



**Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Board of Commissioners**

Journal Proceedings of the FPD Board of Commissioners

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

10:00 AM

**Cook County Building, Board Room, 118
North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

Issued On: 4/11/2024

ATTENDANCE

Present: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore,
Morita, K. Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: S. Morrison (1) excused

Remote Participation

A motion was made by Commissioner BILL LOWRY, seconded by Commissioner SCOTT R. BRITTON, to allow for remote participation in meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore,
Morita, Morrison, Quezada and Trevor (15)

Absent: Morrison and Stamps (2)

CONSENT CALENDAR

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

PRESIDENT

[24-0182](#)

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

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A FOREST PRESERVE NEAR SWEET WOODS

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A FOREST PRESERVE in part of Section 14, Township 35 North, Range 14, East of the Third Principal Meridian, all in Cook County, Illinois near Sweet Woods in District 5.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois (the “District”), pursuant to the statutes in such case made and provided, has from time to time acquired by purchase, condemnation, gift, grant, devise, or otherwise, lands necessary and desirable for District purposes containing one or more natural forests or parts thereof, or lands connecting such forests or parts thereof, or lands capable of being reforested for the purpose of protecting and preserving the flora, fauna, and scenic beauties within the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois, and to restore, restock, protect, and preserve the natural forests and said lands together with their flora and fauna, as nearly as may be, in their natural state and condition, for the purpose of the education, pleasure, and recreation of the public; and

WHEREAS, the said Board of Commissioners of the District also has acquired in like manner lands for the consolidation of such preserves into unit areas of a size and form convenient and desirable for public use and economical maintenance and improvement, and lands for the purpose of connecting such preserves with forested ways or links in order to increase their accessibility, use, and enjoyment, and lands for improvement by forestation, roads, and pathways, and lands for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, and operating recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the District has in a like manner acquired lands along water courses or elsewhere which, in their judgment, were required to control drainage and water conditions and necessary for the preservation of forested areas acquired or to be acquired as preserves and lands for the purpose of extension of roads and forested ways around and by such preserves and for parking space for automobiles and other facilities not requiring forested areas but incidental to the use and protection thereof; and

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the District as follows:

Section 1. That a unified Forest Preserve be and the same is hereby created within the District which shall contain and connect lands now owned and lands to be acquired in substantial accordance with the plat now on file in the office of the General Superintendent of the District, which by reference is hereby made a part hereof, and for the purposes of said Forest Preserve and for the carrying out of the statutory purposes more particularly set out in the preamble of this ordinance, it is necessary and desirable for the District to own and it shall acquire property hereinafter described in Section 2 of this ordinance, for the purpose of creating a Forest Preserve and for District uses.

Section 2. That the lands referred to in Section 1 of this ordinance are more particularly described as follows:

1413 E Joe Orr Road (aka 1400 E Joe Orr Rd), Lynwood, Cook County, Illinois

THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 14 (EXCEPT THE EAST 36-2/3 ACRES THEREOF) AND (EXCEPT HIGHWAY) THAT PART OF THE SOUTH HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 35 NORTH, RANGE 14, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, LYING NORTHEAST OF THE CENTER LINE OF DEER CREEK, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PINs: 32-14-406-001-0000 & 32-14-405-003-0000

SAID PARCELS CONTAINING 2,022,778 SQUARE FEET, OR 46.44 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Section 3. This ordinance is hereby made and ordained to be severable as to each parcel of land or portion thereof or right of interest in any of the same hereby authorized to be acquired, and failure to acquire any of the said parcels of land described in Section 2 hereof or right of interest in any of the same shall not impair or invalidate the authority by this ordinance granted to hold, own, or acquire any other of said parcels or any right or interest therein, it being the intention of said Board of Commissioners of the District to carry out the general plan provided in this ordinance so far as legally and financially practicable, and to negotiate for purchase, condemn, or otherwise acquire from time to time the several parcels of land described in Section 2 hereof and all right or interest therein.

Section 4. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

District 5

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to refer 24-0182 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0183](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED SALE OR PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE

Department(s): Legal Department

Other Part(ies): 1400 E Joe Orr, LLC (Owner of Record)

Request: It is respectfully requested that this proposed purchase be approved.

Description of Real Estate: 1413 E Joe Orr Rd (aka 1400 E Joe Orr Rd), Lynwood, Cook County, Illinois

Section: N/A

Parcel(s): PINs: 32-14-406-001-0000 & 32-14-405-003-0000

THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 14 (EXCEPT THE EAST 36-2/3 ACRES THEREOF) AND (EXCEPT HIGHWAY) THAT PART OF THE SOUTH HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 35 NORTH, RANGE 14, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, LYING NORTHEAST OF THE CENTER LINE OF DEER CREEK, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

SAID PARCELS CONTAINING 2,022,778 SQUARE FEET, OR 46.44 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Fiscal Impact: \$1,520,000.00 purchase price plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$1,530,000.00 in total).

Accounts: Real Estate and Land Acquisition Fund 51006.560010; and ARPA Fund 51032.560010

District(s): 5

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) has identified two parcels of land for acquisition that would add to the Forest Preserves’ current holdings near Sweet Woods (the “Property”). The Property, commonly known as 1413 E Joe Orr Rd (aka 1400 E Joe Orr Rd), Lynwood, Cook County, Illinois, consists of approximately 46.44 ± acres.

Through negotiations, the Owner of Record (the “Seller”), has agreed to sell the Property to the Forest Preserves for the sum of ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$1,520,000.00) plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$1,530,000.00 in total). The purchase price is based upon two (2) M.A.I. appraisals obtained by the Forest Preserves and is subject to the Forest Preserves’ satisfactory completion of its due diligence.

Permission is now sought, upon satisfactory completion of all due diligence and negotiation of any and all required documentation as determined by the Forest Preserves Legal Department, to effectuate payment in the amount of the purchase price plus closing costs as full compensation for the acquisition of the Property.

This land acquisition advances the goals of the Forest Preserves’ Southeast Cook County Land Acquisition Plan, Next Century Conservation Plan, and Acquisition and Disposition of Land Position Paper.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to refer 24-0183 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0184](#)

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

PROPOSED ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A FOREST PRESERVE NEAR SWEET WOODS

AN ORDINANCE CREATING A FOREST PRESERVE in part of Section 11, Township 35 North, Range 14, East of the Third Principal Meridian, all in Cook County, Illinois near Sweet Woods in District 5.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois (the “District”), pursuant to the statutes in such case made and provided, has from time to time acquired by purchase, condemnation, gift, grant, devise, or otherwise, lands necessary and desirable for District purposes containing one or more natural forests or parts thereof, or lands connecting such forests or parts thereof, or lands capable of being reforested for the purpose of protecting and preserving the flora, fauna, and scenic beauties within the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois, and to restore, restock, protect, and preserve the natural forests and said lands together with their flora and fauna, as nearly as may be, in their natural state and condition, for the purpose of the education, pleasure, and recreation of the public; and

WHEREAS, the said Board of Commissioners of the District also has acquired in like manner lands for the consolidation of such preserves into unit areas of a size and form convenient and desirable for public use and economical maintenance and improvement, and lands for the purpose of connecting such preserves with forested ways or links in order to increase their accessibility, use, and enjoyment, and lands for improvement by forestation, roads, and pathways, and lands for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, and operating recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the District has in a like manner acquired lands along water courses or elsewhere which, in their judgment, were required to control drainage and water conditions and necessary for the preservation of forested areas acquired or to be acquired as preserves and lands for the purpose of extension of roads and forested ways around and by such preserves and for parking space for automobiles and other facilities not requiring forested areas but incidental to the use and protection thereof; and

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the District as follows:

Section 1. That a unified Forest Preserve be and the same is hereby created within the District which shall contain and connect lands now owned and lands to be acquired in substantial accordance with the plat now on file in the office of the General Superintendent of the District, which by reference is hereby made a part hereof, and for the purposes of said Forest Preserve and for the carrying out of the statutory purposes more particularly set out in the preamble of this ordinance, it is necessary and desirable for the District to own and it shall acquire property hereinafter described in Section 2 of this ordinance, for the purpose of creating a Forest Preserve and for District uses.

Section 2. That the lands referred to in Section 1 of this ordinance are more particularly described as follows:

19101 Cottage Grove Ave, Unincorporated Cook County, Illinois

THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 35 NORTH, RANGE 14, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN (EXCEPT THE NORTH 1150 FEET THEREOF), IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PIN: 32-11-300-003-0000

SAID PARCELS CONTAINING 1,833,440 SQUARE FEET, OR 42.09 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Section 3. This ordinance is hereby made and ordained to be severable as to each parcel of land or portion thereof or right of interest in any of the same hereby authorized to be acquired, and failure to acquire any of the said parcels of land described in Section 2 hereof or right of interest in any of the same shall not impair or invalidate the authority by this ordinance granted to hold, own, or acquire any other of said parcels or any right or interest therein, it being the intention of said Board of Commissioners of the District to carry out the general plan provided in this ordinance so far as legally and financially practicable, and to negotiate for purchase, condemn, or otherwise acquire from time to time the several parcels of land described in Section 2 hereof and all right or interest therein.

Section 4. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

District 5

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to refer 24-0184 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0185](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED SALE OR PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE

Department(s): Legal Department

Other Part(ies): Calvary Christian Development Corporation (Owner of Record)

Request: It is respectfully requested that this proposed purchase be approved.

Description of Real Estate: 19101 Cottage Grove, Unincorporated, Cook County, Illinois

Section: N/A

Parcel(s): PIN: 32-11-300-003-0000

THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 11, TOWNSHIP 35 NORTH, RANGE 14, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN (EXCEPT THE NORTH 1150 FEET THEREOF), IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

SAID PARCELS CONTAINING 1,833,440 SQUARE FEET, OR 42.09 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Fiscal Impact: \$1,680,000.00 purchase price plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$1,690,000.00 in total).

Accounts: Real Estate and Land Acquisition Fund 51006.560010; and ARPA Fund 51032.560010.

District(s): 5

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) has identified a parcel of land for acquisition that would add to the Forest Preserves’ current holdings near Sweet Woods (the “Property”). The Property, commonly known as 19101 Cottage Grove Ave, Unincorporated Cook County, Illinois, consists of approximately 42.09 ± acres.

Through negotiations, the Owner of Record (the “Seller”), has agreed to sell the Property to the Forest Preserves for the sum of ONE MILLION SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$1,680,000.00) plus closing costs up to \$10,000.00 (up to \$1,690,000.00 in total). The purchase price is based upon two (2) M.A.I. appraisals obtained by the Forest Preserves and is subject to the Forest Preserves’ satisfactory completion of its due diligence.

Permission is now sought, upon satisfactory completion of all due diligence and negotiation of any and

all required documentation as determined by the Forest Preserves Legal Department, to effectuate payment in the amount of the purchase price plus closing costs as full compensation for the acquisition of the Property.

This land acquisition advances the goals of the Forest Preserves’ Southeast Cook County Land Acquisition Plan, Next Century Conservation Plan, and Acquisition and Disposition of Land Position Paper.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to refer 24-0185 to the Real Estate Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

COMMISSIONERS

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

[24-0121](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO LOCAL AGENCY AGREEMENT WITH THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (“IDOT”) FOR DES PLAINES RIVER TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION AND TO PAY LOCAL SHARE OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) has sought and been awarded funds from the Transportation Alternative Program (“TAP-L Grant”), a federally funded program administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation (“IDOT”), for reconstruction of a 1.0-mile section of the Des Plaines River Trail between Lawrence Avenue and Irving Park Road also known as Segment 4 (hereafter “the Project”); and

WHEREAS, IDOT requires a resolution to reaffirm the Forest Preserves funding commitment for Phase III Engineering (construction management) and Construction costs associated with the Project as per the Local Agency Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Local Agency Agreement also provides for the division of Phase III Engineering and Construction costs for the Project and payment of 20% of the construction cost by the Forest Preserves as the Local Agency; and

WHEREAS, TAP-L provides approximately 80% (or maximum of \$257,400.00) of total Phase III Engineering costs estimated at \$321,800.00; and

WHEREAS, in order to meet deadlines for use of the funds provided via the TAP-L Grant, IDOT recommends that a consulting engineering firm be employed to perform Phase III Engineering construction management services; and

WHEREAS, in December 2023, the Forest Preserves issued a Request for Qualifications “RFQ” for Phase III Engineering Services and based on qualifications subsequently selected Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd., Rosemont, Illinois (“CBBEL”) to serve as Consulting Engineers for Phase III Engineering (with contract award submitted for approval under separate Board Item No. 24-0136); and

WHEREAS, CBBEL Phase III Engineering costs are \$321,800.00, TAP-L funds will cover up to roughly 80% (\$257,400.00) of this cost and the Forest Preserves will be responsible for 20% of the cost of Phase III Engineering or \$64,400.00 in connection with the Project; and

WHEREAS, TAP-L provides 80% (or maximum of \$2,267,520.00) of Construction costs for the Project currently estimated at \$2,834,400.00 in total; and the Forest Preserves 20% local share of the construction cost is currently estimated at \$566,880.00; and

WHEREAS, IDOT is responsible for the bid letting and award of construction contracts, and will accept the apparent low bid with approval from the Forest Preserves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Forest Preserves, through its President, to enter into a local agency agreement (the “Local Agency Agreement”), with the Illinois Department of Transportation (“IDOT”) in connection with the Project, and to pay an amount not to exceed \$321,800.00 for Phase III Engineering subject to reimbursement of approximately 80% by IDOT, and to pay the Forest Preserves 20% local share of the construction cost directly to IDOT in an amount of \$566,880.00 plus contingency of 20% of \$566,880.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd, of Rosemont, Illinois (“CBBEL”) be engaged to perform Phase III Engineering services in connection with the Project, and that the President of such Board of Commissioners is hereby directed to execute, on behalf of the Forest Preserves, an agreement by and between the Forest Preserves and CBBEL for Phase III Engineering services (the “Engineering Services Agreement”); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners hereby confirms that sufficient funds are, or will be available, pending annual appropriations, in the Forest Preserves capital funding accounts, including Motor Fuel Tax funds from the Cook County Department of Transportation & Highways, to pay the local share of Phase III Engineering and Construction costs in the amount not to exceed \$64,400.00 plus \$1,133,760.00 (\$566,880.00 20% match plus \$566,880.00 20% contingency); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of the Local Agency Agreement and the Engineering

Services Agreement for Federal Participation, when executed in their respective final form, shall be submitted to IDOT for approval and final processing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 24-0121. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0136](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

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 enter into and execute

Good(s) or Service(s): Phase III engineering services for construction oversight relating to construction of approximately 1.0 mile of the Des Plaines River Trail from Lawrence Avenue to Irving Park Road.

Contract Value: \$321,800.00

Contract Period: 6/1/2024 - 12/31/2026

Estimated Fiscal Impact: Not to exceed \$321,800.00 (FY 2024 \$64,360.00, FY 2025 \$247,440.00, FY 2026 \$10,000.00). Approximately 80% to be reimbursed by TAP-L grant.

Accounts: Professional Services 51009.520830, 51010.520830, 51029.520830, 51033.520830, 51034.520830; and future Construction and Development accounts

Contract Number(s): #74000013937 issued in response to RFQ #19-80-67G-24E2 (Solicitation #2380-010140)

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): 9

Summary: Phase III engineering services are needed to oversee the rehabilitation and realignment of approximately 1 mile of the Des Plaines River Trail extending from Lawrence Avenue south to Irving Park Road (known as Segment 4). A major federal grant was awarded by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (“CMAP”) through the locally programmed Transportation Alternative Program (TAP-L) (Board Item No. 22-0223) that will reimburse the Forest Preserves for roughly 80% or \$257,400.00 of the total cost for these services. The Forest Preserves intends to pay the required 20% local match (\$64,400.00) from capital funds including Motor Fuel Tax funds provided under an IGA with the Cook County Department of Transportation & Highways (Board Item No. 20-0007).

The Forest Preserves issued a Request for Qualifications for Phase III Engineering Services. Eight (8) firms responded to a publicly advertised Request for Qualifications. Christopher B. Burke Engineering (“CBBEL”) was selected based on qualifications.

In addition to a contract directly with the Vendor, IDOT requires that the Forest Preserves enter into Local Agency and Engineering Service Agreements for Federal Participation. A Resolution authorizing execution of those agreements has been submitted separately (Board Item No. 24-0121).

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 24-0136. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Ayes:** Aguilar, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (11)
- Present:** Anaya, Britton, Morita and Morrison (4)
- Absent:** Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0175](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Facilities and Fleet

Vendor: Altec Industries, Inc., Birmingham, Alabama

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Purchase of eight (8) Altec Utility Trucks - (2) Aerial Lift Trucks and (6) Chip-Dump Vehicles, based on Sourcewell contract #110421-ALT, expiring 12/27/2025.

Contract Value: \$1,266,714.00

Contract Period: One-time purchase

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2024 \$1,266,714.00

Accounts: Vehicle Purchase 51033.560266, 51034.560266, 51028.560266, and Grant and Mitigation 51010.560266

Contract Number(s): #74000014053

Concurrences: The Vehicle Steering Committee has approved the purchase of referenced vehicles.

The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

Piggyback contract based on the Sourcewell Contract #110421-ALT with no MWBE participation goals.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Department of Facilities and Fleet is requesting the purchase of eight (8) Altec utility trucks. This purchase of Altec trucks will be assigned to the Department of Resource Management.

The purchase of the two (2) aerial lift trucks will enable the Forest Preserves to continue with its mission towards restoration, management, and preservation of the Forest Preserves. These aerial lift trucks will be utilized for forestry operations, such as routine tree maintenance and pruning, as well as emergency storm damage response necessitating the removal of potentially hazardous trees. The addition of these vehicles to the Forest Preserves’ fleet will allow for an equitable distribution of aerial lift trucks with appropriate height capabilities across the county, improving efficiency and reducing response times.

The purchase of the six (6) chip-dump truck vehicles will provide additional hauling capacity for each regional Resource Management crew, to remove debris as well as transport heavy equipment utilized in land management operations. Aerial lift and chip-dump vehicles are key pieces of equipment necessary for maintaining vegetation across the Forest Preserves. Additional vehicles of both types are needed due to recent expansions in personnel and the opening of a new regional crew facility in 2024.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 24-0175. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0176](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Facilities and Fleet

Vendor: Global Rental Co., Inc., Birmingham, Alabama

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Purchase of three (3) Altec Aerial Lift Trucks based on Sourcewell contract #062320-ALT, expiring 8/27/2024.

Contract Value: \$555,165.00

Contract Period: One-time purchase

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2024 \$555,165.00

Accounts: Vehicle Purchase 29275.560266; and Clean Air and Clean Water 29802.560266

Contract Number(s): #74000014051

Concurrences: The Vehicle Steering Committee has approved the purchase of referenced vehicles.

The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

Piggyback contract based on the Sourcewell Contract #062320-ALT with no MWBE goals.

District(s): Districtwide

Summary: The Department of Facilities and Fleet is requesting the purchase of three (3) Altec Aerial Lift Trucks from Global Rental Co., Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Altec Industries, Inc., which offers Altec manufactured overstock vehicles for sale. One (1) truck will be assigned to the Facilities and Fleet department for electrical operations.

The remaining two (2) trucks will be assigned to the Department of Resource Management, that will utilize the aerial lift trucks for forestry operations, such as routine tree maintenance and pruning, as well as emergency storm damage response necessitating the removal of potentially hazardous trees. The addition of these vehicles to the Forest Preserves’ fleet will allow for an equitable distribution of aerial lift trucks with appropriate height capabilities across the county, improving efficiency and reducing response times.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gainer, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to approve 24-0176. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0186](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT

Department(s): Department of Facilities and Fleet

Vendor: Blossman Services, Inc., Ocean Springs, Mississippi

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Propane Autogas and Gasoline Systems, Training, and Parts for Repair

Contract Value: \$250,000.00

Contract Period: Thirty-six (36) months

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2024, \$150,000.00, FY 2025, \$50,000.00, FY 2026, \$50,000.00

Accounts: CCF Corporate, Equipment Supplies and Maintenance Service 51033.540275

Contract Number(s): #74000014052

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 Propane Autogas and Gasoline systems (i.e., propane conversion systems), training, and parts for repair. Fleet vehicles will be modified from gasoline to these propane systems to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Facilities and Fleet will reduce installation costs and install/maintain these propane systems in-house to reduce the downtime in sending these units out to a dealer for repairs. Blossman Services, Inc. is one of two vendors of propane vehicle conversion systems in the Midwest area. Blossman Services, Inc. can provide the training needed to move the conversion process in-house and holds 2024 EPA certification, whereas the second vendor does not. This is a sole source procurement.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0186. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0088](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Department(s): Department of Planning and Development

Vendor: Pan-Oceanic Engineering Company, Inc., Chicago, Illinois

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

Good(s) or Service(s): Paving construction services

Original Contract Period: 9/8/2022 - 9/5/2023; Administrative Extension 9/5/2023 - 6/5/2024

Proposed Contract Period Extension: 6/6/2024 - 6/30/2024

Total Current Contract Amount Authority: \$2,606,851.34

Original Approval: 7/26/2022, \$2,606,851.34

Previous Increase(s): N/A

This Increase Requested: \$220,000.00

Estimated Fiscal Impact: FY 2024 \$220,000.00

Accounts: Land Improvements 51009.560019, 51029.560019, 51033.560019 and 51034.560019

Contract Number(s): #74000010824 issued under Project #19-80-67G-22C4 South Area Pavement Improvements

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): 4, 5, 6, 16, 17

Summary: A contract increase and short extension is needed for additional work driven by site condition changes since the time of design and bidding. A collapsed sewer under Harlem Avenue caused severe creek erosion affecting the stability of the adjacent Tinley Creek Trail, requiring additional storm sewer, erosion control measures and landscape restoration in lieu of simple resurfacing. Additional topsoil and pavement resurfacing work were also determined necessary by the construction engineer to achieve the intended plan designs at Carlson Springs Woods, Chicago Portage Trail, Oak Forest Heritage Trail, Sauk Woods Central, and Major Taylor Trail. The project was originally approved by the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners on 7/26/2022 (Board Item No. 22-0307).

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 24-0088. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0172](#)

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: Changing the location of the May 14, 2024 Board meeting to the Cook County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois

Item Number: 23-0486 as amended via *errata*

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Account(s): N/A

District(s): N/A

Original Text of Item: 2024 BOARD AGENDA MEETING ANNUAL CALENDAR DATES AND LOCATIONS

WHEREAS, in accordance with Title 1, Chapter 5, Section 4-1(a) of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code of Ordinances, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners shall hold regular meetings pursuant to an annual calendar adopted by resolution of the Board; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 2.03 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, every public body shall give public notice of the schedule of regular meetings at the beginning of each calendar or fiscal year and shall state the regular dates, times and places of such meetings; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by President Toni Preckwinkle and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners (the “Board”):

1. That the Board shall hold its regular meetings of the Board on the following dates during calendar year 2024, the time for holding the specified meetings is 10:00 a.m., local time:

- Tuesday, January 23
- Tuesday, February 27
- Tuesday, March 12
- Tuesday, April 16
- Tuesday, May 14
- Tuesday, June 11
- Tuesday, July 23
- Tuesday, September 17
- Tuesday, October 22
- Tuesday, November 19
- Tuesday, December 17

2. That Board meetings may be conducted remotely by video and/or teleconferencing in accordance with public health authority guidelines and applicable provisions of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County Code of Ordinances, and executive orders related to a proclamation of disaster by the Governor of the State of Illinois. Otherwise, the place of Board meetings is the Cook County Building, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, except for the following ~~three~~ two meeting dates stated below in Sections 3, and 4, ~~4 and 5~~.

~~3. That the Board shall hold a regular meeting of the Board on Tuesday, May 14th at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd, Glencoe.~~

3. 4. That the Board shall hold a regular meeting of the Board on Tuesday, June 11th at the Sand Ridge Nature Center, 15891 Paxton Ave, South Holland.

4. ~~5.~~ That the Board shall hold a regular meeting of the Board on Tuesday, July 23rd at Thatcher Woods Pavilion, 8030 Chicago Ave, River Forest.

That the same dates and locations listed here will be used to schedule the following standing committee meetings, set to begin at 9:30 a.m., local time: Subcommittee on Workers’ Compensation; Committee on Rules; Committee on Finance; and Committee on Real Estate.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 24-0172. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0169](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED MISCELLANEOUS ITEM OF BUSINESS

Department: Department of Resource Management

Summary: Pursuant to Section 9 of the Cook County Forest Preserve District Act (70 ILCS 810/9), the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) requests to register an addition to Busse Forest Nature Preserve as provided in the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act, 525 ILCS 30/1 et seq., and requests authority to submit this additional property for dedication and registration with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (“INPC”).

This dedication would contribute to one of the key goals set forward in the Forest Preserves’ Next Century Conservation Plan to dedicate and register 20,000 acres with the INPC. Dedication of a site as a nature preserve provides the highest level of protection for land in Illinois and is granted only to natural areas of important ecological or cultural significance.

The proposed addition would expand the boundaries of the existing 446-acre Busse Forest Nature Preserve by 508 acres, plus 263 acres of adjacent buffer. Busse Forest Nature Preserve, located in Elk Grove Village in northwest Cook County, was first dedicated in 1965 as Illinois’ third nature preserve, and the landscape has been identified in the Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan as the Forest Preserves’ 4th highest priority for ecological restoration and management. The site consists of high-quality remnant mesic upland forest, dry-mesic woodland, northern flatwoods, and freshwater marsh. Subtle changes in topography foster an intermingling of these natural communities which support immense biological diversity, including over two hundred seventy-five (275) species of native plants.

The Forest Preserves currently has twenty-seven (27) dedicated Nature Preserves and six (6) Land and Water Reserves. The proposed expansion of Busse Forest Nature Preserve would bring the Forest Preserves' total INPC-protected lands to approximately 11,739 acres.

The Forest Preserves respectfully requests authority to submit this expansion of Busse Forest Nature Preserve to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission for review and formal dedication and registration as a nature preserve under the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act.

District(s): 15, 17

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 24-0169. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0181](#)

Presented by: MARY MODELSKI, County Auditor

REPORT

Department: Office of the County Auditor

Request: Refer to Audit Committee

Report Title: OCA - FY24 1st Quarter Open Recommendations

Report Period: March 2024

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Degnen, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to refer 24-0181 to the Audit Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0187](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Refer to Contract Compliance Committee

Report Title: Forest Preserves of Cook County Annual Business Diversity Report FY 2023

Report Period: 1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023

Summary: In July 2012, state legislation authorized the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to establish provisions to address the underuse of minority and women-owned businesses with respect to procurement contracts. An ordinance establishing the program’s parameters and guidelines was passed in 2012 and amended in subsequent years by the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners. To remedy historic inequity and to facilitate greater inclusion, the Forest Preserves established aspirational contract goals for the participation of minority and women-owned businesses as set forth under the Forest Preserves of Cook County Code of Ordinances.

The Minority and Women-Owned Businesses program accomplishments in FY 2023 include 42% of awarded contracts; and 52% of contract payments were made to minority and women-owned businesses either as prime contractors or sub-contractors.

The Forest Preserves participated in fifteen (15) outreach and workshop conferences, many in collaboration with various government entities.

A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Quezada, to refer 24-0187 to the Contract Compliance Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0064](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Procurement and Disbursement Report

Report Period: 2/1/2024 - 2/29/2024

Summary: Submitting the Procurement and Disbursement Report for the period of February 2024. The report is to be received and filed in compliance with Section 1-8-2 (BB) of the District's Code of Ordinances.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to receive and filed 24-0064. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0179](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Departments of Legal and Finance

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Workers' Compensation Report - February 2024

Report Period: 2/1/2024 - 2/29/2024

Summary: The Forest Preserves of Cook County Departments of Legal and Finance are submitting Workers' Compensation Claim Payments for the month of February 2024. Payments total \$114,629.22 for February 2024.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to receive and filed 24-0179. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0180](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award

Report Period: Fiscal Year 2022

Summary: The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting and represents a significant accomplishment by a local government. The award is given by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) upon its review of the Forest Preserves' Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for FY 2022.

The GFOA has awarded the Forest Preserves of Cook County the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for sixteen (16) consecutive years. In order to be awarded the certificate, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized ACFR. The report must satisfy both accounting principles generally accepted in the United States and applicable legal requirements.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to receive and filed 24-0180. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0173](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Department: Department of Conservation and Experiential Programming

Summary: Forest Preserves of Cook County Calendar of Events and Activities 4/16/2024 - 5/13/2024

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

Wednesday, 4/17; 6pm

International Bat Appreciation Folktale and Walk, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Join us for a folktale recited by a librarian from the LaGrange Park Library as we walk and discuss the importance of these misunderstood flying mammals. *Registration required. Please call (708)839-6897.*

Thursday, 4/18; 9:30am - 11:30am

Family Bird Walk, Erickson Woods, Winnetka

Start with a DIY binoculars craft then try it out while on a guided bird walk. *Registration required. Please call (773)758-8899.*

Thursday, 4/18; 5pm - 7pm

Creative Sustainability Workshop, Possum Hollow Woods, Westchester

Make chemical-free cleaning supplies, lavender pouches, and native seed bombs. *Ages 10 and up. For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Friday, 4/19; 3pm - 5pm

Earth Day Clean-up, Jerome Huppert Woods, River Grove

Celebrate Earth Day by doing your part in helping clean up litter in the Preserves. *The supplies will be provided for check-out. For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Saturday, 4/20; 11:30am

Day Hiking Leadership Training, Bemis Woods-North, Western Springs

Calling all teachers, group leaders and youth educators! Our Day Hiking Leadership Training program gets youth and groups of all ages outside by empowering teachers and group leaders with the skills and resources that they will need to lead safe and fun outdoor experiences. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. Please visit the website for registration and more information.*

Saturday, 4/20; 9am - 11am

Poetry in the Forest: A Forest Therapy Walk, Caldwell Wellness Center, Chicago

Join us for poetry in motion as we explore the forest through our senses. Participants will receive a journal and poetry by Mary Oliver. We will end the walk with a tea ceremony and poetry reading. *Registration required. Please call (773)758-8899.*

Saturday, 4/20; 9am - 11am

Earth Day, Busse Lake Boating Center, Elk Grove Village

Celebrate Earth Day by doing your part in helping clean up litter in the Preserves. *The litter pick-up supplies will be available for check-out. For more information, please call (773)758-8899.*

Saturday, 4/20; 9am - 11am

Earth Day, Caldwell Wellness Center, Chicago

Celebrate Earth Day by doing your part in helping to clean up litter in the Preserves. *The litter pick-up supplies will be available for check-out. For more information, please call (773)758-8899.*

Saturday, 4/20; 10am - 12pm**Celebrate Earth Day Activities, Trailside Museum, River Forest**

Plant a tree, make your own bird feeder, pick up litter, and more. Family program. *For more information, please call (708)366-6530.*

Saturday, 4/20; 10am - 2pm**Earth Day, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Celebrate Earth Day with themed games, self-guided litter cleanup and more. *For more information, please call (708) 868-0606.*

Saturday, 4/20; 11am - 1pm**Earth Day Celebration, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs**

Art activities, scavenger hunts, food chain demonstrations, and free plant giveaways will delight visitors. *Registration required. Please call (708)839-6897.*

Saturday, 4/20; 11am - 2pm**Earth Day Birthday, Sauk Trail Woods-Central, South Chicago Heights**

You can have your cake and eat it too! Celebrate planet Earth, play party games and better the environment. *For more information, please call (312)415-2970.*

Saturday, 4/20; 12pm - 2pm**Earth Day Clean-up, Miller Meadow-South, Maywood**

Celebrate Earth Day by doing your part in helping clean up litter in the Preserves. *Grove 6. The supplies will be provided for check-out. For more information, please call (312)533-5751.*

Saturday, 4/20; 12pm - 3pm**Earth Day Nature Play, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington**

Play, plant, paint and pretend with family-fun activities. *For more information, please call (847)381-6598.*

Saturday, 4/20; 1pm**Wildflower Walk, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Enjoy a hike to look for wildflowers while learning how to identify these ephemeral beauties. *Registration required. Please call (630)257-2045.*

Sunday, 4/21; 1pm**Fantastic Ferns, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Join us for a discussion and short walk to investigate this fascinating group of vascular plants. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. Please call (630)257-2045.*

Sunday, 4/21; 1:30pm**Conservation@Home: No Mow May Talk, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Learn how delaying your spring clean-up can help backyard conservation. *Registration required. Please call (847) 824-8360.*

Tuesday, 4/23; 7:30pm

Full Moon Walk, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Walk under the light of the full moon. *Registration required. Please call (847)381-6598.*

Tuesday, 4/23; 9:15pm

Moon Walk, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Let the full moon be our guide as we walk in the largest Urban Night Sky Place in the world. *Registration required. Please call (708)839-6897.*

Thursday, 4/25; 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Night Hike: Stars and Stories, Dan Ryan Woods Pavilion, Chicago

Join in and listen to the story "Under the Drinking Gourd" and learn the significance of why reading the stars was important for survival.

Thursday, 4/25; 7pm

Nature Book Club: "An Immense World" by Ed Yong, Trailside Museum, River Forest

In partnership with Forest Park Public Library, join us for a lively discussion about this book on animal senses. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. Please call (708)366-6530.*

Friday, 4/26; 7pm - 9pm

Frog Survey Night Walk, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Come be a citizen scientist for an evening as we listen to and document our local frogs. *Space is limited. Registration required. Ages 12 and up. Please call (708) 868-0606.*

Friday, 4/26; 7:30pm

Nature at Night, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Explore the world of nature after the sun sets. *Registration and payment required by 4/24. The cost is \$5 per person. Please call (847) 824-8360.*

Saturday, 4/27; 12pm - 2pm

Wildflower Walk, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Come along for a guided walk to explore spring ephemerals in bloom. *Registration required. Please call (708)868-0606.*

Saturday, 4/27; 1pm

Teen Shelter Building, Camp Dan Beard, Northbrook

Bring your friends and learn all about primitive shelter buildings and then build your own. *Registration required. Ages 12 and up. Please visit the website for registration and more information.*

Friday, 5/3; 7:30pm

Relax and Unwind Sunset Walk, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Join us for a Mental Health Awareness Month walk. *Registration required. Ages 18 and up. Please call (847)381-6598.*

Saturday, 5/4; 10am - 1pm

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Trivia Walk, Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, Chicago

Enjoy a self-guided walk while learning about the role Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders play in conservation.

Saturday, 5/4; 10am - 1pm

Book Swap, Swallow Cliff Woods-North, Palos Park

Bring in gently used books and leave with some new-to-you books! *Any genre and reading level; nature-themed books encouraged. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.*

Saturday, 5/4; 12pm - 5pm

Community Powwow: Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Caldwell Wellness Center, Chicago

In partnership with the American Indian Health Services Center, St. Kateri Center, Trickster Cultural Center, American Indian Center-Chicago, and the Forest Preserves of Cook County. Join us to bring awareness to the obstacles the native communities have faced historically in seeking justice for these women and their families. *Please visit the website for more information.*

Saturday, 5/4 through Sunday, 5/5

Camping Leadership Immersion Course, Camp Sullivan, Oak Forest

Overnight training course to learn skills needed to plan and lead group camping trips. Covers safety, day-hiking, tent, and stove-set up, teambuilding and leadership skills, as well as educational offerings. After training, you will gain access to the gear library and group site. *Registration required. The cost is \$25 per person, which includes food and camping gear. Ages 18 and up. Please visit the website for registration and more information.*

Sunday, 5/5; 10am - 12pm

Bird Banding, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Join us at Sagawau for our 27th year of bird banding. You can see the birds up close while learning about this scientific study method.

Sunday, 5/5; 12pm - 3pm

Spring Festival, Trailside Museum, River Forest

Enjoy interactive programs, kids' tree-climb, guided wildflower walks, bird banding, kid's nature crafts, gardening info and much more!

Tuesday, 5/7; 9pm

Dark Sky Walk, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Willow Springs

Enjoy an evening walk through our woods and get a close-up view of the night sky. *Registration required. Please call (708)839-6897.*

Thursday, 5/9; 3pm - 5pm

Teen Exploration Day: Crafternoon, Eggers Grove, Chicago

Try your hand at a variety of arts and crafts and use nature as inspiration.

Thursday, 5/9; 6pm - 8pm**Adult Game Night, Caldwell Wellness Center, Chicago**

A night of outdoor games, trivia, and nature play. *Registration required. Ages 21 and up. Bring Your Own Bottle, which cannot be glass. Please call (773)758-8899.*

Friday, 5/10; 5pm - 7pm**Printmaking Workshop, Evans Field, River Grove**

Bring items you wish to decorate and learn about basic printmaking techniques while using natural materials. *The supplies will be provided. Registration required. Please call (312)533-5751.*

Saturday, 5/11; 8am**World Migratory Bird Day: Bird Walk and Little Sit, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Join us for activities dedicated to our feathered neighbors! The walk begins at 8am and the little sit portion begins at 10am. *Registration required. Please call (708) 868-0606.*

Saturday, 5/11; 9am - 2pm**World Migratory Bird Day, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont**

Celebrate migratory birds and watch bird banding demonstrations while learning how insects affect bird populations. *Registration required. Please call (630)257-2045.*

Saturday, 5/11; 10am**Teen Exploration Day: Volunteer Day, Trailside Museum, River Forest**

Help remove invasive garlic mustard. You will earn service-learning hours. *The supplies will be provided. Registration required. Ages 15-17. Please call (708)366-6530.*

Sunday, 5/11; 10am - 12pm**Migratory Bird Day, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook**

Learn the basics of bird watching. *Registration required, Ages 8 and up. Please call (847) 824-8360.*

Saturday, 5/11; 1pm**World Migratory Bird Day: Bird Feeder Craft, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Join us for activities dedicated to our feathered neighbors! *Registration required. Please call (708) 868-0606.*

Saturday, 5/11; 7pm - 9pm**Star Party, Deer Grove-East, Palatine**

Explore astronomy on this family-friendly night in the Preserves. *Grove 3. Crafts, stargazing, and refreshments will be provided. For more information, please call (773)758-8899.*

Sunday, 5/12; 12pm - 4pm**Mother's Day Art Fair, Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland**

Come see some amazing art inspired by mother earth and mother figures alike. There will be great conversation and food onsite.

Sunday, 5/12; 1pm

Mother’s Day Woodland Wildflower Walk, Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington

Join us for a walk in the woodland. *For more information, please call (847)381-6598.*

Sunday, 5/12; 1pm

Wildflower Walk, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont

Enjoy a hike to look for wildflowers while learning how to identify these ephemeral beauties. *Registration required. Please call (630)257-2045.*

Sunday, 5/12; 1:30pm

Wildflower Walk, River Trail Nature Center, Northbrook

Learn about spring woodland wildflowers on a casual walk. *Registration required. Please call (847)824-8360.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to receive and filed 24-0173. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

RULES COMMITTEE

[24-0203](#)

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SECRETARY TO THE BOARD, Lynne M. Turner, presented in printed form a record of the Journal of Proceedings of the regular meeting held on 02/27/2024.

[24-0204](#)

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

SECRETARY TO THE BOARD, Lynne M. Turner, presented in printed form a record of the Journal of Proceedings of the regular meeting held on 03/12/2024.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

[24-0155](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

PROPOSED BID RECOMMENDATION

Department: Department of Planning and Development

Request: Authorization for the Forest Preserves of Cook County (the “Forest Preserves”) to enter into a construction contract with Fabex Technologies, LLC, primary place of business Chicago, Illinois, for window replacements, building envelope improvements, and restroom renovations at Forest Preserves General Headquarters.

Reason: Contract #74000013938 issued under project #23-80-13, Solicitation #24-80-100224 Window Replacements, Building Envelope Improvements, and Restroom Renovations at Forest Preserves General Headquarters. The work includes, but is not limited to, window replacements, building envelope improvements, restroom renovations, and other related work as specified in the plans and specifications, and would be funded in large part by American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) sub-award grant funds from Cook County.

Bid Opening Date: 2/21/2024

Bid Results:

Firm	Base Bid	Alternate*	Total
1. Fabex Technologies, LLC,	\$2,054,662.00	\$42,154.56	\$2,096,816.56
2. Scale Construction, Inc.,	\$2,200,576.00	\$90,169.00	\$2,290,745.00
3. Pacific Construction Services, LLC	\$2,434,345.00	\$101,253.00	\$2,535,598.00
4. Reed Construction Services	\$2,440,279.00	\$109,920.00	\$2,550,199.00
5. AGAE Contractors, Inc.	\$2,594,477.00	\$123,056.00	\$2,717,533.00

*Alternate to provide six (6) in-swing 2 panel doors and screens is accepted.

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$2,096,816.56

Contract Period: Three hundred and sixty (360) days from notice to proceed.

Account Name/Number: Property Maintenance and Operations 51009.560105, 51032.560105, 51033.560105 and 51034.560105; and future Construction and Development accounts

District: 9

Concurrence(s): The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 24-0155. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0177](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (LITIGATION)

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Litigation - 4/16/2024

The Finance Subcommittee on Litigation met on the above listed date and recommends the following for approval:

Proposed Settlements Approved Fiscal Year 2024 to Present: \$0.00

Proposed Settlements to Be Approved: \$0.00

Legal Fees Approved Fiscal Year 2024 to Present: \$197,498.06

Legal Fees for 4/16/2024 to Be Approved: \$25,255.90

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 24-0177. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0178](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE (WORKERS' COMPENSATION)

Finance Subcommittee Meeting on Workers' Compensation - 4/16/2024

The Finance Subcommittee on Workers' Compensation met on the above listed date and recommends the following for approval:

Workers' Compensation Claims approved Fiscal Year 2024 to present: \$205,033.23

Workers' Compensation Claims to Be Approved: \$104,197.66

Workers' Compensation Lien Recovery approved Fiscal Year 2024 to present: \$12,500.00

Workers' Compensation Lien Recovery to be Approved: \$0.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to approve 24-0178. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0161](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Facilities and Fleet

Request: Refer to Finance Committee

Report Title: Annual Energy Expense Report

Report Period: 1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023

Summary: On 1/26/2021, the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners authorized the Forest Preserves of Cook County to enter into agreements recommended by Ameresco, Inc. (Board Item No. 21-0125). Previously, on 10/20/2020, the Board of Commissioners had approved a contract with Ameresco, Inc. to provide, in part, procurement of electricity, natural gas, and renewable energy (Board Item No. 20-0363). On 11/14/2023, the Board of Commissioners approved an extension of the contract with Ameresco, Inc. until 9/30/2025 (Board Item No. 23-0452). As required by Board Item No. 21-0125, this report provides a monthly breakdown of related energy payments made during fiscal year 2023.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to receive and filed 24-0161. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

[24-0078](#)

Presented by: EILEEN FIGEL, Interim General Superintendent

REPORT

Department: Department of Finance and Administration

Request: Receive and File

Report Title: Corporate Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures

Report Period: 1/1/2024 - 2/29/2024

Summary: Detailed Fund Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures for February 2024.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Deer, to receive and filed 24-0078. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

NEW ITEMS

[24-0209](#)

Sponsored by: BRIDGET DEGNEN, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, MONICA GORDON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA and MAGGIE TREVOR, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND MOBILIZATION TO LIMIT THE PROCUREMENT OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2023, the world reached the highest recorded average temperature ever. Re: *World Meteorological Organization* (July 26, 2023). The month of July 2023 was the hottest month on record globally (NASA, August 2023); and

WHEREAS, 2023 was the warmest year on record since global temperature records began in 1850, and 2023 marked the 47th consecutive year (since 1977) that global land and ocean temperatures have been above the 20th century average; and

WHEREAS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) data, which tends to be more conservative, warns that the year 2024 has a 99% chance it will rank among the top five warmest years in human history; and

WHEREAS, humankind is experiencing death and destruction caused by global warming demonstrated by extreme weather patterns, mass extinction, wildfires, increasing air pollution, rising sea levels, floods, droughts, coastline erosion, rapidly diminishing Arctic Sea ice, decreased crop production, and many other alarming changes; and

WHEREAS, in April 2016, world leaders recognized the urgent need to combat climate change thereby signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep global warming at temperatures “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C”; and

WHEREAS, in October 2018, the United Nations released a special report which projected that limiting global warming to a temperature increase of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy by 2030; and

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty, 1.5°C of global warming above pre-industrial conditions could expose 500 million people to water poverty, 36 million people to food insecurity due to lower crop yields, and 4.5 billion people to extreme heat waves; and

WHEREAS, an Arctic Ocean free of ice in summer would likely happen once every hundred years if average temperatures increase 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels, but would be likely to happen every ten years if average temperatures increase 2 degrees C above pre-industrial levels; and

WHEREAS, Coral reefs are in an alarming and unprecedented decline and will continue to decline by 70-90 percent with a global warming temperature increase of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and virtually all coral reefs (> 99 percent) will die with a 2°C increase,

WHEREAS, Warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels or higher will increase all environmental risk factors associated with long-lasting and irreversible changes, including a devastating loss of global ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, limiting total global warming to a temperature increase of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels will require “rapid and far-reaching” changes in the use of land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities; and

WHEREAS, Global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) will need to fall by 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching true ‘net zero’ around 2050, meaning that any remaining emissions will need to be balanced by removing CO₂ from the air; and

WHEREAS, ocean acidification is a process that results from excess carbon dioxide in the air being absorbed into water, causing a range of problems which are significant and happening at an ever rapid pace. Approximately 26% of all carbon dioxide released from fossil fuel burning and other activities between 2002 and 2011 was absorbed into the oceans, making them more acidic and causing shells of marine animals to slowly dissolve in the increasingly acidic water. Ocean acidification reduces the number of shelled organisms in the oceans, damaging the food chain and will reduce the availability and variety of food; and

WHEREAS, even if carbon in the atmosphere reaches optimal levels, the oceans will release carbon previously captured into the atmosphere, causing continued carbonization of the atmosphere for hundreds of years to come; and

WHEREAS, key Atlantic Ocean circulation called the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation includes the Gulf Stream, and is a part of a global conveyor belt that moves water around the world. Climate models indicate a slowdown of the world's AMOC and water circulation patterns, which could ultimately trigger severe weather changes, resulting in extreme cooling; and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires emergency mobilization tactics to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy through the rapid drawdown of excess carbon from the atmosphere while implementing measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of impending climate calamities; and

WHEREAS, such necessary measures to restore a safe climate include:

- (a) A rapid, just, managed divestment and phase-out of fossil fuels; and
- (b) Ending greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible to establish a zero-emissions economy through an increase in infrastructure to support public transportation; and
- (c) A widespread effort to safely draw down excess carbon from the atmosphere through reduced energy use, nature-based carbon sinks such as trees, wetlands and soil, and direct air capture of CO₂; and
- (d) A full transition to a regenerative agriculture system;
- (e) An end to the projected Sixth Mass Extinction through widespread conservation and restoration of ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has disproportionately contributed to the climate and ecological emergencies and thus bears an extraordinary responsibility to rapidly solve this crisis; and

WHEREAS, to stay within a temperature increase of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, major cities will need to significantly reduce their per capita emissions by 2030, and as the second largest county in the United States, Cook County is obligated to lead by example; and

WHEREAS, cities account for 70% of greenhouse gas emissions, and an urgent, collaborative effort by cities and counties to comprehensively address issues associated with climate change is necessary to alleviate the detrimental effects; and

WHEREAS, Cook County has the highest total greenhouse gas emission rates compared to all other Illinois counties, demonstrating the urgency Cook County needs to embody—when addressing climate issues; and

WHEREAS, Cook County is experiencing direct and devastating consequences from its rising lake front levels, scorching temperatures and severe weather events including recent flooding and tornados; and

WHEREAS, on July 2, 2023, several rounds of storms dumped nearly nine inches of rain in less than 24 hours in parts of Cook County, leading to severe flooding and other storm damage to houses and businesses, causing the Cook County Board President to issue a Proclamation of Disaster; and

WHEREAS, the heavy rainfall that delayed farmers' growing season reduced both the quantity and quality of crops harvested, especially corn, wheat and soybeans, which are essential parts of Cook County's, and the Midwest's, economy, Midwestern farmers were unable to plant almost 20 million acres of crops due to unprecedented flooding in 2019, leading to approximately \$6.4 billion worth of crop insurance payouts, and nearly one-quarter of the corn and soybeans in Illinois rated poor or very poor; and

WHEREAS, in August 2019, the USDA declared all 102 Illinois counties an agricultural disaster due to flooding and in 2023, the USDA issued four separate disaster declarations for the state of Illinois due to tornadoes and drought that occurred during the 2023 Illinois growing season; and

WHEREAS, climate change will continue to make basic human necessities such as food, housing, health care, transportation and energy more expensive and difficult to obtain, causing a disproportionately negative effect on vulnerable communities; and

WHEREAS, justice requires that frontline and marginalized communities participate actively in the planning and implementation of this mobilization effort, and that they benefit first from the transition to a climate-safe economy; and

WHEREAS, in May 2023, three members of Congress introduced the Climate Emergency Resolution, which demands that the President of the United States wield both existing authorities and emergency powers to unleash every resource available to mitigate and prepare for the climate crisis; and

WHEREAS, a study conducted by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning highlighted the profound impact of the Forest Preserves of Cook County on mitigating climate change, revealing that the nearly 70,000 acres within its landholdings, absorb an impressive 1,544,887 tons of CO2 annually, playing a pivotal role in carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County is committed to mitigating climate change, increasing biodiversity and providing essential ecosystem services as guided by the Next Century Conservation Plan, the Forest Preserves aims to restore 30,000 acres of land to good ecological health. To date, the Forest Preserves has successfully restored more than 15,000 acres of land, increasing its capacity to mitigate climate change impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserves of Cook County through the implementation of its Sustainability & Climate Resiliency Plan, has integrated sustainability principles into various facets of its operations including enhancing building efficiency, facilitating widespread access to recycling bins across all picnic

groves, and educating its staff and the public on sustainability matters; and

WHEREAS, Most single-use plastic is neither biodegradable nor recyclable. Eliminating or drastically limiting plastic use will align and support state efforts of limiting plastic and reaching our zero-waste sustainability goals; and

WHEREAS, The persistence in the environment of single-use plastics leads to extensive pollution of ecosystems, harms wildlife, and poses a significant threat to environmental and human health; and

WHEREAS, About 22 million pounds of plastic, including straws, drink lids, and single-use plastic bags, flow into the Great Lakes each year which are particularly dangerous for wildlife and when eaten they can easily accumulate inside an animal’s body and cause health issues like punctured organs or fatal intestinal blockages.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Cook County hereby declares a climate emergency that threatens the health and well-being of Cook County, its inhabitants, and its environment; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Forest Preserves of Cook County shall limit the procurement of single-use plastics (except for health emergencies or disability needs) while encouraging the purchase of biodegradable and reusable alternatives to plastic using internal guidance and policies, include green purchasing guidelines in the Forest Preserves’ procurement manual and within the year 2024 will formally limit the procurement of single-use plastics via ordinance; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Forest Preserves of Cook County will support its vendors and concessionaires to limit the use of single-use plastic while continuing to educate the public about plastic alternatives and the benefits of limiting the use of plastics; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Forest Preserves of Cook County will provide training and support to staff to transition to purchasing biodegradable/compostable single-use alternatives to plastic and purchase regular dishes and plates, etc. in the upcoming years to the importance of transitioning away from plastic.

A motion was made by Commissioner Degnen, seconded by Commissioner Britton, to approve 24-0209. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner BILL LOWRY, seconded by Commissioner SCOTT R. BRITTON, to adjourn. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Deer, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Lowry, Miller, Moore,
Morita, Morrison, Quezada, Stamps and Trevor (16)

Absent: S. Morrison (1) excused

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne M. Turner

Secretary

A complete record of this meeting is available at <https://fpdcc.legistar.com>.