



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 26, 2025

TO: Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee

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

SUBJECT: Presentation and Approval of the Purchase of a Schulte XH1500 Mow Deck 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 (1) Schulte XH1500 mow deck to German-Bliss Equipment Inc. of Princeville, IL.

BACKGROUND:

Based on the District's replacement schedule, one (1) Schulte XH1500 mow deck was approved for replacement in the 2025/26 budget. The Natural Resource Management department currently owns and operates two Schulte XH1500 mow decks. These decks are 15-feet wide with dual batwings, and are pulled behind large tractors, across the landscape. Primarily, these mowers are utilized to control herbaceous biennial and annual weeds, like sweet clover and wild parsnip. Additionally, they are instrumental in the creation of burn breaks in the fall and spring.

The current mow decks were originally purchased in 2001 and 2004, making them 24 and 21 years old and approaching the end of their life expectancy. After 20 years of hard work, busting through brush and bouncing across the uneven prairies, both units are starting to experience increased maintenance issues. These range from hydraulic malfunctions to broken blades, gear boxes, and jumpers. The replacement of one mower will allow staff to focus repair efforts on the second unit, while ensuring that at least one tractor is mowing at all times.

We are requesting the utilization of the Sourcewell Joint Purchasing Program for the purchase of the replacement mow deck. German-Bliss Equipment Inc. of Princeville, IL is an authorized Sourcewell dealer. Schulte has a Sourcewell contract providing a 32% reduction off of MSRP for the mower. As the attached quotation reflects, the total purchase price is \$45,171.60.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funds totaling \$46,000.00 were budgeted in the 2025/26 fiscal year for the replacement mower. Sufficient funds totaling \$51,000.00 are available in the Account #01-31-31-7020, for this expense totaling \$45,171.60.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Committee approve the purchase of one (1) Schulte XH1500 mow deck from German-Bliss Inc. of Princeville, IL, for a total cost of \$45,171.60.

ATTACHMENTS: *Quotation*
Schulte XH1500 Product Detail