

Oracle ERP Cloud Budgetary Control

A Case Study

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Introduction

This paper describes the key implementation decisions a small city makes in configuring Oracle ERP Cloud Budgetary Control to manage its finances.

Before beginning their implementation, the key people involved should first read <u>Oracle Financials</u> <u>Cloud Introduction for CFOs and System Integrators</u>, a case study that introduces and explains the key concepts of Oracle Financials Cloud. That case study concerns a commercial enterprise but the information applies equally to state and local governments and other public sector organizations. This paper will extend those concepts to a public sector implementation using Oracle Financials Cloud.

Welcome to Vision City

Vision City is a small fictional city in northern California. The city purchases Oracle ERP Cloud to address the following requirements:

- » Better analytics during budget preparation/planning to budget execution cycle
- » Improved analysis and monitoring of budget consumption
- » Increased visibility of budget issues for transaction users
- » Streamlined legal and management reporting

Key Funds and Funding Sources

The main revenue sources are sales tax and property tax. The main citywide expenditures that must be budgetary controlled are in the General Fund.

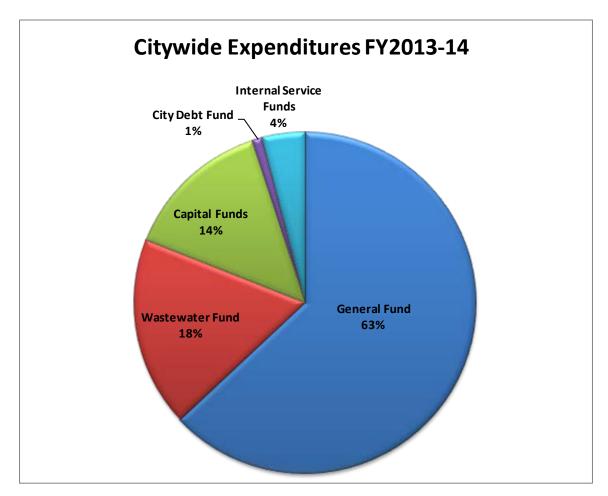


Figure 1. Expenditures by Fund

The following five areas of expenditures are funded by the General Fund:

- » General Government
- » Public Safety (Police and Fire)
- » Parks and Recreation
- » Community Development
- » Public Works

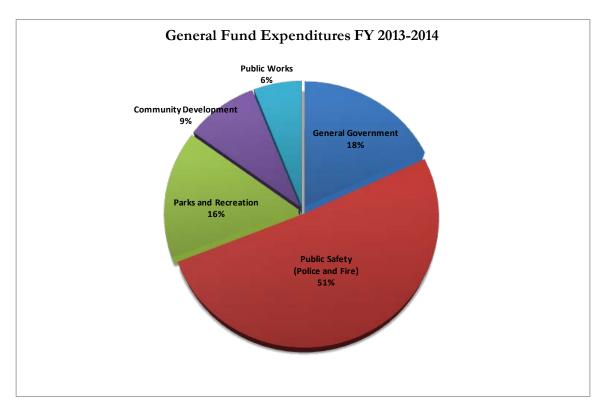


Figure 2. General Fund Expenditures

Vision City Organization

The Vision City government is organized into departments, with lower-level departments rolling up to higher-level or parent departments:

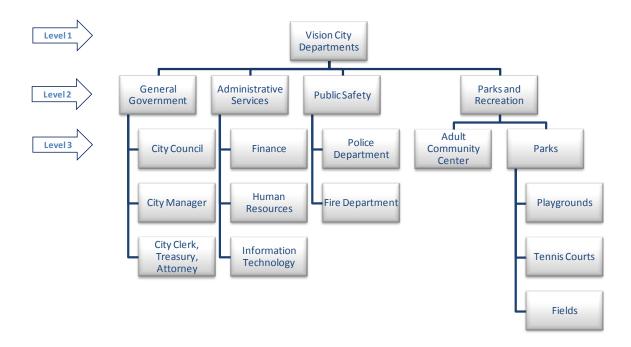


Figure 3. Vision City Department Hierarchy

The city has department managers controlling purchase approvals and budget spending at level 3 in the department hierarchy. Public reporting on the General Fund spending on administration is separated from operations. The finance department on behalf of the city council requires reporting on the type of expenditures at the object (or natural account) level.

Financial Management Cycle

The financial management cycle of the city mainly revolves around the budget planning for the next year and staying on track in the current year. The budget is a financial plan on how the city will receive and spend money during the fiscal year.

The financial management cycle has four phases:

- » Planning and Budgeting: Prioritize objectives and determine the allocation of funds to meet these objectives.
- » Budget Implementation: Map objectives to specific programs and departments in the city's organization structure for recording, expense monitoring and control.
- » Expenditure Monitoring: Ensure that the budget amounts allocated are correctly reflected in Oracle ERP Cloud and the proper controls are set up for expenditures.
- » Inquiry and Reporting: Produce periodic reports for the public and the department heads to reflect prior period budget vs. expenditure. Perform budget transfers and approve any budgetary control override requests.

Each department head is responsible for approving expenditures and controlling their budget to ensure they are meeting the associated objectives.

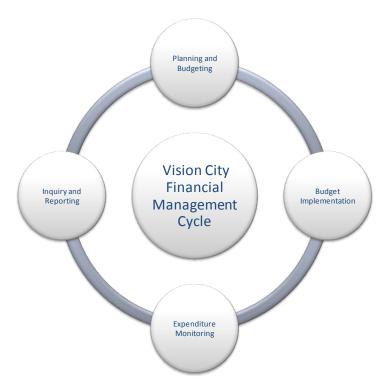


Figure 4. Financial Management Cycle

Planning and Budgeting

The planning and budgeting phase starts in August and continues until March. The proposed budget is prepared in April and is available for public review and hearings in May/June. The final (adopted budget) is released on July 1st.

The planning and budgeting phase has four steps:

- » Plan for Next Year
- » Strategic Goals, Objectives
- » Budget Preparation
- » Budget Review



Figure 5. Planning and Budgeting Phase

Plan for Next Year

This step of the planning and budgeting phase is to determine budget priorities and expected funding for next year. Departments review funding and projects feasibility. Department managers or their designees review prior year objectives and budget expenditures. Department managers also review reports such as Performance Highlights from prior year benchmarks and Results by Department.

Strategic Goals, Objectives

Goals are finalized and budget allocations are refined. The finance department proposes multiple funding scenarios and forecasts revenue and funding.

Budget Preparation

The budget manager prepares a preliminary budget for review. The budget amounts are allocated to departments and programs. Department managers allocate budgets to the programs for which they are responsible.

Budget Review

The proposed budget is reviewed by the city manager and council. In addition, it is released to the public for review. A final budget is published and adopted for the new fiscal year.

Budget Implementation

After adoption, the budget is available for consumption at the beginning of the fiscal year. The enforcement of spending controls begins.

Although public safety is the highest expenditure in the city, it is outsourced and the funds are managed by the supplier, and monthly reports on expenditures are provided to the city. This white paper will focus on the two main functions under the city's direct control, namely General Government and Parks and Recreation.

Expenditure Monitoring

Organizations have great control over which events in the purchasing cycle are subject to budgetary control. Vision City requires all expenditures to be subject to budgetary control validation. They elect to enable funds control at the time of requisition to ensure requestors are aware of any budget issues before they submit requisitions to approvers. Any variances from the requisition to the purchase orders and invoices will also be subject to budgetary control as well as any manual journal entries that impact the budgeted accounts.

Other organizations may elect to bypass budgetary control at requisition time and only enforce controls during purchase order preparation. This may give buyers greater control to complete purchase requests that otherwise would have been rejected. Vision City, however, prefers the requester to be notified as early as possible when there is insufficient budget for their request.

Inquiry and Reporting

During the budget year, the budget manager:

- » Monitors the overall health of the budget
- » Alerts department managers of potential budget issues
- » Overrides insufficient funds
- » Executes budget transfers/adjustments
- » Prepares periodic reports for management
- » Prepares periodic reports for public

Key Implementation Considerations: Enterprise Structures

As described in <u>Oracle Financials Cloud Introduction for CFOs and System Integrators</u>, Vision City first defines its chart of accounts using the Rapid Implementation spreadsheet.

The chart of accounts has the following segments:

- » Fund: Enables reporting by fund, and as their balancing segment, ensures all transactions must balance by fund
- » Department: Mirrors the organizational structure including the hierarchical relationships
- » Program, Object and Location: Provides detailed tracking and analysis
- » Future Use: Allows easy expansion in the future if needed

They enter the segment names, values, and hierarchies in the Rapid Implementation spreadsheet and set July 1 as the beginning of their fiscal year. They then generate a .csv file and upload it to Oracle Financials Cloud,

automatically creating all required enterprise structures, including a ledger and business unit which are linked to the newly-defined chart of accounts.

Key Implementation Considerations: Budgeting

Budget Entry and Approval

Vision City has historically managed its budgets in spreadsheets. They considered continuing with this approach, which involves simply loading their budgets into Oracle Financials Cloud periodically using the open interface for budgets. However, Vision City instead opts to use the Oracle Planning and Budgeting Cloud Service (PBCS) which is seamlessly integrated with Oracle Financials Cloud and offers management and control capabilities beyond what Vision City has with spreadsheets.

Vision City budgets by fund, department, and program and defines their PBCS budgeting application based on these three segments. They include additional segments in their chart of accounts for tracking expenditures at more granular levels, but they do not budget at these levels.

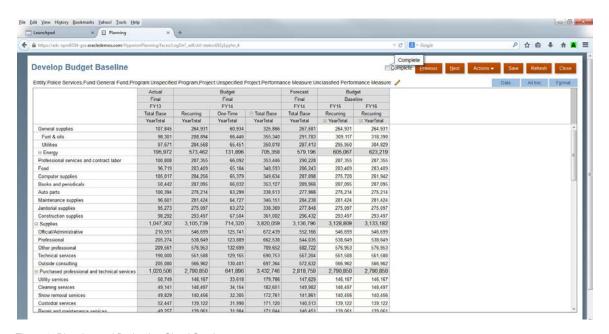


Figure 6. Planning and Budgeting Cloud Service

They define mapping rules to write budget information from PBCS directly to Oracle Financials Cloud for use in budgetary control and actual-budget analysis. Since they do not budget at the Object or Location level, they automatically enter 000 as the value for these segments in their budgets. They also define mapping rules for transferring actual balances from Oracle Financials Cloud to PBCS for use in the budgeting process.



Figure 7. Oracle ERP Cloud - PBCS Mapping

For more information on using PBCS with Oracle Financials Cloud, see <u>Oracle Financials Cloud and Planning and Budgeting Cloud Service.</u>

Using Budgets for Budgetary Control

Before loading budgets to Oracle Financials Cloud, Vision City first defines control budgets. The control budget specifies how the budget will be used to control expenditures, including:

- » Transaction types: Requisitions, purchase orders, invoices, manual journal entries, purchase receipts.
- » Level of control:
 - » Absolute: Reject the transaction if there is insufficient budget.
 - » Advisory: Allow the transaction to proceed but notify the user of any budget violations.
 - » Track: Allow the transaction to proceed without notifying users of budget violations, but still report on budget vs. consumption.
 - » None: Do not track activity.
- » Exception conditions: Set one level of control as the default but then use a different level of control in exception conditions, such as a specific fund or group of departments. While it wouldn't make much sense to use None as the control level for an entire control budget, there are definite cases where it makes sense to use None as the default level and then set up exception conditions to enforce stricter control in certain cases.
- » Tolerance: Whether users can spend beyond the allowed budget, and if so, by how much.
- » Overrides: Whether users can allow a rejected transaction to proceed, and if so, which users and under what conditions.

Vision City defines two control budgets: one for spending control and the other for management reporting.

	FY2014-15 Monthly Reporting	FY2014-15 Annual Control
Calendar (July1-June30)	12 periods (one for each month)	1 period (year)
Segments – hierarchy	Fund	Fund
	Department (level 3)	Department (level 2)
	Program	Program
Control Level	Track – record transaction impact on funds balances only	Absolute – stop transactions when there are insufficient funds
Source Budget	Hyperion Planning	FY2014-15 Monthly Reporting (This budget summarizes balances from the monthly budget and is not maintained separately)
Tolerance/Override	None	The budget manager in finance can approve and override insufficient funds
Exceptions	None	Public safety departments are outsourced and expenditures are controlled by the provider, therefore their transaction control level is Advisory

Figure 8. Comparison of Two Control Budgets

Vision City enters its budgets in PBCS and loads the budget data into the FY2014-15 Monthly Reporting control budget. The other control budget (FY2014-15 Annual Control) uses FY2014-15 Monthly Reporting as its budget source. Therefore Vision City does not enter two sets of budgets; one control budget derives its amounts from the other. This setup allows Vision City to do reporting and analysis at a more granular level than transaction control.

Budget Adjustments

Though Vision City has standardized on PBCS as its budgeting solution, they also allow a small group of budget managers to enter budget adjustments directly in Oracle Financials Cloud. Oracle Financials Cloud offers a spreadsheet interface for budget adjustments:

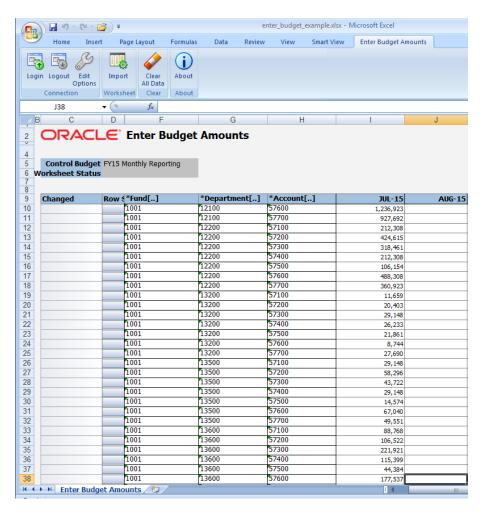


Figure 9. Spreadsheet for Budget Adjustments

Vision City can still report on the original budget amount versus the sum total of any adjustments.

Key Implementation Considerations: Transaction Control

Any transaction that consumes funds from a General Government, Administrative Services, or Parks and Recreation department must pass a funds reservation before it can proceed. Funds reservation is performed automatically during requisition or purchase order approval, invoice validation, creation of purchase receipt distributions, or posting for a manual journal entry. Users can optionally check funds before submitting a transaction to ensure it will pass.

Vision City opts not to enforce budgetary control during requisitioning, so the first control point is purchase order approval.

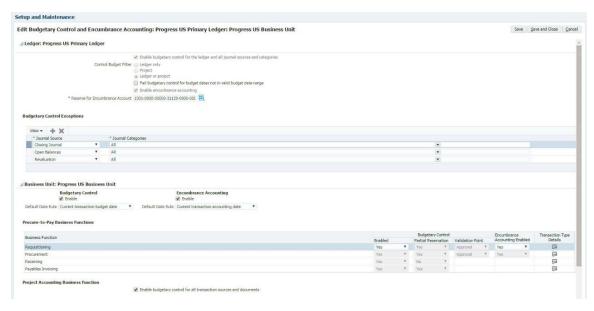


Figure 10. Select Which Transactions to Enforce Budgetary Control

Transactions that consume funds from a Public Safety department are only subject to Advisory control, so a funds reservation is not required for these transactions to continue processing.

Transactions are also checked against the FY2014-15 Monthly Reporting control budget, but as this is Track only, budget violations are not enforced.

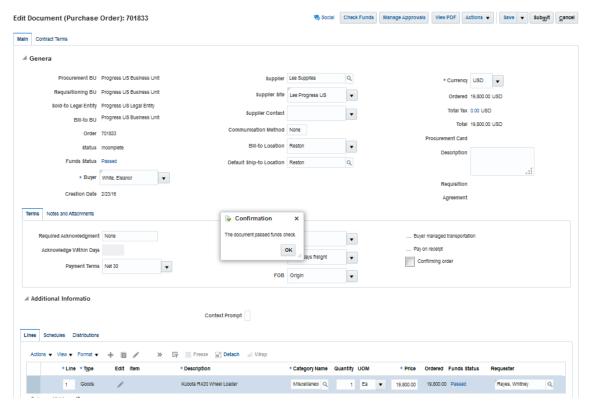


Figure 11. Funds Check for a Purchase Order

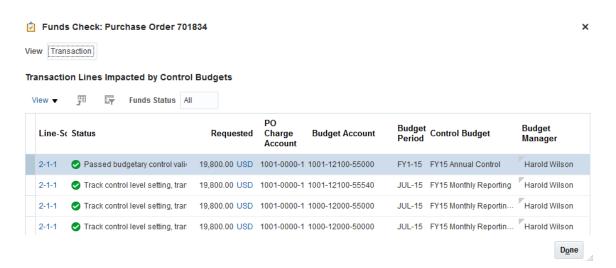


Figure 12. View Results from the Funds Check

Key Implementation Considerations: Reporting and Analysis

Oracle Financials Cloud offers a broad array of sophisticated reporting capabilities. The document Reporting Tools in Oracle Fusion Financials describes the numerous capabilities in detail but the specific ways Vision City uses these tools is described below with examples.

Budgetary Control Infolets

The Budget Consumed and Funds Available infolets allow the budget manager to quickly view and track the funds consumption and funds availability of critical control budgets and budget accounts. These infolets provide insight into your budget position based on real-time transactions, and alert the budget manager to potential risks. Each budget manager can configure up to five different instances of each infolet.

The Budget Consumed infolet displays the budget consumption for a group of budget accounts you choose. You can expand the infolet to see the budget accounts with the highest consumption percentages for the control budget. On the expanded view, you can also view the funds available details by clicking the budget account link.

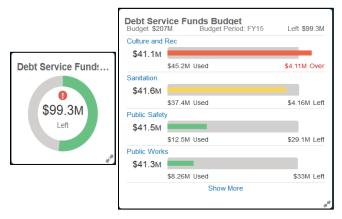


Figure 13. Budget Consumed Infolet

The Funds Available infolet displays the funds available amount and percentage based on the unused portion of the current period budget for a budget account you specify. You can click the funds available amount link to view the additional funds available details for the budget account.



Figure 14. Funds Available Infolet

Budget Manager Inquiry/Reporting

The Budgetary Control Dashboard allows the budget manager to monitor summary fund and department balances, and drill down to specific accounts and transactions.



Figure 15. Budget Account Monitor

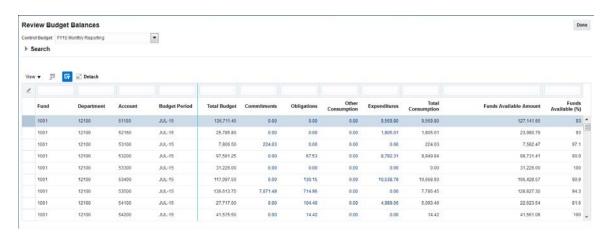


Figure 16. Review Budget Balances



Figure 17. Review Budget Transactions

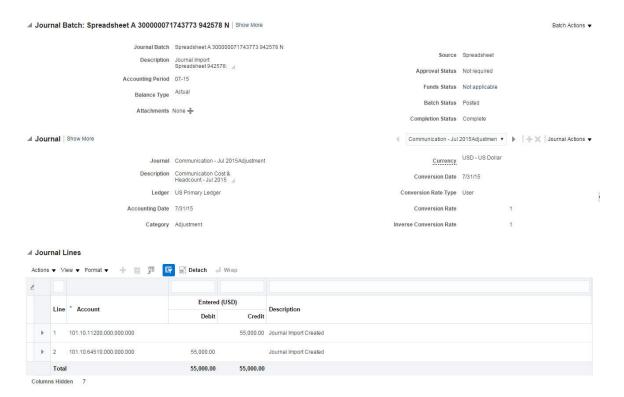


Figure 18. Manual Journals

Budgetary Control Exceptions Report

An exceptions report tracks the health of the budget. Transactions with budgetary control failures are grouped and reported.

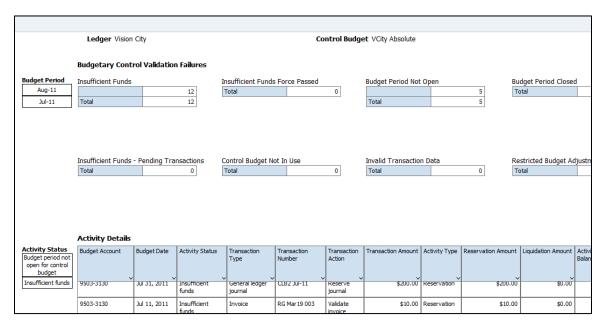


Figure 19. Budgetary Control Exceptions Report

Overrides

When there are insufficient funds and a transaction fails funds control, a transaction user can request an override. This will automatically notify the budget manager, and the notification includes a link to the transaction details.

The budget manager dashboard lists the overrides under "Requiring My Attention" and "Requested By Me", and provides the budgetary control results for the override requests.

Department Head Inquiry/Reporting

The city chose Oracle ERP Cloud to improve analysis and monitoring of budget consumption for the department heads who approve and monitor budget consumption. The main use cases for the department heads include:

- » Periodic reports to ensure budget is on track
- » Ad hoc analysis to "look for funds" when budget is low
- » Budget planning for next year

The budgetary control transaction details can be monitored from the Budgetary Control Analysis report. This interactive Business Intelligence Publisher (BI Publisher) report is shipped with the following three layouts and is fully customizable:

- » Funds Available Trend
- » View Funds Available
- » Account Activities

Funds Available Trend Layout

The Funds Available Trend layout shows the balances by fund, department and object, and the corresponding transaction details of the balance.

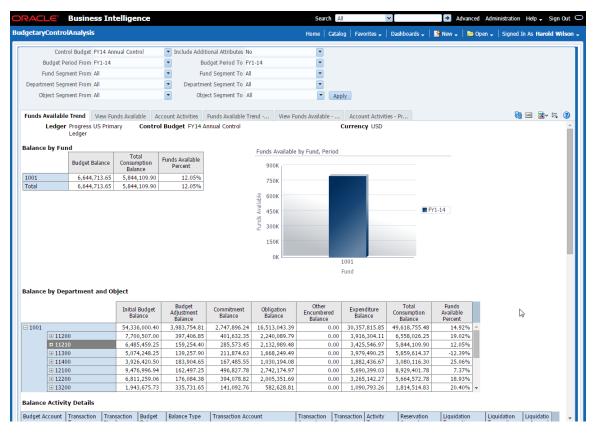


Figure 20. Budgetary Control Analysis - Funds Available Trend

View Funds Available Layout

The View Funds Available layout shows the budget, commitment, obligation, expenditure and funds available balance by budget account. It can be further filtered by budget period or fund.

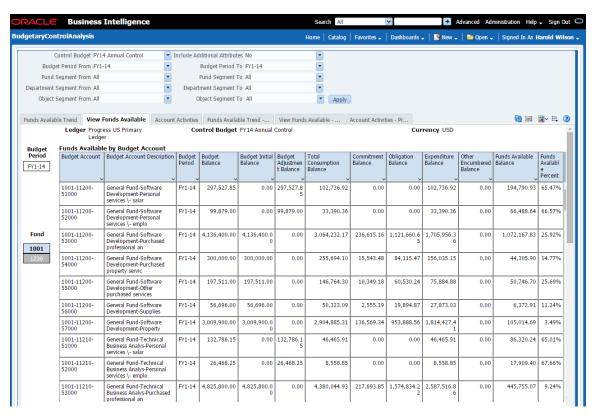


Figure 21. Budgetary Control Analysis - View Funds Available

The commitment column typically represents the open balance from requisitions, though it also includes manual encumbrance journals with this encumbrance type. The obligation column represents the open balance from purchase orders, also including the appropriate manual encumbrance journals. The expenditure column includes invoices and actual journal entries.

Account Activities Layout

The Account Activities layout shows account balances and details of the specific transactions that have consumed the budget for each account. The interactive layout allows further filtering by budget account and budget period.

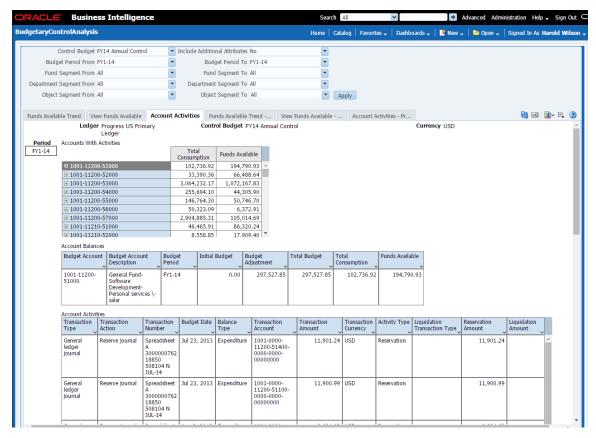


Figure 22. Budgetary Control Analysis - Account Activities

An Oracle Transactional Business Intelligence (OTBI) subject area called "Budgetary Control - Transactions Real Time" is also available for advanced ad hoc queries. This subject area contains budgetary control and source transaction attributes.

The following is an example layout using the subject area:

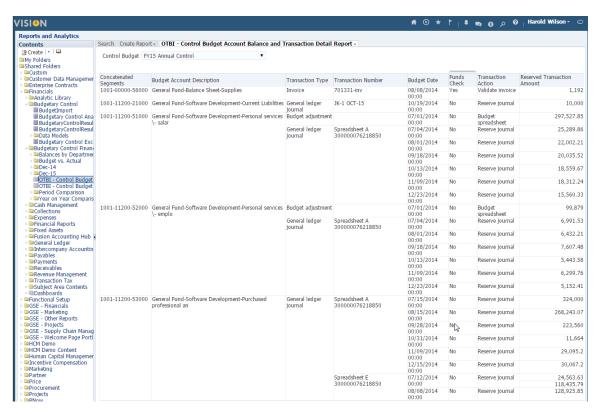


Figure 23. Budgetary Control Real Time Transactions Subject Area

Periodic Public and Management Reporting

Oracle Financial Reporting Center delivers a unique multi-dimensional reporting and analysis platform that provides real time access to financial information. Users can quickly report and analyze data from different perspectives from the same system that is used for operational accounting.

The reports allow users to:

- » Dynamically drill down from balances to live transactions
- » Perform multi-dimensional analysis and drill down from anywhere
- » Ensure that all users are making decisions from the same source of information

The city provides its users with three reports based on the funds balances. These are secured by budget and published periodically by the budget manager for department heads.

- » Balances by Department
- » Budget vs. Actual
- » Year on Year Comparison



Balances by Department

	▲ 11000-		
	Information Systems	▲12000- Facilities	▲13000-Finance
53000-Purchased professional and technical services	12,420,000	600.500	3.348.170
53100-Official/Administrative	1,470,000	33.028	440.549
53200-Professional	3,900,000	129,108	1,001,24
53300-Other professional	2,850,000	69,058	576,718
53400-Technical services	2,040,000	180,150	800,998
53500-Outside consulting	2,160,000	189,158	528,658
54000-Purchased property services	837,000	923,900	3,230,988
55000-Other purchased services	1,240,800	2,112,800	1,000,000
56000-Supplies	929,000	4,190,766	1,444,874
56100-General supplies	46,450	209,538	1,219,15
56200-Energy	127,459	283,296	20,624
56210-Fuel & oils	86,583	<u>450,926</u>	30,128
56220-Utilities	<u>87,698</u>	<u>260,666</u>	20,10
56280-Weapons & Ammunition	<u>16,165</u>	277,429	13,448
56300-Food	<u>164,433</u>	<u>884,252</u>	38,729
56400-Computer supplies	<u>36,231</u>	<u>113,151</u>	2,614
56600-Auto parts	<u>103,119</u>	<u>515,464</u>	33,026
56700-Maintenance supplies	<u>45,707</u>	<u>186,908</u>	11,35
56800-Janitorial supplies	48,308	662,141	22,334
56900-Construction supplies	<u>166,848</u>	346,995	33,359
57000-Property	<u>6,900,877</u>	8,307,689	1,324,900

Figure 24. Balances by Department

Budget vs. Actual



			Page: 11000 ▼						
	Budget	Commitment	Obligation	Actual	Total Consumption	Funds Available	Funds Available %	Budget-Actual Variance	Budget- Actual Variance '
▼53000-Purchased professional and technical services	12,420,000	483,136	2,118,550	3,392,733	5,994,419	6,425,581	52	9,027,267	73
53100-Official/Administrative	1,470,000	22,102	91,618	273,646	387,366	1,082,634	74	1,196,354	81
53200-Professional	3,900,000	99,872	721,902	869,303	1,691,077	2,208,923	57	3,030,697	78
53300-Other professional	2,850,000	160,354	668,932	1,293,114	2,122,400	727,600	26	1,556,886	55
53400-Technical services	2,040,000	86,563	292,711	413,772	793,046	1,246,954	61	1,626,228	80
53500-Outside consulting	2,160,000	114,244	343,387	542,898	1,000,529	1,159,471	54	1,617,102	75
54000-Purchased property services	837,000	40,521	105,955	199,264	345,740	491,260	59	637,736	76
55000-Other purchased services	1,240,800	40,574	116,085	349,905	506,564	734,236	59	890,895	72
▶ 56000-Supplies	929,000	29,895	103,251	219,873	353,018	575,982	62	709,127	76
▶ 57000-Property	6,900,877	231,836	968,309	1,569,652	2,769,797	4,131,080	60	5,331,225	77

Export In Query-Ready Mode

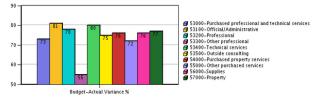


Figure 25. GASB 34 Budget vs. Actual



Year on Year Comparison

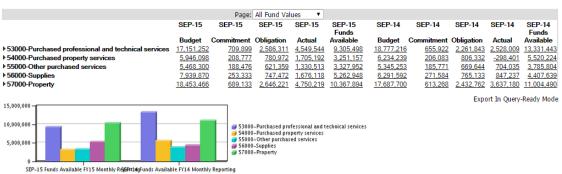


Figure 26. Year on Year Comparison

Year-End Public and Management Reporting

Oracle Financial Reporting Center streamlines reporting for management and public reporting on accounting balances, enabling Vision City to:

- » Securely distribute and access live or pre-published financial reports from a central location
- » Ensure up-to-the-minute reporting and analysis without the need for batch programs

The city creates the following financial reports:

- » Trial Balance
- » CAFR Balance Sheet
- » GASB 34 Statement of Net Assets
- » GASB 34 Statement of Activities



Trial Balance

	Page: All Fund Val	Jes ▼		
	Beginning Balance	Period Activity Dr	Period Activity Cr	Ending Balance
▶ 10000-Assets	35,819,749	37,314,321	7,829	73,126,24
▶ 20000-Liabilities	-31,018,806	888	17,681,192	-48,699,11
▶30000-Fund Equity	-4,755,006	-	15,034,411	-19,789,41
▶40000-Revenues	-	-	19,483,194	-19,483,19
▼50000-Expenses	-45,937	15,014,844	123,427	14,845,47
▶51000-Personal services - salaries and wages	-	778,441	-	778,44
▶ 52000-Personal services - employee benefits	-	101,387	-	101,38
▶ 53000-Purchased professional and technical services	-	4,549,544	-	4,549,54
▶ 54000-Purchased property services	-	1,705,192	-	1,705,19
▶ 55000-Other purchased services	-	1,330,513	-	1,330,51
▶56000-Supplies	-	1,675,820	-	1,675,82
▶57000-Property	-45,937	4.873,947	123,427	4,704,58
Total				
	-	52,330,053	52,330,053	

Figure 27. Trial Balance

Combined Annual Balance Sheet



Ledger: Progress US Primary Ledger Budget Reference: Budget Reference Department: All Department Values Program: Program Funding Source: Funding Source Project: Project Scenario: Actual Balance Amount: Balance Amount Type: Base Currency: USD Currency Type: Total							
	▲1000- Governmental Funds	▲1000- Governmental Funds	▲1200-Capital Project Funds	▲1200-Capital Project Funds	Total Period	Total Period	
	SEP-15	SEP-14	SEP-15	SEP-14	Current Year	Previous Year	
Assets and Other Debits							
▶11000-Cash including cash equivalents	23,359,59	<u>12,071,89</u>	<u>7,811,200</u>	<u>7,811,20</u>	<u>0</u> 31,170,798	19,883,092	
▶12000-Receivables	41,372,42	<u>15,353,63</u>	7 583,020	<u>583,02</u>	<u>0</u> 41,955,444	15,936,657	
Total Assets and Other Debits	64,732,02	27,425,52	9 8,394,220	0 8,394,22	0 73,126,242	35,819,749	
Liabilities Equities and Other Credits							
Liabilities:							
▶21000-Current Liabilities ▶22000-Long-Term Liabilities	46,676,47 1,792,44			<u>230,18</u>	8 46,906,663 - 1,792,447		
Total Liabilities	48,468,92	2 11,339,22	1 230,18	3 230,18	8 48,699,110	11,569,409	
Equity and Other Credits:							
▶31000-Fund Balance	11,625,38	6,234,24	<u>8,164,03</u>	<u>5,205,08</u>	<u>3</u> 19,789,417	7 11,439,331	
Total Equities and Other Credits	11,625,38	5 6,234,24	8 8,164,03	2 5,205,08	3 19,789,417	7 11,439,331	
Total Equities, Liabilities and Other Credits	60,094,30	7 17,573,46	9 8,394,220	5,435,27	1 68,488,527	7 23,008,740	

Figure 28. CAFR Balance Sheet

Statement of Net Assets



Ledger: Progress US Primary Ledger Budget Reference: Budget Reference Department: All Department Values Program: Program Funding Source: Funding Source Project: Project Scenario: Actual Balance Amount: Balance Amount Amount Type: Base Currency: USD Currency Type: Total							
	Governmental Funds	▲1200-Capital Project Funds	Primary				
Assets	SEP-15	SEP-15	Government Total				
▶ 11000-Cash including cash equivalents ▶ 12000-Receivables	23,359,59 41,372,42						
Total Assets	64,732,02	2 8,394,22	73,126,242				
Liabilities							
Liabilities:							
▶21000-Current Liabilities ▶22000-Long-Term Liabilities	-46,676,47 -1,792,44		8 -46,906,663 1,792,447				
Total Liabilities	-48,468,92	2 -230,18	8 -48,699,110				
▶31000-Fund Balance	-11,625,38	<u>5 -8,164,03</u>	2 -19,789,417				
Total Net Assets	-11,625,38	5 -8,164,03	2 -19,789,417				
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	-60,094,30	7 -8,394,22	0 -68,488,527				

Figure 29. GASB 34 Statement of Net Assets

Statement of Activities



Ledger: Progress US Primary Ledger Budget Reference: Budget Reference
Department: All Department Values Program: Program Funding Source: Funding
Source Project: Project Balance Amount: Balance Amount Amount Type: Base
Currency: USD Currency Type: Total

Government Activities Actual Total

REVENUES

Operating Revenue

▶ 40000-Revenues <u>-19,483,194</u> -19,483,194

Total Revenue -19,483,194 -19,483,194

EXPENDITURES

▶51000-Personal services - salaries and wages	778,441	778,441
▶ 52000-Personal services - employee benefits	101,387	101,387
▶ 53000-Purchased professional and technical services	4,549,544	4,549,544
▶ 54000-Purchased property services	1,705,192	1,705,192
▶ 55000-Other purchased services	1,330,513	1,330,513
▶ 56000-Supplies	1,675,820	1,675,820
▶57000-Property	4,704,582	4,704,582
Total Expenditure	14,845,479	14,845,479
Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures	-4,637,715	-4,637,715

Figure 30. GASB 34 Statement of Activities

Conclusion

Oracle ERP Cloud provides Vision City with a robust system for managing its entire purchasing cycle with strict controls to ensure it stays within budget, and much more. It provides rich visibility and insight into how the budget is used, more than the city has ever before been able to derive. This added insight leads to more efficient allocation of scare funds, and a better use of taxpayer and other resources. The employees of Vision City will spend less time worrying about transaction controls and purchasing processes, and more time focusing on delivering city services to the citizens of Vision City.

For information on how you can leverage Oracle ERP Cloud to achieve similar results, please see https://cloud.oracle.com/erp.



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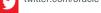
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