



City of Bowie

Memorandum

Thursday, July 24, 2025

Alfred D. Lott, ICMA-CM, CPM, City Manager

STATUS REPORT

1. MWBC Reboot Your Entrepreneurial Launchpad Event

The Maryland Women's Business Center (MWBC), in partnership with the City of Bowie Economic Development Office, hosted *"Reboot Your Entrepreneurial Launchpad"* on July 19, 2025, at the Bowie Senior Center. The event was designed to support aspiring entrepreneurs, particularly former federal employees and individuals seeking to transition their hobbies into viable businesses, by equipping them with the tools and knowledge necessary to launch and grow their ventures.

Program topics included developing an entrepreneurial mindset, creating a compelling business model, understanding the permitting process, and exploring strategies for turning passion into profit. The interactive format allowed participants to register on-site and engage directly with presenters and resources.

The event featured an impressive lineup of speakers:

- **Sonya Hopson**, CEO of Sage Services Group and a Bowie-based business owner
- **Charles Cooper**, representative of Prince George's County Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement (DPIE)
- **Tiara Andrews**, Business Retention Specialist, City of Bowie
- **Cindy Butler**, Director Women's Business Center Northern Virginia
- **Kathryn Wlaker**, Assistant Director Women's Business Center Northern Virginia
- **Angie Duncanson**, Business Consultant
- **Robert Sherry**, Adjunct Professor, Pepperdine University

With 35 participants in attendance, the program included networking opportunities and a "Fix It Fast" group exercise that encouraged attendees to identify common challenges and brainstorm innovative business solutions.

The event was well-received, and several attendees continued their engagement by visiting the MWBC Shop Local Store after the program concluded. Overall, the event was a resounding success, fostering connection, education, and entrepreneurship within the Bowie community.

2. Replacement of a Deep Time Core Aeration Machine

The adopted FY2026 budget includes \$48,000 for replacing Unit #359, a 2000 Deep Tine Core Aeration Machine used by the Parks and Grounds Division. Staff has identified Bergen County, New Jersey Master Supply Contract #CK04 with Finch Turf, Inc. in Eldersburg, Maryland, as an available piggyback contract to make the purchase for \$46,789.15.

As provided in Section 62 of the City Charter, this will serve as the required seven (7) day notice of intent to issue a purchase order to Finch Turf, Inc., in Eldersburg, Maryland, in the amount of \$46,789.15.