AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 30, 2026

TO: Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee

FROM: Patrick Chess, Director of Natural Resources
Ben Haberthur, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Presentation and Approval of Bid for the Phase II Construction of an Electric Bison Fence at Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve

PURPOSE:
The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider the approval of a bid for the construction of an electric fence at Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve for the purpose of expanding the bison grazing pasture by 52 acres.

BACKGROUND:
The District fenced in a 32-acre pasture at Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve in 2024 and a small herd of six bison were released into the enclosure in December 2025 marking the triumphant return to Kane County prairies for the first time in approximately 200 years.

In order to provide ample space for the existing herd to continue to expand and graze at an appropriate rate, the District is currently seeking to construct a second phase of fencing which would enclose 52 additional acres. This space will be critical in the future as the herd begins to breed.

The District bid out the construction of this second phase of fencing, comprised of 7,067 linear feet around 52 acres of prairie. The lowest qualified bid was received from KP Fencing LLC dba FencePeoria of Wenona, Illinois in the amount of $142,000. Staff additionally recommends a contingency of $14,000 to cover any unforeseen costs that may arise during this project.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
Funds totaling $305,000 were approved in FY25/26 for the Bison Reintroduction project. Of that total, $39,167.33 remain in account #03-31-31-7060 Project #21009. An additional $150,000 is proposed in the District's FY26/27 budget. That total of $189,167.33 would be sufficient to cover the $156,000 expense ($142,000 bid plus $14,000 contingency).

RECOMMENDATION:
Staff recommends the Committee approve the contract for the construction of an electric fence for the purpose of expanding a bison grazing pasture provided by KP Fencing LLC dba FencePeoria of Wenona, Illinois for a total not to exceed $156,000.

ATTACHMENTS:
Bid Abstract
County Locator Map
Project Area Map