

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

February 4, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

- **SPLOST AND LOST.** SPLOST and LOST revenue shown in the report dated December 31, 2024 reflect collections made in December and remitted to Gordon County in January of 2025. For that period, SPLOST collections were \$1,505,553.62 which is a \$66,498.11 (4.63%) increase over the same period last year. LOST collections were \$922,420.88 which is a \$40,164.78 (4.55%) increase over the same period last year.
- **LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHT.** HB 168 would require the call to the voters for all SPLOST renewals to get approval via a Local Act of The General Assembly, instead of being a local a local decision by the Board of Commissioners to call for a SPLOST votes. HB 75 to require a court order prior to the euthanasia of any impounded domesticated animal; to provide for state or local liability in cases of the death of, loss of, or injury to an impounded domesticated animal under certain circumstances. HB 152 would forbid the local government from requiring cost estimates for some professional services as the submission package for selection.

SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS AND ACTIVITY

- **FIRE DEPARTMENT.** We congratulate Doug Ralston on his retirement as Chief of Gordon Count Fire and Rescue. Chief Ralston will be officially retired on February 7, 2025. Doug was recognized for his service at the Fire Banquet on January 23, 2025. (The banquet was held at no cost to the county due to outside sponsorship). Gordon County also presented Heath Derryberry as Chief to lead Gordon County Fire and Rescue. Heath Derryberry has been a dedicated member of the Gordon County family since 1998, starting his career as a Communications Officer with the 911 Center. His passion for public safety and service led him to transition to the Gordon County Fire Department in 2004, where he has excelled, rising through the ranks to his current position as Operations Chief. In this role, Heath oversees daily operations, ensuring the efficient and effective delivery of fire and emergency services to the community. Before his career with Gordon County, Heath served in the **US Navy** as an **Aviation Ordnanceman**, gaining valuable experience and discipline. He deployed to **Bosnia** and the **Persian Gulf**, contributing to vital missions in challenging environments. His military service instilled a strong sense of duty and leadership, which he has carried into his civilian career. Throughout his career, Heath has been recognized for his exceptional performance and dedication to service. His awards include **Firefighter of the Year**, a testament to his commitment to excellence in his profession. He has also been honored for his life-saving

work, receiving both the **Region 1 EMS Pediatric Call of the Year** and the **State of Georgia Pediatric Call of the Year** and the prestigious **Tommy Gaylor Medical Call of the Year** award. These accolades highlight his expertise and composure in critical emergency situations, particularly involving pediatric patients. In addition to his professional accomplishments, Heath has pursued a rigorous academic journey to enhance his knowledge and leadership skills. He earned an **Associate's Degree in Fire Science** and a **Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Health and Safety**, equipping him with a strong foundation in fire service operations and workplace safety. He is advancing his education by completing a **Master's Degree in Fire Department Executive Leadership**, further preparing him to meet the challenges of modern fire service management.

- **RANGER COMMUNITY CENTER.** The project is on hold while we assess alternatives due to the rot and damaged uncovered inside the walls and floors.
- **2025 PLANNING SESSION.** We held a planning session at 201 North Wall Street on Friday beginning around 10:30 after a city and county session on HB 581.
- **GOVERNMENT PLAZA HEAT PROBLEM.** The Tax Commissioner's Office has been repaired.
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.** The Development Authority met last Tuesday. There is an industrial project expressing interest in 90 acres on Trimble Hollow Road west of I-75. This property is zoned I-2 (Heavy Industrial) with the condition that the developer must improve the portion of Trimble Hollow serving as access to the property up to industrial standards at the Developer's expense. If it moves forward, this project is in unincorporated Gordon County and it would improve the tax base for the Gordon County Schools.
- **SAFETY TRAINING.** Gordon County EMA instructor, Wendy Taylor, is continuing to conduct life saving training to Gordon County employees. The training includes CPR, use of AED's, choking response, Stop the Bleed, and NARCAN administration. Twenty Nine employees have already been trained. Risk Manager, Stacy Long, extended an email invitation for this training to all employees yesterday and thirty employees have already signed up.

Construction Project Updates

- Salacoa Facilities
 - Construction has resumed on all bathhouses.
 - Expected to be completed before March 1, 2025

- Morgue
 - Temp Morgue is under construction
 - Reviewing quotes for a cooler
 - Beginning design phase for the new morgue
 - Visited Floyd County Morgue on December 9, 2024
 - Site work will begin at the end of February 2025
- Sugar Valley Community Center & Fire Station
 - Met with the Sugar Valley Community Club
 - Beginning design phase
 - Placed the order for Geo-Hydro and Surveying
 - Received preliminary budget costs
 - Awaiting additional information from the contractor
- Ranger Community Center and Playground
 - December 4, 2024 at 2:00pm - Deadline for submission of Request for Proposals
 - December 5-12, 2024 - Committee Evaluations & Interviews as needed
 - December 13, 2024 - Committee Decision
 - December 17, 2024 - County Administrator recommends the CMAR to the Board of Commissioners for approval
 - Approving the GMP Construction Agreement on January 7, 2025
 - January 21, 2025, we received information that there was more rot, water damage, and other structural issues than anticipated.
 - We are still awaiting the results of the survey but have heard that there are concerns with the property lines and the railway right-of-way.
 - Currently working with Momon Construction to consider options to move forward. It is our intent to provide these options at the Board of Commissioners' meeting on February 18, 2025.
- Salem Road Bridge Project
 - The BOC has approved the Design / Supply Agreement
 - Awaiting engineering drawings, designs, and/or plans from Matt Bailey
 - Preparing Bid Documents for installation
- Multi Purpose Ag Facility
 - Beginning Design Phase
 - Scheduling site feasibility
 - Placed the order for Geo-Hydro and Surveying
 - Met with Momon Construction on January 7, 2025
 - Began architectural designs
- Mt Olive Dam Replacement
 - Working on permitting
 - Filed for an EPD Buffer Encroachment permit
 - Buffer credits have been purchased

- Working on land acquisition
 - Received Appraisal and our attorneys are reaching out to the property owner’s representation.
- Belwood, Lovers Lane, Boone Ford, Dews Pond, Harmony Church
 - 2018 SPLOST - Lovers Lane & Boone Ford Intersection
 - Meeting scheduled for February 12, 2025
 - 2024 SPLOST - Belwood and Union Grove
 - Meeting scheduled for February 12, 2025
 - 2024 SPLOST - Lovers Lane and Dews Pond Intersection
 - Meeting scheduled for February 12, 2025

Other Projects

- Georgia County Internship Program
 - Received an ACCG Grant for an Intern to explore AI opportunities for Gordon County Government.
 - Coordinating with Shorter University for a Work Fair and to interview potential interns
- Broadband
 - Beginning to wrap up
 - Planning ribbon cutting
 - Finalizing close out documents for pay-out

Scheduled Activity

January 21, 2025	Ranger Community Center walk through
January 24, 2025	BC Planning Session
January 27-31, 2025	Vacation
February 3, 2025	Ribbon Cutting for THRIVE Homeschool Enrichment CoOp
February 4, 2025	Community Task Force Meeting

HB 581 / Taxes / Millage Rate

- January 3, 2025 Met with Mayors about HB581
- January 9, 2024 Meeting with Tax Commissioner & Tax Assessor
- January 13, 2025 GAAO Workshop
- January 24, 2025 GC BOC Planning Session
- January 24, 2025 Meeting with all taxing authorities
- February 24-25, 2025 ACCG Capital Connection
- March 1, 2025 Last day to opt out of HB581
- April 1, 2025 Last day to file tax returns
- May 6, 2025 Budget Works Session at 3pm

- May 6, 2025 BOC approves/certifies estimated millage rate
- May 20, 2025 BOC receives a copy of the recommended budget
- May 23, 2025 Tax assessment notices are mailed
- June 3, 2025 Budget Public Hearing
- June 17, 2025 Consideration to approve the budget
- July 7, 2025 Last day to appeal assessment notices
- July 15, 2025 Hold two public hearings for Millage Rate
- August 5, 2025 Hold third public hearing for millage rate
- August 5, 2025 Adopt a resolution to set the millage rate
- September 1, 2025 Submit the tax digest
- October 2025 Tax bills are mailed out
- December 2025 Tax bills will be due