



Parks & Recreation

Memo

To: Eric Hanson, City Administrator

From: Linda Bruer, Director of Parks and Recreation

Date: November 11, 2015

RE: Purchasing Used Equipment

As you are aware, the department is scheduled to remove a minimum of 2,000 street trees in-house over the next five years. In addition, crown maintenance on the more mature city trees has been delayed due to lack of equipment; resulting in 81 trees needing immediate crown cleaning due to hazardous limb conditions. The plan moving forward would be to get back on a regular street tree trimming schedule in order to insure healthier trees and prevent accidents involving tree limbs.

It is anticipated that if the city had a bucket truck it would be used on a year round basis for preventative tree maintenance in the off-season as well as for hazard tree/limb removal on a resident call-in basis during the rest of the year. The truck would also be used for street light and park road/parking light maintenance.

Because this piece of equipment if purchased new is quite costly (\$150,000) and it may not get as much use as other equipment and therefore not cost effective to purchase new, it is proposed that a used/re-conditioned forestry-type bucket truck be considered for purchase.

The city's current purchasing ordinance and policy does not allow for making a purchase without seeking competitive bid proposals based on a set of specifications. The problem with competitively bidding used equipment is primarily timing. The bid process when purchasing new, generally takes approximately six weeks from the time the project is advertised, bid, and a recommendation to purchase is taken to the board for consideration. Used vehicles may not be available to purchase if this timetable is followed. In addition, it would be difficult to get competitive pricing because used vehicles are generally not identical in terms of comparative specifications. Below are examples of used trucks that might fit the city's needs but would be difficult to purchase following current purchasing policies.

	Offered By	Transmission	Year	Mileage	Bucket Height	List Price
Altec LRV56	Altec Inc.	Manual	2007	93,609	61 ft.	\$69,900
Altec LRV55	Altec Inc.	Manual	2007	59,765	60 ft.	\$67,900
Altec LRV56	I-80 Equip.	Manual	2005	52,645	61 ft.	\$75,000
Altec LRV56	Altec Inc.	Manual	2008	108,739	61 ft.	\$89,900
Altec LRV756	Altec Inc.	Automatic	2015	none	61 ft.	\$129,250

Staff is proposing that the purchasing ordinance/policy be modified to allow for purchase of used equipment. General specifications might include Altec "LR" series or equivalent forestry specific truck, boom working height of at least 60', diesel fuel, under CDL, model year 2005 or newer, mileage less than 125,000, and cost not to exceed a pre-determined dollar amount. Staff might be instructed to purchase lowest and best based on the general specifications with city administrator approval.

If the ordinance is changed, staff proposes to begin the search process as soon as possible in order to maximize available tree work time during the winter months.

If you have any questions, please let me know.