Palestine Independent School District Grades Sage FAS Gov a 4.0

A century ago, the town of Palestine was one of the more important railroad hubs in eastern Texas. Today it is better known for its beautiful dogwoods, water sports, and peaceful lifestyle.

More than a year ago, Palestine had a Texas-sized problem managing its fixed assets. "We were trying to use EDP business software to stay on top of fixed asset inventory and depreciation, and it kept giving us error messages," says Lisa LeMon, assistant director of business services. "We didn't like the reports we were getting, and we couldn't rely on the data. We were pretty frustrated."

Putting Sage FAS Gov to the Test

The executive director at the time had heard about Sage FAS Gov solutions, and asked LeMon to attend a demonstration with her. "We really liked what we saw," LeMon says, "and decided toimplement Sage FAS Gov Fixed Assets, which include FAS Gov Asset Accounting, FAS Gov Asset Inventory, and FAS Report Writer."

The district must depreciate any asset worth more than $5,000, including its buildings and a good-sized fleet of buses, trucks, and vans. Sage FAS Gov tracks and manages data on all of these diverse fixed assets.

"The accounting rules changed for us about three years ago, with GASB 34/35 requiring us to calculate depreciation for the first time. The EDP software did not meet our needs—I had to do catch-up depreciation on all our assets and transfer data to spreadsheets for calculations. With FAS Gov Asset Accounting and FAS Report Writer, we get the exact data we need out of the system. This has trimmed one-third of the time it takes us to prepare GASB reports each year," LeMon notes.

CHALLENGE	SOLUTION	RESULTS
Previous business software prevented accurate tracking of school district's fixed assets.	Sage FAS Gov Fixed Assets, including FAS Gov Asset Accounting, FAS Gov Asset Inventory, and FAS Report Writer, for reliable inventory reporting and easy compliance with GASB 34/35 mandates.	GASB reports take one-third less time than before; inventories can be broken down by building or classroom; bar coded fixed assets will cut inventory time in half, saving one week of work every year.

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Easier Inventory

The district is also looking forward to efficiencies with FAS Gov Asset Inventory. The software records when a fixed asset was bought and sold, its serial number, type (such as building, furniture, equipment, or vehicle), and whether or not it is depreciable. Several account numbers can be assigned to each asset, for tracking according to various expenditure accounts.

"We have a bar code reader with the Sage FAS Gov system, and every asset is now tagged with bar code labels," says LeMon. "This means we'll be able to easily scan items rather than manually going through paper checklists. Once it is fully operational, we expect FAS Gov Asset Inventory will cut one week off the two weeks we normally spend doing our annual inventory."

LeMon likes being able to customize fields within FAS Gov Asset Inventory. "I can view data in a group format or by individual item," she says. "I appreciate being able to break down inventory by campus, building wing or classroom, and I always know who is responsible for each piece of equipment."

Rustling Up Reports

Better reporting is a big benefit of using Sage FAS Gov. "Not only are depreciation reports easy to create with FAS Report Writer, but they're also easy to understand, both for me and our auditors. Also, each person who requests an inventory report wants something a little different. The technical director might want to know how many computers we have at each campus, while the transportation department would need detailed data on our fleet. With Sage FAS Gov, it's really simple to meet each person's unique need."

Lisa LeMon has plenty of other jobs to handle besides fixed asset management, so she's thankful the new software has freed up so much of her time. "Sage FAS Gov has made this part of my job a lot easier," she says.

ABOUT SAGE SOFTWARE

Sage Software has been responding to the needs, challenges, and dreams of small and midsized 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.

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