



**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Brookfield Zoo Chicago**

**8400 31st Street, Brookfield, Illinois**

**BOARD NOTICE AND AGENDA**

**Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 10:00 AM**

**Issue Date: 9/4/2025**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Pursuant to Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code, the Secretary to the Board of Commissioners hereby transmits Consent Calendar Resolutions for your consideration. The Consent Calendar Resolutions shall be published in the Journal of Proceedings as prepared by the Secretary of the Board.

**There are no Consent items for this meeting.**

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Authorization as a public speaker shall only be granted to those individuals who have registered, with the Secretary, to speak 24 hours in advance of the meeting. To register as a public speaker, go to the meeting details page for this meeting at <https://fpdcc.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> to find a registration link. Duly authorized public speakers may speak live at Brookfield Zoo Chicago, 8400 31st Street, Brookfield, Illinois. Authorized public speakers who are not present during the specified time for public testimony will forfeit their allotted time to speak at the meeting. Public testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. Persons authorized to provide public testimony shall not use vulgar, abusive, discriminatory, profane, or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; failure to act appropriately, or failure to adhere to the time requirements may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or disqualify the person from providing future testimony. Written comments will not be read aloud at the meeting, but will be posted on the meeting page and made a part of the meeting record. The public will be able to follow the proceedings for that day at: <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings>, or in a viewing area at 69 W. Washington Street, 22nd Floor, Conference Room F, Chicago, Illinois.

**PRESIDENT**

[25-0242](#)

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Office of the General Superintendent

**Request:** Receive and File

**Report Title:** Conservation and Policy Council Monthly Report

**Summary:** Created in 2014, the Conservation and Policy Council advises the President, Board and the General Superintendent about conservation policies and practices, including the implementation of the Next Century Conservation Plan's vision of vibrant, ecologically healthy and welcoming forest preserves

system.

Each month, a member of the Conservation and Policy Council will provide a verbal report detailing the work that the Conservation and Policy Council is doing as well as their recommendations to the Board regarding policies, practices, and other strategic initiatives of the Forest Preserves.

**25-0298**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED APPOINTMENT**

**Appointee(s):** Brandon Hayes

**Position:** Council Member

**Department/Board/Commission:** Conservation and Policy Council

**Effective date:** 9/9/2025

**Expiration date:** 12/31/2025

The Council Nominating Committee recommends the appointment of Brandon Hayes to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Megan Bang.

Brandon Hayes founded Bold Bison Communications and Consulting in 2019 to provide forward-thinking communications solutions, engaging strategy and facilitation services, and inspiring workshops and trainings for nonprofits, particularly in the conservation, climate, and local food movements. Bold Bison is a national firm-working from Florida to Alaska-with geographical emphases in the Great Lakes, Texas, and the West Coast. Clients include the Chicago Region Food System Fund, Chicago Wilderness Alliance, Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition, Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas, Houston Audubon, Iowa State University, The Land Trust Alliance, Montana Land Reliance, The Morton Arboretum, Nantucket Conservation Foundation, National Forest Foundation, and River Network, among many others including dozens of land trusts. Bold Bison is a Certified LGBT Business Enterprise. Brandon is Chair of the Board of Directors of the Institute of Conservation Leadership and is Board President of Chicago Artists for Action. He is a long-time volunteer for the International Crane Foundation's Annual Midwest Crane Count.

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT**

**25-0301**

**Presented by:** HEATH WOLFE, County Auditor

**REPORT**

**Department:** Office of the County Auditor

**Request:** Refer to Audit Committee

**Report Title:** FPDCC Open Recommendations Report for July 2025

**Report Period:** July 2025

**Summary:** This report was designed to communicate the status of Open Recommendations regarding the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

**25-0305**

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**REQUEST FOR GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT AUTHORITY TO APPROVE AND EXECUTE AGREEMENTS FOR INTERCONNECTION OF DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES FACILITIES**

**WHEREAS**, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) desires to install, operate, and maintain solar and other energy-generating equipment or “distributed generation facilities” for the benefit of the Forest Preserves at certain locations now or in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, in order for the distributed generation facilities installed by the Forest Preserves to generate electricity to offset use, the Forest Preserves must connect said facilities to the electrical grid through various utility companies such as Commonwealth Edison (“ComEd”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Commerce Commission per Title 83 of the Illinois Administrative Code requires the Forest Preserves, as the interconnection customer, and the connecting utility company to sign and execute various interconnection agreements for the use and connectivity of any distributed generation facilities (“interconnectivity agreements”); and

**WHEREAS,** the interconnectivity agreements contain nontraditional terms, including a perpetual agreement term length, that cannot deviate from the form agreement provided and promulgated in the Administrative Code; provided, however, that the agreements may be terminated with proper notice; and

**WHEREAS,** the Forest Preserves desires to execute such interconnectivity agreements with utility companies for various capital improvement projects focused on sustainability throughout the Forest Preserves.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize the Forest Preserves' General Superintendent, to approve and execute all agreements for the Interconnection of Distributed Energy Resources Facilities with a Capacity Less Than or Equal to 10 Megavolt-Amperes; provided, that the spend related to the interconnection required under any such agreements does not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) per year or one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) in the aggregate.

**25-0312**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED GRANT AWARD**

**Department:** Department of Resource Management

**Grantee:** Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves")

**Grantor:** The Nature Conservancy via the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

**Request:** Authorization to accept grant and to enter into grant agreement

**Purpose:** To conduct 94 acres of habitat restoration at Powderhorn Lake and Eggers Grove

**Grant Amount:** \$225,000.00

**Grant Period:** 9/9/2025 - 11/30/2027

**Fiscal Impact:** \$363,000.00 in direct cash match, plus in-kind staff support for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the programs

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51036.520840; Grant and Mitigation 51010.521314 and 51010.521444;

and all future Professional Services accounts

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final agreement is subject to legal review and approval.

**District(s):** 4

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves has been sub-awarded funds from The Nature Conservancy through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Sustain Our Great Lakes Program in support of habitat restoration at Powderhorn Lake in Burnham and Eggers Grove in Chicago. Restoration activities include invasive shrub removal, along with prescribed burning and the collection and propagation of native seed to enhance plant diversity at each site. The project will feature extensive use of a recently constructed water control structure (Board Item No. 20-0169); this will enable adjustments to water levels beneficial for maintaining emergent vegetation and habitat for marsh birds.

Total project costs are \$588,000.00 of which the Forest Preserves will contribute \$363,000.00 or approximately 62% in direct cash match. Additionally, in-kind staff support may be provided for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the programs.

**25-0311**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AMENDMENT**

**Department:** Department of Finance and Administration

**Other Part(ies):** Cook County Government, Chicago, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization to enter into the Fourteenth Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of Cook (the "County") and the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") for the reimbursement or payment for certain services rendered by various County departments and by the Forest Preserves.

**Goods or Services:** The County and the Forest Preserves wish to amend and restate the Thirteenth Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement (approved by their respective Boards of Commissioners on 11/21/2024 and 11/19/2024 for FY 2025) whereby they provide various services for each other.

**Agreement Number:** N/A

**Agreement Period:** 1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026

**Fiscal Impact:** Not to exceed \$2,447,177.00 in expenditures and \$1,802,845.00 in revenue

**Accounts:** Various districtwide corporate expenditure and revenue accounts

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The County and the Forest Preserves entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement on 8/21/2012 authorizing the parties to perform various services for the other, in accordance with the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act. The parties agreed to provide various services and to provide reimbursement or payment for said services. The Intergovernmental Agreement was further amended around or about 4/25/2013, 6/18/2014, 9/8/2015, 11/15/2016, 6/6/2017, 4/25/2018, 9/26/2018, 2/21/2019, 10/22/2020, 1/28/2021, 10/5/2021, 10/18/2022, 11/14/2023, and 11/19/2024 to allow for additional cooperation. The Fourteenth Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement consolidates the prior agreements into one Intergovernmental Agreement, so the parties can refer to one agreement, and this document also contains additional services and reimbursements for FY 2026. This is a one-year agreement covering services and reimbursements from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026.

**25-0292**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

#### **PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Vendor:** ASH North America, Inc., D/B/A Aebi Schmidt North America, Chilton, Wisconsin (parent company of Monroe Truck Equipment, Inc., Monroe, Wisconsin)

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to enter into and execute

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Upfit or modification of certain fleet vehicles based on Sourcewell contract #062222-AEB expiring 8/15/2026

**Contract Value:** \$600,000.00

**Contract Period:** 9/9/2025 - 8/15/2026 with one (1) year optional renewal to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent, subject to the renewal of the underlying contract on which the piggyback contract is based.

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2025 \$150,000.00, FY 2026 \$300,000.00, FY 2027 \$150,000.00 (optional)

**Accounts:** Vehicle Purchase 51033.560266, 51001.560266 and 51009.560266

**Contract Number(s):** #74000016712

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal review and approval.

Piggyback contract based on a Cooperative Procurement Agreement with no MWBE participation goals.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** On September 19, 2023, the Forest Preserves Board of Commissioners authorized a one-time purchase with ASH North America, Inc., D/B/A Monroe Truck Equipment, Inc. (a subsidiary of Aebi Schmidt North America), in the amount of \$599,041.00 for the upfit of twenty-three (23) vehicles, based on Sourcewell Contract #062222-AEB (Board Item No. 23-0498). The vendor provides vehicle installation services such as warning lights and plowing components that are necessary for daily field operations. The Department of Facilities and Fleet is requesting funds for the continuous upfitting of future and recently purchased vehicles under the same Sourcewell Contract.

**25-0293**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

## **PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Vendor:** Ameresco, Inc., Framingham, Massachusetts

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to enter into and execute

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Energy Consultant Services for Natural Gas and Electricity for Forest Preserves-Owned and Leased Facilities

**Contract Value:** \$528,312.00



**Contract Period:** 10/1/2025 - 9/30/2028 with one (1) two-year renewal option to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent.

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2025 \$24,879.00, FY 2026 \$100,260.00, FY 2027 \$103,263.00, FY 2028 \$106,365.00, FY 2029 \$109,548.00 (optional), FY 2030 \$83,997.00 (optional)

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51001.520830

**Contract Number(s):** #74000016656

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal review and approval.

The vendor has met the Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance via direct participation.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** Under this contract, Ameresco, Inc. will provide energy consultants, procurement, bill payment and data management services for the procurement of and budgeting for electricity, natural gas, and renewable energy for Forest Preserves facilities. Due to deregulated energy markets, the Forest Preserves can seek energy supply from multiple sources, which may result in operational savings. Due to the complexity and number of Forest Preserves accounts, however, it is in the best interest of the Forest Preserves to hire a subject matter expert to assist the Forest Preserves with the process. This contract is also crucial for the continued data aggregation with respect to utilities to assess their impact on the Forest Preserves' goal of reducing greenhouse gases.

Ameresco's fee for the services provided is assessed as a percentage of the amount of energy procured for the Forest Preserves. In addition, the data management and bill consolidation/validation process are flat annual fees per account. The Forest Preserves publicly advertised a Request for Proposal for these services. Three (3) firms responded, and Ameresco was found to be the most qualified vendor by the Forest Preserves evaluation committee. Ameresco has provided energy consultant services to the Forest Preserves since 2020.

**25-0295**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

#### **PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Facilities and Fleet

**Vendor:** Davis Equipment Corporation D/B/A Turfwerks, Johnston, Iowa

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Jacobsen Repair Parts and Service

**Contract Value:** \$375,000.00

**Contract Period:** Five (5) years from date of execution

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2025 \$18,750.00, FY 2026 \$75,000.00, FY 2027 \$75,000.00, FY 2028 \$75,000.00, FY 2029 \$75,000.00, FY 2030 \$56,250.00

**Accounts:** Equipment Supplies and Maintenance Service 51033.540275; and all future Equipment Supplies and Maintenance accounts

**Contract Number(s):** #74000016690

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal review and approval.

Sole Source contract with no MWBE participation goals.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves’ Facilities and Fleet department is requesting to purchase Jacobsen repair parts and equipment service on a sole source basis from Davis Equipment D/B/A Turfwerks. Jacobsen repair parts and service are needed for the maintenance and repair of Landscape Maintenance equipment, such as heavy-duty commercial lawn mowers used for daily field operations. Davis Equipment D/B/A Turfwerks is the only full line Jacobsen authorized dealer in the state of Illinois.

**25-0307**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

#### **PROPOSED CONTRACT**

**Department(s):** Department of Law Enforcement

**Vendor:** Mark43, Inc., New York, New York

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into and execute

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Records Management System and Evidence Management System for the Department of Law Enforcement

**Contract Value:** \$652,883.50

**Contract Period:** 10/31/2025 - 10/30/2028 with two (2) one-year extension options to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2025 \$114,359.04, FY 2026 \$161,265.60, FY 2027 \$92,219.04, FY 2028 \$92,219.04, FY 2029 \$94,985.61 (optional), FY 2030 \$97,835.17 (optional)

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51001.520840

**Contract Number(s):** #74000016672 issued under Project #24-70-010618

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final contract is subject to legal review and approval.

The contract specific Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise goal for this contract was set to zero.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Department of Law Enforcement proposes to enter into an agreement with Mark43, Inc., for “Software as Services for a Records Management System and Evidence Management System” which includes Case Management, Evidence Management, and an Analytics platform (“System”). This System will enhance the flow of information to our officers which will help increase the safety of the patrons of the Forest Preserves and of our officers, assist in swiftly generating accurate reports and provide the ability to inventory and track evidence.

The applications used in Mark43’s system will facilitate a secure and efficient exchange of critical information across the entire Department of Law Enforcement. This system will also interface with applications used by Law Enforcement, including the Cook County Sheriff’s Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, Cook County’s DACRA system (to prepare citations), and Lexis/Nexis (to prepare Illinois Traffic Crash Reports). Additionally, this operating system will be used to meet the local, state and national reporting requirements.

The proposed agreement is a form software agreement that may include non-standard provisions for the Forest Preserves, including with respect to disclaimers, limitations on liability, warranties, and indemnification. The vendor was selected after a publicly advertised Request for Proposals, to which four (4) firms responded. Mark43 was found to be the most qualified vendor by an evaluation committee.

**25-0254**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

**Department(s):** Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

**Vendor:** Chicago Zoological Society, Brookfield, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to extend and increase contract

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Animal food and bedding for utilization at the Forest Preserves Nature Centers to care for live animals.

**Original Contract Period:** 3/20/2022 - 3/19/2026

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** 3/20/2026 - 4/7/2027

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** \$140,000.00

**Original Approval:** 2/8/2022, \$140,000.00

**Previous Increase(s):** N/A

**This Increase Requested:** \$35,000.00

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2026 \$10,000.00, FY 2027 \$25,000.00

**Accounts:** Supplies and Materials - NOC 51001.530252

**Contract Number(s):** #74000010503

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

Sole Source contract with no MWBE participation goals.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves' Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming ("CEP") is requesting an extension of the agreement that was approved at the February 2022 Board meeting (Board Item No. 22-0020) to continue to tap into the purchasing power of the Chicago Zoological Society (the "Zoo") on a sole source basis for animal food and bedding for utilization at the Forest Preserves Nature Centers to care for live animals. This agreement allows the Forest Preserves' CEP Department to easily order and pick up food for live animals, through the Zoo's commissary, where items are stocked for animal care. The Zoo purchases in much larger quantities, which enables the Forest Preserves to acquire animal care supplies at a lower cost. The Forest Preserves would like to extend the agreement to align with the extension of the larger agreement between the Forest Preserves and the Chicago Zoological Society, expiring in 2027 (see Board Item No. 25-0197).

**25-0303**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

**Department(s):** Department of Planning and Development

**Vendor:** Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd., Rosemont, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the "Forest Preserves") to extend contract

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Phase III engineering services for construction oversight relating to construction of approximately 1.7 miles of the Des Plaines Trail from Bryn Mawr to Lawrence Avenue also known as Segment 3

**Original Contract Period:** 8/1/2022 - 7/29/2024\*; Administrative Extension 8/1/2024 - 7/31/2025 (\*Board approved term ended on 7/29/2024 but due to clerical error end date of 7/31/2024 was entered on executed contract)

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** 8/1/2025 (retroactive) - 7/31/2026

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** \$688,543.00

**Original Approval:** 5/10/2022, \$688,543.00

**Previous Increase(s):** N/A

**This Increase Requested:** N/A

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** N/A

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51009.520830, 51010.520830, 51029.520830, 51031.520830 and 51036.520830; and future Construction and Development accounts

**Contract Number(s):** #74000010547 issued in response to RFQ #19-80-67G2

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

The Minority-and Women-Owned Business goals are not applicable for this amendment as there is no increased fiscal impact.

**District(s):** 9

**Summary:** The extension of the Phase III Engineering Services contract for the Des Plaines River Trail, Segment Three, is necessary to address the punch list items mandated by the City of Chicago before they can approve the work at the River Road and Bryn Mawr pedestrian crossing. To complete these tasks, the contractor had to obtain a new permit from the City of Chicago Office of Underground Construction which takes 3-6 months. The Phase III Engineer oversees the coordination and execution of punch list items and facilitates Illinois Department of Transportation (“IDOT”) audits to close-out the construction contract.

**25-0304**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

**Department(s):** Department of Planning and Development

**Vendor:** Warehouse Direct Inc. D/B/A Midwest Office Interiors, Woodridge, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to increase and extend contract

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Office Furniture Supply and Installation

**Original Contract Period:** 12/27/2024 - 3/26/2026

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** Five-year optional renewal to be exercised at the discretion of the General Superintendent, subject to the renewal of the underlying contract on which the piggyback contract is based.

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** \$150,000.00

**Original Approval:** 12/27/2024, \$150,000.00

**Previous Increase(s):** N/A

**This Increase Requested:** \$550,000.00

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY2025 \$50,000.00, FY2026 \$100,000.00 (optional), FY2027 \$100,000.00 (optional), FY2028 \$100,000.00 (optional), FY2029 \$100,000.00 (optional), FY2030 \$50,000.00 (optional); FY2031 \$50,000.00

**Accounts:** Building Improvements 51009.560105, 51031.560105, 51033.560105 and 51036.560105; Institutional Supply Expense 51001.530189; and future Construction and Development accounts

**Contract Number(s):** #740000015078

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final amendment is subject to review and approval by Legal.

Piggyback contract based on a GSA Procurement Agreement (Contract No. GS-27F-0015S) with the HON Company, LLC; no Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise participation goals.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves has purchased some new furniture after completion of new facilities at the Salt Creek Landscape Maintenance Headquarters and renovations at the new Caldwell Woods Wellness Center and its General Headquarters. However, it has identified additional needs for furniture at these facilities and future renovations at other facilities including, but not limited to, Indian Boundary

Landscape Maintenance Headquarters, North Branch Landscape Maintenance Headquarters, Skokie Resource Management Regional Headquarters, Dan Ryan Visitors Center, Trailside Museum of Natural History, Thatcher Woods Pavillion, and the Central Warehouse. Warehouse Direct Inc. D/B/A Midwest Office Interiors is an authorized distributor of the HON Company, LLC for GSA Contract No. GS-27F-0015S.

**25-0306**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

**Department(s):** Department of Law Enforcement

**Vendor:** Axon Enterprise, Inc., Scottsdale, Arizona

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to increase contract

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Purchase of an additional twenty-five (25) Body Worn Cameras, twenty-five (25) Taser units, as well as all related licensing, software, warranties, cloud storage and training services for law enforcement.

**Original Contract Period:** 1/1/2025 - 12/31/2029

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** N/A

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** \$2,000,000.00

**Original Approval:** 10/22/2024, \$2,000,000.00

**Previous Increase(s):** N/A

**This Increase Requested:** \$460,934.35

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2025 \$129,061.63, FY 2026 \$110,624.24, FY 2027 \$110,624.24, FY 2028 \$110,624.24

**Accounts:** Equipment 51001.540132



**Contract Number(s):** #74000014996

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

Piggyback contract based on a Cooperative Procurement Agreement with no MWBE participation goals.

**District(s):** Districtwide

**Summary:** On October 22, 2024, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners approved the Department of Law Enforcement piggybacking off the University of Nebraska Master Agreement 3544-21-4615 between the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska and Axon Enterprise, Inc., for the purchase of one hundred (100) Body Worn Cameras, one hundred (100) Taser units, and other items (See Board Item No. 24-0431). Now, the Department of Law Enforcement is proposing to amend the piggyback contract previously authorized and executed to allow for the purchase of an additional twenty-five (25) Body Worn Cameras and twenty-five (25) Taser units, and all related licensing, software, warranties, cloud storage and training services. Additional body worn cameras, Taser units, and ancillary services are critically needed due to increased hiring of sworn police personnel.

The Law Enforcement Officer-Worn Body Camera Act along with the recently passed Illinois SAFE-T Act requires the use of officer-worn body cameras. Axon Enterprise has been providing both body-worn cameras and Taser units to the Department of Law Enforcement since 2019.

**25-0316**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT**

**Department(s):** Department of Planning and Development

**Vendor:** Interface Engineering, Chicago, Illinois

**Request:** Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to increase contract

**Good(s) or Service(s):** Professional Services to provide architectural and engineering design and construction administration services for a new heating and air conditioning system for the Forest Preserves’ General Headquarters in River Forest.

**Original Contract Period:** 12/15/2021 - 3/14/2025; 3/15/2025 - 3/14/2026 (Administrative Extension)

**Proposed Contract Period Extension:** N/A

**Total Current Contract Amount Authority:** \$351,628.00

**Original Approval:** 12/14/2021, \$184,846.00

**Previous Increase(s):** 3/25/2022, \$17,450.00 (Administrative Increase); 4/5/2022, \$55,215.00 (Board Approval); 2/7/2023, \$74,989.00 (Board Approval); and 8/27/2025, \$19,128.00 (Administrative Increase)

**This Increase Requested:** \$38,610.00

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** FY 2025 \$38,610.00

**Accounts:** Professional Services 51009.520830, 51031.520830, 51033.520830, 51034.520830 and 51036.520830; and future Construction and Development accounts

**Contract Number(s):** #74000009962 issued under RFP #21-80-44

**Concurrences:** The Chief Financial Officer has approved this item. Final amendment is subject to legal review and approval.

The Vendor has met the Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Ordinance via direct participation.

**District(s):** 9

**Summary:** The original scope of services was for design, construction administration and commissioning of a new Very High Efficiency (VHE), all-electric heating and cooling (HVAC) system at the Forest Preserves' General Headquarters. Additional services are needed for the continuation of commissioning required by a ComEd grant for the VHE HVAC system following an unforeseen installation problem. Piping was installed incorrectly between equipment units that had already been tested and commissioned, requiring re-installation and recommissioning. As the Engineer of Record for the new HVAC system, Interface Engineering is uniquely qualified to provide the additional services in a timely, correct and complete manner.

**25-0317**

**Sponsored by:** TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ITEM AMENDMENT**

**Department:** Office of the General Superintendent

**Request:** This item makes a correction to reporting date for receipt of additional ARPA funds.

**Item Number:** 24-0523

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A

**Original Text of Item:**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR ADDITIONAL ARPA GRANT FUNDING FROM COOK COUNTY TO THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2021, the federal government authorized the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”), which includes \$1.9 trillion in federal stimulus funds to hasten the United States’ recovery from the economic and health effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, specifically, the federal government has authorized and allocated a federal award of approximately \$1,000,372,385 of ARPA funding to Cook County (“County”) to assist the County in its recovery from the economic and health effects of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 24, 2021, the County’s American Rescue Plan Act Framework (the “ARPA Framework”) was presented to the Cook County Board of Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Board of Commissioners via Resolution 21-3654 accepted the ARPA federal award to assist the County in its recovery from the economic and health effects of COVID-19 in the amount of approximately \$1,000,372,385.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has sub-awarded certain funds to the Forest Preserves of Cook County (see Board Items Nos. 22 -0289, 23-0308, and 24-0245); and

**WHEREAS**, the County may have additional ARPA funds available to sub-award to the Forest

Preserves of Cook County via either amendments to current agreements or funding new projects via new agreements.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Forest Preserves of Cook County to accept as a sub-recipient any and all additional ~~APRA~~ ARPA grant funds designated for the Forest Preserves by Cook County as authorized by the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County shall provide a report to the Board of Commissioners no later than March ~~11, 2025~~ specifying of each applicable year that specifies any additional ARPA sub-award funds received ~~awarded~~ pursuant to this resolution in the prior year.

**25-0088**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Finance and Administration

**Request:** Receive and File

**Report Title:** Procurement and Disbursement Report

**Report Period:** 6/1/2025 - 7/31/2025

**Summary:** Submitting the Procurement and Disbursement Report for the periods of June and July 2025. The report is to be received and filed in compliance with Section 1-8-2 (BB) of the District's Code of Ordinances.

**25-0161**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Finance and Administration

**Request:** Receive and File

**Report Title:** Vehicle Steering Committee Annual Report

**Report Period:** 1/1/2024 - 12/31/2024

**Summary:** This report is required per Section 1-14-1 (Districtwide Vehicle Steering Committee) of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code of Ordinances. The report addresses changes to the District owned vehicle inventory for fiscal year 2024.

**25-0300**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Department of Finance and Administration

**Request:** Receive and File

**Report Title:** Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (the “ACFR”)

**Report Period:** Fiscal Year Ending 12/31/2024

**Summary:** The ACFR has been prepared by the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) for the fiscal year ending 12/31/2024. The report has been prepared in accordance with the principles and standards for the financial reporting set forth by the Government Accounting Standards Board and audited by a firm of independent auditors retained by the Forest Preserves.

**25-0315**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**REPORT**

**Department:** Departments of Legal and Finance

**Request:** Receive and File

**Report Title:** Workers’ Compensation Reports (June 2025 and July 2025)

**Report Period:** 6/1/2025 - 7/31/2025

**Summary:** The Forest Preserves of Cook County Departments of Legal and Finance are submitting Workers' Compensation Claim Payments for the months of June and July of 2025. Payments total \$79,686.07 for June 2025 and \$71,159.39 for July 2025.

**25-0309**

**Presented by:** ADAM BIANCHI, General Superintendent

**PROPOSED CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Department:** Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

**Summary:** Forest Preserves of Cook County Calendar of Events and Activities  
9/9/2025-10/20/2025

**Please check the Forest Preserves of Cook County's website for updates and changes.**

**Friday, 9/12; 4pm—7pm**

**Faire at the Square, Cummings Square, River Forest**

Drop in and enjoy our creative-reuse carnival! The games will be made from repurposed materials. You can win prizes, learn about local plants and animals and explore other activities. *For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

**Friday, 9/12; 7pm—9pm**

**Movie Under the Stars, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Attention all movie lovers! Join us on our front lawn for a special movie viewing. *Registration required. Please call (847)381-6592.*

**Saturday, 9/13; 9am—4:30pm**

**Fall Nature Fest, LaBagh Woods, Chicago**

Join us and learn from environmental groups while enjoying food. You can see performances by the Jesse White Tumblers, animal ambassadors and more! *This event will be held at groves 1-4 and it is presented with Cook County Commissioner Bridget Degnen. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Saturday, 9/13; 9am—4:30pm**

**Celebration of Roots, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Celebrate the region's rich migration history during National Hispanic Heritage Month with music, games, food and more. *This is a bilingual program that will be held in English and Spanish. For more*

information, please call (708)868-0606.

**Thursday, 9/18; 7pm****Adult Night Hike, Spears Woods, Willow Springs**

Bring a beverage and take a guided 2-mile hike in the night sky and view nocturnal animals. *Registration required. Ages 21 and up. Please call (312)533-5751.*

**Friday, 9/19 through Saturday, 9/20; 9am—4:30pm****Fall Nature Camp, Rolling Knolls, Elgin**

Participants can learn about the significance of harvest season in Native American culture while participating in various activities. *The program is presented by Trickster Cultural Center. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Friday, 9/19; 6pm—9pm****Acoustics under the Stars, Camp Shabbona Woods, South Holland**

Join us for a night celebrating folk music. Enjoy musical performances, a guided walk and hot dog roast. Everyone is welcome to bring their own instruments and join in the musical fun! There are limited camping spots available. *Registration required. Please call (708)868-0606 or visit the website.*

**Friday, 9/19; 7pm****Sunset Night Hike, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Enjoy a guided hike and learn about nocturnal animals. *Registration required by 9/17. Ages 6 and up. The cost is \$5 per person. Please call (847)824-8360.*

**Friday, 9/19; 5pm—10pm****Annual Palos Night Sky Picnic, Pioneer Woods, Willow Springs**

Explore Palos Preserves at night, nestled within the largest Urban Night Sky Place. Bring your own food, beverages and chairs. The activities will include live entertainment, exhibits, presentations and viewing the night sky on telescope. *Registration required. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Saturday, 9/20; 9am—3pm****National Clean Up Day, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Join us and help care for our natural world by making River Trail and the surrounding preserves cleaner. *Registration required. Supplies will be available onsite. Please call (847)824-8360.*

**Saturday, 9/20; 1pm****Hasta luego, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Join us for a presentation about the bird migration journey from the Chicago region to Mexico. *Registration required. Please call (630)257-2045.*

**Sunday, 9/21; 1pm****Music in Nature, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Enjoy the sounds of the violin and cello in the forest! Missing Piece, a musical ensemble dedicated to

making music in conversation with our environment, will be performing a 2021 composition "*Diminishing 5ths*" by Chicago composer and sound artist Shi-An Costello. The piece is a meditation on the natural materials of our instruments and an imaginative journey into how we make music in a changing environment. The event will also include an educational talk, and a guided nature walk. *Registration required. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Thursday, 9/26; 5pm–7pm****Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, Irene C. Hernandez Family Picnic Grove, Chicago**

Join us and celebrate the vibrant Hispanic culture of Chicagoland. *For more information, please visit the website.*

**Saturday, 9/27; 9 am****Trash Bash, Bunker Hill Groves 1 & 2, Chicago**

Our event partners will be collecting electronics, prescription drugs, books, musical instruments, bikes, clothing and more. The first 25 donors receive a free, "Don't be Trashy" t-shirt. Learn more about volunteer opportunities at the Forest Preserves, enjoy green giveaways courtesy of the Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability & MWRD and participate in a self-led litter cleanup. Supplies will be provided!

**Saturday, 9/27; 11am–2pm****Party for the Preserve: Salsa Dance, Thatcher Woods, River Forest**

Celebrate National Public Lands Day with a Salsa Dance Party! Participants can enjoy live music, dance lessons, food and more. *This is a bilingual program that will be held in English and Spanish. For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

**Saturday, 9/27; 11am–5pm****Every Child Matters Powwow, Caldwell Woods Wellness Center, Chicago**

Join us to celebrate Native American culture while recognizing the theme 'Every Child Matters.' Enjoy traditional Powwow, Native food, and listen to stories of culture from the area. Attendees are encouraged to wear orange and bring lawn chairs. For group registration or information. *For more information, please visit the website.*

**Saturday, 9/27; 12pm–9pm****Party for the Preserves, Camp Bullfrog, Willow Springs**

Celebrate National Public Lands Day with paddling adventures, games, fishing, stargazing and night hikes. *10-person canoes provided by Wilderness Inquiry. For more information about the schedule for activities, please visit the website.*

**Sunday, 9/28; 10am–2pm****Party for the Preserves: Canoeing, Powderhorn Lake, Burnham**

Celebrate National Public Lands Day with paddling adventures! Enjoy the outdoors and paddle at Powderhorn Lake. *For more information, please call (224)763-4317.*



**Wednesday, 10/1; 4pm—6pm****Archery, Dan Ryan Woods-Central, Chicago**

Participants can learn how to use a bow and arrow from certified staff. *Ages 10 and up. Junior archery will be available for those under 10. This event will be held at Grove 5. For more information, please call (224)763-4317.*

**Friday, 10/3; 5pm—7pm****Halloween Hoot and Howl, Keystone Park, River Forest**

Join our partners, for slightly spooky family activities, live music, pumpkin painting and more! *The event is presented with the River Forest Park District and River Forest Public Library. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Saturday, 10/4; 9am—4:30pm****Art, Nature, and Culture Series: Hispanic Heritage Celebration, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Explore how art can intertwine with nature and culture by enjoying and learning about various art forms with options for all skill levels. Participants can celebrate this special month by making unique skulls, flowers and banners in preparation for *Day of the Dead* traditionally known as *Día de los Muertos*. *Registration required. Supplies and materials will be provided. Please call (708)839-6897.*

**Saturday, 10/4; 9am—5pm****Southbound Migration, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Explore an interactive program about the Central and South American destinations of our migratory birds. *This is a bilingual program that will be held in English and Spanish. For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

**Saturday, 10/4; 10:30am—12pm****Art and Nature, Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, Chicago**

Participants can create healing art inspired by nature. *The program is presented with Light of Loving Kindness.*

**Saturday, 10/4; 11am—5pm****72nd Annual Powwow, Schiller Woods-East, Chicago**

Celebrate Native American culture and enjoy traditional Powwow, food and more. *The program is presented with American Indian Center of Chicago. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Saturday, 10/4; 11am—2pm****Pumpkinpalooza, Caldwell Wellness Center, Chicago**

Participants can enjoy pumpkin painting, bowling, leaf rubbing, fall-themed obstacle course, and more. *The program is presented with Jerome Witte from My Town Realty Group. Registration required. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Saturday, 10/4; 11am—3pm****Awe of Nature, Midlothian Meadows, Midlothian**

Join us and connect people to nature through environmental engagement and community partners. *The program is presented by The Nature Conservancy. For more information, please visit the website.*

**Saturday, 10/4; 1pm****Oak Ecology Hike, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Explore the area by hiking under ancient oaks. Participants can learn about their natural history and why they are keystone species. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. Please call (630)257-2045.*

**Saturday, 10/4; 4pm****Sounds Natural Creative Retreat, Camp Shabbona Woods, South Holland**

Enjoy art activities, food and music with the option of camping overnight. *Registration required. There is a limited number of spaces available. The program is presented by Sounds Natural. Please visit the website.*

**Sunday, 10/5; 9am—5pm****Southbound Migration, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Explore an interactive program about the Central and South American destinations of our migratory birds. *This is a bilingual program that will be held in English and Spanish. For more information, please call (847)381-6592.*

**Sunday, 10/5; 1:30pm****Autumn Nature Walks, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest**

Enjoy the autumn season on a guided walk with a naturalist and view the color intensifies on our trails. *Registration required. The program is a family program. Please call (708)366-6530.*

**Saturday, 10/11; 10am—12pm****Fall Photography, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Enjoy a guided walk to view and photograph fall colors. *Registration required by 10/9. Ages 13 and up. The program is for all skill levels. Please call (847)824-8360.*

**Saturday, 10/11; 7pm—8:30pm****Introduction to Afro-Brazilian Music, Camp Shabbona Woods, South Holland**

Participants can learn basic rhythms on percussive instruments as well as songs in Portuguese while in a call-and-respond setting. *Registration required. All instruments will be provided for Capoeira music, samba and maculelê during this workshop. The program is presented by Beto de Freitas. Please call (708)868-0606.*

**Saturday, 10/11; 11:30am****Day Hiking Leadership Training, Bemis Woods-North, Oak Brook**

Participants will be given the tools to take groups into the preserves for the day. *Registration required. The program is for teachers and youth educators. Please visit the website.*

**Saturday, 10/11 through Sunday, 10/12; 4pm—11am****Family Campout, Camp Shabbona Woods, South Holland**

The program is an introduction to camping for families and it will include meals, camping gear and outdoor fun. *Registration required. The cost is \$75 per family of 6 or less. Please visit the website.*

**Sunday, 10/12; 10am—11:30am****Seed Collecting, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Join us in our prairies to help in the restoration process by collecting native seeds. *Registration required. Ages 8 and up. Please call (847)381-6592.*

**Sunday, 10/12; 10:30am & 1:30 pm****Fall Changes, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Enjoy a casual walk in the woods and view the spectacular fall colors. *For more information, please call (847)824-8360.*

**Sunday, 10/12; 1pm—2:30pm****Seed Collecting, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Join us in our prairies to help in the restoration process by collecting native seeds. *Registration required. Age 8 and up. Please call (847)381-6592.*

**Sunday, 10/12; 1:30pm****Autumn Nature Walks, Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest**

Enjoy the autumn season on a guided walk with a naturalist and see the color intensifies on our trails. *Registration required. The program is a family program. Please call (708)366-6530.*

**Wednesday, 10/15; 6:30pm****Owl Prowl, Eggers Grove, Chicago**

Join us for a guided walk and search for owls. *Registration required. Please visit the website.*

**Sunday, 10/12; 1pm—2:30pm****Mental Health First Aid Training, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Participants can learn about mental health and the skills to assist other individuals. *Registration required. Age 18 and up. The program is presented with the Kenneth Young Center. Please call (847)381-6592.*

**Saturday, 10/18; 10am—2pm****The Great Sand Ridge Tiny Pumpkin Hunt, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Discover hidden pumpkins on a fun scavenger hunt and take home your own pumpkin. *Supplies are limited. Participants are encouraged to wear costumes. For more information, please call (708)868-0606.*

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**Saturday, 10/18; 11am—2pm**

**Hispanic Heritage Paddle. Powderhorn Lake, Burnham**

Enjoy paddling, storytelling, and connecting nature and culture. *The program is presented with Friends of the Chicago River. For more information, please call (224)763-4317.*

**Saturday, 10/18; 1pm**

**Seed Collecting at Wolf Road Prairie, Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve, Westchester**

Join us for a prairie seed collecting workday. *Registration required. Ages 12 and up. Ages 12-17 must be accompanied by an adult. Please call (708)366-6530.*

**Sunday, 10/19; 10am—3pm**

**Fall Festival, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Celebrate the autumn season with a special fun day! Participants can view and enjoy beekeeping demonstrations, animal encounters, pumpkin painting, honey sales, activities and more. *For more information, please call (847)824-8360.*

**COMMITTEE ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

**RULES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2025**

**25-0330 JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS** Regular meeting held on 7/1/2025

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**FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2025**

**25-0308 PROPOSED BID RECOMMENDATION** Great Lakes Landscape Company, primary place of business Bartlett, Illinois, for construction of a new trail connecting Beaubien Woods Boat Launch to Altgeld Gardens in Chicago, Illinois

**25-0313 RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (LITIGATION)** Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Litigation – 9/9/2025

**25-0314 RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (WORKERS' COMPENSATION)** Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Workers' Compensation - 9/9/2025

**25-0093 REPORT** Report Title: Corporate Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures Report Period: 1/1/2025 - 7/31/2025

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**LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2025**

**25-0263 REPORT** Report Title: Model Policing Report Period: 1/1/2025 - 6/30/2025