

CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT

# Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments

## ASCOG

*“Our old system was very unyielding. Every day we had a question that made you scratch your head and say, ‘Why is that not available?’ We are now in this century and using software the way it is supposed to be used.”*

—Ronnie Ward,  
Executive Director

Established in 1969, the Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments (ASCOG) is a voluntary association of town, city, and county governments within the eight county region of Oklahoma. ASCOG assists local government members in planning for various needs across the region. From workforce development to aging services, the hallmark of ASCOG is regional partnerships and cooperation that help strengthen local governments’ individual and collective capacities.

## Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments Achieves Higher Levels of Transparency and Efficiency with Financial Edge NXT

When Ronnie Ward took over the role of executive director at ASCOG, he was told by an auditor that the organization’s accounting software was outdated and needed to be replaced. Ronnie and his team set out to determine the right solution for their organization. Staff members from ASCOG worked together to find the best software for tracking expenses to their corresponding programs and producing the most accurate reports. They reviewed proposals from six different companies and ultimately chose Blackbaud’s Financial Edge NXT over a number of other solutions, including Abila™.

Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments is powered by:

► Financial Edge NXT™

Learn more about the advantages of Financial Edge NXT ►



Because ASCOG deals with public funds, staff members need to be able to show the public exactly where its money goes. With Financial Edge NXT, they are able to create account codes to break funds down into categories in a manner that they were not able to with the old system.

For Lisa Thomas, an accountant II at ASCOG, the part of Financial Edge NXT that excites her most is the reporting. She loves being able to get the information she needs back in the way she wants it. It enables her to report to the directors faster and more easily than before.

Because most of ASCOG's money is taxpayer money, the organization is accountable to each one of its funding sources as well as to those it serves. It's critical for ASCOG to be transparent for each expenditure. Everything in the accounting system has to be completely transparent. Financial Edge NXT gives

ASCOG the transparency it needs, allowing staff members to break down cost and expenses by program.

Team members can charge expenses to multiple programs, and Financial Edge NXT allows them to show exactly why the expenses were made. They can now track the programs to ensure that they are using the resources to the best of their ability. Now ASCOG staff members can see if the program is beneficial, and this helps them prepare their budgets for the next year.

Financial Edge NXT also saves ASCOG a ton of paper by giving staff members the ability to look at information without having to print it out. Because Financial Edge NXT works from any device with an Internet connection, staff members are able to get work done even when they're not behind the desk.

ASCOG wanted a system that could evolve with it and keep up with its changing needs for the next five to ten years. Financial Edge NXT does that. Staff members are looking forward to future developments.

For staff members at ASCOG, helping someone get a handicap sidewalk at home or helping a little town write a codebook so it can get more done is reason enough to come work every day. With Financial Edge NXT, they can work more efficiently and accurately to better serve all eight county regions of South Central Oklahoma.

*"We chose Financial Edge NXT because it gave us the ability to get information back that we put into the system. The reporting is the feature that I like the best; it's unbelievable."*

—Lisa Thomas,  
Accountant II

