

Sage Nonprofit Solutions

Customer Success:
Valley Metro Regional Public Transit Authority

Valley Metro RPTA Transits to the Future with Sage 100 Fund Accounting

When Phoenix voters passed Proposition 400 in 2004, Valley Metro Regional Public Transit Authority (RPTA) was suddenly charged with much broader responsibilities and a bigger budget, which grew from \$7 million to \$300 million almost overnight. Axiom Fund, its legacy accounting software, became inadequate.

“As soon as the proposition was approved, we started searching for a more robust system that could meet our needs for the next four to seven years,” says Jon Medwin, contracts and procurement manager. “Sage 100 Fund Accounting (formerly MIP) was the clear winner, partly because it was easy to use and had rich features, and partly because the business partner had so much experience with government agencies.”

RPTA has now automated financial, procurement, payroll, and HR functions with Sage 100 Fund Accounting. In the finance department, the solution manages payables, receivables, the general ledger, bank reconciliation, payroll, assets, and diverse reports. In procurement, it is used for budgeting and issuing purchase orders. In human resources, it maintains data electronically, reducing the use of paper. All elements of the system are integrated, so information only needs to be input once.

Real-time Reports

Reports are now much faster to generate. “The report writer in Sage 100 Fund Accounting is really user-friendly, so we can build or change a report in a matter of minutes,” says Michael Taylor, acting deputy executive director of finance. “We rely on it for our comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR), which all government agencies are required to do. Sage 100 Fund Accounting creates the component reports that are included in the CAFR. It used to take all day to figure out how to get data into the report you wanted, and now you just click the mouse.”

More sophisticated reports are possible, too. “One of the main reasons we like Sage 100 Fund Accounting is that it enables encumbrance accounting, something we didn’t have before,” says Taylor. “We can easily appropriate funds and allocate overhead costs with the push of a button. Items like rent, utilities, and payroll are all charged out to various departments in a matter of minutes.”

Challenge

RPTA outgrew its legacy accounting system when it was charged with broader responsibilities and a budget increase from \$7 million to \$300 million.

Solution

RPTA automated financial, procurement, payroll, and HR functions with Sage 100 Fund Accounting.

Results

Now, allocations take minutes instead of days, requisitions are processed two weeks faster, data entry time decreased by 20%, and there is no need to hire a full-time employee.



Customer

Valley Metro Regional Public Transit Authority

Industry

Public Transit

Location

Phoenix, Arizona

Number of Locations

4

Number of Employees

150

System

Sage 100 Fund Accounting

- General Ledger
- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Bank Reconciliation
- FAS
- Cash Receipts
- Allocations
- Requisition
- Abra HR
- Timesheets



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Powerful Purchasing and Payroll

Medwin has seen major improvements in the purchasing department since the implementation of Sage 100 Fund Accounting. "The entire routing and approval process is electronic, increasing both speed and accuracy," he notes. "Before, we had to walk documents around for signatures, and it was easy for people to claim that a paper requisition was signed off and lost. Now, we have a time-stamped history of each document, and can see where it might be held up, eliminating finger-pointing. Overall, we have probably shaved two weeks off the procurement approval process."

Accountant Carrie Alexander created a payroll database within Sage 100 Fund Accounting. "We can now track details by employee, benefits, cost number, project, and more," she says. "Any report can be downloaded to a spreadsheet, which is great because we can sort data however we want. Today, for instance, I am reconciling benefits reported from HR with data stored in the system, and it's a relatively easy task."

Streamlined Work Loads

Alexander often used to work seven days a week and late nights to get out payroll. "Thanks to our new system, I no longer have to put in overtime," she says. "It has freed up at least 20 percent of my time to spend on more important tasks. In fact, if we didn't have Sage 100 Fund Accounting, RPTA would definitely need to hire an additional full-time employee."

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– Michael Taylor
Acting Deputy Executive
Director of Finance
Valley Metro RPTA

The conversion went surprisingly well. "I've gone through three major financial system installations, and Sage 100 Fund Accounting was by far the quickest, easiest, and smoothest," says Taylor. "The implementation team was very professional and knowledgeable, and were great to work with. They made sure our employees were well trained, too."

RPTA staff are certain the agency made the right decision in selecting Sage 100 Fund Accounting. "Nobody has any regrets," says Medwin. "We're happy with the system and the service we've received, and can see that the solution has made an enormous difference in our operations."

About Sage

Sage has been serving nonprofit and governmental organizations throughout North America for more than 30 years. The company helps more than 32,000 unique not-for-profit organizations increase efficiency and more easily manage their operations through the use of technology. From fund accounting, donor and fundraising management, and grant management, to online donation processing, human resources (HR), payroll, and fixed asset management, Sage offers a software product or service to meet the organization's need. For more information, call 800-811-0961 or visit www.sagenonprofit.com. Follow Sage Nonprofit Solutions on Twitter (www.twitter.com/SageNonprofit) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/sagenonprofit); read the blog (www.sagewords.net); and join the community for not-for-profits (<http://community.sagenonprofit.com>).