

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: May 19, 2009

Date Submitted: May 1, 2009

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 544J Loader With Grapple Rake

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item requests Board approval to purchase a used four year old 544 J Loader with a grapple rake.

Background:

When a storm of any significance blows through Wakulla County, it generally leaves behind a large number of fallen trees for the Road and Bridge Department to take care of. Currently, the Road and Bridge Department must pull a loader from another job and take it to the sites needed. In purchasing this 544J Loader, it would be dedicated to the Trice Lane Annex to use to load dump trucks with and because it is also equipped with a grapple rake specially designed to lift fallen trees and debris, it would be used to clean up after storms. Our two loaders currently in use are nine and twenty years old respectively. The older of the two is approaching the end of its service life; the addition of this 544J Loader could extend that service life by eliminating much of the wear and tear caused by driving it from the pit to various points around the County for storm cleanup and loading trucks at Trice Lane.

The grapple rake attachment for this machine will be an invaluable asset during storms. It is designed to pick up fallen trees or debris and grip it with a hydraulic “thumb”, the operator can then safely move it out of the way. Our current loaders rake lacks the grapple option which means the operator must stop to secure the load before moving it or try to balance it while moving it; this substantially slows the cleanup process.

Equipment for Road and Bridge Department is paid for out of the two cents sales tax. Funding for this loader is available in the 2 cents local gas tax reserve (160-0200-541-990).

Analysis:

The 544J Loader is an off lease unit available through the dealer for \$86,000. This is a substantial savings over a new unit which would cost \$145,000. Additionally, this is a 40% savings for a machine that still has an estimated 75% of its service left.

Options:

1. Approve the purchase of a used 544J Loader for \$86,000.
2. Do not approve the purchase of a used 544J Loader.
3. Board direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1