



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 lower fluid purchase cost by buying in bulk.

Photo courtesy of Lincoln

City fleet saves time, money with fluid management system

Always looking for ways to increase productivity, Bill Burns, fleet operations manager for the City of Columbus, OH, began researching the advantages of implementing a fluid management system at the city's new fleet maintenance facility. He recognized that fluid control was a key to improving efficiency and creating a smooth flow throughout the garage.

After meeting with representatives from several suppliers, Burns chose the Lincoln LFC 5000 fluid management system. Among his reasons for the decision is that the system:

- Confirms valid and open repair orders on the facility's AssetWorks management system.
- Captures dispense events instantly and automatically to eliminate manual entering and errors.
- Accounting functions are completed accurately on the repair order and invoice, recording inventory depletion and eliminating lost billings.
- Simultaneously controls and monitors up to 32 fluids and 300 dispensing locations and creates reports by product, user, customer or location.

"The installation of Lincoln's automated fluid management system has dramatically improved our fleet technicians' efficiency," says Burns. "Our technicians no longer have to travel to and from the parts counter to request and receive vehicle fluids."

"When you have a large repair facility and 70 technicians, every step counts."

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/reel delivery system, allows our technicians to handle all lubricant needs from their bays, increasing productivity."