



Staff Report

From: Finance Department

Date: January 22, 2025

Subject: Purchase of Gravity Budgeting & Planning Financial Disclosure Management Software to automate the City of Budgeting Development Process, Budget Book, and other Financial Reports via Sole Source Procurement.

Recommendation: Given the Finance Department and City-wide priorities to improve efficiencies around the budget development process as well as financial reporting to enhance internal data-driven decision-making, forecasting, post-award grant management, and public engagement with the City's financials, and in particular to highlight the good work of City staff in driving forward our Comprehensive Plan, I am recommending that the City procure Gravity software and services to help us strengthen these areas with best-in-class cloud software.

The purchase is justified as a sole source procurement because Gravity is the only software vendor to offer a full Budgeting & Planning Suite with real-time analytics, financial transparency, and a built-in publisher tool that automates financial statement output in the form of branded PDF documents. No other product serving local government today offers this robust and end-to-end functionality.

Moreover, the City is already invested in Tyler Munis ERP. Rather than looking at a new ERP system to fill the functionality gaps mentioned above—which is a two- or three-year project at a significantly higher cost—Gravity will integrate to Tyler Munis to provide a complementary overlay that allows us to extend the life of our investment. Additionally, Gravity will add immediate value while also serving as a single source of truth data warehouse for all financial and budget data such that overtime, the City can further analyze its existing technology contracts and consolidate where there might be redundancies.

Discussion: The proposed solutions offer several key benefits:

1. **Improved Accuracy:** Advanced algorithms and automated checks reduce the risk of errors in financial calculations.



2. **Enhanced Reporting:** Comprehensive reporting tools allow for detailed and customizable financial reports.
3. **User-Friendly Interface:** An intuitive interface simplifies the disclosure management process, reducing training time and increasing productivity.
4. **Integration Capabilities:** Seamless integration with our financial systems ensures a cohesive financial management process.
5. **Cost Savings:** Long-term savings and improved efficiency are expected to outweigh the initial investment along with the ability to leverage existing systems and add value with room to grow into additional comprehensive financial automation solutions.

Financial Implications: The total cost for the purchase and implementation of the new software includes software user licenses, installation, training, and ongoing customer support by way of a dedicated Customer Success Account Manager, Quarterly Business Reviews, and future software enhancements.

The cost-benefit analysis indicates that this investment will pay for itself through increased efficiency across multiple finance department roles, reduced risk for error, and further enhancements to financial transparency efforts. Additionally, Gravity has offered discounts for a multi-year contract, which adds value to the long-term investment.

Finally, the City plans to purchase Gravity with federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that must be allocated by 12/31/24, which the City has already done.

Conclusion: By adopting the only software catered to government finance that provides a seamless end-to-end solution for the budget development process and financial disclosure reports integrated to the ERP system and other sources of financial data that may live in disparate systems or spreadsheet databases, the City will see significant immediate and long-term reductions in cost, increased efficiencies in daily work processes, and increased citizen engagement by way of more digestible financial transparency that tells a compelling story of who we are, what we stand for, and why the City of Texas City is the ideal to live, work, and play.