

## City of Leawood, Kansas

### Complete Information Management with Eden Financials

*Winner of 2009 Eden Public Sector Excellence Award*

**Industry:** City Government

**Location:** Leawood, KS

**Employees:** 314

**Tyler Products Used:** Eden Financials

**Budget:** \$51 million

**Years as a Tyler Client:** 6

**The Facts:** Leawood, incorporated in 1948, is one of the fastest growing cities in Kansas. Settled by retired police officer Oscar G. Lee, the City's namesake, Leawood is situated on 14.7 square miles in Johnson County, one of the nation's leading business centers. Known for its tree-lined residential neighborhoods, beautiful parks, excellent schools and thriving business community, the City continues to "grow with distinction," offering a high quality of life to its citizens.

#### Contact:

**Mark Andrasik**, Director of Information Services | Eden Implementation Project Lead

**Kathy Rogers**, Finance Director | Eden Financials Implementation Lead

[www.leawood.org](http://www.leawood.org)

#### Key Challenges

- Implement a solution to address the City's "islands" of separate and distinct information
- Expand reporting capabilities, including all required financial and GASB 34 reports
- Re-engineer business processes and enhance internal controls to follow best practices

#### Benefits: Financial and Beyond

- Reduced duplication of data entry by combining Human Resources, Finance and Payroll information into one comprehensive system
- Gained FLSA compliance & tools for GASB 34 reporting compliance
- Streamlined business processes and improved internal controls for better informed decision making

#### City of Leawood's Best Practices

- Implemented fully-integrated Eden applications across the organization for streamlined processes and easy access to information
- Created a technology committee comprised of Leawood citizens to assist in selecting the best software vendor for the City's needs
- Worked in collaboration with City employees, top administrators and Tyler staff to ensure successful adoption of the new system

#### Why Tyler?

- Tyler provides all consulting, product enhancement, implementation, training and support services
- The Eden suite is a fully-integrated software solution with dynamic features, rich functionality and superior Web capabilities
- Tyler is the largest sole provider of software and services for the public sector, covering all solutions for Financial, Document, Pension and School Management; Land & Vital Records; Appraisal & Tax; Courts & Justice; Public Safety; and Citizen Services

#### In Their Own Words:

"Before EDEN we had the questions, not the ability to answer them. Since [the EDEN implementation] we've been able to answer our questions, streamline our processes, enhance our internal controls and build efficiencies."

—Mark Andrasik, Director of Information Services

"Eden software has provided Leawood with the enhanced internal controls needed to operate in a fast paced electronic environment."

—Kathy Rogers, Finance Director  
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## “Islands” of Information a Threat to City Operations

For years the City of Leawood maintained “islands” of Human Resources, Finance and Payroll information—separate and distinct databases housed on a combination of DOS-based, homegrown and Windows-based programs. Comprehensive information was difficult to find, running reports was a time-consuming process and managers were unable to effectively analyze City data for timely decision making.

According to Director of Information Services Mark Andrasik, the City had questions that couldn't be answered with their current method of information management. “We needed a way to blend information into one common source that would become the backbone of our daily operations,” he said.

## Working Together to Implement the Right Solution

To aid in the search for the right software system, the City enlisted the help of a technology committee comprised of Leawood citizens. By drawing on their collective experience with similar implementations and by considering current and future City needs, the City of Leawood was able to choose the best solution to address their information management challenges: Eden, a Tyler ERP Solution.

Conversion of data, implementation, and user training on the Eden system moved forward swiftly and smoothly for City employees. To ensure the project's success, key staff members from each department were involved with the transition and the mayor, governing body, city administrator and staff provided complete support throughout the process. Less than one year from approval, Leawood went live on Eden Financials, Human Resources and Payroll. The project was completed in a timely manner and under budget, allowing the City to implement three additional modules outside the original scope of work using the original budgeted funds. “This represented approximately \$150,000 and is a testament to our employees and the Tyler implementers,” stressed Andrasik.

## Real Answers to the City's Questions

To date, the City of Leawood has implemented more than 14 Eden modules ranging from Permits & Inspections to Fixed Assets to Project Accounting. According to Andrasik and Kathy Rogers, finance director for the City, the benefits of using Eden speak for themselves. “Eden software has provided Leawood with the enhanced internal controls needed to operate in a fast-paced electronic environment,” Rogers stressed. The City was able to re-engineer business processes and internal controls based on best practices and the system's advanced functionality, resulting in a greater consistency of data, significant gains in employee efficiency, and compliance with state and federally-mandated requirements. Payroll information—now processed in-house—automatically posts to the General Ledger, negating the need for manual journal entries. Embedded Crystal Reports® ensure that users of every level can easily

create and produce important reports, including those for FLSA and GASB 34 compliance. And parcel information is now imported into the Eden system on a routine basis, allowing the City to effectively leverage the work of other agencies. What's more, according to Rogers, “Positive pay, electronic approvals and budget checking provide added assurance to those responsible for governance of the City's financial matters. Additionally, reporting responsibilities for GASB 34 and IRS compliance requirements for the issuance of 1099s and W-2s has become a breeze since our implementation. We've come a long way, baby!”

Eden has also proved to be invaluable in helping managers make informed decisions through the enhanced ability to analyze City data. For example, managers now have a 360-degree view of each employee through complete access to historical data, from compensation history to past paychecks and leave and earnings reports. This allows the City to do specialized analysis on overtime, sick leave patterns and more, resulting in decisions that ultimately have a positive effect on efficiencies and employees. “Before Eden we had the questions, not the ability to answer them,” emphasized Andrasik. “Since [the Eden implementation] we've been able to answer our questions, streamline our processes, enhance our internal controls and build efficiencies.”