

MEMO

June 19, 2008

To: Lisa Johnson
Interim County Administrator

From: James M. Haag, Jr. *JMH*
Public Works Director

RE: Brush Removal

Per your request I contacted two tree companies. I requested pricing for a four person crew, with an enclosed truck, a chipper and a boom truck.

Wrights Tree Service is contracted to Westar and KCP&L and would not have crews available.

Asplundh Environmental Services, Inc. is \$192.65 per hour for a four person crew, enclosed truck and chipper. Availability of the crew would be 24 to 48 hours after the initial call requesting their assistance.

A representative cost per hour for a 4 person crew from Public Works with a boom truck and chipper is \$86.90. This results from averaging the hourly wages and benefits of employees who have performed tree and brush removal. The average 2008 hourly wage is \$11.03 and benefits averaged \$4.52 per hour resulting in the labor cost for a 4 person crew of \$62.20 per hour.

The depreciation cost of the boom truck is \$11,000 per year. Using 1,000 hours for the usage would result in a cost per hour of \$11.00.

The replacement cost of the chipper is estimated to be \$37,000. The estimated life is either 10 years or 4,000 hours. The hourly cost using the 10 year life for the chipper is \$3.70.

Fuel usage is estimated to be \$80.00 per day or \$10.00 per hour.

$\$62.20 + \$11.00 + \$3.70 + \$10.00 = \$86.90$

One of the employees utilized in removing trees and brush has a CDL and functions as a truck driver especially during snow and ice treatment. In order to have the capability of two shifts during inclement weather it is necessary to have a minimum of 10 drivers available. All of the members of the brush crew spend approximately ½ of the year mowing. Other duties have included flagging, patching, production of signs, trash removal, tire pickup and appliance removal.