

TeamBudget

Case Study



City of Champaign, IL – population 75,000

Municipal Overview

The City of Champaign, IL, population 75,000, is located approximately two and a half hours south of Chicago. As a home rule municipality, Champaign has authority over its local governance, rather than the State, enabling the city to tailor its government and power to best suit the city's specific needs.

The local economy remains strong due in part to its largest employers, the University of Illinois and the health care industry, and new home construction continues to grow in response.

Business Challenge

The City of Champaign had a very manual process for budget preparation and submission. Using Excel and Access based solutions, the process was long, paper heavy, required repetitive data entry, and left room for error in both data entry and budget version tracking.

Project Managers would begin by updating and preparing budget worksheets, which were then sent over to finance, where an Account Clerk would enter the spreadsheets into an Access database. This process required a lot of back and forth between departments, to double check that the information was entered correctly. Once all the information was compiled in the database, it was exported into Excel, where fund statements were created. The compilation of the budget would typically take six months and was ready for Council review at the end of April.

The Capital Improvements Review team would look at each fund statement and prioritize based on funding availability. When requested funding was not available, the Account Clerks would need to return to the Project Managers and request alternative funding options. In order to arrive at an acceptable fund statement, options had to continually go back and forth between Account Clerks and Project Managers.

Solution

The city of Champaign began the process of sourcing a software solution that would support the development of their Capital Improvement Plan. The team looked to the internet and their peers to come up with a list of approximately 15 companies with a possible solution for them. This process was very lengthy, but thorough. In the end the City of Champaign selected Questica's TeamBudget, as it was best able to support Champaign's budget process, it was easy to use, and based on feedback from other Questica customers.

Case Study Overview:

Municipal Overview:

The City of Champaign, IL, population 75,000, is located approximately two and a half hours south of Chicago.

Business Challenge:

Champaign's manual process left room for error in data entry and version tracking. It also required a tremendous commitment of time from everyone involved.

Solution:

After an extensive RFP process, it was decided that Questica's TeamBudget Capital was the best solution for the City of Champaign.

Business Benefits:

Champaign is enjoying a significant improvement in its budgeting process with:

- Multiple Budget Scenarios
- Reduction in Paperwork
- Version Tracking
- Better Focus of Time

For More Information:

Further information on the TeamBudget Capital can be obtained at www.teambudget.com

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Business Benefits

Champaign has just completed its first budget cycle with Questica's TeamBudget Capital and has already seen significant improvement from their previous budgeting process. Listed below are a few of TeamBudget Capital's key benefits which improved Champaign's budgeting process.

Alternative Budget Options Readily Available

Project managers are now able to create a number of budget scenarios effortlessly from the beginning. This eliminates the need to start the process over again, if funding is not available. The Capital Improvement Review Team can simply pull up the alternative budget, evaluate the impact on fund balance and have it approved, without the wait time previously required.

Reduction in Paperwork

As spreadsheets are no longer required to be passed back and forth, there has been a significant reduction in the amount of paperwork. Since web-based budget information is available to everyone involved, through all stages, figures can be discussed, changes made, and the impact is seen immediately.

Budget Versions no Longer Accidentally Overwritten

Version tracking is a major benefit of Questica's TeamBudget application. With all of the back and forth of information, it became very difficult for Champaign to keep track of the latest version of the project budget, and increased the time required for the budget process. With TeamBudget, version information is always available on-screen for every user, thus eliminating the possibility that the current version will be accidentally overwritten.

Champaign's implementation team was very happy with the customer service and support they received. With any new software implementation, there are bound to be a few issues, but they were impressed with the willingness of Questica's team to focus on them and provide solutions that worked. All of this was accomplished within the timeline that was set out by Champaign.

For More Information

TeamBudget Capital is a secure web-based solution structured on a proven capital budgeting model. Working in conjunction with the public sector, TeamBudget Capital was designed to solve the cumbersome process of assembling, tracking, analyzing and reporting of capital budgets.

Further information on the TeamBudget Capital product can be obtained at www.teambudget.com

**The City of
Champaign is very
pleased with the
implementation, and
looks forward to
further realizing the
full benefit of
Questica's
TeamBudget Capital
solution.**