

Another way the City of Powell saves taxpayer dollars is by outsourcing various duties and services that would be more expensive to replicate in-house.

One of the more visible forms of outsourcing in the City is the trash and recycling collection, currently provided via a contract between the City and Rumpke. Using a company such as Rumpke for the City's refuse collection and recycling saves countless dollars on additional staff and the vehicles necessary to perform this service.

"I couldn't even predict the savings over doing this in-house, but it is significant," said Jeff Snyder, the City's public service director.

Other forms of outsourcing can be found within the City's engineering department. In a recent report to City Council's Finance Committee, City Engineer Rob Rice highlighted the following services, among others, that his department currently outsources at a savings to the City:

- Data collection for the GIS database – Special equipment and expertise are required for this, Rice said, and hiring a consultant is the less-expensive option.
- Field surveys – A professionally licensed surveyor is required for many projects within the department. The department manages each project, but using a consultant is less expensive than having a professional surveyor on staff.
- Traffic/Transportation studies – A traffic engineer is needed for these studies.

The City's law director, Gene Hollins, serves the City on a contract basis through his law firm, Wiles, Boyle, Burkholder and Bringardner. This is less expensive than having a full-time attorney on staff.

The City's newest form of outsourcing – and perhaps its most unique – was created late in 2010 after City Council voted to cut the City's events budget in 2011. The \$10,000 budget, split between the Parks and Recreation and Public Information departments, was used to fund such events as the Lollipops! Kids Concert Series, Touch a Truck and the Community Bonfire. (Annual events such as the Powell Festival and Holidays in Powell are organized by Historic Downtown Powell Inc., providing another example of outsourcing.)

After discussing a variety of sponsorship opportunities, City staff approached members of three local service clubs – Olentangy Rotary, Powell Kiwanis and Powell Sertoma – and asked if the clubs would provide the necessary funding to keep these and other events on the calendar. The clubs agreed to provide the \$10,000 through a joint partnership.

"The members of these clubs live and/or work in Powell, and they see how important these events are to the community," said Jeff Robinson, the City's public information officer. "The events are a big part of what makes Powell such a great place to live and raise a family, and we were glad to see the service clubs felt that way, too."

Soon after agreeing to the event sponsorship, club members met with local businesses in an effort to recoup the funds for their clubs. They were able to get the entire amount sponsored thanks to

corporate sponsorship from Giant Eagle, Costco and Receptions Outlet. Robinson said he'd like to see the relationship between the City and the sponsors continue in the coming year.

City staff members will continue to explore ways to outsource jobs and services when appropriate in an effort to save even more taxpayer dollars.