Time Management

There will be upcoming discussions about a time management system.

In anticipation of the question - 'can IT develop this system', my analysis...

I'd like offer additional analysis.

1. In the beginning, the main user departments, Treasurer and HR, discussed this option and rejected the option based on previous experiences with both custom and packaged systems. In other words the County experts did not choose this option. (more on this later)
2. Based on what they requested in the RFP, it would cost us many times more in our actual labor expense to build it than buy it. We would be re-inventing an expensive wheel with meager IT resources, and there is too much money that would be lost in undone projects.

Alternative Solution
We were asked by the payroll people that if the board did not approve a time management system, could IT develop a system to simply collect hours. The answer to this is yes.
Then the payroll people stated that if we could use such a home grown system for a couple years until the county could purchase a full blown time system.
Well that is a problem for me, i.e. to invest perhaps $100,000 and $50K of hardware of county time in a system that will only be used two years is a bad investment.

History
We have done this before. When I came here we were developing a home grown payroll system. It took a couple of years. It was good, in fact the State said it was the best they had seen. However, the auditors wrote us up every year for having a home grown system and it's inherent lack of controls... a new payroll system was purchased and many man-years of work was, in effect, discarded.

My analogy is asking Bill Lamy if the Shop can build a fleet car – Bill's answer would be the same as mine as been – Yes, but why would someone with want to do this?.