



CITY COUNCIL REPORT

TITLE:
ADVANCE FUNDING FOR HOUSEHOLD COLLECTION CART INVENTORY REPLENISHMENT

PRESENTER:
Corey Wagner

DEPARTMENT:
Public Works

ATTACHMENTS:
DATE:
7/17/2026

CLEARANCE / APPROVALS:
Pam Richardson
Todd Burton

Todd Burton General Manager
Dave Wardrop City Manager

RECOMMENDATION(S):
That \$75,000 be expended from the Disposal Site Reserve in 2026 for the purchase of additional household collection carts, representing an advance of the planned 2027 capital allocation, to replenish depleted inventory and ensure continued delivery of curbside collection services.

BACKGROUND:
Solid Waste Services maintains an inventory of household collection carts for residential waste collection programs. These carts are required for new service requests, replacements of damaged carts, and expansion of collection services.

Previous years have seen a decline in bin demand as well as a decline in new residential builds which left the City with a substantial inventory. However, during 2026, the demand for residential green carts increased significantly following the closure of the City's unmanned depot sites. As residents adjusted to the revised organics collection program, requests for curbside green carts exceeded projections and resulted in the depletion of the City's available inventory.

The current stock of collection carts has been exhausted earlier than anticipated, creating challenges in responding to new customer requests and maintaining service levels.

ANALYSIS:

On an annual basis, the department budgets \$75,000 for the purchase of household collection bins to replace damaged bins and service growth demands. In 2026, the budget was reduced to \$50,000 on a one-time basis based on existing inventory and anticipated requirements.

The closure of the unmanned depot sites has demonstrated a clear shift in resident engagement toward curbside organics collection. While this transition supports the City's environmental objectives and diversion targets, it has also created demand for green carts that was greater than our projections.

The existing inventory was established based on historical participation rates and anticipated replacement requirements. However, the increase in requests following the depot closures significantly accelerated inventory consumption.

Approving the purchase of additional carts in 2026 would:

- Restore inventory levels to meet current and anticipated demand.
- Ensure timely service to residents requesting organics collection.
- Provide replacement carts for damaged or defective units.
- Support future residential growth and service expansion.
- Continue the City's efforts to divert organics from the landfill.

Failure to replenish inventory may result in service delays, resident dissatisfaction, and reduced participation in the organics collection program.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS:

Should Council approve the request, procurement of the carts would be completed in accordance with the City's Purchasing Policy and procurement procedures.

There are no known regulatory barriers associated with this purchase. The expenditure represents an advance of planned capital spending rather than the creation of a new program or service.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

This request aligns with several City objectives, including Environmental Sustainability, Service Excellence, Asset Management, and Community Growth. From an environmental sustainability perspective, the purchase supports waste diversion initiatives by increasing access to the curbside organics collection program and reduces reliance on landfill disposal through increased organics participation.

The request also supports Service Delivery by maintaining service levels and responsiveness to resident requests and ensuring sufficient resources are available to meet operational requirements.

From an Asset Management perspective, the purchase maintains an adequate inventory of collection carts as a critical operational asset and supports lifecycle management and replacement planning.

Finally, the request aligns with Community Growth objectives by providing the capacity required to support future residential development and population growth.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The 2027 capital plan includes an allocation of \$75,000 for the purchase of household collection carts. Approval of this recommendation would authorize that planned allocation to be advanced and expended in 2026 to address current inventory shortages.

The requested funding is expected to allow for the purchase of approximately 500 collection carts for inventory replenishment and replacement requirements.

While there is a pressure of higher than normal demand for collection carts, it remains unclear as to whether this increased demand will be sustained. As part of the 2027 budget development process, Administration will reassess year-end inventory levels, current demand trends, and anticipated service requirements to determine whether any further cart purchases are required in 2027.

The Disposal Site Reserve is the typical funding source for the purchase of household collection bins and recoveries from any bin sales are returned to the reserve. The Director of Finance confirms that the reserve projects a closing balance of \$550,581 and can accommodate the additional expenditure in 2026.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

If approved, the primary risk is that advancing the planned 2027 allocation may reduce flexibility within the 2027 capital planning process. There is also a possibility that demand for carts may continue to exceed historical trends, which could result in a need for additional funding in 2027. If not approved, the City will face a continued inability to provide green carts to new program participants, as well as delays in replacing damaged or unusable carts. This may result in reduced customer satisfaction and service levels, a potential decline in organics diversion participation, and increased operational challenges in supporting waste diversion initiatives.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY:

Upon Council approval, Solid Waste Services will proceed with procurement of the required household collection carts. Customer Service and Solid Waste staff will communicate availability timelines to residents who are currently awaiting carts. Information regarding continued participation in the organics collection program will be shared through the City's website and through customer service communications as required. Internal departments will also be advised of the approved funding adjustment for budget tracking and reporting purposes.

CONCLUSION:

Demand for curbside green carts increased significantly following the closure of Brandon's unmanned depot locations, resulting in the premature depletion of the City's inventory of household collection carts. Replenishing inventory is necessary to maintain service levels, support waste diversion objectives, and meet resident demand for all curbside collection services.

Approval of the \$75,000 request will allow Solid Waste Services to restore inventory levels in 2026 by advancing a planned 2027 capital allocation. Inventory levels and demand trends will be reassessed through the 2027 budget development process to determine whether any additional cart funding is required.