



CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 7, 2025

SUBJECT: Approval to purchase an automated GPS athletic field painter from Tiny Mobile Robots in the amount of \$49,005 and amend the budget.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Integrated Solutions – Parks & Municipal Grounds Maintenance (P&MGM)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Purchasing an automated GPS athletic field painter for use on athletic fields.
- Environmentally friendly, battery-powered, and GPS-guided unit.
- Staff will monitor the field painter while performing other duties within the park.
- Purchase reimbursed through an equipment rebate voucher provided by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

General Fund	FY 24/25	Total
EXPENDITURE REQUIRED	\$ 49,005	\$ 49,005
BUDGET		
1. EECBG CEMS State Revenue 101-000.00-540.100	\$49,005	\$ 49,005
2. Robotic Field Painter (Expense) 101-265.10-982.091	\$49,005	\$ 49,005
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ 0	\$ 0
FUND BALANCE IMPACT	\$ 0	\$ 0
Six years of cellular GPS service is included in the price.		

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Novi parks system currently features 30 soccer fields, 3 flag football fields, 2 lacrosse fields, and 18 baseball/softball fields. These fields require lining and painting one to two times per week during the athletic season. Each soccer field requires three staff members to measure, set up, and paint it accurately. This process takes approximately two hours using current methods with a manual gas-powered field painter.

Technology has evolved, and automated machines can precisely measure and paint any athletic field layout utilizing GPS guidance and pre-loaded templates in 25 minutes. Additionally, the unit is battery-powered and utilizes modern spraying techniques to minimize paint consumption. Paint usage savings are estimated to be 40% - 60% less per field.

The P&MGM team has been researching this technology for four years. A component of this research was a mandatory onsite demo of the manufacturer's GPS field painter. Only two vendors met this final criterion—each conducting demonstrations on our fields with our P&MGM team present. Our team recommended the GPS field painter from Tiny Mobile Robots. Additionally, this GPS field painter is used by several universities, including the University of Michigan.

This request is to purchase one robotic GPS field painter, which would enable staff to attend to other park needs. An additional benefit is that this painter is fully electric and rechargeable, which lowers fuel costs and adds to our growing sustainable fleet. This unit has a one-year warranty and six years of online technical support. Funds from this purchase will be reimbursed via equipment rebates and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval to purchase an automated GPS athletic field painter from Tiny Mobile Robots in the amount of \$49,005, and amend the budget