

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 26, 2026
TO: Melissa R. Marsh, City Manager
FROM: Sean P. Ballantine, Director of Public Services
SUBJECT: Scheduled Replacement of Chipper #406

The fiscal year 2026/27 budget includes accumulated funding for the scheduled replacement of brush chipper #406, a 2006 Bandit, funded through the Solid Waste division. At 20 years of service, this machine has a “poor” condition analysis score of 45, warranting priority replacement. This is one of two brush chippers the City maintains for general forestry work, our residential brush chipping program, and most importantly, emergency storm response.

Staff is familiar with, and has demonstrated machines from Bandit and Morbark, and most recently, demonstrated a Vermeer unit. Although this brand is unfamiliar to us; we have historically purchased between Bandit and Morbark, the equivalent machine provided by Vermeer proved extremely satisfactory in both its operation by the field staff, and its quality of build and serviceability by our mechanics. The sales representative from Vermeer was highly responsive, and we feel confident that they will prove the level of service we both expect and require.

The Vermeer unit is available through the Sourcewell purchasing cooperative, and has the most competitive price point of comparable units from the three vendors. Staff feels that the this purchase is in the best interest of the City, and this chipper will well serve the needs of the Department of Public Services.

Based on these facts, Staff requests that Council approve the purchase of one Vermeer BC1800XL brush chipper in the amount of \$102,853 as quoted from Vermeer Midwest, of Fowlerville, through the Sourcewell purchasing cooperative.

City of Madison Heights
Department of Public Services
801 Ajax Drive
Madison Heights, Michigan 48071