



CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

CUSTOMER

City of Slidell, Louisiana

INDUSTRY

A southeastern Louisiana town

LOCATION

Slidell, Louisiana

SYSTEM

Sage FAS Gov 100 Fixed Assets

Modules in Operation

- FAS Gov 100 Asset Accounting
- FAS Gov 100 Asset Inventory
- FAS Report Writer

Sage FAS Gov 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 10 departments, its government is overseen by Mayor Ben O. Morris, the city’s primary political leader, who sets municipal policies and provides leadership, vision, and direction for Slidell.

Responsible for the sound management of City finance and property, its Department of Finance is managed by Director of Finance Sharon Howes. Departmental duties are broad and comprehensive, including, but not limited to, 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 the June 30, 2003 deadline.

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. Consequently, Slidell’s fixed asset accounting staff was forced to conduct depreciation for 2001 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.

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

FAS Gov Asset Accounting—part of Sage FAS Gov Fixed Assets, the fixed asset management solution designed specifically to help government, school, and non-profit organizations meet GASB 34/35 requirements.

RESULTS

More easily calculate accurate fixed asset accounting information. Expect to quickly and simply complete financial statements. Assured of GASB 34 compliance.

"We looked at 15 different software programs, and Sage FAS Gov Asset Accounting was the easiest to use."

—Sharon Barber
Fixed Asset Manager
City of Slidell

ABOUT SAGE SOFTWARE

Sage Software has been responding to the needs, challenges, and dreams of small and mid-sized businesses for over 25 years. With a complete range of business management solutions and services, Sage Software helps companies improve customer relationships, reduce costs, and automate and integrate a variety of operational activities. Its solutions support the specialty needs of a broad scope of industry segments, including manufacturing, distribution, construction, real estate, nonprofit, and professional services.



Making A Choice

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

FAS Gov Asset Accounting, part of Sage FAS Gov, provides easy-to-use fixed asset accounting and reporting for state and local government, school, and non-profit organizations needing effective decision-making tools for integrated accounting environments.

Getting It Right

Currently, Slidell is 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 FAS Gov Asset Accounting. Any new assets purchased for the other two funds, General and Sales Tax, have also been entered into the Sage FAS Gov system, making the depreciation calculation process for these assets a less cumbersome task.

Continuing Progress

In upcoming months, Slidell will implement FAS Gov Asset Inventory, also part of Sage FAS Gov. Utilizing the bar code technologies embedded in FAS Gov Asset Inventory, public sector entities can create and track multiple physical inventories of assets quickly and efficiently. The city's police department plans to utilize the solution to inventory its police evidence.

"Our previous fixed asset management system failed and slowed us down," Barber said. "With Sage FAS Gov, we fully expect to complete our 2003 financial statements quickly and painlessly."

And thanks to using the Sage FAS Gov, Slidell's Department of Finance will ensure the city's timely GASB 34 compliance.