


## MEMORANDUM

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December 21, 2012

**TO:** Board of Mayor and Aldermen

**FROM:** Eric S. Stuckey, City Administrator   
Russell Truell, Assistant City Administrator / CFO  
Lisa Clayton, Parks Director  
Brian Wilcox, Purchasing Manager

**SUBJECT:** Consider recommendation to purchase from Vermeer Heartland of Tennessee, LLC of Murfreesboro, TN in the total amount of \$67,192.00 one (1) new 19" capacity drum style trailer-mounted brush chipper for the Parks Department

### Purpose

The purpose of this procurement is to purchase one (1) new 19" capacity drum style trailer-mounted brush chipper for the Urban Forestry Division of the Parks Department. This equipment would replace the department's model 1250 Vermeer brush chipper which is approximately 20 years old, no longer in working condition and beyond repair, and would be used by Parks Department landscaping and tree crews under the direction of the City Arborist to perform tree work within City parks and elsewhere within the city, performing work orders for various departments and customer service requests.

### Background

The Parks Department currently has in its inventory of one (1) model year 1992 brush chipper. This equipment is used by landscaping and tree crews to mulch small caliper brush and limbs onsite as work is being conducted in a City park or in public right-of-way but has served its useful life. The unit being proposed for purchase is a new Vermeer model 1800XL drum style trailer-mounted brush chipper. The Parks Department will be able to tow the chipper behind the existing Forestry truck from one job site to the next while leaving the work area free of any debris.

The Department originally considered the purchase of a used brush chipper instead of a new one. However, because of the risk inherent to purchasing a used machine, as well as the absence of a warranty for and the capacity of the used machine that is locally available for purchase, staff then explored the possibility of the City purchasing a new machine.

### Financial Impact

Pricing for the unit being proposed for purchase has been established by means of a nation-wide cooperative purchasing arrangement to which local governments have access. Including accessories and delivery, the total quoted price is \$67,192.00.

The Parks Department budget for fiscal year 2013 does not allocate funding to replace the model year 1992 brush chipper referenced above. Due to the unexpected need for repairs, the Parks Department is requesting authorization to make this purchase at this time. Staff is evaluating options available to the City to finance the purchase of the new unit being proposed for purchase, either by means of the City's current master lease arrangement with U.S. Bank or by paying the purchase price out of the current budget in which case a budget amendment may need to be considered by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.



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### **Options**

Staff has identified the following options available:

- Purchase the new unit being proposed, acknowledging that the purchase is not a budgeted item.
- Purchase a used brush chipper.
- Wait to purchase a brush chipper until fiscal year 2014 and rent equipment during the interim.

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the City accept the quote from Vermeer Heartland of Tennessee, LLC in the total amount of \$67,192.00 for the new brush chipper described above.