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TO: Honorable County Commissioners
Scott Arneson, County Administrator

FROM: Jake Rezac - Deputy Director / Assistant Engineer

RE: 21 Feb 23 County Board Meeting – **CONSENT AGENDA**
Request Authorization to Purchase Baler for Recycling Center

DATE: 15-Feb-23

Summary

It is requested that the County Board authorize the purchase of an Excel Model 2R9D Two Ram Baler for the Goodhue County Recycling Center.

Background

Goodhue County operates a Recycling Center that accepts and processes recycled materials from citizens. The Recycling Center currently uses a baling machine to process, compress, and tie recycled materials into rectangular bales that can be more easily stored and transported. The existing baler is more than 20 years old and has exceeded its useful service life.

The 2023 County Capital Plan budget includes \$400,000 to replace the existing baler. County staff requested and received proposals from two manufacturers on November 17, 2022. The proposals included specifications for each new baler, costs for each new baler, and a trade-in value for the existing baler. Staff evaluated proposals for the following balers: the Excel Model 2R9D Two Ram Baler and the Harris Wolverine Two Ram Baling Press. The Excel model provides more horsepower, a larger boring apparatus, more ram pressure, a larger opening for material, and more oil capacity than the Harris model. This results in less staff time needed to monitor and maintain the equipment. In addition, the Excel model includes a conveyor, whereas the Harris model does not. The conveyor transports materials horizontally and vertically into an opening in the machine, where the baling process begins. The existing baler currently utilizes a conveyor.

Alternatives

- Purchase the Harris Wolverine Two Ram Baling Press and separate conveyor for \$455,740 (with trade-in).
- Purchase the Excel Model 2R9D Two Ram Baler with conveyor for \$380,690 (with trade-in).

Recommendation

It is the recommendation of staff that the County Board authorize the purchase of the Excel Model 2R9D Two Ram Baler. Sufficient funds are budgeted for this purchase.