not been able to identify any other leaf collection equipment that is as efficient as the leaf loaders. The existing leaf loaders are eight years past their expected life and we have spent an average of \$10,000 per unit/per year on repairs. Several of the machines are currently unsafe to operate next season without major repairs.

Fleet Services has done an outstanding job of researching and resourcing machine shops for the mechanical parts and hydraulic companies for the components to keep the 18 year old Autumn Mate leaf loaders going long past their amortized service life. The leaf loader's metal housings are worn thin and there are other areas of component and metal fatigue which is a safety concern.

Fleet Services recognized the importance of finding a company that has the manufacturing capability to refurbish all facets of the leaf loader in order to obtain another 8-10 years of service life. Bonnell Industries is located in Dixon, Illinois, just 45 minutes west. They are the leading truck equipment manufacturer in northern Illinois and they also manufacture pull behind leaf vacuums and self contained vacuum leaf loaders. There is no other qualified manufacturer in northern Illinois that has both the manufacturing and engineering expertise to refurbish all five leaf loaders in time for this year's fall leaf collection program.

Bonnell Industries has provided pricing to refurbish the five Autumn Mate Leaf Loaders. This refurbishing will include a comprehensive rebuilding and reassembly of the machines. It is expected that the leaf loaders will last another 8-10 years once they are refurbished. The cost per machine is \$35,741, for a total cost of \$178,705.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Award of Sole Source Procurement 15-198, Refurbishing of Leaf Collection Equipment to Bonnell Industries for an amount not to exceed \$178,705.