**Requested Council Meeting Date: April 20, 2015**
**Council Bills No. 2015 - 126**

## Item: Contract for Tree Limb Grinding

## Originating Department: PUBLIC WORKS – RECYCLING

Attachments: 1) Council Bill No. 2015-126
2) Bid Tabulation
3) Contract between City of Joplin and Neosho Box and Wood Products, Inc.
4) Measured Drawing of Tree Debris

Recycling Department: Mary Anne Phillips
Department Head: Nicholas A. Heatherly
Finance Department: Leslie Haase
City Attorney: Peter C. Edwards
City Manager: Samuel L. Anselm

**Recommended Action:** Approval of Tree Limb Grinding Contract between the City of Joplin and Neosho Box and Wood Products of Neosho, Missouri.

**Background:**
Tree limbs and brush (tree debris)---generated by the 2014 Labor Day Wind Storm, city projects and monthly drop-off events---have been staged at the City's 40 acres processing site at 1702 North Schifferdecker Avenue. Historically, the City hires grinding contractors to process the tree debris for beneficial reuse, such as landscape mulch. Once limbs are processed into wood chips, generally they are made available to the public.

**Discussion:**
Bid requests were sent to fifteen grinding businesses, with five responding as outlined in the attached tabulation sheet. Bid specifications stated there was a minimum of 11,000 cubic yards of tree debris with the understanding that another measurement would be taken prior to issuing the contract and purchase order to establish the current amount to be processed. The bid specifications were for the grinding of tree debris with an option of purchasing and hauling out the resulting chips. Neosho Box and Wood Products, Inc. bid was for $1.65 per cubic yard for grinding. Some of the resulting chips will be purchased by Neosho Box and Wood Products for $0.25 per cubic yard. Some chips will be kept for potential giveaways and for Joplin Recycling Center patrons.

Should a weather event cause the City to execute another "tree debris clean up" and accumulate a minimum of 5,000 cubic yards of tree debris, Neosho Box and Wood has agreed to perform additional grinding services for the same bid price until October 31, 2015.

On April 7, 2015, the Engineering Division completed an updated measurement of the bid piles and determined there were approximately 18,256 cubic yards of tree debris. A contract and purchase order will be issued for $30,122.40 (18,256 cy x $1.65 cy).

Funding will come from the City Wide Clean Up Program line item in the Solid Waste Fund.

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends that approval of Council Bill 2015-126 be approved on an emergency basis. This action is necessary because the tree debris processing site is near capacity and it is important that the debris be reduced and removed so that the site is prepared for future weather events.