



Christine Clancy, P.E.  
DPW Commissioner

TO: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

FROM: Chris Haley, Solid Waste & Recycling Coordinator

DATE: February 24, 2022

RE: C. Scott– Request City Manager Consider Including A Bid Option For A Limited Number Of Bulky Pick-Up Items For Residents In The Next RFP For Solid And/Or A Drop-Off Location For Bulky Items

The current Waste Management Solid Waste & Recycling contract expires December 31, 2024. DPW will begin to develop scope and criteria for the next contract at the end of 2023. The addition of a limited bulky item can be explored. Currently bulk items are scheduled directly with Waste Management or UTEC for curbside collection. Waste Management and UTEC Contact information can be found on the City’s Solid Waste and Recycle page or via the “LowellRecycle” phone app. The resident pays a fee and is provided a date for pick up. Prices vary depending on the item and range from \$23 to \$46 per an item.

The DPW Solid Waste and Recycle office reached out the City of Medford, MA to inquire on their free bulk item service. Medford offers 3 burnable bulk items a month to the residents. This service averages \$29,400 a month with a population of approximately half the size of Lowell. Based on this cost information, it would cost an estimated \$720,000 annually to add this curbside service to the City. The DPW Solid Waste and Recycle office also reached out to Wilmington, Chelmsford and Wrentham. The general consensus is that residents enjoy the service and it is utilized consistently. The biggest negative impact is they have seen an increase in illegal dumping coming from outside of their service area to curbside collection, and therefore increasing the costs associated with such services.

A designated drop-off location is another alternative option to consider for bulk item disposal. DPW does not currently have the space or resources to add a bulky item drop off location/transfer station but this is something that can be explored further between DPW and DPD. It is estimated that the City would need approximately 15,000 square feet of land and 4 new employees based on 1 yard Foreman, 2 operators, and 1 scale attendant. Preliminary startup cost estimates range from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 with additional annual operation costs. This alternative can be further evaluated prior to the development for the next solid waste & recycling RFP.

Cc: Christine Clancy, Commissioner of DPW