



**TO: LINDA GORTON, MAYOR
URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL**

**FROM: THERESA REYNOLDS, DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF GRANTS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

DATE: JUNE 3, 2026

SUBJECT: Materials Recovery Facility Optical Sorter and Robotics for Plastic Recycling

Request: Council authorization to accept the bid from Machinex Technologies Inc. for RFP-7-2025 to purchase an optical sorter and robotics for sortation and recovery of polypropylene plastics (PP) at Lexington’s Materials Recovery Facility, to improve sortation, quality, and quantity of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) plastics. Machinex is a sole source vendor.

LFUCG was awarded a Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (“SWIFR”) grant through the Environmental Protection Agency on August 8, 2024 (Res. No. 471-2024). Federal funding for this project specific grant totaled \$1,800,000, with LFUCG contributing \$100,000. The Office of Land and Emergency Management has granted LFUCG a project-specific nonavailability waiver for manufactured products under the Build America, Buy America Act, allowing the use of an acceptable vendor for this project.

Additionally, LFUCG was awarded a grant through The Recycling Partnership, Inc. on March 21, 2024, (Res. No. 106-2024). Funding for this grant totaled \$300,000, of which \$250,000 is designated for equipment and technology to enable and enhance polypropylene plastics (PP) recovery at the Materials Recovery Facility. Grant funds of \$39,674 will also be applied to this purchase.

Purpose of Request: This agreement will allow the Division of Waste Management to purchase an optical sorter for sortation and recovery of polypropylene plastics (PP), and robotics to improve sortation, quality, and quantity of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) plastics. The addition of this equipment will reduce the current contamination rate and save on disposal costs which are over \$450,000 annually. It's estimated that over 500 tons of polypropylene would be available for capture through the waste stream, reducing LFUCG’s current contamination rate by nearly 6.5%. With the addition of robotics that will target recovery of PP and the missed HDPE



and polyethylene terephthalate (PET) left on the last chance line, there is potential for reducing the contamination rate by an additional 10%.

What is the cost this budget year and future budget years?

The cost for this FY is: \$1,939,674.00

The cost for future FY is: \$

Are the funds budgeted? Yes

Account Number:

3170-303505-0001-71299 - EPA_SWIFR_2025- \$1,800,000.00

3170-303505-0001-82301 - EPA_SWIFR_2025 - \$100,000.00

3300-303501-0001-71299 - RECYCL_MRF_2024 - \$39,674.00

File Number: 0491-26

Director/Commissioner: Baldon/Martin

