

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

How often do you assess the systems that drive your agency? How government regulations changed reporting requirements forcing you to roll in your data and financial management? Do management have the analytics and insight they need to make decisions? How stable 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 operations. Sound, accurate financial reporting helps everyone involved understand the financial state of your government entity – a major factor in holding you and/or areas that need attention and assessing your remaining 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 system's balancing of your functions with backing of fund balances. You should be able to track funds according to: **Objectives** Governmental Activities, **Business Type** Activities. Other features typically important to governments are budgeting, purchasing and special factors as well as special factors 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 obtaining data multiple times? Or, combining data into multiple systems that then needs to be combined?
- Are you struggling with payroll?
- Are you getting the reports you need in a timely manner?
- How do you backup your existing system?

Many systems allow managers or other staff to assess the system to perform tasks like entering and approving requisitions, running reports, online and approving time sheets. Do this assess via functional demonstration of responsibility. It can help suggest benefits to your community, efficiency and testing 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 effectiveness to revenue management and analysis.



Look for a system that can accommodate these 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.