



PARKS, RECREATION & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

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 Facilities & Grounds  
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To: CEA Review Committee

From: Greg Hoekstra, Grounds Manager

Date: 3/28/17

Re: Request to add a laser box scraper to the 515 Case tractor replacement

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Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management Department is requesting permission to upgrade the replacement of the Harley Rake that was purchased with the Case tractor unit 515 to a Level Best Box Scraper and keep the current Harley Rake as a spare.

The City of Appleton has 17 baseball diamonds that need to be maintained to standards of both aesthetics, playability and safety. Although crews may drag diamonds daily to smooth and fill minor imperfections, fields should be graded at least annually to repair larger issues and return the infield to a level that ensures safe play and proper drainage. Larger scale regrading is typically done in house by a crew with a tractor/box scraper, transit, and several string lines, or by a contractor with a grader. Doing it in house is both labor and time intensive and the expense of a contractor performing the work limits the number that can be completed in any given year. This has led to fields being graded once every several years rather than annually, leaving fields with surface imperfections that can lead to drainage issues and player injuries.

The Level Best grader is a laser controlled three point box scraper, that when paired with a cone laser set up on the pitcher's mound, can quickly bring an infield back to its correct grade. The ease and quickness of this unit will allow us to level all infields annually ensuring their safety and playability. Although it would be used primarily for baseball diamonds, this unit will also be very helpful in crowning soccer fields, grading ice rinks, and any other task that requires fine grading.

The additional cost for the Level Best Box Scraper upgrade is \$2,200. The estimated current salvage value of the Harley Rake is \$6,000. If approved, the \$2,200 for the upgrade and the \$6,000 salvage value cost to keep the old Harley Rake will be included in Parks, Recreations & Facilities Management's budget request for 2018.

Thank you for your consideration.