

RBP Methods and AccuFund Provide Greater Transparency for the City of Tangent

SUCCESS STORY

The Challenge

The City of Tangent was using QuickBooks for their financial operations and it was not providing the appropriate capabilities needed by a city government.

The Solution

RBP implemented AccuFund, a fund accounting solution, which provided the City of Tangent with the functionality and transparency they needed.

The Result

AccuFund has provided the City of Tangent with a simplified utility billing process, automated due-to-from account transactions, month end statements and balance sheets galore! Additionally it has saved their Finance Director and Budget Officer around 2 hours a day of work!

The City of Tangent is located in the central Willamette Valley of western Oregon. A small city with a mayor, four council members and two staff positions, their total population hovers right around 1,015. Within the city limits the City has the most exclusive farm use land in the state, which is used to produce grass seed. As the city's main industry the cultivation, cleaning and packaging of grass seed for international export has earned them the title of "Grass Seed Capital of the World".

Insufficient Accounting Solution Plants Seeds of Doubt

For any city, keeping proper track of funds is crucial. Accountability and transparency are a required necessity. However the City of Tangent had been operating on QuickBooks which wasn't providing them with the appropriate capabilities. Bev Manfredo, Finance Director and Budget Officer explains, "While QuickBooks is a lovely computer software program – it is not designed to be used for fund accounting, which is what a city government operates with. Even with my private sector accounting background, it was clear to me when I came to work for the city that our system had the potential for error, and was not meeting the city's requirements."

From balance sheets for each fund to the ability to do utility billing, the City of Tangent needed better functionality from their financial software. "We had to use a third party program for utility billing and then manually transfer the data into QuickBooks, and I could just see so many opportunities for big mistakes to happen." Kent Arnold, President of RBP Methods adds, "The biggest issue was that



QuickBooks was not a secure program nor functionally auditable – two things which are very important for city government and nonprofit organizations."

RBP Plants the Right Solution

Eventually Bev began researching options on the internet, looking for something that would meet their specific requirements. After getting bids from different providers she and the city council decided that AccuFund would be the perfect solution for them. She explains, "Keeping costs at a minimum is extremely important and this was a very important part. AccuFund was the least expensive but it had the same functionality as the other more expensive programs and it could provide everything we needed." With a lower cost of ownership, AccuFund can be very affordable for smaller entities. What's more, its technology needs aren't as severe as other similar programs – so whether it is implemented on site or in the cloud it is much easier to deploy. Add to that its ease of use and similar feel to QuickBooks and you have a solution that is very easy to learn and navigate.

The City of Tangent then worked with Kent Arnold and RBP Methods to get council approval on the project. They immediately felt comfortable with him as one of the city council members had worked with Kent years before on another



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City of Tangent
www.cityoftangent.org

Organization Profile

Type of Business

City Government

Other Information

1,015 Population
4 Council Members
2 Employees

System Profile

AccuFund

General Ledger
Accounts Payable
Bank Module
Forms Designer
Report Writer
Import/Export
Utility Billing
Payroll

project and knew he was exactly what they needed in a technology partner. Bev recalls, “Working with the RBP Methods team was incredible. They are extremely knowledgeable of not only how city governments need to operate but also on how to configure AccuFund to our needs.”

RBP and AccuFund Restore Vitality for the City of Tangent’s Accounting Systems

The implementation went off without a hitch. Kent elaborates, “Bev did the vast majority of the data build herself. They came up with what they thought the chart of accounts should be and I sat down with them, their bookkeeping service and auditor and discussed some different options. I trained her on the software functionality, setting up the system rules, etc. She did a remarkable job getting it set up on her end. I’ve never had anybody dive into a project and take control of it like that, and she’s done a very good job for the city. That’s another great thing about AccuFund and this implementation. If you have someone in house who has the ability and the drive – they can do most of the work themselves which can reduce the consulting investment.”

Bev and the City of Tangent couldn’t be happier with AccuFund. Their new solution provides them with countless benefits, from simplified utility billing and automated due-to-from processes to a month-end statement of



activities and balance sheet that affords the city council and residents the transparency they required. They can now clearly see their data and be confident in explaining where funds are going.

AccuFund has also made auditing much easier. Bev explains, “The system allows me to attach a digital copy of each invoice to each vendor bill which not only provides for an automatic back up of information, but gives me instant access to invoices needed by our auditors.”

Overall the City of Tangent is saving valuable time and money with the help of RBP Methods and AccuFund. Bev reflects, “The new system has saved me around two hours a day! I can now work on other things like auditing our accounts and moving our archives, ordinances and resolutions to digital records rather than on trying to figure out the accounting data! This system has made the accounting so much more accurate by integrating all of the modules and data into one transparent program.”

RBP Methods is a consulting company helping nonprofit and governmental agencies sort through complex technical decisions by providing quality services and products either directly or through our wide network of associated firms. We offer a variety of services for organizations facing technology changes.

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