



# AGENDA MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** June 23, 2026

**TO:** Forest Preserve District Finance & Administration Committee

**FROM:** Jeremy Jensen, Director of Operations  
Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Presentation and Approval for the Purchase of Four (4) Replacement Zero Turn Mowers for the Operations Department

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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider the approval of the purchase of four (4) zero turn mowers from Ralph Helm Inc. of Elgin, Illinois for a total price of \$63,988.84.

**BACKGROUND:**

Based on the District's replacement schedule, four zero turn mowers were approved for the upcoming fiscal year. Two mowers were approved for South Operations ; Mowers M425 and M426, both 2015 Toro Z-Master mowers with 2,120 hours and 2,447 hours respectively. Additionally, two zero turn mowers for North Operations were approved for replacement; mowers M318 and M319, both 2017 Toro Z-Master mowers with 1,967 hours and 2,111 hours.

All four mowers will be replaced with a Toro Z-Master 6000 series 60" cut with a 31- horsepower engine, which is consistent with our most recent purchases. This model's specifications have proven to be reliable and durable for the mowing needs of the District.

Staff are recommending the utilization of the Sourcewell Joint Purchasing Program. Ralph Helm Inc. of Elgin, Illinois is a local, authorized Sourcewell dealer and provides a 27% reduction to the MSRP for the mowers. The attached quotation reflects a total savings of \$23,519.16 below MSRP by utilizing the co-op pricing.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Funds totaling \$34,000 were budgeted in FY26/27 within account 01-21-22-7020, North Operations Machinery & Equipment and \$34,000 in account 01-21-23-7020, South Operations Machinery & Equipment. Sufficient funds of \$68,000 will be available on July 1, 2026 to cover the total purchase cost of \$63,988.84.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommend the Committee approve the purchase of four zero turn mowers from Ralph Helm, Inc., Elgin, Illinois, for a total cost of \$63,988.84.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

*Quotation*