



MEETING OF JANUARY 31, 2023

TO: Mayor Jordan and City Council

THRU: Susan Norton, Chief of Staff
Chris Brown, Public Works Director
Terry Gulley, Asst Public Works Director - Ops

FROM: Byron Humphry, Parks Maintenance Superintendent

DATE: January 13, 2023

SUBJECT: **A Resolution to waive the requirements of formal competitive bidding and authorize the purchase of a Turf Tank robotic line painter in the amount of \$49,936.25.**

RECOMMENDATION:

A Resolution to waive the requirements of formal competitive bidding and authorize the purchase of a Turf Tank robotic line painter in the amount of \$49,936.25.

BACKGROUND:

Parks maintenance staff lays out and paints 32 soccer fields for Spring league play. Once these fields are laid out and painted the initial time, they require weekly repainting to keep the lines visible throughout the season. For the Fall season, the same process is repeated.

With a manual line painter, laying out the fields requires a minimum of 2 people (easier with 3) to pull the measuring tapes to achieve the correct field dimensions. Once the dimensions are marked, 2 people are required to pull string lines to be used as guides to paint straight lines. This is a laborious and time-consuming process that requires great attention to detail.

The Turf Tank robotic line painter is an automated line painter that uses GPS to layout and paint the field in one pass. Field layout dimensions are preloaded into an I-pad and can be manually adjusted electronically.

The Turf Tank is then given a starting point on the field and will paint the programmed layout quickly and efficiently, with precision accuracy that cannot be rivaled with manual methods. One person can operate the robot, which makes more efficient use of staff time. The robot also paints at a steady rate that utilizes a more consistent amount of paint as opposed to manual methods.

DISCUSSION:

Staff purchased a Turf Tank in January 2020 thru the NIPA/OMNIA Cooperative Purchasing Contract. This painter has performed excellent, painting perfectly straight lines and requiring just one staff to operate. After three years of intensive use, a few service issues are beginning to occur. In order to not have downtime when the painter is needed during season, a second Turf Tank is needed which can serve as the primary painter.

The two Turf Tanks can also share the same controller and field layout software and can be used in tandem to speed the painting process.

Mailing address:

113 W. Mountain Street
Fayetteville, AR 72701

www.fayetteville-ar.gov

The Turf Tank is no longer available for purchase on a Cooperative Purchasing program and is only available directly from the manufacturer/supplier. The new Turf Tank line painter will be compatible with all existing equipment, software and GPS base system that we currently own. All parts are interchangeable which will assist in maintenance and repair, and it will not be necessary to train staff on a new product. The only other known robotic line painter in the world, uses a completely different GPS/satellite configuration requiring a monthly service and is not compatible with existing equipment, making it an impractical option. Therefore, a bid waiver is requested.

BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:

The price of the new Turf Tank is \$49,936.25. This price is the 2022 price and is locked in with an expiration date of February 8, 2023, to allow for City Council approval. If not approved, the price will increase after this date. This item was budgeted from operating funds in the 2023 Park Maintenance budget.

ATTACHMENTS: SRF Turf Tank, Turf Tank Quote

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