



Date: June 2, 2026

To: City Commission

From: Mike Baker, DPW Director

Subject: Authorization to Purchase New Mower for Oak Ridge Cemetery

Background

The purpose of this memorandum is to request City Commission authorization to purchase a new mower for cemetery operations.

The Cemetery lawn mower fleet is due for replacement and equipment updates. The City currently has two Toro mowers that have aged out and are in need of replacement. These mowers are used heavily during the mowing season and are important pieces of equipment for maintaining the Cemetery in a consistent and respectful condition.

A Request for Proposals for a new lawn mower was posted on the City's website and sent directly to prospective lawn equipment dealers. The City received thirteen (13) bids, twelve (12) of which were responsive to the specifications, which are summarized in the following bid tabulation and provided for Commission review.

After reviewing the submitted bids and equipment specifications, staff recommends that the City purchase the RZ 752I mower from Weldy's. The original quoted price from Weldy's was \$9,635.98. After further discussion with Weldy's regarding the bid and available discounts, an additional discount was applied, reducing the final purchase price to \$8,685.98. This reflects a \$950 reduction from the original quoted price.

While the recommended mower is the second-lowest bid received, staff believes it represents the best overall value for the City. The RZ 752I is a commercial-grade mower equipped with heavy-duty blade spindles, a 10-gauge deck, and recommended 500-hour service intervals versus the lowest priced responsive bid which is not considered commercial grade and has required 100-hour service levels.

For cemetery operations, the City needs a mower that can withstand frequent use, uneven ground, and the demands of maintaining a large public property throughout the mowing season. A more robust mower with less frequent maintenance requirements should reduce downtime, extend the useful life of the equipment, and lower the amount of staff time spent on service and repairs over time. While the initial purchase price is slightly higher than the lowest bid (\$8,685.98 vs. , the improved construction and reduced maintenance frequency make the RZ 752I the better long-term value for the City.

Recommendation

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Based on price, equipment quality, operational needs, and long-term value, staff recommends approval of the purchase from Weldy's in the amount of \$8,685.98.

Recommended Action

Vendor	Equipment	Cost	Notes
Weaver Outdoor	Grasshopper 225V-G4	\$10,622.25	Meets or exceeds bid requirements
Hollywood Small Engine	Exmark Lazer ZE-52	\$10,284	Meets or exceeds bid requirements
Govmark	Toro 4000 Pro Series	\$13,288	Meets or exceeds bid requirements
Villwocks Outdoor Living	Badboy Maverick 54"	\$7,586	Do not have a 52" cut
Hutson John Deere	John deere Z930M ZTrak	\$13169.93	Meets or exceeds bid requirements
Mid County Lawn & Garden	Model 72908	\$13,400	Meets or exceeds bid requirements
Mid County Lawn & Garden	Model 72956	\$13,760	Meets or exceeds bid requirements
Gardners Outdoor Power	Ferris	\$11,999	Meets or exceeds bid requirements

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Gardners Outdoor Power	Exmark Lazer Z Ultra cut Series	\$11,119	Meets or exceeds bid requirements
Gardners Outdoor Power	Exmark Lazer Z Ultra Cut Series	\$9,679	Meets or exceeds bid requirements
Weldy's	RZ 552	\$7,985	Meets or exceeds bid requirements
Weldy's	RZ 752I	\$9,635.98	Meets or exceeds bid requirements
Weldy's	RZ 752K	\$10,135.98	Meets or exceeds bid requirements

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14056 N Red Bud Trail
 Buchanan, Michigan 49107
 weldys.net
 269-695-9009

APPROVED



City of Buchanan - DPW - Mike Baker
 302 Red Bud Trail North
 Buchanan, MI, United States 49107
 269-591-0945

Estimate #	4541
Estimate Date	02-11-26
Total	\$8,685.98

ATTN: BID – Mower RZ 752I

Item	Description	Unit Cost	Quantity	Line Total
RZ 752I	RZ 752 MOWER W/ 52" DECK - VAN 28HP EFI	\$11,499.99	1.0	\$11,499.99
	Specifications HORSEPOWER 28 hp FUEL SYSTEM Electronic fuel injection (EFI) FUEL TANK CAPACITY 11 gal. DISPLACEMENT 810 cc TRANSAXLES Hydro-Gear® ZT-4400 FORWARD GROUND SPEED 10 mph REVERSE GROUND SPEED 5 mph DECK WIDTH 52 in. MOWING HEIGHT RANGE 1.5" - 5" DECK CONSTRUCTION Fabricated from 10-gauge steel with a 10-gauge doubler in the spindle area and 1/2" reinforcement plates on the leading edge CUTTING HEIGHT OPTIONS 13 BLADES 3 - MARBAIN® Hardened FRONT TIRES 13 x 6.5-6 REAR TIRES 24 x 9.5-12 WEIGHT 1,319 lbs. POWER SOURCE Gas ENGINE GOVERNOR Mechanical LUBRICATION SYSTEM Oil Guard™ with 500-Hour Service Interval SPINDLE SHAFT DIAMETER 1 in. SPINDLE BEARINGS 2.5" x 1" Dual Ball Bearing SPINDLE HUBS 7.9" Cast Iron & Greaseable USB AMPERAGE 3.15 A FRONT SUSPENSION TRAVEL 2.68 in. REAR SUSPENSION TRAVEL 2.68 in. Serials:			
RZ 2026 Instant Rebate	RZ 700 Series • Effective February 1– July 31, 2026 • Customers can take advantage of the financing AND the instant rebate. • Rebates can be stacked with BAA & fleet programs.	-\$1,500.00	1.0	-\$1,500.00
RZ 2026 Bid Award Assistance Program	RZ 700 Series	-\$2,100.00	1.0	-\$2,100.00
ASE 900	[RZ 500, 700, & 900] 900 SERIES SUSPENSION SEAT	\$641.99	1.0	\$641.99
Zero Turn Assembly	RZ Dealer Setup (60 minutes)	\$144.00	1.0	\$144.00
	SETUP PROCEDURES: - Uncrate the unit - Install the ground speed control levers - Install the seat			

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- Install the trailer hitch (if requested by the customer)
- Install the roll bar on unit
- Check engine oil level
- Check/Fill transmission oil level
- Check tire pressures
- Check mower blade bolt torq
- Check the deck lift rod timing
- Check and level the mower deck
- Check the mower deck drive belts
- Lubricate all grease and oil points
- Check/Add fuel
- Connect the battery cables
- Start the engine

PERFORM THE SAFETY CHECKS:

- Check for loose hardware
- Check all operator controls
- Perform safety interlock system check

Freight	Shipping	\$0.00	1.0	\$0.00
	Originally \$200.00, less discount of 100%			
	Tax Exempt - Government	0%		\$0.00

THIS IS AN ESTIMATE

Disclaimer

This estimate is not guaranteed. The price named in the estimate is an approximation of the goods or services as described by the customer. The actual cost may change after all of the service elements have been negotiated and finalized. Estimates are valid for day of estimate only due to constant changes in cost of products and cost of service.

Subtotal	\$8,685.98
Tax	\$0.00
Estimate Total	\$8,685.98

Signed: _____

Date: _____