



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 25, 2024

TO: Forest Preserve District Finance & Administration Committee

FROM: Jeremy Jensen, Director of Operations

SUBJECT: Presentation and Approval of the Purchase of Six (6) Replacement Zero Turn Mowers for the Operations Department

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider the approval of awarding a purchase of six (6) zero turn mowers to Ralph Helm Inc. of Elgin, Illinois for a total price of \$96,923.52.

BACKGROUND:

Based on the District's replacement schedule, two (2) zero turn mower's for South Operations were approved in the 2024-25 budget. Mowers M424, a 2014 Toro Z-Master and M425, a 2015 Toro Z-Master, have both exceeded the threshold of their 1,600 hours of expected service life. M424 was placed out of service in August of 2023 due to the cost of needed hydraulic drive motor repairs exceeding the value of the operational mower. Four (4) additional zero-turn mowers have been approved as part of the FY 24-25 budget to replace M429 (435 hours) and M430 (313 hours) for South Operations and M320 (703 hours) and M321 (296 hours) for North Operations. These mowers are 2018 Toro Z-Masters Professional 5000 propane models, a model that is no longer available. M429 has been out of service for over 1 year pending availability of a new propane engine. All 4 propane mowers have shown similar deficiencies and inconsistencies in operation and reliability. Unreliable engine performance in cool or hot temperature conditions and frequent fuel regulator issues have resulted in low hours of use and extended periods of time with our in-house mechanic, as well as with external repair vendors. All 6 mowers will be replaced with a Toro Z-Master 6000 series 60" cut with a 31- horsepower engine, consistent with our most recent purchases. This combo has proven to be reliable and durable for the mowing needs of the District.

We are requesting 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. Any accessories are not covered with the reduction, which have been added to maximize mowing efficiencies and maintenance safety. As the attached quotation reflects, this provides the district with a savings of \$33,840.18 below MSRP.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funding of \$68,000 was budgeted in account 01-21-23-7020 and \$34,000 in account 01-21-22-7020, for a total of \$102,000 for the purchase of these mowers in fiscal year 2024-25. Sufficient funds will be available on July 1, 2024 within accounts 01-21-22-7020 and 01-21-23-7020 of \$96,923.52 for the purchase six (6) zero-turn mowers.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Committee approve the purchase of six (6) zero turn mowers from Ralph Helm, Inc., Elgin, Illinois, for a total cost of \$96,923.52.

ATTACHMENTS:

Quotation