

# VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



**BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

**DATE OF MEETING: March 26, 2024**

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

**Through:** Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

**From:** Joshua Burman, Assistant Director of Public Works

**Topic:** Purchase of Ford F-550 Super Duty Crew Chassis

**PURPOSE:**

Public Works' chipper truck is essentially a chassis (cab/engine) and a closed dump container that has been engineered specifically for the job of chipping tree material into smaller pieces (wood chips). The truck-body's container has an opening in the top of the rear wall that the wood chipper's chute can be aimed to fill the dump body. This specific 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:**

Public Works will typically purchase vehicles from state and joint purchasing cooperatives. Cooperative Purchasing allows government entities to leverage the benefit of procuring necessary goods and services by aggregating volume purchases, securing best pricing, and reducing administrative time and expenses.

As forestry equipment sales are skyrocketing, with tree trimming and tree removal work increasing, chipper trucks have become hard to procure in the North American market (*the largest forestry equipment market, accounting for one-third of global demand*). Currently, there are no State Cooperative purchasing options available for this vehicle.

Staff reviewed the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative Program in May of 2023 and was notified that production of the vehicle (Ford F-550 Super Duty Crew Chassis) was suspended due to the lack of parts and component availability and that no orders were being accepted. Staff began the lengthy and arduous process of identifying a potential vehicle replacement through local-area dealerships with no success.

*Vehicle Located*

In June 2023, D'Orazio Ford of Wilimington, IL confirmed they had a vehicle chassis that met our specifications. The chassis included specific specifications that would be required to complete a build of a chipper truck. In early October, Public Works was notified that the vehicle build was delayed due to a "component hold." D'Orazio Ford also confirmed that there were no penalties

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for cancellation and that the Village has no obligation to take delivery. Staff began searching again for a vehicle that met our specifications.

Two weeks ago, after an extensive search, staff located a 2023 Ford F-550 Super Duty Crew Chassis from Lindsay Ford of Wheaton, Maryland for \$63,215. The dealership has agreed to hold the vehicle for the Village until proper approvals and purchase authorizations are obtained.

## **OUTCOME:**

Staff recommends proceeding quickly to secure this vehicle, which requires the waiving of competitive bidding due to the current high demand and limited availability of the vehicle. Once the vehicle chassis is acquired and delivered, Public Works will return to the Board for additional authorization to complete the build of the vehicle (outfitting) - which will include the purchase and installation of a chipper box, hydraulic and electronics.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- **Funding Source:** 2020 remaining General Obligation Bond Funds
- **Budgeted Amount:** \$90,000
- **Cost:** \$63,215

## **LEGAL REVIEW:**

Not Required

## **RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:**

Waive competitive bidding due to high demand and limited availability of vehicles; and, authorize the purchase and delivery of a 2023 Ford F-550 Super Duty Crew Chassis from Lindsay Ford of Wheaton, Maryland in the amount of \$63,215.

## **ATTACHMENT(S):**

- Specifications from Lindsay Ford
- Email from D’Orazio Ford