



Project Background

Tropical's Maintenance Departments are responsible for ensuring all of the company's 21,000 assets are in good working condition, so that customers are provided with the most efficient service.

Recently, Tropical made the decision to replace its maintenance management system, with new software, FleetWave from Chevin Fleet Solutions, which is now used as a universal system in all locations.

The Tropical project team worked to define current processes, determined what the features of the new system would be, and prepared for the implementation in Tropical's Port of Palm Beach and Island locations.

Project Goal

The goal of the project was to obtain a maintenance management system that would provide a global view of what was happening in all locations. The chosen system would then help Tropical to stay competitive in the market and ensure service reliability and superior asset utilization.

Therefore, the flexible, browser-based nature of Chevin's FleetWave software system was the perfect fit for Tropical's specific requirements.

In addition, by having an automated system, Tropical would be able to track equipment maintenance and fuel costs to operate the equipment, better manage the inventory of spare parts, and plan employees' work schedules to make the best use of their time and efforts.

The FleetWave system also needed to be able to integrate with other Tropical systems such as Peoplesoft, T-Link and TRAX.

This would help to track equipment movements, fuel cost and the inventory of parts. FleetWave also provides information for the purchasing of new parts.

Maintenance work orders are automatically created from T-Link for damaged equipment identified ship-side, or at the in-gate and T-Link is also creating work orders for equipment requiring pre-trip maintenance.

Fuel usage and costs are being transferred from TRAX for selected assets and parts issued to a work order and parts' costs are automatically updated from Peoplesoft.

By using this data from both T-Link and Peoplesoft, FleetWave tracks more than 21,000 company-owned and leased assets.



Electronic Data Collection

By using the FleetWave system, some maintenance employees no longer have to complete paper work orders as they have been trained to use new electronic handheld devices.

These include a barcode scanner, custom screens for fuel, pre-trip information, work orders, parts, and even a cell phone when maintenance is performed off Tropical's premises.

While some employees do remain with the more traditional paper work orders, revised standard coding for matters such as failure reasons and action codes will allow the identification of high maintenance cost assets for future procurement and disposal decisions.

Global view and planning of all maintenance activities in all shops within Tropical Shipping

The Maintenance Department has reorganised to have a central planning centre versus individual department coordinators. This will allow advanced planning of preventative maintenance (PM) and associated PM parts fulfilment weeks before the actual work is completed.

Critical PM status for each type of equipment can now be viewed for all shop locations using a single dashboard on the FleetWave home page, offering instant global visibility.

This dashboard also includes: Asset Counts, Fuel Cost, Work Order Status Cost for Labour and Parts, Age of Equipment, Accidents and Warranty Claims.

Benefits

The new FleetWave system provides the company with updated technology, allowing Tropical to complete maintenance tasks in a more efficient manner.

It helps supply chain effectiveness by saving the company time through improved planning of scheduled work and ensuring the parts inventory matches the work plan.

And by being an automated system, it creates accountability, while at the same time increasing efficiency by eliminating wasted resources.

In addition to these many benefits, FleetWave ultimately lowers costs and assists with decisions such as equipment replacements.

By having FleetWave as a universal maintenance management system, Tropical will be able to maintain its competitive edge and continue to make progress in obtaining its strategic initiatives.