



Networkfleet® helps City of Ventura Improve Fleet Efficiency and Cut Fuel Costs

Summary

The City of Ventura needed an effective way to track its vehicles and optimize routes for greater efficiency. Networkfleet helped the City improve equipment utilization and routing, and it reduced the City's fuel and maintenance costs by \$10,000 annually.

Problem

The City of Ventura Public Works Department oversees the fleet of vehicles used by the Police, Fire, Parks and Recreation, Public Works and Water Departments, including 400+ cars, light and medium-duty trucks, and approximately 200 pieces of equipment. Several city departments were looking for technology that would provide vehicle location information and improve efficient routing of vehicles and delivery of services to the community.

The City also sought to enhance employee safety and security, lower maintenance costs, reduce vehicle idling and improve driver behavior while operating city vehicles. Additionally, the City's Green Initiative had established an aggressive plan to reduce fuel use by 10%.

Solution

The City of Ventura's local telecommunications partner, Alert Communications, suggested the Public Works Department consider Networkfleet, a provider of a patented technology that combines GPS vehicle tracking with remote diagnostic monitoring capabilities.

"We researched other offerings and realized we preferred Networkfleet because it was affordable and provided remote diagnostics and reporting capabilities," said Mary Joyce Ivers, Fleet and Facilities manager, City of Ventura.

Ivers introduced Networkfleet to Public Works Department employees by sharing the purpose of the technology, how it would be used, and its benefits to drivers and the City.

"Networkfleet is a tool that helps supervisors and drivers manage workloads and optimize routes," said Ivers. "Just like a shovel or a wrench, Networkfleet is another important tool that helps our employees perform their jobs smarter and more efficiently."

Results

- *Reduced fuel and maintenance costs by \$10,000 annually.*
- *Saved on repairs due to instant diagnostic trouble code, resulting in investment payback.*
- *Improved efficiency in routing vehicles and assigning work.*
- *Increased productivity by tracking specific activities such as pothole repairs.*

Continued

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Results

The City of Ventura, with 20 Networkfleet units installed to date and plans for broader expansion into their fleet, began realizing benefits and a return on investment almost immediately.

Ivers recalled that shortly after implementation, city mechanics received a Networkfleet-generated diagnostics trouble code (DTC) for a large sewer machine. Using the DTC alert, they were able to contact the dealer in another city, diagnose the problem over the phone, and make repairs on site instead of sending the machine away for service. The time and money saved in that one instance paid for the Networkfleet investment that year.

The City also gained a continuing return on investment in terms of improved productivity. By using GPS, paving supervisors are able to determine the longitudinal and latitudinal information of addresses where potholes are filled. This allows the Streets Maintenance Group to efficiently track pothole repairs, organize daily repair routes, and better manage an overall plan for surface maintenance.

“All of us are looking at how to work smarter, be more productive and maximize our resources.” Mary Joyce Ivers

Better route planning and improved vehicle utilization helped the Public Works Department reach the city’s goal of reducing fuel use by 10%, a \$10,000 savings. The target has since been changed city-wide to reduce fuel by 5% from the previous year, and the vehicles outfitted with the Networkfleet system continue to make progress toward this goal.

Having witnessed the benefits of Networkfleet to the Public Works Department, the Community Development, Building and Safety, and Ventura Water Departments are in the process of implementing Networkfleet on a total of 55 vehicles across their own fleets. More vehicles across other city departments are expected to be outfitted with Networkfleet as they come up for replacement.

The Water Department is particularly interested in Networkfleet’s Landmarks feature since it identifies the specific landmarks (e.g. a designated manhole cover or water meter) where its vehicles are deployed. Being able to track how often vehicles are deployed at landmarks and the length of time they spend on site can help spot potential problems and afford the City opportunities to mitigate asset risks.

“All of us are looking at how to work smarter, be more productive and maximize our resources,” said Ivers. “And not just because it’s the environmentally responsible thing to do so – although that is a big reason – but because it’s good business.”

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