

2nd TSB Launches Financial Management Invoice App

Innovation

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In an era where efficiency and accuracy are paramount, the introduction of innovative applications can make a significant difference in operations. The 2nd Theater Signal Brigade's (TSB) new Financial Management Invoice Application is replacing the aging Configuration, Accounting Integrity Reports Security (CAIRS) application, marking a pivotal shift in how invoices are managed and processed.

The Financial Management Invoice Application, designed by the 2nd TSB Data Engineering Office, is a comprehensive tool that simplifies various aspects of the invoicing process. The app's functionality extends beyond mere submission to include invoicing accuracy, customer cost association, and generating verification reports.

A few standout features include:

- * Ability to compare communication service invoices against PDF totals.
- * Link funding from the General Fund Enterprise Business System to customer codes.
- * Export data in text format, including Journal Voucher amounts.

The app also includes a "rollback" feature. This enables users to identify specific transactions requiring reversal while also verifying details and ensuring the adjustments reflect accurately in the customers' financial records. This feature also aids financial managers in maintaining transparency/trust in billing practices.

"Additionally, the application enables finance managers to link customer mobile telephone numbers directly to their respective customer codes," said Chris Kolbe, financial management specialist, 2nd TSB. "This functionality ensures financial records are meticulously organized, allowing managers to retrieve and manage customer information during transactions or inquiries quickly. By associating mobile numbers with unique customer identifiers, the app enhances communication efficiency and improves customer relationship management, making it easier to reach out to clients when necessary."

Transitioning to the Financial Management Invoice Application is not just a matter of modernization; it's a crucial financial strategy meant to save substantial resources. The previous CAIRS application had become obsolete, requiring costly licensing fees – expenses that the new app seeks to alleviate. With an estimated

\$1.2 million in annual funding saved through its implementation, this application promises a significant return on investment. The Financial Management Invoice Application is a notable enhancement in operational efficiency, according to Sgt. Malcolm Pope, the brigade's data officer and the app's principal software developer. Pope emphasized that the app not only simplifies financial operations but also improves accuracy, enabling personnel to focus on mission-critical tasks with greater reliability.

"The time taken to submit an invoice has plummeted from 24 hours to under one hour, freeing up valuable staff resources and enabling quicker financial processing," Pope said. "The new app also improves accuracy, which is vital in preventing the loss of funds that had been a recurring issue under the previous system."

Launching the Financial Management Invoice Application showcases the 2nd TSB's commitment to innovation. By using existing resources, such as Power Apps, Power Automate, and Power BI – tools that fall under their already purchased software subscriptions – the brigade is efficiently reallocating its funds toward the development of this new application.

"Power Apps serves as the foundation of this new project, enabling the creation of a responsive and user-friendly interface that enhances the overall user experience," he said. "Power Automate automates repetitive tasks, minimizing human error and increasing efficiency. Meanwhile, Power BI integrates data sources to generate accurate reports, allowing for real-time insights and interactive visuals that bolster decision-making processes."

The Financial Management Invoice Application launched May 30. It is available to all applicable users. The excitement surrounding the Financial Management Invoice Application reflects not only an embrace of technology but also a broader commitment to enhancing operational effectiveness and fiscal responsibility.

With its array of innovative features and potential for significant financial benefits, the Financial Management Invoice Application is more than a software replacement; it represents a strategic advancement towards greater accountability and transparency in the invoicing process. As organizations strive for excellence in service delivery, the Financial Management Invoice Application sets a benchmark for innovation, demonstrating that by leveraging available resources and embracing new technologies, the brigade is able to provide exceptional financial management for its customers.