

# **Board of County Commissioners**

## **Agenda Request**

Date of Meeting: May 3, 2010

Date Submitted: April 16, 2010

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator  
Cleve Fleming, Public Works Project Director

Subject: Request Board Approval to Purchase a Used 310G John Deere Backhoe for the Solid Waste Facility

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### **Statement of Issue:**

This agenda item requests Board approval for Public Works to purchase a used 310G John Deere Backhoe for the Solid Waste Facility located off Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Blvd.

### **Background:**

The solid waste facility uses the existing backhoe for a number of tasks including:

- loading waste into boxes;
- packing the boxes for more efficient loading;
- aligning boxes to be connected to the compactor; and
- general maintenance of the dirt portions of the facility.

The current backhoe is a 2001 model with 4500 hours and has since been removed from service in need of serious repairs. The estimated cost to repair this machine is approximately \$8,800, which is an excessive amount to invest in a machine of this age and condition (Attachment #1). Ring Power attempted to locate a used hydraulic stick assembly in order to lower the repair costs; however none were available.

The latest repairs have placed this machine out of service and are part of an extensive history. The said machine has been down eleven times in the past twenty-four months for repairs that include steering issues, electrical problems, pins and bushings, fuel system trouble, hydraulic cylinders, and brakes. The cost of these repairs was over \$7000. In comparison, a similar backhoe located at the Waste Water Treatment Plant had repair costs approximately seventy-five percent less.

Due to the multitude of tasks this machine is required for, the County is renting a substitute backhoe. The cost for renting this equipment is \$1,850.00 per month, as well as the County being responsible for any damage to the machine. These costs add up quickly making purchasing an attractive option.

### **Analysis:**

Public Works staff researched used late model low hour machines, and found a 2005 John Deere 310G with only 1400 hours for \$29,700. The requested backhoe purchase is an off lease unit available through RSC Equipment Rental located in Tallahassee (Attachment #2). Purchasing the

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off lease backhoe is estimated to be approximately a \$30,000 savings versus purchasing a brand new backhoe. This is a 50% savings for a machine that still has an estimated 75% of its service left. The 2005 John Deere 310G is a four wheel drive, four cylinder diesel powered backhoe. It utilizes power assisted wet disc brakes that are self adjusting and self equalizing. The hydraulic system is capable of producing 3600 psi at the bucket with a total flow of 28 gpm at 2,200 RPM. The operator station is a standard backhoe dual position layout allowing the operator to rotate the seat to switch from loader to bucket operation and incorporates Roll Over Protection System to protect the operator. After researching this machine, staff believes it to be capable of performing all tasks required by the solid waste facility.

If approved, this purchase will greatly reduce repairs and down time that has been suffered with the current machine that is in need of repairs, and will also allow for the substitute rental backhoe to be returned. Funds for a new backhoe were not requested in this fiscal year's CIP. The County has \$30,000 located in Fund 440 (440-8500-534-5460) Maintenance and Repair. This funding could be transferred to a new CIP account to fund this purchase if approved.

At this time, staff is requesting approval to waive the purchasing policy for this purchase. Section 5.2 of the Purchasing Policy states; "The Board may waive the sealed bid/proposal requirements when deemed to be in the best interest of the County". Staff believes this purchase to be in the best interest of the County and is recommending approval to purchase the used 310G John Deere Backhoe and the attached budget amendment (Attachment #3).

**Options:**

1. Approve to Waive the Purchasing Policy to Purchase a Used 310G John Deere Backhoe for the Solid Waste Facility and approve Budget Amendment.
2. Do not approve to Waive the Purchasing Policy to Purchase of a Used 310G John Deere Backhoe for the Solid Waste Facility.
3. Board Direction.

**Recommendation:**

Option #1

**Attachments:**

1. Ring Power Repair Quote
2. RSC Quote for 310G John Deere Backhoe
3. Budget Amendment