



# Whitfield County, Georgia

March 10, 2025



Board of  
Commissioners

# January 2025 Employee of the Month

## *Employee Of The Month*

**January 2025**

*This certificate is awarded to*

*Andrew Kite*

*Celebrating a month of excellence!*

*In recognition of your willingness to serve the  
citizens of*

**WHITFIELD COUNTY**



# Alcohol Beverage Public Hearing

**Request has been made for an alcohol beverage license  
by the following business:**

( 1) 2025 ALCOHOL APPLICATION

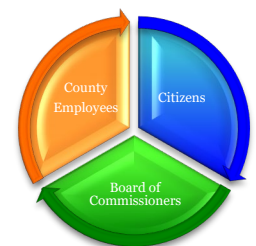
Business Owner: Reed Food Mart LLC d/b/a Reed Food Mart

Applicant: Dagny Lenoir Smith

Business Address: 2500 Reed Road, Dalton, GA

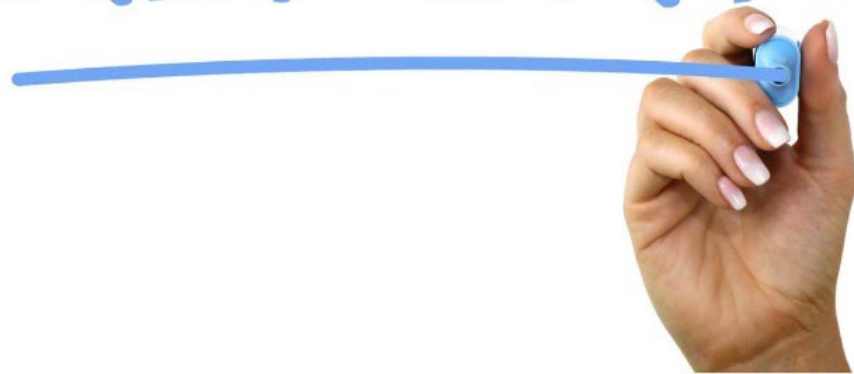
Disposition: Change in Ownership

Type: Package Beer



# Reports

REPORT



# Whitfield County Wins!

- Bob Sivick won City County Management Association's Program award on March 5 in Athens, GA.
- Second year in a row. Selected by peers in Georgia
- Fire Pathways Program



# Recent Events

- Fire Smoke Detector Program with Red Cross and Whitfield County Emergency Management and CERT volunteers.
- Checked 69 residents in the Cohutta area, installing 56 new smoke alarms.
- Thanks to Chick-Fil-A Dalton mall for donating lunch to team.



# Recent Events

- Whitfield County Animal Shelter – Saturday, March 8 was Free Pet Adoption Day
- First time event – 11 local adoptions in one day, 25% of animals in shelter.



# Compromise & Partnership

The perfect is the enemy of the good.

-Voltaire





# Reports

## **Commissioners:**

Commissioner Jones

Commissioner Thomas

Commissioner Staten

Commissioner Robbins

REPORT



# Reports

## Deputy County Administrator:

Shannon Whitfield

- Introduction

REPORT



# Reports





**Finance – Debbie Godfrey**

REPORT



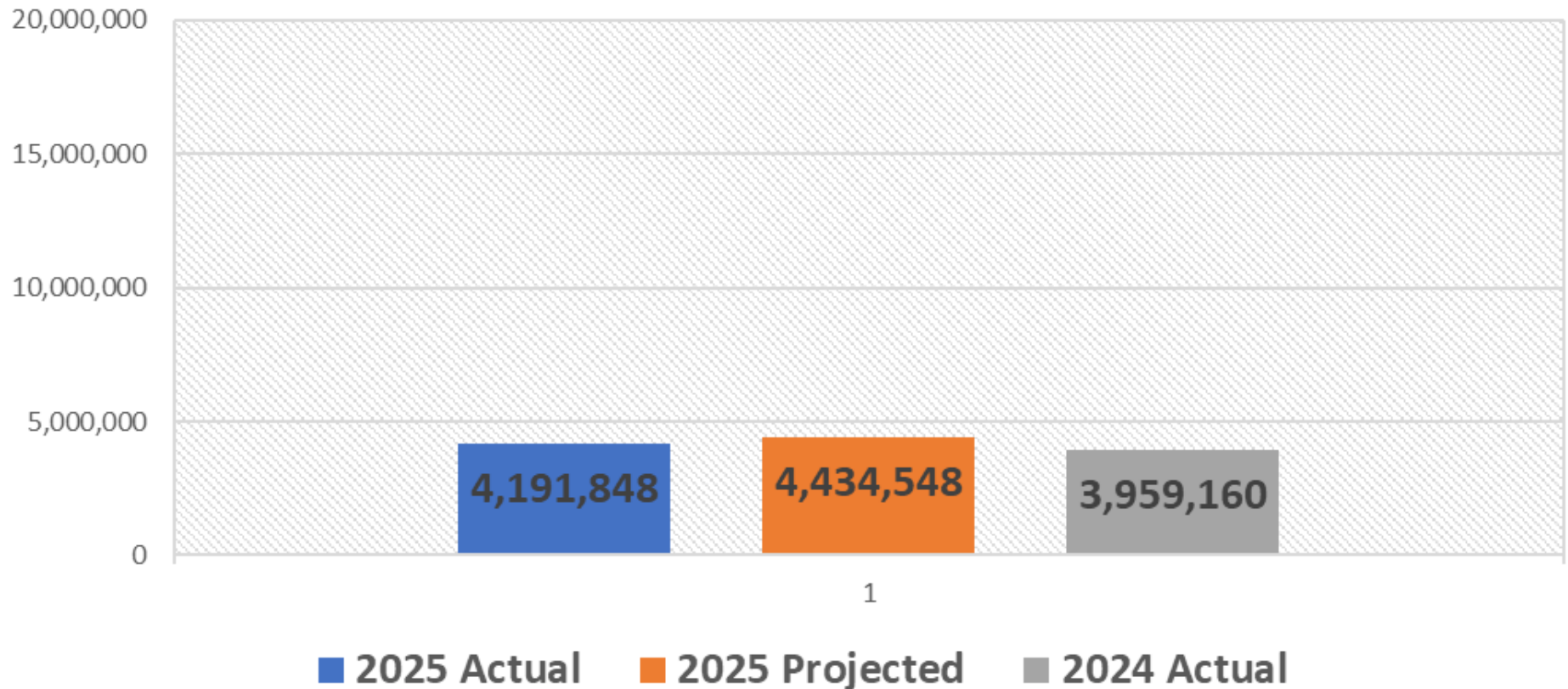
# Finance Report

## January 2025 YTD Detail

<b>LOST (Sales Tax)</b>	<b>\$1.2 Million YTD</b>	 <b>6.31%</b>
<b>TAVT (Vehicle Tax)</b>	<b>\$405 Thousand YTD</b>	 <b>5.91%</b>
<b>YTD Revenue</b>	<b>\$4.1 Million YTD</b>	 <b>5.47%</b>
<b>YTD Expenses</b>	<b>\$5 Million YTD</b>	 <b>2.64%</b>

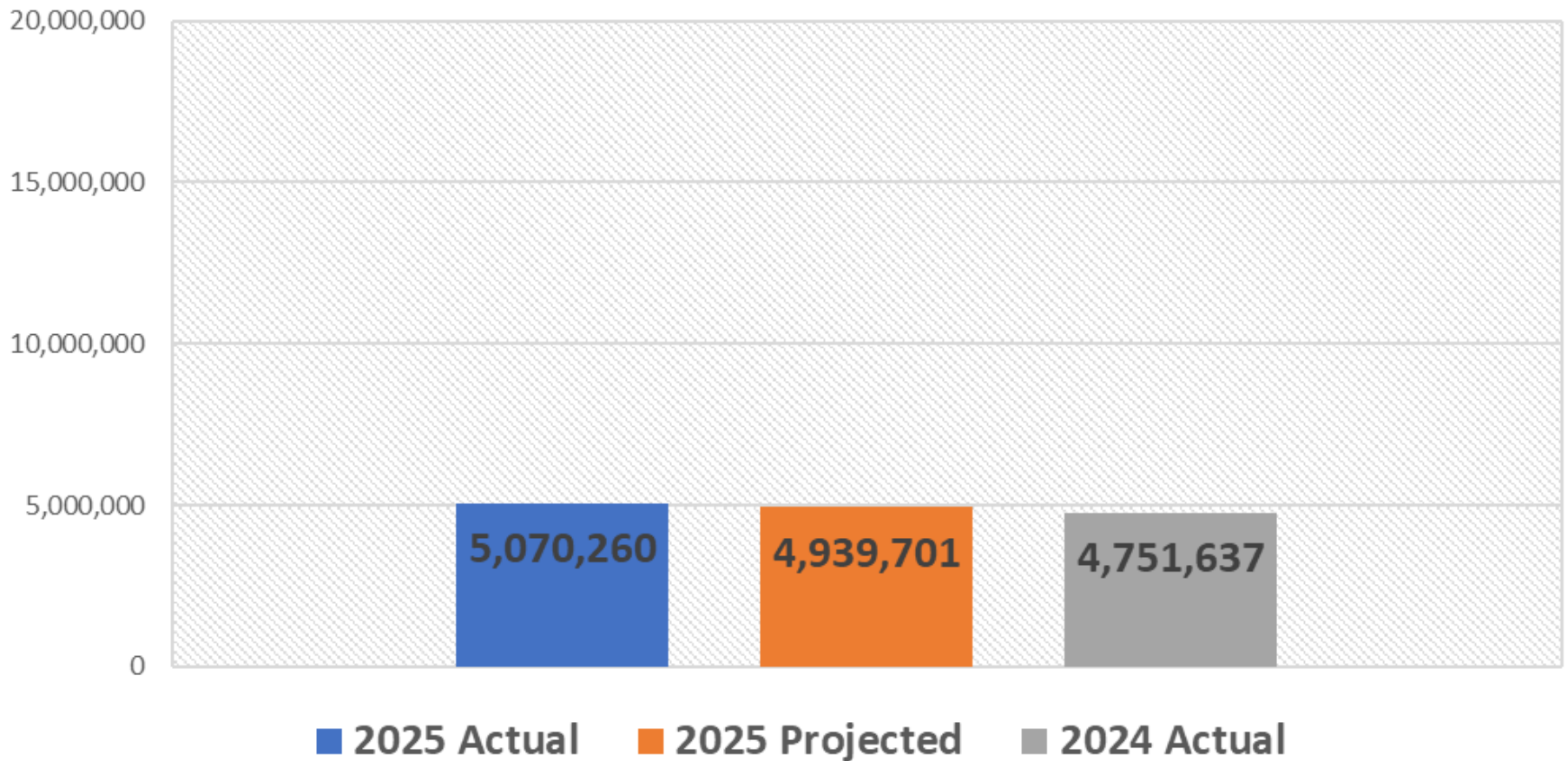
# Finance Report - Revenue

## Total Revenue YTD January 31



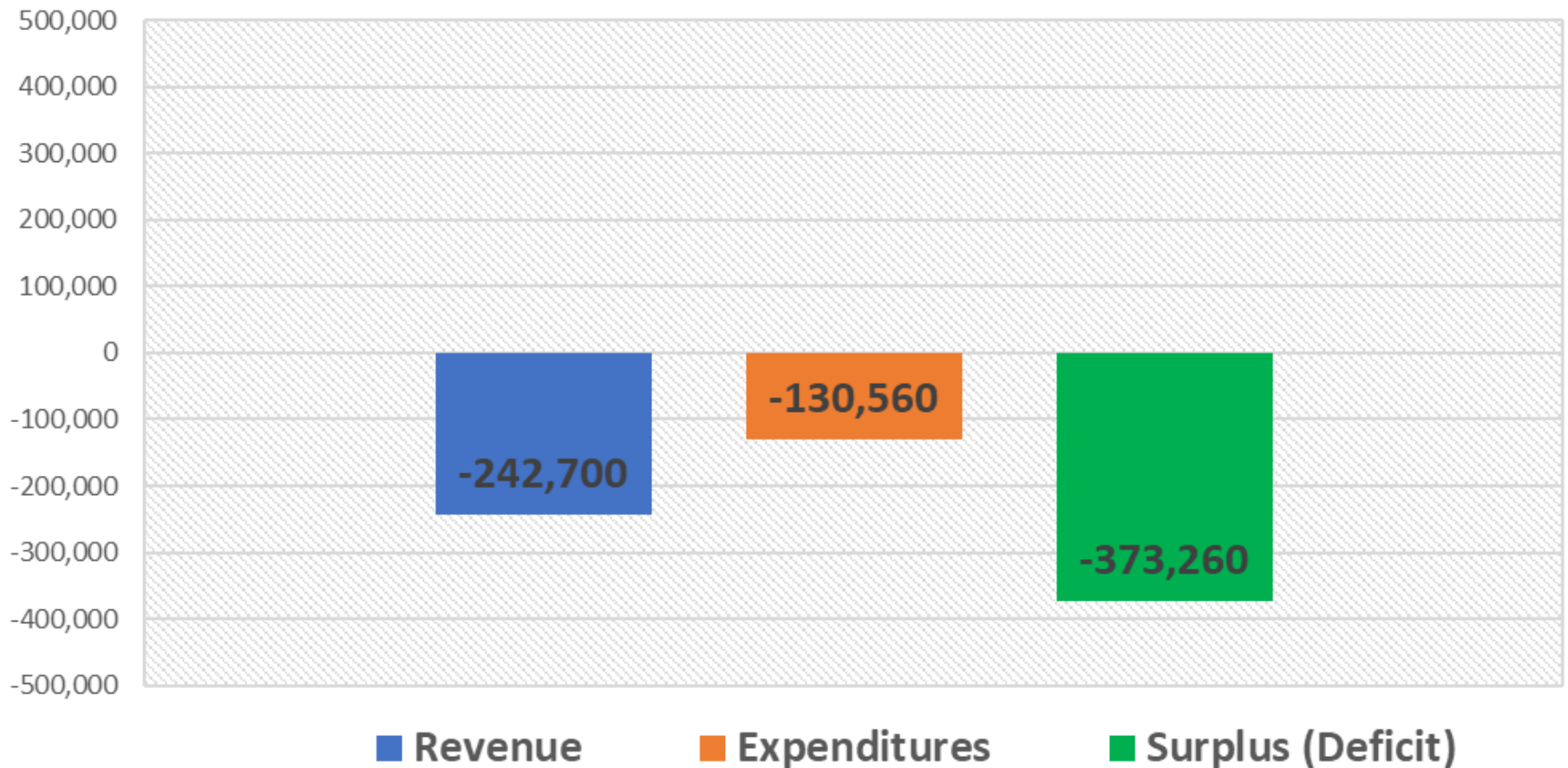
# Finance Report - Expenses

Total Expenditures YTD January 31



# Finance Report - Summary

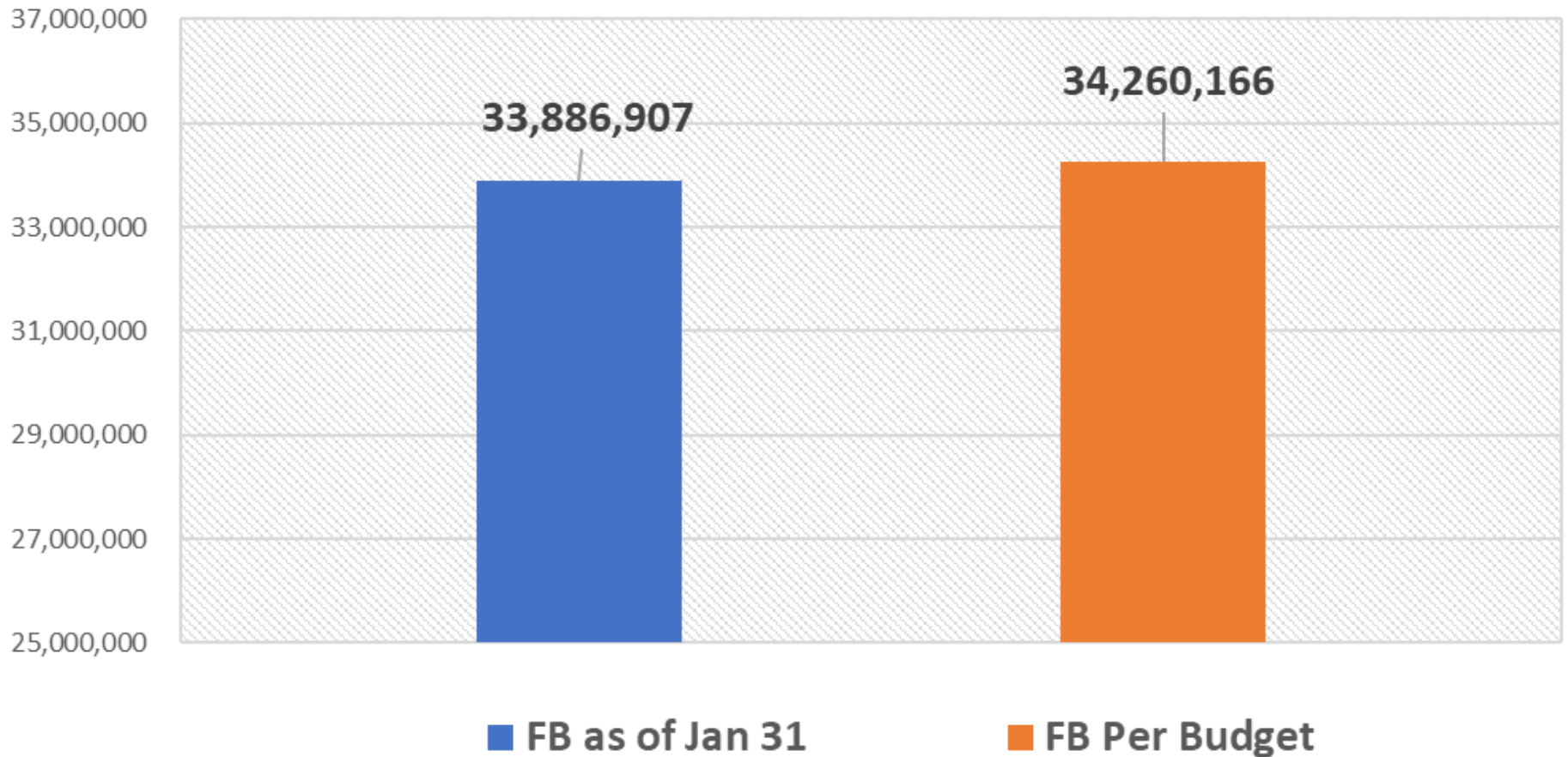
YTD vs Budget January 31



# Finance Report – Fund Balance Projected on Jan. 31, 2025

**Actual as of January  
31 is \$33.8 million**

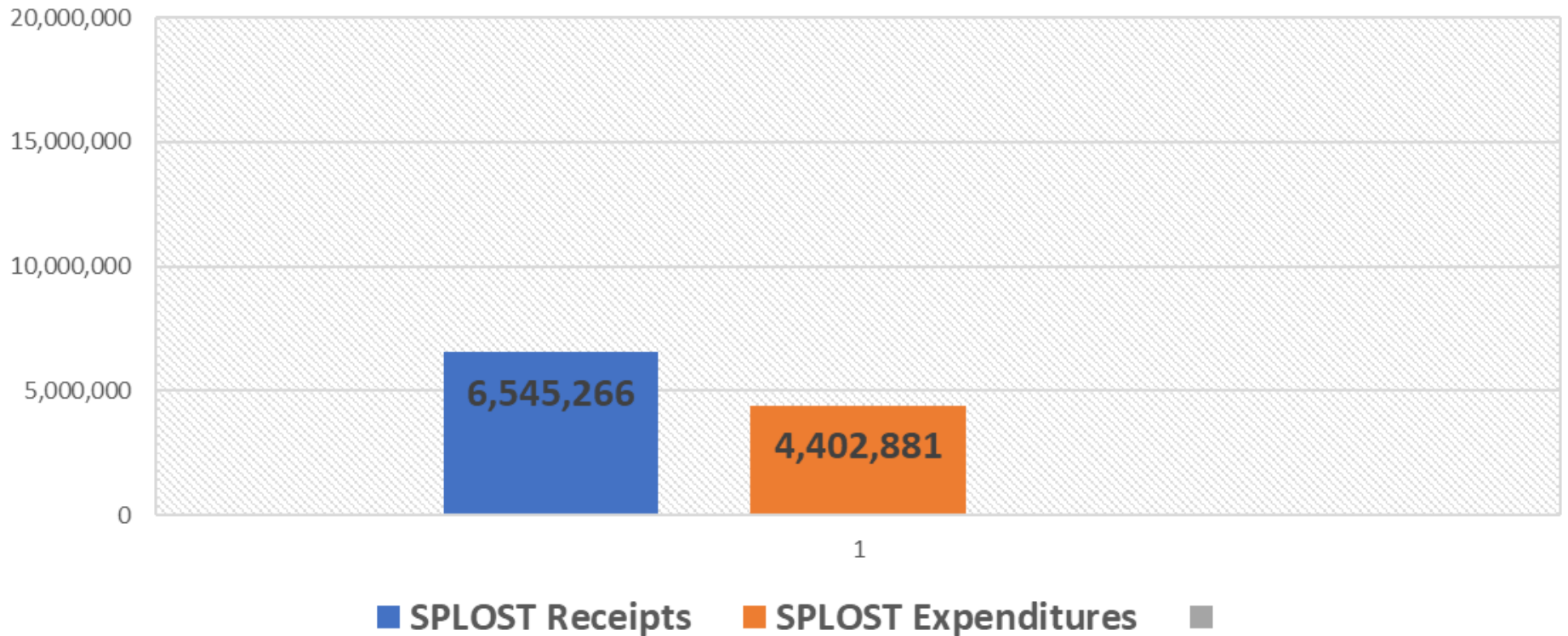
**YE Projected Unassigned Fund Balance**





# Finance Report – SPLOST

SPLOST 2024 - Revenues & Expenditures  
Received thru January 31



# Finance Report

**Supports Strategic Objective 4: Lower Taxes**

➤ **DRAFT MOTION:**

**Approve Finance report for January 2025.**

# Agenda Item #10 – Public Comments

**Overview:** Public Comments related **ONLY** tonight's approved Agenda items only. Second comment section will be later for general comments.

Reminder:

- 5 minutes per person
- 1 visit to the podium per public comment session
- Not a public hearing for zoning

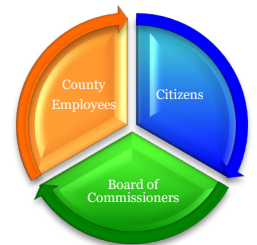


# Agenda Item #11

## Alcohol Beverage Application

### Supports Strategic: Keeps Lights On.

- **Overview:** Reed Food Mart LLC d/b/a Reed Food Mart – 2500 Reed Road, Dalton has applied for a package beer license.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Approve the alcohol beverage license for Reed Food Mart.

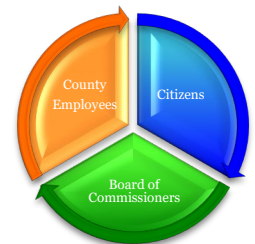


# Agenda Item # 12 :

## Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment

### Supports Strategic: City-County Relations

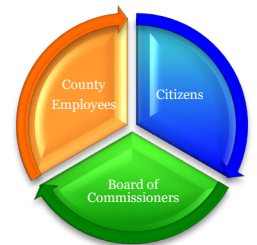
- **Overview: SECOND READING** The request of the request of the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners to amend the following text to the Unified Zoning Ordinance:
- **SUBJECT:** The request of the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners to amend Section 4-6-35 of the Unified Zoning Ordinance for Commercial Poultry Farming in unincorporated Whitfield County.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Planning and Zoning approved proposed language and suggested a 60-day moratorium to address loopholes with subdivision of property.



# Agenda Item #13a– Public Works Truck Storage & Office Building Repair

## Supports Strategic: Keep Lights On

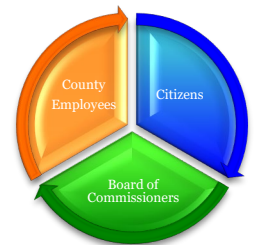
- **Overview:** Upon repairing the storm damage at the public works buildings and grounds, it was determined that the truck storage was damaged more than initially thought. The building and grounds already had the roof replacement planned for the office building. With that, we determined it would be better to proceed with the bathroom expansion now. All work will be done in-house. Public works is requesting \$90,000.00 for all the repairs.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Approve the \$27,000.00 from SPLOST 2020 and \$63,000 from 2025 Capital for building improvements at PW.



# Agenda Item #13b– Public Works New RPM Application Trailer

## Supports Strategic: Keep Lights On

- **Overview:** Public works is requesting approval for the purchase of an RPM applicator trailer for the amount of \$30,000.00. The company TransCore is the only distributor for the trailer and they have included a sole-source letter with the quote. The trailer will come out of the 2020 SPLOST and will be part of our road marking fleet. With the trailer we will be able to strip and install RPM's on the roadways.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Approve purchase of RPM trailer for the amount of \$30,000.00 using 2020 SPLOST funds.



# Agenda Item #13c – Public Works Purchase of HAMM HD120

## Supports Strategic: Keep Lights On

- **Overview:** Public works is requesting the purchase of a new HAMM HD120 break in roller for the amount of \$201,700.00. It will be replacing the Sakia break in roller they are currently using. The Sakia went down for repairs multiple times last year during paving season, causing public works to have to rent units multiple times.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Approve the purchase of HAMM HD120 for the amount of \$201,700.00 using 2024 SPLOST funds.





# Agenda Item #13d

## Public Works –Purchase of 30” Planer

### Supports Strategic: Keep Lights On

- **Overview:** The planer public works is currently using is in need of repair and inoperable. The repair cost is \$10,000.00. It was purchased in 2017. The cost for a new one is \$29,847.32. Public works is requesting the purchase of the new unit based on the age and life span of the old unit. Public works is currently renting a unit for day-to-day operations.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Approve the purchase of a new 30” planer for \$29,847.32 using 2024 SPLOST funds.

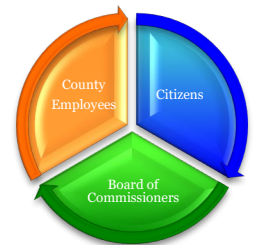


# Agenda Item #14

## DA VOCA MOA Grant approval

### Supports Strategic: Keep Lights On

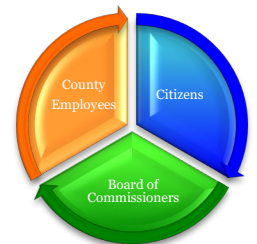
- **Overview:** The District Attorney's Office is requesting approval of the MOA between the Prosecuting Attorney's Council and the County for the Federal Victims of Crime Act Assistance Grant (VOCA). The grant period is from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 and the grant amount is \$125,130. This has been an annual grant.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Approve the MOA as presented and accept grant.



# Agenda Item #15 Ratify First Responder PTSD Program

## Supports Strategic: Keep Lights On

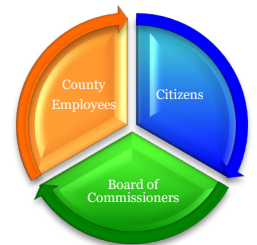
- **Overview:** The governing authority of the County of Whitfield hereby authorizes the County to become a participant in the ACCG-IRMA Supplemental Medical, Accident, and Disability Fund known as the First Responder PTSD Program to provide coverage for those risks imposed upon the County by state law and for which the supplemental Medical, Accident, and Disability Fund has been established. The County's continuing participation in the ACCG-IRMA Fund(s) in which the County is currently enrolled.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Ratify the resolution as presented.



# Agenda Item #16 – Parks & Recreation Miracle Field Playground Renovation

## Supports Strategic: Improve Lives of Citizens

- **Overview:** The parks and recreation department requests to approve playground renovation for the Miracle Field. The funds will come from the 2020 SPLOST for no more than \$125,000. Awarded design will be chosen by the Miracle League, and all bidders worked on the same budget of \$125,000. Best design will be chosen.
- **Draft Motion:** Authorize up to \$125,000 for renovations using 2020 SPLOST Funds.



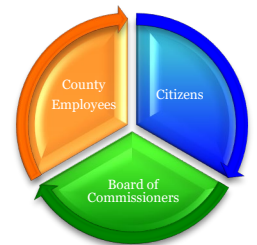
# Agenda Item #17a – Fire Department Purchase Apparatus Equipment

## Supports Strategic Objective: Keep lights on

- **Overview:** The 2024 SPLOST included equipment for the four new apparatus to meet NFPA requirements. The Whitfield County Fire Department advertised items through open bids. Four companies replied, meeting department specifications. The following recommendation is to award the purchase to the following four bidders by item. A spreadsheet for the overall tally and vendor is attached.

Dinges	9 Items	\$33,167.60
MES	17 Items	\$64,593.56
NAFECO	4 Items	\$9,589.68
Ten 8	44 Items	\$211,041.72

- **DRAFT MOTION:** Approve the purchases are presented using 2024 SPLOST Funds.

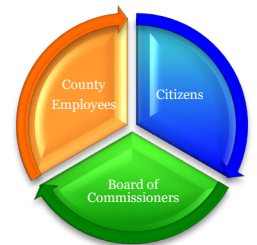


# Agenda Item #17b

## Fire Dept. MOU w/GNTC

### Supports Strategic: Keep Lights On

- **Overview:** WCFD desires to enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Georgia Northwestern Technical College (GNTC). This partnership will promote quality education and development for employees and potential employees to gain college credit. WCFD will provide certified instructors to teach approved related classes. This partnership will help prepare our employees for State Medical certification and allow the employee to gain credit hours for an Associate's Degree.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Ratify the MOU between the WCFD and GNTC as presented for teaching spaces.

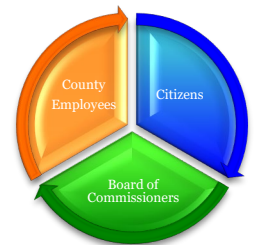


# Agenda Item #18

## Information Technology

### Supports Strategic: Keep Lights On

- **Overview:** Email is an essential part of daily County operations. We moved filtering, Archiving, and Backup to the Barracuda Cloud several years ago. This three-year agreement will increase our license count to cover all email users. Barracuda Total Email Protection is the only company that offers a complete solution in one package. This agreement is paid annually for \$60,906.28 annually for three years, keeping the cost from increasing.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Purchase Barracuda Total Email Protection from PCS (State Contact) for \$182,718.84, paid over three years for \$60,906.28 annually.

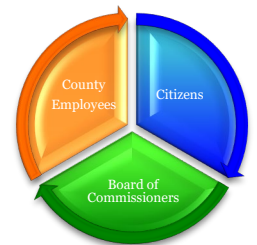


# Agenda Item #19

## New County Administration Building

### Supports Strategic: Keep Lights On

- **Overview:** The Board of Commissioners has been reviewing options for last year for a permanent home for administrative staff. The staff is currently officed in lease space at 201 S. Hamilton Street. Options include purchasing the current building, purchasing and renovating other buildings for sale in the downtown area, or building a new building on the campus of the County Courthouse.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Retain experts to design and build a new administration building with \_\_ x\_\_ number of floors on county-owned property near the courthouse.



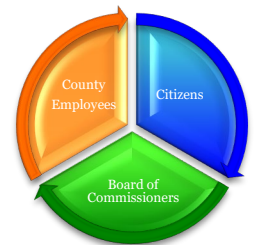


# Agenda Item #20

## Time Capsule Event Saturday May 24, 2025

### Supports Strategic: Keep Lights On

- **Overview:** A 50-year time capsule is buried at the County Courthouse near the flag poles and will expire in May 2025. Buildings and Grounds should prepare for its unearthing and staff will communicate the opening date of May 24, 2025.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Approve removing and opening contents of 50-year time capsule.

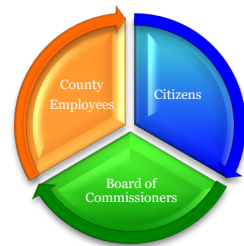


# Agenda Item #21a

## Tunnel Hill Annexation Requests

### Supports Strategic Objective: City-County Relations

- **Overview:** Annexation request for parcel 12-001-01-022 & 12-001-01-017 into Tunnel Hill City limits.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** No land use objection for parcel 12-001-01-022 & 12-001-01-017.

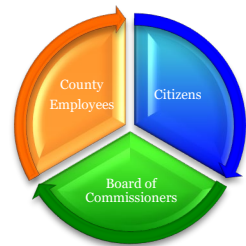


# Agenda Item #21b

## City of Dalton Annexation Request

### Supports Strategic Objective: City-County Relations

- **Overview:** Annexation request for parcel 12-179-02-065 into Dalton City limits.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** No land use objection for parcel 12-179-02-065.

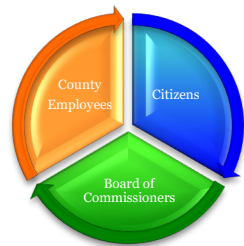


# Agenda Item #21c

## City of Varnell Annexation Request

### Supports Strategic Objective: City-County Relations

- **Overview:** Annexation request for parcel 11-263-01-054 into Varnell City limits.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** No land use objection for parcel 11-263-01-054.

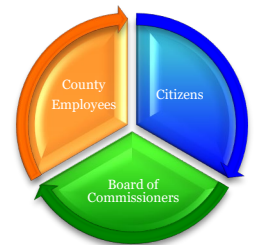


# Agenda Item #22

## Budget Amendment for Domestic Violence Court

### Supports Strategic Objective: Community Improvement

- **Overview:** Superior Court and BOC administration are requesting BOC approval for a budget amendment to use \$16,500 of the Domestic Violence Court's fund balance to cover some of the costs of surveillance payroll and related office expenses in 2025, which are not being covered by the grant. Surveillance is critical to the program's effective operation and helps protect the victims of domestic violence, many of whom are women and children. The grant fund currently has about \$36,000 in reserve fund balance.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Approve the budget amendment as presented.

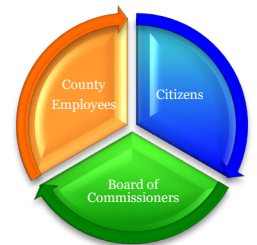


# Agenda Item #23

## Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust Grant Contract Approval

### Supports Strategic Objective: Community Improvement

- **Overview:** In January 2025, the BOC accepted the \$110,130 grant award from the Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust to fund a new counselor position at the Conasauga Community Addiction Recovery Center. County Admin now requests that the BOC approve the related grant contract along with the attached resolution authorizing the Chairman to execute the contract on behalf of the County.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Approve grant contract and resolution as presented.

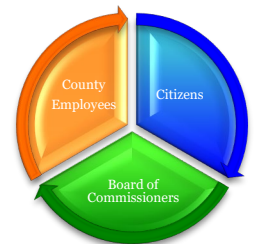


# Agenda Item #24

## Community Wildfire Defense Grant Application

### Supports Strategic Objective: Community Improvement

- **Overview:** EMA and County Administration are seeking approval to apply for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant which is a competitive federal grant administered by the US Forest Service. The County would apply for a planning grant for up to \$250,000 to develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). No match is required. Completion of a CWPP would allow future applications for grant funding to implement projects contained in the CWPP which potentially might include projects like the purchase of equipment for right of way vegetation maintenance.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Approve grant application.



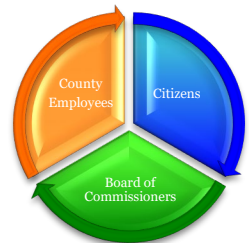
# Agenda Item #25 a, c, d

## Rezoning Recommendations

### Supports Strategic Objective: Keep Lights On

#### ➤ Overview:

- A. The request Valerie Silva to rezone from Low-Density Single Family Residential (R-2) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling 1.59 acres located on Lafayette Road, Rocky Face, Georgia at Tax Parcel 27-196-13-000. Planning voted 4-0 to approve.
- C. The request of Brittney Cronan to rezone from Rural Residential (R-5) to Suburban Agriculture (SA) a tract of land totaling 16.97 acres located at 400 Richardson Road NE, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (09-143-05-000). Planning voted 4-0 to approve.
- D. The request of Soloman Douhne to rezone from Rural Residential (R-5) to General Commercial (C-2) a tract of land totaling 1.55 acres located at 1293 Dawnville Road, Dalton Georgia. Parcel (09-073-08-000). Planning voted 4-0 to approve.





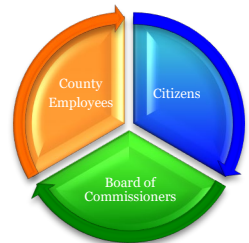
# Agenda Item #25 f, g & h

## Rezoning Recommendations

### Supports Strategic Objective: Keep Lights On

#### ➤ Overview:

- F. The request of Rhonda Tucker and Emily Tanner to rezone from Rural Residential (R-5) to Suburban Agriculture (SA) a tract of land totaling 12.03 acres located on Donna Lynn Drive, Dalton, Georgia. Parcel (12-357-03-000). Planning voted 4-0 to approve.
- G. The request of Crow Road Holdings to rezone from Heavy Manufacturing (M-2) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling 9.88 acres located on Tunnel Hill Varnell Road, Tunnel Hill, Georgia. Parcel (11-261-06-000). Planning voted 4-0 to approve.
- H. The request Macey Strong to rezone from General Agriculture (GA) to Rural Residential (R-5) a tract of land totaling 2.14 acres located at 174 Ben Putnam Road, Resaca, Georgia. Parcel (13-189-34-000). Planning voted 4-0 to approve.



# Agenda Item #25 b

## Rezoning Recommendations

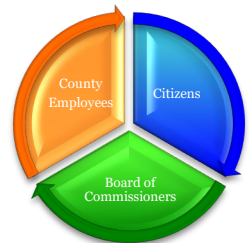
### Supports Strategic Objective: Keep Lights On

#### ➤ Overview:

B. The request of Core Scientific to rezone from General Agriculture (GA) and Rural Residential (R-5) to Heavy Manufacturing (M-2) a tract of land totaling 173.3 acres located on Old Tilton Road, Dalton, Georgia. Parcels (13-060-01-000 and 13-060-04-000). Planning voted 4-0 to approve.

#### Conditions for consideration:

a. Require access to Enterprise Drive to accommodate any heavy commercial traffic in order to reduce the potential impact on Old Tilton Road.



# Agenda Item #25 e

## Rezoning Recommendations

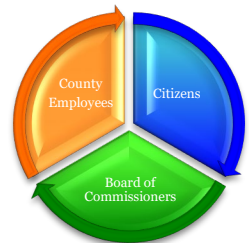
### Supports Strategic Objective: Keep Lights On

#### ➤ Overview:

E. The request of Ivan Rangel to rezone from Rural Residential (R-5) to General Agriculture (GA) a tract of land totaling 5.01 acres located at 1191 Franklin Hill Road, Rocky Face, Georgia. Parcel (13-035-38-000). Planning voted 4-0 to approve.

#### *Instructions to staff:*

- a. Inspections go on-site to check structures constructed without a permit for safety and compliance.
- b. Review a recent property survey of boundaries before issuing building permit.
- c. Code enforcement check for litter washing into federal park creeks.



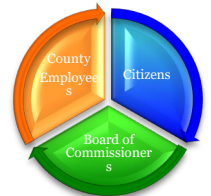
# Agenda Item #26

## Tunnel Hill Historic Site

### Apartment Lease

#### Supports Strategic: Keep Lights On

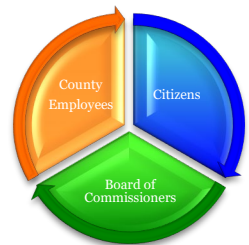
- **Overview:** The County owns the Clisby Austin House Holcomb. New leasee will continue to mow the property at all times mutually agreeable to the parties so that the County is not required to expend employee time and equipment for such mowing Tunnel Hill battlefield property.
- **Draft Motion:** Approve the agreement with Jesse Bond as presented.



# Agenda Item #27 – Ratify Vehicle Equipment Purchase

## Supports Strategic Objective: Keep Lights On

- **Overview:** Requesting to ratify the purchase of new 2024 F-150 for the amount of \$55,950.00 for the new position of Deputy County Administrator. The vehicle will be used in the day-to-day operations of the deputy administrator. The F-150 is on state contract.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Ratify the purchase from Ford of Dalton for \$55,950.00 utilizing the state contract.

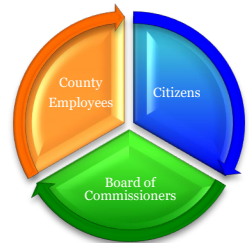


# Agenda Item #28

## Senate Bill-235

### Supports Strategic Objective: Keep Lights On

- **Overview:** Our local delegation dropped Senate Bill 235 in the current legislation session in Atlanta. It calls for a November 2025 county-wide ballot initiative vote to approve a floating homestead exemption for schools. Property assessment increases would be capped similar to HB581 but without the opt-out option.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Support SB-235 legislation for November ballot initiative.

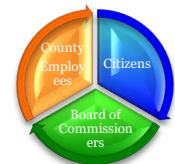


# Additional Agenda Item #1

## Engineering Equipment Surplus

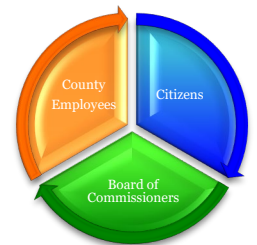
### Supports Strategic: Keep Lights On

- **Overview:** This is a request to surplus an HP Designjet HD Pro MFP Printer which has been owned and used by the Engineering Department. The initial cost of the plotter was \$18,558.75. This plotter is not fully functional to the needs of the Engineering Department and is no longer needed as an updated plotter has been purchased and installed. We would like to place it on Gov Deals while it still has value.
- **DRAFT MOTION:** Declare the plotter surplus and auction on Gov. Deals.com.



# Agenda Item #29 – Public Comments

Time for Commissioners to listen to citizens and hear your feedback. Parliamentary rules do not allow for direct action to be taken on comments at this time.





# Agenda Item #30 – Adjourn

