

# TeamBudget

## Case Study



Windsor, ON - population 218,500

***“TeamBudget Capital has provided unlimited versioning and “what if” scenarios which allows for quick bottom-line budget impacts when switching between proposed versions.”***

*Victor J. Ferranti*

*Manager of Capital Budget & Corporate Reserves, City of Windsor*

### Overview:

Population: 218,500

Financial System: PeopleSoft

TeamBudget Capital

The City of Windsor, ON is the southernmost city in Canada., and is located on the Canadian/US border.

#### Business Challenge

The City of Windsor needed a budgeting solution that would ease the process of budget preparation, ensure accuracy, and provide a clear picture of their Capital budget..

#### Solution

Following a thorough investigation of solutions available, the City of Windsor concluded that TeamBudget was the only option that would provide them with the functionality they required.

#### Business Benefits

- Resource Friendly
- Increased Negotiating Lead Times
- Scenario Functionality
- Historical and statistical data
- Unlimited Report Capabilities

#### For More Information

Further information on the TeamBudget Suite can be obtained at [www.teambudget.com](http://www.teambudget.com)

### Municipal Overview

Windsor, Ontario, the southernmost city in Canada, is located on the Canadian/US border.

Windsor’s economy is based primarily on manufacturing, with a strong focus on automotive. Tourism also plays a vital role in the community, offering extensive riverfront parks systems, casinos, and a nearby wine region.

### Business Challenge

The City of Windsor recently implemented a new budgeting policy requiring the preparation of a 5 year budget plan – 1 year budget, plus 4 subsequent “in principle” budget years. At the start of each budget year, as the “in principal” budget information gets pushed up, a 5<sup>th</sup> year “in principal” is created.

The budget process begins in September with the finance departments distributing project detail worksheets, created in Excel, to each department, who would then review the figures and make adjustments to reflect changes, as well as any new projects not captured in the five year plan.

These worksheets were then re-entered on summary spreadsheets. Given the amount of data entry, the element of human error was extremely high, with links not updated, mistakes not captured, and budget figures not rolled up.

Revised budgets were then submitted for review by a group of senior administrators and council members. This stage was particularly time consuming. The matter of bringing all key department personnel together to review each budget change was challenging, and every change needed to remain in line with council objectives, and available funding.

The goal was to have the budget approved and in place by the end of the calendar year, but this proved challenging, in terms of involved parties being able to balance all their responsibilities at any given time.

Departments also found that, the longer the lead time they had to secure suppliers for projects, the better pricing they could negotiate. With the budget process taking so long, it was difficult to understand what the budget would look like when approved, and this made negotiations more challenging.

The City of Windsor needed a budget system that would allow them to navigate the review and adjustment process of budget preparation more easily, ensure data accuracy, save time and resources, and provide a clearer picture of their budget at any stage.

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### Solution

As the City of Windsor began the process of investigating options, they discovered that several other cities fitting the same requirements as theirs, had already gone through the lengthy RFP process. Based on discussions with these cities, including review of their RFP requirements, responses, and associated research, as well as their own preliminary search of options on the market, they came to the determination that TeamBudget was the only option that provided them with the functionality they required.

### Business Benefits

TeamBudget solved the common challenges faced by the City of Windsor in the preparation and tracking of their Capital budget.

#### Resource Friendly

In budget preparation, it all boils down to time. While TeamBudget doesn't eliminate the number of people involved, it has cut down on the time required of each person.

One meeting can be scheduled, and with all key players in the room, multiple changes can be made to a budget in real time, and the impact of each change seen immediately.

They are no longer faced with the challenge of scheduling a meeting for all key players every time a change is made.

#### Increased Negotiating Lead Times

TeamBudget provides users with a real-time picture of their budget as it proceeds through the approval process.

This enables departments to have an earlier understanding of what their rough budgets are. Since much of the work is contracted out, this is useful as it gives departments longer lead times to source out and negotiate more favourable terms.

### For More Information

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

Further information on the Questica's TeamBudget Capital product can be obtained at [www.teambudget.com](http://www.teambudget.com)

### Scenario Functionality

The ability to create forecasting models and scenario simulation is of particular benefit to the City.

Information can be compiled quickly, providing departments with the opportunity to tweak their projects prior to submitting for review. They can be certain they've tried every approach to their budgeting requirements, and are submitting the most effective proposal.

### Historical and Statistical Data

TeamBudget provides a point of reference for users when developing budgets. Previous budgets or elements thereof, as well as note attachments, allow users to access historical and statistical data critical to understanding what has worked / hasn't worked in the past. It's no longer necessary to track specific people or search through mountains of paperwork to recover information.

### Unlimited Report Capabilities

TeamBudget provides over 35 out of the box reports, as well as an unlimited number of reports capturing specific information and graphical formats.

The challenge of getting up to date budget data quickly, has been eliminated. TeamBudget allows users to generate reports based on various criteria and categories.

Given the nature of the budget review process by council, this flexibility is invaluable.