

Administration and AIS Committee

The Financial Software Vision Committee met on Wednesday, August 31, 2005, after careful review and discussion, the decision was made to move forward with a software upgrade. We will bring to council a request to upgrade from JDEdwards XE to 8.11.

As you know we delayed this implementation, it was scheduled earlier in 2005, so we could review what was currently available in the marketplace. Our comparison of potential software was based on both functionality and cost. Based on this comparison we decided to stay with our current system and upgrade to the latest release level. Other reasons to stay with the current software system are:

- Size of investment in current financial system.
- Current system is providing required functionality.
- None of the new products offered more functionality than the existing system.
- Several of the systems did not meet minimal MIS specifications.
- Significant soft costs to convert to another system, such as employee time for installation and training, workarounds, moving from automated process to manual.

The support for our current software release level expires in February of 2007; by upgrading to 8.11 we will have full support through December 15, 2008 and partial support through December 15, 2010.

Benefits of upgrade:

- Move to role based security – once setup and conversion completed will save systems administrator many hours of time
- Will become almost entirely a web-based system.
 - Again saving MIS time in maintaining two separate systems (web and thick)
 - Ease burden on system – we currently have to push updates out to thick users
- All software issues related to full package builds, will be alleviated, speeding up the package build process and pushing updates to the users faster.
- Many application issues will be corrected and we will no longer have to deal with workarounds
- Position us to move forward with the new Oracle Fusion product.
 - Part of which are scheduled for release beginning in 2008
- Full product support through December 15, 2008.