

DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

TO Mayor Brodell & City Council DEPT _____
FROM Gene Barnett DEPT Street
SUBJECT Road graders DATE January 12, 1989

After the bids were opened Wednesday on our road grader I decided to call some of the people that I knew had both Champion and Caterpillar in their system. Below is the information that was received.

Randolph County - has two Champion graders, says the engines are weak and seems that the transmission always has something wrong with them. Has had lots of hydraulic pump problems, always going out. Said he would not consider buying another one for everyday use. Lots of trouble with cylinders on circle. Estimates he has spent \$62,000 in two years on parts and repairs. Personal recommendation is Cat.

Cross County - 1 Champion, 1 Caterpillar, 3 John Deere, 1 Galion in system. The Champion was bought last year. Has had some trouble with the computer shifting, said he is having reoccurring problems with hydraulics and the dealer has tried many times to repair but cannot fix. Caterpillar is an overall better machine.

Greene County - 1 Champion, 4 Caterpillar. Service on the Champion is okay, not a whole lot more than Cat. He very much dislikes the Detroit engine in the Champion which has caused them much trouble and down time. Said the Caterpillar is a better grader overall, low maintenance for age of machine, easy operation. Remainder of graders are Galion.

Lawrence County - Has 4 Champion graders. Said they have given reasonably good service, maintenance is fairly low. For the price paid for them he is satisfied. Said they traded Caterpillar machines in for the Champion after about 30 years service each. Said the Caterpillar is like the Cadillac in automobiles and were proven very durable.

Washington County - Has 8 Champion, 6 Caterpillar. Said the main reason for buying the Champions was that they paid \$71,000 for each machine with a guaranteed buy back within five years for \$51,000. Said if it were not for the warranty on the graders, the repairs and maintenance would be quite a bit. Several things had gone wrong with them. Said his Cats had very low maintenance and in general just a hell of a lot less expensive to operate.