

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

**02-280**

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

**AGENDA:**

JUNE 3, 2002

**SYNOPSIS -**

Recommend approving the purchase of the John Deere 2653 and 2500 mowers from Great American Outdoor, and the Toro 3100 mower from Tri-State West.

**SUBJECT:**

PURCHASE OF  
MOWERS FOR GOLF  
COURSES

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

Replacement - Budgeted equipment each of which has a "with trade-in" unit.

**TYPE:**

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**RESOLUTION**  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE

**Approve.**

**BACKGROUND -**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

DONALD M. TRIPP  
PARK AND  
RECREATION  
DIRECTOR

The John Deere 2653 is a 72" Triplex Reel mower for use at Waveland Golf Course. The trade-in unit is #1757, a Toro 216 mower. The John Deere 2653 is the low bid unit.

The John Deere 2500 is a Triplex Riding Greensmower for use at Waveland Golf Course. The trade in unit is #1752, a Toro 3100 mower. The specifications call for a liquid-cooled mower. The low bid unit, a Jacobsen G-Plex does not meet specifications. It has an air-cooled as opposed to a liquid-cooled engine. The warranty on the low bid machine is one year as opposed to two years on the John Deere 2500. It is estimated that the value of the longer warranty is at least \$1,000. Because of the hilly topography at Waveland, the liquid-cooled engine runs cooler than air-cooled units resulting in decreased maintenance costs over the life of the unit.

The Toro 3100 is an air-cooled, Triplex Riding Greensmower for use at Blank Golf Course. The trade-in unit is #1747. The lower bid units, the Jacobsen G-Plex and John Deere 2500 do not meet specifications.

More specifically, neither has a central point reel adjustment. The single point of adjustment saves time. Greensmowers are adjusted 5 times per week. With a central point of adjustment, the time saved is 9 minutes; i.e., 45 minutes per week, 3 hours per month, 24 hours per season. Given the anticipated life expectancy of six seasons of use, the purchase of the Toro 3100 will save 144 hours. At an average salary of \$10/hour, the saving conservatively amounts to \$1,440. As previously stated, the value of the two-year versus one-year warranty is at least \$1,000. The difference in topography between Blank and Waveland make the air-cooled engine a more efficient choice with lower ongoing maintenance costs than the liquid-cooled unit. All factors considered, the Toro 3100Triplex Greensmower is the most cost-effective and efficient unit to purchase for use at Blank Golf Course.

---