

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

July 1, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

- **SPLOST AND LOST.** SPLOST and LOST revenue shown in the report dated May 31, 2025 reflect collections made in May and remitted to Gordon County in June of 2025. For that period, SPLOST collections were \$1,257,900.42 which is a \$39,196.38 (3.12%) decrease over the same period last year. LOST collections were \$766,849.77 which is a \$24,511.87 (3.10%) decrease over the same period last year.
- **FLOST.** HB 581 has given citizens an opportunity to decide whether they would want to shift a part of their local tax burden from their property to a sales tax through a Flexible Local Option Sales Tax (FLOST). In order to enact a FLOST, the voters are required to approve it in a countywide referendum. If approved, the local sales tax rate would rise from 7% to 8%. The revenue raised would be similar to LOST which can only be used to offset the millage rate. As an example of the potential impact of a FLOST, with LOST the millage rate for last year was 9.042. Without LOST, that millage rate would have been 12.48. A FLOST (not allowed until this year) could have theoretically lowered that 9.042 rate to below 7 mills. Under that scenario, the tax on a \$200,000 property would go down by about \$163 per with a FLOST versus without. I have heard it said for years that about 40% of our sales tax revenue is paid by people traveling through our community.
- **NEW FISCAL YEAR.** Today is the first day of our new fiscal year. We are now operating under the budget that will run from today through June 30, 2026.

SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS AND ACTIVITY

- **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE.** Congratulations to Chairman Bud Owens on his reappointment to the ACCG Health and Human Services Policy Committee. This committee examines health and human service delivery and financing issues. These include indigent health care, underserved areas, public health, mental health, developmental disabilities, addictive diseases, hospital authorities, emergency medical services and housing.
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.** The Development Authority met last week and reviewed numerous proposals from industrial prospects looking at Gordon County.

- **RETIREMENTS.** Dana Burch of the Tax Assessors office and Sue Henson of Animal Control are retiring this week. We appreciate the many years of service both have given in service to Gordon County.
- **COMMITTEES.** The following committees met since the last meeting: General Administration; Quality of Life; and, Safety.
- **E911.** Gordon County E911 received 125,245 calls since July 1, 2024. That is an average of 343 calls per day or 10,437 per month. When fully staffed we have 4 dispatchers and a supervisor taking calls at a rate of 68 per person per day.
- **COUNTY EXTENSION.** I received the following this afternoon:

“Jim, et. al.,

Yesterday was my last official day serving as interim County Extension Coordinator for Gordon County. As of July 1st, McKenzie Wheeler will be taking over this leadership role and handling all the county budget/financial/personnel matters for the Gordon Extension office.

I appreciate all the support and guidance you all have given to me the last several months during this transition period. You all have been very kind and patient with my questions while learning about Gordon County’s budget process. It’s been a real pleasure to work with you all and an honor to serve the Gordon Extension team. McKenzie has been shadowing me for a few months now and is ready take on this lead role. The Extension office is in very good hands. Please be sure to update your online directory and departmental email lists with her contact information (mckenzie.wheeler@uga.edu).

I would also like to thank Jeff Champion and the facilities department for helping us move the gazebo and planting trees at the Extension office in memory of Allie Griner. The Extension office is planning to dedicate the garden later this summer during the 4-H awards night and will be sending invitations to each of you.

If you all ever have any questions or if I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Thank you,

Paul J. Pugliese, MPPPM
UGA Extension – Bartow County
County Coordinator”