

Memorandum



DATE December 30, 2021

CITY OF DALLAS

TO Honorable Members of the Environment & Sustainability Committee: Paula Blackmon (Chair), Paul Ridley (Vice Chair), Carolyn King Arnold, Adam Bazaldua, Jaime Resendez, Jaynie Schultz, Chad West

SUBJECT **Additional Leaf Blower Information**

On December 7, 2021, the Committee was briefed on Leaf Blower Regulations and requested a memorandum that summarizes next steps with a focus on internal changes. Additionally, the Committee voted to send this item to the Environmental Commission, which is to engage stakeholders asap and return to Committee by September 2022.

This memorandum provides requested information on current City of Dallas municipal gas-powered landscape equipment use and related landscape service contracting. We anticipate convening a stakeholders working group in the new year in order to bring related recommendations forward in September 2022.

The Office of Procurement Services (OPS) records indicate one contract for landscape equipment, that are used by 12 departments. These contracts include options for electric, battery-electric and two-stroke equipment including a variety of mowers, string-trimmers, leaf blowers and other ancillary equipment. The City expends approximately \$135,000 per year for this equipment.

Additionally, there are 11 active contracts for landscape services, that are used by 19 departments. These contracts rely primarily on the use of traditional gas-powered equipment. The City expends approximately \$1.2 million per year for these services.

The City is currently drafting specifications for a new procurement for grounds maintenance services that it plans to release in January 2022. Additionally, OPS is working with Dallas Water Utilities to explore using goats for vegetation abatement and maintenance through a Request for Information that is scheduled to close in early January 2022.

Staff are presently working from this contracting information, and are obtaining other national, state and department-provided data on staffing and resources used for landscaping, to allow an assessment of order-of-magnitude level budget impacts associated with equipment, contracting and staff costs from the conversion to electric/battery-powered equipment. Costs will be assessed for initial purchase, operation and maintenance, and related staff time.

Staff are continuing research into how other cities are implementing gas-powered landscape ordinances including stakeholder engagement, phased implementation, community and professional education, enforcement, and best management practices for

addressing potential equity impacts from equipment conversion, including, but not limited to industry impacts (including small businesses), and residential equipment exchange programs.

Additionally, the issue has been brought forward to Environmental Commission for their input, and staff are currently reaching out to business and community stakeholders. Mr. Ryan Skrobarczyk, Director of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs for the Texas Nursery & Landscape Association, spoke at the recent Environmental Commission meeting on December 17, 2021, and staff have reached out to him as a stakeholder of this process.

If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact Sheila Delgado, OEQS Interim Director (214-670-1642) or OPS Director, Chhunny Chhean (214-671-3519).



Joey Zapata
Assistant City Manager

c:	T.C. Broadnax, City Manager	Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
	Chris Caso, City Attorney	Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
	Mark Swann, City Auditor	Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
	Billieae Johnson, City Secretary	M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
	Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge	M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
	Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager	Directors and Assistant Directors

Estimate of Potential Budget Considerations for Landscape Equipment

Cost Category	Two-stroke motor	Electric/ Battery	Cost Difference
Equipment – Initial Costs			
Leaf Blowers			
String Edgers			
Mowers			
Ride-on Mowers			
Equipment – Operations & Maintenance/ Year			
Leaf Blowers			
String Edgers			
Mowers			
Ride-on Mowers			
Total Equipment Costs /Year			
Leaf Blowers			
String Edgers			
Mowers			
Ride-on Mowers			
Average Staff Time – Cost / Year			
Contracted Landscape Services / Year			
Total Estimated Landscape Costs/ Year			
Notes & Key Assumptions:			