



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: April 19, 2016

Agenda Item #: 6a

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Dustin Graham, Director of Public Works

THRU: Susan Parker, Town Administrator

TITLE: Leaf and Limb Program Analysis

ATTACH: Brush Bandit Proposal (April 7, 2016)
Ordinance 93.01 (B) Health and Sanitation; Nuisances

Summary: At the March 22, 2016 meeting, the Town Council directed staff to explore alternatives to the current *Leaf and Limb Program*. Staff conducted a web search without success and phoned several landscape businesses and asked if they would be interested in providing this service to our residents. All the businesses stated that they are not equipped or staffed at this time to provide this type of service to our community. Both Waste Management and Waste Industries do not provide this service.

However, Waste Industries subcontracts with a company called **Brush Bandit** to offer *Leaf and Limb* service to Southport, Holden Beach and Ocean Isle Beach. Staff contacted this provider and requested a proposal to offer the same level of service the Town currently provides. The proposal includes a yearly charge of \$28.00 per household. We estimate that there are 3500 households for an annual cost of \$ 98,000. The number of households will be confirmed if the *Leaf and Limb Program* is privatized.

Background: The existing *Leaf and Limb Program* encompasses two zones. Yard waste in zone one is removed the first and third week. Yard waste in zone 2 is removed the second and fourth week. This program utilizes two dump trucks, a chipper and three public works employees. These employees generally pick up yard waste the first 3 days of every week for 48 weeks. The remaining four weeks are spent addressing the backlog of general public works maintenance and special projects.

Fiscal Implication: If the Town Council chooses to privatize the *Leaf and Limb Program*, staff would create a line item in the public works department with a corresponding annual cost. Privatizing the *Leaf and Limb Program* would allow the public works employees to keep current on general day-to-day maintenance items currently deferred or not addressed.

Council Action: Staff seeks direction on how to proceed with this item.