



There are two sides to every story...

In response to recent posts and comments, mostly from select members of the Portageville Park Board, there are a few things that need to be clarified and put into context.

First, ALL agendas (every meeting of the Portageville Board of Aldermen, Park Board and Planning and Zoning Board) are posted at the same spot in City Hall AT LEAST 24 hours in advance. This has been standard practice for 20+ years for the Portageville Board of Aldermen. While several different members of the Board of Aldermen attempted to get this information from the Park Board and Planning and Zoning Committee over the years, after our City Clerk attended a conference on Sunshine Law Compliance earlier this year, it was decided that there would be a central location for ALL City boards at City Hall so ALL meetings were posted. This meant that the Park Board Agendas and the Planning and Zoning Committee Agendas were added to the existing area that the Portageville Board of Alderman minutes have always been posted. Every citizen has access to these for viewing and may request a copy by calling City Hall. They are also now being posted on the front window for anyone who wishes to view the agenda after hours.

The By Laws of the Portageville Park Board are not a new development or something that is being “brought up” just now. In 2021, the Park Board reviewed their by-laws and proposed changes they would like to see to the Portageville Board of Aldermen. The changes were accepted and put into action with Ordinance No. 1314.

Mowing of the parks is not a new discussion. This has been brought up before (several years ago as former Park Board Presidents are confirming). As recently as 2022, the Board of Aldermen advertised for bids to discuss mowing of the City parks. Since then, as a former City employee with our Street Department pointed out with his post, our workforce has decreased in our Street department. In an effort to cut spending, these positions have yet to be filled. Summer help was also not hired for this year. This is what has led to the renewed discussion of the Park Board receiving all funds that are collected for park maintenance, but not currently being financially responsible for fully maintaining them. Other revenue currently takes care of all mowing and spraying of the parks. There are also no charges to the Park Board for utility services (water, sewer and trash) at all four City parks. Liability insurance is also paid by other revenue annually for all of the parks. Park funds that citizens pay by way of taxes are not being utilized for any of these expenses. The Board of Aldermen do not spend Park Funds, the Park Board controls those funds. The City will not save money in the way of excess funds by not mowing the parks. It will allow us to save revenue by not adding to our current workforce and free up our current Street Department employees to work on other issues affecting our City such as street repairs and drainage.

In reference to “What do we pay taxes for,” ALL funds collected from tax collections to be used for the parks, as well as bank interest, are held in the Park Fund and turned over to the Portageville Park Board annually (with the exception of \$2000 per year that pays for five accounts for electric utility bills from Ameren). This can be referenced with Ordinance No. 1324. A breakdown of tax collections, bank interest, and utility expenses is turned in each year to the Park Board. Your tax rate determines the amount of funds from tax collections. The

Park Board was budgeted to receive an income of \$41,000.00 for Fiscal Year 2023. Collections allowed a turnover of Park Funds in the amount of \$51,000.00 to which the Park Board received in April 2023.

The Portageville Board of Aldermen Chair and Co-chair of the Park Board attended the Park Board Meeting in May 2023. Alderman Adams and Alderman Johnson asked the Park Board to obtain quotes for mowing and present them to the Portageville Board of Aldermen at the June 5, 2023 meeting of the Portageville Board of Aldermen to further discuss park mowing. Let me be clear, the Portageville Board of Aldermen have not voted to make the Park Board pay for the mowing expenses at this time. It is still a discussion, contrary to what was posted by Park Board President Mike Cook, who attended the Portageville Board of Aldermen meeting but did not have any quotes to present. The issue was tabled until the July 10, 2023 meeting of the Portageville Board of Aldermen.

On June 6, 2023, Mike Cook, Park Board President, authored a post on Facebook regarding the situation and an advertisement for bids was posted by the Portageville Park Board. As far as I know, I did not see any agenda posted where the Portageville Park Board held a meeting for members of the Park Board to approve the advertisement for bids, nor was it voted on during their May meeting to which minutes were submitted to the Board of Alderman and included in packets for the Board of Alderman meeting. Mike Cook also referenced that the Board of Aldermen would not allow the use of city mowers to be used by Park Board members to mow the parks but allowed the High School to use them for the baseball field. Members of our street department did allow high school baseball staff to utilize our mower on a few occasions. This was not a recent event and was stopped once it was confirmed to be a liability issue for the City. The City Attorney confirmed the liability issue at our June 5, 2023 when Mike Cook asked about using the city mowers. City employees are the only individuals allowed to operate City equipment.

In reference to the comment that was made regarding "paying for the new police vehicles," by now I hope everyone is aware that the four Tahoes are new to the City, but definitely not NEW vehicles. We procured them from the City of Caruthersville in the amount of \$70,000.00. The Police Department was budgeted for one new vehicle in the amount of \$35,000.00 for this fiscal year. Our former fleet had several problems, the extent of which can be viewed on our auction. Thanks to a grant from USDA, the City received \$24,500.00 back for the purchase. Three Ford Explorers have been listed on Govdeals with reserves. Funds from the sale of these former police vehicles will go toward the purchase as well. Currently, that amount is approximately \$17,000.00 with eight days remaining in the auction. That means that right now (the auction prices may increase), the City spent \$28,500.00 for the purchase of not one, but four police vehicles.

As always, citizens are encouraged to attend all City meetings. All Board of Aldermen meetings are held the first Monday of every month and mid-month meetings, if needed, are the 3rd Monday of every month. Planning and Zoning meetings are held at City Hall on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Park Board meeting are held at the Rogers Building in Meatte Park on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Any variations to these times should be posted on the official website for the City of Portageville ([www.cityofportageville.com](http://www.cityofportageville.com)). If you have any questions or need to contact your city officials for any reason, please call City Hall at 573-379-5789, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Rodi Walker, Mayor

Patty Johnson, Mayor Pro-Tem/ Alderman Ward I

Kristine Adams, Alderman Ward I

Shirley Estes, Alderman Ward II

Chris Hollingshead, Alderman Ward II



Like



Comment



Share

Lori Thacker and Katie LeAnne Hill shared a post.



**Portageville City Park · Follow**

15m ·

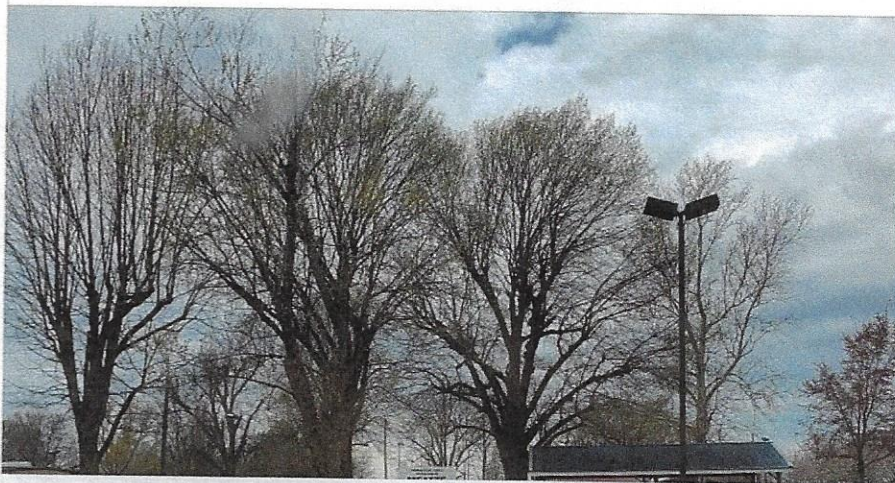
Portageville City Park Board Invitation to Bid on Weekly mowing and weedeating of our 4 parks; Meatte, Adams, McCrate and Foster.

The Park Board is seeking bids for weekly mowing and weedeating of our 4 City parks.

All bid proposals must be placed in an envelope, sealed, and clearly marked on the outside:  
Bid for Mowing and Weedeating City Parks

Bids shall be received at Portageville City Park Board, P.O. Box 4, Portageville, MO 63873.

Inquires and/or questions pertaining to the Bid shall be directed to Mike Cook Jr., Park Board President at 573 379 0235, during normal working hours of 9:00 - 5:00.



Portageville City Park Board Invitati...

Contact Portageville City Park

Send message



**Lori Thacker**

7m ·

Show attachment

2 shares





Mike Cook

50m · 🌐



Our park board members asked if they could use the City mowers to mow the parks and were told it was a liability, however they currently let the high-school use the mowers to mow the ball fields. Huh

So the Park Board is requesting sealed bids to have our 4 parks: Meatte, Adams, McCrate and Foster mowed and weedeated weekly.

To say the Park Board was flabbergasted at this development this late in the year is an understatement. The Park Board has a minimal budget of roughly 50,000/year to pay for all playground equipment, tables, pavilions, light bills, plumbing problems etc.

To break it down, the sales/use tax is 4.225%

That is distributed into 4 funds:

General Revenue 3.0%

Education 1.0%

Conservation .125 %

Parks/Soils .10%

And the city wants to take funds from the budget that is a .10%!

So the only way to offset this unforeseen expense is to discontinue donating funds to the Summer Ball and Soccer Programs. Along with charging Portageville School with concession stand rental, light bills and any other upkeep.

Please let your current Alderman know how important

ORDINANCE NO. 1314

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BY-LAWS OF THE PARK BOARD OF THE CITY OF PORTAGEVILLE.**


---

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN THE CITY OF PORTAGEVILLE, MISSOURI AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT:**

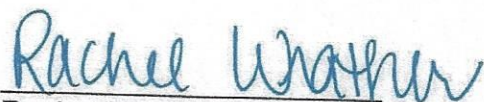
SECTION 1: The proposed changes to the By-Laws of the Park Board of the City of Portageville as set forth in the document titled "Proposed Changes to Park Board Bylaws", a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference as if set forth herein are hereby adopted.

SECTION 2: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from the date of its passage.

READ TWO TIMES, PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 1st DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vince Berry, Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rachel Wrather, City Clerk



PROPOSED CHANGES TO PARK BOARD BYLAWS

Amend "By-laws" as follows:

Paragraph 2: Replace, "~~Officers will be Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer,~~" with, "**Officers will be Chairman, Vice-Chairman/Secretary, and Treasurer.**" *This would designate the Secretary as Vice-Chairman to preside over the Board in the absence of the Chairman.*

Paragraph 4: After, "Thereafter board members will serve three-year terms.", add the following: "**Board members may be elected to serve two consecutive terms (a total of 6 years of service), after which they must rotate off the board for a minimum of one year.**"

Paragraph 5: Replace "~~Meetings will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at city hall,~~" with, "**Meetings will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Rogers Community (Red) Building at Meatte Park.**"

Amend Ordinance No. 777 as follows:

**Amend Section 2, d.**, which states that at least one member of the Park Board must also be a "member of the Board of Education of the Portageville School District", to "**one member of the Park Board shall be a liaison to the Portageville School District**".

**Amend Section 3, "Officers: Rules & Power"** to consolidate the offices of Vice-President & Secretary as stated above.

Voting was as follows: Alderman Johnson, yea; Alderman Adams, yea; Alderman Estes, yea; Alderman Hollingshead, yea. Motion passes.

After hearing Bill No. 1324 read two times, passed, and approved, Mayor Pro-Tem declared Bill No. 1324 to become Ordinance No. 1324 this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Pro-Tem Estes asked if there were any visitors present who would like to address the Board of Alderman. There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL – 4 WAY QUICK SHOP

Mayor Pro-Tem Estes explained that this application had been tabled due to other city issues with the owner on the application regarding the Building Commission. Upon further review, the owner listed on the application provided by Chrisman Oil was not accurate and Terry Burleson should have been listed since 2020. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Alderman Johnson to approve an Original Package and a Sunday Original Package liquor license for Chrisman Oil DBA 4 Way Quick Shop, 200 US Highway 61 North, Managing Officer, Terry Burleson. Alderman Adams seconded. All members voted in favor.

PARK MOWING BIDS REVIEW

Mayor Pro-Tem Estes stated that the City had advertised for park mowing bids for all City parks. The City received four sealed bids as follows:

Adam Crumley DBA Mow Pro Lawn Care Portageville, MO	\$1190.00 per week
Young's Lawn Care Bernie, MO	\$1125.00 per week
Justin Earnhart DBA Earnhart's Property Management Malden, MO	\$1120.00 per week
Spencer's Lawn Care & Landscaping Portageville, MO	\$865.00 per week

Discussion followed. Alderman Johnston made a motion that we continue to utilize summer help for mowing and not proceed with having an outside company mow the City parks. Alderman Adams seconded. All members voted in favor.

CITY ELECTRICIAN APPLICATION REVIEW

Mayor Pro-Tem Estes informed everyone that there were two applications received for the position of City Electrician. Discussion followed. Alderman

CITY OF PORTAGEVILLE INVITATION TO BID  
MOWING OF CITY PARKS

The City of Portageville is seeking bids for mowing of the following parks:

McCrate Park	East 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street
Meatte Park	West 12 <sup>th</sup> Street & MacArthur Avenue
Adams Ball Park	Park Avenue
Foster Park	Foster Avenue
Foster Park Lot	Half-lot adjacent to Foster Park on Foster Avenue

Bids should be itemized per location to include mowing and trimming (road to road including ditches) every week as needed for all above-mentioned property. The selected bidder must be able to provide proof of insurance/ bond and workman's compensation/ affidavit before beginning work.

Sealed Bids will be received at the Office of the City Clerk, Rachel Wrather, 301 East Main Street, Portageville, MO 63873 until 4:30 p.m., on Friday, April 29, 2022. All Bid Proposals must be placed in an envelope, sealed, and clearly marked on the outside: "Bid for Mowing City Parks."

Inquiries and/or questions pertaining to the Bid shall be directed to Rachel Wrather, City Clerk, during normal working hours of 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. A Board of Aldermen Meeting will be held on Monday, May 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. to unseal and review bids.

The City of Portageville reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, or parts thereof, and to waive any technicality, informality or irregularity in the Bid received, and to disregard all nonconforming or conditional Bids or counter-proposals and to hold the best bids for ninety (90) days from the opening date set forth above.

Rachel Wrather  
City Clerk





## **Melissa Maness**

This is just so sad. As a former park board member and president, I can attest to the fact that the city would take money from the park board account yearly for mowing expenses, without discussing what would be a fair price or allow the board to take bids. The last year that I was on the board as the president- the city procured about \$7,000 dollars from our account that I was able to get back. The counsel at that time deemed the "maintenance and upkeep" meant the equipment and the building facilities.

The land, ground that the parks are built upon are city owned. The park board is there to maintain the park equipment, and help to bring activities and sports onto the fields.

I've been gone from portageville for several years now- and I will say- there has been a lot of disappointing things happen within the city government.

Do better, people.

4h Like Reply





**Kris Simmons**

[Patty Estes Johnson](#) well y'all lost Joey salary, ins, retirement. Cut a few back to salary and saved quiet a bit. Redd and Smitty are gone, well over a 100k in savings! Seems doable to me!

9h Like Reply



**Lori Thacker**

In the statement listed below, it says the city wants to take funds from the budget that is set aside for the park. What is the reason for that and what are the new plans for that money if it is in fact taken away?

To break it down, the sales/use tax is 4.225%

That is distributed into 4 funds:

General Revenue 3.0%

Education 1.0%... See more

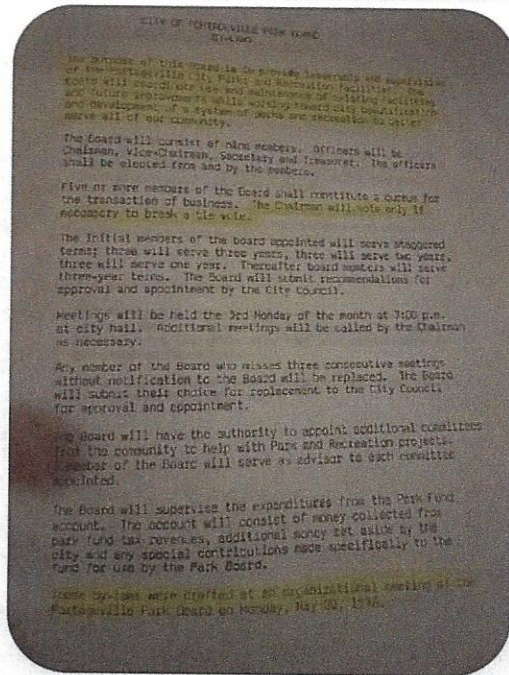
9h Like Reply





### Patty Estes Johnson

The Park By-Laws state it is the responsibility of the Park Board to maintain the city parks. All of this information is available to the public. Some of the information was incorrect in the original post. If you ever have questions please feel free to call or text me.



10h Like Reply



### Tiffany Flynn Staffey

[Patty Estes Johnson](#) so we're enforcing this now after almost 30 years? 🙄

10h Like Reply



### Patty Estes Johnson

[Tiffany Flynn Staffey](#) we're trying to work with the Park Board on this. This has been addressed in the past with other boards and the Park Board has either reimbursed the City for mowing or paid for it or the City has used their budget to pay for it.

9h Like Reply



**Aimee Hosford**

[Lori Thacker](#) they gotta pay for them new police vehicles.

3h Like Reply



**Tiffany Flynn Staffey**

[Aimee Hosford](#) my thoughts exactly!  
Gotta pay for those new vehicles!

2h Like Reply



**Lori Thacker**

Idk about the police vehicles. I assumed they were purchased with grant money, but I have no idea. But I am glad they got new vehicles as I am sure they were well deserved!

53m Like Reply

ORDINANCE NO. 1324

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 140.040.A.3 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF PORTAGEVILLE TO REQUIRE TURNOVER OF PARK FUNDS TO THE PARK BOARD PRIOR TO APRIL 30 OF EACH YEAR.**

---

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN THE CITY OF PORTAGEVILLE, MISSOURI AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT:**

SECTION 1: section 140.040.A.3 of the Municipal Code of the City of Portageville is hereby amended by adding the following sentence to the end of said section, to-wit:

On or before April 30 of each year, all money in the Park Funds Collections Account, with the exception of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00), shall be deposited in the Park Fund to be expended by the Park Board pursuant to this chapter.

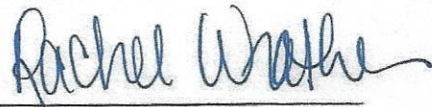
SECTION 2: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from the date of its passage.

READ TWO TIMES, PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th DAY OF MAY, 2022.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis R. Walker II, Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rachel Wrather, City Clerk



**Sandy Simmons**

Alderman: Don't do this to the park board, Work together to make our town beautiful! You already have the mowers, the employees, and gas. What do we pay taxes for, we expect the city to keep our parks beautiful and safe. Cut back somewhere else!

18m

Like

Reply

---



**NICOLE GALLOWAY, CPA**  
**Missouri State Auditor**

**CERTIFICATION LETTER**

August 30, 2022

County Clerk  
 New Madrid County  
 P.O. Box 68  
 New Madrid, MO 63869-0000

RE: 09-072-0012 City of Portageville

Dear County Clerk:

We have received information to substantiate compliance with Missouri law for the 2022 property tax rates for the above-captioned taxing authority. Section 137.073.6, RSMo, requires the State Auditor to examine such information and return to the county clerk our findings regarding the property tax rate ceilings and the debt service levy, if applicable. The State Auditor's Office has relied on information presented and representations made by the taxing authority for our review of the tax rate ceiling(s) and actual property tax rate(s) levied. Our findings are based upon existing constitutional provisions, statutes, rulings, and court decisions.

We understand that the taxing authority's property tax rate ceiling(s) and actual property tax rate(s) levied for 2022 to be as follows:

Purpose	Tax Rate Ceiling or Maximum Allowable Debt Service	Sales Tax Reduction	20% Required Reduction 1st Class Charter County Political Subdivision Not Submitting Estimate Non-Binding Tax Rate	Voluntary Reduction	Recoupment Rate	CERTIFIED RATE	Taxing Authority's Proposed Rate	Complies with MO Laws Yes/No
General Revenue	0.6785	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	<b>0.6785</b>	0.6785	Yes
Health	0.1793	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	<b>0.1793</b>	0.1793	Yes
Parks & Recreation	0.1490	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	<b>0.1490</b>	0.1490	Yes

Based on the information submitted by the taxing authority we find the CERTIFIED RATE(S) for the taxing authority as listed above, complies or does not comply with the provisions Section 137.073, RSMo, as indicated above. Any taxing authority levying a rate(s) higher than the certified rate(s) is/are not in compliance with Missouri laws. All tax levies not in compliance will receive a Notification of Non-Compliance Letter sent certified mail, will be referred to the Missouri Attorney General's Office pursuant to Section 137.073.6(2), RSMo, and will also be noted in our Review of 2022 Property Tax Rates report. A copy of this letter must be sent by your office to the above captioned political subdivision to comply with Section 137.073.6, RSMo.

PORTAGEVILLE PARK BOARD MINUTES  
05-17-2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: , MIKE COOK, STEPHANIE IVIE, HENON THACKER ,  
ALLISON HALSTEAD , CHRISTINA BRANDS , RACHEL SINGLETON AND TIFFANY  
EDMONSON

MEMBERS ABSENT: DUSTIN CRAFTON, JOY PARTIN AND MARCUS PARTIN

FIRST BUSINESS: Reading of 04-18-23 minutes. Rachel Singleton made motion to accept,  
Henon Thacker 2<sup>nd</sup>. Minutes Approved

FINANCIAL: \$79761.17as of 05-16-23

VISITORS: ALDERMAN ADAMS AND ALDERMAN JOHNSON AND FLOYD SIMMONS

a. They informed us that the City will not be able to mow the Parks and that we will need to get  
sealed bids or suggested that we use a program that the Family Resource Center offers for  
mowing. We have been asked to attend the June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 City Council meeting to discuss  
further.

b. 1099's will need to be submitted for any labor the Park Board paid in 2023. We will discuss  
how the City wants us to handle that before the end of 2023.

c. Mr. Simmons has informed us that the southeast corner of the Tennis Court holds water when  
it rains. We explained that the only option would be to have the Asphalt Company come back to  
remedy this and it is not in our budget for 2023. We will continue to seek options and get prices  
to repair the low area that is holding water.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Member welcomed Tiffany Edmondson to replace Christina Brands  
Stephanie Ivie made motion to accept Tiffany Edmondson as new Park Board Member, Henon  
Thacker 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

Stephanie Ivie asked if we would give \$400.00 to purchase new perennial plants and shrubs for  
Meatte Park landscaped areas. Henon Thacker made motion to give Stephanie Ivie permission to  
spend \$400.00 for flowers and shrubs for Meatte Park. Allison Halstead 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion approved.

Henon Thacker made a motion to adjourn, Stephanie Ivie 2<sup>nd</sup>, meeting adjourned.  
Next meeting JUNE 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023





May 16, 2023

Mayor Dennis R. Walker  
301 East Main Street  
Portageville, MO 63873

RE: Public Safety Vehicle Bid Concurrence

Dear President Walker:

Rural Development is in receipt of the bid for the following Public Safety Vehicles. In addition, we have received your email from the City requesting authorization to award the bid.

Rural Development concurs in your request to award the bid for the 4 Public Safety Vehicles from the City of Caruthersville who originally purchased the vehicles under State Contract. We concur in the amount of \$70,000.00 for the 4 Public Safety Vehicles.

Once the items in the bid have been paid in full please provide USDA Rural Development the following documentation:

- SF 270 Request for Reimbursement
- Copy of Paid Invoice
- Cancelled Check/bank statement documenting the payment.

USDA Rural Development will order the funds once all documentation and forms are complete and received in our office.

We appreciate all the efforts and time working on this project. If you or your project officials have questions please call Jason Hartke at 573-624-5939, ext. 4 or email [jason.hartke@mo.usda.gov](mailto:jason.hartke@mo.usda.gov)

Sincerely,

**JASON HARTKE** Digitally signed by JASON HARTKE  
Date: 2023.05.16 09:52:52 -05'00'

Jason Hartke  
Area Specialist

Cc: Rachel Wrather (City Clerk) via email: [pvillecityclerk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pvillecityclerk@sbcglobal.net)

Enclosures