



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

STAFF

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SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 132, 2023, Making a Supplemental Appropriation from the Regional Air Quality Council Mow Down Pollution Grant for Purchase of Zero-Emission Commercial Lawn and Garden Equipment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to support the City's Parks Department in converting lawn and garden gasoline powered equipment to battery-powered equipment by appropriating \$100,000 of unanticipated grant revenue, awarded by the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) through funds provided by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

This item would also authorize the City Manager or their designee to accept the grant award and comply with the terms of the grant application and award.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The primary mission of this grant is for the conversion of gasoline-powered to battery-powered handheld and push equipment. The RAQC has launched the Mow Down Pollution exchange program as part of their efforts to mitigate ground-level ozone and enhance air quality. This initiative offers vouchers to support individuals and organizations who opt to recycle their gas-powered lawn equipment and replace it with rechargeable or corded electric-powered alternatives.

The City of Fort Collins is committed to 100 percent renewable energy and an 80 percent decrease in carbon emissions from a 2005 baseline by 2030. To achieve this, the City adopted a Municipal Sustainability and Adaptation Plan (MSAP) in 2019 aligning with City values, the City's Strategic Plan and Air Quality Plan, that outlines goals, objectives and strategies for the municipality's sustainability and resilience utilizing a triple bottom line approach. Goal 5 within the MSAP, "We Are Carbon Neutral," includes Objective 5.1.3 to replace City-owned fossil fuel powered, small-engine equipment with non-combustion engine alternatives, i.e., battery- or human-powered.

The award is based on total costs of \$135,000, with the RAQC providing \$100,000 in funds from the CDPHE and the remaining \$35,000 being provided by Parks as a grant match. As presented in the

Purchase Order (provided as Attachment 2), total project costs (\$135,000) funds replacement of gas-powered mowers, trimmers, edgers, blowers and other lawn and garden equipment that support maintenance of properties part of the City's Parks, Forestry, Golf, Cemeteries and Parks Planning and Development departments.

The required match of \$35,000 will be provided from City American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) non-lapsing funds allocated to Parks per 2023 Budget Offer 83.1 for the purpose of replacing gas-powered lawn and garden equipment in support of having a 100 percent electric equipment fleet.

The grant award does not require execution of a post-award agreement. In this type of grant, the City would need to comply with the terms of the grant application and award upon accepting the grant and drawing the grant funds, the terms of which are provided as Attachment 3. Staff recommends that Council authorize the City Manager or their designee to accept the grant and comply with the terms of the grant application and award.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

This item appropriates \$100,000 in costs for replacement of lawn and garden equipment from unanticipated grant revenue from the RAQC.

Additionally, required matching funds in the amount of \$35,000 have already been appropriated in the 2023 General Fund per Budget Offer 83.1 for replacement of gas-powered equipment with battery-powered equipment. The total project cost is \$135,000.

This grant from the RAQC, with funds from the CDPHE, is a reimbursement type grant, meaning General Fund expenses will be reimbursed up to \$100,000.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance for Consideration
2. Purchase Order No. 1466 from RAQC
3. Grant Aware Terms and Conditions