

Forestry Operations is directly responsible for the maintenance of 55,000 street trees. In addition, the operation prunes, upon request, park trees, trees at the Rose Bowl, Fire Stations, and Brookside Golf Course. With reduced contract monies over the last few years, the operation is relying more heavily on in-house staff to complete the necessary work. Forestry currently owns only two (2) aerial trucks, which translates to two (2) men being able to prune. The rest of the eleven (11) person crew must trim what they can reach from the ground. Forestry has trained eight (8) of the eleven (11) crew members to perform work from the aerial devices, but due to this mismatch between equipment and personnel, they currently have a backlog of eight (8) months for service requests. Included in this backlog are requests for street light pruning and clearance pruning. Inadequate clearance leads to damage to both private vehicles as well as city vehicles. It also contributes to nighttime safety hazards due to poor street lighting.

Additionally, excessive vehicle downtime, as well as misplaced vehicle applications, causes the operation to fall further behind. Last year the Forestry pruned approximately 4,595 trees completely, responded to 1,580 emergencies, and performed maintenance on an additional 3,700 trees. Overall, with contracts included, this accounted for less than 13% of the street trees in the city. The division standard, which was established to maintain acceptable service levels, is 20%.

The age of the equipment which ranges between 10 and 15 years old poses additional problems. The established useful lifecycle is defined at 10 years. Maintenance problems are already high because of their age and the intense duty cycle for these vehicles. The equipment has already been in for maintenance a combined total of 41 times since January 1998 (See attachment). Continued use at this level will cause the equipment to fail, further leaving Parks and Natural Resources with no means of pruning trees over 20 feet tall.

Parks and Natural Resources, is committed to preserving our parks and fulfilling Council's goal of improving these services, as well as keeping our trees safe and healthy. By replacing a common chipper truck with one equipped with an aerial device, thus giving Forestry three (3) aerial trucks, it will help to decrease the significant backlog, better align personnel and operations with equipment, and implement customer service improvements.

The Cities of Lompoc, San Ramon, and The County of Los Angeles have all recently undertaken competitive bidding processes for the purchase of aerial devices. As a result of those bid processes, contracts were awarded to Altec Industries, Inc. The bids are for three (3) separate pieces of equipment, 1) a 35-foot aerial device mounted on a utility bed; 2) a 50-foot aerial device mounted on a chipper body and; 3) a 55-foot aerial device mounted on a chipper body. Altec Industries, Inc. has offered to extend these bid prices to the City of Pasadena.

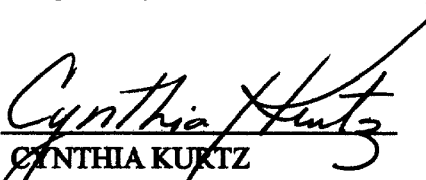
Purchasing the requested aerial devices from Altec would be in the City's best interests for two reasons. First, if the City were to undertake its own bid process, the time involved in preparing the necessary bid documents and obtaining the required approvals would most

likely result in the City purchasing at year 2000 model year prices (due to chassis delivery times), as well as incurring associated staff costs. In addition, the time necessary to prepare bid specifications, review proposals and award a competitive bid would add at least three months to the process and delay the delivery of new equipment until the year 2000.

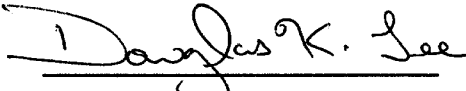
FISCAL IMPACT

This equipment is a budgeted replacement and funds in the amount of \$300,954.00 are available for use in the Equipment Replacement Fund, account #766300.


Respectfully submitted,


CYNTHIA KURTZ
City Manager

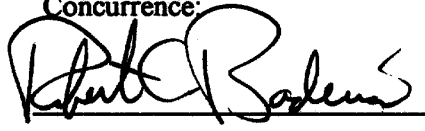
Prepared by:


DOUGLAS K. LEE
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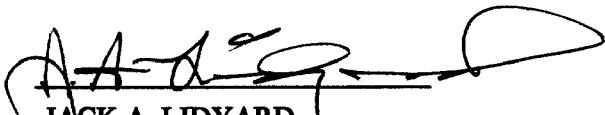
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