



City of Rochelle
Streets & Cemetery Division

Memo

To: David Plyman, City Manager
From: Tim Isley, Supt. Streets & Cemetery
Date: August 20, 2013
Re: 2013 Brush Chipper

The proposed City of Rochelle fiscal year 2013-2014 budget includes funds to purchase a new 2013 brush chipper. This new chipper will replace a 1996 Vermeer BC 1800 Turbo brush chipper with 2330 hours on it.

The Street Department has demonstrated three different brush chippers over the past four months and has concluded that the Vermeer BC 1500 is the best option for the City of Rochelle. It has exceptional safety features including a bottom feed stop bar and an upper feed control bar with dual stop positions. This machine has a smart feed system which automatically stops and/or reverses the feed rollers to enhance production. It also senses feed roller jams and manipulates the material automatically to reduce the need for the manual control bar. This model also offers EcoIdle which automatically idles down the machine to conserve fuel and time as you drive from brush pile to brush pile.

The quote from National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) through Vermeer Midwest (Aurora, Illinois) came in at a total of \$45,970 for a 2013 Vermeer BC 1500 brush chipper. Vermeer Midwest will give an \$11,500 trade in allowance for our 1996 Vermeer BC 1800 Turbo, resulting in a net purchase price of \$34,470

The budgeted amount for 1- new brush chipper is \$29,500 for a difference \$4,970. The additional cost comes from an optional winch system of \$3,497 that would be used for dragging material to the chipper. This option would be useful as we occasionally have to pull trees and large branches from the creek as well as our routine tree removal operation. This option would also reduce the risk for back and other related injuries. The remaining cost difference of \$1,473 is from a new model year and increasing costs of new engine emission control standards, from when this was first priced in January.

My recommendation is to hold off on the purchase of 1- new wheel loader in the amount of \$66,000 to help offset the additional cost of the Brush Chipper and accept the NJPA price quote and approve the purchase of 1- new Vermeer BC 1500 in the amount of \$34,470.