

To: Public Works Commission

From: Tim Hayden

Date: April 22, 2026

Subject: Purchase of Multi-Purpose Tractor (Lawn Mower)

Background

The Water/Wastewater utility currently utilizes a diesel-powered Kubota with implements for routine operations. This unit has experienced ongoing mechanical issues, specifically related to the diesel particulate filter (DPF) and regeneration (regen) system. These issues have negatively affected reliability and increased maintenance time and costs.

Due to the persistent mechanical concerns with the Kubota, the staff evaluated replacement options. A used John Deere 1575 mower has been identified through Dane County and is expected to become available in May. The John Deere 1575 is a gasoline-powered unit, which eliminates the DPF and regeneration system issues experienced with the current Kubota. Additionally, the Utility currently operates a similar John Deere 1575 that has proven to be reliable and effective in daily operations. Standardizing equipment in this manner improves operational efficiency, simplifies maintenance, and reduces parts inventory needs.

The Dane County unit is equipped with a cab, heat, air conditioning, four-wheel drive, and a 72-inch mowing deck, with approximately 700–800 hours of use.

To validate pricing, two quotes were obtained from Mid-State Equipment for comparable units. These quotes indicate purchase prices in the range of approximately \$28,000 to \$29,000, with trade-in allowances for the Kubota and implements between \$14,200 and \$15,800. This results in an estimated net cost between \$12,200 and \$14,800.

Given the ongoing DPF and regeneration-related issues with the Kubota, continued ownership presents a risk of escalating emissions-system repair costs in addition to general maintenance expenses. When combined with the proven reliability of the gasoline-powered John Deere units, replacement at this time is considered the most cost-effective and operationally efficient option.

Financial Impact

The utility has significant funds available in the equipment replacement fund to cover the cost of this purchase.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval to trade in the existing Kubota tractor and associated implements and proceed with the purchase of the used John Deere 1575 from Mid-State Equipment upon availability, not to exceed a total cost of \$15,000.