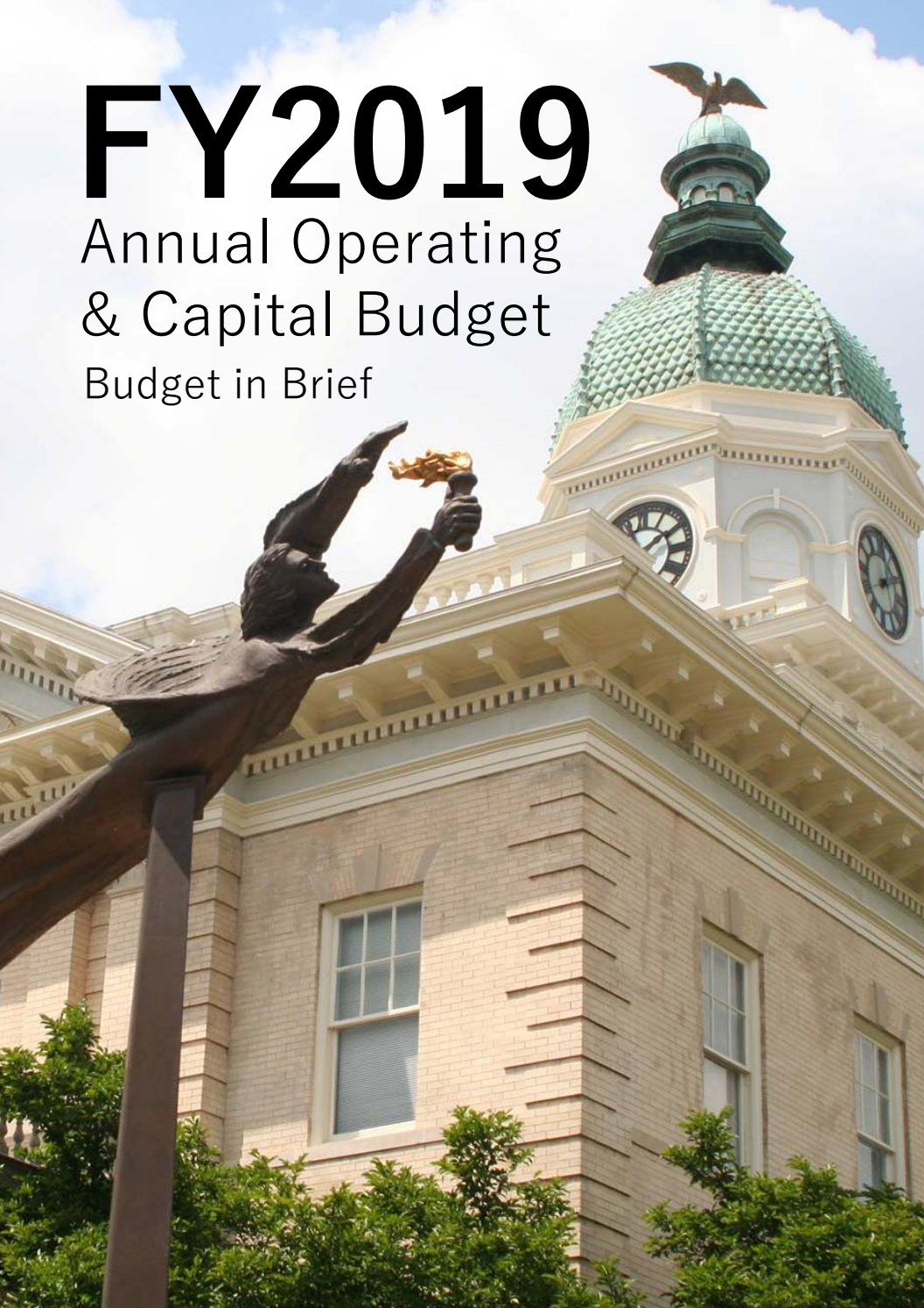


FY2019

Annual Operating & Capital Budget Budget in Brief



The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019



This *Budget in Brief* provides an overview for the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County's (ACCGOV) Operating and Capital Budgets for Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019).

A more detailed copy of the FY19 Budget can be viewed at Athens-Clarke County's website <http://www.accgov.com/budget>. Or at the Clerk of Commission's Office, Room 204 of City Hall, or the Athens Regional Library on Baxter Street.

On the cover: The "Spirit of Athens" sculpture by William J. Thompson. The sculpture commemorates the Olympic Games of 1996.

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ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY MISSION STATEMENT

**Athens-Clarke County,
an open and responsive government,**

**facilitating a positive environment
for individuals to obtain a high quality of life
and local organizations to achieve success**

**by providing innovative, high quality services and
responsible stewardship of the community's resources,
to benefit current and future generations.**

Adopted November 4, 1997

Mayor and Commission

Mayor

Commissioner - District 1

Commissioner - District 2

Commissioner - District 3

Commissioner - District 4

Commissioner - District 5

Commissioner - District 6

Commissioner - District 7

Commissioner - District 8

Commissioner - District 9

Commissioner - District 10

Manager

Nancy Denson

Sharyn Dickerson

Mariah Parker

Melissa Link

Allison Wright

Jared Bailey

Jerry NeSmith

Diane Bell

Andy Herod

Kelly Girtz

Mike Hamby

Blaine H. Williams

Athens-Clarke County at a Glance

Form of Government:	Commission-Manager Mayor and Ten Commissioners. (Mayor elected at large and Commissioners elected by district).
Population:	127,064 (2017 US Census Bureau Estimate)
UGA Enrollment:	37,606 (Fall 2017)
Land Area:	122 square miles or 78,080 acres
Median Age:	26.7 (2016 US Census Bureau Estimate)
Median Household Income:	\$33,116 (2017 US Census Bureau Estimate)

Major Attractions:

University of Georgia
State Botanical Garden
Georgia Museum of Art
Downtown Athens
Morton Theatre
Classic Center (Convention Center & Theater)
Historic Homes

Principal Employers:

University of Georgia	10,665
Clarke County School District	2,418
St. Mary's Health Care System	2,090
Caterpillar	1,700
Athens-Clarke County Government	1,665
Pilgrim's	1,673

Annual Budget Development Process

The Annual Operating and Capital Budget is the financial plan for raising revenues and expending funds for the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County (ACCGOV) departments, Appointed Officials, and Constitutional Officials (hereafter referred to as Departments).

The Annual Operating and Capital Budget process begins about nine months prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. Departments, Appointed Officials and Constitutional Officials submit operating and capital budget requests for Manager and Mayor review. No later than the end of April, the Mayor must submit a recommended budget to the Commission for review. The Commission will review the Mayor's recommended budget and make any adjustments they feel are necessary prior to adopting it in June. Major steps in the annual budget development process include:

- November Mayor & Commission establish budget goals.
- November Departments submit capital project requests and updates to five year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
- January Departments submit operating budget requests.
- February Mayor & Commission review budget requests from independent agencies.
- February - Manager and Mayor meet with Departments
March to review budget requests.
- April Mayor sends recommended budget to Commission.
- May Commission reviews Mayor Recommended Budget.
- June Commission adopts budgets for next fiscal year and establishes the property tax millage rate.
- July Budget for next fiscal year begins on July 1.

FY19 Significant Budget Issues

- This Budget includes a total of 1,673 full-time authorized positions, which is an increase of seven full-time authorized positions compared to the current level. The authorized level of full-time positions will remain below 14 per thousand of ACC population, as it has since 1991. These additional positions include:
 - E911 Dispatcher in the Police Department
 - Landscape Groundskeeper in Central Services
 - Transportation System Tech. in Transportation and Public Works
 - Safety & Training Coordinator in Transit
 - Education & Outreach Coordinator in Transit
 - Program Education Specialist for litter abatement in Solid Waste
 - Records Technician in Building Inspection
- The FY19 Budget continues to plan for and support SPLOST funded facilities. It includes one full-time position for Greenway maintenance for the last six months of FY19, in addition to full funding for the partial year budget approved for FY18 for maintenance and support of the expanded Greenway (\$172,900). Also, this budget includes \$20,000 for additional maintenance support for the newly expanded Airport Commercial Terminal and \$5,000 in the Office of Sustainability for maintenance of recently acquired undeveloped greenspace.
- The Budget includes approximately \$400,000 for annual funding for the Police Residency Program for sworn police officers who live within the county. This amount funds an increase to the monthly residency allowance from \$200/month to \$300/month, and maintains the one-time relocation payment of up to \$1,000. This is an increase of \$250,000 over the FY18 Budget for this program.
- This Budget also includes \$135,000 for a new Affordable Housing Fund using the annual Payment in Lieu of Taxes received from the Athens Housing Authority. This revenue source will be used to

fund a study to review housing community redevelopment options (\$30,000), a full-time Records Technician position in Community Protection (9 months, \$39,000), freeing up time for Code Enforcement Officers to inspect multi-family developments, and other programs as directed by the Mayor and Commission.

- The FY19 Budget includes funding in support of the Mayor and Commission Goal to attract, retain, and reward talented employees. Across all funds, the Budget includes a funding increase of \$3.9 million (\$2.95 million in the General Fund). This funding will provide employees with a 1% pay increase and a one-time payment of \$200 to help offset the increased cost of health insurance. In addition, the funding will provide for full implementation of the pay study recommendations in January 2019. This pay study was approved as part of the FY17 Budget.
- The budget includes an increase in both the employee and employer contribution to the Employee Health Insurance program. These increases are needed to keep pace with the current cost and utilization of ACCGOV's health insurance programs. In addition, this Budget includes a \$25 increase to the monthly pension payment for current retirees at a cost of approximately \$300,000. This is the first increase since a \$50/month increase in FY15. Under the current plan, pensioners do not receive annual cost of living adjustments.

Structure of Budgets

The ACCGOV Budget is split into a number of funds or separate units for tracking the revenue and expenditure of specific activities. For example, some activities are required by law to be accounted for in a separate fund (e.g. Hotel/Motel Tax Fund and Emergency Telephone (E911) Fund), while other funds have been established by management to track specific activities (e.g. Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund and Landfill Enterprise Fund). A listing of revenues and expense budgets by fund can be found on pages **8** and **9**.

The General Fund is the largest fund and accounts for over half of government-wide revenues and expenditures. The General Fund budget supports the major portion of basic governmental services such as police, fire, judicial, planning, public works, leisure services, etc. These services are primarily supported from tax revenues such as the property tax and the sales tax. The FY19 General Fund operating budget totals \$130.8 million, and the General Fund Budget for capital projects is \$3.5 million for a total of \$134.3 million. A listing of budgeted revenues and expenditures by department in the General Fund can be found on pages **10** and **11**.

Special Revenue Funds are established to account for specific revenue sources that are legally restricted such as designated taxes, grants or other restricted revenue sources. Funds included in this group are the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Hotel/Motel Excise Tax, Building Inspection, the Grants Fund and others. Budgets for Special Revenue Funds in FY19 total \$12.8 million.

Capital Project Funds account for financial resources used for the acquisition, construction and significant maintenance expenditures for major capital facilities and equipment (other than those financed by enterprise funds). Budgets for the capital project funds in FY19 total \$4.4 million. (Note: Budgets for the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax- (SPLOST) and Transportation SPLOST (TSPLOST)- are

established with referendum approval and are therefore not included with adoption of the annual budget).

Enterprise Funds are used to account for operations that are similar to a private business or the governing body has identified a need to account for an operation in this manner. Funds in this group include the Water & Sewer operation, the Solid Waste Collection operation, the Landfill, the Airport, the Transit System (The Bus), and the Stormwater Utility Program. Enterprise fund budgets in FY19 total \$97.1 million.

Internal Service Funds are used to account for the operations of departments that provide goods and services to other government departments or agencies on a cost reimbursement basis. These include items such as vehicle maintenance, self-funded insurance programs, employee health insurance, and a vehicle replacement program. The budgets for internal service funds in FY19 total \$26.7 million.

SUMMARY FY19 BUDGET ALL FUNDS

	FY18 BUDGET	FY19 BUDGET	% INC/ (DEC)	% OF TOTAL
REVENUES:				
PROPERTY TAXES	\$55,260,000	\$59,926,533	8.4%	21.7%
SALES TAX	\$22,400,000	\$23,700,000	5.8%	8.6%
OTHER TAXES	\$26,315,000	\$25,728,889	-2.2%	9.3%
LICENSES & PERMITS	\$2,690,100	\$2,759,454	2.6%	1.0%
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES	\$6,374,139	\$7,078,599	11.1%	2.6%
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$107,821,069	\$110,283,500	2.3%	40.0%
FINES & FORFEITURES	\$3,803,200	\$4,342,470	14.2%	1.6%
OTHER REVENUES	\$1,215,990	\$1,536,483	26.4%	0.6%
TRANSFERS IN FROM OTHER FUNDS	<u>\$12,384,584</u>	<u>\$10,563,944</u>	-14.7%	3.8%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$238,264,082	\$245,919,872	3.2%	89.2%
USE FUND BALANCE	\$7,710,184	\$5,301,468	-31.2%	1.9%
USE OF NET ASSETS BALANCE	<u>\$23,256,659</u>	<u>\$24,510,085</u>	5.4%	8.9%
SUB-TOTAL REVENUE & OTHER SOURCES	\$269,230,925	\$275,731,425	2.4%	100.0%
LESS INTERFUND TRANSFERS (1)	<u>(\$33,781,678)</u>	<u>(\$33,128,904)</u>	-1.9%	
TOTAL REVENUE & OTHER SOURCES	<u>\$235,449,247</u>	<u>\$242,602,521</u>	7.7%	
			%	%
	FY18 BUDGET	FY19 BUDGET	INC/ (DEC)	OF TOTAL
EXPENDITURES (BY FUND):				
GENERAL FUND	\$130,435,854	\$134,294,822	3.0%	48.7%
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS:				
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM (E911)	\$2,715,806	\$2,871,258	5.7%	1.0%
HOTEL/MOTEL TAX FUND	\$3,098,210	\$3,534,840	14.1%	1.3%
SPECIAL PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES FUND	\$2,389,175	\$2,093,001	-12.4%	0.8%
COMMUNITY DEV. BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)	\$1,232,503	\$1,187,911	-3.6%	0.4%
GRANTS FUND	\$899,514	\$911,206	1.3%	0.3%
BUILDING INSPECTION FUND	\$990,768	\$981,883	-0.9%	0.4%
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING GRANT FUND	\$322,943	\$322,943	0.0%	0.1%
HUD HOME GRANT FUND	\$396,331	\$401,105	1.2%	0.1%
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PRGM	\$202,420	\$208,706	3.1%	0.1%
SHERIFF INMATE FUND	\$70,000	\$70,000	0.0%	0.0%
AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND		\$135,000		
CORRECTIONS INMATE FUND	<u>\$15,000</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>	233.3%	0.0%
SUB-TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$12,332,670	\$12,767,853	3.5%	4.6%
CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS:				
GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	\$5,660,600	\$3,649,200	-35.5%	1.3%
PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY FUND	\$536,277	\$533,036	-0.6%	0.2%
ECON. DEV. CAPITAL PROJECT FUND	<u>\$225,000</u>	<u>\$225,000</u>	0.0%	0.1%
SUB-TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS	\$6,421,877	\$4,407,236	-31.4%	1.6%

SUMMARY FY19 BUDGET ALL FUNDS

	<u>FY18 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY19 BUDGET</u>	<u>% INC/ (DEC)</u>	<u>% OF TOTAL</u>
<u>ENTERPRISE FUNDS:</u>				
WATER & SEWER FUND	\$65,741,308	\$73,383,961	11.6%	26.6%
TRANSIT FUND (less depreciation)	\$6,448,710	\$6,655,947	3.2%	2.4%
STORMWATER UTILITY FUND	\$6,538,860	\$5,264,660	-19.5%	1.9%
LANDFILL FUND	\$7,939,423	\$4,552,906	-42.7%	1.7%
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FUND	\$4,347,447	\$4,440,189	2.1%	1.6%
AIRPORT FUND	<u>\$2,891,929</u>	<u>\$2,803,087</u>	-3.1%	1.0%
SUB-TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS	\$93,907,677	\$97,100,750	3.4%	35.2%
<u>INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS:</u>				
SELF FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE FUND	\$15,287,686	\$16,141,507	5.6%	5.9%
FLEET MANAGEMENT FUND	\$2,516,150	\$2,578,990	2.5%	0.9%
SELF FUNDED INSURANCE & CLAIMS FUND	\$3,174,159	\$3,206,918	1.0%	1.2%
INTERNAL SUPPORT FUND	\$2,007,585	\$1,914,760	-4.6%	0.7%
FLEET REPLACEMENT FUND	<u>\$2,570,000</u>	<u>\$2,880,800</u>	12.1%	1.0%
SUB-TOTAL INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS	\$25,555,580	\$26,722,975	4.6%	9.7%
SUB-TOTAL EXPENDITURES ALL FUNDS	\$268,653,658	\$275,293,636	2.5%	100.0%
LESS INTERFUND TRANSFERS (1)	<u>(\$33,781,678)</u>	<u>(\$33,128,904)</u>	-0.2%	
TOTAL OPERATING & CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$234,871,980	\$242,164,732	7.5%	
DESIGNATED FOR FUTURE CAPITAL & DEBT SERVICE REQUIREMENTS (2)	\$577,267	\$437,789	259.4%	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & DESIGNATIONS	<u>\$235,449,247</u>	<u>\$242,602,521</u>	7.7%	

NOTES: (1) - Interfund Transfers represent charges and transfers between ACCUG funds. The amount of these inter-fund charges and transfers are subtracted from the revenue and expenditure totals to avoid "double counting".

(2) - For comparison purposes, Transit depreciation expense was not included in the numbers above.

**SUMMARY FY19 BUDGET
GENERAL FUND**

	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>INC/</u>	<u>OF</u>
			<u>(DEC)</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
REVENUES:				
PROPERTY TAXES	\$55,260,000	\$59,926,533	8.4%	44.6%
SALES TAX	\$22,400,000	\$23,700,000	5.8%	17.6%
OTHER TAXES	\$23,215,000	\$22,328,889	-3.8%	16.6%
LICENSES PERMITS	\$1,715,100	\$1,759,454	2.6%	1.3%
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES	\$987,000	\$1,189,663	20.5%	0.9%
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$13,088,125	\$13,071,260	-0.1%	9.7%
FINES & FORFEITURES	\$3,020,000	\$3,389,770	12.2%	2.5%
OTHER REVENUES	\$793,174	\$1,086,123	36.9%	0.8%
TRANSFERS IN FROM OTHER FUNDS	\$3,026,855	\$3,520,086	16.3%	2.6%
USE OF FUND BALANCE				
OPERATING	\$850,000	\$871,444	2.5%	0.6%
CAPITAL	\$6,080,600	\$3,451,600	-43.2%	2.6%
TOTAL REVENUE & OTHER SOURCES	<u>\$130,435,854</u>	<u>\$134,294,822</u>	3.0%	100.0%

EXPENDITURES (BY DEPARTMENT):

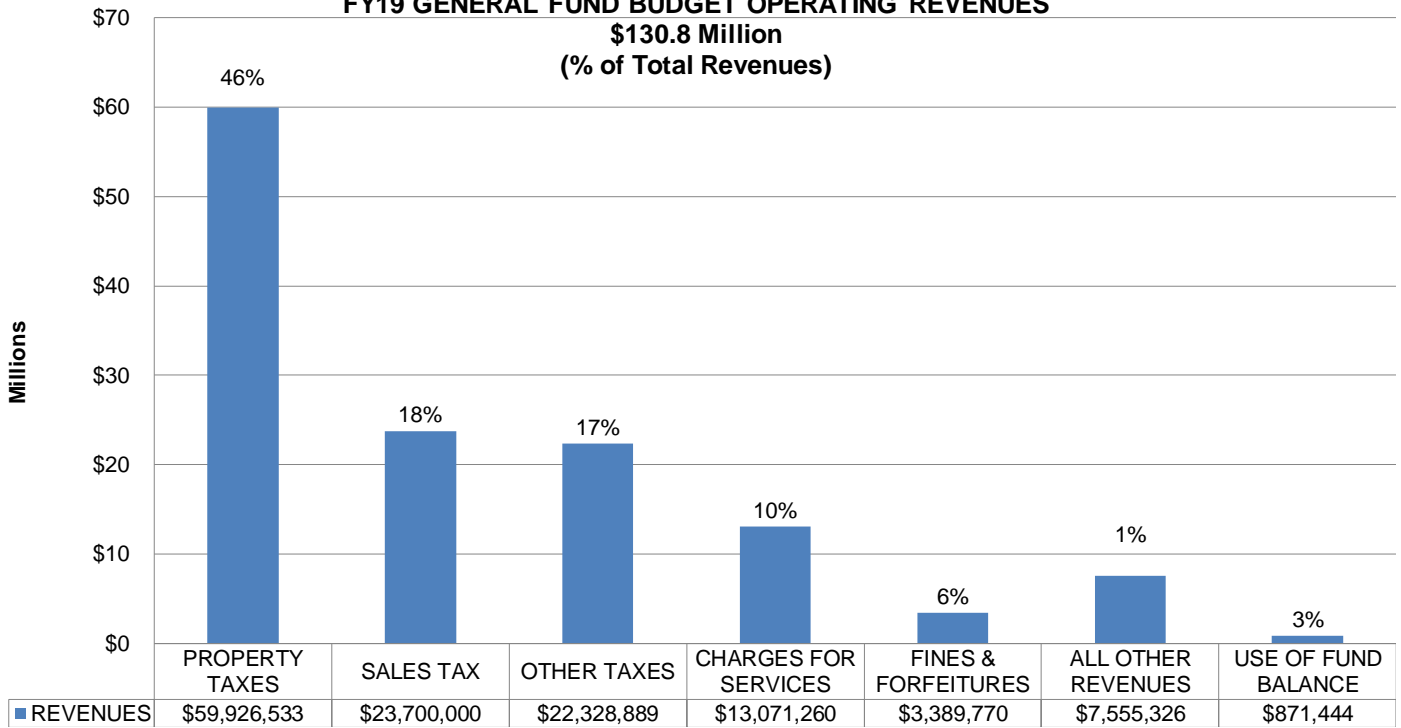
MAYOR AND COMMISSION	\$588,101	\$631,023	7.3%	0.5%
MANAGER	\$1,819,816	\$1,878,806	3.2%	1.4%
ATTORNEY	\$686,080	\$689,171	0.5%	0.5%
OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS	\$239,061	\$280,691	17.4%	0.2%
FINANCE	\$2,192,231	\$2,230,518	1.7%	1.7%
HUMAN RESOURCES	\$1,408,580	\$1,444,040	2.5%	1.1%
TAX COMMISSIONER	\$1,503,306	\$1,534,680	2.1%	1.1%
BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS	\$1,115,938	\$1,117,454	0.1%	0.8%
BOARD OF ELECTIONS	\$547,137	\$594,081	8.6%	0.4%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	\$3,158,182	\$3,401,131	7.7%	2.5%
OTHER GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	<u>\$8,355,455</u>	<u>\$11,467,819</u>	37.2%	8.5%
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$21,613,887	\$25,269,414	16.9%	18.8%
 SUPERIOR COURTS	 \$3,212,551	 \$3,037,521	 -5.4%	 2.3%
CLERK OF COURTS	\$1,259,632	\$1,479,608	17.5%	1.1%
STATE COURT	\$828,240	\$794,478	-4.1%	0.6%
SOLICITOR GENERAL	\$1,158,809	\$1,251,875	8.0%	0.9%
DISTRICT ATTORNEY	\$1,292,749	\$1,315,134	1.7%	1.0%
SHERIFF	\$17,226,259	\$17,618,653	2.3%	13.1%
JUVENILE COURT	\$581,963	\$652,381	12.1%	0.5%
MAGISTRATE'S COURT	\$806,323	\$863,907	7.1%	0.6%
CORONER	\$47,588	\$48,949	2.9%	0.0%
PROBATE COURT	\$507,126	\$514,605	1.5%	0.4%
MUNICIPAL COURT	<u>\$650,415</u>	<u>\$653,184</u>	0.4%	0.5%
TOTAL JUDICIAL	\$27,571,655	\$28,230,295	2.4%	21.0%

**SUMMARY FY19 BUDGET
GENERAL FUND**

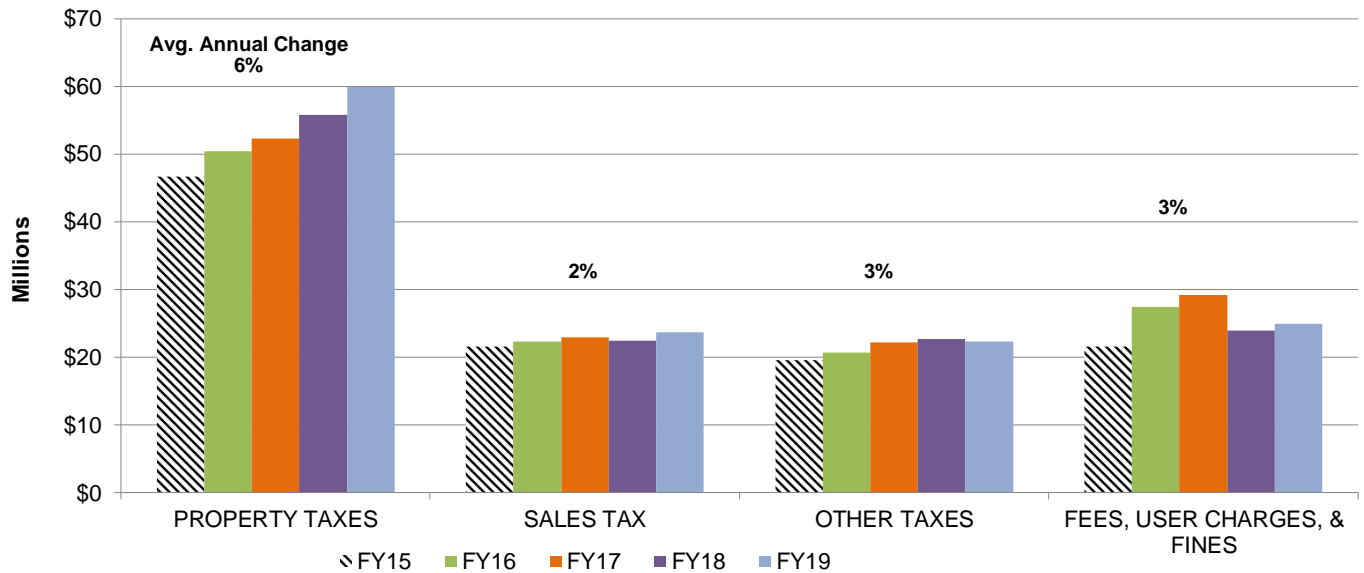
EXPENDITURES (BY DEPARTMENT):	<u>FY18 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY19 BUDGET</u>	<u>% INC/ (DEC)</u>	<u>% OF TOTAL</u>
POLICE SERVICES	\$21,869,627	\$22,688,986	3.7%	16.9%
FIRE SERVICES	\$13,983,289	\$14,230,712	1.8%	10.6%
CORRECTIONS	<u>\$3,563,531</u>	<u>\$3,745,928</u>	5.1%	2.8%
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	\$39,416,447	\$40,665,626	3.2%	30.3%
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS	\$4,304,795	\$4,408,739	2.4%	3.3%
SOLID WASTE	\$1,009,777	\$944,371	-6.5%	0.7%
CENTRAL SERVICES	<u>\$9,944,754</u>	<u>\$10,239,634</u>	3.0%	7.6%
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	\$15,259,326	\$15,592,744	2.2%	11.6%
LEISURE SERVICES	<u>\$7,794,126</u>	<u>\$7,902,488</u>	1.4%	5.9%
TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	\$7,794,126	\$7,902,488	1.4%	6.0%
HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	\$446,573	\$482,500	8.0%	0.4%
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$499,007	\$486,315	-2.5%	0.4%
PLANNING & ZONING	\$1,215,895	\$1,176,779	-3.2%	0.9%
BUILDING INSPECTION (Cmty Protection Div)	\$822,675	\$824,519	0.2%	0.6%
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE	<u>\$197,485</u>	<u>\$205,444</u>	4.0%	0.2%
TOTAL HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT	\$3,181,635	\$3,175,557	-0.2%	2.4%
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES	\$5,318,800	\$5,497,269	3.4%	4.1%
DEBT SERVICE	\$1,057,249	\$1,052,561	-0.4%	0.8%
TRANSFERS OUT TO OTHER FUNDS	\$3,642,129	\$3,457,268	-5.1%	2.6%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$124,855,254	\$130,843,222	4.8%	97.4%
CAPITAL FOR CURRENT SERVICES	\$4,622,600	\$3,190,000		3.5%
CAPITAL FOR ADDITIONS & IMPROVEMENT	<u>\$958,000</u>	<u>\$261,600</u>		0.7%
TOTAL CAPITAL	\$5,580,600	\$3,451,600	-38.2%	2.6%
TOTAL OPERATING & CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$130,435,854</u>	<u>\$134,294,822</u>	3.0%	100.0%
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>		

FY19 GENERAL FUND BUDGET OPERATING REVENUES

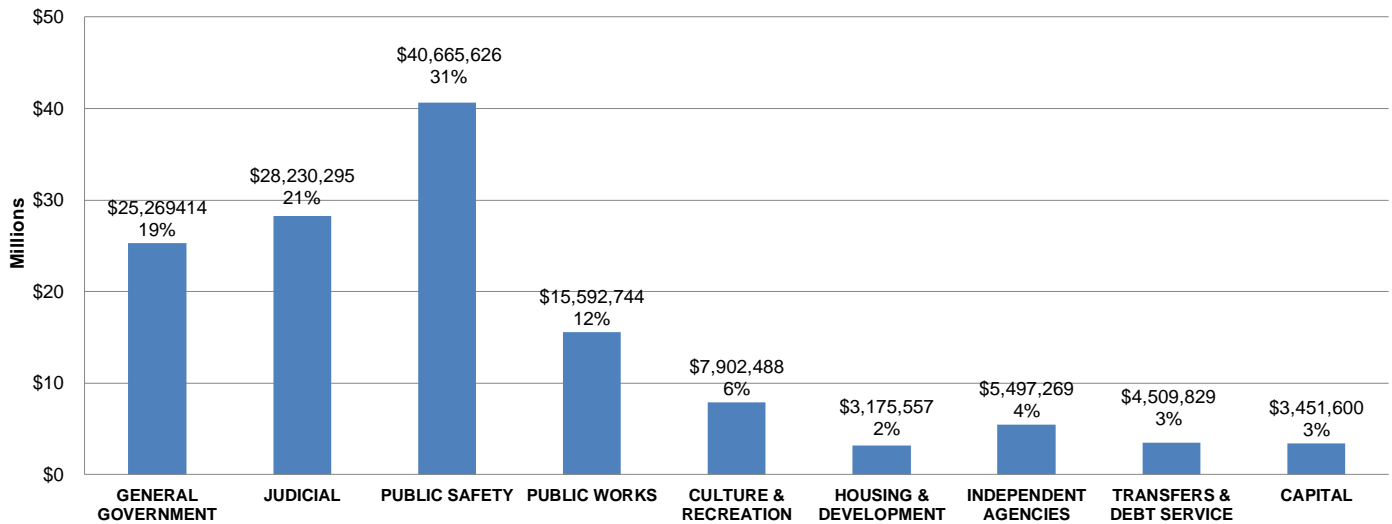
\$130.8 Million
(% of Total Revenues)



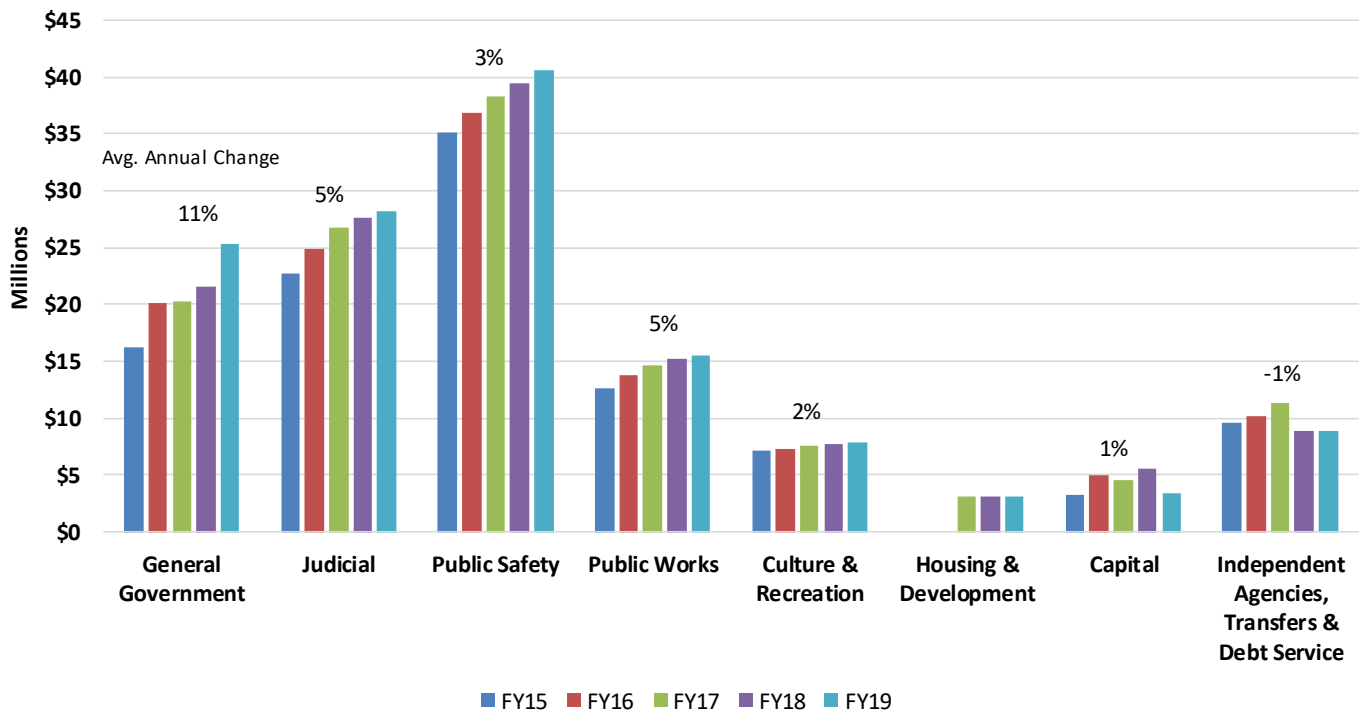
MAJOR REVENUES - GENERAL FUND BUDGET Five Year Trend (FY15 - FY19)



FY19 GENERAL FUND BUDGET EXPENDITURES
\$130.8 Million
(% of Total Expenditures)



Expenditures- General Fund Budget
Five Year Trend (FY15-FY19)



General Fund Revenues and Expenditures Per Capita

General Fund Revenues: Property taxes account for the largest source of revenue - 46% or \$472 per capita - in the General Fund. The \$0.01 Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) accounts for approximately one-fifth of General Fund revenues. All tax revenues - property, sales and other - account for about 81% of all General Fund revenues. On average, each ACC resident will pay \$1,057 for General Fund services in FY19.

Per Capita Revenue by Type		
	FY18	FY19
PROPERTY TAXES	\$442	\$472
SALES TAX	\$177	\$187
OTHER TAXES	\$179	\$176
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$104	\$103
FINES & FORFEITURES	\$24	\$27
ALL OTHER REVENUES	\$52	\$59
USE OF FUND BALANCE	\$55	\$34
Total	\$1,032	\$1,057

General Fund Expenditures: More than half of all General Fund dollars are expended in the areas of Public Safety (Police, Fire and the Correctional Institute) and Judicial services (Sheriff, Jail, Courts and prosecuting offices). ACCGOV expends approximately \$542 per capita for these services. Departments included in each functional area (Public Works, General Government, etc.) can be found on page 11 and 12.

Per Capita Expenditure by Function		
	FY18	FY19
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$312	\$320
JUDICIAL	\$218	\$222
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$171	\$199
PUBLIC WORKS	\$121	\$123
CULTURE & RECREATION	\$62	\$62
HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT	\$25	\$25
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES	\$42	\$43
CAPITAL	\$44	\$27
TRANSFERS & DEBT SERVICE	\$37	\$35
Total	\$1,032	\$1,057

Understanding Property Taxes

The property tax rate or millage rate is adopted annually for ACCGOV and the Clarke County School System. A tax rate of one mill is equal to a tax of \$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed property value. (Note: the assessed property value is equal to 40% of a property's fair market value). Taxes may be reduced further by certain exemptions such as the Homestead Exemption. In general, the property tax would be calculated as follows:

Fair Market Value X 40% = Assessed Value

Assessed Value – Exemptions = Taxable Value

Taxable Value X Tax Rate = Amount of Tax Bill

The millage rate for ACCGOV services for FY19 is 13.95 mills. The Clarke County School Board, which sets its millage rate separate from the ACCGOV, set a rate of 20.00 mills for FY19.

Property Tax Collections For Athens-Clarke County (Total Rate 33.95 mills)



Median Sales Price of an Existing Home (Owner Occupied):

\$149,000 (2017 – Tax Assessor)

Average Sales Price (Owner Occupied):

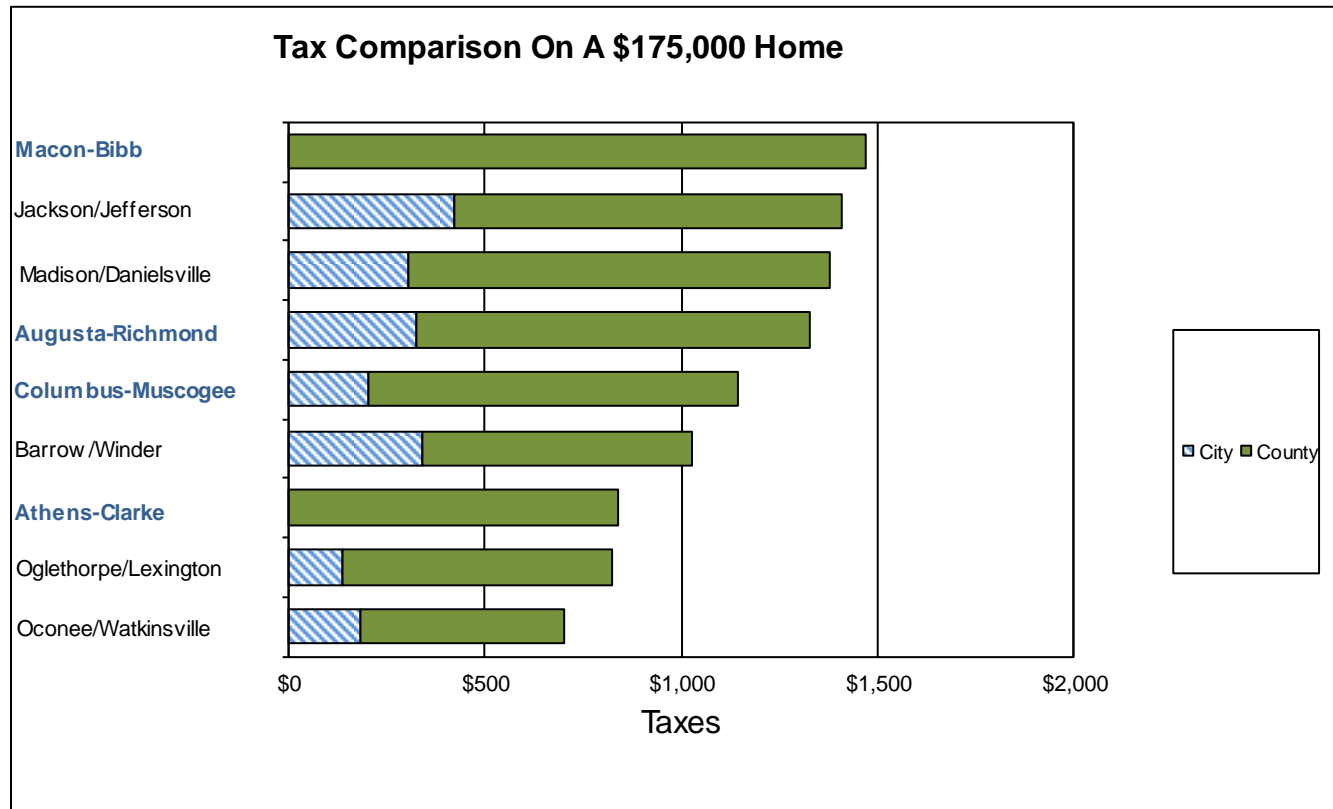
\$178,000 (2017- Tax Assessor)

Estimated Property Taxes for a \$175,000 home in 2017 (with Standard Homestead Exemption):

ACCGOV	\$ 837	41%
School	<u>\$ 1,200</u>	<u>59%</u>
Total	\$ 2,037	100%

Comparative Property Taxes for a \$175,000 Home

Using the prior year's property tax bill for comparison, the taxes on a \$175,000 home in Athens-Clarke County for government services (except schools) are lower than all but two of the surrounding or similar sized cities in the state.



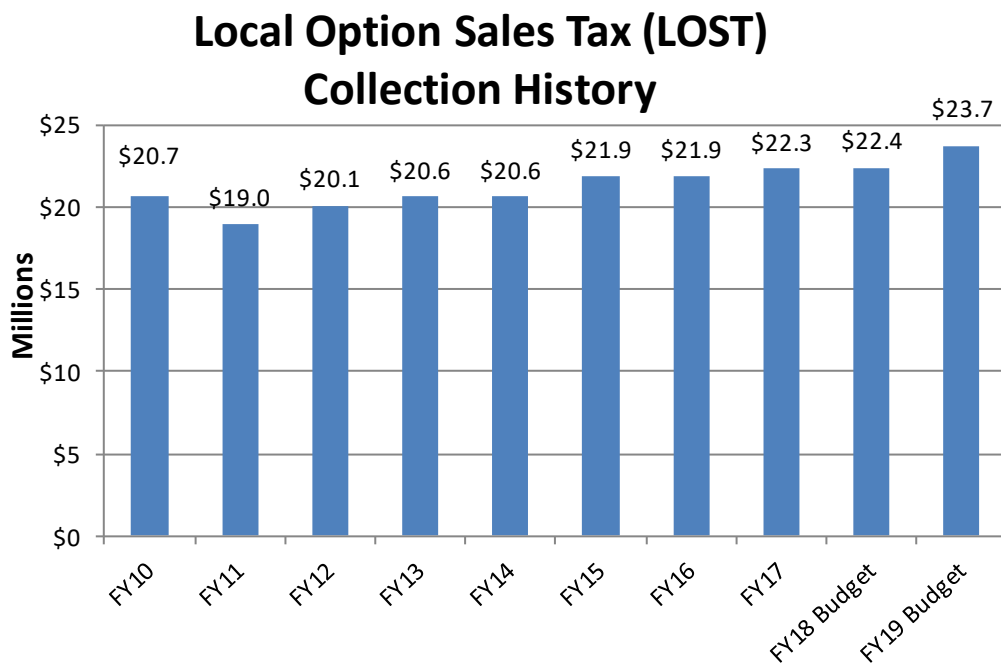
Unified Governments Shown in Blue.

Understanding Sales Taxes

The tax rate on retail sales in Clarke County is \$0.08 for every \$1.00 of sales. The \$0.08 sales tax is divided as follows:

\$0.04 State of Georgia
\$0.01 LOST (Local Option Sales Tax) ACCGOV General Fund
\$0.01 SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) Projects
\$0.01 TSPLOST (Transportation SPLOST) Projects
\$0.01 ELOST (Education Special Purpose LOST) Projects
\$0.08 Total Sales Tax

The LOST tax is the only sales tax revenue that goes into the Athens-Clarke County General Fund to fund ongoing operating expenditures. The SPLOST and TSPLOST revenues go to ACCGOV, Winterville, and Bogart and are accounted for separately and can only be used for capital projects approved by a voter referendum and not for operating expenses. The ELOST revenues go to the Clarke County School System and can only be used for school system capital projects approved by a voter referendum.



The current SPLOST (SPLOST 2011) was approved in November 2010 and collections of the tax began in April of 2011. The referendum funds a diverse list of 35 community improvement projects over nine years totaling \$195 million. The planning, design and construction of the SPLOST projects are reviewed and approved by the Mayor and Commission at regularly scheduled meetings.

The current TSPLOST (TSPLOST 2017) was approved in November 2017 and collections of the tax began in April of 2018. The referendum funds a diverse list of 19 transportation improvement projects. The planning, design and construction of the TSPLOST projects are reviewed and approved by the Mayor and Commission at regularly scheduled meetings.

The FY19 Capital Budget

A capital project is defined as an individual asset or project of at least \$30,000 and includes facilities, equipment, vehicles, infrastructure repairs and improvements. The FY19 Capital Budget for all funds totals \$37.9 million. In addition to the Capital Budget adopted each year, the Budget includes a five-year Capital Improvement Plan to guide and prepare for future capital improvements. Some of the major capital projects budgeted in FY19 include:

General Capital Projects Fund

Facilities Life Cycle Maintenance Program	\$1,700,000
Information Technology Equipment Replacement	\$290,000
Vehicles for COPS Grant Officers	\$201,000
Mobile Computing Replacement Program	\$170,000
All Other Projects	\$1,288,200
Subtotal:	<hr/> \$3,649,200

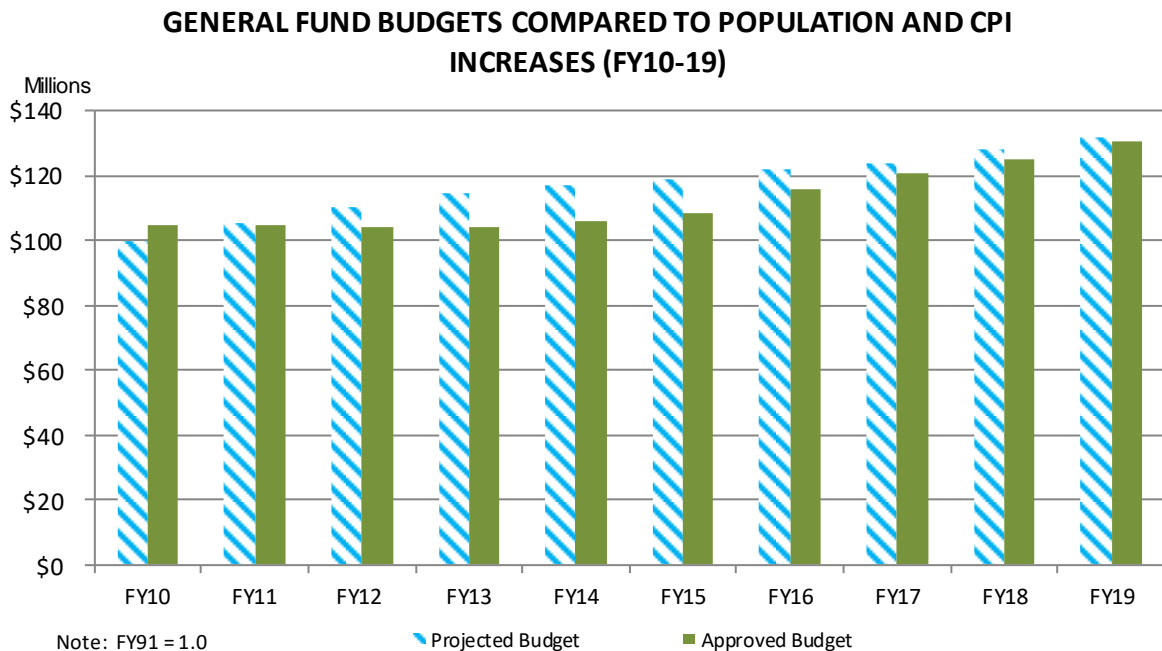
All Other Funds

Rehabilitate and Replace Sewers	\$14,000,000
Replace and Upgrade W&S Facilities and Equip.	\$5,400,000
Improve Water Supply Reliability	\$3,000,000

Fleet Replacement Program	\$2,790,800
Rehabilitate and Replace Water Lines	\$2,500,000
Stormwater Improvement Program	\$1,100,000
All Other Projects	\$5,470,400
Subtotal:	<u>\$34,261,200</u>
Total Capital Budget - All Funds	\$37,910,400

Budget History and Trends

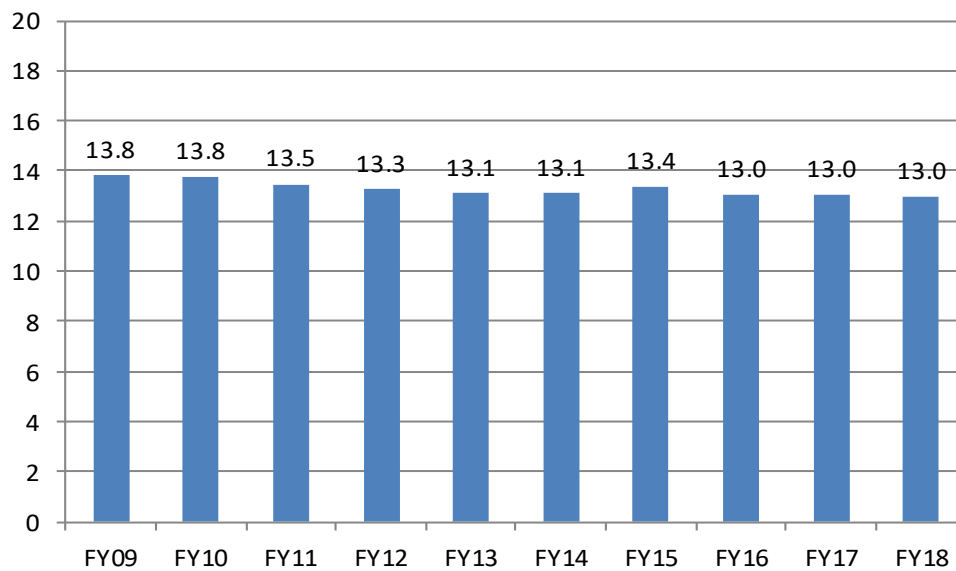
The FY19 General Fund Operating Budget is \$130.8 million, 4.8% higher than the FY18 Budget. Over the last seven budget years, the General Fund operating budget (Approved Budget) has grown at a rate lower than the combined annual increase of the CPI and population (Projected Budget) as shown in the graph below.



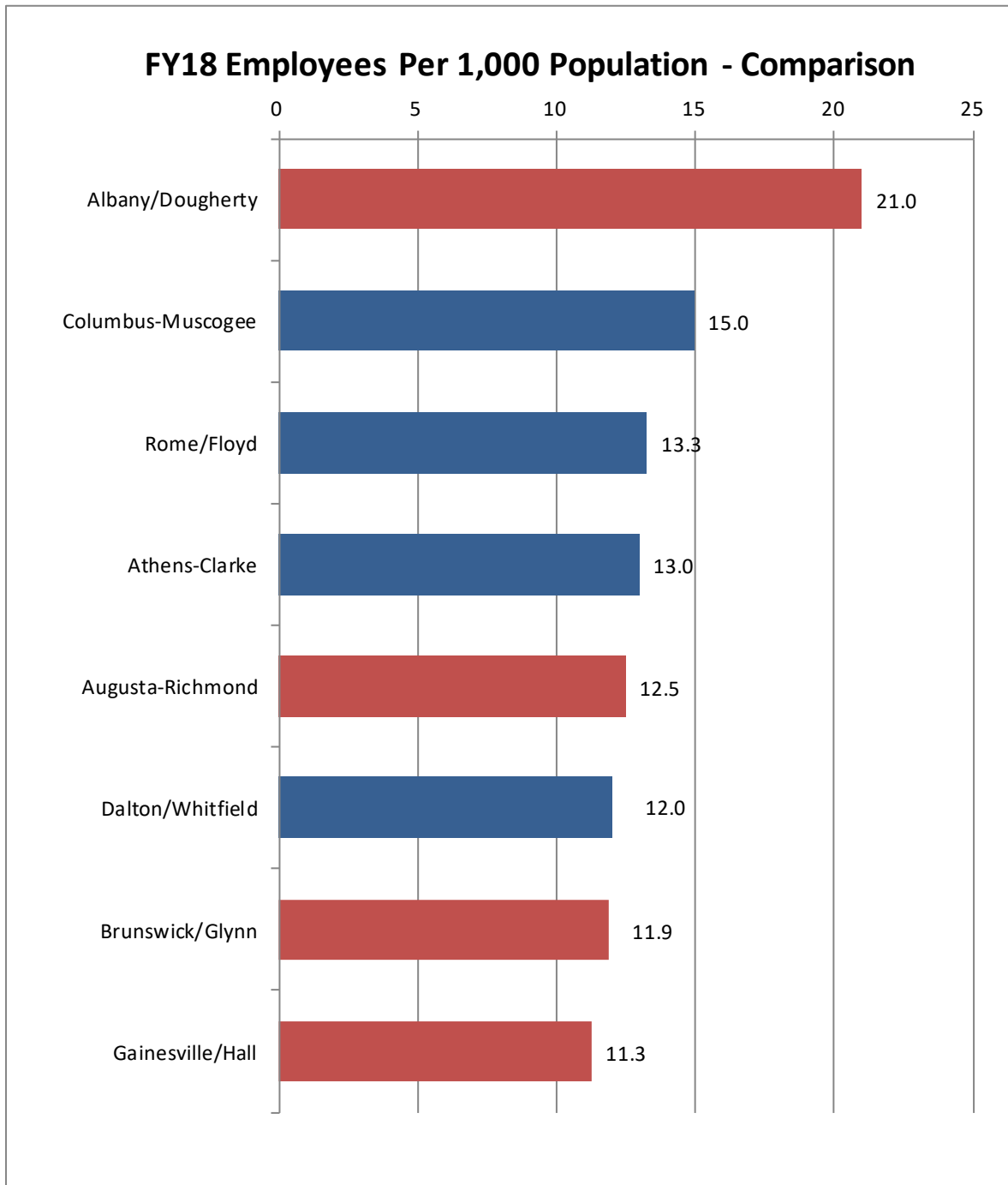
Full-time Employees: Trends and Comparisons

This Budget is based on 1,673 full-time authorized employee positions, an increase of 7 positions compared to the current level. ACCGOV continues to maintain the number of full-time employees per thousand residences below 14 for over 10 years.

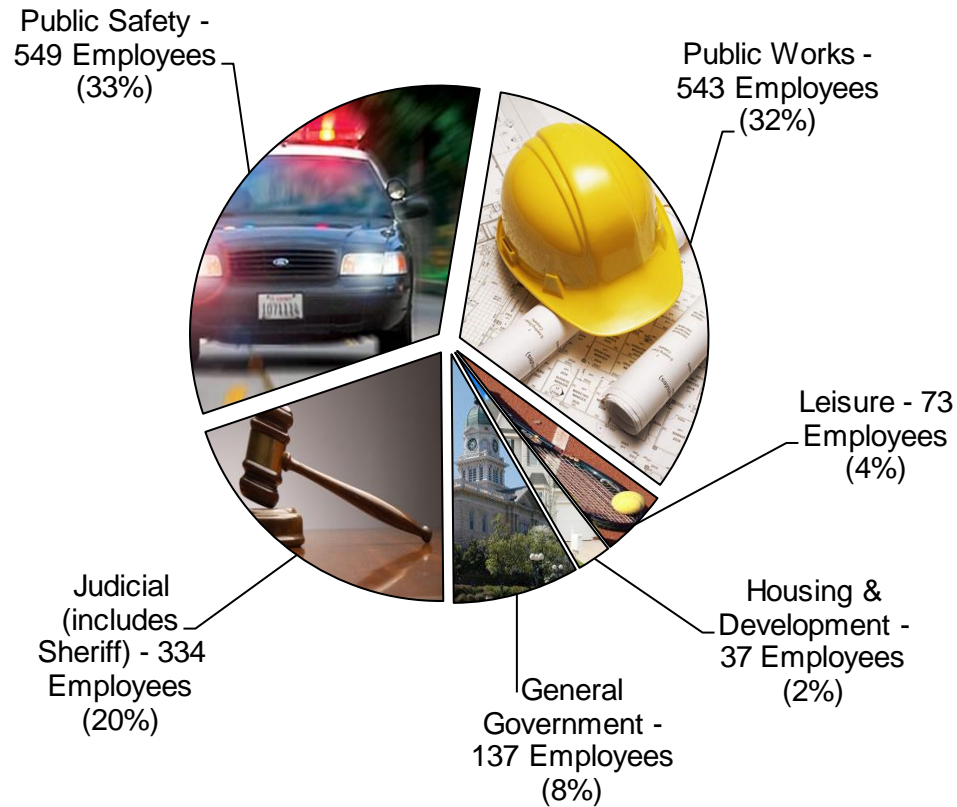
ACC FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS (FY09-FY18)



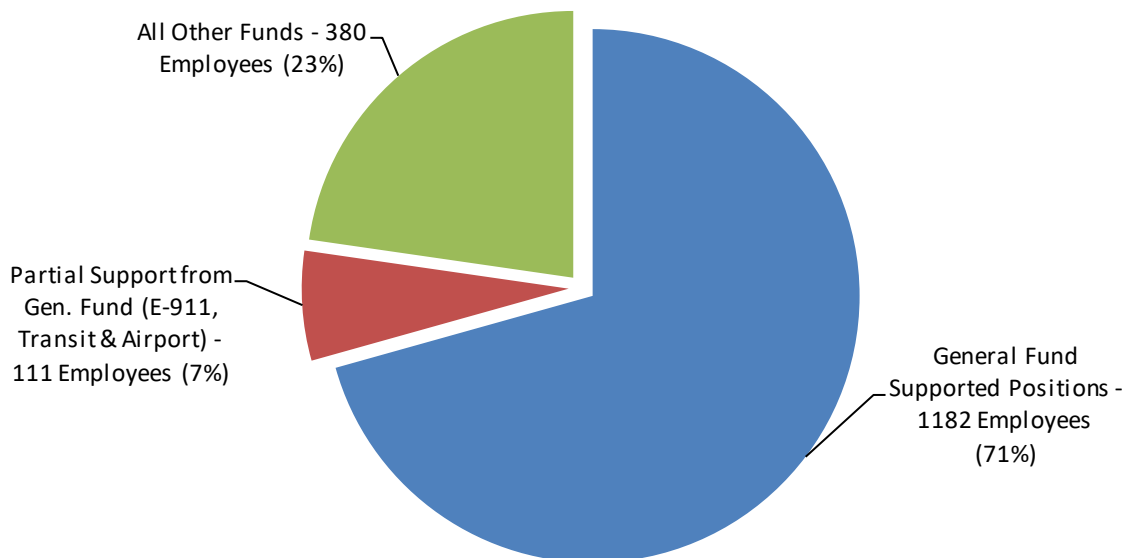
ACCGOV's 13.0 full-time employees per 1,000 of population is comparable to most similarly sized governments in Georgia, as shown on the graph below.



Full-Time Employees - By Function Total of 1,673



Full-Time Employees - By Funding Source Total of 1,673



FULL-TIME AUTHORIZED POSITIONS

<u>Department or Office</u>	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>Change From FY18 to FY19</u>
Airport	7	7	0
Attorney	6	6	0
Board of Elections	3	3	0
Building Inspections & Permits	23	24	1
Central Services	102	103	1
Clerk of Courts	21	21	0
Cooperative Extension	1	1	0
Corrections	43	43	0
District Attorney	28	28	0
Economic Development	4	4	0
Finance	28	28	0
Fire & Emergency Services	187	187	0
Housing & Economic Development	8	8	0
Human Resources	21	21	0
Information Technology	23	23	0
Juvenile Court	5	5	0
Leisure Services	73	73	0
Magistrate Court	11	11	0
Manager	5	5	0
Geographic Information Office	2	2	0
Organizational Development	3	3	0
Office of Substainablity	2	2	0
Public Information	3	3	0
SPLOST Management	3	3	0
Mayor and Commission	1	1	0
Clerk of Commission	2	2	0
Municipal Court	10	10	0
Operational Analysis	3	3	0
Planning	19	18	(1)
Police	318	319	1
Probate Court	6	6	0
Public Utilities	194	194	0
Sheriff	194	194	0
Solicitor General	18	18	0
Solid Waste	61	62	1
State Court	7	7	0
Superior Courts	34	34	0
Tax Assessor	13	13	0
Tax Commissioner	19	19	0
Transit	68	71	3
Transportation & Public Works	<u>87</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>1</u>
	1,666	1,673	7

Legal and Charter Requirements for the Annual Budget

There are several requirements under Georgia Law (O.C.G.A, Chapters 36-81) and the ACCGOV Charter (Chapter 7) that must be met:

- Budgets must be balanced so that projected expenditures do not exceed projected revenues and available fund balances.
- Budgets must be provided at least at the department level and be separated by fund.
- A separate operating and capital budget must be submitted and adopted.
- The Mayor's Recommended Budget must be submitted to the Commission at least 60 days prior to beginning of the fiscal year.
- At the time the Recommended Budget is provided to the Commission, it shall be made available for public review.
- Public hearings must be held to receive public input on the proposed budget at least one week prior to the budget being adopted.
- Public hearings must be held to receive public input if the proposed budget will include an increase in the property tax millage rate.

During the fiscal year, the Mayor and Commission may change the Budget as needed through the adoption of a budget ordinance identifying the change. Also, departments can transfer budget funds between line items within their department's budget to cover unanticipated expenses with approval of the Finance Director. However, the department's total budget or full-time authorized positions cannot increase without Mayor and Commission approval.

Mayor and Commission Strategic Commitments & Directions for FY19

Listed below are the Mayor and Commission's six Strategic Commitments. After each Strategic Commitment are the initiatives included or supported in the Budget. In addition, initiatives that are underlined came directly (or are related to) from the Mayor and Commission direction at their most recent annual retreat.

Economic Prosperity

- Conduct an Economic Development strategy and framework study
- Implement beautification and signage improvements on select corridors
- Continue to develop the Oconee and Upper Oconee River water trail network
- Develop a Commercial Airline incentives plan
- Implement selected strategies from the workforce housing needs assessment in conjunction with the GICH activities.
- Continue to work with the Revolving Loan Fund Committee in order to spend down the fund balance and support local businesses.
- Continue investment with AthensMade

Safe and Prepared Community

- Conduct an ACCPD employee morale study
- Implement the full year cost of the Police Residency Program
- Fund the Juvenile Court – Peer court program grant funding is expiring
- Fulfill the local government salary and equipment match for the new COPS grant program
- Increase staff at the E911 center by one position
- Begin to address several line items in the Police budget (i.e. overtime, wireless charges, camera storage, uniforms, and community outreach) to more accurately reflect the actual cost of these expenses.
- Continue to expand number of inmates participating in the Transition Center program within the Corrections Department.
- Fire Department to create a five year strategic plan

- Continuation of Corrections Officer position that had been previously grant funded by GDOT
- Various line item adjustments in the Fire Department to account for additional fuel, vehicle preventative maintenance and vehicle tire replacements based on current expense trends, as well as costs for emergency medical and hazmat training, standards & certifications.
- General fund support for the Victim Assistance programs in the Solicitor and DA's Offices due to declining 5% fine revenues.

Transportation and Mobility

- Conduct an Airport governance study
- Complete an Airport strategic operations plan
- Undertake a Streetlight Utility feasibility study
- Adds a Safety and Training Coordinator to the Transit Department to begin January 1st
- Adds a Transportation System Technician to T&PW (for the last three months of FY19)
- Complete and begin implementation of the Bike/Ped Master Plan
- Rehabilitate the primary airport runway and accounts for loss or revenue during the project

Informed and Engaged Citizens

- Create a quarterly citizen newsletter to be sent in conjunction with utility bills.
- Continue to set aside monies to participate in the National Citizen survey on a biannual basis.
- Funds for SPLOST 2020 planning process
- Complete the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force report.
- Departments offering lunch and learns, Facebook Live chats, and other outlets to meet with staff
- Act as lead partner in the implementation of Envision Athens

Healthy, Livable, and Sustainable Athens-Clarke County

- Funds to provide technical Assistance to complete the final GICH housing report

- Funds to work with community partners to further develop and study the concept for a large-scale housing redevelopment project
- Create a Special Revenue Fund to direct monies for Affordable Housing Programs
- Implement a part-time contract position for a Sustainability Energy Analyst
- Funds to maintain the recently acquired additional greenspace acreage
- Begin the Leisure Services Capital and Strategic Plan
- Complete the AMI meter installation
- Institute solid waste rate changes upon implementation of the rate study

Accountable and Responsive Government

- Install a VOIP telephone system
- Provide \$3.9 million across all Funds in pay adjustments to implement the compensation and pay study and meet prescribed obligations for Constitutional and Elected official pay increases
- Fund anticipated retiree health care and pension obligations
- Year 2 of 5 of funding to begin meeting the backlog and life cycle replacement schedule of the Fleet Replacement program
- Adequately fund medical expenses in the Jail per existing contract and to align with inmate medical expense trend data
- Implement CityWorks computerized maintenance management system in several departments
- Adequately fund additional elections that will likely occur in this fiscal year
- Central Services Greenway trail maintenance - fully funds FY18 partial year budget and includes one additional fulltime landscape groundskeeper position.
- Leisure Services Greenway management - fully funds FY18 partial year budget
- SPLOST impact funds for the Airport Commercial Terminal maintenance
- Examine options for a different retirement and hybrid pension programs

- Implement new Finance/Human Resources ERP software system to integrate these functions and streamline processes making such information more accessible across the organization.
- IT life-cycle replacement plan for end-user devices
- Facilities life-cycle replacement and repair plan for items such as roofs, HVAC, carpet, etc.

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