



CITY OF LARAMIE
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
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January 5, 2024

To: Shane Johnson, Street Division Manager
From: Scott A. Hunter, Parks Manager
Re: Budget Spent on Tree Trimming Equipment

Shane,

You requested invoices for past Bucket Truck rentals and equipment to help defend a request for a new Bucket Truck for the Parks Department. The previous Arborist wasn't very good with keeping invoices, so I hope this information will help with the request:

The last copy of any invoice was in 2006 from Terex Utilities for a 70-foot Bucket Truck rental.

- The agreed upon pricing at the time was \$570.00/day, \$1,265.00/week, and \$3,340.00/month. \$1,550.00 delivery and pick-up.
- An updated quote on the same equipment is \$800.00/day, \$1,600.00/week, and \$3,890.00/month. \$2,000.00 delivery and \$500.00 pick-up.
- Tree contractors try to average \$2,000.00 a day or \$10,000.00 a week during the summer season to survive during the winter season. This would be for removals, pruning, plantings and other tree maintenance practices. (If the City wanted to investigate contracting out the work on a larger scale.)

In 2013, the City hired an Arborist to design a tree care program to help maintain the \$24,000,000.00 plus worth of trees within the city's Park System. Previously, Parks staff would rent bucket trucks to do "maintenance" or "structural" pruning during the winter months to shape trees, clean out dead/broken branches and to inspect trees that had potential for failing. After the inception of the City Arborist position, Parks went away from the annual pruning practices and staff began to rent high lift equipment to mitigate singular trees or to inspect a suspect tree. If a tree was an immediate hazard, then a contractor would be hired to remove that tree. As the practice of annual tree maintenance went away, many young trees have grown into problematic trees with potential for higher failure rates due to poor growth patterns during stress conditions, storm damage, and infections. Most of the Parks Department's pruning happens during the winter months and generally occurs for 2 months depending on weather conditions. As spring approaches, the rental market for bucket trucks shrinks as many contractors begin renting the equipment for the summer season.

The Parks Department's plan is to get back to the "structural" pruning of trees. The city urban forest is aging and the need for more direct maintenance is becoming evident. Acquiring a Bucket Truck would allow the Parks Department to prune large trees during every season, do direct inspections of tree crowns and limbs after storm events, and mitigate hazardous trees in a timelier fashion. The most important part of adding a Bucket Truck to the Parks Fleet is the ability to structurally prune those trees that are in the younger years of growth to create healthier and safer trees as they age.