



# CITY OF CONCORD

*New Hampshire's Main Street™*

## REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Earle M. Chesley, P.E., General Services Director

**DATE:** June 26, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Procure Four Trackless Leaf Loader Attachments to perform bulk leaf collection during the COVID 19 Pandemic

### **Recommendation**

Accept this report and recommendation from the General Services Department to procure four Trackless Leaf Loader Attachments needed to safely and effectively perform bulk leaf collection this fall during the COVID 19 pandemic.

### **Background**

Since the preparation of the budget, the community has been engulfed in the COVID 19 pandemic that raises significant potential health challenges for General Services' staff to effectively perform the fall bulk leaf collection program with our existing tube style leaf vacuums. The task requires three crews of four to five staffers performing labor within close proximity for seven hours per day over a six week period. One of the staff members directs a large flexible tube about two feet in diameter while others gather leaves with rakes towards the tube. Having crew members wear protective face masks performing labor for seven hours is not realistic or pragmatic.

### **Discussion**

For staff to perform the work safely during COVID 19, the Department recommends procuring four Trackless Leaf Loader attachments. The attachments will be placed on existing units to perform the work. A photograph of the unit is attached.

Using this type of equipment eliminates the need of a crew of four to five staffers performing labor within very close proximity. Instead a crew member would work in advance of the equipment directing material to the front of the attachment approximately six feet wide while it drives along the curb of the street.

The estimated cost to procure the four attachments is \$185,000. There are sufficient funds in CIP 121, after purchasing all of the budgeted equipment in 2020, to make the purchase of these four attachments. The savings have been realized over fiscal years 2019 and 2020 by leveraging municipal bids such as State of New Hampshire, Source Well and HGAC as well as contacting local vendors and comparing prices to get the best value for the money. An example of a large savings was the purchase of a loader that came in below budget and by trading in the old loader it yielded a \$36,000 savings. There was also a one ton dump truck that was budgeted at \$65,000 that was a replacement vehicle for the airport that was listed in fund 121 but will actually be purchased with FAA funds. The other savings came from the purchases of two pickup trucks and three trailers leveraging the municipal bids as noted above.

This equipment needs to be ordered by July 15, 2020 so they may be delivered in time to perform the bulk leaf collection program this fall in a safe manner.

If this equipment is purchased the following savings could be realized:

- Annual maintenance costs of the existing tube vacuums of \$35,000.
- Three of the existing vacuums are scheduled to be replaced in fiscal year 2022 at a cost of \$276,000.
- A fourth unit is scheduled to be replaced in fiscal year 2023 at a cost of \$95,000.
- Salvage of the existing tube vacuums for an estimated \$20,000.

Cc James Major, Highways and Utilities Superintendent  
Brian Levesque, Fleet Manager

