



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Laurel Lunt Prussing and Members of the City Council
FROM: William R. Gray, Public Works Director
Bruce Cubberley, Arbor Manager
Mike Brunk, City Arborist
DATE: October 10, 2013
RE: Budget Amendment for Purchase of Large Log Splitter Attachment

Brief Description of Item

The attached budget amendment ordinance authorizes the expenditure of \$16,500.00 for purchasing a large log splitter attachment for the Landscape Recycling Center's JD 544K end loader in this current fiscal year. The resources for this expenditure are 100% Landscape Recycling Center (LRC) funds and do not include City tax dollars. LRC has saved sufficient funds to make the purchase this fiscal year and set aside 10% of the log splitter attachment's total cost each year for its replacement in ten years.

The large log splitter attachment will allow the Landscape Recycling Center to reduce large wood as it comes into the site so it can be processed by LRC's tub grinder into screened wood mulches that meet Illinois Department of Agriculture Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) compliance agreement standards. Presently, large wood is left to sit and soften or rot over a several year period before processing. Continuing this practice would allow EAB to proliferate on site and spread into the community.

Background Information

The Emerald Ash Borer was discovered in 2002 in Michigan and has killed millions of ash trees since. EAB was discovered in Rantoul in 2010 and in Champaign in 2012. The City of Champaign and the Village of Savoy are starting an ash tree reduction program this year. LRC is expecting residual logs of 100-125 trees from these two programs. This additional wood will quickly overflow LRC's bulk wood area limiting access to the wood and creating safety issues for staff and customers. Large amounts of potentially infested ash wood will begin to be brought into the LRC during the non-flight season of EAB. Ideally, this infested wood should be processed between September 1 and April 30 to kill the borer before it leaves the wood in the form of a winged beetle. To process larger bulk wood (12" diameter logs and larger) without allowing time for it to decay requires a larger tub grinder than LRC's current tub or a tool that can reduce bulk wood logs to a size the current tub can process.

LRC has contracted larger tub grinders to grind bulk wood several times over the last 10-15 years at a cost of around \$13-\$20,000 per contract. The option to purchase a larger tub grinder was studied and found not to be a viable option before its scheduled replacement (FY 17). The most practical and least costly option studied to process larger bulk wood was to purchase a large splitter attachment for the end

loader unit at a cost of \$16,500. This attachment allows site personnel to split the large bulk wood into sizes that our present tub grinder is incapable of processing. The splitter is operated from within the enclosed protected cab of the end loader making it safer than standard hand loaded log splitters. A Multitek Super Ax attachment was trialed on site for one week with positive feedback from site personnel. Compatibility of the attachment and the designated John Deere end loader was verified with the City's fleet manager and John Deere dealer.

Fiscal Impact

LRC has been preparing for this purchase for several years. Savings from lengthened equipment life and increased revenue provided the funds to fully absorb the Super Ax into its Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Fund (VERF) this fiscal year.

The fiscal impact of this purchase will be a decrease of \$16,500 in LRC's VERF balance and have no impact on replacement of existing equipment. VERF contributions of an additional \$1,650 per year will also have little impact on meeting future expenditure needs.

In addition, EAB bulk wood will increase LRC revenue annually and assist in keeping general disposal fees static.

Community Impact

LRC has provided the community with a popular recycling service over the last 22 years with no tax dollar support. LRC has successfully closed the recycling loop on brush and now provides free wood chip disposal to local arborists, which in turn translates into cheaper arboricultural fees for the community. LRC is close to closing the recycling loop on compost as well. LRC provides free services to the community such as free Christmas tree disposal, free wood mulch to schools and not for profit community organizations. Now, with EAB in our county, LRC has an opportunity to slow its spread and better protect community ash trees through expedient processing of infested wood.

Recommendation

Approval of the attached ordinance.

ORDINANCE 2013-10-096

**AN ORDINANCE REVISING THE ANNUAL BUDGET ORDINANCE
(Purchase of Large Log Splitter Attachment)**

WHEREAS, the Annual Budget Ordinance of and for the City of Urbana, Champaign County, Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2014, (the "Annual Budget Ordinance") has been duly adopted according to sections 8-2-9.1 et seq. of the Illinois Municipal Code (the "Municipal Code") and Division 2, entitled "Budget", of Article VI, entitled "Finances and Purchases", of Chapter 2, entitled "Administration", of the Code of Ordinances, City of Urbana, Illinois (the "City Code"); and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the said City of Urbana finds it necessary to revise said Annual Budget Ordinance by deleting, adding to, changing or creating sub-classes within object classes and object classes themselves; and

WHEREAS, funds are available to effectuate the purpose of such revision; and

WHEREAS, such revision is not one that may be made by the Budget Director under the authority so delegated to the Budget Director pursuant to section 8-2-9.6 of the Municipal Code and section 2-133 of the City Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. That the Annual Budget be and the same is hereby revised to provide as follows:

FUND:	Landscape Recycling Center Vehicle and Equipment Replacement
ADD EXPENSE:	Purchase of Large Log Splitter \$16,500 Attachment
FROM:	Fund Balance \$16,500

Section 2. This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval and shall not be published.

Section 3. This Ordinance is hereby passed by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the corporate authorities then holding office, the "ayes" and "nays" being called at a regular meeting of said Council.

PASSED by the City Council this _____ day of _____, 2013.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINED:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____, 2013.

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor

Log Splitter Attachment (shown as an attachment on a track skidsteer loader)

