• Need to write invoices and receipts (I use the time tracker Harvest for this)
• Have multiple people using the same business bank account
• Have regular employees or subcontractors

When I transitioned from nonprofit work to freelancing, the minimum payment of $25/month seemed exorbitant. Quicken (I pay $3/month) does the following for me:
• Automatically enters transactions from my bank accounts
• Categorizes my income and expenses
• Handles my business and personal accounts side-by-side
• Streamlines reporting for taxes
• Makes it easy to observe trends in my business and analyze development efforts (reports are very user friendly)

I started with my tax lady’s worksheet when setting up my categories; each line item she requests becomes a category. This ensures that I can write off as many business expenses as possible. I also track some categories for my family, such as eating out (way down this fiscal year!). A few more things to consider:
• Make sure the software will sync with your specific bank.
• I have not found the budgeting features very intuitive in either Quicken or QuickBooks.
• It takes me about 15 minutes per month to review the transactions uploaded in Quicken and make sure everything has been categorized properly.
• At tax time, it takes no more than 45 minutes to report everything accurately. My tax lady gives me a discount for turning in my information early. This discount more than pays for the annual price of Quicken!

— Allie Boman