



Budget Request

MEMO DATE: September 30, 2021

TO: Public Works & Properties Committee

FROM: JJ Larson, Director of Public Works/Deputy Administrator

RE: Contracting Brush Collection

Overview (*Applicable Village Board priorities in parentheses*)

Our Public Works & Utilities staff is, by every measure, the leanest and most efficient of all comparable communities. As the Village continues to grow, continuing to provide the same level of service our residents have come to expect is going to require leveraging other options beyond staff additions.

Brush collection has been offered to Village residents for years and is a service they have come to expect. We offer collection of brush once per month from April – November and we also pick up trees after the Christmas holiday. This is the most time consuming and inefficient service our Department provides, and I have been looking at options for years. I have reached out to other municipalities and found that many have had great success in utilizing private contractors for this service (in particular Monona and McFarland). Additionally, in speaking with our representative Senior Loss Control Consultant from United Heartland, brush collection comes up as a consistent topic as an easy way the Village could remove risk. The only reported injuries in our Department – dating back before I began in 2015 – are all the result of brush collection (from stings and sprains to one requiring major knee surgery). As you can see in the accompanying breakdown it makes good financial sense to contract this work so our staff can focus on more pressing maintenance and important projects and allow a company, with the economy of scale, to handle this service more efficiently. (Fiscal Responsibility, Strategic Planning, Staffing Additions)

Financial Impact/Funding Source Requested

I am proposing an additional \$45,000 in the General Fund to handle brush collection.

Department Head Recommendation

As you can see in the accompanying breakdown, this is an obvious win for the taxpayer. While our staff has continued to do an exceptional job in providing all that's expected of them, at some point the unseen maintenance that gets pushed off will become more serious concerns; privatizing this time-consuming and dangerous collection would free up our staff to address more important work for the long-term health of the Village. I recommend approval of this request and entering into a contract with a private company to provide brush collection to Village residents.



Brush is collected every month April - November and twice for Xmas Trees

DESC.	HOURLY RATE
PW Tech	\$ 35.92
Foreman	\$ 44.28
Chipper	\$ 31.16
1-ton Truck	\$ 14.40
Loader w/grapple	\$ 58.12
Skid steer w/attach	\$ 41.98
Dump truck	\$ 53.44

TYPICAL BRUSH COLLECTION	
2 PW Tech (80 hrs)	\$ 2,873.60
Foreman (20hrs)	\$ 885.60
Chipper & 1-ton (20hrs)	\$ 911.20
Loader (10 - 15hrs)	\$ 581.20
Dump truck (15 - 20hrs)	\$ 801.60
Skid steer (5 - 10hrs)	\$ 209.90

\$ 6,263.10	PER COLLECTION WEEK
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\$ 50,104.80	8 COLLECTIONS PER YEAR IN STAFF & EQUIPMENT
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This does not include costs for Xmas tree pickup, or any storm damage special pickups