

Hamilton, Ontario / Population 655,000

“TeamBudget Capital allows us to spend more time on Capital Budgeting and Financing Analysis and spend less time linking spreadsheets and reviewing data for clerical errors.”

John Di Battista, Senior Financial Analyst, City of Hamilton

Municipal Overview

The City of Hamilton, ON, is located at the head of Lake Ontario in close proximity to both the City of Toronto and the U.S. border.

Amalgamated with the municipalities of Ancaster, Dundas, Flam-borough, Glanbrook and Stoney Creek, the City of Hamilton is the eighth largest city in Canada.

Business Challenge

The City of Hamilton used a manual process for budget preparation and submission. Using Excel and PeopleSoft, the process was long, required a lot of manual data-entry and verification, and placed a considerable drain on network drives and electronic storage space.

The process began with staff rolling over the existing data to the new year. Any year-specific information would then need to be manually updated in each of the 1,100 project detail sheets.

The Capital budget book, close to 500 pages in length, contains data found in numerous files, from several different sources. Each section was printed separately and then combined into one document. All pages needed to then be numbered by hand, and a lengthy manual check was required, to ensure accuracy of information.

Specific information reports were often requested by Management and Council during the review phase. These were difficult to provide using the limiting report templates that existed.

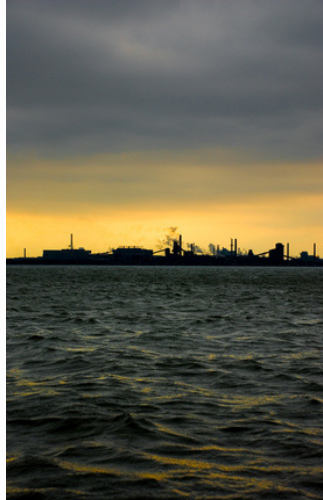
Once the Capital budget received approval from Council, it was then loaded manually into PeopleSoft, on a per-project basis using an excel spreadsheet. This process would typically take three days.

High stress levels within the staff remained a problem throughout the entire budget process, due in large part to the struggle to meet deadlines, and the quick turn around expected on information requests.

Solution

The challenges and limitations of their Excel based Capital budgeting process was the motivator to find an alternative solution.

The City of Hamilton was introduced to the TeamBudget solution, at a municipal conference. After speaking with a Questica representative, they realized that their budgeting challenges could be addressed through TeamBudget’s consolidated application. In addition, TeamBudget Operating could help them improve their process and gain better control over their Operating Budget..



Overview:

Population

655,000

Financial System

PeopleSoft

TeamBudget Capital

The City of Hamilton, ON, is located in close proximity to both Toronto and the U.S. border.

Business Challenge

The City of Hamilton needed a budgeting system that was centralized, easily accessible, and that would reduce the hours involved in the budgeting process.

Solution

Questica’s TeamBudget Capital web-based solution provided the City of Hamilton with a centralized point of entry and data storage, while ensuring information accuracy across all departments

Business Benefits

- Over 200 Hours Saved
- Faster Information Turnaround
- Reduction in Errors
- Precise Financial Modeling
- Quality Control and Security

For More Information

Further information on the TeamBudget Suite can be obtained at

www.teambudget.com

Business Benefits

TeamBudget easily fit into the City of Hamilton's existing software environment, and provided them with the features and capabilities they required.

200+ Overtime Hours Saved

Using TeamBudget Capital's centralized database, the City of Hamilton has reduced its budget preparation time by over 200 hours.

New budgets are automatically rolled forward, capturing all relevant information. Changes made to budgets at any stage of the budget cycle are updated system wide. Centralized data ensures consistent information throughout the organization.

Precise Financial Modeling

The City of Hamilton is able to conduct precise financial modeling. TeamBudget Capital's real-time application ensures that the financial data they are working with and making business decisions from is current, and no information is missing.

Quality Control and Security

With 20 people directly involved in the budgeting process, TeamBudget's centralized control over data input and output, ensures that quality control and security are maintained.

The Administrator can set access based on user roles, and can lock down the budget as it reaches certain stages.

Faster Information Turnaround

Council-ready reports and last minute information requests are now available in minutes, not hours. This has not only reduced the time required in bringing the budget to council, but also the level of stress felt by everyone involved in the budgeting process.

As the budget is reviewed by Council, requests for information become more detailed. TeamBudget's central database and flexible report writing tools speed up the information channel.

In addition, many of the tasks required of a capital budget system are now available quickly and easily, such as ranking projects, indicating operating budget impacts, tagging related projects, and embedding maps.

Reduction in Errors

TeamBudget Capital has significantly reduced the probability of error during the flurry of last minute changes by departments just prior to the budget going to print.

Changes are automatically updated system wide, ensuring all reports are current, and the Corporate Model contains accurate information.

For More Information

TeamBudget Suite is a secure web-based solution structured on a proven capital and operating budgeting model.

Working in conjunction with the public sector, **TeamBudget Capital** and **Operating** were designed to solve the cumbersome process of assembling, tracking, analyzing and reporting of capital and operating budgets.

Further information on the Questica's **TeamBudget Capital** product can be obtained at questica.com