



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 8/14/2018

Agenda Placement: 6D

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Stacie McCambridge for Barry Biermann - Fire Chief
County Fire Department

REPORT BY: Stacie McCambridge, Associate Governmental Program Analyst - (707) 299-1465

SUBJECT: Fixed asset purchase - Chipper

RECOMMENDATION

County Fire Chief requests approval of the following actions regarding enhancing the vegetation management and fuel reduction program:

1. Budget Transfer No. NCF001 increasing appropriations in the Fire budget by \$72,772 with offsetting revenues from the fund balance in the amount of \$57,772 and a grant of \$15,000 awarded by the California Fire Foundation; and
2. Establishment of a capital asset in the amount of \$72,772 for the purchase of a 2018 VERMEER Chipper. (4/5 vote required)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The County Fire Department is requesting to purchase a VERMEER Chipper, at the cost of \$72,772, to be used by the departments vegetation management fuels reduction project, also known as the Napa County Chipping Program. Fire is purposing to split the cost of the purchase between a \$15,000 grant awarded by the California Fire Foundation and \$57,772 from Fire's current fund balance to make the purchase of the new chipper.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	No
What is the revenue source?	Napa County Fire Budget/Grant Funds

\$57,772 from Fire Fund Balance - The current fund balance available in the 21000 Fire Fund is \$10,264,983.
\$15,000 from grant funds

Is it Mandatory or Discretionary? Discretionary

Discretionary Justification: At the July 10, 2018 Board of Supervisors meeting, it was requested that a higher level of service be met to the public demand. To do so a second chipping crew will be formed utilizing this new chipper.

Is the general fund affected? No

Future fiscal impact: Any future fiscal impact related to the operation of the new chipper will be absorbed by the Fire budget.

Consequences if not approved: The program could have an extended wait time and short window to sign up for applicants.

Additional Information:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Napa County Fire Department, in cooperation with Napa Communities Firewise Foundation, has sought to reduce risks through a Fuel Reduction Chipping Program. The program has been in effect since 2005 which during this time had been supported through various State and Federal grants. Over the last several years the program has been funded through the Napa County Fire Department and monitored by the County Fire Marshal.

At the Board of Supervisor's meeting on July 10, 2018; the Board of Supervisor's requested a higher level of service to be met based on public feed back. It was suggested that staff evaluate service by expanding the current chipping program. Currently chipping crews are working 5 days a week, 8 hours a day. In order to increase the productivity of the program Fire would like to increase the size of the chipping crew. By purchasing a second chipper the program would utilize two teams per day April through October increasing the volume requested by the public.

Fire is requesting the purchase of a VERMEER Chipper, at the cost of \$72,772 to be used by the department's Fuel Reduction Chipping Program. Fire is purposing to split the cost of the purchase between a \$15,000 grant awarded by the California Fire Foundation and \$57,772 from Fire's fund balance.

The program provides a free chipping service to all Napa County residents who live in a designated fire hazard zone which encompasses most of rural Napa. The intent of the program is to encourage residents to comply with defensible space requirements of both the State and County, in addition to being "fire wise". The program is not intended for commercial activities or general land clearing. The program currently runs annually between April 1st and October 31st, weather and conditions permitting.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi