CITY OF MARSHALL

COMMISSION AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET:

MEETING DATE: July 29, 2015

PROJECT: Consider and discuss a report regarding street sweeper and related cleanliness and right-of-way maintenance activities. (Public Services Director)

DESCRIPTION:
Commissioner Boersma requested city staff report back to the City Commission regarding our street sweeping activities and related cleanliness activities.

Street Sweeper – Our 1997 model street sweeper was deactivated in 2013 because the cost to repair the unit was too expensive, as we reported to the City Commission in April of 2013. We had been requesting a replacement unit every year until last year, when we asked for $25,000 to contract out sweeping to a private contractor – we were allocated $15,000. We have in excess of 70 miles of curb & gutter streets, which translate into over 140 miles of gutters to be swept and maintained. A street sweeper is critical to any street operation in order to keep dirt and grass from flowing into our city storm drain system and to help keep grass from growing in the gutter lines. In addition, a street sweeper is needed all year to address the cleanliness of the city and for use after our numerous special events, especially in the downtown area. Using the allocated $15,000 to provide a minimal level of sweeping in the Fall is not going to address our needed gutter maintenance needs.

We had been requesting a large street sweeper, but past budget funding has not allowed us to replace the old deactivated unit. This year we are requesting a mid-sized unit which we feel will be sufficient for our needs, plus it's slightly smaller size will lend itself to getting into crowded spaces; its estimated cost is $133,000.

Annual Herbicide Right-of-Way Application – Each year we contract for two herbicide applications to the right-of-way of many of our main streets, in order to reduce the encroachment of grass and brush into the streets. We allocate approximately $16,000 to cover approximately 20 miles of right-of-way of our approximately 280 miles of curb & gutter and ditched streets.

Flail Boom Mower - If you travel our city streets, it is very apparent that we are not addressing a large portion of our overgrown right-of-ways, so we have teamed with the Parks Department this year to request a new tractor with a boomed flail mower attachment to address overgrown right-of-ways; cost is approximately $120,000.

Contracted Services – In addition to the Litter Control Contract (currently administered through the Parks Department), we utilize our contracted services budget to assist in cleaning overgrown ditches, and heavy overgrowth, because our limited public works staff are dedicated most of the time to address repairing potholes and street repairs from water breaks and sewer issues.

Quarterly Cleanup Programs – We currently provide quarterly city wide residential "free" dump day schedules and two "free" residential dump passes each year. We are suggesting adding a quarterly clean up in specific areas of Marshall, concentrating on litter and trash removal. This program would be accomplished through volunteer efforts of City Staff, City Commissioners, and local clubs and organizations.

Our efforts are limited by needed equipment and staffing, but that is the case in many cities. However, we need additional resources to accomplish services deserving of an All America City designation.

COST:
N/A

FUNDING:	**Acct. Name & No**	**Original Budget**
N/A		

RECOMMENDED
CITY COMMISSION ACTION:
Consider and discuss a report regarding street sweeper and related cleanliness and right-of-way maintenance activities. (Public Services Director)

CITY CONTACTS:
J. C. Hughes, Public Services Director – 903-503-4503

ATTACHMENTS:
N/A