From Policy to Productivity

A Grounded Approach to AI in County Government

Moving from abstract policy to tangible results—with proven frameworks from real-world consulting and public sector experience.

Larry W Jordan Jr
Education, Nonprofit & Government Consulting and Services





The Opportunity

- Citizens experience faster service, clearer answers, better outcomes.
- Staff could work with unified data and make decisions based on facts, not guesswork.
- Modernization projects can become achievable.
- Al can turn information silos into operational intelligence.
 Analysis in minutes, not months.





The Promise

What you're hearing

- Faster: Citizens get faster services and clearer answers.
- Better: Staff make better decisions with unified data.
- Easier: Complex modernization projects become achievable.





The Peril

What you're fearing

- Data Breaches: Sensitive citizen or employee data (PII/PHI) being exposed.
- Bias & Liability: Al making biased decisions in human services, planning, or hiring.
- "Shadow Al": Staff using unapproved tools, creating unknown risks.
- Workforce Impact: How do we reskill our teams and manage change?





Where Most Projects Start

The Perpetual "Digital Fragmentation" Challenge

- Disconnected platforms for citizen services—each one a separate island of data.
- Information trapped in legacy systems, spreadsheets, and incompatible databases.
- Staff working around the limitations—manual data entry, duplicated effort.
- Al strategies exist on paper, but data access is the blocker.

The gap: We need AI and modern systems. We have policies in place. What's missing is the practical path to get there—and the data foundation to make it work.





Building the Foundation

From Silos to Strategy





Step 1: Your Digital Landscape

Understanding Your Starting Point

System Inventory

Which systems hold critical data? How do they connect (or not connect)?

Data Silos

Where is information isolated by department or function?

Citizen Touchpoints

How many platforms do citizens interact with for different services?

Operational Waste

Where does manual data entry, rework, and duplication happen?





Step 2: Unification Strategy

- Prioritize High-Value Data: Which unified datasets solve the most operational problems?
- Phase the Work: Quick wins first (property records, citizen interactions), then deeper integration.
- Infrastructure Choice: Centralized repository or federated data access? Both can work.
- Establish Governance: Who owns data quality? How do you ensure accuracy and consistency?

⚠ This groundwork is not glamorous, but it's the differentiator... Before AI, Data!





Al for Productivity

From Challenges to Solutions





Agentic Modernization Economics

Al-Assisted Development is Transforming Project Delivery

Traditional Approach

18-24 month development cycles

High development costs

Risk of scope creep

Limited ability to iterate

Complex projects often delayed or cancelled

Al-Assisted Development

4-8 month delivery

Significantly reduced development costs

Rapid iteration and feedback integration

Scalable solutions faster

Complex modernization becomes achievable





Real-World Application Demo

How Unified County Data Unlocks AI Capability







Your Implementation Plan

- Audit Systems
 - Form Al steering committee (My Caveats)
 - Establish principles
 - Define high-risk use cases.
- Choose 1-2 pilot projects
 - Build data integration for priority use cases
 - Measure value and iterate
- Expand across departments



