



Agenda Item:

60C

## **COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

### **City Manager's Office**

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Agenda Date: March 8, 2004  
No.: 04-107  
Agenda Item Type: Resolution  
No.:

Communication

Roll Call

Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp, Park and Recreation Director

#### **SUBJECT—**

Purchase of Rotary Mowers

#### **SYNOPSIS—**

Approve the purchase of two outfront rotary mowers with 60" decks and two outfront rotary mowers with 72" decks from Great American Outdoor (Don VanHouweling, Owner, 710 East Army Post Road, Des Moines, IA 50315) for \$99,500.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT—**

The cost for four mowers is \$99,500. Each of the four mowers has a trade-in. Organization Code: PWK010407; Fund Code: IS201; Account Code: 544100.

#### **RECOMMENDATION—**

Approval

#### **BACKGROUND—**

The City of Des Moines' Purchasing Division issued Bid No. V04-76 to purchase four rotary mowers, to be used in parks and on levees. Bids were mailed to ten potential bidders with six

bids received. Although it was not the low bid, purchase of the equipment from Great American Outdoor is recommended for the following reasons:

- **Cutting Height:** The specifications called for the equipment to cut to heights up to 6". The equipment bid by both Capital City Equipment and Tri-State Companies has a maximum mowing height of 4". The mowers are used to maintain a variety of terrain which require varied mowing heights. For instance, many sections of the levee system are mowed at a height of 6", the 4" maximum is unacceptable because the integrity of the vegetation on many sections of levee is compromised at the lower mowing height.
- **Alternator:** The specifications called for a 55-amp alternator. The alternator of the equipment bid by Tri-State Companies is only 40-amps. The cranking power provided by the 55-amp alternator is significant particularly during the winter months when the equipment is used for snow removal.

Among the companies submitting bids that met the specifications, the Great American Outdoor bid is the lowest. The bids from Baker Implement, Inc., Sun Turf, Inc., and Extreme Equipment, Inc. are all higher.

It is worth noting that the mowing equipment bid by both Sun Turf, Inc., a Jacobsen 628D Turfcat, and Extreme Equipment, Inc., a AEBI Terracut TC07, meet the specifications for both alternator size and mowing height. Barker Implement, Inc. bid the same piece of John Deere equipment, a John Deere 1445, at a higher price.