

FREE TOOLKIT

MUNICIPALITY PRODUCT GUIDE

Municipal equipment has to do it all: mow parks in July, clear brush in October, plow roads in January, and fix whatever breaks in the shop the rest of the year — and every dollar spent on it has to hold up to public scrutiny.

WHAT'S INSIDE

The full guide · A spec comparison chart · A pre-purchase checklist

ONE MACHINE, FOUR SEASONS

Most private buyers can afford to own equipment that does one thing well. A public works department usually can't. Budgets get set once a year, the job list changes every week, and a machine that only earns its keep two months out of twelve is hard to defend at a council meeting.

That's the real argument for building a fleet around compact tractors and versatile loaders instead of a shed full of single-purpose machines. A tractor with a loader, a rotary cutter, a box blade, and a snow blade attached at different times of year is the same piece of capital equipment doing mowing in June, roadside brush in September, and snow removal in January. Swap the attachment, not the machine.

Loaders work the same way. A skid steer or track loader with a bucket, pallet forks, a grapple, and a broom covers material handling at the salt dome, cleanup after a storm, and loading mulch for the parks crew, all with one operator and one machine to maintain. Fewer machines sitting idle also means fewer machines depreciating in a corner of the garage waiting for their one season to show up.

MATCHING EQUIPMENT TO DEPARTMENT NEEDS

Different departments put different demands on equipment, and the right spec depends on what the crew actually does day to day.

Parks and grounds crews mowing large acreage at scale are usually better served by a dedicated mower than a tractor with a deck. Kubota's Z700 Series zero-turns cover routine turf at ball fields, cemeteries, and street rights-of-way, with deck sizes from 54 to 60 inches and commercial-grade Kawasaki or Kohler engines built for daily use, not weekend mowing. For departments with wide open acreage — large parks, retention basins, roadside frontage — the F-Series front-mount mowers make more sense. The F2690 and F3710 run 60 to 72-inch decks, 4WD for slopes and wet ground, and a single-pedal HST that frees both hands for steering, and the front-mount design gives an operator a clear view of the deck instead of guessing at the edge.

Roadside and facilities work is where a compact tractor earns its place, because the job changes hour to hour: pull a box blade to grade a gravel lane, mount a rotary cutter for roadside brush, run a loader bucket to clean up storm debris, then switch to a snow blade the same afternoon. The Standard L Series (L2502 through L4802, 24.8 to 48.4 HP) is a solid, no-frills workhorse for that rotation, with loader capacities up to 1,675.8 lb and Cat I 3-point lift up to 2,870 lb on the L3902 and L4802. If your crews are outside in bad weather for long stretches — early snow calls, winter brush cutting — the LX Series offers the same loader and PTO capability with an enclosed cab option (LX2620HSDC through LX4020HSDC), which matters when an operator is doing an 8-hour shift in January instead of a quick pass through a field.

Heavier material handling — loading trucks at the salt barn, moving aggregate, site work on capital projects — calls for more lift and hydraulic muscle than a compact tractor loader provides. Kubota's SSV skid steers (SSV65 and SSV75, 64 to 74.3 HP) and SVL track loaders (SVL65-2s through SVL110-3, 68.4 to 112.7 HP) both use a vertical-lift design that keeps the load stable and close to the machine at full height, which matters when you're dumping into the bed of a truck rather than a pile on the ground. Tracked SVL models add flotation on soft ground and wet turf where a wheeled machine would rut; wheeled SSV models are

faster on pavement and easier on gravel lots. Either line can be spec'd with high-flow hydraulics for attachments like angle brooms, snow pushers, and grapples that a standard-flow machine can't run at full capacity.

BUYING ON TAXPAYER DOLLARS: BIDS, CO-OPS, AND TOTAL COST

The lowest number on a bid tab is easy to defend in the moment and hard to defend a year later if that machine spends more time in the shop than in the field. A fair comparison has to go past purchase price to what the equipment actually costs to own: spec compliance, warranty coverage, service response time, and whether parts are sitting on a shelf nearby or three days out on a truck.

Start with specs that describe the work, not a brand: hydraulic flow for the attachments you run, loader and 3-point lift capacity, PTO horsepower, and attachment compatibility with what you already own. Work-based specs invite fair competition and hold up better under a bid protest than specs written around one manufacturer. From there, score every bid on compliance before you score price — a lower bid that doesn't meet your hydraulic or lift specs isn't actually cheaper, it's just non-compliant with a lower number attached.

Where your purchasing rules allow it, cooperative purchasing contracts like Sourcwell and the Ohio Department of Administrative Services State Term Schedule can shortcut a full formal bid process, since the competitive bidding has already been done at the contract level. That can save real time on routine replacements without giving up the documentation a board or auditor expects to see.

KEEPING A FLEET RUNNING

A fleet built around a handful of standardized platforms is easier to run than one built machine by machine as budgets allow. When your tractors share the same loader mount, your PTO speed matches across the fleet, and your skid steer attachments are interchangeable between machines, an operator can move between units without relearning controls, and a mechanic can keep one set of common parts on the shelf instead of five.

Downtime on a public works machine isn't just an inconvenience, it's a missed pothole, a park that doesn't get mowed before a weekend event, or a road that doesn't get plowed on schedule while residents are watching and calling. That's what makes local parts and service support worth paying attention to when you're comparing dealers, not just comparing machines. A department that can get a part same-day or next-day, and get a technician out or a loaner unit in the meantime, loses a lot less than one waiting on a shipment from out of state.

Unkefer Sales has served public works, parks, and township crews across Northeast Ohio since 1968, with parts and service support close enough that a down machine doesn't sideline your crew for a week.

SPEC COMPARISON CHART

Fleet equipment compared — by department and season

SERIES & MODELS	KEY SPECS	BEST FOR
L Series L2502, L3302, L3902, L4802	24.8–48.4 HP	Roadside & facilities rotation — grading, brush, loader, snow.
LX Series LX2620HSD, LX2620HSDC, LX3520HSDC, LX4020HSDC	23.3–39.8 HP	Same rotation, with an enclosed-cab option for all-season crews.
SSV Series SSV65, SSV75	64–74.3 HP	Salt barn & material handling on pavement and gravel lots.
SVL Series SVL65-2s, SVL75-3, SVL97-3, SVL110-3HFDCC	68.4–112.7 HP	Salt barn & material handling on soft ground and wet turf.
Z700 Zero-Turn Z724XKW-3-54, Z726XKW-3-60, Z781KWi-54, Z726XKWNC-60	23.5–29.5 HP, 54–60 in deck	Routine turf at ball fields, cemeteries, and rights-of-way.
F-Series F2690, F3710	24.8–37 HP, 60–72 in deck	Wide-open acreage — large parks, retention basins, roadside frontage.

Specs shown are published Kubota/Land Pride figures for reference. Current pricing, financing, and trade-in value aren't listed here — call (330) 868-6419 or stop by and we'll run real numbers for your situation.

PRE-PURCHASE INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Bring this along whether you're looking at new or used equipment.

- ☐ Check the hour meter — and ask if it matches the maintenance records
- ☐ Inspect cutting edges, teeth, and blades for uneven or excessive wear
- ☐ Check gearboxes and driveline joints for play or looseness
- ☐ Inspect all hydraulic hoses for cracking, weeping, or soft spots
- ☐ Check pins and bushings on the loader and 3-point arms for wear
- ☐ Start the machine cold — note starting time, smoke color, and any warning lights
- ☐ Cycle the loader and any hydraulic attachments through their full range
- ☐ Ask for maintenance records — what's been done, and when
- ☐ Ask why the machine is for sale
- ☐ Ask about remaining factory warranty (new) or extended coverage options
- ☐ Ask the dealer about service turnaround time and what wear parts they stock locally

WHEN YOU'RE READY

If you're putting together bid specs, comparing options for next year's budget, or just want to talk through what actually fits your department's workload, give us a call at (330) 868-6419 or stop by 1115 N. Market St. in Minerva. We'd rather help you spec the right machine now than sell you the wrong one.

This toolkit includes a spec comparison chart and a pre-purchase checklist you won't find on the web page. If you'd like a written recommendation with real pricing for your property, or want to talk financing or a trade-in, just call or stop by — we're glad to run the numbers with you.