

Kathleen Ramsay

From: Bill Kernan
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 11:08 AM
To: Kathleen Ramsay
Cc: Dan Werner
Subject: Equipment Update
Attachments: Toolcat.jpg

Kathleen,

Since my last email I have been talking with my staff and doing some research on sidewalk plow machine alternatives and below is what I found..

- Trackless machines are a workhorse when it comes to heavy snow events. However they are very specific machines dedicated to sidewalk maintenance and therefore come with a high price tag and have limited use. These are also difficult to maintain due to accessibility problems to hydraulic hoses, electrical runs and other components hidden in tight places.
- Tractors are much more versatile and cheaper but are limited in size and horsepower due to the width restrictions of our sidewalks. Tractors are more maintenance friendly with an open frame design and easy access to engine and support components.
- Tool carriers are extremely versatile machines with weight and size similar to our Trackless and come with a much lower sticker price. They are equipped with a dump body, front lift height of 7' and many attachments are available for them (sweepers, plows, forks, soil conditioners, milling machines, brush hogs, etc.) and can be fitted with snow blowers and salt spreaders. Most attachments can also be rented for a specific job and therefore do not need to be purchased, stored or maintained. This machine comes with ample horsepower for any job and has all-wheel steering allowing it to maneuver in tight places.

Since the purchase of the two Trackless machines back in 2014 the town has had two dedicated sidewalk routes, one for each machine and has budgeted for two full-time winter operators to man them. Once winter is over these machines are cleaned up and put away until the following winter which has caused issues with upkeep and sometimes extensive fall maintenance to get them ready for the season again.

I have received an initial repair cost of \$10,000 from Trackless to replace the wire harnesses on our existing 2002 machine and then there would be additional charges once the machine is up and running again to troubleshoot anything else that might be wrong with it. As stated before, the machine would need to go out of state for this repair and I do not have a time schedule for completion.

I have also received a quote for a new Trackless machine at \$121,500 with a possible trade-in value of \$7,000 for our current machine. This machine could be delivered around 5 - 6 weeks from date of order.

We had a demonstration of a "Toolcat" tool carrier and followed that up with a quote of \$59,580 to include a sweeper, set of forks, plow blade and bucket. A rear mount sanding/salt unit can also be purchased for around \$4,500 bringing the total to around \$64,000. This particular model is a Bobcat and could be purchased locally and delivered immediately with a plow installed and the other attachments on order.

In summary, I like the idea of keeping one Trackless machine and replacing the other one with something more versatile that could be used across departments and during all seasons of the year. This would come with a universal front coupler so any attachments could also be utilized by the new skid steer that is currently out to bid providing even more flexibility. Staff was impressed with the tool carrier demonstration and are also in favor of this direction. It would come at half the cost of a Trackless, would provide more versatility and could be traded in more often to keep a newer/fresher/warrantied machine in our fleet at all times.

I have attached a picture of the demonstrated machine and I can supply additional information as needed.

Thanks,

Bill Kernan

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