



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 23, 2026

TO: Forest Preserve District Finance and Administration Committee

FROM: Patrick Chess, Director of Natural Resources
Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Presentation and Approval of the Purchase of an ASV RT-135 Forestry Compact Track Loader for the Natural Resource Management department

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider the approval of awarding the purchase of one ASV RT-135 Forestry Compact Track Loader to Chicago Machinery Inc. of Lynwood, IL.

BACKGROUND:

Based on the District's replacement schedule, one ASV PT-100 compact track loader was approved for replacement in the 2026/27 budget. The Natural Resource Management department currently owns and operates two track loaders, with the PT-100 model representing the older of the two at 16 years old.

The Natural Resource Management department utilizes these track loaders to help clear invasive brush, drill holes to plant trees, and pick up and haul logs. The use of both track loaders is vital to many ecological restoration projects, allowing both the north and south natural resource management crews to clear brush simultaneously.

The PT-100 was originally purchased in 2010 and has reached the end of its 15-year life expectancy. As such, maintenance has recently become a constant issue. Track loaders have complex hydraulic systems which operate everything from the drive system to the loader arms, as well as the forestry mower. The severe work environment of forestry mowing takes a particularly heavy toll on numerous components of this system, with very expensive maintenance costs when leaks arise.

The District solicited bids for a replacement model of a 2026 ASV RT-135 Forestry compact track loader. Two bids were received with the qualified, lowest bid being received from Chicago Machinery Inc. of Lynwood, Illinois, in the amount of \$143,500.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funds totaling \$128,000 were budgeted and are available in the 2026/27 fiscal year for the ASV track loader. The remaining \$15,500 required for the purchase is available within the Native Seed & Plants account number 01-31-31-6035.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Committee approve the purchase of one ASV RT-135 Forestry Compact Track Loader from Chicago Machinery Inc. of Lynwood, Illinois, for a total cost of \$143,500.

ATTACHMENTS: *Abstract of Bids*
ASV RT-135 Compact Track Loader Product Detail