

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Joel Taylor, Director  
Division of Finance  
c/o Nappy Hetzler

FROM: Wayne A. Roberts, Executive Director  
Recreation and Parks Department

DATE: October 28, 2005

SUBJ: Request for Purchase of Jacobsen HR-9016 Wide Area Mowers

Recreation and Parks Department recommends the purchase of four (4) Jacobsen HR-9016 Wide Area Mowers based on the results of the performance testing and evaluation of wide area mowers. Recreation & Parks will be purchasing this equipment utilizing the State of Ohio contract STS-776515P that expires 9/30/2006. The STS requests the purchase order be written to Jacobsen's manufacturers representative Earle Kinlaw Associates, Inc. with the delivery and warranty service by distributor Baker Vehicle Systems. Unit purchase price with options will be \$68,924.00 each. The total purchase price for four (4) units will be \$275,696.00.

Background for Performance Testing: On October 12, 2005 the Recreation & Parks Department conducted a performance evaluation of this equipment. Prior to the evaluation a team was formed consisting of five Parks Maintenance operators and Jon Cope of the Fleet Maintenance Division. The team identified 11 categories of operation and eight service points where each machine would be scored. Five vendors were invited to participate in the evaluation. Two of the five companies participated by furnishing a machine of the general size and capacity that met our requirements. Using a standard evaluation sheet, each operator and the mechanic rated each of the machines during the evaluation. The scores were totaled for each machine. The Jacobsen HR-9016 mower scored the highest total points. We have determined through this process that the Jacobsen HR-9016 mower will best meet the operational needs of the Department. Please refer to the attached evaluation matrix for each unit's score.

Attached are copies of the State of Ohio STS contract, quotation from Baker Vehicle Systems with the STS pricing and supporting documentation of the performance evaluation.

Earle Kinlaw Associates, Inc. 58-1328598 has active Contract Compliance to 10/21/2006.  
Baker Vehicle Systems 34-0690924 has active Contract Compliance to 4/05/2008.

Legislation for this purchase will be prepared by the Recreation & Parks Department.

Funding Source: Cap Fund 702 – Rec. & Parks Equipment, Project 510040 OCA 510040; ObjLv3. 6651 contingent upon 2005 bond sale proceeds.

If further information is needed, please call Jack Zimmerman 645-3315 or Michael Gimeson at 645-6653.

## SELF PROPELLED WIDE AREA ROTARY MOWERS PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

On October 12, 2005 at The Creeks/Sycamore Fields Area the Recreation & Parks Department conducted a performance evaluation of self-propelled wide rotary mowing equipment. The site included approximately 20 acres of several different height grass and numerous trees to mow around. Included was an opportunity to drive the mowers on the nearby streets as is part of the normal transport operation of this size mower between parks.

Prior to the evaluation a team was formed consisting of five operators from the Park Maintenance Section and one mechanic from Fleet Maintenance that included:

John Fetters, Park Maintenance Supervisor  
Larry Harper, Park Maintenance Supervisor  
Jack Mounts, Park Maintenance Supervisor  
Mike Plageman, Park Maintenance Worker  
David Stearns, Park Maintenance Supervisor  
Jon Cope of the Fleet Maintenance Division.

The team identified 11 categories of operation and eight service points where each machine would be scored. Those categories included operator ergonomics, warning systems, mower controls, deck operation, visibility, adjustments, stability, mowing quality, operator service ease, street operation and optional equipment use. The service ease of the mower included eight items relating to ease of repair and regular service needs. Each member of the evaluation team using a point evaluation sheet, rated each of the machines during the field comparison testing.

Five suppliers were invited to participate in the evaluation. Baker Vehicle Systems, presenting the Jacobsen Model HR-9016, and Century Equipment Co., offering the Toro Model 580D, participated by furnishing equipment for actual field operation and inspection by the team.

The scores were totaled for each machine. The Jacobsen HR-9016 mower scored the highest total points. The Jacobsen HR-9016 mower scored a total of 771 points to the Toro 580D scoring 724 points. Operator comments included that the HR-9016 was able to mow the very moist heavy grass more cleanly, quieter, faster and with less drag on the engine than the belt system Toro. Operators commented on the better and smoother performance of the Jacobsen in transport street operations. Operators negatively commented on the Toro equipment requiring two people to remove the engine cowl in the field to clear the transmission and engine radiator coolers. Operators did not like the multitude of grease fittings needed on the Toro deck spindles compared to the Jacobsen that has few that need daily lubrication.

Recreation and Parks has determined through this field evaluation process that the Jacobsen model HR-9016 mower will best meet the operational needs of the Department. Please refer to the attached evaluation matrix for each unit's score.