



## Beckley, W.V. Relies on Sage FAS Gov to Comply With GASB 34

With a population of approximately 17,254, the City of Beckley, W. Va., serves as the hub of Southern West Virginia, with a trade area of more than 200,000 people. The completion of Interstate 64 and Interstate 77 have solidified this city's position as the medical, educational, governmental, commercial, and service center of Southern West Virginia.

The city's Department of Finance is led by Gary R. Sutphin, the recorder treasurer. Beverly Bales Rinehart, CPA, CGFM, has served as the controller for Beckley, W. Va., since February 1993, when the city was tracking only new fixed asset acquisitions, and was calculating depreciation manually.

"The city had recorded information for only a fraction of its assets," said Rinehart. "In fact, assets purchased prior to 1990 hadn't been accounted for in the accounting records; only inventoried for security purposes."

### Updating the Fixed Asset Management System

Rinehart's first approach to bringing the fixed asset management system up-to-date was to conduct a city-wide fixed asset inventory. The process involved each department tagging all items and providing descriptions of fixed assets—which include machinery equipment, electronic equipment, vehicles, furniture and fixtures, and buildings.

"Then came the monumental task of trying to figure out how to value the assets," added Rinehart. "We hired an appraisal firm to help us accomplish this goal."

Before joining Beckley's finance department, Rinehart had worked as a CPA in public accounting. She was already familiar with the Sage fixed assets solutions product line, since her previous employer was a Sage FAS customer. "I always liked Sage FAS, so I decided to use Sage FAS Gov for the City of Beckley's fixed asset accounting needs," she said.

#### Customer:

City of Beckley, West Virginia

#### Industry:

City in Southern West Virginia

#### Location:

Beckley, West Virginia

**Population:** Approx. 17,254

#### System:

##### Sage FAS Gov 100 Fixed Assets

- FAS Gov 100 Asset Accounting
- FAS Report Writer

### CHALLENGE

Gain control over fixed asset management process; improve accuracy of information and reports; comply with GASB 34.

### SOLUTION

Sage FAS Gov Fixed Assets, a product designed specifically to help government, schools, and nonprofit organizations meet GASB 34/35 requirements

### RESULTS

Full compliance with GASB 34; improved reporting process with customized reporting options; reduced time spent on fixed asset inventories.

### Issuing an Unqualified Audit Report

Beckley, W. Va., implemented Sage FAS Fixed Assets in 1993, and upgraded to Sage FAS Gov Fixed Assets when it became available in October 2001. The finance department currently uses the solution to track and record depreciation for all capital and infrastructure assets. The use of Sage FAS Gov is helping to ensure that the city is in compliance with GASB 34. It is also helping in other ways—such as reducing the time spent doing inventories of fixed assets and providing customized reporting options.

After implementing Sage FAS Gov, Beckley, W. Va., was able to issue its first unqualified audit opinion—a report stating a public entity’s financial statements fairly present, in all material respects, the financial position and results of operations and cash flows for the period audited.

Audit reports prior to the implementation of Sage FAS Gov had been qualified with respect to fixed assets, because they were not included. For the year ended June 30, 2002, Beckley, W. Va., reported more than \$33 million in fixed assets—comprising more than 45 percent of its total assets.

“We’ve been very pleased with the product, and hope to implement bar coding using the FAS Gov Asset Inventory module in the near future,” said Rinehart. “Having the bar coding technology will ease the process of accounting for new acquisitions, and allow us to better maintain inventory records.”

She added, “We’ve also begun using FAS Report Writer. It helps tremendously by allowing me to customize my reporting. Because I report to several regulatory agencies, all of which want reports in a different format, FAS Report Writer makes my life much easier. It also helps me prepare GASB 34-compliant financial statements.”

Sage FAS Gov has most certainly improved the fixed asset accounting process within Beckley, W. Va.,—from GASB 34 compliance and inventory tracking, to cost savings in labor dollars.

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Beverly Bales Rinehart  
City of Beckley, W.V  
Controller



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