

Sage Fixed Assets and southern hospitality—both popular in Slidell, La.



Located at the southeastern tip of St. Tammany Parish, in Louisiana's famous Ozone Belt (known for its clean air and water), the city of Slidell is quiet, friendly, and brimming with southern hospitality.

With a population of more than 25,000 and annual revenues of \$30 million, the city holds many festivals, is home to a swamp with elusive alligators, and features delightful shopping, fine dining, and excellent accommodations. Many of the qualities that make Slidell a great place to visit also make it a great place to live.

Made up of ten departments, its government is overseen by the mayor, the city's primary political leader, who sets municipal policies and provides leadership, vision, and direction for Slidell.

The director of the Department of Finance in Slidell is responsible for the sound management of city finance and property matters. Departmental duties are broad and comprehensive, including: collecting and protecting all monies of the city from whatever source; assisting the mayor in the preparation of the operating budget and capital improvement budget; administering a central accounting system for all city departments; and procuring all personal property, materials, supplies, and services required by the city under a central purchasing system.

Following the issuance of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 34, Slidell needed a fixed asset accounting solution that would help it meet financial reporting requirements by an aggressive deadline. Mayor Ben O. Morris and director of finance Sharon Howes set out to implement the best system for their needs.

The city's previous system allowed its finance staff to calculate depreciation only once. If the depreciation total wasn't correct the first time, there was no way to recalculate it.

Challenge

Implement an automated, easy-to-use fixed asset accounting solution to help the city's finance department meet GASB 34 financial reporting requirements.

Solution

Sage Fixed Assets—Depreciation, part of the fixed management solution designed specifically to help government, school, and nonprofit organizations meet GASB 34/35 requirement.

Results

Now the city completes its financial statements quickly and simply and is assured of GASB 34 compliance.

Customer

City of Slidell, Louisiana

Industry

City government

Location

Slidell, Louisiana

System

Sage Fixed Assets

Modules

- Sage Fixed Assets—Depreciation
- Sage Fixed Assets—Tracking
- Sage Fixed Assets—Reporting

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Sharon Barber
Fixed Asset Manager
City of Slidell

Consequently, Slidell's fixed asset accounting staff was forced to conduct depreciation for one year manually.

Slidell's finance department greatly needed a new fixed asset accounting solution—one that was rigid enough to be fully GASB compliant, but flexible enough for the city's finance personnel to experiment with different depreciation formulas.

Making a choice

"We looked at 15 different software programs, and Sage Fixed Assets—Depreciation was the easiest to use," said Sharon Barber, Slidell's fixed asset manager. "The selling factor with Sage Fixed Assets was that it allowed us to run our depreciation, set it back, and then run it again until our information was accurate."

Sage Fixed Assets—Depreciation provides easy-to-use fixed asset accounting and reporting for state and local government, school, and nonprofit organizations needing effective decisionmaking tools for integrated accounting environments.

Getting it right

Slidell was required to capitalize all items with a minimum cost of \$5,000. As a result, the city's finance department manages four separate funds—Utility, Airport, General, and Sales Tax. The Utility and Airport funds have a large number of fixed assets, including water and sewer lines, taxiway reconstruction, beacon lights, land, buildings, vehicles, and machinery.

The fixed asset management process for these funds has been completely transferred to Sage Fixed Assets—Depreciation. Any new assets purchased for the other two funds, General and Sales Tax, have also been entered into the Sage Fixed Assets system, making the depreciation calculation process for these assets a less cumbersome task.

Continuing progress

Slidell also implemented Sage Fixed Assets—Tracking. Utilizing the bar-code technologies embedded in Sage Fixed Assets—Tracking, public sector entities can create and track multiple physical inventories of assets quickly and efficiently. The city's police department utilizes the solution to inventory its police evidence.

"Our previous fixed asset management system failed and slowed us down," Barber said. "With our Sage Fixed Assets solution, we now complete our financial statements quickly and painlessly." And thanks to using the Sage Fixed Assets, Slidell's Department of Finance ensures the city's timely GASB 34 compliance.

About The Sage Group, plc

We provide small and medium-sized organizations with a range of easy-to-use, secure, and efficient business management software and services—from accounting and payroll to enterprise resource planning, customer relationship management, and payments. Our customers receive continuous advice and support through our global network of local experts to help them solve their business problems, giving them the confidence to achieve their business ambitions. Formed in 1981, Sage was floated on the London Stock Exchange in 1989 and entered the FTSE 100 in 1999. Sage has over 6 million customers and more than 12,700 employees in 24 countries covering the UK & Ireland, mainland Europe, North America, South Africa, Australia, Asia, and Brazil.

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