



Case Study

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Tim Beaty Builders, Inc. – Flexing Their Information Access through ALMobile Time Tracking



Tim Beaty Builders, Inc.

Denton, TX

Industry:

General Contractor

Challenges: Manual tracking labor across the world proved to be a source of frustration with inaccuracies and inefficiencies for MUTI. This impacted the accuracy of their payroll and job cost reporting.

Solution:

MUTI chose to eliminate their manual time sheets by purchasing ALMobile Time Tracking from Austin Lane. ALMobile Time Tracking is utilized to increase accuracy of project costs by streamlining their time and attendance process.

Results:

Today, MUTI has more accurate payroll costs, greater insight into its job costs, and manages payroll with significantly greater accuracy in a fraction of the time.

For over 20 years Tim Beaty Builders, Inc. (TBBI) has provided quality commercial, residential and industrial construction to the North Texas area. Building with integrity and third generation confidence, TBBI’s business flourished. While the company was expanding and diversifying into new TMconstruction venues, little change had taken place within the internal operations. They were still managing payroll, costing, equipment maintenance and billing the same way. With many more jobs and varied construction it became apparent there was a real need to integrate communication and mobilize key data.

Managing the demands of a growing business, easing frustrations between the home office personnel and the field, and providing meaningful information technology were just some of TBBI’s goals. For most companies information technology is merely rearranging data, but TBBI wanted more from their information. They wanted it to be managed in a relevant fashion giving them a competitive advantage and increasing their profit margin. This is when they turned to Austin Lane Technologies searching for a solution to integrate their data into a single source allowing access in real time to the people who need it most.

PAYROLL COSTS CUT WITH ALMOBILE TIME TRACKING

Determining what information to consolidate and who needed to have access to the data proved to be easier than anticipated. There were certain internal frustrations like the payroll department preparing payroll checks only to discover there were hours unaccounted for and having to manually cut checks. The weekly payroll preparation has been greatly reduced from a full day of management time to a couple of hours on most weeks.

By instituting ALMobile Time Tracking it revolutionized the tracking of payroll hours, equipment usage and much more. All payrolls are input by the employee on a daily basis from the field while the information is fresh thus increasing accuracy. Tim Beaty, President of TBBI says, “The savings is in the time it takes to process payroll as well as the accuracy of the payroll hours. ALMobile Time Tracking has cut costs and time by at least 50% over our prior weekly payroll process. It has given us a whole new level of detail to time spent on each job as well as giving us the number of loads and machine hours per job which is priceless in tracking costs, maintenance and billing of machines. The profit margin has increased and it helps keep the employee’s honest about time spent on the job.”

Improved Communication with ALMobile Time Tracking

Because input is required on a daily basis there is very little if any error with their costing, billing, payroll and job specific information. In the past, they had a problem with “dropped communication” between the field and the office. Information would fall through the cracks, now each project manager has a PDA, which he inputs his notes from the field on as well as hourly machine usage and personnel time. This has greatly minimized relying on memory alone, since the notes are a part of the permanent record of the job. These notes from the field have on more than one occasion diffused potential conflict by virtue of their complete and contemporary nature. All the communication is input into the PDA and is synchronized daily, literally giving the employees at TBBI information access in sync with the information age. By providing PDA’s and now smart phones to the project managers, with the ALMobile Time Tracking program installed, it has standardized the mobile device used within TBBI and has provided them with a real tool that is incredibly useful.

REAL TIME, REAL COSTS, MEANS REAL SAVINGS WITH ALMOBILE TIME TRACKING

The project manager’s job just got a little easier. ALMobile Time Tracking has allowed the project managers to track exact costs which effects billing, bidding and projects staying within budget. This ability to adjust and manage costs on a daily basis is invaluable. It has taken the guesswork out of estimating bids and confidence in the field when they are managing a job. David M. Morton, Director of Operations says, “What was once an arduous task requiring a great deal of “hands-on-management” to collect payroll data for billing purposes and for job cost reporting, is now a matter of routine. Accuracy was once a hit-or-miss proposition, but is now assured, and readily available. In addition to improved accuracy and instantaneous information for billing, the information is quickly available for management decisions and countless other purposes before unimagined.”

This ability to access data in a format that is meaningful to their business has greatly expedited the bidding process and increased accuracy. They feel it has given them a competitive edge on bidding because they have extremely detailed historical data on every aspect of their operation. ALMobile Time Tracking provides a labor analysis report with the ability to document every minute spent on every task. This report is extremely beneficial when billing T & M jobs, which are billed against exact real time. TBBI relies heavily on the ability to extract real time usage on their equipment. For example, on excavation equipment they are able to track reloads hauled and the type of material being hauled. This documentation is cost effective when billing but is also invaluable when tracking hours for maintenance of many machines. Once they have a job, it is easy to track costs without “digging for information”. The accounting personnel have been greatly freed up now that the management are able to access information readily themselves.

IMPLEMENTING CHANGE WITH ALMOBILE TIME TRACKING

Any time you embark on changing the way things are done you wonder if you will receive resistance. The first comment their project managers made is how easy the system was to use and how much easier it made their jobs. With most employees it took about one and a half hours of instruction with a few follow up questions. In most cases, one payroll cycle is all that was needed to bring a high degree of proficiency. Austin Lane Technologies is available for training, however, since being integrated the mid-level managers at TBBI usually handle all the training. The program has helped reduce human error and increased accuracy. Corey Thomas, General Supervisor says, “Inputting of information is a step by step process that will not move forward until it has been completed correctly. The program has been a sheer time saver and has stopped overpay, double pay while monitoring overlapping time all on a daily basis.” Ease of use is the real determining factor in the field and we can attest to its ease and usefulness. For increased productivity, cost savings, overall corporate data accessibility we highly recommend ALMobile Time Tracking.

About Tim Beaty Builders

Since 1983, Tim Beaty Builders has specialized in commercial, industrial and residential construction. Located in Denton, Texas, they service the North Texas area with exceptional craftsmanship. They demonstrate commitment to their clients with excellent service, cooperation and cost control.

Initial installation of ALMobile Time Tracking occurred in May of 2000 with Palm III handheld devices (Of note, in the 5 years of use not one Palm III handheld was lost or destroyed). Today, a mixture of Palm E2 handhelds and Treo smart phones are utilized. Verizon’s wireless data network, the quickest available, is used to transfer information in the field.

About Austin Lane Technologies

Austin Lane Technologies is a leading provider of mobile business solutions that streamline payroll time tracking and job production tracking for construction contractors. Critical information from the home office, remote personnel, and the job site is easily captured and seamlessly integrated with today’s leading construction accounting systems. Austin Lane mobile business solutions operate on multiple device platforms and provide true scalability to support growing businesses. Seamless data transfers among the home



P.O. Box 12 Denton, TX 76202

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www.austinlane.com