

Capital Project Management Software

City of Lawrence, KS – Municipal Operations

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The City of Lawrence, KS went to market for a software solution and implementation services related to project management, tracking, budgeting and analysis of Capital Improvements Projects (CIP). The City was in the midst of a \$130 million Capital Improvements Plan and sought to move from a manual “pencil-and-paper” system to a single software platform across the City’s Capital Program.



The City’s main goals were to implement a software with functionality to provide:

- On-Line Bidding
- Project Bid Management
- Advertising & plan distribution
- Addendum and proposal portals
- Mobile device access
- Customizable work flow processes
- Scenario-based analysis of Portfolio Projects
- Scenario-based analysis of Funding Sources
- Create project schedules
- Project cost tracking
- Pay apps, submittals, change orders, etc.
- Historic cost analysis and projections

The system’s five-year initial cost was \$700,000 for implementation services and annual licensing & support.

SIMPLAR’S XPD SELECTION PROCESS

The City partnered with Simplar to apply Expertise-Based Project Delivery (XPD), including Scope Development, Request for Proposals (RFP), Pre-Award Clarification, and Post-Award Performance Metrics. Highlights include:

Scope Development Procedures

- Simplar’s unique Request for Needs (RFN) process identified twenty (20) separate gaps in the initial Scope of Work – allowing the City to update their Scope before moving to RFP – which reduced the risk of change orders.

RFP and Evaluation Process

- Simplar applied a Scripted Software Verification process rather than traditional Demonstrations, enabling the City to see current, real-life examples of the competing products in lieu of sandboxed demo platforms.
- The RFP required each vendor’s implementation team members to participate in the interview process, granting an opportunity to evaluate the team’s qualifications and level of planning to meet the City’s objectives.

Pre-Award Clarification & Post-Award Metrics

- Simplar’s “Value Assessment” recognized an opportunity to move to unlimited licenses for less than \$2k/year
- During the first month of the project, the Vendor changed their implementation team – introducing a huge risk! Thanks to the Simplar XPD process’s emphasis on maintaining consistent project team individuals, the City was able to bring the Vendor’s “A-Team” back to the table for the entire implementation period.
- The implementation phase reached Go-Live on schedule (minus holiday breaks) and was delivered on budget.