Modernizing Your Budget Process and the Role of Technology

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Set Up the Process for Success:
• Establish 3-7 goals
• Find 1-3 measures to show your progress
• Who is accountable for these goals?

Build out a Solid Base:
• Start from a good spot
• Forecast out
• Use modern tools
• What are the pros and cons of your budgeting process?

Drive for Effective Collaboration:
• Give the right data
• Pick the right people to work on the right goals
• Be adaptive

Engage with the whole Community:
• Provide high quality data
• Try to reach all demographics
• Summarize and analyze feedback
Q: What are some initial steps to start a conversation about a modern budget?

A: Meet with the budgeting intellectuals. Ask what works and what doesn’t. Summarize their feedback and synthesize action steps. It could take a few months to a year to implement modern budgeting.

Q: How do you use automated data integration? What happens to the budgeting people who used to do that? the integration of data?

A: Figure out where you can integrate, let systems do their magic. Some people report this tool saving 50% of their time. Now these people analyze the data with department heads.

Q: How do you display information in budget books in a digestible way?

A: Google “Thurston County Dollars and Sense” (website here). Use budgets to tell a story. Use pictures and words to make what you are doing meaningful.