

MEMO

TO: Finance Committee
FROM: Kristine Butteris, Director of Parks, Recreation, & Forestry
DATE: March 7, 2024
RE: ARPA Requests

Committee Members,

We are looking for assistance to purchase a few items that are unforeseen expenses for this year. Below is a list (in order of need) for your consideration.

- 6 new radios (we only have 7 working radios and have 11 parks staff) - \$13,000 (approx.. \$2,100/radio)
 - We have over 330 acres of green space and over 30 parks that are maintained by Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Staff where communication is a crucial part of our daily tasks. Radios allow communication between crew members, supervisors, and department heads to be quicker and more efficient than phone calls or text messages. Radios are used for needed assistance with projects, supplies or equipment needs, equipment breakdowns, forestry assistance, and event setup/take down. Our current radios were purchased in 2014 and within the last year three have stopped working.
- snowmobile (we currently don't have one to groom trails) - \$15,000
 - Our beloved 1997 snowmobile took its last ride in January after our one snowfall. Due to this, we are not able to groom our trails in the winter months. Groomed trails enhance the outdoor recreational experience by providing opportunities for activities such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, wildlife viewing and fat tire biking. Groomed trails also help minimize environmental damage by reducing the need for users to create their own paths or disrupt sensitive habitats. Grooming trails with a snowmobile helps to create a smooth, even surface, reducing the risk of accident, injury and damage to equipment for skiers, snowshoers, and hikers.
- Hydro seeder for landscaping - \$5,500
 - Hydroseeding is commonly used in landscaping projects, including lawns, parks, athletic fields, roadside beautification, and urban green spaces to establish lush, healthy vegetation quickly and cost effectively. It can help suppress the growth of weeds and invasive species by establishing dense vegetation cover that outcompetes undesirable plants for sunlight, water and nutrients, reducing the need for herbicides and manual weed control. Hydroseeding reduces water usage compared to traditional seeding methods by encapsulating seeds and mulch in a moisture-retentive slurry that minimizes evaporation and runoff, increasing seed germination rates and overall water efficiency. We have a few bigger projects this year and in the coming years where this

piece of equipment would be highly beneficial and cost effective to the city as well as during our stump removal season and plow damage repairs.