



CUSTOMER

City of Saskatoon

HEADQUARTERS

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

**Operating and Capital Budget
in 2008:** \$616 Million

City of Saskatoon Streamlines Reporting With CaseWare Working Papers and GAAP Financials

The city of Saskatoon is centrally located in the province of Saskatchewan, between the cities of Winnipeg and Edmonton and about 300 kilometers from the U.S. border. The city's roughly 210,000 residents rely on the City of Saskatoon municipal organization for a myriad of civic services, including water, electricity, infrastructure maintenance, and parks and recreation. To bring together its financial statements in an efficient, organized manner, the City of Saskatoon, in turn, relies on CaseWare Working Papers and GAAP Financials.



"It was a minimum of two full months of effort," he recalls. "We'd produce a report from our general ledger software, a data export from our budgeting software, reports from the other boards and then key the results into Excel. It took a whole series of spreadsheets and a lot of manipulation to bring it all together."

Consolidation Challenges

With an operating and capital budget of \$616 million, the City has a large general ledger account structure. It must deliver consolidated financial statements to its provincial governing body and the city council each year. It is a challenging process, as each of the departments/ utilities and boards operating under the City of Saskatoon umbrella has its own financial system, with their financial data delivered in various formats. For many years, this meant that Cal McCarthy, Corporate Accounting Manager for the City, and his team spent a significant amount of time assembling the required data in the proper format.

Move To Efficiency

As a result of the 2007 external audit, the City's auditors recommended that it pursue a more efficient method for generating the required reports. McCarthy saw the recommendation as an opportunity to modernize and improve the City's financial reporting process.

McCarthy heard about CaseWare Working Papers and GAAP Financials from his counterpart at a nearby city. "They were using CaseWare with great success," he

CHALLENGE

The City of Saskatoon relied on spreadsheets to produce its consolidated financial statements. The process was lengthy and inefficient

SOLUTION

CaseWare Working Papers and GAAP Financials add efficiency, accuracy, and time savings to the reporting process.

RESULTS.

The reporting cycle timeline has been cut in half. Manual entry has been eliminated. The City's auditors are pleased with the resulting controls and efficiencies.

"I would estimate CaseWare has cut the process in half. We're definitely enjoying the time savings and a big reduction in our stress levels."

Cal McCarthy
Corporate Accounting Manager

About CaseWare International Inc.

Accountants and auditors in practices large and small, in corporations, and government recognize CaseWare International as the premier creator of assurance, reporting and analysis tools. In over 130 countries, the CaseWare family of products helps accounting professionals perform their work more easily and efficiently.

says. "So we contacted CaseWare, attended an online demonstration of its power, and were impressed enough to buy it."

A Tremendous Time Saver

With only one reporting cycle completed using CaseWare, McCarthy says he already can see the benefits of the product. "CaseWare will be a tremendous time saver for the City," he says. "We're able to enter the data once and have it populate the different tables and reports automatically."

The City performs an export to draw the financial data out of its accounting and budgeting software and then imports that file into CaseWare Working Papers for use by the GAAP Financial templates.

"It's an enormous benefit to have our notes and statements together," explains McCarthy. "Before we had notes in Word and statements in Excel and had to merge them together to produce the final documents. Those inevitable last minute changes required an excessive amount of work. Now, we can make last minute entries easily, assured that the data is flowing automatically to the right places."

Trusted Partner Helps Smooth Transition

During the implementation, McCarthy sought advice and assistance from F. H. Black & Company, a Canadian professional services organization that offers CaseWare training and related services. "I wanted to work with an expert," recalls McCarthy. "And it turned out to be a good move. Our consultant at F.H. Black & Company was extremely knowledgeable and worked with

me to develop the templates we needed. They were able to do all the work remotely, so it was a cost-effective move for us."

The City of Saskatoon continues to turn to F.H. Black & Company for support and additional software training. "They are a great resource to us," McCarthy notes.

Streamlined Reporting

The City is required to report its revenue and expenses by object (e.g. wages or salaries) and by type of function (e.g. police or fire) which previously would have required a separate complete set of spreadsheets. And recently new mandates to break down revenue and expenses by segment and to report on tangible capital assets and the related amortization of those assets were added.

"If we didn't have CaseWare Working Papers in place, this would be completely unwieldy," McCarthy says. "It would have added another 20-plus columns to our already enormous spreadsheets."

With CaseWare, though, the software pulls the desired information together, in the required format using pre-prepared templates. "I would estimate CaseWare has cut the process in half," he adds. "We're definitely enjoying the time savings and a big reduction in our stress levels."

McCarthy reports that the City's auditors are pleased with the efficiencies CaseWare is delivering. "They like the level of automation we've added and especially like that they can test the controls within the software."

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