

# VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



**BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**DATE OF MEETING: April 23, 2024**

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**To:** Village President and Board of Trustees

**Through:** Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

**From:** John Schaefer, Director of Public Works

**Topic:** Retrofit one (1) 2023 Ford F-550 Chassis to Landscape Maintenance Chipper Truck

**PURPOSE:**

The Public Works chipper truck is essentially a chassis (cab/engine) and a closed dump container that has been engineered specifically for the job of hauling tree chipping material (wood chips). The current vehicle/equipment was purchased in 2009 and has spent thousands of hours in operation due to Homewood's robust tree program over the years. Periodically, the Village of Homewood must replace vehicles that have reached their end of use. The landscape maintenance chipper truck has been identified as needing to be replaced during the current Fiscal Year 2023-24.

**PROCESS:**

The first step in the replacement process was locating the chassis. After an extensive search, staff found an available 2023 Ford F-550 chassis from Lindsay Ford of Wheaton, MD. The Village Board approved this purchase during the March 26, 2024 meeting.

Public Works has since contacted vendors in the forestry equipment market to locate a dump container that could be mounted to the chassis and complete the build of the chipper truck. Staff reached out to Southco Industries, Inc., of Shelby, NC; Altec, Inc., of Indianapolis, IN; and Arbortech, of Wooster, OH. Specifications are required to be met for this build. The chipper box needs to be an 11-yard dump box with a solid top and include lockable "L" shaped storage boxes, safety strobes, a backup alarm and camera, a traffic cone holder, and a Thieman Model TT16ET lift gate. The proposals returned to Public Works are listed below:

- Southco Industries, Inc. (Shelby, NC) – \$32,350.
- Altec, Inc. (Birmingham, AL) – "No Bid" due to current demand/backlog
- Arbortech (Wooster, OH) – \$32,060.

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## **OUTCOME:**

Staff recommends proceeding quickly to secure this chipper box due to current lead times (from order/purchase to delivery) of up to 14 to 20 weeks. This purchase requires waiving competitive bidding due to the current high demand and limited availability of this specific forestry equipment.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- **Funding Source:** 2020 General Obligation Bond Funds
- **Budgeted Amount:** \$32,300.
- **Cost:** \$32,060.

## **LEGAL REVIEW:**

Not Required

## **RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:**

Waive competitive bidding due to high demand and limited availability of forestry equipment; and, authorize the purchase of a customized 11-yard Chipper Box from Arbortech of Wooster, Ohio in the amount of \$32,060.

## **ATTACHMENT(S):**

- Specifications from Arbortech
- Picture of equipment
- Email Proposals from contacted vendors