City fleet saves time, money with fluid management system

By setting up its new facility with a Lincoln fluid management system, the City of Columbus’ Fleet Operations helped improve the efficiency of its technicians and enabled it to lower fluid purchase cost by buying in bulk.

Photo courtesy of Lincoln

Better Efficiency

Burns adds that all fluid requests/dispenses are made in the technician’s bay via the Lincoln system, and each transaction is completed electronically and charged to the work order.

“The parts department employees automatically gain the efficiency of not having to manually or electronically charge out fluids,” he says. “By setting up our new facility with the complete Lincoln system – including pumps, reels and meters, our facility not only saves fleet employees’ time, it also has enabled us to lower our fluid purchase cost by buying in bulk.”

According to Burns, buying lubricants in bulk dramatically lowers the purchase price for the city when compared to buying in refinery drums or smaller containers. The oil company also is able to more easily keep the tanks at a proper level through bulk deliveries.

“The Lincoln Tank Monitor system allows selected individuals at the Columbus facility to confirm inventory levels in real time,” he says. “This enables them to check the levels before and after a bulk delivery, verifying the actual amount the driver delivered.

“The use of bulk lubricants, together with the Lincoln pump/reci delivery system, allows our technicians to handle all lubricant needs from their bays, increasing productivity.”

Vertical Storage System

While multiple rows of uprights have been used to accommodate the engine filters, brake pads and other large, medium-sized automotive items stored on the shop floor, Burns went up instead of out to house near the first level the company’s future storage needs.

“With the V-Grip storage system, we doubled our storage in an available amount of space,” Burns says. “We added vertical shelving along one wall to access. This gave us the ability to store bulky items such as doors and other body panels.”

Adding vertical storage systems to the shop as adequate vertical space is needed. The storage justifies the use of the current shelving.

Mobile Isle

For shop parts facilities, Burns says removing vertical space to add mobile isles and shelves on carriages and storage carts is the answer, instead of stacking parts on upper shelves.