Are You The Man With The Plan?

Careful, conscientious budgeting can save you time... and your job!

Those dreaded words come down from the accounting office, "It’s budget time!" Are you at a club that just adds in a percentage increase for inflation based on last year’s actuals? Do you work at a club where there “is no budget?”

Or are you working for club that tries to make a profit? There is no better time than during budget preparation to communicate to your members and owners the value of having a professional golf course superintendent.

Where are those delivery tickets? How much did the mechanic spend on greens mower No. 3 last year? Can I justify replacing the tractor? Am I going to use Polyon, IBDU, or SCU on the greens this year? How big a raise will the staff get this year? How can I make these doctors, lawyers and retired business people understand what it takes to make my department perform to their expectations?

If you don’t know the answers to these and a zillion other bean-counting questions, your budget preparations are going to be a real ordeal. At some clubs the budget is the bible. For other clubs its just a set of reasonable guidelines. No matter what your situation, if you read the following articles, you may find some ideas that will make this part of your job a lot easier.

One other tip is to take lots of pictures. Documenting the conditions before and then after a project or the physical condition of a piece of equipment that needs replacing can help laymen visualize what your trying to tell.

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

The Process of Using Funds Prudently to Achieve Your Goals

No question about it, being a golf course superintendent is different from when I took my first position some 30 years ago. I was trained in agronomy with a M.S. degree and always felt my technical ability would be my principal asset. That used to be true but not as much currently. I would rank staying abreast of new developments in agronomic principals such as plant nutrition, plant pathology, entomology and soil science along with irrigation principles