

MUNICIPALITIES TEAM UP WITH A CHAMPION

Compact graders find a special niche, offering an affordable solution for municipal road maintenance crews.

In today's challenging economic climate of declining tax revenue and increased costs, municipalities are searching for new opportunities to perform their tasks effectively and affordably.

So when Rick Young, the General Service Superintendent for the City of Dover, Ohio, set out to replace a Galion A-600 Grader, he weighed his options carefully. "We were looking for something smaller to replace the one we had," he says. That is why he chose a

C86 C from Champion Motor Graders. The compact articulated all wheel drive grader weighs only 15,500 lbs. and is smaller than a full-sized machine. Size played an important factor in his decision since his department is responsible for maintaining alleys and gravel roads in the region.

"We need to get into 12 foot wide alleys and with the other grader it was really tight sometimes," says Young, adding that the optional all wheel drive feature will help. "It's smaller and lighter but we needed all the traction that we can get to go uphill in the winter. It gives us more power to get into an alley and keep it straight because there is not a lot of room in there and we don't want the machine sliding sideways," he explains.

Before choosing the C86C, Young says he did his homework to make

sure it could deliver the power and performance that it required by visiting other municipalities to see what they were using. "We looked at another model from a different outfit but the Champion machine looked a lot sturdier. I like that the frame was made from welded steel and not stamped parts. The other machines we looked at didn't seem to have the strength of the Champion."

In addition to the standard 10 foot blade, Young also opted for a front dozer blade scarifier, an attachment that is unique to Champion, and air conditioning in the enclosed cab pointing out that once inside it doesn't feel a whole lot different from a full-sized grader. He added that the adjustable steering wheel and controls contribute to the operator's comfort. "I got big guys and skinny

In Brief



C86 C Series Motor Grader

Configuration: Articulated Frame, AWD

Engine: Cummins QSB4.5 Tier 3

Output (SAE J1349):
110 hp (82 kW)

Operating Weight:
15,500 lbs. (7 030 kg)

Turning Radius:
19' (5 791 mm)

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Municipalities are turning to the C86 C to perform road maintenance tasks over full sized graders.

guys who need to get in there and they are both happy,” he says with a chuckle.

Getting to and from the jobsite is also much easier with the Champion C86 C, not only because it is small enough to easily load onto a trailer, but because it is small enough to maneuver on roadways, helped along by the hydrostatic power providing variable control through the entire range of ground speeds.

Ryan Haney, a sales representative for Southeastern Equipment, says, “The Champion graders are a great fit for our product line. We are strong in municipal markets which is our main focus.” He added that the model that Young and his road crew are using is perfectly suited for the tight alleys they need to access. “The C86 C has the power to do the light ripping, grading and ditching because of the all wheel drive,” says Haney.

Haney says the Champion machine has all the amenities of a full size grader, including the wheel lean, blade tilt, below-grade cutting, side-shift on the blade, steering angle, articulating frame, as well as the optional enclosed cab with heater and air conditioning on top of the fuel efficient Cummins Tier 3 engines. “This has all the same features as a full size grader and it’s very well put together,” he says. “And it’s about half the price.”

Champion bundles its machines with a very good warranty program that Haney says is a great advantage to dealers that sell to municipalities. It comes with a two year transferable machine warranty, with another additional year for parts, plus a lifetime frame breakage warranty for first owners that is provided as a standard. “Nobody else can touch that and when



(From left to right) Rick Holmes, Rick Young, Jed Miller, Bill Ball and Bill Able.

you are in a bid situation, the warranty alone can make or break you,” says Haney. “Everybody else offers a one year full machine and that’s it. When you tell customers they get a lifetime warranty on anything, you have their attention and they will listen to you.”

The South Carolina Department of Transportation has also purchased Champion graders, picking up five of the company’s C80 C models, and Knott County in Kentucky is another municipality taking advantage of the unique features offered by Champion machines. Les Miller, the Road Foreman for Knott County says he opted for a C80 C motor grader purchased from Rudd Equipment Company in Louisville. This articulated tandem drive model weighs 500 lbs. less than the grader being used in Dover City and comes with a Tier 3 110 horsepower engine.

Miller says the county purchased the Champion grader to replace the CAT 120 they had been using. “It’s was a little bit too big for “cemetery” roads so we downsized. We are using the new grader just for the cemetery roads. It’s smaller so it can get in these tight areas and move around a little better,” he says adding that Knott County has about 120 miles of cemetery roads to maintain. The Champion can get around a lot better,” he says. “With a big grader, we had to

back out.”

“It feels just like a regular grader but you have a better view of the blade from inside the cab. For road maintenance, it’s excellent and if you use it to its fullest capabilities, it’s just as good as a full-size grader,” says Miller. “We looked at other graders from different manufacturers and after operating every single one of them, we decided this one just felt better,” he says. “From a cost and productivity standpoint, it was the right grader for us.”

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About Champion

One of the oldest names in the equipment industry, Champion Motor Graders has specialized in the development of motor graders and attachments for almost 30 years. Champion engineering and manufacturing, based in Charlotte, NC, are dedicated to the production of Compact and Production Class Motor Graders that assure customers of the same productivity and quality standards they expect from the best in full-size construction machinery.

The Champion line-up now includes seven basic models with operating weights from 12,000 to 24,000 lbs., featuring the full range of single-axle, tandem and all-wheel 4x4 and 6x6 drive systems. Champion continues to develop a growing range of specialized equipment for the road maintenance and paving industry.