



Case Study:  
April Swartz, Principal CPA, CGFM, CNAP

# Auditing CPA saved a city thousands by outsourcing to Aplos.

## Challenge:



When the small city of Leon, Kansas hired April Swartz, Principal CPA, CGFM, and CNAP to perform a routine audit, she quickly encountered issues that made it difficult to complete the audit. The City of Leon had been using QuickBooks, accounting software not optimized for fund accounting, so the cash balances for funds were difficult to determine. Leon's bank accounts had also not been reconciled for the past two years, which posed an additional challenge for Swartz's audit. Should April have not been able to find assistance from an outside source, it may have meant many more hours of work for her and possibly termination of the audit, which would have cost the firm \$21,600.

**It was clear to Swartz that the City of Leon needed help from a fund accounting expert before she could begin the audit.**

To complete the audit, the City of Leon needed an outside consultant to help migrate the city to true fund accounting software, rework their chart of accounts, and work with the city to allocate two years of data. She considered referring Leon to a variety of outside sources, but the typical options were impractical for a small city, with rates of up to \$125 dollars an hour, or more.

Ultimately, Swartz would refer them to Aplos.

## Challenge

- Perform an audit for a city with two years of unreconciled records
- City used QuickBooks, so was unsure of cash balances for funds

## Solution

- Auditor recommends outsourcing review of bookkeeping and bank reconciliations to an affordable solution – Aplos Services
- Auditor refers city to migrate to Aplos Advanced Accounting for fund accounting software
- Aplos works with the city to migrate and record two years of transactions and allocate them to the proper funds for the city

## Results

- City corrected its fund accounting methods and allocations
- Auditor was able to successfully complete the audit
- Auditor looks to Aplos whenever clients need preparation for audits

## Why Aplos?

- Company specializes in fund accounting software for nonprofits and churches
- Provides bookkeeping services
- Additional features include an integrated donor management platform

## Solution:

Swartz decided to refer the City of Leon to Aplos's online fund accounting software and bookkeeping services after learning about the company at the Rainmaker Conference. Swartz wanted to provide a solution that could solve the immediate need of the audit, as well as the city's long-term goal—to have a system they could understand and use for solid fund accounting, with ongoing support.

Aplos tailored an Advanced Accounting package specifically to their city's accounting needs. It offered everything they were looking for, including powerful features like:

- Budget by Fund — Compares budget to actual for each fund
- Advanced Reporting — Builds custom financial reports by project, campaign, or department
- Automatic Recurring Transactions — Schedules regular occurring transactions to post in their register
- Payroll Integration — Payroll services provided by Sage payroll that are easily imported into the accounting as journal entries

**“The cost is very doable too—usually software made for cities is very costly.”**

### Here's what happened next:

1. Swartz passed the referral to Aplos, and Aplos worked directly with the City of Leon to assess their needs and build a new chart of accounts.
2. The City of Leon mailed Aplos hard-copy bank statements for six bank accounts, spanning two years of data, in addition to a QuickBooks export.
3. The Aplos Services team imported all of the QuickBooks data into Aplos and reallocated the data to match the new chart of accounts based on the reporting needs of the city.
4. The Aplos team then completed two years of bank reconciliations and made any necessary corrections.
5. The last step was to use the most recent audit report to fill in the gaps of the City of Leon's remaining assets and liabilities, as well as their beginning-of-the-year fund balances.

The City of Leon was very involved with the Aplos Services team each step of the way, helping Aplos understand the nature of every fund and transaction, in order to reclassify those transactions.

**“Aplos was easy to use, and the support they provide is outstanding.”**

## Results:

At the end of the project, the City of Leon had a complete and accurate record of cash that was properly allocated across all funds, with the end of year totals ready for the pending audit. They were now prepared to continue their fund accounting methods going forward with software built for their needs.

The City of Leon's audit with Swartz came and went, and today the city enjoys Aplos's web-based fund accounting software and ongoing support.

**It saved them thousands in audit costs, and gave Swartz the financial records she needed to work from, instead of pages and pages of raw data from banks and internal paper trails.**



Want more information on how Aplos can help your organization? Visit [www.aplos.com](http://www.aplos.com) or call 888-274-1316