

Mower Feasibility Study/Cost Analysis August 2019

This study is presented to analyze the possibility of Tipton Community School Corporation owning and taking care of the mowing of the grounds versus the contracting out of that work.

We would need to purchase the equipment, which would be the initial investment of two mowers. The corporation owns several trimmers so that is not a cost at this time.

Estimated total man hours to complete the mowing for TCSC would be 30-40 hours/week. Some of those hours could be covered with existing staff. The hours spent on mowing that are not covered with current maintenance staff could be supplemented by hiring a part time person to mow

Calculations below are based on 40 man hours per week. Paying one person to mow at \$10 an hour. The cost for the mowing a week would be \$400 per week. Mowing season starts approximately the 2nd week of March through first week in November. That is approximately 40 weeks of mowing. This would add up to approximately \$16,000 in wages (plus benefits) TCSC would pay for having the grounds mowed.

There would be an initial cost during the first year TCSC takes over the mowing. It would be the recommendation of the maintenance staff to purchase two mowers. Mowers are estimated at an approximately cost of \$20,000. That price is for two 72 in zero turn mowers estimated to cost \$9900 a piece. This could be lower if we could shop around and If we could get some kind of deal. For this study the estimate will be high.

Over a five year period, **2014-2018**, Tipton Community Schools has paid a total of \$105,755 for mowing or an average cost per year of \$21,151 per year. 2014: \$21,895; 2015: \$17,945; 2016: \$24,020; 2017: \$21,665; 2018: \$20,230.

The following is a break down of what the cost would be for the next five years for TCSC to take over the mowing. Year one has the added cost of purchasing equipment.

We received a quote on a 72" PRO Z MOWER for \$9,959.00 on 5/21/2019.

Maintenance suggests that we buy two at the price of \$19,981.00. This estimate was just from one company. Shopping around could produce better deals on mowers.

Year One

\$16,000 in mowing salary +
\$20,000 in equipment =
\$2,000 maintenance/fuel

One year total \$38,000

Year Two

\$16,000 in mowing salary +
\$2,000 maintenance/fuel

Two total mowing cost 56,000

Year Three

\$16,000 in mowing salary +
\$2,000 maintenance/fuel

Three year total= \$74,000

Year Four

\$16,000 in mowing salary +
\$2000 maintenance/fuel

Four year total cost \$92,000

Year 5

\$16,000 in mowing salary +
\$2000 maintenance/fuel

5 year total spent \$110,000

This is a high estimate. Mowing costs could go down significantly if the mowing time of 40 hours could be reduced. TCSC employees could be offered overtime. This could be cheaper than actually hiring someone from the outside. Maintenance also made a suggestion that if we had bus drivers who needed extra money they might be able to fill those positions.

Mower quotes