

Closing the Gap on Vendor Paid Details:

A blueprint for cities and law enforcement agencies

Cities across the nation are grappling with significant financial burdens caused by vendor paid details, particularly from special event organizers. One city, for example, is currently owed millions of dollars in police overtime for events held in 2024. This issue not only impacts city budgets but also strains public safety resources, disrupts financial planning, and risks diminishing trust between municipalities and law enforcement agencies.

To address this growing problem, cities and law enforcement agencies must prioritize proactive solutions that enhance transparency, streamline operations, and ensure accountability. There are a few key strategies cities and law enforcement agencies can consider to minimize the risks:



Automation Tools to Reduce Administrative Burdens

Manual processes for scheduling, tracking, and invoicing vendor paid details, off-duty and extra-duty work are not only time-consuming but also prone to errors. Technology solutions that automate these tasks can significantly reduce the administrative burden on agencies, coordinators, special events teams and officers while ensuring that payments are processed accurately and on time.



Transparent Invoicing and Payment Processes

One common challenge is the lack of clear and consistent billing practices. Cities should implement systems that centralize invoicing for all stakeholders involved—officers, coordinators, and event organizers. Clear, itemized invoices reduce confusion and disputes while encouraging prompt payment. Additionally, offering pre-payment options for large events, particularly when dealing with promoters with a history of slow payment, can help ensure officers are compensated on time and reduce administrative delays.



Data-Driven Oversight and Accountability

Cities must have access to detailed records of vendor paid details, including schedules, payments, and compliance with department policies. A technology platform can provide centralized, real-time insights into job completion and associated costs, ensuring that agencies can quickly identify and address unpaid assignments. Such transparency not only helps prevent financial shortfalls but also supports sound decision-making for future events.



Compliance Management Technology

For long-term success, cities must prioritize compliance. Systems that monitor officer work hours and ensure adherence to regulations help prevent fatigue and overwork, improving officer wellness while protecting public safety.



Partnering with Special Event Organizers

Improved communication and standardized contracts with event organizers can set clear expectations regarding financial responsibilities. Ensuring that organizers understand payment terms upfront can mitigate disputes and unpaid balances.

By focusing on these strategies, cities can protect public budgets, ensure fair compensation for law enforcement, and foster more effective partnerships with the private sector. Using a technology built to help resolve the complexities of managing off-duty assignments, investing in systems that prioritize transparency, accountability, and efficiency is a critical step forward.