

**CITY OF WAUKESHA****Administration**

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<b>Common Council Item Number:</b> 18-1426	<b>Date:</b> October 5, 2018
<b>Submitted By:</b> Ron Grall, Director of Parks, Recreation & Forestry Dave Rauterberg, Forestry Supervisor	<b>City Administrator Approval:</b> Kevin Lahner, City Administrator KL
<b>Finance Department Review:</b> Rich Abbott, Finance Director RA	<b>City Attorney's Office Review:</b> Brian Running, City Attorney BR
<b>Subject:</b> Approval of the proposed Street Tree Removal Contract between Wallace Tree and Landscape and the City of Waukesha.	

**Details:**

In recent years, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has devastated our ash street and park tree populations, and will continue to do so for several more years. We are removing more trees each year which means less time for tree maintenance such as pruning and other essential plant health care functions. As part of the approved 2018 Operating Budget, funds were designated for contracting services within the forestry operations. A request for proposal was sent out to five (5) tree care companies to bid on both street tree and park tree removals. Wallace Tree and Landscape was the successful low bidder and will be utilizing a mechanical tree harvesting system to perform the work. Funds, however, will only cover the street tree removal portion of the proposal. With the approval of this contract, this would free up an estimated 237 labor hours (nearly 30 eight-hour work days) that could then be used for additional removals and/or tree pruning. Thirty-seven (37) ash trees have been identified for this contract with an average diameter of 20 inches.

**Options & Alternatives:**

Contracting for pruning services were also looked at but did not free up as many man hours for the city's forestry operations. Stump grinding services were not considered with the city's purchase of a new stump grinder in 2018.

**Financial Remarks:**

As part of the 2018 Forestry Operating budget, \$17,500.00 was budgeted in account 5610.52190, Other Professional Services. PRF is proposing to use \$17,342.00 of this to contract Wallace Tree Care to remove 37 city ash street trees.

**Executive Action:**

Recommend approval of the contract for city street tree removals between Wallace Tree Care and the City of Waukesha, and authorize the Mayor to enter into this contact.

**Committee Recommendation:**

The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Board will be considering this item at the September 17, 2018 meeting, and making a recommendation to the Common Council. It is currently under review by the City Attorney. Passed at Park board and finalized by City Attorney.

