



The Year in Review



2017 Fiscal Year Report

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

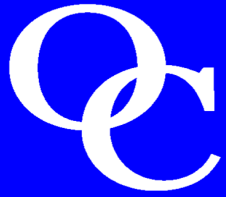


Table of Contents

Chairman's Letter	3
The Year in Review	4
Community Development	5
Public Safety	7
Quality of Life.....	10
Taxes and Finance	13
Community Services	16



Expenditures	19
Revenue Chart	20
Your \$2,000 Tax Bill	21
Elected Officials.....	22
Judiciary.....	23

Did You Know?

*Oconee ranked #1
Best County to
Live in Georgia by
Niche.com*



Photograph by Greg Newington

Oconee County was founded on February 25, 1875. Originally part of Clarke County, Oconee was named for the river which forms its eastern boundary. *Oconee* comes from the Native American word meaning “spring of the hills.” The Oconee County Courthouse (left) was constructed in 1939 after the old courthouse burned down in early 1938, and was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1984.

Bishop ★ Bogart ★ North High Shoals ★ Watkinsville



Chairman's Letter

Board of Commissioners

Dear Oconee County Citizens,

The Oconee County Board of Commissioners is pleased to provide this report for the fiscal year ending, June 30, 2017, from our Elected Officials and County Departments. It is an exciting time to serve you on The Oconee County Board of Commissioners. Many positive activities occurred within the county over the course of the last fiscal year. We are happy to share these highlights through this *Year In Review*.

We are very pleased to welcome Justin Kirouac to our team in the role of County Administrator. Justin is responsible for the daily operations of our government. Justin has a Master degree in Public Administration. In addition, he brings 18 years of stable and progressive work experience.

The Comprehensive Plan update is underway. The Comprehensive Plan paints a picture of our county. We have an excellent group of citizens working on the update. Your input and participation are important. Keep alert for opportunities to work on the vision for your county.

Mars Hill Road, Phase I, is on schedule. May 2018 continues to mark the end of construction for this area. Once the road is completed, we will begin beautification efforts along the corridor. We are hopeful that the construction of Phase II will begin as Phase I is completed. Phase II begins at Publix and continues toward Watkinsville.

With the help of the Georgia Department of Transportation, we will begin a county-wide transportation study. The study will review our current system. It will forecast changes and develop a plan to correct deficiencies in the transportation system. We will be looking for your participation in developing the transportation plan.



Chairman John Daniell

The Calls Creek Water Treatment Plant upgrade is currently under construction. The construction will roughly double the treatment capacity of the facility. As the construction progresses, a master plan is being developed for our water resources. In addition, we are proud to report an upgraded bond rating from Standard & Poor's.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve! We look forward to working with you and encourage your participation.

Sincerely,

John Daniell



Mark Thomas- Post



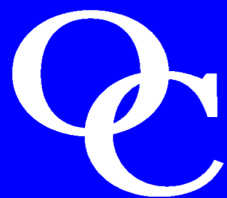
Chuck Horton-Post 2



Bubber Wilkes - Post 3



Mark Saxon - Post 4



Year in Review

Community Development

Economic Development
Tourism

Page 5

Public Safety

Fire Department
Emergency Management
Animal Control

Page 7

FY

Quality of Life
Parks and Recreation
Library
Civic Center

Page 10

17

Taxes and Finance

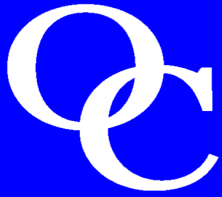
Tax Commissioner
Property Appraisal
Finance

Page 13

Community Services

Public Works **Utilities**
Planning and Code Enforcement
Cooperative Extension
Operations & Facilities

Page 16



Economic Development

Business prospects continue to look bright in Oconee County as 237 new occupation tax certificates were issued and 1,180 renewed occupational occupation tax certificates were issued during FY17.

Caterpillar has reached a sustainable growth track as it celebrates 5 years in Oconee County. On July 2017, Caterpillar reported it had created more than 1,440 jobs, exceeding their employment projection by 140 jobs. As of June 2017, over \$159 million in public and private funds had been invested in the project.

The Oconee Campus of Piedmont-Athens Regional Healthcare opened a 99,000 square foot facility at the intersection of Virgil Langford Road and Jennings Mill Road. The new facility includes many outpatient services such as pediatrics, family medicine, lab services, urgent care, and pharmacy.

The Epps Bridge Retail District continues to grow as Epps Bridge Center Phase 2 takes shape. The Oconee County Board of Commissioner completed the extension of Parkway Boulevard, opening up more than 200 acres of land for development. The Bishop Company created pads that will accommodate 254,000 square feet of new retail space.

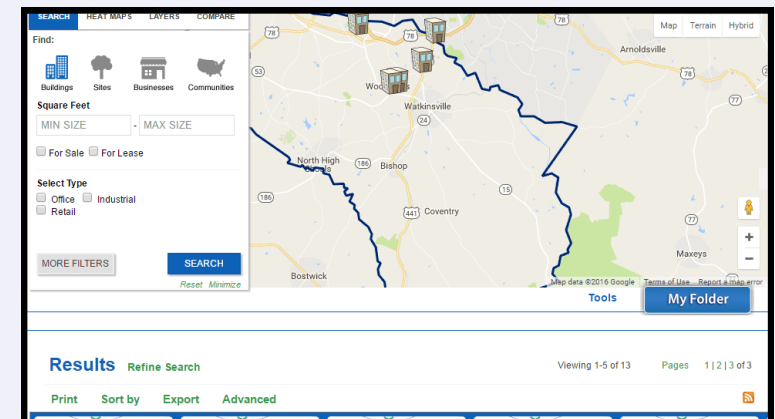
The Economic Development Department launched a new website in FY17. It features an interactive map of commercial/industrial properties, a database of all Oconee County businesses, key demographics, and lots of other interesting facts about our community. [Visit our website at www.BusinessInOconee.com](http://www.BusinessInOconee.com)



The mission of the Oconee County Economic Development Department is to provides several programs and activities aimed at assisting local businesses, in their growth plans encouraging entrepreneurs to invest in the community, and recruiting new industries to Oconee County.



Development of Epps Bridge Phase II is underway. The development will bring more than 254,000 square feet of new retail space to the Epps Bridge Retail District.



The Economic Development Department's interactive map hosts many of the county's available commercial/industrial parcels, as well as available buildings for lease/sale.

Did You Know?

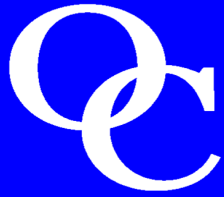
Oconee County had the lowest unemployment rate in Georgia during April and May 2017 at 3.5%.



Facebook.com/
BusinessIn
Oconee



Twitter.com/
BizInOconee



Tourism

This past year was yet another record-breaking year for tourism in Oconee County. A number of small and large groups were hosted on tours of the county and main attractions within the community. These groups ranged from local home school groups to senior travel groups to large motor-coach travel groups.

On a regional level, Tourism Director Alex Perschka is a board member for the Historic Heartland Travel Association. We continue to actively participate and co-op with regional and state associations. These affiliations help promote Oconee County not only throughout the region but the entire state of Georgia as well.

During FY17, 4,479 people visited the Welcome Center and the Eagle Tavern. While a large number of our visitors call Georgia home, many come from neighboring states, and some came from thousands of miles away to see what Oconee County has to offer.

This past year also included a very successful softball tournament, held annually at Oconee Veterans Park. Over 40 teams from across the U.S. travel here to play in a 3 day tournament. This single event created a \$239,000 economic impact on our community. Our office also serves as the Camera Ready Office, fulfilling numerous filming location request annually.



The Oconee Co. Welcome Center is located in downtown Watkinsville on 21 N. Main Street next to the Courthouse

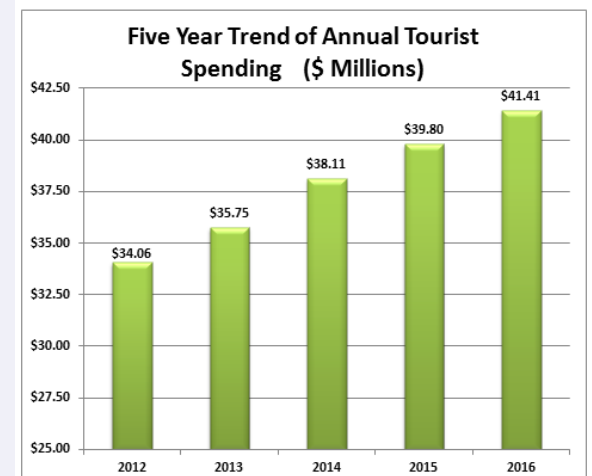
The Tourism Department
welcomed 4,479 Visitors to the
Welcome Center & Eagle
Tavern in FY17
(+25% from FY16)

Visit Oconee

Oconee County Tourism Department



One of the advertisements promoting Oconee County tourism that appeared in the *Atlanta Magazine* during FY17.



Oconee County generated \$41.41 million in direct tourist spending in 2016, according to data from the Georgia Dept. of Economic Development. Tourist activity also created over \$1 million in local county tax revenues.



Oconee Fire Rescue

The Oconee County Fire Rescue Department is responsible for planning, coordinating and implementing fire prevention and suppression activities of seven volunteer fire stations in Oconee County. The seven fire stations are staffed with 175 volunteer Firefighters and Medical Responders with an average response time of 8.36 minutes.

Oconee Fire Rescue is also responsible for: responding to all structure fires in Oconee County and other applicable calls; keeping updated records for ISO (Insurance Services Organization) and working to achieve the best ISO rating; coordinating joint training for all stations; providing fire safety classes for schools and daycare centers; working with local and state agencies on arson investigations; recruiting new volunteer firefighters and medical responders and coordinating volunteer firefighter and medical training.

Notable achievements during FY17 included:

- Maintained ISO Class 5/5X Insurance Rating
- Graduated 9 Members - Nationally Certified Firefighter 1 - 220 Hours of Training
- Participated in over 136 Public Relations Events
- Fire Safety Presentation to 2,046 Elementary School Students
- Finished #1 in State Fundraising among Volunteer Departments for Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation



OCFR Fire Safety Presentation for grades K-3

Did You Know?

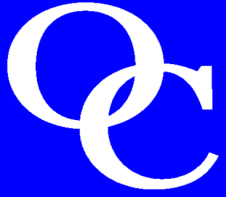
OCFR raised over \$25,215 at the Burn Foundation Boot Drive, nearly six times more than it raised in 2000.

Fire Rescue Responses (July 2016 - June 2017)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Structure Fires - 29 | • Haz Mat & Power Line Calls - 92 |
| • Vehicle Fires - 28 | • Automobile Accidents - 212 |
| • Wildland Fires/Control Burns - 165 | • Non-Emergency Calls - 46 |

Total Fire Calls - 854

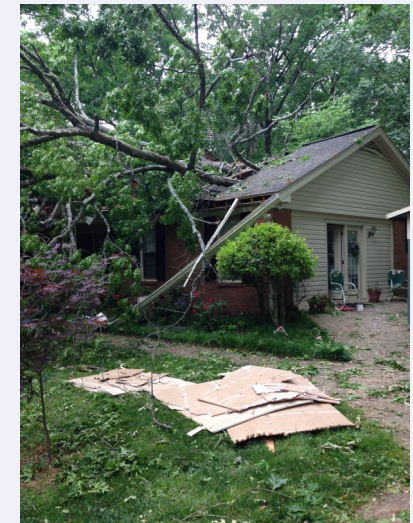




Emergency Management & Medical Services

Oconee County Emergency Management keeps a watchful eye on any serious situations that threaten our county. Our mission is to assist schools, law enforcement and other agencies in preparing for and responding to the damages of severe weather, as well as protect people and property in the event of a disaster or crisis situation. During the last year, Emergency Management personnel participated in training exercises on winter weather, search and rescue and infectious diseases involving county, state and federal agencies. These exercises help train our first responders on the necessary steps during emergencies and disasters affecting the county. Additionally, the training ensures the Emergency Operations Center is in a state of readiness in the event of a serious weather or disaster situation.

Emergency Medical Services provides support to our county citizens, whether dealing with automobile accidents or other emergency medical responses. Oconee County EMS provides emergency medical responder services to our citizens with 7 rescue trucks and 1 mass casualty truck. Personnel consists of 93 medically trained volunteer personnel, including 51 medical responders, 35 EMTs and 7 paramedics. Trained medical responders receive a high level of basic training, with over 100 hours of initial training and 24 hours of annual re-certification. During FY17, Oconee County EMS partnered with National EMS to provide medical care to county citizens experiencing medical emergencies.

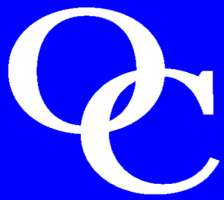


Total Emergency Medical Responses

- Sick Person - 1,651
- Motor Vehicle Crash - 372
- Trauma (Other than MVC) - 320
- Other (Lift, Alarm, Etc.) - 309

Total FY17 Responses - 2,652





At A Glance

33 animal bites
0 rabies cases
3 classifications
55,453 miles traveled
169 animals surrendered
1,616 visitors
54 citations

Adoption Fees
\$75

Includes: micro-chip, distemper, rabies, and dogs will receive Bordatella vaccination for kennel cough, wormed, and all pets are sterilized.

PetSmart Events
1st & 3rd
Saturday

Don't Litter

Sterilize your pet

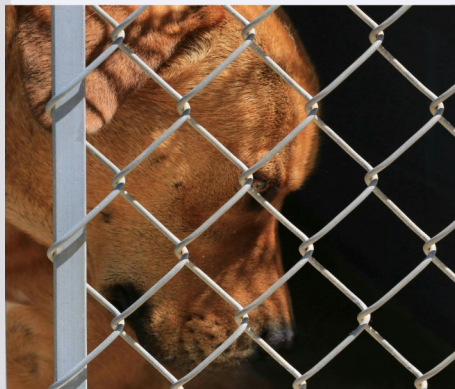
Animal Services & Shelter

The mission of Oconee County Animal Services is to protect animals by providing a safe, compassionate shelter for lost, stray, and unwanted animals; to re-home adoptable animals through a vigorous adoption/foster program; to educate the public about humane care and responsible pet ownership, and the importance of pet sterilization; to serve citizens through the fair and impartial enforcement of state and county regulations pertaining to animal welfare and ownership; and to work closely with other county departments, agencies, and volunteers to benefit and improve animal welfare in the county; and when unavoidable, to provide humane euthanasia.

Oconee County Animal Shelter's **Foster Home** program continues saving more lives by helping pets live in a secure setting; giving the needed love, and attention for a positive adoption experience. Volunteers dedicate countless hours to help find permanent placement for the county's unwanted animals. The commitment, dedication, and selflessness of these volunteers help raise well needed animal awareness and save countless lives.

Throughout FY17, the shelter's adoption events were held every other weekend at PetSmart, Epps Bridge Center, including the shelter's hosting its huge quarterly "PetSmart Charities National Adoption Weekend Event", the annual Yard Sale Event, Yappy Hour at the Max (downtown Athens), and participation in the Bogart, Statham, and Watkinsville Fall Festivals, plus other animal programs. These events are a great resource for finding new foster homes, seeking out new volunteers, and encouraging adoptions.

The Shelter's weekly newsletter, **Whiskered Secrets**, and **Friends of Oconee County Animal Shelter** Facebook page are great sources of information for finding animals to rescue, updates on adopted or fostered pets, as well as viewing upcoming events. To find out how you can help or attend an event, please contact the Oconee County Animal Shelter at (706) 769-3956. Whiskered Secrets link is on Facebook.



FY17 accomplishments included:

- 3rd year - no adoptable dogs or cats were euthanized.
- 393 animals went into their furr-ever home by adoption or transferred to a licensed rescue group.
- 610 Volunteers
- Quarterly hosts "PetSmart Charities National Adoption Weekend Event".
- 100 pets were re-united with their owner.
- 100's of animals placed into foster care—helping save lives and insures a furr-ever home.



Meet the Staff

Catlyn Vickers – Director

Nancy Bennett - Assistant Director

Sherry Aycock— Road Officer

Jess Burnley—Road Officer

Kayla Sterns - Road Officer

Alex Williams- Road Officer

Emergency Calls

answered 7 days a week.

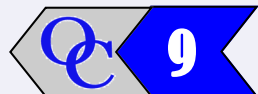
The shelter is open to the public:

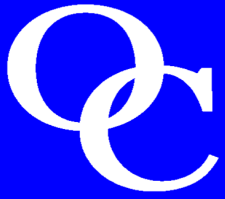
Monday - Tuesday: 12p-5p
Wednesday - By Appointment Only
Thursday - Friday: 12p-5p
Saturday: 11a-1p

In order to efficiently serve the public, all paperwork should be turned in by:

4:30 p.m. (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri)
12:30 p.m. (Saturday)

706.769.3956





Parks and Recreation



FY17—By The Numbers

- 7,464 Program and User Group Participants
- 35,931 Fitness/Open Check ins (100/day)
- 11,5000 Attendees at Special Events
- 410 Volunteers giving over 18,000 hours
- 520 Park Rentals
- 35 Athletic Fields/Courts
- 627 County Park Acres
- 4,628 Hours Community Center Open to the Public (89 hours/week)
- 44% Cost Recovery

The Oconee County Parks and Recreation Department (OCPRD) continues to see steady participation growth in youth and adult programs. Oconee citizens “Live Active” and demonstrate their active lifestyle in various programs or through passive recreation activity in the four county parks maintained by the department.

Park Amenities

- Soccer Fields
- Baseball/Softball Fields
- Gymnasiums
- Outdoor Basketball Court
- Outdoor Sand Volleyball
- Playgrounds
- Walking/Biking Trails
- Picnic Tables
- Disc Golf Course
- Historic Buildings
- Outdoor Arena and Barn
- Dog Park
- Fitness Center

**Get out and play at
your local parks and
recreation centers today!**



GET YOUR PLAY ON

The Oconee County Parks and Recreation Department seeks to enrich the quality of life for citizens by providing safe and accessible recreational facilities and a diversified program of recreational activities.



Oconee County Library

2017 Activity Summary

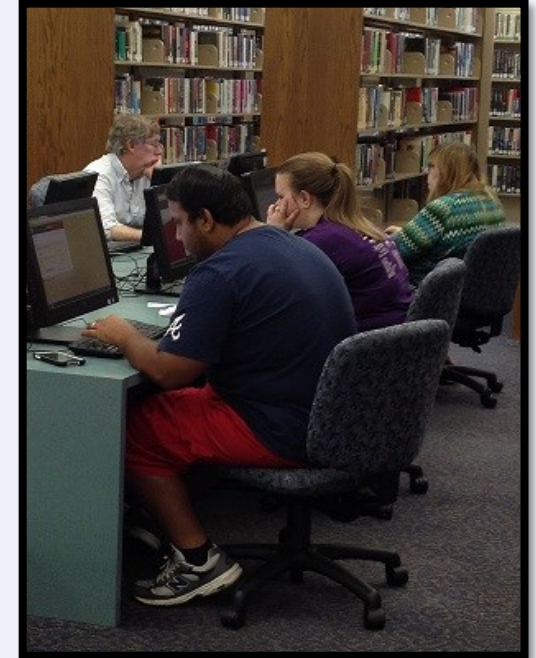
The Oconee County Library is a member of the five county Athens Regional Library System. Over 18,000 Oconee County residents are library card holders. They have free access to PINES libraries all over Georgia through the library consortium.

Oconee County plans to expand and renovate the Bogart Library in 2018 with the award of a \$1.7 million grant from the State of GA, Board of Regents. The 3,700 square foot library will double in size and the current space renovated to include a larger meeting space, study rooms and more book stacks, computer space, and seating.

PINES, a consortium of Georgia Libraries, gives Oconee County residents free access to materials in over 275 libraries across the state. As part of this organization, the Oconee County Library strives to develop innovative programming for people of all ages in order to meet the literacy needs of residents throughout the Oconee County region.

For more information on Oconee County Libraries and a summary of programs and events, please visit athenslibrary.org/oconee.

The mission of Oconee County Libraries is to offer effective and professional service by providing library materials, resources, information, and life-long learning opportunities for the people of Oconee County.



During FY17, the Oconee
County Library had:
912 Programs
52,304 Attendees
283,540 Items Circulated
267,885 Visitors





Civic Center

During FY17 the Oconee County Civic Center served Oconee County and surrounding communities by providing meeting space, performance and technical expertise to a wide range of events.

Over 25 different performing arts groups presented 100+ performances in the Civic Center Theatre ranging from puppetry to opera.

The East Coast Helicopter Operations Conference, Cotton Patch Quilters Show and UGA Poultry Sciences Conference were examples of events that reached beyond our geographical area.

In addition to lending technical support to many events outside of the Civic Center, our staff provided valuable consultation services to local performing arts organizations planning their own performance venues.

The Oconee County Civic Center is focused on the future. During the past year we began the process of planning renovations for the current facility and have sought creative collaborative approaches from the private sector to better serve the citizens of Oconee County and continue to provide a unique facility for our region.

The Civic Center went beyond its doors by providing Technical and Logistical Support to special events throughout the County such as the Veteran's Day Celebrations at Oconee County Middle School and Oconee Veterans Park.



Hindu Pre-Wedding Celebration



Oscar Theme Party



The Little Mermaid

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
School System Events	188	178	187	178	158
County Sponsored Events	80	81	57	66	84
Private Events	145	143	158	130	153
Total Events	413	402	402	374	395

The mission of the Oconee County Civic Center is to provide high quality meeting and performance space for a variety of public, private and school system related functions. The Civic Center seeks to provide full service meeting, conference, recreational and cultural arts facilities.

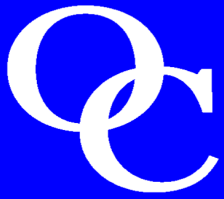
Contact:

Christy Kerns
for booking
and information

706-769-3902

Or

OconeeCounty.com



Tax Commissioner

The duties and responsibilities of the Tax Commissioner's office are many and varied, but our main goal is to provide friendly, quality service to the citizens of Oconee County.

Motor vehicle titling and registration is a significant part of the day to day operations of our office. In FY17, the Tax Commissioner's Office processed 65,493 transactions related to motor vehicles.

The Tax Commissioner's Office collects and distributes the motor vehicle title and ad valorem tax, mobile home tax and real and personal property tax for the State of Georgia, the County Board of Commissioners, and the local Board of Education. Additionally, the office collects and distributes property tax for Watkinsville, Bogart, Bishop and North High Shoals.

Our website is mobile friendly and property tax can be viewed and paid through an online portal. Motor vehicle registrations can also be renewed online through this streamlined process. A wealth of additional information is available on our website and on the Georgia Department of Revenue website.

Did You Know?

The Office of the Tax Commissioner offers online payment options for property tax and vehicle registration oconeecountytax.com

There are 18,327 real property parcels, 3,946 personal property accounts in Oconee County.

As of June 30, 2017, 98% of Oconee County property owners had turned in their taxes.

Meet the Staff



Tax Commissioner's Office (L-R)

Motor Vehicle Registrar - Marsha Jordan

Tax Commissioner - Jennifer Riddle

Motor Vehicle Registrar - Kayla Houseman

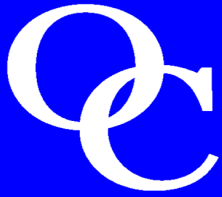
Administrative Assistant - Lisa Jackson

Motor Vehicle Registrar Sr. - Patti Childers

Motor Vehicle Registrar - Amanda Mauldin

Deputy Tax Commissioner - Debra Watson-

Hunter



Property Appraisal

The mission of the Property Appraisal Department is to establish fair market values for all real and personal property in the county. These fair market values are to be compiled into a tax digest for use in calculation of millage rates for the Oconee County Board of Commissioners, Board of Education and all city governments. These millage rates are then used by the Tax Commissioner for determining the tax bills each year.

The chart below shows the historical trends over the past 10 years for sales on new existing homes in Oconee County:

Historical Trends for Improved Residential Sales					Weighted Averages	
New Construction			Existing Construction		New & Existing Construction	
Year	# of Sales	Average \$/ Sale	# of Sales	Average \$/ Sale	# of Sales	Average \$/Sale
2007	199	\$382,152	350	\$255,770	549	\$301,581
2008	137	\$370,452	207	\$269,004	344	\$309,406
2009	36	\$361,717	239	\$265,079	275	\$277,729
2010	31	\$329,122	207	\$258,356	238	\$267,574
2011	57	\$300,998	179	\$275,279	236	\$281,491
2012	83	\$281,176	296	\$239,913	379	\$248,949
2013	215	\$304,475	311	\$265,428	546	\$280,804
2014	206	\$328,231	443	\$273,291	649	\$290,680
2015	203	\$340,527	337	\$278,476	540	\$301,802
2016	240	\$3334,034	312	\$306,379	552	\$318,403
2017	203	\$365,465	561	\$306,021	764	\$321,815

These values were compiled from **Fair Market Value** sales only.

2017 sales are through 10/01/2017 New sales include 2015 and 2016 year built.

Custom built homes not sold on the open market are **not** included.

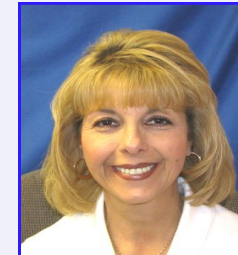
Meet the Staff



Allen Skinner
Chief Appraiser



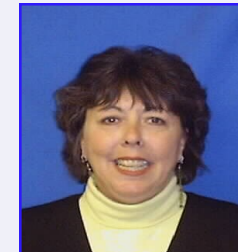
Trent Crawford
Asst. Chief Appraiser



Diane Lilienthal
Admin. Secretary



Chris Neal
Tax Appraiser II



Carol Gurley
Tax Appraiser II



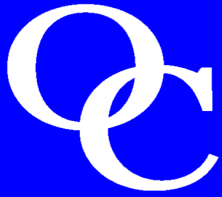
Nathan Evans
Tax Appraiser III



Brian Bray
Tax Appraiser III



Amanda Shelton
Property Appraiser III



Finance

Financial Highlights: Oconee County's total budget for FY18 is \$49,920,904 which includes a General Fund budget of \$26,943,955. This budget maintains a millage rate of 6.686 for the 11th consecutive year. Emphasis remains on three core areas: Public Safety, Public Works, and Parks & Recreation.

Primary Department Responsibilities: Financial Services, Bond Ratings, Financial Accounting, Cash Receipts, Accounts Payable, Audits, Budgeting, Internal Controls, Procurement and Property Management.

Bond Rating: Moody's bond rating for Oconee County is Aa2. An Aa2 bond rating has an investment grade of high-quality and very low credit risk.

Planning for the Future: A tax digest trending upward by about 7% per year. New home starts on the rise, as well as retail growth at the Epps Bridge Center. These indicators confirm that the local economy is improving. Also, there is natural existing growth in the economy and inflationary growth as evidenced by an expanding tax base. Oconee County continues collaboration between the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education as well as working with the local Chamber of Commerce to promote the "Shop Locally" initiative.

Expenditures

JUDICIAL	2,164,859	8.0%
LAW ENF / JAIL / E911	7,404,003	27.5%
PUBLIC SAFETY	1,475,344	5.5%
PUBLIC WORKS	2,849,636	10.6%
PARKS & RECREATION	2,843,829	10.6%
TAX COMMISSIONER	489,603	1.8%
ADMINISTRATION / COMMISSION	2,352,950	8.7%
PROPERTY APPRAISAL	633,097	2.3%
BOARD OF ELECTIONS	263,566	1.0%
OPERATIONS	1,713,622	6.4%
PLANNING/CODE ENFORCEMENT	920,963	3.4%
INFORMATION TECH	745,943	2.8%
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	1,730,819	6.4%
JOINT GOV PROGRAMS	1,355,721	5.0%
	\$26,943,955	100%

The mission of the Finance Department is to provide the highest quality services in a fiscally responsible manner to promote the health, safety and general welfare of all Oconee County citizens.

SPLOST Hard at Work!

Oconee County began collecting SPLOST funds in October 2015 and distributed within the county in November 2015. Finance staff worked with county personnel in FY17 to identify project needs for FY18. Some of these planned projects/allocation include:

- Infrastructure on roads and water - Mars Hill Road Widening Project
- Herman C Michael Gym Upgrades
- Heritage Park Historic Preservation
- Debt service payment for Parks & Rec.



Mars Hill Road Widening Project

Did You Know?

Local Option Sales tax receipts from FY17 in Oconee totaled \$5.9 million.



Public Works

Public Works is responsible for Road Maintenance and Construction, Engineering and Design, Plan Review and Project Inspection, Solid Waste Collection, and Recycling.

Additional duties of Public Works staff include: reviewing site plans, preliminary plats, and final plats; inspecting installed infrastructure for conformance to applicable codes for public right of ways; and providing support necessary for the safe and continual operation of all traffic devices on County roads.

Road Department staff responsibilities include: repair and maintenance of paved and dirt roads, shoulders, ditches, and signs; mowing; debris removal; and dead animal removal. During FY17, over 1,169 citizen inquiries and work orders were completed by the Road Department.

FY17 Activity Summary

Road construction is progressing on Mars Hill Widening Phase 1, between SR 316 and Butlers Crossing, with expected completion in May of 2018. Road design activities and right-of-way acquisition activities are complete and demolition has begun for Phase 2 of the project, which is the area between Butler's Crossing and the US 441 interchange.

A new county road, known as Parkway Boulevard, was constructed to connect Epps Bridge Parkway and Oconee Connector. A total of 9.4 miles of county roads were repaired and resurfaced using funds provided by SPLOST and the Georgia Department of Transportation's Local Maintenance Improvement Grant including Epps Bridge Parkway. Crack sealing was applied to extend the functional life of 17.76 miles of road. Additionally, a right turn lane was constructed at the intersection of Union Church Road and Hog Mountain Road.

FY17 Sanitation Statistics

- 57,914 customers visited our 5 collection sites (including the landfill)
- 24,814 collection site customers disposed of "Pay As You Throw" (PAYT) bags
- 43,577 collection site customers disposed of recycling

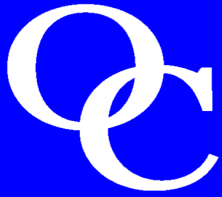
The mission of the Public Works Department is to provide overall coordination and direction to five separate but cooperating divisions (Engineering, Roads & Bridges, Sanitation, Storm Water, and Clean & Beautiful), and to interact appropriately with various state, federal, and local agencies.



Parkway Boulevard—New Construction



Epps Bridge Parkway—LMIG Paving



Utility Department

For the 15th consecutive year, Oconee County received a Platinum Award from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals for “Drinking Water Systems in the State of Georgia.” As a “Water First Community” designated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the Oconee County Utility Department (OCUD) is proud to provide the highest quality of water to the citizens of Oconee County

The following items were accomplished by the Utility Department in Fiscal Year 2017:

- The final design of the expanded Calls Creek Waste Reclamation Facility was completed in early 2017. Crowder Construction Company broke ground on the expansion on May 1, 2017. The \$13.4 million project is scheduled for completion September 2018. This expansion will increase the plant’s capacity to 1.5 million gallons per day.
- Construction began on a new sewer system for the City of Bogart. This new system will allow businesses and residences access to sanitation options. County Recreation facilities and the expanded County Library will connect to the system when it is completed.
- In order to mitigate the threat of a drought, the Board of Commissioners authorized the design and construction of new water storage projects to ensure the county can supply one average day’s water demand to the citizens and businesses of Oconee county. The project will be complete in 2019.
- The Hard Labor Creek Management Board completed the dam, reservoir, and raw water intake in April 2017. The pool reached 689 feet above sea level; full pool is 700 feet above sea level.
- The Utility Department completed an update to the Long Range Forecasts for Water Demand and Wastewater Flows. The forecast was reviewed by the Board of Commissioners during a series of Town Hall Meetings.

<i>OCUD Statistics</i>	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Water Customers	8,803	9,093	9,600	9,900	10,369	10,732
Sewer Customers	1,534	1,638	1,960	2,090	2,298	2,444

The mission of the Oconee County Utility Department is to provide clean, safe drinking water to all of our customers, promote water conservation through good stewardship and protect our streams and waterways through efficient wastewater treatment practices.



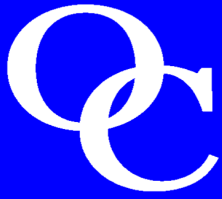
Common-Wall Circular Clarifiers and Aeration Basin will add capacity to the Calls Creek Wastewater Reclamation Facility.



Hard Labor Creek Reservoir at 689 feet

Did You Know?

Water conservation projects diverted up to 1 million gallons per day of spent water back to the Bear Creek Reservoir, saving \$200,000 in non-drought years and \$900,000 in drought years.



Planning & Code Enforcement

The Planning and Code Enforcement Department promotes public safety and protects property rights through site design, construction, occupancy, use, and location of facilities within the unincorporated Oconee County. This task is accomplished through comprehensive planning, building and development codes, environmental protection ordinances and policies adopted by the Board of Commissioners and state and federal governments and agencies.

Staff provides planning, permitting, inspections and code enforcement services, in accordance with the Service Delivery Strategy and intergovernmental agreements, for the municipalities of Bishop, Bogart, North High Shoals, and Watkinsville.

The mandatory 10-year update of the Comprehensive Plan began in FY17. The process is led by a steering committee made up of Oconee County citizens with diverse backgrounds and experiences. The process takes approximately 18 months from beginning to adoption.

During FY17 the department reviewed, issued and/or processed the following:

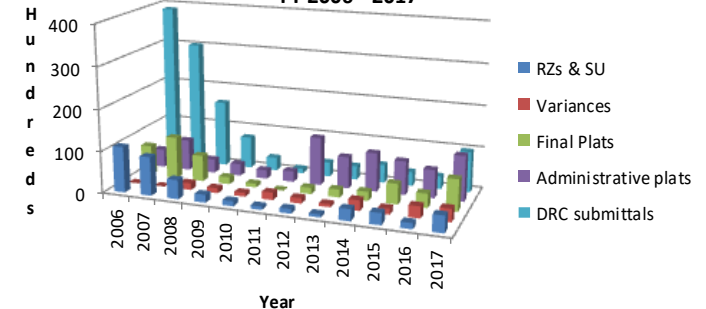
- 3,794 phone calls and served over 1,000 customers at the front desk.
- 357 single family building permits
- 5 Mobile Home permits
- 46 multifamily building permits
- 120 commercial building permits
- 374 miscellaneous building permits
- Collected \$414,307.47 in permit fees
- Conducted 2,707 residential inspections and 331 commercial inspections
- 15 Rezoning applications, 6 Special Use application and 18 variances
- 31 items were reviewed by the Development Review Committee, including 34 final plats.
- Issued 237 new and 1,180 renewal Occupational Tax Certificates with a value of \$127,816.22.

The mission of the Code Enforcement Division is to preserve and promote public safety and welfare, protect property and assist the public by controlling the design, construction, occupancy, use, and location of facilities within Oconee County.

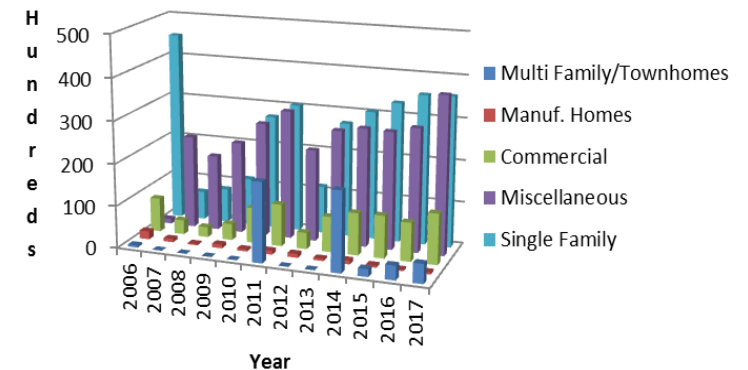
The mission of the Planning Division is to assist the Board of Commissioners in planning orderly growth and development within Oconee County.

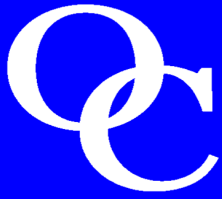
Historical Data

Select Annual Department Activity Data
FY 2006 - 2017



Select Permits Issued Data
FY 2006 - FY 2017





Extension Staff

**Ext. Coordinator
& Ag Agent**
Monte Stephens

4-H Agent
Kelle Ashley

FACS Agent
Leigh Anne Aaron

4-H Program Asst.
Allison Barnes

Ext. Secretary
Renelle Ramirez

Address

1420 Experiment Station Rd.
Watkinsville, Ga.
(706) 769-3946

Location

J. Phil Campbell Research &
Education Center



Cooperative Extension

UGA Extension extends lifelong learning to the people of Georgia through unbiased, research-based education in agriculture, the environment, communities, youth and families.

It is our job to provide quality educational programming, expertise and leadership to citizens of Oconee Co. in areas **Agricultural & Natural Resources, 4-H & Youth Development and Family & Consumer Sciences.**

Oconee Co. Cooperative Extension Highlights 2016-2017

Agricultural and Natural Resources Agent identified key issues to educate the community about the importance of small farm productivity, profitability, sustainability and agricultural awareness to the balance and growth of Oconee County. In Oconee County, agriculture is alive and well. The Farm Gate Value for Oconee Co. is \$61 million. As a result of these needs assessments, the following educational programming to farmers and agricultural enthusiasts was provided: 3rd grade Ag Day, Fall Festival, Farm City Tour, Livestock Shows and Trainings, Small Tractor & Equipment Training, Beef Cattle Production, - Herd Health & Nutrition, Proper Forage Selection, Production, Weed ID & Herbicide Treatment.. In 2016-17, the extension agent: Submitted 700 soil, water, forage and micro-biological specimens to UGA for laboratory analysis. Diagnose 200 plant disease and insect damage samples. Provided recertification training 100 private and commercial Pesticide applicators.

Family and Consumer Science Agent - The Morgan and Oconee Counties Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent provided community-based training on topics related to early childhood education, in order to help child care professionals meet annual training requirements and to help them develop skills to provide high-quality learning experiences for young children. These certificates are reviewed annually by the child care licensing surveyor to ensure all child care staff are receiving state-required training hours. 375 instructional hours were provided in the county for a small materials fee of \$5 to recover cost of printing and supplies as compared to other providers at an average cost of \$25 an hour provided at 6 regional access locations across the state. This resulted in a savings to the childcare professionals who are some of the lowest paid workers in the state of \$3,560 (figured @ \$25 an hour minus the \$5 materials cost for 178 participants).

4-H and Youth Development

More than **800** youth were impacted by the Oconee County 4-H youth development programs. 4-H volunteers donated **2,175** hours of service to a variety of Oconee 4-H activities and events. When considering the value of volunteerism from <https://www.independentsector.org> (\$23.26/hour), the value of these volunteers was **\$50,590.50** to our community this past year.

On the county, district and state level **412** youth competed in Project Achievement. **Seven** Senior 4-H members competed at State Congress. Oconee received two Northeast Project Achievement Awards: Largest number of 1st Place Winner and Largest Delegation.

Seventy-two contacts were made through Judging and Quiz Bowl events.

The Dairy Quiz Bowl and Consumer Judging Teams were **State Champions** and advance to Nationals this fall.

Two hundred seventy-one youth attended 4-H summer camp. Oconee received three Northeast District Camping Excellence awards: **Largest Increase in Junior Camp Participation, Largest Cloverleaf Camp Delegation and Largest Overall Camp Delegation.**

Twenty-nine local summer programs were held and **335** youth attended.

Twenty-two youth graduated from the Georgia Civic Awareness Program (GCAPS).

Over **7,945** hours of community service was carried out through the community by 4-H members. Activities included cooking meals for foster families, 9/11 tribute, collecting and donating pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House, monthly road clean ups, and raising money for the Salvation Army.

Nineteen youth participated in the Shotgun and B.B. programs.

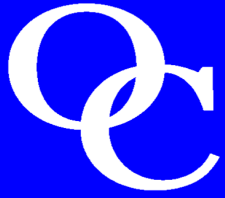
\$5,000 was awarded in college scholarships to graduating seniors.



Oconee Co. Forage Class



FACS - Cooking with Care



Operations & Facilities

The Operations and Facilities Department is entrusted with the task of maintaining the Board of Commissioner's buildings and grounds. We provide the vital services which include: Maintenance and preventative maintenance on these properties. Overall this task includes approximately 80 buildings, totaling over 300,000 gross square feet.

We have been busy this past year keeping up with incoming work orders, approximately 2,000 work orders were completed last year. Amongst the work orders, we have completed various projects which include the relocation of several departments to our Government Annex Building and relocated some departments in the courthouse.

We also worked with contractors to complete various projects around the county: Interior renovation and roof coating as well as gutter work at the Road Department, the Annex received new gutters along with exterior painting, cleaned the fence and painted the arena at Heritage Park, new brick paver sidewalks at the Eagle Tavern, interior painting at the Civic Center and the installation of new HVAC units at Watkinsville Library, Courthouse, Civic Center, William Daniell house, Fleet Maintenance and Fire Stations #4 and #5.

Did You Know?

This past year 86% of the work orders received by the maintenance crew were completed in less than a week.



UPDATES

- The Eagle Tavern was repainted and looked sharp for visitors to see during Fall Festival 2017.
- The Veterans monument located at the front of the Courthouse received a face lift and new foundation.



Operations & Facilities

706-769-3905

3 N. Third Street

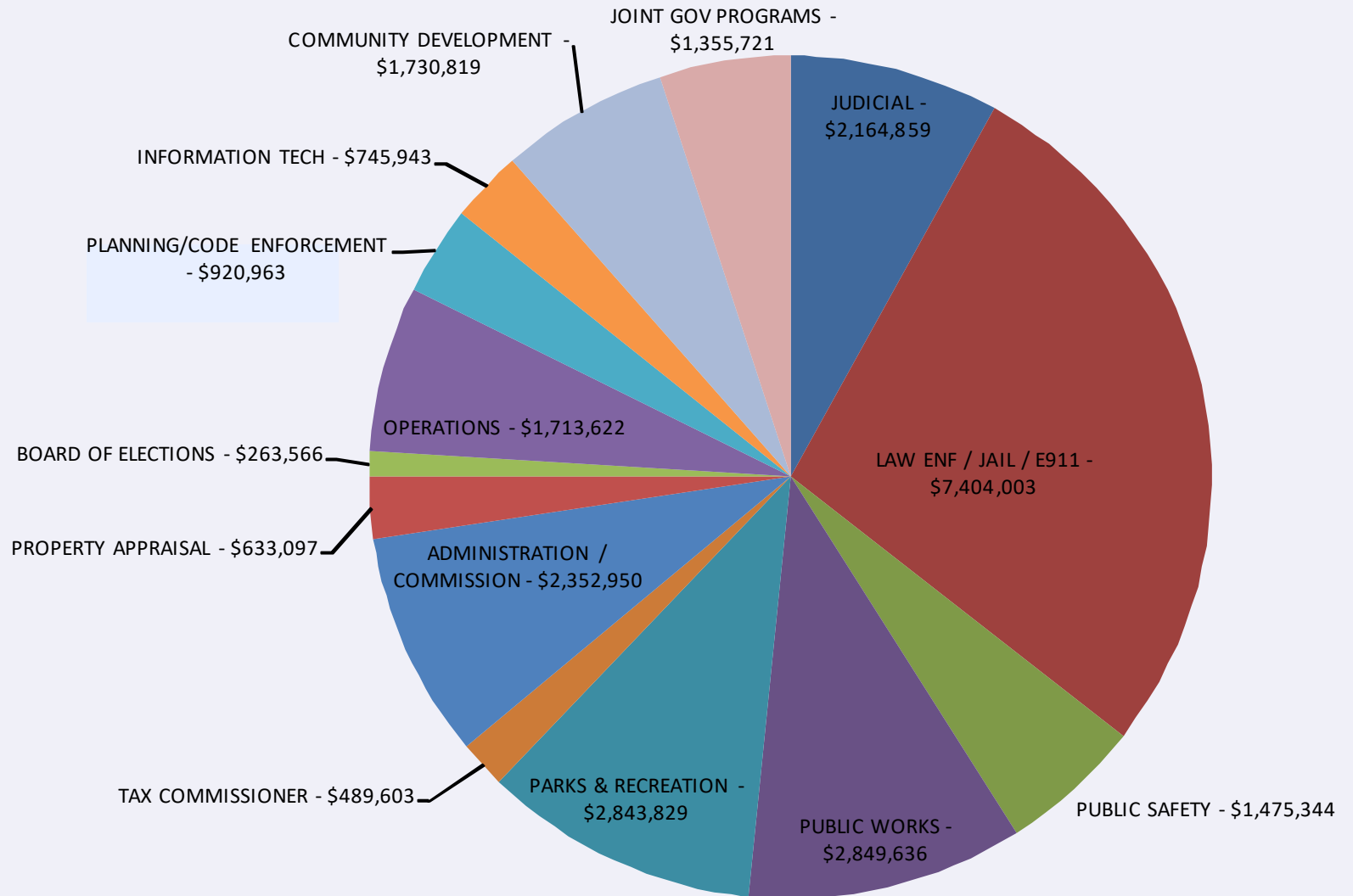
Watkinsville, GA 30677





Expenditures

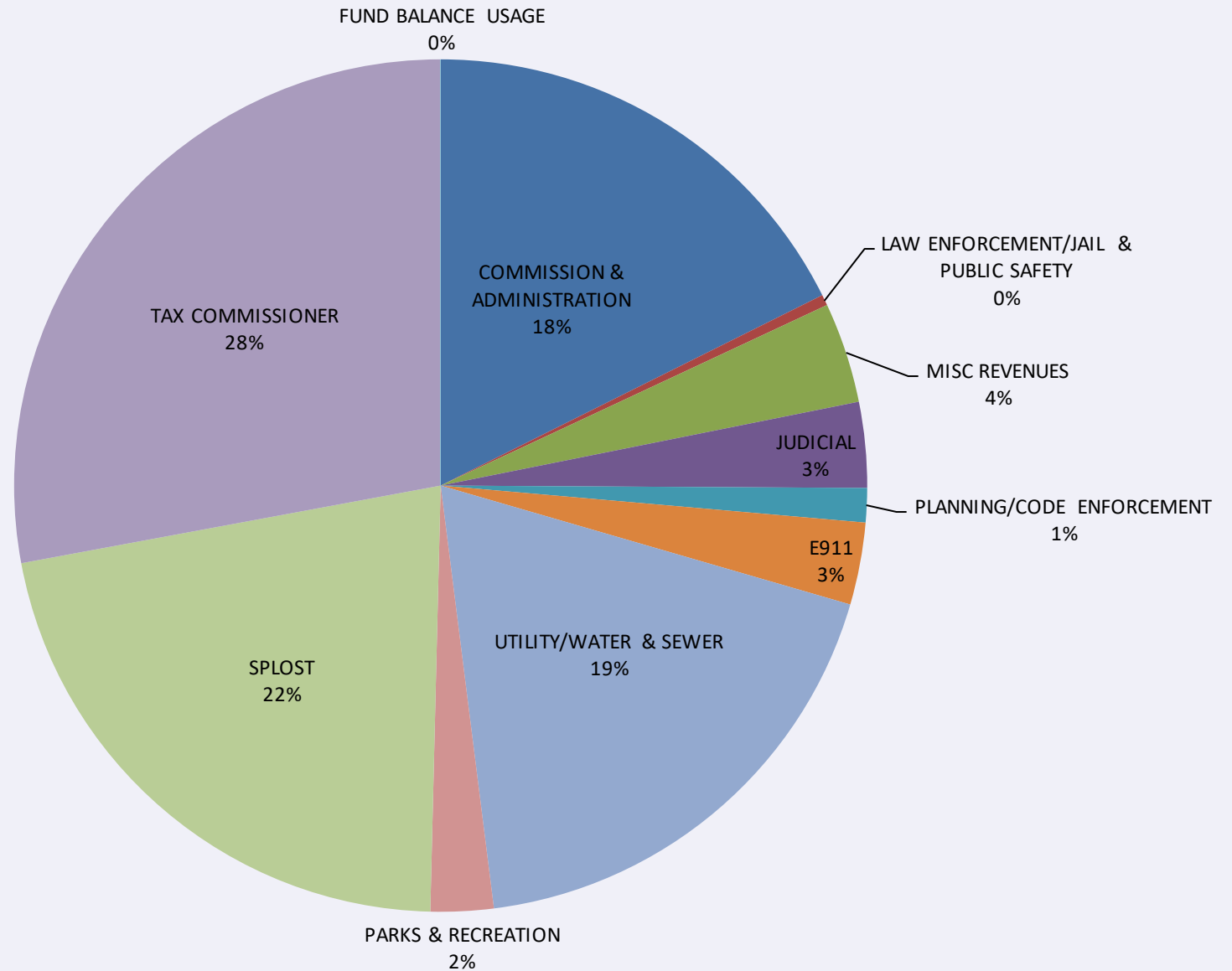
FY18 General Fund Expenditures





Revenue Chart

FY18 Budgeted Revenue





Your \$2,000 Tax Bill...

71.77% Board of Education **(\$1,435) - 17.00 mils**

28.23% Board of Commissioners **(\$565) - 6.686 mils (unincorporated)**

In FY18 for every \$100 in property taxes, you will pay...





Elected Officials - FY '17



(L-R): Coroner Ed Carson; Tax Commissioner Jennifer Riddle; Post 1 Commissioner Mark Thomas; Probate Judge David Anglin; Sheriff Scott Berry; Post 2 Commissioner Chuck Horton; Commission Chairman John Daniell; Clerk of Courts Angie Elder-Johnson; Post 4 Commissioner Mark Saxon

Not Pictured: Post 3 Commissioner W.E "Bubber" Wilkes





Judiciary - FY '17



**(Front Row, L-R) Superior Court Judge Eric Norris; Superior Court Judge Patrick Haggard;
Chief Superior Court Judge David Sweat; Superior Court Judge Lawton Stephens**

**(Back Row, L-R) Associate Magistrate Judge Samuel Barth; Chief Magistrate Judge Richard F. Connelly;
Probate Judge David Anglin; Juvenile Judge Amanda Trimble**

