



Meeting Name

Meeting Date: May 13, 2025 / Finance Committee

Cover Sheet – Daniel Field Airport Lease for Hustler Super 104 Mower

Department:	Daniel Field Airport
Presenter:	Becky Shealy
Caption:	Approve Daniel Field Airport leasing a Hustler 104 inch cut, zero turn mower for grass cutting on the airfield. This is a 3-year lease of \$9,241.36 annually, for a total amount of \$27,724.10.
Background:	Currently the airport is leasing a John Deere tractor to maintain cutting the grass on the airfield. This lease expires May 23, 2025. The yearly cost of operation for this equipment is greater than anticipated with the fuel consumption and tires constantly needing to be replaced on the cutting deck.
Analysis:	Based on the research of airport maintenance personnel, the Hustler Super 104 is better suited for cutting grass at Daniel Field compared to the John Deere mower currently being used. The front-end loader on the John Deere adds weight to the mower, increasing fuel burn. It is difficult to cut grass in ditches with the John Deere due to the wings not being able to float. The Hustler has mower wings with 15 degree float, up or down. The Hustler will also cut labor time by about 1/3 due to the engine performance. Additional note: the Hustler has a better grade of tires compared to the current tractor. The lease option is also more advantageous to Daniel Field due to the high usage of the mower.
Financial Impact:	This equipment is to be purchased at Hilton Equipment in Columbia, SC as a lease agreement with Western Equipment Finance for a 3-year period. The total amount of the lease is \$27,724.10. The purchase orders are to be issued to Western Equipment Finance in the amount of \$9,241.36 each year, starting May 2025, for 3 years. Daniel Field has the option to turn the equipment back in at the end of the lease, or to purchase for a reduced amount.
Alternatives:	The only other alternative is to deny the approval of the lease.
Recommendation:	The Daniel Field General Aviation Commission recommends approving the 3-year lease of the Hustler mower.
Funds are available in the following accounts:	Daniel Field Airport is an enterprise fund. The funding source for this lease: Org Key: 552-08-1101 Object Code: 52.23110

