



Date: July 21, 20226

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.

The City's intent was to purchase two mowers in the previous fiscal year but available budget limited the purchase to one mower at the end of the fiscal year with the intent to purchase the second needed mower at the beginning of the new fiscal year. 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. The intent is to use the same bidding for the purchase of both mowers given the short period between the two purchases.

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 the improved construction and reduced maintenance

frequency make the RZ 752I the better long-term value for the City. It will additionally result in more efficient maintenance having the same mowers in terms of parts and labor due to the consistency of the equipment.

Recommendation

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

Memorandum

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	\$13,169.93	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

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