



May 11, 2016

Contact: Blake Rexroat

Office: 817-598-4209

Email: brexroat@weatherfordtx.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Open budget software to provide better financial transparency

City of Weatherford will deploy its easy-to-use open budget software to drive greater government accountability and transparency

WEATHERFORD (CITY OF WEATHERFORD), Texas — The City of Weatherford will implement Socrata Open Budget; part of a suite of breakthrough open data financial transparency apps for government. Open Budget is designed for quick deployment and citizen empowerment.

One of the City of Weatherford's goals is to always keep citizens informed and aware. The application breaks down Weatherford's revenue and expenditure budget into several different categories for citizens to consider, allowing for a concise and complete picture of where Weatherford is placing its financial resources.

"As a city, we are always looking for ways to engage our citizens and enhance transparency," said assistant finance director over budget and purchasing Kyle Lester. "We are excited to launch this application, and fully believe the content and layout will help give our citizens a comprehensive look at where the City's resources are being spent. At the same time, we hope our initiative will encourage other municipalities to embrace transparency in their operations."

Socrata is the world leader in cloud solutions for open data and data-driven government. With Socrata's financial transparency suite of applications, governments large and small are now able, for the first time ever, to publish budget and spending data quickly, economically and in a consumer-friendly way. Rather than wading through hundreds of pages of scanned documents of legal and financial information, citizens and staff see budget and spending data in vivid color. The charts, graphs and images are attractive, navigable and easy to understand.

"The new open budget application will allow us to more easily share our financial information with the citizens and public," said city manager Sharon Hayes. "It is always our goal to be as transparent as possible and provide a program that clearly explains how taxpayer dollars are utilized."



May 11, 2016

Contact: Blake Rexroat
Office: 817-598-4209
Email: brexroat@weatherfordtx.gov

Weatherford's Open Budget initiative can be located at budget.weatherfordtx.gov. For questions, please contact assistant director over budget and purchasing Kyle Lester at 817-598-4130.

###

More information on the City of Weatherford: www.weatherfordtx.gov

More information on the City of Weatherford open budget application: <http://budget.weatherfordtx.gov>

****City of Weatherford****

Weatherford, Texas is a service oriented, yet still "small town" community that upgrades its infrastructure, celebrates and shares its rich history, and fosters quality economic growth – in a fiscally-responsible, even revenue-generating fashion.