

5 Key Factors to Consider When Investing In A New Government Accounting System

How often do you assess the system that drives your agency? How government regulations changed reporting requirements forcing you to rethink your data and financial management? Do management have the analysis and insight they need to make decisions? How dated is your technology?

The right government accounting system can help improve your agency's spending efficiency, streamline processes and make you more accountable to taxpayers and constituents. The wrong system can affect your cash flow, reduce your engagement with your constituents and slow down your operations. Sound, accurate financial reporting helps everyone involved understand the financial state of your government entity – a major factor in helping you uncover areas that need attention and assessing your immediate critical decisions that face your agency.

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1. ACCOUNTING FEATURES, FUNCTIONALITY & ACCESSIBILITY

If a system does not have the features and functionality you need and does not support your operational needs, nothing else matters. Of particular importance to a government is the accurate balancing of your funds along with tracking of Fund Balances. You should be able to track funds according to: 1) Object – Governmental Activities vs. Business-type Activities. Other features typically important to governments are budgeting, purchasing and payroll features as well as separate features like utility billing, fees, licenses & taxes.

Taking time to assess your business requirements will help ensure your new system fits your government's needs. Here are some questions to ask:

- Are you entering data multiple times? Or, entering data into multiple systems that then needs to be combined?
- Are you utilizing multiple users?
- Are you getting the reports you need in a timely manner?
- Have you upgraded your existing system?

Many systems allow managers or other staff to access the system to perform various tasks including and reviewing regulations, running reports, online and approving time sheets, etc. Such access is a fundamental transformation of responsibility that can result in significant benefits to your community. Efficiency and better benefits to your community. Putting reports in the hands of your department managers enables to increase speed with which they respond to situations – from departmental performance and adjustments to revenue management and analysis.



Look for a system that can accommodate those special access needs as well as some security mechanism for restricting what accounts, departments and documents users can access.

Any time you make an investment in your government, multiple factors contribute to the desired outcome. Community needs, staffing insights, leadership vision – coupled with ROI and governmental efficiency. They are all important and play a vital role in decision-making. We've identified 5 key factors to be considered when making a government accounting investment.

Download this new, executive paper, **5 Key Factors to Consider When Investing in a New Government Accounting System** for thought-provoking questions and topics for assessing your government's needs.