

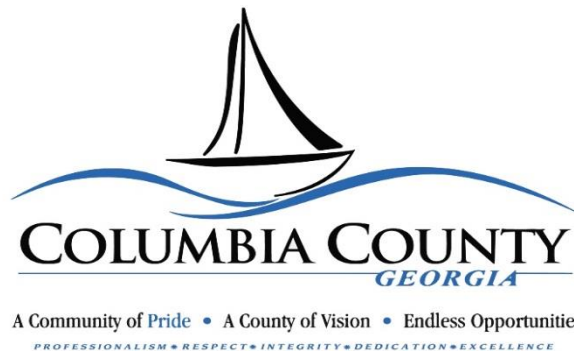


ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT
COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2024

Columbia County, Georgia

ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024



**Prepared by:
Internal Services
Leanne C. Reece, CPA
Director of Internal Services**

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GA
Annual Financial Report
Year Ended June 30, 2024

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTORY SECTION

Letter of Transmittal	1-13
Principal Officials	14
Organizational Chart	15-16
Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting	17

FINANCIAL SECTION

Report of Independent Auditor	18-20
Management's Discussion and Analysis	21-36
Basic Financial Statements	37
Government-wide Financial Statements	38
Statement of Net Position	39
Statement of Activities	40-41
Fund Financial Statements	42
Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds	43-44
Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet of the Governmental Funds to the Statement of Net Position	45
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Governmental Funds	46-47
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities	48
General Fund – Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual	49
Fire Services Fund – Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual	50
American Rescue Plan Fund – Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual	51
Statement of Net Position – Proprietary Funds	52
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position – Proprietary Funds	53
Statement of Cash Flow – Proprietary Funds	54
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position	55
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position	56
Notes to Financial Statements	57-99
Required Supplementary Information:	
Schedule of Changes in OPEB Liability and Related Ratios - OPEB Health Care Plan	100
Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability - Employees' Retirement System	101
Schedule of Contributions-Employees' Retirement System - Board of Health	102
Notes to Required Supplementary Information - Employees' Retirement System - Board of Health	103
Combining and Individual Fund Financial Statements	104
General Fund by Object	105
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual	106-112
Nonmajor Governmental Funds	113
Combining Balance Sheet – Nonmajor Governmental Funds	114
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Nonmajor Governmental Funds	115
Combining Balance Sheet – Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds	116-120
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds	121-125
Combining Balance Sheet – Nonmajor Capital Projects Funds	126
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Nonmajor Capital Projects Funds	127
Combining Balance Sheet – Nonmajor Debt Service Funds	128
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Nonmajor Debt Service Funds	129

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GA
Annual Financial Report
Year Ended June 30, 2024

Table of Contents (*continued*)

FINANCIAL SECTION (*continued*)

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual

Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds:

Building Standards Fund	130
Library Board Fund	131
Recreation Advisory Board	132
Street Lights Fund	133
911 Fund	134
Opioid Settlement Fund	135
Drug Abuse Treatment Fund	136
Supplemental Juvenile Services Fund	137
Jail Fund	138
Accountability Court	139
DA Asset Forfeitures	140
DA Victims Assistance	141
DA Welfare Fraud	142
DA Bond Forfeitures	143
Federal Asset Sharing Fund	144
State Condemnation Fund	145
Lodging Tax Fund	146
Multiple Grant Fund	147
2020 Generator Grant Fund	148
Sheriff's Gifts and Donations Fund	149
Insurance Premium Tax Fund	150
Community Events Fund	151
Memorial Wall Fund	152
Georgia Superior Court Clerk's Authority Fund	153
Law Library Fund	154
TSPLOST 25% Discretionary Fund	155

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual

Debt Service Funds	156-158
Nonmajor Enterprise Funds	159
Combining Statement of Net Position – Nonmajor Enterprise Funds	160
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position – Nonmajor Enterprise Funds	161
Combining Statement of Cash Flows – Nonmajor Enterprise Funds	162
Nonmajor Internal Service Funds	163
Combining Statement of Net Position – Nonmajor Internal Service Funds	164
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position – Nonmajor Internal Service Funds	165
Combining Statement of Cash Flows – Nonmajor Internal Service Funds	166
Custodial Funds	167
Combining Statement of Fiduciary Net Position - Custodial Funds	168
Combining Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position – Custodial Funds	169
Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Funds	170
Schedule of SPLOST Program 2011-2016	171
Schedule of SPLOST Program 2017-2022	172
Schedule of SPLOST Program 2023-2028	173

STATISTICAL SECTION – UNAUDITED

Financial Trends:

Net Position by Component – Last Ten Fiscal Years	174
Changes in Net Position – Last Ten Fiscal Years	175-176
Fund Balances of Governmental Funds – Last Ten Fiscal Years	177
Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds – Last Ten Fiscal Years	178

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GA
Annual Financial Report
Year Ended June 30, 2024

Table of Contents (*concluded*)

STATISTICAL SECTION – UNAUDITED (continued)

Revenue Capacity:

Assessed and Estimated Actual Value of Property – Last Ten Calendar Years	179
Property Tax Levies and Collections – Last Ten Calendar Years	180
Property Tax Rates – Direct and Overlapping – Last Ten Calendar Years	181
Principal Property Taxpayers	182
Taxable Sales by Category – Last Ten Calendar Years	183
Sales Tax Rates – Last Ten Calendar Years	184
Sales Tax Revenue Payers by Industry	185

Debt Capacity:

Ratios of Outstanding Debt by Type – Last Ten Fiscal Years	186
Ratios of General Bonded Debt Outstanding Legal Debt Margin – Last Ten Fiscal Years	187
Direct and Overlapping Governmental Activities Debt	188
Pledged Revenue Coverage – Last Ten Fiscal Years	189

Demographic and Economic Information:

Demographic and Economic Statistics – Last Ten Calendar Years	190
Principal Employers – Current Year and Nine Years Ago	191
Full-time Equivalent County Government Positions by Function – Last Ten Fiscal Years	192

Operating Information:

Operating Indicators by Function – Last Ten Fiscal Years	193
Capital Asset Statistics by Function – Last Ten Fiscal Years	194

Revenue Bonds Disclosure

Water and Sewerage	196-201
--------------------	---------

General Obligation Bonds Disclosure	202-208
-------------------------------------	---------

SINGLE AUDIT SECTION

Report of Independent Auditor on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and other Matters Based on an Audit of the Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards

Auditing Standards	209
--------------------	-----

Report of Independent Auditor on Compliance for each Major Program and on Internal Control over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance

Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance	210-211
---	---------

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	212
--	-----

Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	213
---	-----

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs	214
---	-----

COMPLIANCE SECTION

Report of Independent Accountant	215
----------------------------------	-----

Certification of 911 Expenditures	216-218
-----------------------------------	---------

INTRODUCTORY SECTION



December 13, 2024

To the Honorable Chairman,
Members of the Board of Commissioners, and
Citizens of Columbia County, Georgia:

The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) of Columbia County, Georgia, (the County) for the year ended June 30, 2024, was prepared by the Columbia County Finance Department and is hereby submitted. This ACFR is being formally submitted as required by the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Section 36-81-7 and Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. To the best of our knowledge and belief, the enclosed data are accurate in all material respects and are reported in a manner designed to present fairly the financial position and results of operations of the County as measured by the financial activity of its various funds. All disclosures necessary to enable the reader to gain a reasonable understanding of the County's financial affairs have been included.

Responsibility for both the accuracy of the data and the completeness and fairness of the presentation, including all disclosures, rests with the County. Management of the County is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that adequate accounting data are compiled to allow for the preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) that are free of any material misstatements. Because cost/benefit considerations, the risk of management override, and the risk of collusion are inherent limitations on any system of internal control, the internal control process is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that this objective is met.

Cherry Bekaert LLP, Certified Public Accountants, have issued an unmodified ("clean") opinion on the County's financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024. The Report of Independent Auditor is located at the front of the financial section of this report.

GAAP require that management provide a narrative introduction, overview, and analysis to accompany the basic financial statements in the form of Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A). This letter of transmittal is designed to complement MD&A and should be read in conjunction with it. The County's MD&A can be found immediately following the report of the independent auditor.

PROFILE OF THE GOVERNMENT

The County, established in 1790 and named in honor of Christopher Columbus, is located in the Central Savannah River Area of Georgia approximately 135 miles east of Atlanta and five miles northwest of Augusta/Richmond County. The 290 square mile county is bounded on the north by Thurmond Lake and the Savannah River (separating the County from Lincoln County, Georgia, and McCormick and Edgefield Counties, South Carolina), on the south and east by Augusta/Richmond County, Georgia, and on the west by McDuffie County, Georgia.

A five-member Board of Commissioners (the Board) governs the County. The Board is comprised of one chairman, elected county wide, and four commissioners, each elected from a separate commission district serving four-year staggered terms. A County Manager, who is appointed by and responsible to the Board, directs the daily operation of the County. Services provided to the approximately 167,000 residents include: public safety (Sheriff's Office, detention center, E911, fire), courts, emergency services, community services, public works, planning and development, and other general governmental services. The County also provides water, sewer, and storm water services to the public.

FINANCIAL REPORTING ENTITY

The financial reporting entity includes all activities and functions of the primary government (i.e., Columbia County, Georgia) as well as all related component units, if any. "Financial Accountability" is the benchmark used to determine which legally separate entities represent component units of the primary government. Blended component units, although legally separate entities, are, in substance, an integral part of the primary government's operations and, therefore, are included as part of the primary government. The Columbia County Public Facilities Authority (CCPFA) was created to issue revenue bonds to finance certain projects for the County. Because the CCPFA provides services entirely, or almost entirely, to the primary government, it is presented as part of the primary government.

The Development Authority of Columbia County (DACC), the Columbia County Board of Health (CCBOH), the Columbia County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CCCVB), the Greater Clarks Hill Regional Library (GCHRL), and the Columbia County Hospital Authority (CCHA) are reported as discretely presented component units in the combined financial statements to emphasize that they are legally separate from the primary government and to differentiate their financial positions. The DACC serves to promote, pursue, and implement economic development in the County. The CCBOH serves to operate the public health department of the County. The CCCVB provides convention and tourist promotion services for the benefit of the County. The GCHRL is a regional library system servicing the County, Warren County, GA, Burke County, GA, and Lincoln County, GA, with the County as its headquarters. The CCHA was created to facilitate the financing of a hospital in the County.

LOCAL ECONOMY

Columbia County is evidence of what quality leadership with vision is capable of fostering. The local government and board of education have created an environment that is inviting to residents moving within the region or across the United States, as well as a healthy variety of businesses. As a result, the County offers a remarkable quality of life, exceptional education resources and numerous reasons for businesses to thrive locally. The pro-business, minimally bureaucratic, and family-friendly climate is accredited for the continued rapid growth within our community of endless opportunities and pride. Our leadership is further credited for the County's resiliency and recovery in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since 2020, the County leads regional population growth with a 6% increase to an estimated 167,000 residents in 2024. No other county in the region is currently experiencing this intensity of growth. Rapid job creation, a high standard of living, and recreational amenities have led to the County's frequent recognition in nationwide surveys like NerdWallet, CNN Money, and Family Circle. Martinez was recognized as the #21 *Best Place to Live in the United States* for 2021 by Money Magazine! This is quite remarkable given that Evans was recognized in 2020 as the #1 Best Place to Live. Additionally, Evans was recognized by *USA Today* as the second best city to live in Georgia based on its low crime rate, median household income, and low unemployment rate. Columbia County as a whole is thriving!

In 2012, the Transportation Improvement Act (TIA) of 2010 was approved in the CSRA, which included Columbia County. The 10-year, one percent additional sales tax began on January 1, 2013, and has gone great lengths in addressing our infrastructure needs. In June 2020, the 13-county region voted to renew the T-SPLOST, extending the sales tax another decade through 2033. This renewal will enable additional infrastructure investments that will work to address the increased demand and further improve our quality of life.



Population Growth. History shows as our population grows, so does the opportunity for our businesses. We expect nothing different as we look to our promising future. Columbia County's population grew from 124,934 in 2010 to 156,010 in 2020 with estimates predicting 167,000 residents before the end of 2024. The County grew 20% in the last ten years alone; recent estimates from the US Census indicate that Columbia County is the 2nd fastest growing county in the state with a population that exceeds 100,000 residents. Columbia County is projected to grow 1.09% annually through 2027, while Georgia is projected to only grow 0.51%

annually. Many attribute this growth to a stable economy with a diverse mix of education, industrial, medical, military and government employers that offer competitive incomes and stability. Growth is expected to continue given the ongoing development and revitalization within the County and across the Augusta Metro Region. Since 2020, the region's population increased by almost 4% to 636,402 residents.

Development. As one of the fastest growing counties in the United States, new developments and opportunities are springing up across the County. Retail developments established over the past few years are filling out, bringing exciting new tenants to the area. Phase II of Mullins Colony now has tenants like Apricot Boutique and Club Pilates. Comparable progress continues within the retail and restaurant sectors in areas like the Gateway Square, Riverwood Town Center, and The Plaza. New national brand restaurants, including Starbucks and Tropical Smoothie Cafe, and local specialty shops, including Fresco Cafe, Banh Mi Dang, Healthy Hub, Vampire Penguin, Vibe Smoothie Bar, and Whipped Creamery, have all opened spaces in Columbia County. New assisted living and medical facilities now stand prominently on Fury's Ferry Road, providing increased medical care closer to home. Columbia County's new \$32 million state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center officially opened in 2021 and has had a wonderful Broadway season. Construction began in early 2022 of the 300-unit luxury apartment complex, The Premiere, with 10,000 SF of retail space in The Plaza, was recently completed in 2024, along with additional retail and commercial space in the plaza that now houses Miran and Goat Kick Coffee. The Farmer's Market is also complete in The Plaza and serves as a focal point in the heart of Columbia County.

Construction continues to be a major theme for Columbia County as existing businesses expand and new businesses locate. Construction for Phase II of the Development Authority of Columbia County's White Oak Business Park has taken off, allowing an additional 150 acres to be accessible for future development. Club Car announced an expansion of its facility in the White Oak Business Park in October 2023 of 105,000 SF with a capital investment of approximately \$7 million. Serta Simmons Bedding expanded into a second

100,000 SF facility that will support additional production lines and warehousing efforts. GIW Industries is also actively constructing an additional 70,000 SF facility that will support many uses. The continuous growth has allowed Columbia County to see more than 3,000,000 SF of industrial space added since 2019. High volumes of project inquiries show promise for this next year.

Incredible growth was seen elsewhere in the County. Local option sales tax continues a modest annual growth rate of 3.5%. The Columbia County Board of Education also has many capital improvement projects underway; a 315,000 SF multi-purpose space has received a complete renovation, which houses facility maintenance, technology, and transportation departments. Two middle schools are also receiving additions.

Major sporting tourism events were a cause for celebration this year. Events like the Augusta National Women's Amateur, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Men's Soccer Championship, the National Junior College Athletic Association Division 1 and 2 Women's Soccer Championships, and the BMX Regional Championships all brought thousands of visitors and spectators to the community, all having their individual economic impacts to our hospitality industry.

In October 2023, Fort Gordon was redesignated as Fort Eisenhower. Aggressive growth continues with both the US Army Cyber Command Headquarters and the Cyber Center of Excellence at Fort Eisenhower. The installation has grown 20% since 2012, reaching a total economic impact of \$2.7 billion and exceeding 34,000 direct civilian, contract, and defense jobs within our community. A new housing development is to be constructed consisting of 76 three- and four-bedroom townhomes for junior enlisted service members. Much of the expected personnel have already made the transition to this area. Based on historical norms, more than 65% of military children related to Fort Eisenhower are educated in Columbia County. This growth prompted the need for a new and better entrance to Fort Eisenhower. This new \$33 million dollar Gate 6 opened in October of 2021. The continued growth promoted the need for a new I-20 interchange and connector into Fort Eisenhower. The GDOT planning department has already added a project to the TIP for the Louisville interchange consisting of \$3.2 million in federal funds and \$800k in state funds. Cyber Education continues to spark interest and innovation in education. Fort Eisenhower continues to be this region's number one employer with plans to add almost \$2 billion of construction projects to the installation over the next ten years. The long-term impact of the cyber security industry in the community shows promise including all of the economic growth that will come with the demands of this new workforce.

The County remains optimistic that we will see a new hospital constructed at the Gateway Center in Grovetown. After several rounds of appeals, the Certificate of Need remains with Wellstar MCG Augusta who plans to build one of the most technologically advanced hospitals in the nation right here in Columbia County, GA. With the establishment of the Hospital Authority of Columbia County in 2023 and the issuance of approximately \$337 million of revenue anticipation certificates, construction has begun and is in full force. The addition of the new hospital remains another potential catalyst for progress, research, and collaboration.

The Technical College System of Georgia and Governor Brian Kemp has also pledged \$2.7 million toward the design of a new manufacturing and engineering technology training facility to be located in Columbia County. This will better serve our existing industries, not only in Columbia County but throughout the CSRA, as well as foster growth for new industries to locate to our region.

Fortunately, the County is progressive in keeping up with the influx of residents, visitors, and opportunity. Continued growth in the existing industries and regional assets will force the community leaders to remain proactive, strategically planning to preserve the quality of life enjoyed by Columbia County residents.

(Data Sources: US Census, Woods & Poole, ESRI)

MAJOR INITIATIVES

Columbia County CTAE Workforce Showcase. Columbia County, in partnership with the Columbia County Board of Education and the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, hosted its 4th annual local competition for high school students in Career, Technical and Agriculture Education (CTAE) Pathway Programs. The County decided to expand the first year's successful event, which included only the Automotive Pathway Program, to include all CTAE programs that are offered at two or more of the County's high schools. The competition, which included over 200 students, consisted of individual events that allowed the students to showcase their own talents as well as team competitions. A job fair was included with more than 25 local industry partners so that local businesses could see the talent of the students and the students could get knowledge of types of jobs available for their particular skill/interest. Prizes were offered for winners of the individual events/team competitions.

Fleet Services Award. Columbia County Fleet Services received the 2024 *Southeast Governmental Fleet Managers Award for Quality Fleet Management*. Each year the SGFMA recognizes governmental agencies whose innovative fleet management practices have improved productivity, quality, and service or produced substantial savings for their agency. Accomplishments included in the submission were development of an intern program with local high schools, addition of a vehicle up-fitting department to reduce cost and downtime, and hosting an on-site auction for surplus vehicles and equipment, producing more than \$560,000 in revenue and over 200 bidders.

Columbia County Fire and Emergency Services (CCFES).

- Fire Rescue. CCFES, with the support of County Management and the Board, began construction on replacing Fire Station #2 on Gibbs Road. The new station will have three apparatus bays and advanced technologies to enhance firefighter safety. CCFES has also acquired land to build two additional fire stations within the County and submitted orders for two replacement engines and one new aerial unit from funds available through the 2023-2028 SPLOST and other funding resources.
- Fire Rescue Training Division. CCFES Training Division has relocated the class A burning building from Fire Station #2 to the Fire Training Center to centralize recruit classes. The EMS training division completed two EMT courses with a 95% pass rate. CCFES personnel had five graduates from the Paramedic School at Augusta University, with three additional students graduating from the Paramedic program at Aiken Technical College.
- EMS Response. CCFES, in coordination with Gold Cross EMS, has assumed dispatch duties of EMS transport ambulances to integrate first responder units with Gold Cross EMS units to have direct interoperable communications.
- Joint Operations Support. CCFES and Columbia County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) personnel have purchased new portable radios to increase the safety of first responder personnel. These radios will allow teams to maintain communications outside the County system's range or during a disaster if the County's system becomes unavailable and provide GPS location tracking for all personnel. Also, the CCFES and CCSO Unmanned Aerial Task Force have responded to over 65 search and rescue or support missions.

Columbia County Water Utility (CCWU).

- CCWU is working to provide additional sewer to locations along Euche Creek by installing a sewer force main system and three lift stations. This system will add additional capacity at the White Oak Industrial Park and other areas along the Euche Creek Corridor. The system will have a max capacity of nearly 3 million gallons per day (MGD). This project is expected to be completed by the third quarter of 2026, with the total cost estimated to be \$17 million.

- CCWU is working to install a gravity sewer system along Little Kiokee Creek. This gravity system will allow the removal of one sewer lift station. The gravity system will flow into the aforementioned sewer force main along Euchee Creek. This project will be completed by the fourth quarter of 2025.
- CCWU is working to eliminate a small, antiquated wastewater treatment plant and provide gravity sewer to process sewer at a large regional plant. The gravity sewer will be approximately 8.8 miles in length and have capacity for 2.2 MGD of sewer. The total project cost is anticipated to be \$22 million and is expected to be completed during the fourth quarter of 2026.
- Other projects include:
 - Kiokee Creek Water Pollution Control Plant Expansion. This project will increase the plant capacity to 0.75 MGD and improve our service to the White Oak Industrial Park. The total project cost is anticipated to be \$15 million and is expected to be completed in 2027.
 - Harlem. This project will provide additional water capacity and system balance to the Harlem Area, consisting of 31,175 feet of 12- and 16-inch waterline. The project will cost an anticipated \$3.3 million and will be bid in the first quarter of 2025.
 - Sodium Hypochlorite Generation. CCWU is working on projects to increase sodium hypochlorite generation capacity at the Jim Blanchard and Clarks Hill WTP. These projects will allow CCWU to produce instead of purchase sodium hypochlorite. The Clarks Hill Project will bid in the second quarter of 2025 and the Jim Blanchard Project will bid in the third or fourth quarter of 2025. The Clarks Hill Project is expected to cost \$3.5 million, and the Jim Blanchard Project is expected to cost \$8.5 million.

Emergency Management Agency (EMA). The Columbia County EMA conducted multiple outreach projects over the past year to include hosting emergency management related events for partner agencies throughout the CSRA. EMA will again conduct multiple volunteer training programs throughout the next year to include Storm Spotter Training with the National Weather Service, Stop the Bleed® training in a partnership with Gold Cross EMS, and other community safety classes in conjunction with Risk Management, the CCFES and the CCSO. Specifically, EMA will continue the Community Awareness and Preparedness Program (CAPP) for citizens. The first several classes will be comprised of County employees.

In April 2024 Columbia County EMA hosted the third “Public Safety and Preparedness Fair” in Evans Towne Center Park. Approximately 50 different County departments and outside partner agencies participated, and an estimated 4,000 citizens attended. The fair focused on providing citizens with their own tools to be prepared should an emergency arise while simultaneously providing an opportunity to showcase Columbia County’s public safety and partner agencies. Planning is already underway for May 3, 2025, when Columbia County EMA will host the fourth “Public Safety and Preparedness Fair.”

Columbia County Community Broadband Utility (C³BU). C³BU will replace fiber optic cable in the utility right of way for several road projects, including Lewiston Road, Horizon South Parkway, Hereford Farm Road, Fury’s Ferry Road, and Hardy McManus Road. In addition to road projects, C³BU is currently working as a partner with other County departments on various projects of which fiber is a key component, including the expansion of the Columbia County Judicial Center and the new Building A on the county government’s Evans Campus.

Infrastructure and Resiliency. The Technology Services Division is exploring a concept known as Information Technology Investment Management (ITIM) that provides guidance for the proactive management of technology infrastructure. ITIM includes components like lifecycle management, procurement, return-on-investment, and maintenance to ensure that the government is receiving the value of the equipment and services purchased. Columbia County is proactive in its approach to infrastructure management, and the recent experience during Hurricane Helene has confirmed that the county has built a

solid technological foundation. ITIM will help define a path forward for technology investments, and lessons learned about strong infrastructure, independence, and resilience will be applied so that the government and the citizens are well-served by technology in the future.

Cybersecurity Strategy. The Technology Services Division is managing an ongoing, evolving, and flexible strategy for the County's cybersecurity, with the primary goal of ensuring that information stored on County systems is secure and protected from intrusion. This initiative is a combination of multiple projects that span the breadth of the information security discipline, and is described in the County's Information Security Policy, asset management policies and a robust and ongoing Information Security Awareness Program. This ongoing initiative continues to move forward with several key objectives:

- Assess our environment to determine the threats that exist and the assets that we need to protect.
- Put procedures, controls, equipment, and training into place to protect technology assets.
- Improve means of detecting intrusions, anomalies, and events through continuous monitoring.
- Test and assess the Security Incident Response Policy, which establishes means to identify, protect, detect, respond, and recover from cybersecurity incidents.
- Continue our robust and successful phishing campaigns and classes which have increased employee awareness about the challenges of security at an individual level.

Information Technology (IT).

- IT is the lead agency in coordinating the County's capability for deploying digital cameras for traffic management and security. IT is involved in multiple projects that will enhance public safety using equipment and services that serve as efficiency measures and force multipliers for multiple departments, including Traffic Engineering and the CCSO. The use of cameras and behind-the-scenes technology enables more effective management of traffic flows and more intelligent searches for visual information. The department's efforts will focus on the implementation of lifecycle replacements of obsolete cameras as well as deployment of new cameras in high-traffic areas.
- A vendor has been selected to provide the County with improved permitting, planning, and licensing software. IT worked with several customer departments to assemble specific requirements for a new software solution, with the intention of selecting a robust package that will meet staff needs and provide a first-class customer/public. The software is expected to be implemented in the spring of 2025.
- IT is working diligently to enhance its Disaster Response capability to ensure that the County can recover from man-made or natural events that could damage or destroy the primary data center. This SPLOST-funded project will result in the acquisition/construction of a site that will serve as a backup data center. A vendor has been selected to build the solution, and construction should be completed in the 4th quarter of 2024, with final implementation of equipment taking place in the following months.
- IT is working closely with the Columbia County Water Utility to implement a new customer information system (CIS) that will replace an aging AS/400 application with a modern solution that will enable more efficient internal processes, better reporting, and customer interface tools. This project should be completed in the 4th quarter of 2024.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The GIS Department is working on multiple initiatives intended to enhance Columbia County's GIS capability and further integrate GIS with other County systems.

- Cityworks is the County's asset management and work order system. GIS recently implemented a major upgrade to a new version of the solution, and planning is already underway for the next upgrade and the enhanced features that it provides. GIS is also expanding the availability of the Cityworks product to support several departments, including Recreation, C3BU, and CCWU. Cityworks includes, but is not limited to, functions like asset management, inspections, service requests, and work orders, supporting multiple critical functions across the County government.
- Geospatial services are designed to bring a rich visual aspect to data presentations, and are key factors in planning, trending, and historic analysis. GIS has expanded the visual presentation beyond paper maps to include dynamic and intuitive tools for data representation. Some of these tools include 3D modeling, GIS Web Data Services, Business Software integrations, and public/citizen engagement programs.
- The GIS Department is the keeper of a major ongoing initiative to maintain digital oblique orthophotography. The aerial flight for 2023 has resulted not only in new oblique digital orthophotography (pictures taken at a 45-degree angle that have coordinates that can be tied to the Earth 's surface), but also included new planimetric layers (features that can be seen from above). The County also received new geodatabase layers for roads, edges of pavement, buildings, and bodies of water, among several others. This information was integral to the county response to Hurricane Helene in September-October of 2024, and illustrates the value of this orthophotography. A new flight that captured storm damage was flown in October 2024, and a new regularly scheduled flight will take place early in 2025.
- GIS is responsible for the management of the County's Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Program, which focuses on all County business uses of UAS, also known as "drones". GIS is one of the largest departmental users of UAS products in daily operations. The department provides the County with aerial photography services, site and easement documentation, damage assessment, and search & rescue support. GIS is also taking a leadership role in UAS use among governments and is actively reaching out to educational institutions to expand the knowledge of this interesting and very useful technology.

Animal Services. At the 37th annual Georgia Animal Control Association Conference, Columbia County Animal Services was awarded the prestigious Animal Services Agency of the Year Award for 2024. Animal Services made major improvements this year to the kennels that house the adoptable dogs by installing clear door panels to enhance visibility. The shelter participated in various activities to bring more awareness to the department and the many services that are provided, hosted tours, participated in the STEM program at one of the elementary schools and welcomed numerous volunteer organizations to assist in socializing and training.

Parks, Recreation, & Events. The County continues to push participation limits to meet growing interest as total participation across all recreation and sports programs continued to increase in FY 2024. Total yearly enrollment eclipsed 9,000 participants for the first time ever with a continued increase already evident in FY 2025. Fall 2024 numbers included 3,800 participants across all sports and leagues, an increase from 3,300 participants in Fall 2023. Following these projections, athletics is striving to cross the 10,000-participant threshold in FY 2025.

The County retains its status as a “Better Sports for Kids Quality Program Provider” certification. The County is eligible for recertification in Spring 2025 and is working to become a member of the distinct group of institutions who are signified as “Excellence in Youth Sports.” Only a select few agencies are awarded this distinction each year and selection is based upon a demonstration of programs, initiatives, or policies that are innovative in the field of youth sports and recreation. Our team is diligently looking at ways that we can institute new strategies to meet the criteria of this award in the 2025 cycle.

The County maintains its national accreditation through the National Recreation and Parks Association’s Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). The CAPRA accreditation serves as a validation of Columbia County Parks, Recreation and Events' commitment to excellence and constant improvement. The accreditation affirms the County’s compliance with the best practices of operational management and quality assurance at the national level. Moreover, it is a valuable measure of the quality of the department's operation, management, and service to the community.

With only one percent of eligible Park and Recreation agencies accredited, this achievement puts Columbia County in good company with others at the elite level throughout the country. There are currently only 193 accredited agencies nation-wide and 14 accredited agencies in Georgia.

Stormwater Utility Fund. The Stormwater Utility Fund was created in 2000 after authorization by the state constitution for local governments to provide stormwater management services and facilities to protect and preserve the public health, safety, and welfare of its natural resources. The EPA’s Federal Clean Water Act placed emphasis on local governments in developing, implementing, conducting, and making available to its citizens the discharge of stormwater runoff through the protection of water quality and reduction of adverse stormwater effects. The stormwater service fee was developed by the County to be fair and reasonable with the rate being \$0.1775 per square foot of impervious surface on each property starting at a minimum of 100 square feet. The monthly service fee is billed to citizens owning property in the stormwater fee urbanized area. The Stormwater Fee funds are utilized for the management, monitoring, maintenance of, and improvements to the stormwater utility system and infrastructure.

Projects partially or wholly funded through the Stormwater Service Fee include:

- Mullins Pond/Butterfield Court/Petersburg Detention Pond Retrofit Designs. These designs, totaling \$168,000, are for modifications to three detention ponds to increase capacity and attenuate stormwater discharges downstream during large rain events in order to decrease flooding and erosion along the Reed Creek basin.
- Watervale Rd/Hickory Oak Ct/Mitchell Lane/Halifax Dr/Trenton Way/Champions Circle/Baker Woods Trail/Raintree Dr/Pineridge Run/William Few Pkwy. This project replaces over 1,600 linear feet of corroded or damaged storm pipe throughout the County and adds 600 linear feet of new storm drainpipe.
- Lakeside Park Green Infrastructure Improvements. This project is part of a Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) 319 Grant to retrofit green infrastructure stormwater practices at Lakeside Park. The project also includes installing new green infrastructure practices, educating the industry, providing local high school students with hands-on learning and experience, and improving the water quality of stormwater runoff into the adjacent Reed Creek. The County contribution of \$248,381 (40%) will be funded by the stormwater fee and the remaining \$372,500 (60%) will be funded through EPD’s grant contribution.

The stormwater service fee continues to provide funding for much needed stormwater infrastructure improvements, maintenance, and management to reduce flooding, improve water quality, and support the growing infrastructure within the County to serve the needs of our citizens.

Transportation Improvement Act of 2010 (TIA). TIA was created by the Georgia General Assembly in 2010 which allows regions in the state the opportunity to vote in favor of a 1% sales tax, also known as a “Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax” or “TSPLOST”, to be used as a funding source towards transportation improvements. The TIA program consists of identifying a list of projects proposed to be funded through a 10-year collection period. The lists are compiled by the respective county and city governments in each region and must be approved by the region’s Transportation Roundtable and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Program Director.

The Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) region includes 13 counties and the cities therein. Voters within the CSRA Region approved our first TSPLOST in July 2012 for a collection period of 2013-2022 and renewed the TSPLOST in June 2020 for an additional ten-year collection period of 2023-2032. Of the total funds collected, 75% is for the regional project list approved by the voters (constrained projects) and 25% is for the local governments to use at their discretion towards transportation improvements (unconstrained projects).

The discretionary funds continue to be a significant source of funding for Columbia County in meeting our ongoing transportation needs. During its first ten-year period, Columbia County has collected over \$25 million in discretionary funds which have been used to fund various traffic signal, sidewalk, intersection, resurfacing, and general transportation improvement projects.

TIA projects included in the constrained project list that will be ongoing in 2025 include:

- SR 28 Furys Ferry Road Widening: The more than \$50 million project will widen Furys Ferry Road to four lanes with a raised median between Evans to Locks Road and Hardy McManus Road, and will include the installation of select turn lane widenings and resurfacing from Hardy McManus Road to the state line. The project will also include a multi-use trail and the installation of a roundabout at its intersection with Hardy McManus Road. Construction began the summer of 2021 and is anticipated to be completed in early 2026.
- SR 388 Horizon South Parkway Widening: This project will be a continuation of the Lewiston Road alignment and will widen Horizon South Parkway to four lanes with a raised median between I-20 and Wrightsboro Road in Grovetown. The project will include pedestrian facilities and intersection upgrades. Construction on the more than \$26 million project began in 2023 and is anticipated to be completed in early 2026.
- Hardy McManus Road Widening: This \$30 million project will widen Hardy McManus Road to include a two-way left turn lane, planted medians, and roundabouts at Dolphin Way, Aylesbury Drive, and Halali Farm Road. Included in the project is the Euchee Creek Greenway extension that will ultimately connect Riverside Park on Hardy McManus Road to the Euchee Creek trail section in Grovetown. Construction is scheduled to start in early 2025.

LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING

The annual budget for Columbia County, GA, for FY 2025 provides funding to maintain current levels of service, with no increase in the millage rate, while reducing operating costs and capital outlay where possible. The annual budget for all funds totals \$367,751,637, reflecting a net increase from the fiscal year 2024 adopted budget of \$11,404,205, or 3.2%. This net increase is primarily due to the projected increase in property tax and sales tax revenues, implementation of the 23/28 SPLOST, and the construction/completion of many capital projects during FYs 2024 and 2025.

Total General Fund expenditures, excluding the use of reserves, increased by 5.75% from the FY 2024 adopted budget, including a contingency of \$3,468,686, or 3.57% of proposed expenditures. New personnel requests within the General Fund include 12.5 new positions totaling \$880,452 and allowance adjustments totaling \$66,365, for a grand total of \$946,817. Promotions and reclassifications are being addressed within the new salary matrix. New capital requests increased from \$2,484,351 in FY 2024 to \$3,814,058 in FY 2025, an increase of 53.5%.

On February 21, 2023, the Board adopted a resolution to create the Columbia County Hospital Authority (CCHA). Recognizing an urgent need for an acute care hospital and related facilities in the County, the CCHA was created in part to facilitate the financing of the projects by issuing revenue anticipation certificates. The Series 2023A and 2023 B certificates, issued on November 1, 2023, in the approximate amounts of \$279.205 million and \$57.405 million, respectively, are limited obligations of the CCHA and will be payable solely from pledged revenues available under a trust indenture.

Also on February 21, 2023, the Board adopted a resolution requesting legislation to create the Columbia County Public Facilities Authority (CCPFA). Senate Bill 285 of the 2023 Session of the Georgia General Assembly was passed creating the CCPFA. The CCPFA was created to acquire, construct, equip, maintain, and operate certain projects, including buildings and facilities for use by the County, the Columbia County Board of Education, and municipalities within the County. Among other things, the CCPFA is authorized to issue revenue bonds to finance such projects. On April 18, 2024, the CCPFA issued the CCPFA Revenue Bonds, Series 2024, in the amount of \$69.080 million to finance certain capital outlay projects of the County. The Series 2024 Bonds are limited, special obligations of the CCPFA and are secured and payable from revenues received under an Intergovernmental Contract with the County.

A master plan for the Columbia County Water Utility (CCWU) was completed in May 2023 to provide a long-term plan for the development of water and sewer infrastructure over the next 20 years. The population, water demand, and sewer demand projections will define the future requirements of the system(s). This will ensure sustainable and reliable infrastructure to support customer demands through the 2040 planning horizon. In addition to these projections, the plan includes evaluation of capacity, basin studies, capital project costs, and rate impacts.

As a product of the *Columbia County Water Utility Masterplan* issued in May 2023 and in preparation for issuing its \$41.535 million Water and Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2024, the CCWU published its *2024 Water and Sewerage Revenue Bond Report* in May 2024. The purpose of this report is to address capital projects, and required financing, needed to allow the CCWU to provide safe and cost-effective water and sewer service to a thriving service area. The CCWU has continued on a path of substantial growth over the past decades, making necessary the expansion of infrastructure in the CCWU service area. This infrastructure investment will enhance the existing system while preparing for future planned growth based on the *Columbia County Vision 2035 Plan*. The bonds needed to finance these projects were issued on July 18, 2024.

RELEVANT FINANCIAL POLICIES

The accumulation of reserves protects the County from uncontrollable increases in expenditures, extraordinary losses, unforeseen reductions in revenues, or a combination of these items. It also allows for prudent replacement and financing of capital construction and replacement projects.

The County shall maintain a General Fund unassigned fund balance of not less than 100 days of operations. This minimum fund balance, which may only be used as required by authority of the Board, is to provide for operating contingencies in either revenues or expenditures, and to provide adequate funds to operate without short-term borrowing. To determine the current funding level, divide the current unassigned fund balance by the result obtained from dividing the annual fund budget by 365 days. In the event the unassigned fund balance falls below the minimum level of 100 days of operations, the County Manager will present a plan to the Board as part of the subsequent fiscal year's annual budget to replenish the fund balance to the established minimum level in a reasonable time frame, generally 1 to 3 years. Budget surpluses will first be used towards replenishment, followed by the use of non-recurring revenues.

Total fund balance, including nonspendable, as of June 30, 2024, equaled 199 days of operations. Net spendable fund balance equaled 181 days of operations. The following criteria shall be used in determining the total amount of fund balance to maintain, unless otherwise specified by legal or contractual requirements.

Category	Days of Operation	Description
Min Fund Balance	100	Use funds for unforeseen contingencies
BOC Assignments	101-180	May use funds for one-time expenses such as capital acquisition, catastrophic events, one-time transfers to other funds, economic incentives, debt reduction, or millage rate reduction to mitigate unforeseen risks and ensure financial stability
Debt/Tax Reduction	181+	Must use funds to reduce debt or designate for future debt service, or to prevent future tax increases or to permit millage rate reduction

In keeping with County policy, transfers from the General Fund totaling \$18.2 million were made to other funds during FY 2024. Of this amount, \$17.3 million was transferred to the Title Ad Valorem Tax Fund. In accordance with Georgia House Bill 386, which became effective on January 1, 2013, the County implemented a one-time title ad valorem tax (TAVT) paid every time the ownership of a vehicle is transferred beginning March 1, 2013. These revenues are accounted for within the General Fund with no restrictions, unlike some sales taxes. A capital projects fund was established to account for proceeds from the TAVT in excess of those being utilized within the General Fund. The County may choose to transfer a portion of these revenues to the capital projects fund annually but is not required to do so. The County plans to transfer more funds to the TAVT fund during FY 2025.

The County continues to experience moderate growth each year in the tax digest. Because of this growth, the County has been able to roll back the millage rate for 6 of the past 7 years, in accordance with the above policy. For calendar year 2024, the tax digest for maintenance and operations grew by 8.4% and the millage rate for maintenance and operations was reduced by 0.327 mills.

Capital assets are defined by the County as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. This minimum capitalization cost is applicable for all categories of capital assets, with the exception of subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) which are \$25,000. Purchased or constructed capital assets are reported at cost or estimated historical cost. Donated capital assets are recorded at their estimated fair value at the date of donation. General infrastructure assets acquired prior to July 1, 2002, consist of the streets network that was acquired or that received substantial improvements subsequent to July 1, 1980. The streets network is reported at estimated historical cost using deflated replacement cost. The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that

do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets' lives are expensed as incurred.

The County shall develop a multi-year plan for capital improvements, update it annually, and make capital improvements in accordance with the plan. The County shall adopt a long-term funding mechanism for capital projects. The current SPLOST program was renewed by referendum in November 2022. The operating costs associated with any approved capital projects will be analyzed and included in future operating budgets. The County's current capital improvements plan runs through 2028.

AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Columbia County, Georgia, for its ACFR for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. This was the twenty-sixth consecutive year that the County achieved this prestigious award. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized ACFR. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. We believe that our current ACFR continues to meet the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements, and we are submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.

The preparation of this report could not have been accomplished without the support and cooperation of elected officials, County administration, other County departments, external auditors, and the efficient, dedicated efforts of the entire staff of the Finance Department. Credit must be given to the County Manager and the Board of Commissioners for their unfailing support for maintaining the highest standards of professionalism in the management of the County's finances.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leanne C. Reece". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leanne C. Reece, CPA
Director of Internal Services

**COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS
June 30, 2024**

ELECTED OFFICIALS

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairman	Doug Duncan
District 1	Connie Melear
District 2	Don Skinner
District 3	Michael Carraway
District 4	Alison Couch

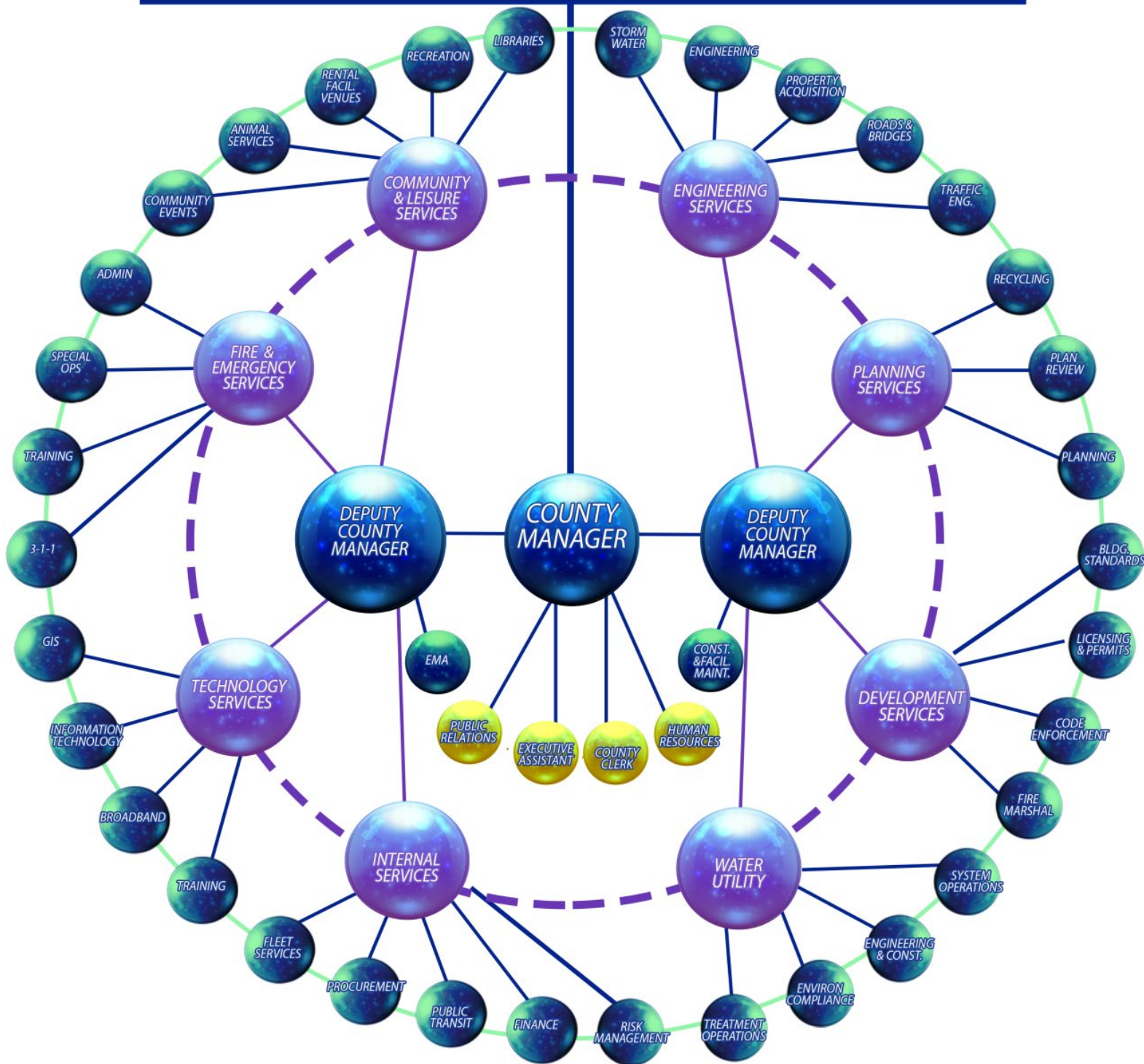
CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Tax Commissioner	Wayne Bridges
Clerk of Court	Cindy Mason
Magistrate Court Judge	Jason Troiano
Probate Court Judge	Alice Padgett
Sheriff	Clay Whittle
Coroner	Keith Cox

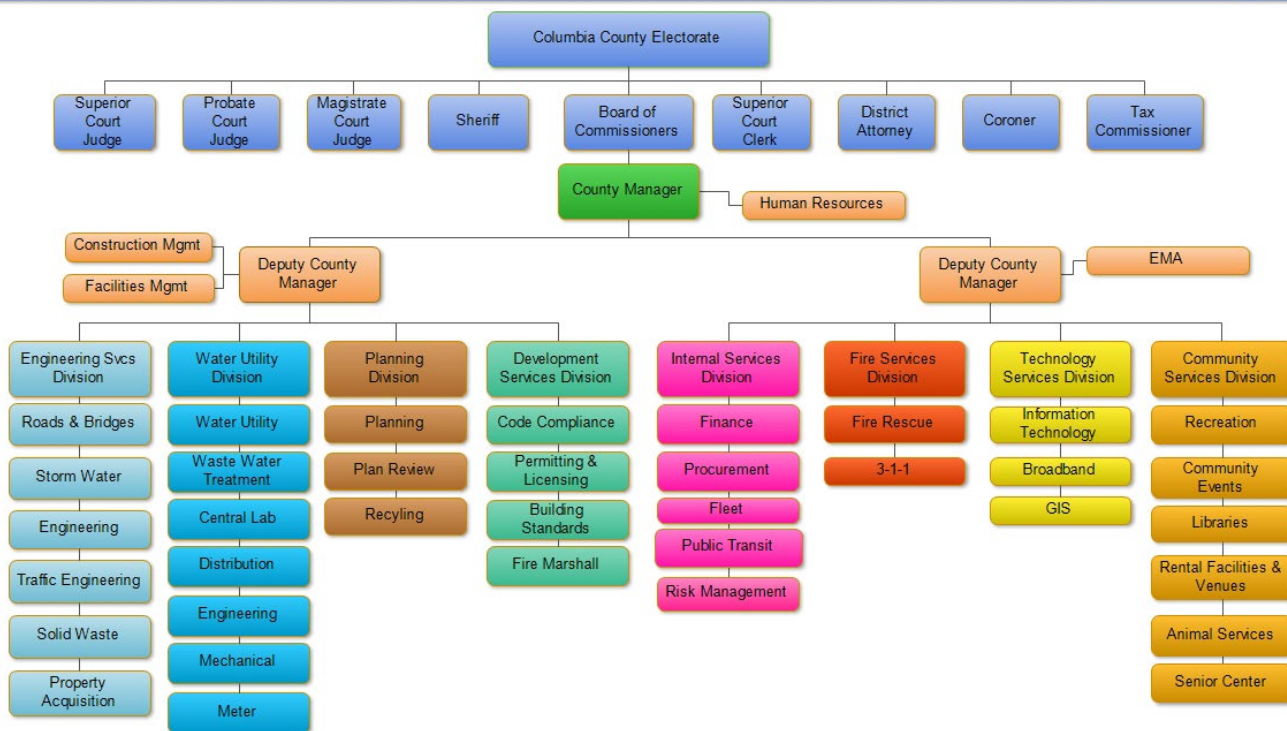
APPOINTED OFFICIALS

County Manager	Scott Johnson
Deputy County Manager	Glenn Kennedy
Deputy County Manager	Matt Schlachter
Director of Community and Leisure Services	John Luton
Director of Development Services	Paul Scarbary
Director of Technology Services	Michael Blanchard
Director of Engineering Services	Kyle Titus
Director of Internal Services	Leanne Reece
Director of Water Utility Services	Stacy Gordon
Director of Fire Services	Jeremy Wallen
Director of Planning Services	Scott Sterling
County Clerk	Patrice Crawley
County Attorney	Chris Driver

Columbia County Board of Commissioners



Columbia County, Georgia





Government Finance Officers Association

Certificate of
Achievement
for Excellence
in Financial
Reporting

Presented to

**Columbia County
Georgia**

For its Annual Comprehensive
Financial Report
For the Fiscal Year Ended

June 30, 2023

Christopher P. Morrell

Executive Director/CEO

FINANCIAL SECTION

Report of Independent Auditor

To the Columbia County Board of Commissioners
Columbia County, Georgia

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Columbia County, Georgia (the "County"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County, as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position, and, where applicable, cash flows thereof and the respective budgetary comparison for the General Fund, the Fire Services Fund, and the American Rescue Plan Fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of County and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the County's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and, therefore, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the County's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, and the other required supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements. The accompanying combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements, schedule of expenditures of special purpose local option sales tax, and schedule of federal awards, as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards, and the schedule of expenditures of the special purpose local option sales tax are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the certification of 911 Expenditures, the introductory, and the statistical sections but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon. In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 13, 2024, on our consideration of the County's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the County's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cherry Bekaert LLP". The script is cursive and fluid, with the letters "C", "B", and "L" being particularly large and stylized.

Augusta, Georgia
December 13, 2024

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Management's Discussion & Analysis

The Management's Discussion and Analysis of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) of Columbia County, Georgia (the Government) provides an overall narrative and analysis of the Government's financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. This discussion and analysis is designed to look at the Government's financial performance as a whole. Readers should also review the additional information provided in the transmittal letter, which can be found preceding this narrative, and the complete financial statements, with notes, which follow this narrative, to enhance their understanding of the Government's financial performance.

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights of the Primary Government for the year ended June 30, 2024, are as follows:

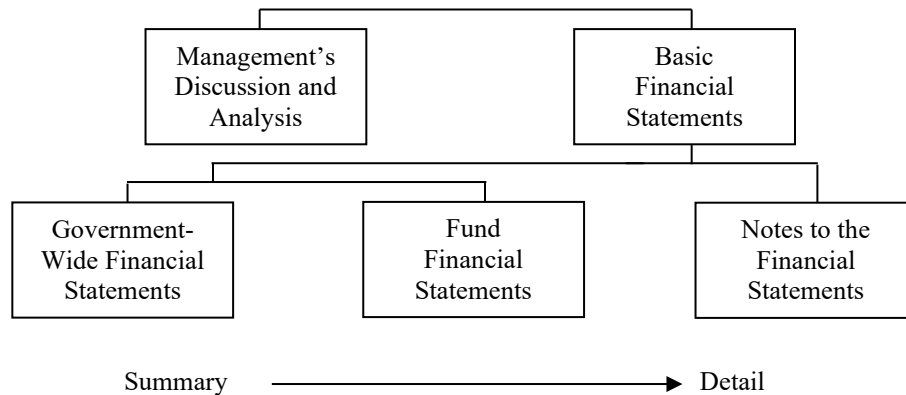
- The Government's assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by \$1,031.9 million (net position). Of this amount, \$126.4 million (unrestricted net position) may be used to meet the Government's ongoing obligations to residents and creditors.
- The Government's total net position increased by \$92.6 million, primarily due to an increase in property tax and sales tax revenues and the continued diligence of County departments in controlling their expenditures.
- Combined revenue totaled \$314.3 million of which governmental activities totaled \$250.2 million and business-type activities totaled \$64.1 million.
- Overall expenses totaled \$221.7 million of which governmental activities totaled \$163.6 million and business-type activities totaled \$58.1 million.
- The Government's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$331.9 million, an increase of approximately \$110.9 million from the prior year, primarily due to an increase in property tax revenues, the timing of special purpose local option sales tax (splost) collected versus project expenditures, and proceeds from debt issuance. Approximately 11.6% of this total amount, or \$38.5 million, is available for spending at the Government's discretion (*unassigned fund balance*).
- At June 30, 2024, unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$48.0 million, or 56.3% of total General Fund expenditures for the fiscal year and 87.3% of total General Fund fund balance.
- The Government's enterprise funds reported a combined net position of \$373.2 million, an increase of \$6.3 million from the prior year. Approximately 11.8% of this total amount, or \$44.2 million, is unrestricted.
- Total outstanding long-term debt, excluding compensated absences, the OPEB liability, and the liability for landfill closure/postclosure care costs, increased by approximately \$61.3 million primarily due to the issuance of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$69.1 million.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Government's basic financial statements. The basic financial statements consist of three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements. The basic financial statements present two different views of the Government through the use of government-wide statements and fund financial statements. In addition to the basic financial statements, this report contains other supplemental information that will enhance the reader's understanding of the financial condition of the Government.

Required Components of Annual Financial Report

Figure 1



Basic Financial Statements

The first two statements in the basic financial statements are the **Government-Wide Financial Statements**. They provide both short and long-term information about the Government's financial status.

The next statements are **Fund Financial Statements**. These statements focus on the activities of the individual parts of the Government. These statements provide more detail than the government-wide statements. There are four parts to the Fund Financial Statements: 1) the governmental funds statements; 2) the budgetary comparison statements; 3) the proprietary fund statements; and 4) the fiduciary fund statements.

The next section of the basic financial statements is the **Notes to the Financial Statements**. The notes explain in detail some of the data contained in those statements. After the notes, **supplemental information** is provided to show details about the Government's non-major funds and internal service funds, all of which are added together in one column on the appropriate basic financial statements.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements provide a broad view of the Government's operations in a manner similar to a private-sector business. The statements provide both short-term and long-term information about the Government's financial position, which assists in assessing the economic condition at the end of the fiscal year. These statements are prepared using the flow of economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. This means the statements take into account all revenues and expenses connected with the fiscal year even if cash involved has not been received or paid. The government-wide financial statements include the following two statements:

The **Statement of Net Position** presents information on all of the Government's assets/deferred outflows and liabilities/deferred inflows, with the difference between the two reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Government is improving or deteriorating.

The **Statement of Activities** presents information showing how the Government's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will not result in cash flows until future fiscal periods (e.g. uncollected taxes and earned but unused vacation leave). This statement also presents a comparison between direct expense and program revenues for each function of the Government.

The government-wide statements are divided into three categories: 1) governmental activities, 2) business-type activities and 3) component units. The governmental activities include most of the Government's basic services such as general administration, judicial services, public safety, public works, health and welfare, culture and recreation, and housing and development. Property taxes, local option sales taxes and state and federal grant funds finance most of these activities. The business-type activities are those services that the Government charges a fee to customers in order to provide. These include solid waste management, water and sewerage, storm water, rental facilities, and broadband communications.

The final category is component units. The Columbia County Public Facilities Authority (CCPFA), a blended component unit, was created to issue revenue bonds to finance certain projects for the County. Because the CCPFA provides services entirely, or almost entirely, to the primary government, it is presented as part of the primary government. The Development Authority of Columbia County (DACC), the Columbia County Board of Health (CCBOH), the Columbia County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CCCVB), the Greater Clarks Hill Regional Library (GCHRL), and the Columbia County Hospital Authority (CCHA) are reported as discretely presented component units. The DACC serves to promote, pursue and implement economic development in the County. The CCBOH is a public health department. The CCCVB provides convention and tourist promotion services within the County. The GCHRL is a regional library system servicing Columbia County, GA, Warren County, GA, Burke County, GA, and Lincoln County, GA. The CCHA was created to facilitate the financing of a hospital in the County. Although legally separate from the Government, the Government appoints a voting majority of the boards for each of the component units.

Matters related to the component units are not included in this discussion and analysis. No separately issued financial statements are available for the DACC, the CCCVB, the GCHRL, or the CCHA. Complete financial statements of the CCBOH may be obtained at the County's administrative office. The address is as follows:

Columbia County, Georgia
630 Ronald Reagan Drive
Evans, Georgia 30809

Fund Financial Statements

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Government, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

The fund financial statements focus on individual parts of the Government, reporting the Government's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements. All of the funds of the Government can be divided into three categories: governmental funds, proprietary funds and fiduciary funds. These fund categories use different accounting approaches and should be interpreted differently.

Governmental Funds

Most of the basic services provided by the Government are financed through governmental funds. Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide statements, these funds focus on how assets can readily be converted into cash and the amount of funds left at year-end that will be available for spending in the next year. Governmental funds are reported using an accounting method called *modified accrual accounting*, which focuses on current financial resources. Such information may be useful in evaluating the government's short-term financing requirements. These statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Government's finances that assists in determining whether there will be adequate financial resources available to meet the Government's current needs. The relationship between governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements and the governmental funds financial statements is described in a reconciliation that is a part of the fund financial statements.

The Government has four governmental fund types: the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Debt Service Funds, and the Capital Projects Funds. Eight individual funds are being considered major funds – the General Fund, the Fire Services Fund, the American Rescue Plan Fund, the 2017-2022 SPLOST Fund, the Title Ad Valorem Tax Fund (TAVT), the 2024 Public Facilities Authority (PFA) Bond Fund, the 2023-2028 SPLOST Fund and the Transportation SPLOST (TSPLOST) Fund.

Proprietary Funds

The Government has two types of proprietary funds used to account for activities that operate similar to commercial enterprises found in the private sector. Funds that charge fees for services provided to outside customers including other local governments are known as Enterprise Funds. These funds are used to report the same functions presented as business-type activities in the government-wide financial statements. Funds that charge fees for services provided to departments within the reporting government are known as Internal Service Funds. Proprietary funds use the accrual basis of accounting, thus the only reconciling items needed between the government-wide financial statements for business-type activities and the proprietary fund financial statements relate to the elimination of internal service fund activity and interfund indirect cost allocations.

The Government has seven enterprise funds: four utilities (Water and Sewerage Fund, Storm Water Utility Fund, Solid Waste Management Fund, and Communications Utility Fund) and three rental facilities (Savannah Rapids Pavilion, the Performing Arts Center, and the Exhibition Center). The Government has six internal service funds: Employee Medical Fund, Risk Management Fund, Customer Service Information Center Fund, Utility Damage Prevention Fund, Fleet Replacement Fund, and Geographic Information Systems Fund. The Water and Sewerage Fund, Storm Water Utility Fund, and Solid Waste Management Fund are the only funds being considered major funds for presentation purposes.

Fiduciary Funds

The Fiduciary Funds are used to account for assets held by the Government as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governments, and other Columbia County departments. The Government is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in these funds are used only for their intended purposes and only by those to whom the assets belong. These funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources are not available to support the Government's operations or programs.

Government-Wide Financial Analysis

Net Position

Net position may serve over time as one useful indicator of a government's financial condition. The assets and deferred outflows of the Government exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows by \$1,031.9 million as of June 30, 2024.

The largest portion of the Government's net position, \$745.1 million or 72.2%, reflects its investment in capital assets such as land, buildings, equipment, right-to-use leased assets, subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs), and infrastructure (road, bridges, sidewalks, water lines and sewer lines, etc.) less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. The Government uses these capital assets to provide services to its citizens; therefore, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the Government's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

An additional portion of the Government's net position, \$160.4 million or 15.5%, represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining balance of unrestricted net position, \$126.4 million or 12.3%, may be used to meet the Government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

Several aspects of the Government's financial operations positively influenced the total *unrestricted governmental net position*:

- Continued diligence in the collection of property taxes by maintaining a collection percentage of 99% for real and personal property.
- Continued low cost of debt due to the Government's high bond rating.
- Continued maintenance of a 100-day minimum fund balance policy in the General Fund.

The Government's Net Position

June 30

Figure 2

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Current and other assets	\$ 354,984,693	\$ 246,421,488	\$ 76,405,369	\$ 70,736,684	\$ 431,390,062	\$ 317,158,172
Capital assets	480,374,489	429,647,026	368,178,966	371,998,025	848,553,455	801,645,051
Total assets	835,359,182	676,068,514	444,584,335	442,734,709	1,279,943,517	1,118,803,223
Deferred outflows of resources	942,917	610,244	1,420,596	1,467,778	2,363,513	2,078,022
Current liabilities	41,281,984	41,166,677	6,919,877	5,518,778	48,201,861	46,685,455
Long-term liabilities outstanding	149,170,430	74,833,577	46,872,754	53,794,166	196,043,184	128,627,743
Total liabilities	190,452,414	116,000,254	53,792,631	59,312,944	244,245,045	175,313,198
Deferred inflows of resources	4,672,124	4,918,970	1,446,521	1,319,868	6,118,645	6,238,838
Net position:						
Net investment in capital assets	416,978,425	372,162,519	328,175,920	325,477,859	745,154,345	697,640,378
Restricted	159,514,714	135,225,742	885,233	745,385	160,399,947	135,971,127
Unrestricted	64,684,422	48,371,273	61,704,626	57,346,431	126,389,048	105,717,704
Total net position	\$ 641,177,561	\$ 555,759,534	\$ 390,765,779	\$ 383,569,675	\$ 1,031,943,340	\$ 939,329,209

Changes in Net Position

Governmental Activities. Governmental activities increased the Government's net position by approximately \$85.4 million, thereby accounting for 92.2% of the total growth in the net position of the Government. Key elements of this change are as follows:

Governmental Revenues. Taxes continue as the main source of revenue for governmental activities of the Primary Government amounting to 78.9% of total governmental revenues for the year ended June 30, 2024. Property tax revenues for fiscal year 2024 increased by \$4.7 million primarily due to an increase in revenues from the title ad valorem tax. Sales and other tax revenues increased by \$12.0 million due to continued population and development growth within the county.

Governmental Functional Expenses: As reflected in the Government's Changes in Net Position, the Government expended 46.2% of the governmental appropriations for judicial and public safety functional expenses, which is comparable to the 46.1% expended in the prior year. Thus, the Government continues to commit substantial financial resources for the safety of its citizens.

Business-type activities: Business-type activities increased the Government's net position by approximately \$7.2 million, accounting for 7.8% of the total growth in the Government's net position. Key elements of this increase are as follows:

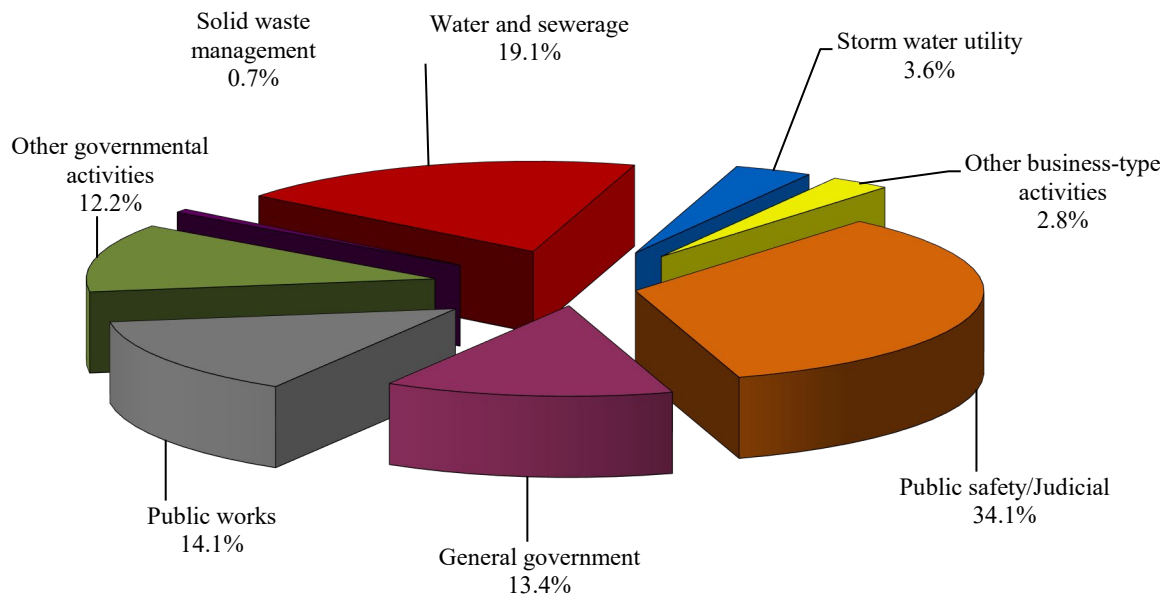
- The Water and Sewerage Fund reported an increase in net position of \$6.7 million due to continued operating efficiency of the Fund. Also, capital assets with an acquisition value of \$3.4 million were contributed from developers. As the system continues to expand, management is able to control operating costs in connection with establishing rates sufficient to ensure an increase in net position. 723 customers were added to the system during the fiscal year, representing a 1.4% increase in customers.
- The Storm Water Utility Fund reported a decrease in net position of \$292,103 primarily due to a reduction in capital contributions of \$1.3 million.
- The Solid Waste Management Fund reported a decrease in net position of \$768,673. The landfill has two cells, both of which are currently closed and no longer accepting waste. Due to revised EPD estimates, the liability for post-closure care costs of the cells had a net increase of \$116,866. Once post-closure monitoring is complete, any remaining fund deficit will be recovered from General Fund contributions.

**The Government's Changes in Net Position
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30**

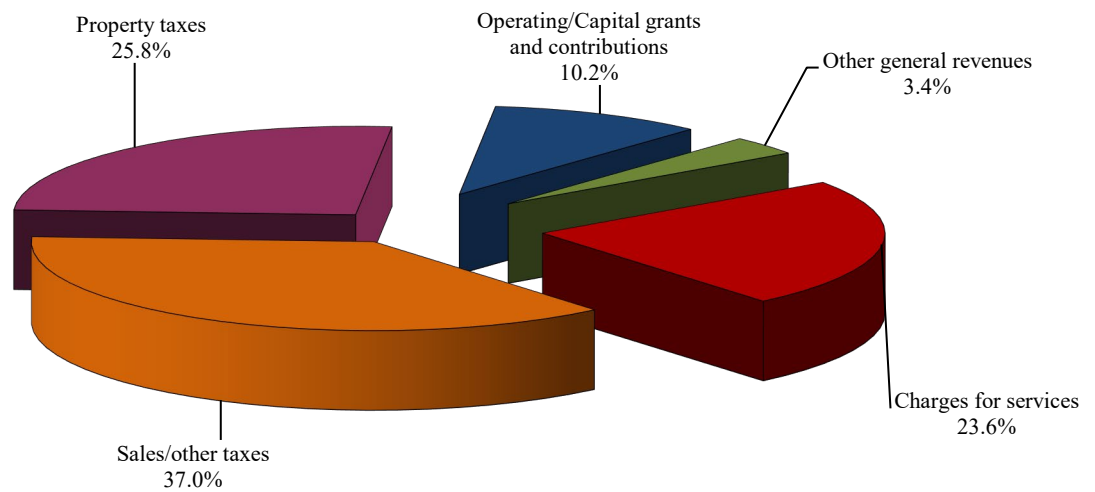
Figure 3

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Revenues:						
Program revenues:						
Charges for services	\$ 18,690,364	\$ 16,985,383	\$ 55,525,032	\$ 48,740,850	\$ 74,215,396	\$ 65,726,233
Operating grants and contributions	6,191,149	2,506,644	108,249	413,626	6,299,398	2,920,270
Capital grants and contributions	20,630,969	16,129,171	4,956,481	10,434,222	25,587,450	26,563,393
General revenues:						
Property taxes	81,142,390	76,447,333	-	-	81,142,390	76,447,333
Sales/other taxes	116,249,226	104,286,321	-	-	116,249,226	104,286,321
Revenues from use of money	4,858,836	1,735,866	1,811,398	(179,681)	6,670,234	1,556,185
Gain on sale of assets	680,493	1,232	311,239	125	991,732	1,357
Miscellaneous	1,797,822	1,560,114	1,331,466	1,034,347	3,129,288	2,594,461
Total revenues	<u>250,241,249</u>	<u>219,652,064</u>	<u>64,043,865</u>	<u>60,443,489</u>	<u>314,285,114</u>	<u>280,095,553</u>
Expenses:						
General government	29,653,014	27,476,973	-	-	29,653,014	27,476,973
Judicial system	10,772,436	9,663,804	-	-	10,772,436	9,663,804
Public safety	64,821,854	59,479,819	-	-	64,821,854	59,479,819
Public works	31,244,070	29,717,507	-	-	31,244,070	29,717,507
Health and welfare	6,153,051	1,540,054	-	-	6,153,051	1,540,054
Culture and recreation	11,847,983	14,421,268	-	-	11,847,983	14,421,268
Housing and development	6,350,607	5,888,491	-	-	6,350,607	5,888,491
Interest on long-term debt	2,767,966	1,973,532	-	-	2,767,966	1,973,532
Water and sewerage	-	-	42,420,767	38,525,791	42,420,767	38,525,791
Storm water utility	-	-	7,995,974	7,631,306	7,995,974	7,631,306
Solid waste management	-	-	1,423,689	(4,005,404)	1,423,689	(4,005,404)
Rental facilities	-	-	3,458,849	2,499,492	3,458,849	2,499,492
Communications utility	-	-	2,760,723	2,544,144	2,760,723	2,544,144
Total expenses	<u>163,610,981</u>	<u>150,161,448</u>	<u>58,060,002</u>	<u>47,195,329</u>	<u>221,670,983</u>	<u>197,356,777</u>
Increase in net position before transfers	<u>86,630,268</u>	<u>69,490,616</u>	<u>5,983,863</u>	<u>13,248,160</u>	<u>92,614,131</u>	<u>82,738,776</u>
Transfers	<u>(1,212,241)</u>	<u>(1,300,102)</u>	<u>1,212,241</u>	<u>1,300,102</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Increase in net position	<u>85,418,027</u>	<u>68,190,514</u>	<u>7,196,104</u>	<u>14,548,262</u>	<u>92,614,131</u>	<u>82,738,776</u>
Net position, beginning	<u>555,759,534</u>	<u>487,569,020</u>	<u>383,569,675</u>	<u>369,021,413</u>	<u>939,329,209</u>	<u>856,590,433</u>
Net position, ending	<u>\$ 641,177,561</u>	<u>\$ 555,759,534</u>	<u>\$ 390,765,779</u>	<u>\$ 383,569,675</u>	<u>\$ 1,031,943,340</u>	<u>\$ 939,329,209</u>

Government-Wide Expenses



Government-Wide Revenues



Financial Analysis of the Government's Individual Funds

The Government uses fund accounting to demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds

The focus of the Government's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows and balances of usable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Government's financial requirements. In particular, the assigned/unassigned fund balances may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year. The combined fund balance of all the governmental funds is \$331.9 million, of which \$52.1 million, or 15.7%, is assigned and \$38.5 million, or 11.6%, is unassigned.

General Fund

The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the Government. At the end of the current fiscal year, total fund balance of the General Fund was \$54.9 million, of which \$47.9 million, or 87.3%, was unassigned. A portion of fund balance in the General Fund in the amount of \$2.5 million, or 4.6%, is assigned to specific purposes, such as risk management, employee medical costs, and fleet replacement. As a measure of the General Fund's liquidity, comparing both unassigned and assigned fund balance to total fund expenditures may be useful. As of June 30, 2024, the total of unassigned and assigned fund balance represents 59.3% of total General Fund expenditures.

The total fund balance of the General Fund increased by \$3.1 million (5.9%) during the current fiscal year. Key factors contributing to this change are as follows:

- ◆ Total revenue increased from prior year revenue by \$8.4 million, or 8.6%, primarily due to an increase in investment income and in tax revenues.
- ◆ Total expenditures increased from prior year expenditures by \$3.8 million, or 4.7%, primarily due to personnel changes, such as promotions, reclassifications, merit increases, and benefit changes.
- ◆ Total revenues exceeded total expenditures for the fiscal year by \$21.1 million.
- ◆ In maintaining compliance with the Government's reserve policy, transfers out totaled \$18.2 million, a decrease of \$8.8 million, for completion of capital projects and to cover fund deficits.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

During the year ended June 30, 2024, the Government's financial picture remains impressive. The fiscal year 2024 budget was balanced with no millage rate increase and no reduction in services provided to the citizens.

During the year, the Government revised the budget on several occasions. Generally, budget amendments fall into one of five categories: 1) amendments to appropriate fund balance for encumbrances from the prior year; 2) amendments made to adjust the estimates that are used to prepare the original budget resolution once exact information is available; 3) amendments made to recognize new funding amounts from external sources, such as Federal and State grants; 4) increases in appropriations that become necessary to maintain services; and 5) amendments to transfer appropriations between departments. The fifth category has no effect on the final budget and, therefore, is not addressed in this narrative. For example, included in the original budget for the general government function was a contingency in the amount of \$2,254,843. During the year, the Government transferred these funds to other functions as needed, having no impact on the total budget.

Amendments to the General Fund budget increased revenues, expenditures and other financing sources/(uses) by \$13.5 million. Amendments consisted of the following:

- An increase in transfers to other funds of \$13.0 million, offset with the use of reserves, for completion of capital projects and to cover fund deficits.
- Other amendments to functional expenditures were due to the allocation of general overhead or contingency as mentioned above and had an immaterial impact on the total budget.

The actual operating revenues for the General Fund were \$10.7 million greater than the final budgeted amount (less the use of reserves for transfers of \$13.0 million budgeted as other income), primarily due to an increase in property tax and sales tax revenues and an increase in investment income. The individual sources within the revenues fluctuated both positively and negatively. Except for these areas, no individual source materially varied from the final budget.

As a result of superior budget management by all departments of the Government, actual operating expenditures were less than the final budgeted amount by \$5.2 million. For the year, actual revenues and other financing sources exceeded actual expenditures and other financing uses by \$3.1 million.

Special Revenue Funds

The Government uses Special Revenue Funds to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes, other than for major capital projects. The Fire Services Fund, a major fund included in the fund financial statements, is used to account for taxes collected in special service districts within the unincorporated area for the purpose of providing fire services. The fund balance as of June 30, 2024, is \$2.6 million, an increase of \$2.0 million from the previous year, primarily due to an increase in property tax revenues.

Another major fund included in the fund financial statements is the American Rescue Plan Fund. This fund is used to account for funds received from multiple grants from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund in accordance with the American Rescue Plan Act. The fund balance as of June 30, 2024, is \$1.5 million, an increase of \$1.0 million, primarily due to an increase in earned grant revenue and in the fair market value of investments. Most funds received from non-reimbursement grants are currently recognized as unearned as the criteria for revenue recognition has not been met.

Capital Projects Funds

The Government uses Capital Projects Funds to account for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities that are not financed by Proprietary Funds. Capital Projects Fund reported as major funds are the 2017-2022 SPLOST Fund, the TAVT Fund, the 2024 PFA Bond Fund, the 2023-2028 SPLOST Fund, and the TSPLOST Fund.

The 2017-2022 SPLOST Fund accounts for capital improvement projects approved as part of the 2017-2022 splost program until such projects are completed. The fund balance as of June 30, 2024, for the 2017-2022 SPLOST Fund totals \$86.3 million, all of which is held for specific construction and improvement projects and capital acquisitions. As revenue collections ended as of December 31, 2022, the decrease in fund balance is due to the completion of improvement projects.

Proceeds of the TAVT are first accounted for in the General Fund. A capital projects fund was established to account for proceeds from the TAVT in excess of those being utilized within the General Fund. The County may choose to transfer a portion of these revenues to the capital projects fund annually but is not required to do so. Unlike splost funds, these funds can be used at the Government's discretion. The fund balance as of June 30, 2024, for the TAVT Fund totals \$49.6 million.

The 2024 PFA Bond Fund accounts for capital improvement projects funded with the issuance of the 2024 PFA Revenue Bond until such projects are completed. The fund balance as of June 30, 2024, for the 2024 PFA Bond Fund totals \$74.7 million, all of which is held for specific construction and improvement projects and capital acquisitions.

The 2023-2028 SPLOST Fund accounts for capital improvement projects approved as part of the 2023-2028 splost program until such projects are completed. The fund balance as of June 30, 2024, for the 2023-2028 SPLOST Fund totals \$47.4 million, all of which is held for specific construction and improvement projects and capital acquisitions. The increase in fund balance is due to the timing of the collection of revenues as compared to project expenditures. During fiscal year 2024, sales tax revenues restricted for capital purposes increased by 6.3%.

The final major fund included in the governmental fund financial statements is the TSPLOST Fund, the proceeds of which are accounted for in this capital projects fund until improvement projects are completed. The deficit fund balance as of June 30, 2024, for the TSPLOST Fund totals \$(9.4) million, due to the timing of the collection of revenues (mostly as government reimbursements) as compared to project expenditures. During fiscal year 2024, TSPLOST revenues increased by 47.6% from the previous year.

Enterprise Funds

The activities of the Government that render services to the public on a user charge basis, or that require periodic determination of revenues for public policy, are accounted for as Enterprise Funds. The Government's enterprise funds provide the same type of information found in the government-wide statements but in more detail. Unrestricted net position of major enterprise funds at the end of the year were: Water and Sewerage Fund, \$35.0 million; Storm Water Utility Fund, \$10.7 million; Solid Waste Management Fund, \$(1.4) million. The total growth (reduction) in net position for previously mentioned funds was \$6.7 million, (\$292,103), and (\$768,673), respectively. Factors concerning the finances of these funds have already been addressed in the discussion of the Government's business-type activities.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets

The Government's investment in capital assets for its governmental and business-type activities as of June 30, 2024, amounts to \$848.6 million (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes land, buildings, improvements, equipment, infrastructure, right-to-use leased assets, SBITAs, and construction in progress. Infrastructure assets are items that are normally immovable and of value only to the Government, such as roads, bridges, streets and sidewalks, drainage systems, and other similar items.

Major capital asset transactions during the year include:

- Completion of \$13.4 million of building projects and \$4.8 million of other improvements for governmental activities.
- Completion of \$4.1 million of utility plant and distribution systems for business-type activities.
- Net increase in construction in progress for governmental activities of \$31.4 million.
- Net increase in construction in progress for business-type activities of \$759,274.

Additional information on the Government's capital assets can be found in Note 6 of the notes to the financial statements of this report.

The Government's Capital Assets
(net of depreciation)
June 30
Figure 4

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Land	\$ 92,889,389	\$ 83,059,807	\$ 3,557,992	\$ 3,557,992	\$ 96,447,381	\$ 86,617,799
Buildings	116,399,183	110,391,726	6,355,746	6,878,650	122,754,929	117,270,376
Improvements other than buildings	50,276,957	47,167,436	556,595	155,464	50,833,552	47,322,900
Utility plant and distribution systems	-	-	204,032,714	207,900,214	204,032,714	207,900,214
Donated subdivisions	-	-	106,952,158	107,989,344	106,952,158	107,989,344
Storm water systems	-	-	11,595,072	11,618,714	11,595,072	11,618,714
Infrastructure	97,598,121	103,094,045	10,128,809	10,378,447	107,726,930	113,472,492
Vehicles, machinery and equipment	16,567,263	11,032,682	7,631,551	6,863,930	24,198,814	17,896,612
Right-to-use leased assets	31,526	43,149	12,027	30,079	43,553	73,228
Subscription based assets	455,968	102,863	-	28,163	455,968	131,026
Construction in progress	106,156,082	74,755,318	17,356,302	16,597,028	123,512,384	91,352,346
Total	<u>\$ 480,374,489</u>	<u>\$ 429,647,026</u>	<u>\$ 368,178,966</u>	<u>\$ 371,998,025</u>	<u>\$ 848,553,455</u>	<u>\$ 801,645,051</u>

Long-Term Liabilities

As of June 30, 2024, the Government had a total of \$196.0 million in outstanding long-term liabilities. Of this amount, \$128.4 million consists of general obligation debt backed by the full faith and credit of the Government, \$39.7 million consists of revenue bonds backed by the revenues of the water and sewerage system, \$3.4 million consists of the liability for landfill closure, and \$24.5 million in other liabilities. During the year, the Government retired \$5.3 million of outstanding general obligation bonds and \$7.4 million of outstanding revenue bonds (not including bond premiums).

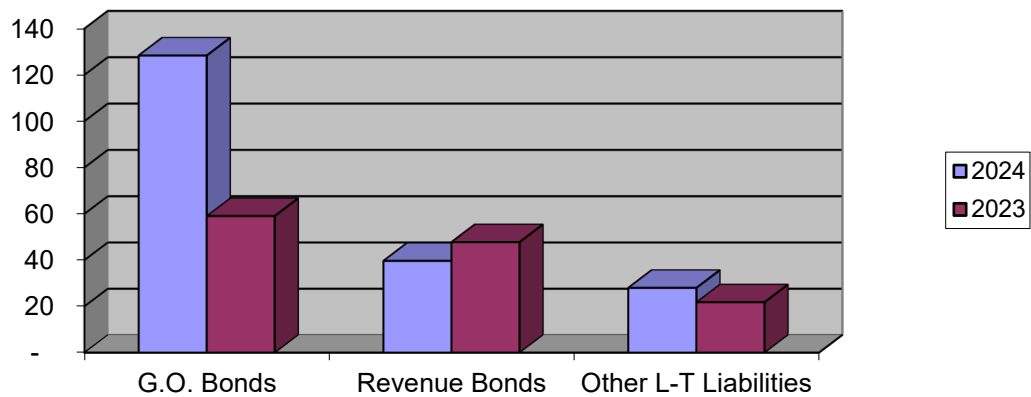
The Government's Long-Term Liabilities

June 30

Figure 5

	Governmental Activities		Business-type Activities		Total	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
General obligation bonds	\$ 128,365,804	\$ 59,067,662	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 128,365,804	\$ 59,067,662
Revenue bonds	-	-	39,670,895	47,773,166	39,670,895	47,773,166
Other liabilities	20,804,626	15,765,915	7,201,859	6,021,000	28,006,485	21,786,915
Total long-term liabilities	\$ 149,170,430	\$ 74,833,577	\$ 46,872,754	\$ 53,794,166	\$ 196,043,184	\$ 128,627,743

Millions



Bond Ratings

Columbia County continues to maintain strong bond ratings with the major credit rating services. In February 2024, the Government prepared comprehensive presentations for Fitch Ratings, S&P Global Ratings, and Moody's Investors Service rating agencies in anticipation of issuing approximately \$69.08 million in Public Facilities Authority revenue bonds. The Government's ratings for its PFA revenue debt and its general obligation debt were assigned/affirmed as follows:

Rating Agency:	PFA Rating:	GO Rating:
Fitch	AAA	AAA
Moody's Investors Service	Aaa	Aaa
Standard and Poor's	AAA	AAA

In May 2024, the Government prepared comprehensive presentations for Fitch Ratings, S&P Global Ratings, and Moody's Investors Service rating agencies in anticipation of issuing approximately \$41.54 million in water and sewerage refunding bonds. The Government's ratings for the water and sewerage debt were affirmed as follows:

Rating Agency:	W/S Rating:
Fitch	AAA
Moody's Investor Services	Aa1
Standard and Poor's	AA+

AAA is the highest possible bond rating and offers an exceptional degree of credibility. These high ratings are a primary factor in keeping interest costs low on the Government's outstanding debt. The County will continue to follow prudent fiscal policies and practices in order to maintain its strong credit rating.

Debt Limit

The State of Georgia limits the amount of general obligation debt that a unit of government can issue to 10% of the net assessed value of taxable property located within that government's boundaries. The legal debt limit for the Government is \$894.0 million and the legal debt margin is \$765.8 million.

Additional information regarding the Government's long-term debt can be found in Note 7 of the notes to the financial statements of this report.

Economic Factors

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners (BOC) have continued to aggressively address the current and future needs of the Government by focusing on sound financial management, financial policies, the use of current resources for capital expenditures, and the development of capital improvement plans. With a growing, diverse population, the challenge is to continue to improve the quality of life by concentrating on the demands placed on the public infrastructure such as transportation, water supply, wastewater treatment, the demands of revitalization of many business areas and the demands of greenspace conservation. The Government is able to maintain low property tax rates and low debt levels, and has increased the reserves so that we can remain a leader and provide the best place to live, work and play.

Budget Highlights for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025

Every year, the Government's overall goal is to provide essential services to our citizens as cost effectively and professionally as possible. The BOC works diligently to plan for the future while ensuring that current programs and processes are working as smoothly as possible. We continually seek to improve and are pleased that, through our fiscal responsibility, we are able to make some dreams come into reality. Here are a few of our top goals:

1. Balance budget with a decrease in the millage rate for Columbia County.
2. Begin projects on the approved 23-28 SPLOST list.
3. Continue construction on Fury's Ferry Road widening project; this major roadway project is funded by TSPLOST.
4. Complete construction and upgrades on parks and begin construction on the County's newest park on Hardy McManus Road.
5. Begin renovation on the Pollard House in Appling.
6. Begin construction on the new Performing Arts Center Support Facility.
7. Continue to focus on providing infrastructure needs to support a growing population prior to development.
8. Promote projects and programs that increase sales tax revenue for the County to become less dependent on property taxes.
9. Continued growth in partnerships with Third Party Vendors and other counties for Broadband Utility.
10. Cost-saving incentives such as a Management Review Team to reduce costs.
11. Continue to support the Columbia Judicial Circuit so that it can be an example of other circuits to follow.
12. Continue to distribute timely information through good communication with our citizens.

Below are additional budget highlights:

- Total General Fund expenditures, excluding the use of reserves, increased by 5.75% from the FY 2023/2024 adopted budget, including a contingency of \$3,468,686, or 3.57% of proposed expenditures.
- New personnel requests within the General Fund include 12.5 new positions totaling \$880,452 and allowance adjustments totaling \$66,365, for a grand total of \$946,817. Promotions and reclassifications are being addressed within the new salary matrix.
- New capital requests within the General Fund increased from \$2,484,351 in FY 2023/2024 to \$3,814,058 in FY 2024/2025, an increase of 53.5%.
- New personnel requests within the Other Funds include 10.5 new positions totaling \$667,269 and allowance adjustments totaling \$32,746, for a grand total of \$700,015. Promotions and reclassifications are being addressed within the new salary matrix.
- New capital requests within the Other Funds decreased from \$11,262,356 in FY 2023/2024 to \$7,148,941 in FY 2024/2025, a decrease of 36.5%.
- The budget was balanced using a 5% increase in property tax revenues with a proposed millage rate rollback.
- The County has experienced an annualized increase in local option sales tax (LOST) revenues of 2.92% as of April 2024, an average of \$2.563 million per month. Therefore, to be conservative, the budget was balanced using a 2% increase, or \$2.5 million per month.

Requests for Information

This report is designed to provide an overview of the Government's finances for those with an interest in this area. Questions concerning any of the information found in this report or requests for additional information should be directed to the Internal Services Director, Columbia County, Georgia, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, Georgia 30809.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GOVERNMENT – WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Columbia County, Georgia
Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2024

	Primary Government			Component Units			
	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total	Development Authority	Board of Health	Convention and Visitors Bureau	Greater Clarks Hill Regional Library
ASSETS							
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 44,569,767	\$ 23,281,096	\$ 67,850,863	\$ 3,504,164	\$ 4,331,564	\$ 480,464	\$ 272,235
Investments	60,413,063	27,301,415	87,714,478	-	-	307,825	-
Taxes receivable, net	345,001	-	345,001	-	-	-	-
Accounts receivable, net	1,444,160	7,417,900	8,862,060	22,731	193,207	-	725
Lease receivable	434,057	647,778	1,081,835	-	-	-	-
Interest receivable	154,877	104,436	259,313	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental receivable	17,756,657	-	17,756,657	431,030	-	-	1,659
Internal balances	(12,646,713)	12,646,713	-	-	-	-	-
Due from primary government	-	-	-	-	-	-	93,215
Inventories	1,942,742	1,746,293	3,689,035	-	-	-	-
Prepaid items	128,441	2,374,505	2,502,946	-	-	-	909
Restricted cash	58,276,322	885,233	59,161,555	-	-	-	-
Restricted investments	182,166,319	-	182,166,319	-	-	-	-
Net OPEB asset	-	-	-	-	197,059	-	-
Land and construction in progress	199,045,471	20,914,294	219,959,765	10,998,603	-	-	-
Other capital assets, net of acc dep	281,329,018	347,264,672	628,593,690	2,083	-	101,073	-
Total assets	835,359,182	444,584,335	1,279,943,517	14,958,611	4,721,830	889,362	368,743
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES							
Deferred loss on refunding	-	1,230,884	1,230,884	-	-	-	-
Deferred outflows related to pension plan	-	-	-	-	414,768	-	-
Deferred outflows related to OPEB plan	942,917	189,712	1,132,629	-	173,557	-	-
Total deferred outflows of resources	942,917	1,420,596	2,363,513	-	588,325	-	-
LIABILITIES							
Accounts payable	\$ 12,191,016	\$ 5,436,115	17,627,131	4,006	29,183	1,948	108,486
Claims payable	3,624,750	-	3,624,750	-	-	-	-
Accrued payroll	3,023,748	640,783	3,664,531	-	-	-	82,739
Unearned revenue	19,392,420	200,730	19,593,150	-	-	-	4,290
Intergovernmental payable	1,436,190	-	1,436,190	-	-	-	-
Accrued interest payable	1,520,645	140,543	1,661,188	45,461	-	-	-
Customer deposits	-	501,706	501,706	-	-	-	-
Due to component units	93,215	-	93,215	-	-	-	-
Long-term liabilities:							
Liabilities due within one year	8,472,339	2,652,077	11,124,416	1,510,000	96,531	-	78,348
Liabilities due in greater than one year	140,698,091	44,220,677	184,918,768	9,917,000	1,893,184	-	78,348
Total liabilities	190,452,414	53,792,631	244,245,045	11,476,467	2,018,898	1,948	352,211
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES							
Deferred gain on refunding	94,299	-	94,299	-	-	-	-
Deferred inflows related to leases	430,109	637,325	1,067,434	-	-	-	-
Deferred inflows related to pension plan	-	-	-	-	37,142	-	-
Deferred inflows related to OPEB plan	4,147,716	809,196	4,956,912	-	87,771	-	-
Total deferred inflows of resources	4,672,124	1,446,521	6,118,645	-	124,913	-	-
NET POSITION							
Net investment in capital assets	416,978,425	328,175,920	745,154,345	(426,314)	-	101,073	-
Restricted for:							
Debt service	160,897	885,233	1,046,130	527,451	-	-	-
Capital projects	136,543,114	-	136,543,114	-	-	-	-
Public safety	3,002,663	-	3,002,663	-	-	-	-
Judicial	2,088,275	-	2,088,275	-	-	-	-
Transportation/roads	11,255,079	-	11,255,079	-	-	-	-
Tourism	2,319,409	-	2,319,409	-	-	-	-
Other special programs	4,145,277	-	4,145,277	-	-	-	-
Health and welfare	-	-	-	-	652,799	-	-
Unrestricted	64,684,422	61,704,626	126,389,048	3,381,007	2,513,545	786,341	16,532
Total net position	\$ 641,177,561	\$ 390,765,779	\$ 1,031,943,340	\$ 3,482,144	\$ 3,166,344	\$ 887,414	\$ 16,532

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Columbia County, Georgia
Statement of Activities
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

		Program Revenues		
Functions/Programs	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions
Primary government:				
Governmental activities:				
General government	\$ 29,653,014	\$ 3,345,305	\$ 141,683	\$ 3,921,631
Judicial	10,772,436	3,829,316	1,365,761	-
Public safety	64,821,854	3,816,430	3,737,562	514,906
Public works	31,244,070	2,246,268	265,885	15,327,195
Health and welfare	6,153,051	144,672	466,293	526,424
Culture and recreation	11,847,983	1,670,021	98,850	340,813
Housing and development	6,350,607	3,638,352	115,115	-
Debt Service	2,767,966	-	-	-
Total governmental activities	163,610,981	18,690,364	6,191,149	20,630,969
Business-type activities:				
Water and Sewerage	42,420,767	43,944,754	-	3,432,516
Storm Water Utility	7,995,974	5,954,266	108,249	1,523,965
Solid Waste Management	1,423,689	-	-	-
Savannah Rapids Pavilion	665,413	461,157	-	-
Communications Utility	2,760,723	2,811,443	-	-
Performing Arts Center	2,428,391	2,102,822	-	-
Exhibition Center	365,045	250,590	-	-
Total business-type activities	58,060,002	55,525,032	108,249	4,956,481
Total primary government	\$ 221,670,983	\$ 74,215,396	\$ 6,299,398	\$ 25,587,450
Component units:				
Development Authority	\$ 701,496	\$ 48,393	\$ 767,481	\$ -
Board of Health	1,895,483	867,697	1,424,281	-
Convention and Visitors Bureau	796,950	4,586	833,148	-
Greater Clarks Hill Regional Library	3,722,709	41,143	3,663,129	-
Total component units	\$ 7,116,638	\$ 961,819	\$ 6,688,039	\$ -

General revenues:

- Taxes, general property
- Taxes, sales
- Taxes, business
- Taxes, lodging and alcohol
- Revenues from use of money and property
- Gain on sale of capital assets
- Miscellaneous

Transfers

- Total general revenues and transfers
- Change in net position
- Net position - beginning
- Net position - ending

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position

Primary Government			Component Units			
Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total	Development Authority	Board of Health	Convention and Visitors Bureau	Greater Clarks Hill Regional Library
\$ (22,244,395)	\$ -	\$ (22,244,395)				
(5,577,359)	-	(5,577,359)				
(56,752,956)	-	(56,752,956)				
(13,404,722)	-	(13,404,722)				
(5,015,662)	-	(5,015,662)				
(9,738,299)	-	(9,738,299)				
(2,597,140)	-	(2,597,140)				
(2,767,966)	-	(2,767,966)				
<u>(118,098,499)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(118,098,499)</u>				
-	4,956,503	4,956,503				
-	(409,494)	(409,494)				
-	(1,423,689)	(1,423,689)				
-	(204,256)	(204,256)				
-	50,720	50,720				
-	(325,569)	(325,569)				
-	(114,455)	(114,455)				
-	2,529,760	2,529,760				
<u>(118,098,499)</u>	<u>2,529,760</u>	<u>(115,568,739)</u>				
			\$ 114,378	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
			-	396,495	-	-
			-	-	40,784	-
			-	-	-	(18,437)
			<u>114,378</u>	<u>396,495</u>	<u>40,784</u>	<u>(18,437)</u>
81,142,390	-	81,142,390	-	-	-	-
99,502,871	-	99,502,871	-	-	-	-
12,632,079	-	12,632,079	-	-	-	-
4,114,276	-	4,114,276	-	-	-	-
4,858,836	1,811,398	6,670,234	160,422	-	24,413	18,301
680,493	311,239	991,732	-	-	-	-
1,797,822	1,331,466	3,129,288	14,346	-	-	-
(1,212,241)	1,212,241	-	-	-	-	-
<u>203,516,526</u>	<u>4,666,344</u>	<u>208,182,870</u>	<u>174,768</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,413</u>	<u>18,301</u>
85,418,027	7,196,104	92,614,131	289,146	396,495	65,197	(136)
555,759,534	383,569,675	939,329,209	3,192,998	2,769,849	822,217	16,668
<u>\$ 641,177,561</u>	<u>\$ 390,765,779</u>	<u>\$ 1,031,943,340</u>	<u>\$ 3,482,144</u>	<u>\$ 3,166,344</u>	<u>\$ 887,414</u>	<u>\$ 16,532</u>

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Columbia County, Georgia
Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
June 30, 2024

	GENERAL FUND	FIRE SERVICES FUND	AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUND	2017-2022 SPLOST	TITLE AD VALOREM TAX FUND
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 27,883,694	\$ 50,030	\$ 746,816	\$ 3,847,323	\$ 11,859,499
Investments	49,794,146	-	21,343,171	85,781,046	10,618,916
Taxes receivable	203,277	114,599	-	-	-
Accounts receivable	637,116	59,309	-	-	-
Lease receivable	434,057	-	-	-	-
Interest receivable	150,337	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental receivable	2,936,135	-	130,599	-	-
Due from other funds	22,388,996	3,101,798	-	-	28,043,634
Advances to other funds	2,451,050	-	-	-	-
Inventories	1,942,742	-	-	-	-
Prepaid items	76,375	30,612	301	148	-
Total assets	<u>\$ 108,897,925</u>	<u>\$ 3,356,348</u>	<u>\$ 22,220,887</u>	<u>\$ 89,628,517</u>	<u>\$ 50,522,049</u>
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES					
LIABILITIES:					
Accounts payable	\$ 1,471,235	\$ 50,741	\$ 2,989	\$ 3,307,493	\$ 898,060
Claims payable	759,539	-	-	-	-
Accrued payroll	1,938,483	604,388	14,445	4,467	-
Unearned revenue	50,671	-	19,336,099	-	-
Due to other funds	49,041,234	-	1,312,275	1,474	-
Due to component unit	93,215	-	-	-	-
Due to other governments	2,963	-	-	-	-
Total liabilities	<u>53,357,340</u>	<u>655,129</u>	<u>20,665,808</u>	<u>3,313,434</u>	<u>898,060</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES:					
Unavailable revenue	178,396	102,293	90,972	-	-
Lease related	430,109	-	-	-	-
Total deferred inflow of resources	<u>608,505</u>	<u>102,293</u>	<u>90,972</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	<u>53,965,845</u>	<u>757,422</u>	<u>20,756,780</u>	<u>3,313,434</u>	<u>898,060</u>
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS):					
Nonspendable:					
Long-term interfund receivable	2,451,050	-	-	-	-
Inventories	1,942,742	-	-	-	-
Prepaid items	76,375	30,612	301	148	-
Restricted for:					
Special programs	-	-	1,463,806	-	-
Capital projects	-	-	-	86,314,935	-
Debt service	-	-	-	-	-
Committed to:					
Special programs	-	-	-	-	-
Fire services	-	2,568,314	-	-	-
Assigned to:					
Risk management	1,000,000	-	-	-	-
Employee medical costs	500,000	-	-	-	-
Fleet replacement	1,000,000	-	-	-	-
Capital projects	-	-	-	-	49,623,989
Unassigned	47,961,913	-	-	-	-
Total fund balances (deficits)	<u>54,932,080</u>	<u>2,598,926</u>	<u>1,464,107</u>	<u>86,315,083</u>	<u>49,623,989</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances (deficits)	<u>\$ 108,897,925</u>	<u>\$ 3,356,348</u>	<u>\$ 22,220,887</u>	<u>\$ 89,628,517</u>	<u>\$ 50,522,049</u>

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Columbia County, Georgia
Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
June 30, 2024
(concluded)

	2024 PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY BOND	2023-2028 SPLOST	TRANSPORTATION SPLOST	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 51,267	\$ 44,838,038	\$ -	\$ 9,163,976	\$ 98,440,643
Investments	74,619,004	-	-	423,099	242,579,382
Taxes receivable	-	-	-	27,125	345,001
Accounts receivable	-	-	-	197,643	894,068
Lease receivable	-	-	-	-	434,057
Interest receivable	-	-	-	4,540	154,877
Intergovernmental receivable	-	3,037,676	11,059,285	592,962	17,756,657
Due from other funds	-	-	-	15,025,457	68,559,885
Advances to other funds	-	-	-	-	2,451,050
Inventories	-	-	-	-	1,942,742
Prepaid items	-	1,242	-	16,416	125,094
Total assets	<u>\$ 74,670,271</u>	<u>\$ 47,876,956</u>	<u>\$ 11,059,285</u>	<u>\$ 25,451,218</u>	<u>\$ 433,683,456</u>
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES					
LIABILITIES:					
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ 144,584	\$ 5,562,669	\$ 378,176	\$ 11,815,947
Claims payable	-	-	-	-	759,539
Accrued payroll	-	23,274	-	360,591	2,945,648
Unearned revenue	-	-	-	5,650	19,392,420
Due to other funds	-	5,376	11,669,907	277,887	62,308,153
Due to component unit	-	-	-	-	93,215
Due to other governments	-	343,497	-	-	346,460
Total liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>516,731</u>	<u>17,232,576</u>	<u>1,022,304</u>	<u>97,661,382</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES:					
Unavailable revenue	-	-	3,205,644	94,062	3,671,367
Lease related	-	-	-	-	430,109
Total deferred inflow of resources	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,205,644</u>	<u>94,062</u>	<u>4,101,476</u>
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	<u>-</u>	<u>516,731</u>	<u>20,438,220</u>	<u>1,116,366</u>	<u>101,762,858</u>
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS):					
Nonspendable:					
Long-term interfund receivable	-	-	-	-	2,451,050
Inventories	-	-	-	-	1,942,742
Prepaid items	-	1,242	-	16,416	125,094
Restricted for:					
Special programs	-	-	-	21,133,649	22,597,455
Capital projects	74,670,271	47,358,983	-	-	208,344,189
Debt service	-	-	-	163,951	163,951
Committed to:					
Special programs	-	-	-	3,098,290	3,098,290
Fire services	-	-	-	-	2,568,314
Assigned to:					
Risk management	-	-	-	-	1,000,000
Employee medical costs	-	-	-	-	500,000
Fleet replacement	-	-	-	-	1,000,000
Capital projects	-	-	-	-	49,623,989
Unassigned	-	-	(9,378,935)	(77,454)	38,505,524
Total fund balances (deficits)	<u>74,670,271</u>	<u>47,360,225</u>	<u>(9,378,935)</u>	<u>24,334,852</u>	<u>331,920,598</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances (deficits)	<u>\$ 74,670,271</u>	<u>\$ 47,876,956</u>	<u>\$ 11,059,285</u>	<u>\$ 25,451,218</u>	<u>\$ 433,683,456</u>

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Columbia County, Georgia
Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet of Governmental Funds
to the Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2024

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:

Ending fund balances - governmental funds		\$ 331,920,598
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.		
Total capital assets, governmental activities	480,374,489	
Less capital assets recorded in internal service funds	<u>(8,025,391)</u>	472,349,098
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the funds.		3,671,367
Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.		
Total long-term liabilities, governmental activities	(149,170,430)	
Less long-term liabilities reported in internal service funds	<u>499,625</u>	(148,670,805)
Deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to long-term liabilities are applicable to future periods and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.		
Deferred gain on refunding		(94,299)
Deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to postemployment benefits other than pensions are applicable to future periods and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.		
Deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB	942,917	
Deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB	<u>(4,147,716)</u>	(3,204,799)
Interest payable on long-term debt does not require current financial resources. Therefore, interest payable is not reported as a liability in the governmental funds balance sheet.		
Total interest payable, governmental activities	(1,520,645)	
Less interest payable reported in internal service funds	<u>3,325</u>	(1,517,320)
Intergovernmental payable associated with an intergovernmental agreement does not require current financial resources. Therefore, intergovernmental payable is not reported as a liability in the governmental funds balance sheet.		(1,089,730)
Internal service funds are used by management to charge the costs of risk management, handling citizen complaints, and employee health benefits activity to individual funds. The assets and liabilities of the internal service funds are included in governmental activities in the statement of net position.		7,138,805
Certain activities between funds, including indirect costs and reimbursements, are recorded as revenues and expenditures in the respective funds. These interfund transactions have been eliminated in the statement of net position.		<u>(19,325,354)</u>
Net position of governmental activities		<u><u>\$ 641,177,561</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Columbia County, Georgia
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	GENERAL FUND	FIRE SERVICES FUND	AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUND	2017-2022 SPLOST	TITLE AD VALOREM TAX FUND
REVENUES					
Taxes - property	\$ 54,826,831	\$ 21,449,691	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Taxes - sales	31,320,621	-	-	-	-
Taxes - other	3,276,946	-	-	-	-
Licenses and permits	513,285	-	-	-	-
Charges for services	6,333,799	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental revenue	3,414,496	-	5,274,950	1,833,350	-
Fines and forfeitures	1,990,306	-	-	-	-
Investment income	2,897,697	-	1,035,207	3,949,171	584,260
Contributions and donations	-	52,115	-	-	-
Other income	1,626,296	-	-	-	5,000
Total revenues	106,200,277	21,501,806	6,310,157	5,782,521	589,260
EXPENDITURES					
Current:					
General government	20,397,721	-	62,444	-	648,817
Judicial	8,431,244	-	715,825	-	-
Public safety	35,543,869	19,462,273	53,420	-	120,958
Public works	6,911,219	-	-	-	-
Health and welfare	1,320,582	-	-	-	-
Culture and recreation	8,427,593	-	-	-	60,785
Housing and development	4,027,493	-	-	-	286,782
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	-	658,697
Capital outlay	-	-	-	13,321,318	4,998,792
Debt service:					
Principal	80,311	37,059	-	-	-
Interest	8,290	1,378	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	85,148,322	19,500,710	831,689	13,321,318	6,774,831
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	21,051,955	2,001,096	5,478,468	(7,538,797)	(6,185,571)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Sale of property	10,683	-	-	-	669,810
Transfers in	200,000	-	-	832,487	21,296,480
Transfers out	(18,191,212)	-	(4,443,509)	(2,264,640)	(5,664,907)
Proceeds from debt issuance	-	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from bond premium	-	-	-	-	-
Total other financing source (uses)	(17,980,529)	-	(4,443,509)	(1,432,153)	16,301,383
Net change in fund balances	3,071,426	2,001,096	1,034,959	(8,970,950)	10,115,812
Fund balances (deficits) - beginning, as previously presented	51,860,654	597,830	429,148	95,286,033	39,508,177
Change within financial reporting entity (nonmajor to major)	-	-	-	-	-
Fund balances (deficits) - beginning, as adjusted or restated	51,860,654	597,830	429,148	95,286,033	39,508,177
Fund balances (deficits) - ending	\$ 54,932,080	\$ 2,598,926	\$ 1,464,107	\$ 86,315,083	\$ 49,623,989

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Columbia County, Georgia
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(concluded)

	2024 PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY BOND	2023-2028 SPLOST	TRANSPORTATION SPLOST	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES					
Taxes - property	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,702,343	\$ 80,978,865
Taxes - sales	-	36,342,454	27,883,709	3,956,087	99,502,871
Taxes - other	-	-	-	13,469,409	16,746,355
Licenses and permits	-	-	-	2,799,724	3,313,009
Charges for services	-	-	-	5,954,979	12,288,778
Intergovernmental revenue	-	-	6,683,797	683,837	17,890,430
Fines and forfeitures	-	-	-	1,095,068	3,085,374
Investment income	599,696	1,390,387	-	239,446	10,695,864
Contributions and donations	-	-	250,000	135,041	437,156
Other income	-	-	-	166,526	1,797,822
Total revenues	599,696	37,732,841	34,817,506	33,202,460	246,736,524
EXPENDITURES					
Current:					
General government	-	-	-	236,374	21,345,356
Judicial	-	-	-	523,113	9,670,182
Public safety	-	-	-	3,044,827	58,225,347
Public works	-	-	-	12,218,511	19,129,730
Health and welfare	-	-	-	-	1,320,582
Culture and recreation	-	-	-	2,625,528	11,113,906
Housing and development	-	-	-	2,249,366	6,563,641
Intergovernmental	-	4,109,568	-	-	4,768,265
Capital outlay	-	1,225,670	45,890,420	4,657,905	70,094,105
Debt service:					
Principal	-	-	-	5,274,990	5,392,360
Interest	-	-	-	1,617,207	1,626,875
Other	927,118	-	-	1,600	928,718
Total expenditures	927,118	5,335,238	45,890,420	32,449,421	210,179,067
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(327,422)	32,397,603	(11,072,914)	753,039	36,557,457
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Sale of property	-	-	-	-	680,493
Transfers in	-	-	4,388,464	6,558,870	33,276,301
Transfers out	-	-	-	(4,050,274)	(34,614,542)
Proceeds from debt issuance	69,080,000	-	-	-	69,080,000
Proceeds from bond premium	5,917,693	-	-	-	5,917,693
Total other financing source (uses)	74,997,693	-	4,388,464	2,508,596	74,339,945
Net change in fund balances	74,670,271	32,397,603	(6,684,450)	3,261,635	110,897,402
Fund balances (deficits) - beginning, as previously presented	-	-	(2,694,485)	36,035,839	221,023,196
Change within financial reporting entity (nonmajor to major)	-	14,962,622	-	(14,962,622)	-
Fund balances (deficits) - beginning, as adjusted or restated	-	14,962,622	(2,694,485)	21,073,217	221,023,196
Fund balances (deficits) - ending	\$ 74,670,271	\$ 47,360,225	\$ (9,378,935)	\$ 24,334,852	\$ 331,920,598

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Columbia County, Georgia
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,
and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds \$ 110,897,402

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. The amount by which capital outlay exceeded depreciation in the current year is detailed below:

Capital expenditures	75,439,191	
Less capital assets purchased in internal service funds	(4,266,518)	
Capital contributions	1,760,033	
Depreciation/amortization expense	(26,471,761)	
Less depreciation expense in internal service funds	1,860,514	48,321,459

Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds. 3,248,267

The issuance of long-term debt (e.g. bonds, leases) provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net position. Also governmental funds report the effect of premiums, discounts, and similar items when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are deferred and amortized in the statement of activities. The incurrence of other long-term liabilities (e.g. OPEB) that does not use current financial resources are not reported as expenditures in the funds. Below are the amounts of these differences in treatment of long-term liabilities and related items.

Principal amount of bonds issued	(69,080,000)	
Premium related to bond issuance	(5,917,693)	
Leases/SBITAs issued	(492,293)	
Less leases/SBITAs issued in internal service funds	492,293	
Payments on leases/sbitas	302,361	
Less payments on leases/sbitas in internal service funds	(170,000)	
Current year amortization of bond premium	439,551	
Current year principal repayments	5,260,000	
Current year amortization of deferred gain/(loss) on refunding	11,361	
Net change in net OPEB liability and related deferred inflows/outflows	(3,499,523)	
Net changes in compensated absences, less amounts reported in funds	(975,839)	
Less changes in compensated absences reported in internal service funds	28,814	(73,600,968)

Expenses associated with intergovernmental agreements are recorded when incurred in the statement of activities and when current financial resources are used in the fund financial statements. 475,145

In the fund financial statements, interest expense on long-term debt is reported in the period that the current financial resources are used. In the statement of activities, interest expense on long-term debt is recorded as the expense is incurred. This amount is the difference between recording interest as accrued rather than as paid. (662,016)

The net revenue of certain activities of the internal service funds is reported with governmental activities. (1,890,800)

Certain activities between funds, including indirect costs and reimbursements, are recorded as revenues and expenditures in the respective funds. These interfund transactions have been eliminated in the statement of activities. (1,370,462)

Change in net position of governmental activities \$ 85,418,027

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Columbia County, Georgia
GENERAL FUND
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with
	Original	Final	Actual	Final Budget
REVENUES				
Taxes - property	\$ 51,078,999	\$ 51,587,697	\$ 54,826,831	\$ 3,239,134
Taxes - sales	29,293,304	29,293,304	31,320,621	2,027,317
Taxes - other	3,105,000	3,105,000	3,276,946	171,946
Licenses and permits	475,000	475,000	513,285	38,285
Charges for services	5,375,000	5,375,000	6,333,799	958,799
Intergovernmental revenue	2,700,765	2,700,765	3,414,496	713,731
Fines and forfeitures	1,448,500	1,448,500	1,990,306	541,806
Investment income (loss)	300,000	300,000	2,897,697	2,597,697
Other income	1,199,396	14,199,396	1,626,296	(12,573,100)
Total revenues	<u>94,975,964</u>	<u>108,484,662</u>	<u>106,200,277</u>	<u>(2,284,385)</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General government	26,448,326	21,418,833	20,397,721	1,021,112
Judicial	8,351,989	8,978,968	8,431,244	547,724
Public safety	35,032,265	38,302,171	35,543,869	2,758,302
Public works	6,957,197	7,544,071	6,911,219	632,852
Health and welfare	1,283,002	1,358,757	1,320,582	38,175
Culture and recreation	7,690,484	8,469,538	8,427,593	41,945
Housing and development	4,071,175	4,270,798	4,027,493	243,305
Debt service:				
Principal	-	-	80,311	(80,311)
Interest	-	-	8,290	(8,290)
Total expenditures	<u>89,834,438</u>	<u>90,343,136</u>	<u>85,148,322</u>	<u>5,194,814</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>5,141,526</u>	<u>18,141,526</u>	<u>21,051,955</u>	<u>2,910,429</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Sale of property	-	-	10,683	10,683
Transfers in	200,000	200,000	200,000	-
Transfers out	(5,341,526)	(18,341,526)	(18,191,212)	150,314
Total other financing source (uses)	<u>(5,141,526)</u>	<u>(18,141,526)</u>	<u>(17,980,529)</u>	<u>160,997</u>
Net change in fund balance	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>3,071,426</u>	<u>\$ 3,071,426</u>
Fund balance - beginning			51,860,654	
Fund balance - ending			<u>\$ 54,932,080</u>	

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Columbia County, Georgia
FIRE SERVICES FUND
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Taxes - property	\$ 19,924,695	\$ 19,924,695	\$ 21,449,691	\$ 1,524,996
Contributions and donations	-	-	52,115	52,115
Total revenues	<u>19,924,695</u>	<u>19,924,695</u>	<u>21,501,806</u>	<u>1,577,111</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Public safety	19,924,695	19,924,695	19,462,273	462,422
Debt service:				
Principal	-	-	37,059	(37,059)
Interest	-	-	1,378	(1,378)
Total expenditures	<u>19,924,695</u>	<u>19,924,695</u>	<u>19,500,710</u>	<u>423,985</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,001,096</u>	<u>2,001,096</u>
Net change in fund balance	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>2,001,096</u>	<u>\$ 2,001,096</u>
Fund balance - beginning			597,830	
Fund balance - ending			<u>\$ 2,598,926</u>	

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Columbia County, Georgia
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUND
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with
	Original	Final	Actual	Final Budget
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental revenue	\$ 14,549,723	\$ 14,549,723	\$ 5,274,950	\$ (9,274,773)
Investment income	-	-	1,035,207	1,035,207
Total revenues	14,549,723	14,549,723	6,310,157	(8,239,566)
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General government	700,000	700,000	62,444	637,556
Judicial	849,723	796,303	715,825	80,478
Public safety	-	53,420	53,420	-
Total expenditures	1,549,723	1,549,723	831,689	718,034
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	13,000,000	13,000,000	5,478,468	(7,521,532)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers out	(13,000,000)	(13,000,000)	(4,443,509)	8,556,491
Total other financing source (uses)	(13,000,000)	(13,000,000)	(4,443,509)	8,556,491
Net change in fund balance	\$ -	\$ -	1,034,959	\$ 1,034,959
Fund balance - beginning			429,148	
Fund balance - ending			\$ 1,464,107	

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Columbia County, Georgia
Statement of Net Position
Proprietary Funds
June 30, 2024

	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds					Governmental Activities
	WATER AND SEWERAGE FUND	STORM WATER UTILITY FUND	SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FUND	Total Nonmajor Enterprise Funds	Total Enterprise Funds	Internal Service Funds
ASSETS						
Current assets:						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 8,836,041	\$ 10,044,007	\$ 334,114	\$ 4,066,934	\$ 23,281,096	\$ 4,405,446
Investments	21,836,468	-	5,464,947	-	27,301,415	-
Accounts receivable	6,115,667	1,124,072	78	178,083	7,417,900	550,092
Lease receivable	174,895	-	-	472,883	647,778	-
Interest receivable	63,561	-	40,238	637	104,436	-
Due from other funds	1,356,761	517,835	-	40,385	1,914,981	2,094,985
Inventories	1,746,293	-	-	-	1,746,293	-
Prepaid items	2,366,603	6,988	528	386	2,374,505	3,347
Restricted cash to pay current liab	885,233	-	-	-	885,233	-
Total current assets	43,381,522	11,692,902	5,839,905	4,759,308	65,673,637	7,053,870
Noncurrent assets:						
Capital assets, net of acc dep	318,262,359	37,461,943	1,044,840	11,409,824	368,178,966	8,025,391
Total noncurrent assets	318,262,359	37,461,943	1,044,840	11,409,824	368,178,966	8,025,391
Total assets	361,643,881	49,154,845	6,884,745	16,169,132	433,852,603	15,079,261
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES						
Deferred loss on refunding	1,230,884	-	-	-	1,230,884	-
OPEB changes in assumptions	127,201	39,067	5,589	17,855	189,712	-
Total deferred outflows of resources	1,358,085	39,067	5,589	17,855	1,420,596	-
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	363,001,966	49,193,912	6,890,334	16,186,987	435,273,199	15,079,261
LIABILITIES						
Current liabilities:						
Accounts payable	4,592,720	13,394	108,048	721,950	5,436,112	375,070
SBITA payable	-	-	-	-	-	158,265
Lease payable	-	-	-	12,988	12,988	-
Claims payable	-	-	-	-	-	2,865,211
Accrued payroll	443,919	111,282	13,290	72,292	640,783	78,100
Accrued compensated absences	831,994	67,901	13,362	60,701	973,958	88,666
Unearned revenue	-	-	-	200,730	200,730	-
Due to other funds	26,570	-	3,672,896	663,854	4,363,320	5,898,378
Accrued interest payable	140,515	-	-	28	140,543	3,325
Customer deposits	216,350	247,780	-	37,576	501,706	-
Est liab closure/post closure	-	-	140,131	-	140,131	-
Revenue bonds	1,525,000	-	-	-	1,525,000	-
Total current liabilities	7,777,068	440,357	3,947,727	1,770,119	13,935,271	9,467,015
Noncurrent liabilities:						
SBITA payable	-	-	-	-	-	164,028
Accrued compensated absences	831,994	67,901	13,362	60,701	973,958	88,666
Advances from other funds	-	-	-	2,451,050	2,451,050	-
Est liab closure/post closure	-	-	3,223,023	-	3,223,023	-
Revenue bonds	38,145,895	-	-	-	38,145,895	-
OPEB liability	1,390,361	324,813	40,206	122,421	1,877,801	-
Total noncurrent liabilities	40,368,250	392,714	3,276,591	2,634,172	46,671,727	252,694
Total liabilities	48,145,318	833,071	7,224,318	4,404,291	60,606,998	9,719,709
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES						
Lease related	177,301	-	-	460,024	637,325	-
OPEB expected vs actual experience	374,368	111,852	18,756	44,464	549,440	-
OPEB changes in assumptions	181,318	50,256	11,009	17,173	259,756	-
Total deferred inflows of resources	732,987	162,108	29,765	521,661	1,446,521	-
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	48,878,305	995,179	7,254,083	4,925,952	62,053,519	9,719,709
NET POSITION						
Net investment in capital assets	278,272,301	37,461,943	1,044,840	11,396,836	328,175,920	7,703,098
Restricted for debt service	885,233	-	-	-	885,233	-
Unrestricted	34,966,127	10,736,790	(1,408,589)	(135,801)	44,158,527	(2,343,546)
Total net position	\$ 314,123,661	\$ 48,198,733	\$ (363,749)	\$ 11,261,035	373,219,680	\$ 5,359,552

Adjustment to reflect the consolidation of internal service fund activities related to business-type activities (1,779,255)
Adjustment to reflect the elimination of interfund indirect cost allocations. 19,325,354
Net position of business-type activities \$ 390,765,779

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Columbia County, Georgia
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position
Proprietary Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds					Governmental Activities
	WATER AND SEWERAGE FUND	STORM WATER UTILITY FUND	SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FUND	Total Nonmajor Enterprise Funds	Total Enterprise Funds	Internal Service Funds
OPERATING REVENUES						
Licenses and permits	\$ -	\$ 16,433	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,433	\$ -
Charges for services	43,944,754	5,937,833	-	5,626,012	55,508,599	14,021,139
Intergovernmental revenue	-	108,249	-	-	108,249	6,731,929
Rental income	-	-	-	812,496	812,496	-
Other income	-	2,850	111,462	132,193	246,505	266
Total operating revenues	43,944,754	6,065,365	111,462	6,570,701	56,692,282	20,753,334
OPERATING EXPENSES						
Personal services	12,572,453	3,178,336	370,146	1,880,898	18,001,833	2,125,892
Purchased/contract services	5,100,449	270,971	71,624	1,927,701	7,370,745	19,405,431
Supplies and materials	9,141,646	258,654	56,836	1,004,275	10,461,411	177,386
Interfund charges	2,057,117	529,816	-	370,787	2,957,720	-
Depreciation/amortization	13,068,277	3,825,512	46,832	1,045,603	17,986,224	1,860,514
Other costs	2,252	37,028	-	37,524	76,804	-
Landfill clos/post clos costs	-	-	871,321	-	871,321	-
Total operating expenses	41,942,194	8,100,317	1,416,759	6,266,788	57,726,058	23,569,223
Operating income (loss)	2,002,560	(2,034,952)	(1,305,297)	303,913	(1,033,776)	(2,815,889)
NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)						
Gain on sale of capital assets	284,715	22,230	-	4,294	311,239	257,116
Lease revenue	59,082	-	-	213,383	272,465	-
Investment income	1,325,419	196,654	182,740	106,582	1,811,395	102,754
Interest expense	(1,261,301)	-	-	(558)	(1,261,859)	(3,325)
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)	407,915	218,884	182,740	323,701	1,133,240	356,545
Income (loss) before contributions and transfers	2,410,475	(1,816,068)	(1,122,557)	627,614	99,464	(2,459,344)
Transfers in	808,429	-	353,884	49,928	1,212,241	493,288
Transfers out	-	-	-	-	-	(367,288)
Capital contributions	3,432,516	1,523,965	-	-	4,956,481	-
Change in net position	6,651,420	(292,103)	(768,673)	677,542	6,268,186	(2,333,344)
Total net position - beginning	307,472,241	48,490,836	404,924	10,583,493		7,692,896
Total net position - ending	\$ 314,123,661	\$ 48,198,733	\$ (363,749)	\$ 11,261,035		\$ 5,359,552
Adjustment to reflect the consolidation of internal service fund activities related to business-type activities					(442,544)	
Adjustment to reflect the elimination of interfund indirect cost allocations.					1,370,462	
Change in net position of business-type activities					\$ 7,196,104	

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Columbia County, Georgia
Statement of Cash Flows
Proprietary Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	WATER AND SEWERAGE FUND	STORM WATER UTILITY FUND	SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FUND	Total Nonmajor Enterprise Funds	Total Enterprise Funds	Governmental Activities - Internal Service Funds
Operating activities						
Cash received from customers	\$ 43,750,709	\$ 5,905,609	\$ 111,849	\$ 5,891,964	\$ 55,660,131	\$ 23,209,197
Cash paid to suppliers and others	(15,475,043)	(1,676,393)	(129,436)	(3,720,500)	(21,001,372)	(18,376,210)
Cash paid to employees	(11,696,423)	(3,016,094)	(343,830)	(1,784,398)	(16,840,745)	(2,094,378)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>16,579,243</u>	<u>1,213,122</u>	<u>(361,417)</u>	<u>387,066</u>	<u>17,818,014</u>	<u>2,738,609</u>
Noncapital financing activities						
Transfer from other funds	-	-	353,884	49,928	403,812	-
Transfer to other funds	-	-	-	-	-	(367,288)
Net cash provided by (used in) noncapital financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>353,884</u>	<u>49,928</u>	<u>403,812</u>	<u>(367,288)</u>
Capital and related financing activities						
Transfer from other funds	808,429	-	-	-	808,429	493,288
Proceeds from leases	65,714	-	-	231,006	296,720	-
Acquisition and construction of capital assets	(9,900,857)	(1,039,493)	-	(610,822)	(11,551,172)	(3,774,225)
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	284,715	22,230	-	4,294	311,239	257,116
Principal paid on revenue bonds	(7,400,000)	-	-	-	(7,400,000)	-
Principal paid on leases/sbitas	-	-	-	(46,340)	(46,340)	(170,000)
Interest paid on revenue bonds, notes, leases and sbitas	(1,946,488)	-	-	(1,615)	(1,948,103)	-
Net cash (used in) capital and related financing activities	<u>(18,088,487)</u>	<u>(1,017,263)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(423,477)</u>	<u>(19,529,227)</u>	<u>(3,193,821)</u>
Investing activities						
Proceeds from sales/maturities of investments	4,222,027	-	7,533	-	4,229,560	-
Purchase of investments	(378,700)	-	(128,316)	-	(507,016)	-
Interest received	624,990	196,654	134,927	91,308	1,047,879	102,754
Net cash provided by in investing activities	<u>4,468,317</u>	<u>196,654</u>	<u>14,144</u>	<u>91,308</u>	<u>4,770,423</u>	<u>102,754</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	<u>2,959,073</u>	<u>392,513</u>	<u>6,611</u>	<u>104,825</u>	<u>3,463,022</u>	<u>(719,746)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents Beginning of year	<u>6,762,201</u>	<u>9,651,494</u>	<u>327,503</u>	<u>3,962,109</u>	<u>20,703,307</u>	<u>5,125,192</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 9,721,274</u>	<u>\$ 10,044,007</u>	<u>\$ 334,114</u>	<u>\$ 4,066,934</u>	<u>\$ 24,166,329</u>	<u>\$ 4,405,446</u>
Reconciliation of operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities						
Operating income (loss)	\$ 2,002,560	\$ (2,034,952)	\$ (1,305,297)	\$ 303,913	\$ (1,033,776)	\$ (2,815,889)
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:						
Depreciation and amortization	13,068,277	3,825,512	46,832	1,045,603	17,986,224	1,860,514
Change in assets and liabilities						
Accounts receivable	(329,486)	(30,309)	387	(98,684)	(458,092)	500,767
Inventory	(262,980)	-	-	-	(262,980)	-
Deferred charges / prepaid expense	(4,135)	(489)	(93)	147	(4,570)	(393)
Due from other funds	(323,893)	(496,038)	-	(39,123)	(859,054)	1,510,302
Accounts payable	1,657,809	(20,297)	69,308	(353,905)	1,352,915	419,808
Accrued liabilities	876,030	162,242	26,316	105,472	1,170,060	35,772
Customer deposits	135,441	(124,674)	-	(14,640)	(3,873)	-
Due to other funds	(240,380)	(67,873)	684,264	3,696	379,707	1,227,728
Advances from other funds	-	-	-	(548,950)	(548,950)	-
Unearned revenue	-	-	-	(16,463)	(16,463)	-
Estimated liability for landfill closure and postclosure care cost	-	-	116,866	-	116,866	-
Total adjustments	<u>14,576,683</u>	<u>3,248,074</u>	<u>943,880</u>	<u>83,153</u>	<u>18,851,790</u>	<u>5,554,498</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>\$ 16,579,243</u>	<u>\$ 1,213,122</u>	<u>\$ (361,417)</u>	<u>\$ 387,066</u>	<u>\$ 17,818,014</u>	<u>\$ 2,738,609</u>
Noncash investing, capital, and financing activities:						
Capital contributions from developers	\$ 3,432,516	\$ 1,523,965	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,956,481	\$ -
Increase (decrease) in fair value of investments	685,887	-	16,751	-	702,638	-
Acquisition of capital assets from leases/sbitas	-	-	-	-	-	492,293
	<u>\$ 4,118,403</u>	<u>\$ 1,523,965</u>	<u>\$ 16,751</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 5,659,119</u>	<u>\$ 492,293</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Columbia County, Georgia
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position
June 30, 2024

	Pension Trust Funds	
	Employees' Retirement Fund	Custodial Funds
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 15,990,527	\$ 6,104,313
Investments, mutual funds	77,727,124	-
Total assets	<u>93,717,651</u>	<u>6,104,313</u>
LIABILITIES		
Due to others	-	1,475,389
Total liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>1,475,389</u>
NET POSITION		
Restricted for:		
Pensions	93,717,651	-
Individuals, organizations, and other governments	-	4,628,924
Total net position	<u>\$ 93,717,651</u>	<u>\$ 4,628,924</u>

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Columbia County, Georgia
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Pension Trust Funds	
	Employees' Retirement Fund	Custodial Funds
ADDITIONS		
Contributions:		
Employer	\$ 5,656,520	\$ -
Plan members	25,969	-
Other	35,146	-
Total contributions	<u>5,717,635</u>	<u>-</u>
Investment earnings:		
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value	10,032,180	-
Interest earnings	1,105,777	-
Total investment earnings	<u>11,137,957</u>	<u>-</u>
Less investment expense	107,594	-
Net investment earnings	<u>11,030,363</u>	<u>-</u>
Taxes	-	306,071,765
Fines and fees	-	4,730,332
Criminal and civil bonds	-	2,112,754
Other	-	2,756,622
Total additions	<u>16,747,998</u>	<u>315,671,473</u>
DEDUCTIONS		
Benefits	4,511,399	-
Taxes and fees paid to other governments	-	150,462,886
Payments to the County	-	81,549,561
Other disbursements	-	83,539,212
Total deductions	<u>4,511,399</u>	<u>315,551,659</u>
Change in net position	12,236,599	119,814
Net Position - beginning of the year	81,481,052	4,509,110
Net Position - end of the year	<u>\$ 93,717,651</u>	<u>\$ 4,628,924</u>

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA

Notes to Financial Statements

June 30, 2024

Note 1 - Summary of significant accounting policies

Introduction

Columbia County, Georgia, (the County) established in 1790 and named in honor of Christopher Columbus, is located in the Central Savannah River Area of Georgia approximately 135 miles east of Atlanta and five miles northwest of Augusta-Richmond County. The 290 square mile county is bounded on the north by Thurmond Lake and the Savannah River (separating Columbia County from Lincoln County, Georgia, and McCormick and Edgefield Counties, South Carolina), on the south and east by Augusta-Richmond County, and on the west by McDuffie County. The County operates under an elected Commission form of government. The County is governed by a board of five elected County Commissioners (the Board).

The financial statements of the County have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant of the County's accounting policies are described below.

Reporting entity

As required by GAAP, these financial statements present the County (the primary government) and its component units. The component units discussed below are included in the County's reporting entity because of the significance of the operational or financial relationships with the County.

Blended component units:

Columbia County Public Facilities Authority (CCPFA) – The CCPFA is comprised of five members appointed by the Board. Although it is legally separate from the County, the CCPFA is reported as if it were part of the primary government because it provides services entirely, or almost entirely, to the County.

Discretely presented component units:

Development Authority of Columbia County (DACC) – The component unit column in the government-wide financial statements includes the financial data of the DACC. It is reported in a separate column to emphasize that it is legally separate from the County. The DACC is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors appointed by the Board. The DACC serves to promote, pursue and implement economic development in the County. The DACC entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the County to subsidize its operations through the General Fund.

Columbia County Board of Health (CCBOH) – The component unit column in the government-wide financial statements includes the financial data of the CCBOH. It is reported in a separate column to emphasize that it is legally separate from the County. The CCBOH is comprised of seven members, four of which are appointed by the Board. The operations of the CCBOH are subsidized through the County's General Fund.

Columbia County Convention & Visitors Bureau (CCCVB) – The component unit column in the government-wide financial statements includes the financial data of the CCCVB. It is reported in a separate column to emphasize that it is legally separate from the County. The CCCVB is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors appointed by the Board. The CCCVB provides convention and tourist promotion services for the benefit of the County, local businesses, and neighboring counties. The CCCVB entered into an agreement with the County to subsidize its operations through the County's Lodging Tax Fund.

Greater Clarks Hill Regional Library (GCHRL) - The component unit column in the government-wide financial statements includes the financial data of the GCHRL. It is reported in a separate column to emphasize that it is legally separate from the County. The GCHRL is composed of the following participating counties: Columbia County, GA, as its headquarters; Warren County, GA; Burke County, GA; and Lincoln County, GA. The GCHRL is comprised of seven members, five of which are appointed by the Board. The operations of the GCHRL are subsidized through the County's General Fund.

Columbia County Hospital Authority (CCHA) - The CCHA is comprised of five members appointed by the Board. The CCHA serves to facilitate the financing of a hospital in the County. The CCHA had no financial activity during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. Therefore, no financial data is included in the government-wide financial statements.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 1 - Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

Complete financial statements of the CCBOH may be obtained at the County's administrative office. The address is as follows:

Columbia County, Georgia
630 Ronald Reagan Drive
Evans, Georgia 30809

No separately issued financial statements are available for the DACC, CCCVB, GCHRL or CCHA.

Certain County elected officials collect and disburse taxes, fees, fines, etc. Separate records of accountability are maintained for such transactions, which are recorded as custodial funds of the County. Receipts transferred from these funds to the County's General Fund, Debt Service Funds and Special Revenue Funds are included as revenues in these funds. Operating costs for these officials are included as expenditures in the General Fund. These elected officials are as follows: Tax Commissioner, Probate Court Judge, Magistrate Court Judge, Clerk of Superior Court, and Sheriff.

Related Organizations

The County is also responsible for appointing a majority of the members of the board of the Bartram Trail CDC, Inc., but the County's accountability for this organization does not extend beyond making appointments.

Basis of Presentation

Government-wide statements: The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the primary government. These statements include the financial activities of the overall government. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double counting of internal activities. These statements distinguish between the *governmental* and *business-type* activities of the County. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other non-exchange transactions. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties.

The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for the different business-type activities of the County and for each function of the County's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Indirect expense allocations that have been made in the funds have been reversed for the statement of activities. As a general rule, the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements. Exceptions to this rule are interfund services provided and used. Elimination of these changes would distort the direct costs reported for the various functions concerned. Program revenues include (a) fees and charges paid by the recipients of goods or services offered by the programs and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

Fund financial statements: The fund financial statements provide information about the County's funds. Separate statements for each fund category – governmental, proprietary and fiduciary – are presented. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental and enterprise funds, each displayed in a separate column. All remaining governmental and enterprise funds are aggregated and reported as nonmajor funds.

Proprietary fund operating revenues, such as charges for services, result from exchange transactions associated with the principal activity of the fund. Exchange transactions are those in which each party receives and gives up essentially equal values. Nonoperating revenues, such as subsidies and investment earnings, result from non-exchange transactions or ancillary activities.

Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the County. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of those funds are not available to support the County's own programs. The accounting used for fiduciary funds is much like that used for proprietary funds.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 1 - Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

The County reports the following major governmental funds:

General Fund - The General Fund is the general operating fund of the County. The General Fund accounts for all financial resources except those that are required to be accounted for in another fund. The primary revenue sources are ad valorem taxes, local option sales taxes, and various other taxes and licenses. The primary expenditures are for general government, the judicial system, public safety, and street maintenance and improvements.

Fire Services Fund - to account for taxes collected in special service districts within the unincorporated area for the purpose of providing fire services in accordance with Columbia County ordinance 38-40.

American Rescue Plan Fund – to account for funds received from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund in accordance with the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

2017-2022 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Fund - to account for the property acquisition and construction of projects designated to be funded by revenue from the special purpose local option sales tax collected during 2017 through 2022.

Title Ad Valorem Tax Fund – to account for property acquisition and other capital projects designated to be funded with proceeds received from the Title Ad Valorem Tax.

2024 PFA Bond Fund – to account for the property acquisition and construction of projects to be funded with proceeds received from the issuance of the 2024 Public Facility Authority Bonds.

2023-2028 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Fund – to account for the property acquisition and construction of projects designated to be funded by revenue from the special purpose local option sales tax collected during 2023 through 2028.

Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax - to account for capital transportation projects financed from TSPLOST funds, pursuant to OCGA 48-8-240 et seq.

The County reports the following nonmajor governmental funds:

Building Standards Fund - to account for building permits and inspection fees in accordance with OCGA 48-13-9.

Library Board Fund - to account for the activity of the Columbia County Library Board in accordance with OCGA 20-5-41.

Recreation Advisory Board Fund - to account for various projects sponsored by the Recreation Advisory Board to raise funds for recreation equipment in accordance with Columbia County Code of Ordinance 62-42 (b) (c) & (d).

Street Lights Fund - to account for the street light assessments used for maintenance of street lights in certain subdivisions in accordance with Columbia County Code of Ordinance 7, Article VI.

911 Fund - to account for the 911 fees assessed on landline and cellular telephones used for the maintenance and operations of the 911 service in accordance with OCGA 46-5-134.

Opioid Settlement Fund – to account for Opioid Settlement Payment Funds received through the National Distributor Settlement and the Janssen/J&J Settlement.

Drug Abuse Treatment Fund - to account for fines charged by the County to be used for drug abuse treatment and prevention in accordance with OCGA 15-21-101.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 1 – Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

Supplemental Juvenile Services Fund - to account for fines charged to juvenile offenders to be used for juvenile services in accordance with OCGA 15-11-71.

Jail Fund – to account for fines charged by the County to be used for jail improvements in accordance with OCGA 15-21-94 & 95.

Accountability Court Fund – to account for grants, donations, and participant fees associated with drug testing, counseling, and treatment services for substance abuse intervention in accordance with OCGA 15-1-15.

District Attorney Asset Forfeitures Fund – to account for forfeited property in accordance with OCGA 9-16-19.

District Attorney Victim’s Assistance Fund – to account for funds assessed and collected for victim assistance activities in accordance with OCGA 15-21-132.

District Attorney Welfare Fraud Fund – to account for funds from the prosecution of food stamp fraud in accordance with the Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council of Georgia Food Stamp Program.

District Attorney Bond Forfeitures Fund – to account for funds from bond forfeitures in accordance with OCGA 15-21-3.

Federal Asset Sharing Fund – to account for assets seized or confiscated by federal courts in accordance with the Department of Justice Equitable Sharing Program.

State Condemnation Fund – to account for assets seized or confiscated by state courts in accordance with OCGA 16-13-49.

Lodging Tax Fund - to account for hotel/motel tax collections, pursuant to OCGA 48-13-50 et seq.

Multiple Grant Fund - to account for all grants not meeting the 2% materiality test (projected expenditures do not exceed 2% of the General Fund’s budgeted total operating expenditures), and not used to finance General Fund operations in accordance with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

2020 Generator Grant Fund - to account for grant funds received from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the purpose of purchasing and installing generators at fire stations and water utility sites.

Sheriff’s Gift/Donations Fund - to account for funds donated to the Sheriff’s office from external persons or entities in accordance with Resolution No. 11-912 of the Board of Commissioners of Columbia County, GA.

Insurance Premium Tax Fund - to account for services funded by insurance premium taxes, pursuant to OCGA 33-8-8.3 et seq.

Community Events Fund - to account for special events funded by sponsor fees and ticket sales in accordance with Resolution No. 11-913 of the Board of Commissioners of Columbia County, GA.

Memorial Wall Fund - to account for fees collected from the general public for the purpose of purchasing a wall plaque for the memorial wall in accordance with Resolution No. 17-025 of the Board of Commissioners of Columbia County, GA.

Georgia Superior Court Clerks’ Cooperative Authority Fund - to account for funds mandated to be used to administer a statewide index for real estate and personal property records, pursuant to OCGA 15-6-94.

Law Library Fund – to account for the activity of the Columbia County Law Library in accordance with OCGA 36-15-7.

TSPLOST 25% Discretionary Fund – to account for collection of the discretionary portion (25%) of the transportation special local option sales tax proceeds and expenditures of those proceeds for transportation projects that are not capital projects, pursuant to OCGA 48-8-240 et seq.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 1 – Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

2009 Capital Improvements Plan Fund – to account for the property acquisition and construction of projects to be funded with proceeds received from the issuance of the 2009 General Obligation Bonds and revenue from the special purpose local option sales tax collected from 2011 through 2016.

2017 General Obligation Bond Fund – to account for the property acquisition and construction of projects to be funded with proceeds received from the issuance of the 2017 General Obligation Bonds.

Debt Service Fund – 2016 General Obligation Bond – to account for property tax funds designated to be used for principal and interest payments on governmental fund debt, specifically the 2016 General Obligation Bonds.

Debt Service Fund – 2017 General Obligation Bond – to account for property tax funds designated to be used for principal and interest payments on governmental fund debt, specifically the 2017 General Obligation Bonds.

Debt Service Fund – 2022 General Obligation Bond – to account for property tax funds designated to be used for principal and interest payments on governmental fund debt, specifically the 2022 General Obligation Bonds.

The County reports the following major enterprise funds:

Water and Sewerage Fund - to account for operations of the utility as well as construction and maintenance of infrastructure.

Storm Water Utility Fund – to account for the cost of providing storm water management services and maintaining and improving the County’s storm water infrastructure.

Solid Waste Management Fund – to account for post-closure costs associated with the landfill facility and operations of the recycling center.

The County reports the following nonmajor enterprise funds:

Communications Utility Fund – to account for the cost of building, operating and maintaining the Columbia County Community Broadband Network.

Savannah Rapids Pavilion Fund – to account for the operations and maintenance of the Savannah Rapids Pavilion.

Performing Arts Center – to account for the operations and maintenance of the Performing Arts Center.

Exhibition Center - to account for the operations and maintenance of the Exhibition Center.

Additionally, the County reports the following fund types:

Internal Service Funds - Internal Service Funds are used to account for the operations that provide services to other departments or agencies of the government on a cost-reimbursement basis. The County has six internal service funds:

Employee Medical Fund - to account for employer and employee contributions to the County’s medical plan.

Risk Management Fund - to account for the County’s risk management program.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 1 - Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

Utility Damage Prevention Fund – to account for costs associated with the location of County utilities.

Customer Service/Information Center - to account for operations of the County's customer service/information center.

Fleet Replacement Fund – to account for the County's vehicle/equipment replacement program.

Geographic Information Systems – to account for the County's GIS program.

Employees' Retirement Pension Trust Fund - This fund accounts for the employer's contributions to the retirement program, together with interest and dividend income which are used to fund the program.

Custodial Funds - Custodial funds are used to account for assets the County holds on behalf of others. The County maintains the following custodial funds:

Clerk of Superior Court - to account for the receipt/disbursement of fines/fees made on behalf of third parties.

Probate Court - to account for the receipt/disbursement of funds held on behalf of others under State law.

Magistrate Court - to account for the receipt/disbursement of bonds and fines/fees made on behalf of third parties.

Sheriff's Office - to account for the receipt/disbursement of funds held on behalf of others under State law.

Tax Commissioner's Office - to account for tax billings, collections, and remittances held by the Tax Commissioner on behalf of other governmental agencies.

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

Government-wide, Proprietary and Fiduciary Fund Financial Statements – The government-wide, proprietary fund, and fiduciary fund financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of when the related cash flows take place. Nonexchange transactions, in which the County gives (or receives) value without directly receiving (or giving) equal value in exchange, include property taxes, grants, and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied. Revenue from grants and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

Amounts reported as program revenues include 1) charges to customers or applicants for goods, services, or privileges provided, 2) operating grants and contributions, and 3) capital grants and contributions, including special assessments. Internally dedicated resources are reported as general revenues rather than as program revenues. Likewise, general revenues include all taxes.

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from nonoperating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues of the County enterprise funds are charges to customers for sales and services. The County also recognizes as operating revenue the portion of tap fees intended to recover the cost of connecting new customers to the system. Operating expenses for enterprise funds include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating revenues and expenses.

Governmental Fund Financial Statements – Governmental funds are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt, judgments, and compensated absences, which are recognized as expenditures to the extent they have matured. General capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Proceeds of general long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 1 - Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

Those revenues susceptible to accrual are property taxes, licenses, interest revenues and charges for services. State-shared revenues collected and held by the state at year-end on behalf of the County also are recognized as revenue. Fines, fees and permits are not susceptible to accrual because generally they are not measurable until received in cash.

Grant revenues which are unearned at year-end are recorded as unearned revenues. For reimbursement grants in which a qualifying expenditure has been incurred, the concept of availability applies just as it does to other revenue sources. However, to avoid recognizing expenditures in one year and related reimbursements in another, the County utilizes a longer availability period of 90 days. Under the terms of grant agreements, the County funds certain programs by a combination of specific cost-reimbursement grants, categorical block grants, and general revenues. Thus, when program expenses are incurred, both restricted and unrestricted net position is available to finance the program. The County's policy is to first apply cost-reimbursement grant resources to such programs, followed by categorical block grants, and then general revenues.

Cash and cash equivalents

The County's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, deposits with insignificant early withdrawal penalties, and short-term investments with an original maturity of three months or less.

The County follows GASB Statement No. 31, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Certain Investments and for External Investment Pools*. Nonparticipating interest-earning investment contracts (investments whose value is not affected by interest rate or other market changes), including savings accounts, certificates of deposit, repurchase agreements, money market investments (short-term, highly liquid debt instruments including commercial paper, banker's acceptances and U.S. Treasury and agency obligations) and participating interest-bearing investment contracts, that have a remaining maturity at purchase of one year or less are reported at cost or amortized cost assuming their fair value has not been impacted by changes in the credit worthiness of the issuer or similar factors. All other investments are reported at fair value (the amount at which a financial instrument could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties, other than in a forced or liquidation sale).

Investments

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*, the County categorizes the fair value measurements of its investments based on the hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The fair value hierarchy, which has three levels, is based on the valuation inputs used to measure an asset's fair value: Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets; Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs valued using a matrix pricing model; Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs. The County does not have any investments that are measured using Level 3 inputs.

Receivables

All receivables are reported at their gross value and, where appropriate, are reduced by the estimated uncollectible portion.

Allowance for bad debt

The allowance for bad debt covers amounts owed from individuals, companies, and other entities which have purchased services from County owned entities or which have been provided services from the County. The allowance was determined by analysis of the year-end receivable balances for those accounts which the County believes will not be collected based on past history.

Interfund receivables/payables and internal balances

During the course of operations, numerous transactions occur between individual funds for goods provided or services rendered. These receivables and payables are classified as "due from other funds" or "due to other funds" on the balance sheet of the fund financial statements and as "internal balances" on the statement of net position in the government-wide financial statements.

Inventories and prepaid items

Inventories are valued at cost using the first-in/first-out (FIFO) method. The costs of governmental fund-type inventories are recorded as expenditures when consumed rather than when purchased. The inventory balance included in the statement of net position and the governmental funds balance sheet includes redevelopment property held for resale in the amount of \$1.67 million.

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items. Prepaid items are accounted for using the allocation method whereby an asset is established at the time of payment and subsequently amortized over the accounting periods that are expected to benefit from the initial payment.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 1 - Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

Restricted assets

Proceeds from debt and funds set aside for payment of Enterprise Fund revenue bonds are classified as restricted assets since their use is limited by applicable bond indebtedness. Other cash funds available for use for specific purposes are classified as restricted. When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, the County's policy is to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

Capital assets

Capital assets are defined by the County as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. This minimum capitalization cost is applicable for all categories of capital assets, with the exception of subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) which are \$25,000. Purchased or constructed capital assets are reported at cost or estimated historical cost. Donated capital assets, donated works of art and similar items, and capital assets received in a service concession arrangement should be reported at acquisition value rather than fair value. General infrastructure assets acquired prior to July 1, 2002, consist of the streets network that was acquired or that received substantial improvements subsequent to July 1, 1980. The streets network is reported at estimated historical cost using deflated replacement cost. The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets' lives are expensed as incurred.

Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method. A summary of the estimated useful lives is as follows:

Vehicles	3 to 8 years
Furniture and fixtures	3 to 8 years
Machinery and equipment	5 to 10 years
Utility plant and distribution systems	10 to 50 years
Storm water systems	10 to 50 years
Land improvements	10 to 50 years
Buildings and improvements	10 to 50 years
Donated subdivisions	25 to 75 years
Infrastructure	25 to 75 years

Leases

The County is a lessee for leases of building space and equipment. As such, the County has recognized a lease liability and right-to-use lease assets in the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements. At the commencement of a lease, the County initially measures the lease liability at the present value of payments expected to be made during the lease term. Subsequently, the lease liability is reduced by the principal portion of lease payments made. The lease asset is initially measured as the initial amount of the lease liability, adjusted for lease payments made at or before the lease commencement date, plus certain initial direct costs. The lease asset is then amortized in a systematic and rational manner over the shorter of the lease term or the life of the underlying asset. The amortization of the lease assets is reported as an outflow of resources.

Key estimates and judgments related to leases include how the County determines (1) the discount rate it uses to discount the expected lease payments to present value, (2) the lease term, and (3) lease payments. The County uses the interest rate charged by the lessor as the discount rate. When the interest rate charged by the lessor is not provided, the County generally uses its estimated incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate for leases. The lease term includes the noncancellable period of the lease. Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability are composed of fixed payments and purchase option price that the County is reasonably certain to exercise.

The County monitors changes in circumstances that would require a remeasurement of its leases and will remeasure the lease asset and liability if certain changes occur that are expected to significantly affect the amount of the lease liability. Lease assets are reported with other capital assets and lease liabilities are reported with long-term debt on the statement of net position.

The County is a lessor for buildings and towers. As such, the County recognizes a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources in the government-wide, governmental fund, and proprietary fund financial statements. At the commencement of a lease, the County initially measures the lease receivable at the present value of payments expected to be received during the lease term. Subsequently, the lease receivable is reduced by the principal portion of lease payments received. The deferred inflow of resources is initially measured as the initial amount of the lease receivable, adjusted for lease payments received at or before the lease commencement date. Subsequently, the deferred inflow of resources is recognized as revenue over the life of the lease term.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 1 - Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

Key estimates and judgments include how the County determines (1) the discount rate it uses to discount the expected lease receipts to present value, (2) the lease term, and (3) lease receipts. The County uses its estimated incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate for leases. The lease term includes the noncancellable period of the lease. Lease receipts included in the measurement of the lease receivable is composed of fixed payments from the lessee.

The County monitors changes in circumstances that would require a remeasurement of its leases and will remeasure the lease receivable and deferred inflows of resources if certain changes occur that are expected to significantly affect the amount of the lease receivable.

Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements

The County implemented GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, as of July 1, 2022. This statement (1) defines a SBITA (2) establishes that a SBITA results in a right-to-use subscription asset and a corresponding subscription liability; (3) provides the capitalization criteria for outlays other than subscription payments, including implementation costs of a SBITA; and (4) requires note disclosures regarding a SBITA.

The County has recorded SBITA assets and liabilities as a result of implementing GASB 96. The SBITA assets are initially measured at an amount equal to the initial measurement of the related SBITA liability plus any SBITA payments made prior to the subscription term, less SBITA incentives, and plus any ancillary charges necessary to place the SBITA into service. The SBITA assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over the life of the related contract. SBITAs which are based on variable payments (or user seats) are not recorded as subscription assets or liabilities and are expensed as incurred.

Compensated absences

The County's policy is to permit employees to accumulate earned but unused leave benefits. The County's government-wide and proprietary funds include an accrual for the estimated compensation costs attributable to employee earned but unused leave benefits.

Long-term obligations

In the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable governmental activities, business-type activities, or proprietary fund type statement of net position. Bond premiums and discounts are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the effective interest method. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premiums or discounts.

In the governmental fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs, during the period the costs are incurred. The face amount of debt issued and premiums on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures.

Deferred Outflows / Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statements of net position will sometimes report a separate section for *deferred outflows of resources*. This separate financial statement element represents a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense / expenditure) until then. The County has two items that qualify for reporting in this category. A deferred loss on refunding is reported in the government-wide and proprietary funds statements of net position, which results from the difference in the carrying value of refunded debt and its reacquisition price. This amount is deferred and amortized over the shorter of the life of the refunded debt or the refunding debt. In the estimate of the net OPEB liability, deferred outflows were reported in the government-wide and proprietary funds statements of net position related to changes in assumptions.

In addition to liabilities, the statements of net position and balance sheets will sometimes report a separate section for *deferred inflows of resources*. This separate financial statement element represents an acquisition of net assets that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The County has five items that qualify for reporting in this category. Unavailable revenue which arises only under a modified accrual basis of accounting is reported in the governmental funds balance sheet and will be recognized as an inflow of resources in the period in which the amounts become available. A deferred gain on refunding is reported in the government-wide statement of net position, which results from the difference in the carrying value of refunded debt and its reacquisition price. This amount is deferred and amortized over the shorter of the life of the refunded debt or the

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 1 - Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

refunding debt. A deferred inflow related to leases is reported in the government-wide, governmental funds, and proprietary funds statements of net position. This amount is deferred and amortized over the shorter of the lease term or the life of the underlying asset. In the estimate of the net OPEB liability, deferred inflows were reported in the government-wide and proprietary fund statements of net position related to changes in assumptions and differences between expected and actual experience.

Information on deferred outflows/inflows of resources for the CCBOH is included in Note 13.

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues, expenses and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Fund equity

Fund equity in government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements is classified as net position. Net position is classified as:

- Net investment in capital assets - This classification represents capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
- Restricted - Restricted net position represents constraints on resources that are either externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or imposed by law through state statute.
- Unrestricted - Unrestricted net position consists of net position that does not meet the definition of the other classifications.

Fund equity in the governmental fund financial statements is classified as fund balance. Generally, fund balance represents the difference between current assets and current liabilities. In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report fund balance classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the County is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent. Fund balances are classified as follows:

- Nonspendable – Fund balances are reported as nonspendable when amounts cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- Restricted – Fund balances are reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the County or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or imposed by law through state statute.
- Committed – Fund balances are reported as committed when they can be used only for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the Board through the adoption of an ordinance. The Board is the highest level of decision-making authority for the County that can commit fund balance. Once adopted, the limitation imposed by the formal action remains in place until a similar action is taken to modify or rescind the commitment.
- Assigned – Fund balances are reported as assigned when amounts are constrained by the Board's intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. Assignments typically are created when analyzing fund balance at the end of the fiscal year or when appropriating the subsequent year's annual budget. Through policy, authorization to assign fund balance remains with the Board.
- Unassigned – Fund balances are reported as unassigned as the residual amount when the balances do not meet any of the above criterion. The County reports positive unassigned fund balance in the general fund only. Negative unassigned fund balances may be reported in all governmental funds.

Flow assumptions

When both restricted and unrestricted amounts of fund balance are available for use for expenditures incurred, the County's policy is to use restricted amounts first and then unrestricted amounts as they are needed. For unrestricted amounts of fund balance, the County's policy is to use fund balance in the following order:

- Committed
- Assigned
- Unassigned

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 1 - Summary of significant accounting policies (Continued)

Minimum fund balance

The Board has adopted a financial policy to maintain a General Fund unassigned fund balance of 100 days of operations. This minimum fund balance, which may only be used as required by authority of the Board, is to provide for operating contingencies in either revenues or expenditures, and to provide adequate funds to operate without short-term borrowing. In the event the unassigned fund balance falls below the minimum level of 100 days of operations, the County Manager will present a plan to the Board as part of the subsequent fiscal year's annual budget to replenish the fund balance to the established minimum level in a reasonable time frame, generally 1 to 3 years. Budget surpluses will first be used towards replenishment, followed by the use of non-recurring revenues.

Note 2 - Stewardship, compliance, and accountability

Budgetary information

Budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with GAAP. Annual appropriated budgets are adopted for the general fund, special revenue funds, and debt service funds. The County adopts a project length budget for each capital project fund.

The County follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

1. Prior to June 1, the Director of Internal Services begins receiving various departmental and agency budget requests for the fiscal year commencing July 1.
2. The County Manager, Director of Internal Services, the Board and other administrative personnel review in detail the budget requests with the departments and agencies.
3. Along with the budget review, public hearings are conducted to obtain citizen comments.
4. The proposed operating budgets are formally adopted by the Board in June for the fiscal year commencing July 1.
5. The legal level of budgetary control is the department level.
6. All appropriations lapse at year-end.
7. The operating budgets originally adopted may be amended throughout the year as presented below:
 - a. Transfers within departments \$5,000 or less may be authorized by the Internal Services Director.
 - b. Transfers within departments in excess of \$5,000 may be authorized by the County Manager.
 - c. The following must be reviewed by the Management and Internal Services Committee and approved by the Board:
 - Transfers between departments or funds
 - Increase or decrease in the total fund appropriation
 - Increase or decrease in salary appropriation within any department
 - Appropriation of fund balances in excess of established reserve requirements

Excess of expenditures over appropriations in individual departments

During the year, County expenditures did not exceed the total budget authorization.

Deficit fund balances or net position

The following funds had deficits at June 30, 2024:

- **Transportation SPLOST** – The fund deficit of \$9,378,935 is due to a difference in the timing of expenditures and grant reimbursements. This deficit is expected to be recovered from reimbursements received in the next fiscal year.
- **Solid Waste Management Fund** – The fund deficit of \$363,749 is due to the estimated liability associated with post closure costs of the landfill. This deficit is expected to be recovered from contributions from the General Fund.
- **Accountability Court Fund** - The fund deficit of \$77,415 is due to a difference in the timing of expenditures and grant reimbursements. This deficit is expected to be recovered from reimbursements received in the next fiscal year.
- **Exhibition Center** – The fund deficit of \$252,911 is due to reduced rentals of the facility. This deficit is expected to be recovered from user fees or contributions from the General Fund.
- **Employee Medical Fund** – The fund deficit of \$1,400,737 is due to medical claims exceeding contributions. This deficit is expected to be recovered from plan design changes or contributions from the General Fund.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 3 - Deposits and investments

Deposits: Deposits and investments as of June 30, 2024, are classified in the accompanying financial statements as follows:

Statement of net position:

Primary Government

Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted	\$ 67,850,863
Investments - unrestricted	87,714,478
Cash and cash equivalents - restricted	59,161,555
Investments - restricted	182,166,319
	<u>\$ 396,893,215</u>

Component Units

Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted - Development Authority	\$ 3,504,164
Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted - Board of Health	4,331,564
Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted - Convention and Visitors Bureau	480,464
Investments - unrestricted - Convention and Visitors Bureau	307,825
Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted - Greater Clarks Hill Regional Library	272,235
	<u>\$ 8,896,252</u>

Fiduciary funds:

Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted	\$ 22,094,840
Investments - unrestricted	77,727,124
	<u>\$ 99,821,964</u>

Investments: The County had the following assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis and related investment maturities as of June 30, 2024:

<u>Primary Government</u>	<u>Maturities</u>	Quoted Prices in			Total
		Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)	
US Treasury Obligations	-	\$ -	\$ 218,795,940	\$ -	\$ 218,795,940
Federal Home Loan Mortgage	11/26/24 - 06/25/40	-	12,416,233	-	12,416,233
Federal National Mortgage Assoc	08/19/25 - 07/29/30	-	1,953,174	-	1,953,174
Federal Farm Credit Bank	10/14/27 - 06/25/40	-	7,977,308	-	7,977,308
Federal Home Loan Bank	12/10/24 - 12/20/34	-	20,193,403	-	20,193,403
Municipal Bonds	10/01/24 - 08/01/33	-	1,951,953	-	1,951,953
Other Mutual Funds	-	77,727,124	-	-	77,727,124
Certificates of Deposit	-	6,592,786	-	-	6,592,786
Total Investments for the County, including fiduciary funds, excluding component units		<u>\$ 84,319,910</u>	<u>\$ 263,288,011</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 347,607,921</u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 3 - Deposits and investments (Continued)

Interest Rate Risk. The County's formal investment policy does not limit investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

Credit Risk. The Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCGA) Section 36-80-3 authorizes the County to invest in obligations of the State of Georgia, other states, or the United States Government; obligations fully insured or guaranteed by the United States Government or an agency or corporation of the United States Government; and/or repurchase agreements and certificates of deposit which are secured by direct obligations of Georgia or the United States Government. The County's investment policy further limits its investment choices to not include repurchase agreements or obligations of other states. The County's investments in US Agencies (Federal Home Loan Mortgage, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Bank and Federal National Mortgage Association) are rated AA+ by Standard & Poor's and Aaa by Moody's Investors Service. The municipal bond investment is rated AA- by Standard and Poor's. The Pension Trust Fund had investments in the bond mutual funds American Funds High Income, which had an average credit rating of B, and PIMCO Total Return Fund that no longer reports an average credit rating. Certificates of Deposit are secured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The County's formal investment policy does not include limitations on credit ratings.

Custodial Credit Risk. For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the County will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party.

The County's investment policy requires collateralization of all deposits in accordance with the OCGA. To provide for adequate safekeeping of securities, the securities shall be delivered to the County's depository bank unless the deposit being secured is with that bank, in which event the collateral securities will be delivered to a third party bank with which the County has a fully executed and approved safekeeping agreement. As of June 30, 2024, all of the deposits of the County and the component units were properly insured and collateralized as required by the OCGA Section 45-8-12(c) and as defined by GASB pronouncements. The County uses the pooled method to collateralize funds, which are held in the name of the Board.

Concentration of Credit Risk. The County's formal investment policy places limits on the amount that the County may invest in any one issuer and in any one security/instrument.

Note 4 - Receivables

Taxes receivable

Property taxes are an enforceable lien on property owned as of January 1. The tax rate is normally set by the end of August, and property taxes may be paid after receipt of the tax bill. Taxes are delinquent 61 days after mailing by the Tax Commissioner. Property tax revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available. Available revenues include those property tax receivables expected to be collected within 60 days.

Vehicles become subject to property tax on January 1 following the year of purchase. The tax is due on the registered owner's date of birth. Tax is determined based on the assessed value of the vehicle as of January 1.

Property taxes are recorded as receivables when levied. Property taxes receivable, reduced by an allowance for doubtful accounts and amounts collected within 60 days of the statement date (the amount "available"), is recorded as deferred revenue until collected. Such revenue is deferred because the amount is measurable, although not available. Taxes receivable in the General Fund was reduced by an allowance for doubtful accounts of \$44,000.

Property taxes were levied on August 22, 2023. Tax bills were mailed on September 15, 2023, and were due upon receipt. Property taxes were delinquent if not paid by November 15, 2023.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 4 – Receivables (continued)

Accounts receivable

The receivable amounts on the accompanying statements are net of an allowance for doubtful accounts as follows:

<u>Receivable</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Allowance Amount</u>
Taxes receivable	General Fund	\$ 44,000
Accounts receivable	Water and Sewerage Fund	\$ 1,611,426
Accounts receivable	Storm Water Utility Fund	\$ 195,401

Lease Receivable

Governmental activities. The County leases building space to various third parties. As of June 30, 2024, the County had a lease receivable of \$434,057. The County considers the receivable to be fully collectible. These leases have a discount rate of 2.55% with total annual payments ranging from \$4,200 to \$210,000 extending through 2028.

Business-type activities. The County leases building, land, and tower space to various third parties. As of June 30, 2024, the County had a lease receivable of \$647,778. The County considers the receivable to be fully collectible. These leases have a discount rate of 2.55% with total annual payments ranging from \$5,500 to \$53,000 extending through 2029.

Note 5 - Interfund balances and activities

Due From/To Other Funds

The composition of interfund balances as of June 30, 2024, is as follows:

	Receivable Fund								
Payable Fund	General	Fire	TAVT	Water & Sewer	Storm Water	Nonmajor Governmental	Nonmajor Enterprise	Internal Service	Total
General	\$ -	\$ 3,101,798	\$ 28,043,634	\$ 243,710	\$ 491,265	\$ 15,025,457	\$ 40,385	\$ 2,094,985	\$ 49,041,234
ARPA	1,312,275	-		-	-	-		-	1,312,275
17-22 SPLOST	1,474	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,474
23-28 SPLOST	5,376								5,376
TSPLOST	11,669,907	-		-	-	-		-	11,669,907
Water & Sewer	-	-	-	-	26,570	-	-	-	26,570
Solid Waste	3,672,896	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,672,896
Nonmajor Gov	277,887	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	277,887
Nonmajor Ent	663,854	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	663,854
Internal Service	4,785,327	-	-	1,113,051	-	-	-	-	5,898,378
	\$ 22,388,996	\$ 3,101,798	\$ 28,043,634	\$ 1,356,761	\$ 517,835	\$ 15,025,457	\$ 40,385	\$ 2,094,985	\$ 72,569,851

The outstanding balances between funds result mainly from short-term loans between funds for cash management purposes, the timing of reimbursable expenditures, and the utilization of a pooled cash account.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 5 - Interfund balances and activities (Continued)

Advances To/From Other Funds

Advances to/from other funds as of June 30, 2024, which represent working capital loans made to other funds, are summarized below:

<u>Receivable Fund</u>	<u>Payable Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund	Nonmajor Enterprise	\$2,451,050

Transfers To/From Other Funds

Transfers in (out) for the year ended June 30, 2024, are summarized below:

Transfers out:	Transfers in:										Total
	General	2017-2022 SPLOST	TAVT	TSPLOST	Water and Sewer Fund	Solid Waste Management Fund	Nonmajor Governmental	Nonmajor Enterprise	Internal Service		
General	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,661,400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 353,884	\$ -	\$ 49,928	\$ 126,000	\$	18,191,212
ARPA	-	-	3,635,080	-	808,429	-	-	-	-	-	4,443,509
2017-2022 SPLOST	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,264,640	-	-	-	2,264,640
TAVT	-	-	-	3,000,000	-	-	2,664,907	-	-	-	5,664,907
Nonmajor Governmental	200,000	832,487	-	1,388,464	-	-	1,629,323	-	-	-	4,050,274
Internal Service Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	367,288	-	367,288
Total transfers	\$ 200,000	\$ 832,487	\$ 21,296,480	\$ 4,388,464	\$ 808,429	\$ 353,884	\$ 6,558,870	\$ 49,928	\$ 493,288	\$	34,981,830

Transfers between funds are used to (1) move revenues from the fund with collection authorization to the debt service fund(s) as principal and interest payments become due, (2) move General Fund resources to provide an annual subsidy to nonmajor enterprise funds, (3) move General Fund surplus funds to the TAVT fund, and (4) to account for the total cost of capital projects with multiple funding sources in one capital projects or enterprise fund.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 6 – Capital assets

During the year ended June 30, 2024, no assets were transferred between governmental activities and business-type activities. A summary of changes in the capital assets is as follows:

	Beginning Balances	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balances
Governmental Activities:				
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 31,706,558	\$ 66,726	\$ -	\$ 31,773,284
Infrastructure - Right of way land	51,353,249	9,762,856	-	61,116,105
Construction in progress	74,755,318	70,225,129	(38,824,365)	106,156,082
Total capital assets not being depreciated	<u>157,815,125</u>	<u>80,054,711</u>	<u>(38,824,365)</u>	<u>199,045,471</u>
Capital assets being depreciated/amortized:				
Buildings	208,350,812	13,404,621	-	221,755,433
Improvements other than buildings	60,923,738	4,792,072	-	65,715,810
Infrastructure	385,228,469	6,662,233	-	391,890,702
Vehicles, machinery and equipment	72,604,714	10,617,659	(2,258,673)	80,963,700
Right-to-use leased buildings	472,619	-	-	472,619
Right-to-use leased equipment	558,619	-	(514,551)	44,068
Subscription asset	197,586	492,293	(106,231)	583,648
Total capital assets being depreciated	<u>728,336,557</u>	<u>35,968,878</u>	<u>(2,879,455)</u>	<u>761,425,980</u>
Less accumulated depreciation/amortization for:				
Buildings	(97,959,086)	(7,397,164)	-	(105,356,250)
Improvements other than buildings	(13,756,302)	(1,682,551)	-	(15,438,853)
Infrastructure	(282,134,424)	(12,158,157)	-	(294,292,581)
Vehicles, machinery and equipment	(61,572,032)	(5,083,078)	2,258,673	(64,396,437)
Right-to-use leased buildings	(459,350)	(5,687)	-	(465,037)
Right-to-use leased equipment	(528,739)	(5,936)	514,551	(20,124)
Subscription asset	(94,723)	(139,188)	106,231	(127,680)
Total accumulated depreciation/amortization	<u>(456,504,656)</u>	<u>(26,471,761)</u>	<u>2,879,455</u>	<u>(480,096,962)</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated/amortized, net	<u>271,831,901</u>	<u>9,497,117</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>281,329,018</u>
Governmental activities capital assets, net	<u>\$ 429,647,026</u>	<u>\$ 89,551,828</u>	<u>\$ (38,824,365)</u>	<u>\$ 480,374,489</u>

Depreciation/amortization expense was charged to functions as follows for Governmental Activities:

General government	\$ 3,071,915
Judicial	727,588
Public safety	5,229,038
Public works	12,396,781
Health and welfare	254,719
Culture and recreation	4,783,594
Housing and development	8,126
	<u>\$ 26,471,761</u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 6 – Capital assets (Continued)

	Beginning Balances	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balances
Business-type Activities:				
<i>Water and Sewerage Fund</i>				
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 1,868,660	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,868,660
Construction in progress	16,597,028	5,167,648	(4,427,018)	17,337,658
Total capital assets not being depreciated	<u>18,465,688</u>	<u>5,167,648</u>	<u>(4,427,018)</u>	<u>19,206,318</u>
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Land improvements	57,482	694,456	-	751,938
Buildings	9,590,932	-	-	9,590,932
Utility plant and distribution systems	331,867,897	4,062,941	-	335,930,838
Donated subdivisions	144,263,583	3,432,516	-	147,696,099
Machinery and equipment	14,184,820	1,260,746	(668,288)	14,777,278
Furniture and fixtures	220,702	-	-	220,702
Vehicles	6,826,231	801,596	(703,448)	6,924,379
Total capital assets being depreciated	<u>507,011,647</u>	<u>10,252,255</u>	<u>(1,371,736)</u>	<u>515,892,166</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Land improvements	(19,610)	(251,937)	-	(271,547)
Buildings	(4,435,871)	(365,431)	-	(4,801,302)
Utility plant and distribution systems	(123,967,683)	(7,930,441)	-	(131,898,124)
Donated subdivisions	(60,551,408)	(3,412,429)	-	(63,963,837)
Machinery and equipment	(9,479,919)	(843,284)	668,288	(9,654,915)
Furniture and fixtures	(206,699)	-	-	(206,699)
Vehicles	(6,478,394)	(264,755)	703,448	(6,039,701)
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>(205,139,584)</u>	<u>(13,068,277)</u>	<u>1,371,736</u>	<u>(216,836,125)</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	<u>301,872,073</u>	<u>(2,816,022)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>299,056,041</u>
Water and Sewerage Fund capital assets, net	<u><u>\$ 320,337,761</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,351,626</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (4,427,018)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 318,262,359</u></u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 6 – Capital assets (Continued)

	Beginning Balances	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balances
Business-type Activities - continued:				
<i>Storm Water Utility Fund</i>				
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 1,001,808	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,001,808
Construction in Progress	-	18,644	-	18,644
Total capital assets not being depreciated	<u>\$ 1,001,808</u>	<u>\$ 18,644</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,020,452</u>
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Land improvements	847,568	-	-	847,568
Machinery and equipment	4,271,624	110,932	(143,004)	4,239,552
Furniture and fixtures	8,449	-	-	8,449
Vehicles	1,689,818	126,000	(95,343)	1,720,475
Storm water systems	17,900,288	783,917	-	18,684,205
Donated subdivisions	<u>58,112,314</u>	<u>1,523,965</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,636,279</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated	<u>82,830,061</u>	<u>2,544,814</u>	<u>(238,347)</u>	<u>85,136,528</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Land improvements	(729,976)	(41,388)	-	(771,364)
Machinery and equipment	(2,664,348)	(319,323)	143,004	(2,840,667)
Furniture and fixtures	(8,449)	-	-	(8,449)
Vehicles	(1,588,380)	(76,004)	95,343	(1,569,041)
Storm water systems	(6,281,574)	(807,559)	-	(7,089,133)
Donated subdivisions	<u>(33,835,145)</u>	<u>(2,581,238)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(36,416,383)</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>(45,107,872)</u>	<u>(3,825,512)</u>	<u>238,347</u>	<u>(48,695,037)</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	<u>37,722,189</u>	<u>(1,280,698)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,441,491</u>
Storm Water Utility Fund capital assets, net	<u><u>\$ 38,723,997</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (1,262,054)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 37,461,943</u></u>
<i>Solid Waste Management Fund</i>				
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 552,894	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 552,894
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Land improvements	6,446,319	-	-	6,446,319
Buildings	907,096	-	-	907,096
Machinery and equipment	<u>511,303</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>511,303</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated	<u>7,864,718</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,864,718</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Land improvements	(6,446,319)	-	-	(6,446,319)
Buildings	(428,297)	(34,891)	-	(463,188)
Machinery and equipment	<u>(451,324)</u>	<u>(11,941)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(463,265)</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>(7,325,940)</u>	<u>(46,832)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(7,372,772)</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	<u>538,778</u>	<u>(46,832)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>491,946</u>
Solid Waste Management Fund capital assets, net	<u><u>\$ 1,091,672</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (46,832)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,044,840</u></u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 6 – Capital assets (Continued)

	Beginning Balances	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balances
Business-type Activities - continued:				
<i>Savannah Rapids Pavilion</i>				
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 134,630	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 134,630
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Buildings	5,618,373	-	-	5,618,373
Machinery and equipment	19,958	-	-	19,958
Vehicles	5,370	-	-	5,370
Total capital assets being depreciated	5,643,701	-	-	5,643,701
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Buildings	(4,373,583)	(122,582)	-	(4,496,165)
Machinery and equipment	(19,958)	-	-	(19,958)
Vehicles	(5,370)	-	-	(5,370)
Total accumulated depreciation	(4,398,911)	(122,582)	-	(4,521,493)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	1,244,790	(122,582)	-	1,122,208
Savannah Rapids Pavilion capital assets, net	<u>\$ 1,379,420</u>	<u>\$ (122,582)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,256,838</u>
<i>Communication Utility Fund</i>				
Capital assets being depreciated/amortized:				
Infrastructure	\$ 18,733,638	\$ 610,822	\$ -	\$ 19,344,460
Vehicles	164,866	-	-	164,866
Machinery and equipment	2,323,544	-	-	2,323,544
Right-to-use leased building	66,173	-	-	66,173
Total capital assets being depreciated/amortized	21,288,221	610,822	-	21,899,043
Less accumulated depreciation/amortization for:				
Infrastructure	(8,355,191)	(860,460)	-	(9,215,651)
Vehicles	(145,045)	(13,533)	-	(158,578)
Machinery and equipment	(2,314,869)	(2,813)	-	(2,317,682)
Right-to-use leased building	(36,094)	(18,052)	-	(54,146)
Total accumulated depreciation/amortization	(10,851,199)	(894,858)	-	(11,746,057)
Total capital assets being depreciated/amortized, net	10,437,022	(284,036)	-	10,152,986
Communications Utility Fund capital assets, net	<u>\$ 10,437,022</u>	<u>\$ (284,036)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 10,152,986</u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 6 – Capital assets (Continued)

	Beginning Balances	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balances
Business-type Activities - continued:				
<i>Performing Arts Center</i>				
Capital assets being amortized:				
Subscription assets	\$ 56,326	\$ -	\$ (56,326)	\$ -
Less accumulated amortization	(28,163)	(28,163)	56,326	-
Total capital assets being amortized, net	28,163	(28,163)	-	-
Performing Arts Center capital assets, net	<u>\$ 28,163</u>	<u>\$ (28,163)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

	Beginning Balances	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balances
Discretely presented component units:				
<i>DACC</i>				
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 7,434,714	\$ 3,563,889	\$ -	\$ 10,998,603
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Furniture and equipment	8,927	-	-	8,927
Less accumulated depreciation	(5,058)	(1,786)	-	(6,844)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	3,869	(1,786)	-	2,083
DACC capital assets, net	<u>\$ 7,438,583</u>	<u>\$ 3,562,103</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 11,000,686</u>

<i>CCCVB</i>				
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Furniture and equipment	\$ 14,900	\$ 15,841	\$ -	\$ 30,741
Vehicles	-	90,708	-	90,708
Total capital assets being depreciated	<u>\$ 14,900</u>	<u>\$ 106,549</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 121,449</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Furniture and equipment	(8,741)	(1,457)	-	(10,198)
Vehicles	-	(10,178)	-	(10,178)
Total accumulated depreciation	(8,741)	(11,635)	-	(20,376)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	6,159	94,914	-	101,073
CCCVB capital assets, net	<u>\$ 6,159</u>	<u>\$ 94,914</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 101,073</u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 7 - Long-term and short-term obligations

A. General Obligation Bond Debt

General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2016A – serviced by property taxes dedicated for debt service

On October 6, 2016, in connection with the refunding of the General Obligation Refunding Bonds Series 2007A, the County issued a \$14,400,000 direct purchase general obligation refunding bond, Series 2016A, with an interest rate of 1.81%. The Series 2016A bond was issued to refund \$14,155,000 of the outstanding Series 2007A General Obligation Refunding Bonds with interest rates ranging between 4.0% and 4.25%. The County used the net proceeds to repay all of the outstanding 2007A Series bonds maturing in 2018 through 2024. As a result, the 2007A Series bonds are no longer a liability of the County. During the fiscal year, the County repaid all of the outstanding bonds. As a result, the Series 2016A Bonds are no longer a liability of the County and have no outstanding principal at June 30, 2024.

General Obligation Bonds, Series 2017 – serviced by property taxes dedicated for debt service

On February 14, 2017, the County issued the \$60,000,000 Columbia County, Georgia, General Obligation Bonds, Series 2017, with an interest rate of 5.0%. In connection with the issuance of the Series 2022 General Obligation Taxable Refunding Bond, the County partially refunded Series 2017 in the amount of \$38,325,000.

The Series 2017 Bonds were issued to (a) finance the costs of acquiring, constructing, and equipping certain capital outlay projects of the County and (b) pay expenses incident to the issuance of the Bonds. Interest on the Series 2017 bonds is to be paid semi-annually on January 1 and July 1 and principal is paid January 1 of each year.

General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2022 – serviced by property taxes dedicated for debt service

On March 31, 2022, in connection with the refunding of the General Obligation Bonds Series 2017, the County issued a \$49,990,000 direct purchase general obligation taxable refunding bond, Series 2022, with an interest rate of 2.55%. The Series 2022 bond was issued to advance refund \$38,325,000 of the outstanding series 2017 general obligation bonds, maturing from 2028-2037, with an interest rate of 5.0%. The County used the net proceeds to purchase U.S. government securities, which were deposited in an irrevocable trust with an escrow agent to provide for all future debt service on the refunded 2017 series bonds. As a result, the portion of the 2017 series bonds that were refunded are considered defeased, and the County has removed the liability from its accounts. Interest on the Series 2022 bond is to be paid semi-annually on January 1 and July 1 and principal is paid January 1 of each year.

Columbia County Public Facilities Authority (CCPFA), Series 2024 Revenue Bonds

On April 18, 2024, the CCPFA issued the \$69,080,000 CCPFA Revenue Bonds, Series 2024, with an interest rate of 5.0%. The Series 2024 Bonds were issued to (a) finance the costs of acquiring, constructing, and equipping certain capital outlay projects of the County and (b) pay expenses incident to the issuance of the Bonds. The Series 2024 Bonds are limited, special obligations of the CCPFA and are secured and payable from revenues received under an Intergovernmental Contract with the County. Therefore, the bonds are considered general obligation debt of the County. Interest on the Series 2024 bonds is to be paid semi-annually on January 1 and July 1 and principal is paid January 1 of each year.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 7 - Long-term and short-term obligations (Continued)

B. Summary of General Obligation Debt outstanding

A summary of general obligation bond indebtedness as of June 30, 2024, is as follows:

General Obligation Bonds, Series 2017	\$ 8,300,000
General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2022	43,640,000
General Obligation Debt, PFA Revenue Bonds, Series 2024	69,080,000
Bond issue premiums	7,345,804
Total outstanding general obligation bond debt	<u>\$ 128,365,804</u>

The annual principal and interest requirements for the County's outstanding general obligation debt as of June 30, 2024, are:

<u>General Obligation Bonds, Series 2017</u>					
2025	\$	2,635,000	\$	415,000	\$ 3,050,000 5.00
2026		2,765,000		283,250	3,048,250 5.00
2027		2,900,000		145,000	3,045,000 5.00
	\$	<u>8,300,000</u>	\$	<u>843,250</u>	<u>\$ 9,143,250</u>
<u>General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2022</u>					
2025	\$	520,000	\$	1,112,820	\$ 1,632,820 2.55
2026		535,000		1,099,560	1,634,560 2.55
2027		550,000		1,085,918	1,635,918 2.55
2028		3,835,000		1,071,892	4,906,892 2.55
2029		3,915,000		974,100	4,889,100 2.55
2030-2034		20,785,000		3,332,470	24,117,470 2.55
2035-2037		13,500,000		692,964	14,192,964 2.55
	\$	<u>43,640,000</u>	\$	<u>9,369,724</u>	<u>\$ 53,009,724</u>
<u>General Obligation PFA Revenue Bonds, Series 2024</u>					
2025	\$	-	\$	3,186,089	\$ 3,186,089 5.00
2026		-		3,344,000	3,344,000 5.00
2027		19,500,000		3,344,000	22,844,000 5.00
2028		24,185,000		2,479,000	26,664,000 5.00
2029		25,395,000		1,269,750	26,664,750 5.00
	\$	<u>69,080,000</u>	\$	<u>13,622,839</u>	<u>\$ 82,702,839</u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 7 - Long-term and short-term obligations (Continued)

C. Revenue Bonds – serviced by the Water and Sewerage Fund (the “System”)

The Water and Sewerage Revenue Bond Resolutions provide that certain funds be established and maintained while the bonds are outstanding. The funds required and the purpose of each, are as follows:

1. Revenue Fund - To receive all revenue of the water and sewer operation, and fund the other required funds.
2. Sinking Funds - To provide a means for payment of principal and interest.
3. Renewal and Extension Fund - To make replacements, additions, extensions and improvements to the system, and to pay principal and interest on bonds and any obligations payable from the sinking fund.
4. Arbitrage Rebate Fund - To assure compliance with the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

The resolutions specify the minimum levels of funding required to be maintained in the sinking funds and the Renewal and Extension fund. The following is a schedule of the outstanding revenue bonds in the System:

Series 2014

In connection with the refunding of the 2004 Water and Sewerage Revenue Bonds, the System issued a direct purchase Water and Sewerage Refunding Revenue Bond, Series 2014, in the aggregate principal amount of \$9,060,000.

The Series 2014 Bond is secured by a pledge of and charge or lien on the net revenues of the Water and Sewerage System, as governed by the master bond resolution adopted on August 17, 2010. During the fiscal year, the County repaid all of the outstanding bonds. As a result, the Series 2014 Bonds are no longer a liability of the System and have no outstanding principal at June 30, 2024.

Series 2020

On March 4, 2020, in connection with the refunding of the 2010 Water and Sewerage Refunding Revenue Bonds in the amount of \$16,285,000 and the 2017 Water and Sewerage Refunding Revenue Bond in the amount of \$39,945,000, the System issued Series 2020 Water and Sewerage Refunding Revenue Bonds in the aggregate principal amount of \$46,690,000.

The Series 2020 Bonds were issued for the purpose of (i) refunding its Series 2010 Water and Sewerage Refunding Revenue Bonds maturing in 2021 through 2035, (ii) refunding its Series 2017 Water and Sewerage Refunding Revenue Bond maturing in 2021 through 2035, and (iii) paying the costs of issuing the Series 2020 Bonds.

The Series 2020 Bonds are secured by a pledge of and charge or lien on the net revenues of the Water and Sewerage System, as governed by the master bond resolution adopted on August 17, 2010, and on a parity basis with the prior bonds. Interest is to be paid semi-annually on June 1 and December 1 of each year and principal is to be paid annually on June 1 of each year.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 7 - Long-term and short-term obligations (Continued)

D. Summary of Revenue Bonds outstanding

A summary of revenue bond indebtedness as of June 30, 2024, is as follows:

Water and Sewerage Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2020	\$ 32,180,000
Bond issuance premiums	<u>7,490,895</u>
Total Outstanding Revenue Debt	<u>\$ 39,670,895</u>

The bonds are payable solely from net revenues of the System through 2035. Pursuant to the master bond resolution, the County is to establish rates that will always provide net revenues in each bond year which shall not be less than 110% of the debt service requirement for such bond year, plus 100% of the amounts required to be deposited into the sinking fund accounts. Annual principal and interest payments on the bonds are expected to require less than 50% of the net revenues. The total principal and interest remaining to be paid on the bonds is \$42,833,250. Principal and interest paid for the current year and net income available for debt service were \$9,346,488 and \$15,769,451, respectively.

The annual principal and interest requirements for the County's outstanding revenue debt as of June 30, 2024, are:

June 30,	Principal	Interest	Total	Coupon Rate
<u>Water and Sewerage Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2020</u>				
2025	\$ 1,525,000	\$ 1,609,000	\$ 3,134,000	5.00
2026	2,440,000	1,532,750	3,972,750	5.00
2027	2,560,000	1,410,750	3,970,750	5.00
2028	2,685,000	1,282,750	3,967,750	5.00
2029	2,820,000	1,148,500	3,968,500	5.00
2030	2,960,000	1,007,500	3,967,500	5.00
2031-2035	<u>17,190,000</u>	<u>2,662,000</u>	<u>19,852,000</u>	5.00
	<u>\$ 32,180,000</u>	<u>\$ 10,653,250</u>	<u>\$ 42,833,250</u>	

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 7 - Long-term and short-term obligations (Continued)

E. Right-to-use Leased Assets

Governmental activities

The County has entered into two building leases and two equipment leases with discount rates of 2.55% and annual payments ranging from \$1,000 to \$80,000 extending through 2028. The County recorded right-to-use leased assets of \$516,687, which are included as capital assets in the government-wide statement of net position. The net book value of these leased assets as of June 30, 2024, was \$31,526.

Business-type activities

The County has entered into a building lease with a discount rate of 2.55% extending through 2025. The County recorded a right-to-use leased asset of \$66,173, which is included as a capital asset in the government-wide statement of net position and proprietary funds statement of net position. The net book value of this leased asset as of June 30, 2024, was \$12,027.

The annual principal and interest requirements for the County's outstanding right-to-use leased assets as of June 30, 2024, are:

<u>Governmental Activities</u>			
<u>June 30,</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ 89,106	\$ 5,834	\$ 94,940
2026	90,190	3,526	93,716
2027	83,345	1,240	84,585
2028	6,047	97	6,144
2029	511	1	512
	<u>\$ 269,199</u>	<u>\$ 10,698</u>	<u>\$ 279,897</u>

<u>Business-type Activities</u>			
<u>June 30,</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ 12,988	\$ 124	\$ 13,112
	<u>\$ 12,988</u>	<u>\$ 124</u>	<u>\$ 13,112</u>

F. Subscription Assets

The County has entered into SBITAs for finance, reporting, and learning software for a period of 2 to 3 years with a discount rate of 3.641%. The SBITAs have been recorded at the present value of the future contract payments as of the date of their inception or, for SBITAs existing prior to the implementation year, at the remaining terms of the agreement, using the facts and circumstances available at July 1, 2022. For the year ended June 30, 2024, the County had no other payments, such as termination penalties, not previously included in the measurement of the subscription liability, no commitments under SBITAs before the commencement of the subscription term, or any losses associated with an impairment.

The annual requirements of principal and interest for the County's outstanding subscription assets as of June 30, 2024, are:

<u>Governmental Activities</u>			
<u>June 30,</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ 158,265	\$ 11,735	\$ 170,000
2026	164,028	5,972	170,000
	<u>\$ 322,293</u>	<u>\$ 17,707</u>	<u>\$ 340,000</u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 7 - Long-term and short-term obligations (Continued)

G. Refunding and Advance Refunding

On May 8, 2014, the County issued a direct purchase Water and Sewerage Refunding Revenue Bond in the aggregate principal amount of \$9,060,000, with an interest rate of 2.535%, to refund \$8,910,000 of outstanding 2004 Water and Sewerage Revenue Bonds with interest rates ranging from 3.5% to 5.0%. The net proceeds of \$8,942,547 (after payment of \$117,453 of placement agent fees and other issuance costs) plus an additional \$162,734 of the 2004 Series sinking fund monies were used to repay the 2004 Water and Sewerage Revenue Bonds.

The current refunding resulted in a difference between the reacquisition price and the net carrying amount of the old debt of \$186,738. This difference, reported in the accompanying financial statements as a deferred inflow, is being charged to operations through the year 2025 using the straight-line method, which is not significantly different from the effective-interest method. The County completed the refunding to reduce its total debt service payments over the next 11 years by approximately \$1.2 million and to obtain an economic gain (difference between present values of the old and new debt service payments) of approximately \$1.0 million.

On October 6, 2016, the County issued a \$14,400,000 direct purchase general obligation refunding bond, Series 2016A, with an interest rate of 1.81% to refund \$14,155,000 of the outstanding series 2007A general obligation bonds with interest rates ranging from 4.0% - 4.25%. The net proceeds of \$14,243,908 plus an additional \$195,712 of the 2007A sinking fund monies were used to repay all of the outstanding 2007A Series bonds maturing in 2018 through 2024. As a result, the 2007A Series bonds are no longer a liability of the County.

The current refunding resulted in a difference between the reacquisition price and the net carrying amount of the old debt of \$28,025. This difference, reported in the accompanying government-wide financial statements as a deferred inflow, is being charged to operations through the year 2024 using the straight-line method, which is not significantly different from the effective-interest method. The County completed the refunding to reduce its total debt service payments over the next 7 years by approximately \$1.2 million and to obtain an economic gain (difference between present values of the old and new debt service payments) of approximately \$1.1 million.

On March 4, 2020, the County issued Water and Sewerage Refunding Revenue Bonds in the aggregate principal amount of \$46,690,000, with an interest rate of 5%, to refund a portion of outstanding 2010 Water and Sewerage Refunding Revenue Bonds in the amount of \$16,285,000 with interest rates ranging from 4.0% to 5.0% and all of its outstanding 2017 Water and Sewerage Refunding Revenue Bond in the amount of \$39,945,000 with an interest rate of 1.585%. The net proceeds of \$57,224,069 (after payment of \$643,927 of underwriting fees and other issuance costs) plus an additional \$341,401 of sinking fund monies were used to repay the outstanding 2010 Series bonds and the outstanding 2017 Series bond maturing in 2021 through 2035. As a result, the Series 2010 bonds and the 2017 bond are no longer a liability of the System.

The refunding resulted in a difference between the reacquisition price and the net carrying amount of the old debt of \$412,399. This gain, combined with the previous unamortized loss of \$2,143,330, is reported in the accompanying financial statements as a deferred outflow and is being charged to operations through the year 2035 using the straight-line method, which is not significantly different from the effective-interest method. The County completed the refunding to reduce its total debt service payments over the next 15 years by approximately \$5.7 million and to obtain an economic gain (difference between present values of the old and new debt service payments) of approximately \$4.9 million.

On March 31, 2022, the County issued a \$49,990,000 direct purchase general obligation taxable refunding bond, Series 2022, with an interest rate of 2.55%, to advance refund \$38,325,000 of the outstanding series 2017 general obligation bonds, maturing from 2028 – 2037, with an interest rate of 5.0%. The net proceeds of \$44,466,333 were used to purchase U.S. government securities, which were deposited in an irrevocable trust with an escrow agent to provide for all future debt service on the refunded 2017 series bonds. As a result, the portion of the 2017 series bonds that were refunded are considered defeased, and the County has removed the liability from its accounts.

The advance refunding resulted in a difference between the reacquisition price and the net carrying amount of the old debt of \$117,872. This difference, reported in the accompanying government-wide financial statements as a deferred inflow, is being charged to operations through the year 2037 using the straight-line method, which is not significantly different from the effective-interest method. The County completed the refunding to reduce its total debt service payments over the next 15 years by approximately \$2.86 million and to obtain an economic gain (difference between present values of the old and new debt service payments) of approximately \$2.44 million.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 7 - Long-term and short-term obligations (Continued)

H. Changes in long-term liabilities

The following is a summary of long-term debt transactions for the year ended June 30, 2024. Internal service funds predominantly serve the governmental funds. Accordingly, long-term liabilities for them are included as part of the totals for governmental activities. At year end, \$177,332 of internal service funds compensated absences is included in the following amounts. Also, for the governmental activities, compensated absences and the net OPEB liability are generally liquidated by the general fund.

	Beginning Balances	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balances	Current Portion
Governmental activities:					
Bonds payable:					
General Obligation Debt:					
Series 2016A	\$ 2,245,000	\$ -	\$ (2,245,000)	\$ -	\$ -
Series 2017	10,805,000	-	(2,505,000)	8,300,000	2,635,000
Series 2022	44,150,000	-	(510,000)	43,640,000	520,000
Series 2024 PFA	-	69,080,000	-	69,080,000	-
Bond issuance premiums	1,867,662	5,917,693	(439,551)	7,345,804	-
Total bonds payable	<u>59,067,662</u>	<u>74,997,693</u>	<u>(5,699,551)</u>	<u>128,365,804</u>	<u>3,155,000</u>
Other liabilities:					
Total OPEB liability	6,200,258	3,872,940	-	10,073,198	-
Lease liabilities	355,229	-	(86,030)	269,199	89,106
Subscription liabilities	46,331	492,293	(216,331)	322,293	158,265
Compensated absences	9,164,097	6,035,191	(5,059,352)	10,139,936	5,069,968
Total other liabilities	<u>15,765,915</u>	<u>10,400,424</u>	<u>(5,361,713)</u>	<u>20,804,626</u>	<u>5,317,339</u>
Governmental activities long-term liabilities	<u>\$ 74,833,577</u>	<u>\$ 85,398,117</u>	<u>\$ (11,061,264)</u>	<u>\$ 149,170,430</u>	<u>\$ 8,472,339</u>
Business-type activities:					
Revenue debt:					
Water and Sewerage Bonds:					
Series 2014	\$ 3,330,000	\$ -	\$ (3,330,000)	\$ -	\$ -
Series 2020	36,250,000	-	(4,070,000)	32,180,000	1,525,000
Bond issuance premiums	8,193,166	-	(702,271)	7,490,895	-
Total revenue debt	<u>47,773,166</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,102,271)</u>	<u>39,670,895</u>	<u>1,525,000</u>
Other liabilities:					
Total OPEB liability	1,088,260	-	789,541	1,877,801	-
Lease liabilities	31,677	-	(18,689)	12,988	12,988
Subscription liabilities	27,651	-	(27,651)	-	-
Compensated absences	1,627,124	1,469,457	(1,148,665)	1,947,916	973,958
Liability for landfill closure and postclosure care costs	3,246,288	871,321	(754,455)	3,363,154	140,131
Total other liabilities	<u>6,021,000</u>	<u>2,340,778</u>	<u>(1,159,919)</u>	<u>7,201,859</u>	<u>1,127,077</u>
Business-type activities long-term liabilities	<u>\$ 53,794,166</u>	<u>\$ 2,340,778</u>	<u>\$ (9,262,190)</u>	<u>\$ 46,872,754</u>	<u>\$ 2,652,077</u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 7 - Long-term and short-term obligations (Continued)

I. Discretely presented component units

Development Authority Taxable Revenue Bond, Series 2017

On December 28, 2017, the DACC issued a \$5,300,000 direct purchase taxable revenue bond, Series 2017, with an interest rate of 3.62%. The Series 2017 Bond was issued to finance the acquisition of property for the development of an industrial park, with the intent to lease or sell portions of the property for the purposes of developing trade, commerce, industry and employment opportunities. Interest on the Series 2017 Bond is to be paid semi-annually on May 1 and November 1 of each year and principal is to be paid annually on November 1 of each year.

The Series 2017 Bond is secured in accordance with provisions of an intergovernmental contract between the DACC and the County, whereas the County agrees to provide funds, subject to a one mill limitation, which shall be sufficient to pay the principal of and interest due on the Bond, if funds are not available from revenues received through the development and sale of the property. Because the County is currently providing funds for the debt service payments, an intergovernmental payable and receivable are recognized in the government-wide statement of net position.

Development Authority Taxable Revenue Bond, Series 2020

On December 29, 2020, the DACC issued a \$11,217,000 direct purchase taxable revenue bond, Series 2020, with an interest rate of 2.03%. The Series 2020 Bond was issued to finance the acquisition and improvement of property for the development of an industrial park for the purpose of promoting trade, commerce, industry and employment opportunities. Interest on the Series 2020 Bond is to be paid semi-annually on May 1 and November 1 of each year and principal is to be paid annually on November 1 of each year.

The Series 2020 Bond is secured in accordance with provisions of an intergovernmental contract between the DACC and the County, whereas the County agrees to provide funds, subject to a one mill limitation, which shall be sufficient to pay the principal of and interest due on the Bond, in the event the DACC is unable to pay the debt service on the Bond.

The annual principal and interest requirements for the DACCs outstanding debt as of June 30, 2024, are:

DACC			
Taxable Revenue Bond, Series 2017			
June 30,	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	608,000	81,884	689,884
2026	630,000	59,477	689,477
2027	652,000	36,272	688,272
2028	676,000	12,236	688,236
	<u>\$ 2,566,000</u>	<u>\$ 189,869</u>	<u>\$ 2,755,869</u>
Taxable Revenue Bond, Series 2020			
June 30,	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	902,000	170,723	1,072,723
2026	921,000	152,220	1,073,220
2027	940,000	133,330	1,073,330
2028	959,000	114,056	1,073,056
2029	1,679,000	87,280	1,766,280
2030-2031	3,460,000	70,583	3,530,583
	<u>\$ 8,861,000</u>	<u>\$ 728,192</u>	<u>\$ 9,589,192</u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 7 - Long-term and short-term obligations (Continued)

The following is a summary of long-term debt transactions for the discretely presented component units for the year ended June 30, 2024:

	Beginning Balances	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balances	Current Portion
DACC					
Taxable Revenue Bond, Series 2017	\$ 3,152,000	\$ -	\$ (586,000)	\$ 2,566,000	\$ 608,000
Taxable Revenue Bond, Series 2020	9,746,000	-	(885,000)	8,861,000	902,000
DACC long-term liabilities	<u>\$ 12,898,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (1,471,000)</u>	<u>\$ 11,427,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,510,000</u>
Board of Health					
Compensated absences	\$ 97,100	\$ -	\$ (569)	\$ 96,531	\$ 96,531
Net pension liability	2,120,346	-	(301,855)	1,818,491	-
Net OPEB liability	120,983	-	(46,290)	74,693	-
Board of Health long-term liabilities	<u>\$ 2,338,429</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (348,714)</u>	<u>\$ 1,989,715</u>	<u>\$ 96,531</u>
GCHRL					
Compensated absences	\$ 185,062	\$ 127,255	\$ (155,621)	\$ 156,696	\$ 78,348
GCHRL long-term liabilities	<u>\$ 185,062</u>	<u>\$ 127,255</u>	<u>\$ (155,621)</u>	<u>\$ 156,696</u>	<u>\$ 78,348</u>

Note 8 – Unavailable/unearned revenues

The balance of unavailable revenues and unearned revenues in the fund financial statements and unearned revenues in the government-wide financial statements at year-end are composed of the following elements:

	Unavailable Revenue	Unearned Revenue
Taxes receivable net of allowance, unavailable - General Fund	\$ 178,396	\$ -
Taxes receivable net of allowance, unavailable - Special Revenue Fund	102,293	-
Grant proceeds due, unavailable - Special Revenue Funds	153,145	-
Grant proceeds due, unavailable - Capital Projects Funds	3,205,644	-
Accounts receivable, unavailable - Special Revenue Fund	7,818	-
Taxes receivable net of allowance, unavailable - Debt Service Fund	24,071	-
Income received in advance of being earned - General Fund	-	50,671
Grant proceeds received in advance of being earned - Special Revenue Fund	-	19,336,099
Rental income received in advance of being earned - Special Revenue Fund	-	5,650
Rental income received in advance of being earned - Enterprise Fund	-	200,730
	<u>\$ 3,671,367</u>	<u>\$ 19,593,150</u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 9 - Landfill closure and postclosure care cost

State and Federal laws and regulations require that the County place a final cover on its landfill when it stops accepting waste and to perform certain maintenance and monitoring functions at the site for thirty years after closure. Although closure and postclosure care costs will be paid only near or after the date the landfill stops accepting waste, the County is required to report a portion of these costs as operating expense in each period based on landfill capacity used as of each balance sheet date. After the initial calculation of the current closure and postclosure care costs, these costs are required to be adjusted annually for the effects of inflation or deflation, technology, or applicable laws or regulations. The County has two cells at the landfill, both of which are currently closed and no longer accepting waste. As of June 30, 2024, the County has a remaining 18 years of monitoring. Adequate funding is available to support closure and post-closure operations. The estimated liabilities for landfill closure and postclosure costs as of June 30, 2024, are as follows:

<u>Cell</u>	<u>Usage</u>	<u>Estimated Liability</u>
Unlined cell	100%	\$ 1,864,278
D Cell	100%	1,498,877
Total		<u>\$ 3,363,154</u>

Note 10 – Fund balance classifications

The composition of the Special Programs Fund Balance classification in the fund financial statements is as follows :

	<u>Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>
Special Programs, restricted:	
Building inspections	\$ 1,619,695
Library	654,331
E911	2,165,961
Courts	2,185,516
Public safety	745,266
Tourism & events	2,326,430
Grants	1,646,638
Transportation/roads	11,253,618
Total restricted	<u>\$ 22,597,455</u>
Special Programs, committed:	
Recreation	\$ 189,709
Street lights districts	2,567,231
Public safety	72,722
Tourism & events	268,628
Total committed	<u>\$ 3,098,290</u>

Note 11 – Conduit debt obligations

From time to time, the DACC has issued tax exempt industrial revenue bonds to provide financial assistance to private-sector entities for the acquisition and construction of industrial and commercial facilities deemed to be in the public interest. The bonds are secured by the property financed and are payable solely from payments received on the underlying mortgage loans. Upon repayment of the bonds, ownership of the acquired facilities transfers to the private sector entity served by the bond issuance. Neither the DACC, the County, the State, nor any political subdivision thereof is obligated in any manner for repayment of the bonds. Accordingly, the bonds are not reported as liabilities in the accompanying financial statements.

As of June 30, 2024, there was one series of DACC tax exempt industrial revenue bonds outstanding, with an aggregate principal amount of \$12,808,333.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 12 - Risk management

The County is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; losses resulting from providing accident and health benefits to employees, retirees, and their dependents; and natural disasters. Liabilities are reported when it is probable that a loss has occurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. An excess coverage insurance policy covers individual claims. Liabilities include an amount for claims that have been incurred but not reported (IBNR). Claim liabilities are calculated considering the effects of inflation, recent claim settlement trends including frequency and amount of pay-outs and other economic and social factors. The County established internal service funds for the employee group health program and property/general liability claims. Workers' compensation claims are accounted for within the General Fund since payment is expected to be made within one year. The County made no reduction in its insurance coverage during the year ended June 30, 2024. During the past three years claims have not exceeded insurance coverage. The County believes that the insurance coverage is adequate.

The County provides a self-funded employee group health program in which a third party administrator is employed to process claims. Specific stop loss coverage in the amount of \$250,000 per covered individual is maintained to reduce the exposure from catastrophic claims. IBNR claims are accounted for as accrued expenses in the Employee Medical Plan Internal Service Fund. Contributions are paid into the Employee Medical Fund by all other participating funds and are available to pay claims, claim reserves and administrative costs of the program. Management continues to monitor the performance of this fund to ensure that contributions charged to the funds and employees of the County are adequate.

The County accounts for the employee flexible spending account within the Employee Medical Fund. The balance in accounts payable for this fund shown in the accompanying financial statements includes a flexible spending accounts payable of \$20,243.

The County has joined together with other municipalities in the state as a member of the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency Property and Liability Insurance Fund (ACCG-IRMA) and the ACCG Group Self-Insurance Workers Compensation Fund (ACCG-GSIWCF), public entity risk pools currently operating as a common risk management and insurance program for member local governments. As part of these risk pools, the County is obligated to pay all contributions and assessments as prescribed by the pools, to cooperate with the pool's agent and attorneys, to follow loss reduction procedures established by the funds, and to report as promptly as possible, and in accordance with any coverage descriptions issued, all incidents which could result in the funds being required to pay any claim of loss. The County is also to allow the pool's agents and attorneys to represent the County in investigation, settlement discussions and all levels of litigation arising out of any claim made against the County within the scope of loss protection furnished by the funds. The funds are to defend and protect the members of the funds against liability or loss as prescribed in the member government contract and in accordance with the worker's compensation law of Georgia. The funds are to pay all costs taxed against members in any legal proceeding defended by the members, all interest accruing after entry of judgment, and all expenses incurred for investigation, negotiation or defense.

As a participant in the ACCG-GSIWCF, which also provides claims administration and loss control services, the County has a \$250,000 loss retention level on its workers' compensation claims. Premiums are paid into the General Fund by all other participating funds and are available to pay claims, claim reserves and administrative costs of the program. These interfund premiums are used to reduce the amount of claims expenditure reported in the General Fund.

During 1994, Columbia County entered into an agreement with the ACCG-IRMA to provide coverage for property, automobile, general liability, law enforcement liability, public officials' liability, crime and boiler and machinery exposures. The County has a loss retention level of \$100,000 per occurrence, which means that the County retains the first \$100,000 (in the form of a deductible) on such claims. The County separately budgets funds for claims for which no governmental immunity exists, and other claims which the County deems appropriate for payment. Premiums are paid into the Risk Management Fund by all other participating funds and are available to pay claims, claim reserves and administrative costs of the program.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 12 - Risk management (Continued)

IBNR claims have been accrued as claims liabilities based primarily upon the fund's third party administrator's claims projections and are included in current year claims estimates. Changes in the balances of claims payable in the respective funds during fiscal years 2024 and 2023 are as follows:

	General	Employee	Risk	
2024	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Medical</u>	<u>Management</u>	<u>Total</u>
Unpaid claims, beginning	\$ 925,368	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 871,110	\$ 3,296,478
Incurred claims	680,056	14,471,065	1,327,905	16,479,026
Claims paid	<u>(845,885)</u>	<u>(13,971,065)</u>	<u>(1,333,804)</u>	<u>(16,150,754)</u>
Unpaid claims, ending	<u>\$ 759,539</u>	<u>\$ 2,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 865,211</u>	<u>\$ 3,624,750</u>
2023				
Unpaid claims, beginning	\$ 604,143	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 398,242	\$ 2,502,385
Incurred claims	1,423,313	10,410,800	1,582,422	13,416,535
Claims paid	<u>(1,102,088)</u>	<u>(10,410,800)</u>	<u>(1,109,554)</u>	<u>(12,622,442)</u>
Unpaid claims, ending	<u>\$ 925,368</u>	<u>\$ 1,500,000</u>	<u>\$ 871,110</u>	<u>\$ 3,296,478</u>

Note 13 - Pension plans

Defined Contribution Plan

The County and its qualified employees participate in the Columbia County Money Purchase Retirement Plan, a defined contribution pension plan, in accordance with Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. On November 21, 2006, the County adopted the administrative services agreement with the International City/County Management Association Retirement Corporation (ICMA-RC), the Plan Administrator. On February 20, 2007, the County executed the *Declaration of Trust* of the ICMA-RC Retirement Trust. The ICMA-RC, doing business as MissionSquare Retirement, is to act as the public plan sponsor for employees participating in the 401(a) retirement plan of the County with the responsibility to obtain investment alternatives and services for employees participating in the plan.

Compensation as defined by the plan and trust document is all of each participant's W-2 earnings which are actually paid to the employee (working at least 1,000 hours per year) during the plan year by Columbia County for services rendered to the Employer, plus any contributions made pursuant to a salary reduction agreement which are not includible in the gross income of the Participant under section 125, 132(f)(4), 402(e)(3), 402(h)(1)(B), 406(b), 414(h)(2) or 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code. Plan provisions and contribution requirements are established and may be amended by the Board.

The maximum contribution by the County to an employee's retirement account is 8%, which consists of (a) a base amount equal to 4% of the annual salary of an employee plus (b) a matching contribution equal to one half of the amount an employee voluntarily contributes into the deferred compensation plan, up to a maximum of 4% of the employee's annual salary. The vesting schedule for the employer portion of the contribution is as follows:

Year 1	0%
Year 2	25%
Year 3	50%
Year 4	75%
Year 5	100%

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA

Notes to Financial Statements - Continued

June 30, 2024

Note 13 - Pension plans (Continued)

All regular employees who work more than 1,000 hours during the calendar year are eligible to participate by receiving contributions from the County into the plan. At June 30, 2024, 97.6% or 1,334 of the County's 1,367 employees were eligible to receive employer contributions into the plan. The payroll for eligible employees amounted to \$79,380,861 for the year ended June 30, 2024. During the year ended June 30, 2024, the County contributed \$5,656,520 to the defined contribution plan, or approximately 7% of the covered payroll. The defined contribution plan assets at June 30, 2024, are as follows (reported at fair value for financial reporting purposes):

Money Funds	\$ 15,990,527
Mutual Funds	<u>77,727,124</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 93,717,651</u>

Deferred Compensation Plan

The County has adopted a deferred compensation plan, the Columbia County Deferred Compensation Plan, in accordance with Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code. The plan allows any employee participant to defer gross compensation in an amount not to exceed \$20,500 for calendar year 2024. Any employee participant who reaches age 50 before the end of the calendar year 2024 is eligible to contribute an additional amount not to exceed \$6,000 per year. All administration costs of the plan are deducted from the participants' accounts. Benefit payments are payable upon termination of employment, unforeseeable emergency, retirement or death. The Custodial Account Agreement requires the County set aside assets and income from the plan in trust for the exclusive benefit of the participants and their beneficiaries. The County is in compliance with the agreement.

The County believes that it has no liability for losses under the plan but does have the duty of due care that would be required of an ordinary prudent investor.

Investments are managed by the Plan Administrator, the International City/County Management Association Retirement Corporation (ICMA-RC). ICMA-RC, doing business as MissionSquare Retirement, provides at least 15 investment options covering a variety of asset classes ranging from aggressive growth equity mutual funds to bond mutual funds to stable value and money market funds. Employees can invest in one or all of the funds.

At June 30, 2024, 97.2% or 1,329 of the County's 1,367 employees were participants in the deferred compensation plan. The employees of the County contributed \$5,656,520 to the deferred compensation plan during the year ended June 30, 2024. No other contributions are made into this plan.

The County has amended its plan to comply with the requirements of subsection (g) of Internal Revenue Code Section 457. All assets and income of the plan described in subsection (b)(6) are held in trust for the exclusive benefit of the participants and their beneficiaries.

Defined Benefit Plans

Certain employees, elected officials, and appointed officials are eligible for participation in various multiple employer cost-sharing defined benefit pension plans. The County does not make contributions to the plans, qualifying the plans as special funding situations under the requirements of GASB guidance. Management has determined the related impact on the financial statements to be immaterial. Further information may be obtained from the individual plans, as listed below:

Sheriff's Retirement Fund of Georgia
 Magistrates' Retirement Fund of Georgia
 Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund
 Judges of the Probate Courts Retirement Fund of Georgia
 Superior Court Clerks' Retirement Fund of Georgia
 Georgia Judicial Retirement System
 Employees' Retirement System of Georgia

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 13 - Pension plans (Continued)

Discretely presented component units – Defined Benefit Plan – Columbia County Board of Health

All full-time employees of the CCBOH are qualified for participation in the Employees' Retirement System of Georgia ("ERS"). For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the ERS and additions to/deductions from ERS' fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by ERS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

Plan Description – ERS is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established by the Georgia General Assembly during the 1949 Legislative Session for the purpose of providing retirement allowances for employees of the state of Georgia and its political subdivisions. ERS is directed by a Board of Trustees. Title 47 of the O.C.G.A. assigns the authority to establish and amend the benefit provisions to the State Legislature. ERS issues a publicly available financial report that can be obtained at www.ers.ga.gov/financials.

Benefits Provided – The ERS Plan supports three benefit tiers: Old Plan, New Plan, and Georgia State Employees' Pension and Savings Plan ("GSEPS"). Employees under the Old Plan started membership prior to July 1, 1982, and are subject to plan provisions in effect prior to July 1, 1982. Members hired on or after July 1, 1982, but prior to January 1, 2009 are New Plan members subject to modified plan provisions. Effective January 1, 2009, new state employees and rehired state employees who did not retain membership rights under the Old or New Plans are members of GSEPS. ERS members hired prior to January 1, 2009, also have the option to irrevocably change their membership to GSEPS.

Under the Old Plan, the New Plan, and GSEPS, a member may retire and receive normal retirement benefits after completion of 10 years of creditable service and attainment of age 60 or 30 years of creditable service regardless of age. Additionally, there are some provisions allowing for early retirement after 25 years of creditable service for members under age 60.

Retirement benefits paid to members are based upon the monthly average of the member's highest 24 consecutive calendar months, multiplied by the number of years of creditable service, multiplied by the applicable benefit factor. Annually, postretirement cost-of-living adjustments may also be made to members' benefits, provided the members were hired prior to July 1, 2009. The normal retirement pension is payable monthly for life; however, options are available for distribution of the member's monthly pension, at reduced rates, to a designated beneficiary upon the member's death. Death and disability benefits are also available through ERS.

Contributions: Member contributions under the Old Plan are 4% of annual compensation, up to \$4,200, plus 6% of annual compensation in excess of \$4,200. Under the Old Plan, the state pays member contributions in excess of 1.25% of annual compensation. Under the Old Plan, these state contributions are included in the members' accounts for refund purposes and are used in the computation of the members' earnable compensation for the purpose of computing retirement benefits. Member contributions under the New Plan and GSEPS are 1.25% of annual compensation. The CCBOH's total required contribution rate for the year ended June 30, 2024, was 29.35% of annual covered payroll for Old and New Plan members and 25.51% for GSEPS members. The CCBOH's contributions to ERS totaled \$237,719 for the year ended June 30, 2024. Contributions are expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any unfunded accrued liability.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions:

At June 30, 2024, the CCBOH reported a liability of \$1,818,491 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023. The total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was based on an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2022. An expected total pension liability as of June 30, 2023, was determined using standard roll-forward techniques. The CCBOH's proportion of the net pension liability was based on contributions to ERS during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. At June 30, 2023, the Employer's proportion was 0.030483%, which was a decrease of 0.001266% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2022.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 13 - Pension plans (Continued)

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the CCBOH recognized a pension expense of \$212,780. At June 30, 2024, the CCBOH reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	\$ 74,079	\$ -
Differences between expected and actual experience	27,623	4,261
Changes of assumptions	69,974	-
Changes in proportion and differences between Employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	5,373	32,881
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date	237,719	-
Total	<u>\$ 414,768</u>	<u>\$ 37,142</u>

CCBOH contributions subsequent to the measurement date of \$237,719 are reported as deferred outflows of resources and will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ending June 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year ended June 30:		
2025	\$	54,600
2026		(28,853)
2027		148,035
2028		(33,875)
	<u>\$</u>	<u>139,907</u>

Actuarial assumptions: The total pension liability as of June 30, 2023, was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2022, using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.50%
Salary increases	3.00% to 6.75%, including inflation
Investment rate of return	7.00%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

Mortality rates are as follows:

- The Pub-2010 General Employee Table, with no adjustments, projected generationally with the MP-2019 scale is used for both males and females while in active service.
- The Pub-2010 Family of Tables projected generationally with the MP-2019 Scale and with further adjustments are used for post-retirement mortality assumptions as follows:

Participant Type	Membership Table	Set Forward (+) / Setback (-)	Adjustment to Rates
Service Retirees	General Healthy Annuitant	Male: +1; Female: +1	Male: 105%; Female: 108%
Disability Retirees	General Disabled	Male: -3; Female: 0	Male: 103%; Female: 106%
Beneficiaries	General Contingent Survivors	Male: +2; Female: +2	Male: 106%; Female: 105%

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 13 - Pension plans (Continued)

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022, valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2019.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a log-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected nominal returns, net of pension plan investment expense and the assumed rate of inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset class</u>	<u>Target allocation</u>	<u>Long-term expected real rate of return*</u>
Fixed income	30.00%	0.90%
Domestic large equities	46.30%	9.40%
Domestic small equities	1.20%	13.40%
International developed market equities	12.30%	9.40%
International emerging market equities	5.20%	11.40%
Alternatives	5.00%	10.50%
Total	100.00%	

* Rates shown are net of inflation

Discount rate: The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that employer and state of Georgia contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rate. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the CCBOH's proportionate share of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate: The following presents the CCBOH's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%, as well as what the CCBOH's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (6.00%) or 1-percentage-point higher (8.00%) than the current rate:

	<u>1% Decrease (6.00%)</u>	<u>Current discount rate (7.00%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (8.00%)</u>
Employer's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 2,495,348	\$ 1,818,491	\$ 1,248,893

Pension plan fiduciary net position: Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued ERS financial report which is publicly available at www.ers.ga.gov/financials.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA

Notes to Financial Statements - Continued

June 30, 2024

Note 14 – Post employment benefits other than pensions

During the year ended June 30, 2017, the County adopted GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions*, which establishes standards for recognizing and measuring liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and expenses/expenditures for other postemployment benefits (OPEB) that are provided to the employees of state and local governmental employers.

Plan Description

House Bill No. 1820, Act No. 830 passed during the April 7, 2004, legislative session of the Georgia General Assembly and approved by the Governor of Georgia on May 17, 2004, provides continuation of health insurance to certain retired elected officials of the County and may only be amended by the Georgia General Assembly and Governor of Georgia. Resolution No. 05-455R was approved, and may be amended by, the Board to further offer continuation of health insurance to all eligible retirees and their spouses. As a result, the *Columbia County Postretirement Benefit Program*, a single employer defined benefit OPEB plan, was established. The Columbia County Employee Medical Plan Trust Agreement, which was established and may be amended by the Board, sets forth the benefit provisions of the plan. There are no substantive commitments for benefits other than as stated in the plan. The plan states that these retirees shall be entitled after separation from County employment to continue to participate in and be covered by the health insurance plan of the County with the same benefits as those offered to active employees (medical, dental, and prescription drug), provided that such retiree must have served at least 15 years of employment and pay 100% of the premium associated with such participation. Resolution No. 24-36 was approved further amending the *Columbia County Postretirement Benefit Program* for eligible retirements occurring on or after July 1, 2024. This amendment offers continued “Employee Only” health insurance coverage to qualifying retirees until age 65 with the same benefits and at the same rate as active employees. To qualify, the retiree must be age 60 with five years of service, or any age, once the combination of age plus years of service equals 75. For retirements prior to July 1, 2024, Resolution No. 05-455R remains in effect. The County currently contracts with United Healthcare to administer the post-employment health care benefits. The plan does not issue a separate stand-alone report and is not included in the report of another entity.

The following schedule reflects employees covered by the benefit terms as of June 30, 2024.

Inactive employees or beneficiaries currently receiving benefit payments	63
Inactive employees entitled to but not yet receiving benefit payments	0
Active employees	<u>1,173</u>
	<u>1,236</u>

Funding Policy

The County provides a self-funded employee group health program in which a third-party administrator is employed to process claims. Specific stop loss coverage in the amount of \$250,000 per covered individual is maintained to reduce the exposure from catastrophic claims. For active employees, the premium is shared by the employer and employee. Retired employees that retired prior to July 1, 2024, must contribute 100% of the total premium (both employee and employer portions). Retired employees that retired July 1, 2024, and later, must contribute the employee only portion of the premium. For fiscal year 2024, the County contributed \$11.1 million, or 80% of total premiums, and plan members contributed \$2.9 million, or 20% of total premiums, to the employee group health program. The required monthly contribution rates of plan members range from \$73-\$389, depending on the selected plan. When retiree benefits paid from the plan are in excess of retiree contributions into the plan, the County is deemed to have made contributions to the plan on behalf of retirees and/or beneficiaries. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, retiree claims paid were in excess of retiree contributions. Therefore, the County contributed \$83,415 on behalf of retirees and/or beneficiaries to the OPEB Health Care Plan during the fiscal year. The County established and may amend the funding policy for the OPEB Health Care Plan.

Total OPEB Liability

The County’s total OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2024, (the “measurement date”) and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2023 (the “valuation date”). No significant changes in the plan or those covered by the plan occurred between the actuarial valuation and measurement dates.

Discount rate. The discount rate as of the actuarial valuation date was 3.65%. The discount rate used to roll forward the total OPEB liability as of the actuarial valuation date to the measurement date was 3.93%. These rates reflect the yield on Bond Buyer 20-Bond GO Index at June 30, 2023 and 2024, respectively.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 14 – Post employment benefits other than pensions (Continued)

Actuarial assumptions. Actuarial valuations involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of events far into the future, and actuarially determined amounts are subject to continued revision as results are compared to past expectations and new estimates are made about the future. The assumptions used in the June 30, 2024, actuarial valuation are as follows:

Cost Method	Entry Age Normal Method
Payroll Inflation Rate	4.0% per year
Medical Cost Trend Rate	6.4% decreasing by .1% per year to an ultimate rate of 5.0%
Dental Cost Trend Rate	5.0% decreasing by .5% per year to an ultimate rate of 4.0%
Marital Status	80% of retirees are married
Plan participation	80% of future eligible retirees under age 65 elect coverage. 30% of retirees elect spousal coverage. 100% of all retirees and spouses cease coverage at age 65.

Mortality rates were based on the PubG.H-2010 *total dataset* Mortality Tables for Employees and Healthy Retirees with MP-2021 scale, with separate rates for males and females, for the beginning and end of the fiscal year.

OPEB plan fiduciary net position. The County has elected not to establish a separate trust fund to account for OPEB. Therefore, no assets are accumulated in a GASB-compliant trust and the plan fiduciary net position as of June 30, 2024, was \$0.

Changes in the Total OPEB Liability

	Total OPEB Liability
Beginning balances	\$ 7,288,518
Changes for the year:	
Service cost	704,538
Interest	291,865
Change in benefit terms	3,575,293
Change of assumptions	487,531
Differences between expected and actual experience	(313,331)
Benefit payments	(83,415)
Net changes	4,662,481
Ending balances	\$ 11,950,999

Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the discount rate. The following presents the total OPEB liability of the County using the discount rate of 3.93% as well as what the County's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (2.93%) or 1-percentage-point higher (4.93%) than the current discount rate:

	1% Decrease (2.93%)	Current discount rate (3.93%)	1% Increase (4.93%)
Total OPEB liability	\$ 12,867,109	\$ 11,950,999	\$ 11,070,761

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 14 – Post employment benefits other than pensions (Continued)

Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the healthcare cost trend rates. The following presents the total OPEB liability of the County as well as what the County's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1-percentage-point lower (5.4% decreasing to 4.0%) or 1-percentage-point higher (7.4% decreasing to 6.0%) than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

	1% Decrease (5.4% decreasing to 4.0%)	Healthcare Cost Trend Rates (6.4% decreasing to 5.0%)	1% Increase (7.4% decreasing to 6.0%)
Total OPEB liability	\$ 10,270,701	\$ 11,950,999	\$ 14,005,341

OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the County recognized OPEB expense of \$4,214,857. At June 30, 2024, the County reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Changes of assumptions	\$ 1,132,629	\$ (1,614,632)
Differences between expected and actual experience	-	(3,342,280)
Total	<u>\$ 1,132,629</u>	<u>\$ (4,956,912)</u>

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Year ended June 30:	
2025	(273,424)
2026	(273,424)
2027	(273,424)
2028	(273,424)
2029	(273,424)
Thereafter	(2,457,163)
	<u>\$ (3,824,283)</u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 14 – Post employment benefits other than pensions (Continued)

Discretely presented component units – Columbia County Board of Health

The CCBOH provides benefits to its retired and vested inactive employees in the form of term life insurance through participation in the State Employees’ Assurance Department Retired and Vested Inactive Members Trust Fund (“SEAD-OPEB”) plan. The CCBOH also provides healthcare benefits for retirees and their dependents through participation in the Georgia State Employees’ Postemployment Benefit Fund (“State OPEB Fund”).

SEAD-OPEB

SEAD-OPEB was created in 2007 by the Georgia General Assembly to amend Title 47 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (“O.C.G.A.”), relating to retirement, so as to establish a fund for the provision of term life insurance to retired and vested inactive members of the Employees’ Retirement System of Georgia (“ERS”), the Legislative Retirement System (“LRS”), and the Georgia Judicial Retirement System (“GJRS”). The plan is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit other postemployment benefit plan as defined in GASB Statement No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans other than OPEB Plans*. The SEAD-OPEB trust fund accumulates the premiums received from the aforementioned retirement plans, including interest earned on deposits and investments of such payments. At June 30, 2024, the CCBOH reported an asset of \$197,059 for its proportionate share of the net OPEB asset.

State OPEB Fund

Employees of State organizations as defined in § 45-18-25 of the O.C.G.A. are provided OPEB through the State OPEB Fund - a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment healthcare plan, reported as an employee trust fund and administered by a Board of Community Health. Title 45 of the O.C.G.A. assigns the authority to establish and amend the benefit terms of the group health plan to the CCBOH. At June 30, 2024, the CCBOH reported a liability of \$74,693 for its proportionate share of the net OPEB liability.

Further details on the CCBOH’s OPEB plans can be obtained from its separately issued financial report.

Note 15 - Construction commitments

The County has active construction projects as of June 30, 2024. The projects include construction of water facilities, County technology improvements, office expansions, road improvements, and recreation improvements. At year end the County’s commitments with contractors are as follows:

Project	Spent-to-Date	Remaining Commitment
Water and Sewer Construction	\$ 16,509,614	\$ 4,634,705
County Facilities	4,826,577	25,606,521
Recreation Improvements	1,611,953	1,460,556
Road Improvement Construction	83,343,219	49,190,026
Public Safety	2,271,350	7,291,341
Total	<u>\$ 108,562,713</u>	<u>\$ 88,183,149</u>

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 16 - Lodging tax

The County has levied a 5% lodging tax pursuant to Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) 48-13-51. The County entered into a contract with the CCCVB to be the principal provider of convention and tourist promotion services as of January 1, 2006. Prior to that date, the County contracted with the Augusta Metropolitan CVB for convention and tourist promotion services. The receipts and disbursements of the 5% lodging tax are accounted for in a nonmajor special revenue fund, the Lodging Tax Fund, within the primary government. A summary of the transactions for the year ended June 30, 2024, follows:

Lodging tax receipts	\$ 2,229,419
Total revenues and other financing sources	<u>\$ 2,229,419</u>
Paid to CCCVB	\$ 891,768
Other	685,381
Total expenditures and other financing uses	<u>\$ 1,577,149</u>

Note 17 - Joint venture

Under Georgia law, the County, in conjunction with other cities and counties in the Central Savannah River Area, is a member of the Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission (CSRA RC) and is required to pay annual dues thereto. During its year ended June 30, 2024, the County paid \$160,088 in such dues. Membership in the CSRA RC is required by the O.C.G.A. Section 50-8-34 which provides for the organizational structure of the CSRA RC in Georgia. The CSRA RC Board membership includes the chief elected official of each county and municipality of the area. O.C.G.A. 50-8-39.1 provides that the member governments are liable for any debts or obligations of the CSRA RC. Separate financial statements may be obtained from:

CSRA Regional Commission
3626 Walton Way Ext., Suite 300
Augusta, Georgia 30909

Note 18 - Significant contingencies

Federal and State assisted programs

The County has received proceeds from several federal and state grants. Periodic audits of these grants are required and certain costs may be questioned as not being appropriate expenditures under the grant agreements. Such audits could result in the refund of grant monies to the grantor agencies. Management believes that any required refunds will be immaterial. No provision has been made in the accompanying financial statements for the refund of grant monies.

Claims and judgments

The County is a defendant in various lawsuits. In the opinion of the County's management and the County attorney, the ultimate effect of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the County.

Arbitrage

The County's bond issues are subject to federal arbitrage regulations, and the County has elected to review its potential arbitrage liability annually on the bond issue dates. The arbitrage rebate payments are payable on the fifth anniversary of the bond issue date and every fifth year subsequent to that date. Although the actual amount to be paid is not presently determinable, the County believes that arbitrage payables are not significant.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Notes to Financial Statements - Continued
June 30, 2024

Note 19 – Tax Abatements

During the year ended June 30, 2017, the County implemented SGAS. No. 77, Tax Abatement Disclosures. This statement requires disclosure regarding tax abatements resulting from both (a) agreements that are entered into by the reporting government and (b) agreements that are entered into by other governments and that reduce the reporting government's tax revenues.

The DACC can enter into agreements for economic development projects to encourage the creation of jobs and new capital investment through a Columbia County Leasehold Valuation process established in collaboration with the Columbia County Board of Assessors. Each agreement provides a property tax benefit to the company through a schedule of discounted valuation that reduces, for ad valorem tax purposes, the fair market value of real and personal property that is held by the DACC and leased to the company. Georgia case law and the DACC's enabling legislation provide the DACC with the power to enter into such agreements with private companies.

The DACC may accept title to real and personal property assets from a company in return for job creation and capital investment, and provide a tax benefit to the company through a lease agreement with the DACC. In considering eligibility for providing this benefit to a company, the DACC reviews and gives strong consideration to the economic impact of the project and the threshold of the capital investment and job creation/retention. The DACC Board reviews each project application to determine qualification of the project. Some of the criteria considered include:

1. Eligible businesses can include new and existing industrial businesses.
2. But for an incentive agreement, the company would not create the jobs and investment in the community.
3. The overall capital investment of the project.
4. The number of jobs created and the average wage paid.
5. The impacts to job retention will be considered for each expansion project.
6. As a condition of assistance, a business will be required to work with the DACC to convey title to the DACC.

In return for a property tax benefit, a company is required to commit to creating jobs and capital investment within a defined period as part of the bond resolution package with the DACC that includes provisions for the company to pay back a prorated portion of the benefit if they fail to meet the performance criteria by a specified date. The DACC monitors compliance with performance and accountability agreements to ensure the companies meet their commitments.

For the County's fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the cumulative property tax not collected by the County due to incentive agreements was \$841,838, and \$940,603 was paid to the County through incentive agreements for the same period. Such agreements in affect for the County resulted in an estimated \$311 million in new capital investment and more than 3,400 new jobs.

Note 20 – Changes To or Within the Financial Reporting Entity

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the 2023-2028 SPLOST Fund, previously a nonmajor capital projects fund, met the quantitative threshold to be presented as a major fund. Therefore, changes to or within the financial reporting entity resulted in adjustments to and restatements of beginning fund net position.

Note 21 – Subsequent Events

Subsequent to June 30, 2024, the County issued its Water and Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2024, on or about July 18, 2024, in the approximate amount of \$41.535 million to (a) finance the costs of acquiring, constructing, and equipping certain capital outlay projects of the System and (b) pay expenses incident to the issuance of the Bonds.

Columbia County, Georgia
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of Changes in OPEB Liability and Related Ratios
OPEB Health Care Plan
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total OPEB Liability								
Service cost	\$ 704,538	\$ 633,937	\$ 773,095	\$ 761,693	\$ 603,610	\$ 580,780	\$ 575,877	\$ 760,922
Interest	291,865	253,214	171,412	173,420	237,994	246,886	241,510	186,474
Changes of benefit terms	3,575,293	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Differences between expected and actual experience	(313,331)	(572,621)	(714,989)	(754,814)	(546,166)	(794,649)	(663,163)	-
Changes of assumptions	487,531	(119,337)	(992,718)	(152,257)	840,703	101,667	(356,120)	(577,842)
Benefit payments	(83,415)	(45,157)	(16,537)	6,602	(43,315)	9,096	(42,021)	13,351
Net change in Total OPEB Liability	4,662,481	150,036	(779,737)	34,644	1,092,826	143,780	(243,917)	382,905
Total OPEB Liability - beginning	7,288,518	7,138,482	7,918,219	7,883,575	6,790,749	6,646,969	6,890,886	6,507,981
Total OPEB Liability - ending	\$ 11,950,999	\$ 7,288,518	\$ 7,138,482	\$ 7,918,219	\$ 7,883,575	\$ 6,790,749	\$ 6,646,969	\$ 6,890,886
 Covered-employee payroll	 \$ 62,677,395	 \$ 60,306,795	 \$ 56,102,408	 \$ 55,765,033	 \$ 49,628,916	 \$ 49,408,211	 \$ 47,516,257	 \$ 49,237,013
 Total OPEB Liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	 19.07%	 12.09%	 12.72%	 14.20%	 15.89%	 13.74%	 13.99%	 14.00%

Notes to Schedule:

Schedule is intended to show information for the last 10 fiscal years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

The plan is not administered through a trust and, therefore, has no assets accumulated to pay related benefits.

Changes of assumptions. In 2017, the discount rate as of the beginning of the fiscal year was 2.85%. The discount rate at the end of the fiscal year was 3.58%. In 2018, the discount rate as of the beginning of the fiscal year was 3.58%. The discount rate at the end of the fiscal year was 3.87%. In 2019, the discount rate as of the beginning of the fiscal year was 3.87%. The discount rate at the end of the fiscal year was 3.50%. In 2020, the discount rate as of the beginning of the fiscal year was 3.50%. The discount rate at the end of the fiscal year was 2.21%. In 2021, the discount rate as of the beginning of the fiscal year was 2.21%. The discount rate at the end of the fiscal year was 2.16%. In 2022, the discount rate as of the beginning of the fiscal year was 2.16%. The discount rate at the end of the fiscal year was 3.54%. In 2023, the discount rate as of the beginning of the fiscal year is 3.54%. The discount rate at the end of the fiscal year is 3.65%. In 2024, the discount rate as of the beginning of the fiscal year is 3.65%. The discount rate at the end of the fiscal year is 3.93%. These rates reflect the yield on Bond Buyer 20-Bond GO Index, at June 30, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 respectively.

Expected vs Actual Experience. The actuarial valuation was prepared using census data collected as of the current valuation date. The effect of new census data will be analyzed each year. Any gains and losses are amortized on a straight line basis over the average service lives of the covered group.

Changes of benefit terms. For eligible retirements occurring on or after July 1, 2024, the plan offers continued "employee only" health insurance coverage until age 65 with the same benefits and at the same rate as active employees. Retirees receiving benefits as of June 30, 2024, continue under the prior program.

For other actuarial assumptions, refer to Note 14 of the financial statements.

Columbia County, Georgia
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability
Employees' Retirement System - Board of Health
For the Year Ended June 30
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Board's proportion of the net pension liability	0.030483%	0.031749%	0.030657%	0.028543%	0.032794%	0.029434%	0.028669%	0.029063%	0.027818%	0.025983%
Board's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 1,818,491	\$ 2,120,346	\$ 717,038	\$ 1,203,075	\$ 1,353,255	\$ 1,210,041	\$ 1,164,344	\$ 1,374,802	\$ 1,127,018	\$ 974,523
Board's covered payroll	\$ 835,978	\$ 789,413	\$ 759,217	\$ 760,692	\$ 863,982	\$ 776,656	\$ 722,468	\$ 696,911	\$ 644,780	\$ 595,212
Board's proportionate share of the net pension	217.53%	268.60%	94.44%	158.16%	156.63%	155.80%	161.16%	197.27%	174.79%	163.73%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of	71.20%	67.44%	87.62%	76.21%	76.74%	76.68%	76.33%	72.34%	76.20%	77.99%

Columbia County, GA
ERS Employer Agency
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of Contributions
Employees' Retirement System - Board of Health
For the Year Ended June 30

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 237,719	\$ 245,924	\$ 184,307	\$ 176,437	\$ 177,296	\$ 206,626	\$ 188,236	\$ 176,315	\$ 168,897	\$ 139,668
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>237,719</u>	<u>245,924</u>	<u>184,307</u>	<u>176,437</u>	<u>177,296</u>	<u>206,626</u>	<u>188,236</u>	<u>176,315</u>	<u>168,897</u>	<u>139,668</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Board's covered payroll	\$ 887,339	\$ 835,978	\$ 789,413	\$ 759,217	\$ 760,692	\$ 863,982	\$ 776,656	\$ 722,468	\$ 696,911	\$ 644,780
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	26.79%	29.42%	23.35%	23.24%	23.31%	23.92%	24.24%	24.40%	24.24%	21.66%

Columbia County, GA
Notes to Required Supplementary Information
Employees' Retirement System - Board of Health
June 30, 2024

Changes of Assumptions – On December 17, 2015, the Board adopted recommended changes to the economic and demographic assumptions utilized by the Employees' Retirement System ("System"). Primary among the changes were the updates to rates of mortality, retirement, disability, withdrawal, and salary increases. The expectation of retired life mortality was changed to the RP 2000 Combined Mortality Table projected to 2025 with projection scale of BB (set forward two years for both males and females).

A new funding policy was initially adopted by the Board on March 15, 2018, and most recently amended on June 18, 2020. Because of this new funding policy, the assumed investment rate of return was reduced from 7.50% to 7.40% for the June 30, 2017 actuarial valuation and further reduced from 7.40% to 7.30% for the June 30, 2018 actuarial valuation.

On December 17, 2020, the Board adopted recommended changes to the economic and demographic assumptions utilized by the System based on the experience study prepared for the five-year period ended June 30, 2019. Primary among the changes were the updates to rates of mortality, retirement, withdrawal, and salary increases. This also included a change to the long-term assumed investment rate of return to 7.00%. These assumption changes are reflected in the calculation of the June 30, 2021 Total Pension Liability.

On April 21, 2022, the Board adopted a new funding policy which, in part, provides that the Actuarial Accrued Liability and Normal Cost of the System will include a prefunded variable COLA for eligible retirees and beneficiaries of the System. Under the new policy, future COLAs are provided through a profit-sharing mechanism using the System's asset performance. After studying the parameters of this new policy, the assumption for future COLAs was set at 1.05%. Previously, no future COLAs were assumed. In addition, the funding policy set the assumed rate of return at 7.20% for the June 30, 2021 valuation and established a new Transitional Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability as of June 30, 2021 which will be amortized over a closed 20-year period.

COMBINING AND INDIVIDUAL FUND STATEMENTS

GENERAL FUND

Columbia County, Georgia
General Fund by Object
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and
Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Final Budget	Actual Amount	Variance with Final Budget
REVENUES			
Taxes - property			
Property tax	\$ 37,644,584	39,666,250	\$ 2,021,666
Motor vehicle tax	201,968	304,053	102,085
Mobile home tax	56,008	63,674	7,666
Interest and penalties	150,000	155,789	5,789
Motor vehicle penalties and commissions	300,000	451,228	151,228
Timber tax	16,439	5,473	(10,966)
Motor vehicle ad valorem tax	10,508,698	11,921,458	1,412,760
Real estate transfer tax	350,000	295,780	(54,220)
Recording intangibles	850,000	615,470	(234,530)
Cablevision	1,500,000	1,334,017	(165,983)
Other	10,000	13,639	3,639
	<u>51,587,697</u>	<u>54,826,831</u>	<u>3,239,134</u>
Taxes - sales			
Sales tax	<u>29,293,304</u>	<u>31,320,621</u>	<u>2,027,317</u>
Taxes - other			
Occupation tax	1,100,000	1,260,452	160,452
Excise tax on energy	100,000	125,122	25,122
Alcohol tax	1,900,000	1,884,857	(15,143)
Interest and penalties	5,000	6,515	1,515
	<u>3,105,000</u>	<u>3,276,946</u>	<u>171,946</u>
Licenses and permits			
Alcohol licenses	<u>475,000</u>	<u>513,285</u>	<u>38,285</u>
	<u>475,000</u>	<u>513,285</u>	<u>38,285</u>
Charges for services			
Commissions	2,500,000	3,248,793	748,793
Courts	1,275,000	1,240,356	(34,644)
Parks and recreation	1,177,000	1,282,477	105,477
Development	168,000	187,685	19,685
Other	255,000	374,488	119,488
	<u>5,375,000</u>	<u>6,333,799</u>	<u>958,799</u>
Intergovernmental			
General administration	2,013,615	2,378,505	364,890
Courts	100,000	155,661	55,661
Emergency services	33,494	40,938	7,444
Roads and Bridges	200,000	257,984	57,984
Environmental Services	100,000	115,115	15,115
Public transit	253,656	466,293	212,637
	<u>2,700,765</u>	<u>3,414,496</u>	<u>713,731</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
General Fund by Object - Continued
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and
Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Final Budget	Actual Amount	Variance with Final Budget
REVENUES (Continued)			
Fines and forfeitures			
Courts	1,328,000	1,840,545	512,545
Public safety	100,000	122,829	22,829
Other	20,500	26,932	6,432
	<u>1,448,500</u>	<u>1,990,306</u>	<u>541,806</u>
Investment income (loss)			
Interest/Change in market value	300,000	2,897,697	2,597,697
Other			
Rental	859,396	946,831	87,435
Other	13,340,000	679,465	(12,660,535)
	<u>14,199,396</u>	<u>1,626,296</u>	<u>(12,573,100)</u>
 Total revenues	 <u>108,484,662</u>	 <u>106,200,277</u>	 <u>(2,284,385)</u>
EXPENDITURES			
General government			
Board of Commissioners			
Personal service	390,413	382,926	7,487
Operating	4,238,606	4,161,627	76,979
Capital improvements	36,950	-	36,950
	<u>4,665,969</u>	<u>4,544,553</u>	<u>121,416</u>
Finance			
Personal service	1,108,942	986,706	122,236
Operating	304,350	295,830	8,520
	<u>1,413,292</u>	<u>1,282,536</u>	<u>130,756</u>
Human Resources			
Personal service	591,583	582,100	9,483
Operating	380,003	327,796	52,207
Capital improvements	-	19,385	(19,385)
	<u>971,586</u>	<u>929,281</u>	<u>42,305</u>
Procurement			
Personal service	610,179	610,551	(372)
Operating	86,604	79,127	7,477
	<u>696,783</u>	<u>689,678</u>	<u>7,105</u>
Information Technology			
Personal service	2,527,406	2,427,635	99,771
Operating	2,612,004	2,676,761	(64,757)
Capital improvements	466,787	49,798	416,989
	<u>5,606,197</u>	<u>5,154,194</u>	<u>452,003</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
General Fund by Object - Continued
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and
Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Final Budget	Actual Amount	Variance with Final Budget
EXPENDITURES (Continued)			
General government (Continued)			
County Manager			
Personal service	1,037,423	1,040,077	(2,654)
Operating	286,667	238,674	47,993
	<u>1,324,090</u>	<u>1,278,751</u>	<u>45,339</u>
Tax Commissioner			
Personal service	2,279,345	2,258,153	21,192
Operating	450,714	391,398	59,316
Capital improvements	10,000	-	10,000
	<u>2,740,059</u>	<u>2,649,551</u>	<u>90,508</u>
Tax Assessor			
Personal service	2,143,157	2,114,030	29,127
Operating	361,343	353,533	7,810
	<u>2,504,500</u>	<u>2,467,563</u>	<u>36,937</u>
Board of Elections			
Personal service	513,631	489,696	23,935
Operating	618,083	892,609	(274,526)
Capital improvements	364,643	19,309	345,334
	<u>1,496,357</u>	<u>1,401,614</u>	<u>94,743</u>
 Total general government	 <u>21,418,833</u>	 <u>20,397,721</u>	 <u>1,021,112</u>
Judicial system			
Clerk of Superior Court			
Personal service	1,830,217	1,749,360	80,857
Operating	555,414	412,841	142,573
	<u>2,385,631</u>	<u>2,162,201</u>	<u>223,430</u>
Superior Court			
Personal service	973,991	987,293	(13,302)
Operating	241,088	231,586	9,502
Capital improvements	3,800	-	3,800
	<u>1,218,879</u>	<u>1,218,879</u>	<u>-</u>
Probate Court			
Personal service	855,545	859,583	(4,038)
Operating	221,733	201,991	19,742
	<u>1,077,278</u>	<u>1,061,574</u>	<u>15,704</u>
Juvenile Court			
Personal service	993,399	962,283	31,116
Operating	342,936	337,767	5,169
	<u>1,336,335</u>	<u>1,300,050</u>	<u>36,285</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
General Fund by Object - Continued
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and
Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Final Budget	Actual Amount	Variance with Final Budget
EXPENDITURES (Continued)			
Judicial system (Continued)			
Magistrate Court			
Personal service	1,090,957	1,090,420	537
Operating	159,875	146,912	12,963
	<u>1,250,832</u>	<u>1,237,332</u>	<u>13,500</u>
District Attorney			
Personal service	753,519	627,929	125,590
Operating	200,128	99,734	100,394
Capital improvements	21,600	-	21,600
	<u>975,247</u>	<u>727,663</u>	<u>247,584</u>
Public Defender			
Operating	734,766	723,545	11,221
	<u>734,766</u>	<u>723,545</u>	<u>11,221</u>
Total judicial system	<u>8,978,968</u>	<u>8,431,244</u>	<u>547,724</u>
Public safety			
Sheriff			
Personal service	17,212,375	15,787,618	1,424,757
Operating	3,494,702	3,644,989	(150,287)
Capital improvements	238,843	80,823	158,020
	<u>20,945,920</u>	<u>19,513,430</u>	<u>1,432,490</u>
Emergency Services			
Personal service	379,114	391,712	(12,598)
Operating	171,212	143,026	28,186
	<u>550,326</u>	<u>534,738</u>	<u>15,588</u>
Detention Center			
Personal service	10,228,769	9,204,122	1,024,647
Operating	3,929,607	4,013,409	(83,802)
Capital improvements	50,308	54,253	(3,945)
	<u>14,208,684</u>	<u>13,271,784</u>	<u>936,900</u>
Emergency Medical Service			
Operating	1,150,000	807,409	342,591
	<u>1,150,000</u>	<u>807,409</u>	<u>342,591</u>
Animal Services			
Personal service	896,509	889,258	7,251
Operating	170,490	147,008	23,482
	<u>1,066,999</u>	<u>1,036,266</u>	<u>30,733</u>
Coroner			
Personal service	315,128	308,603	6,525
Operating	65,114	71,639	(6,525)
	<u>380,242</u>	<u>380,242</u>	<u>-</u>
Total public safety	<u>38,302,171</u>	<u>35,543,869</u>	<u>2,758,302</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
General Fund by Object - Continued
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and
Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Final Budget	Actual Amount	Variance with Final Budget
EXPENDITURES (Continued)			
Public works			
Roads and Bridges			
Personal service	2,335,803	2,020,318	315,485
Operating	828,210	746,151	82,059
	<u>3,164,013</u>	<u>2,766,469</u>	<u>397,544</u>
Fleet Services			
Personal service	1,594,120	1,550,349	43,771
Operating	344,635	398,156	(53,521)
Capital improvements	114,000	10,477	103,523
	<u>2,052,755</u>	<u>1,958,982</u>	<u>93,773</u>
Facility Maintenance			
Personal service	1,753,608	1,621,063	132,545
Operating	385,256	376,354	8,902
	<u>2,138,864</u>	<u>1,997,417</u>	<u>141,447</u>
Special Projects			
Personal service	139,026	113,264	25,762
Operating	49,413	75,087	(25,674)
	<u>188,439</u>	<u>188,351</u>	<u>88</u>
Total public works	<u>7,544,071</u>	<u>6,911,219</u>	<u>632,852</u>
Health and welfare			
Public Health			
Operating	434,614	434,614	-
Family and Children Services			
Operating	72,884	72,884	-
Public Transit			
Personal service	674,660	659,912	14,748
Operating	151,599	131,696	19,903
Capital improvements	25,000	21,476	3,524
	<u>851,259</u>	<u>813,084</u>	<u>38,175</u>
Total health and welfare	<u>1,358,757</u>	<u>1,320,582</u>	<u>38,175</u>
Culture and recreation			
Parks & Recreation			
Personal service	2,808,289	2,691,964	116,325
Operating	1,926,966	2,118,426	(191,460)
Capital improvements	105,670	30,535	75,135
	<u>4,840,925</u>	<u>4,840,925</u>	<u>-</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
General Fund by Object - Continued
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and
Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Final Budget	Actual Amount	Variance with Final Budget
EXPENDITURES (Continued)			
Culture and recreation (Continued)			
Libraries			
Operating	2,746,773	2,746,773	-
Community Services			
Personal service	737,933	729,643	8,290
Operating	143,907	110,252	33,655
	881,840	839,895	41,945
Total culture and recreation	8,469,538	8,427,593	41,945
Housing and development			
Extension Service			
Operating	308,752	245,251	63,501
	308,752	245,251	63,501
Forestry			
Operating	22,100	10,418	11,682
Environmental Services			
Personal service	286,379	283,304	3,075
Operating	55,404	30,753	24,651
	341,783	314,057	27,726
Planning			
Personal service	720,390	651,433	68,957
Operating	110,722	109,570	1,152
	831,112	761,003	70,109
Inspections			
Personal service	244,067	232,362	11,705
Operating	57,302	36,427	20,875
	301,369	268,789	32,580

Columbia County, Georgia
General Fund by Object - Concluded
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and
Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Final Budget	Actual Amount	Variance with Final Budget
EXPENDITURES (Continued)			
Housing and development (Continued)			
Plan Review			
Personal service	305,823	306,139	(316)
Operating	33,805	22,026	11,779
Capital improvements	3,000	-	3,000
	<u>342,628</u>	<u>328,165</u>	<u>14,463</u>
Code Compliance			
Personal service	679,055	713,459	(34,404)
Operating	140,907	85,687	55,220
	<u>819,962</u>	<u>799,146</u>	<u>20,816</u>
Economic Development			
Personal service	399,001	202,757	196,244
Operating	904,091	1,097,907	(193,816)
	<u>1,303,092</u>	<u>1,300,664</u>	<u>2,428</u>
 Total housing and development	 <u>4,270,798</u>	 <u>4,027,493</u>	 <u>243,305</u>
Debt service			
Principal	-	80,311	(80,311)
Interest	-	8,290	(8,290)
	<u>-</u>	<u>88,601</u>	<u>(88,601)</u>
 Total debt service	 <u>-</u>	 <u>88,601</u>	 <u>(88,601)</u>
 Total expenditures	 <u>90,343,136</u>	 <u>85,148,322</u>	 <u>5,194,814</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>18,141,526</u>	<u>21,051,955</u>	<u>2,910,429</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)			
Sale of property	-	10,683	10,683
Transfers in	200,000	200,000	-
Transfers out	(18,341,526)	(18,191,212)	150,314
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(18,141,526)</u>	<u>(17,980,529)</u>	<u>160,997</u>
Net change in fund balance	\$ <u>-</u>	3,071,426	\$ <u>3,071,426</u>
Fund balance - beginning		<u>51,860,654</u>	
Fund balance - ending		\$ <u>54,932,080</u>	

NOTE: Expenditures for capital outlay are included within the appropriate function in the preceding schedule.

NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Balance Sheet
Nonmajor Governmental Funds
Summary by Fund Type
June 30, 2024

	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Debt Service Funds	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 9,003,079	\$ -	\$ 160,897	\$ 9,163,976
Investments	423,099	-	-	423,099
Taxes receivable	-	-	27,125	27,125
Accounts receivable	197,643	-	-	197,643
Interest receivable	4,540	-	-	4,540
Intergovernmental receivable	592,962	-	-	592,962
Due from other funds	15,025,457	-	-	15,025,457
Prepaid items	16,416	-	-	16,416
Total assets	<u>\$ 25,263,196</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 188,022</u>	<u>\$ 25,451,218</u>
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES				
Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 378,176	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 378,176
Accrued payroll	360,591	-	-	360,591
Unearned revenue	5,650	-	-	5,650
Due to other funds	277,887	-	-	277,887
Total liabilities	<u>1,022,304</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,022,304</u>
Deferred inflows of resources:				
Unavailable revenue	69,991	-	24,071	94,062
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>69,991</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,071</u>	<u>94,062</u>
 Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	 <u>1,092,295</u>	 <u>-</u>	 <u>24,071</u>	 <u>1,116,366</u>
Fund balances (deficits):				
Nonspendable for prepaid items	16,416	-	-	16,416
Restricted for:				
Special programs	21,133,649	-	-	21,133,649
Debt service	-	-	163,951	163,951
Committed to special programs	3,098,290	-	-	3,098,290
Unassigned	(77,454)	-	-	(77,454)
Total fund balances (deficits)	<u>24,170,901</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>163,951</u>	<u>24,334,852</u>
 Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances (deficits)	 <u>\$ 25,263,196</u>	 <u>\$ -</u>	 <u>\$ 188,022</u>	 <u>\$ 25,451,218</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Nonmajor Governmental Funds
Summary by Fund Type
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Debt Service Funds	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
REVENUES				
Taxes - property	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,702,343	\$ 4,702,343
Taxes - sales	3,956,087	-	-	3,956,087
Taxes - other	13,469,409	-	-	13,469,409
Licenses and permits	2,799,724	-	-	2,799,724
Charges for services	5,954,979	-	-	5,954,979
Intergovernmental revenue	683,837	-	-	683,837
Fines and forfeitures	1,095,068	-	-	1,095,068
Investment income	222,176	528	16,742	239,446
Contributions and donations	135,041	-	-	135,041
Other income	166,526	-	-	166,526
Total revenues	<u>28,482,847</u>	<u>528</u>	<u>4,719,085</u>	<u>33,202,460</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General government	236,374	-	-	236,374
Judicial	523,113	-	-	523,113
Public safety	3,044,827	-	-	3,044,827
Public works	12,218,511	-	-	12,218,511
Culture and recreation	2,625,528	-	-	2,625,528
Housing and development	2,249,366	-	-	2,249,366
Capital outlay	-	4,657,905	-	4,657,905
Debt service:				
Principal	14,991	-	5,259,999	5,274,990
Interest	619	-	1,616,588	1,617,207
Other	-	-	1,600	1,600
Total expenditures	<u>20,913,329</u>	<u>4,657,905</u>	<u>6,878,187</u>	<u>32,449,421</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>7,569,518</u>	<u>(4,657,377)</u>	<u>(2,159,102)</u>	<u>753,039</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	-	2,664,907	3,893,963	6,558,870
Transfers out	(1,588,464)	(832,487)	(1,629,323)	(4,050,274)
Total other financing source (uses)	<u>(1,588,464)</u>	<u>1,832,420</u>	<u>2,264,640</u>	<u>2,508,596</u>
Net change in fund balances	<u>5,981,054</u>	<u>(2,824,957)</u>	<u>105,538</u>	<u>3,261,635</u>
Fund balances - beginning, as previously presented	18,189,847	17,787,579	58,413	36,035,839
Change within financial reporting entity (nonmajor to major)	-	(14,962,622)	-	(14,962,622)
Fund balances - beginning, as adjusted or restated	18,189,847	2,824,957	58,413	21,073,217
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ 24,170,901</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 163,951</u>	<u>\$ 24,334,852</u>

**Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Balance Sheet
Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds
June 30, 2024**

	BUILDING STANDARDS FUND	LIBRARY BOARD	RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD	STREET LIGHTS FUND	911 FUND
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,050	\$ 366,372	\$ 200,509	\$ 139	\$ 2,268,256
Investments	-	292,363	-	-	-
Accounts receivable	-	-	21	9,318	-
Interest receivable	-	4,540	-	-	-
Intergovernmental receivable	-	-	-	-	-
Due from other funds	1,680,256	9,750	-	2,566,328	-
Prepaid items	2,510	-	-	-	2,607
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,684,816</u>	<u>\$ 673,025</u>	<u>\$ 200,530</u>	<u>\$ 2,575,785</u>	<u>\$ 2,270,863</u>
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES					
Liabilities:					
Accounts payable	\$ 3,214	\$ 18,694	\$ 7,649	\$ 736	\$ 24,040
Accrued payroll	59,397	-	-	-	67,396
Unearned revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Due to other funds	-	-	3,172	-	10,859
Total liabilities	<u>62,611</u>	<u>18,694</u>	<u>10,821</u>	<u>736</u>	<u>102,295</u>
Deferred inflows of resources:					
Unavailable revenue	-	-	-	7,818	-
Total deferred inflow of resources	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,818</u>	<u>-</u>
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	<u>62,611</u>	<u>18,694</u>	<u>10,821</u>	<u>8,554</u>	<u>102,295</u>
Fund balances (deficits):					
Nonspendable for prepaid items	2,510	-	-	-	2,607
Restricted for special programs	1,619,695	654,331	-	-	2,165,961
Committed to special programs	-	-	189,709	2,567,231	-
Unassigned	-	-	-	-	-
Total fund balances (deficits)	<u>1,622,205</u>	<u>654,331</u>	<u>189,709</u>	<u>2,567,231</u>	<u>2,168,568</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances (deficits)	<u>\$ 1,684,816</u>	<u>\$ 673,025</u>	<u>\$ 200,530</u>	<u>\$ 2,575,785</u>	<u>\$ 2,270,863</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Balance Sheet
Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds
June 30, 2024
(continued)

	OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND	DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT	SUPPLEMENTAL JUVENILE SERV	JAIL FUND	ACCOUNTABILITY COURT
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ -	\$ 548,186	\$ 267,646	\$ 572,841	\$ 4,620
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Accounts receivable	-	-	-	-	-
Interest receivable	-	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental receivable	-	1,616	-	-	70,877
Due from other funds	814,103	-	-	-	-
Prepaid items	-	-	13	-	39
Total assets	<u>\$ 814,103</u>	<u>\$ 549,802</u>	<u>\$ 267,659</u>	<u>\$ 572,841</u>	<u>\$ 75,536</u>
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES					
Liabilities:					
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,500
Accrued payroll	-	-	-	-	5,406
Unearned revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Due to other funds	-	-	61	-	79,872
Total liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>90,778</u>
Deferred inflows of resources:					
Unavailable revenue	-	-	-	-	62,173
Total deferred inflow of resources	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>62,173</u>
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>152,951</u>
Fund balances (deficits):					
Nonspendable for prepaid items	-	-	13	-	39
Restricted for special programs	814,103	549,802	267,585	572,841	-
Committed to special programs	-	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	-	-	-	-	(77,454)
Total fund balances (deficits)	<u>814,103</u>	<u>549,802</u>	<u>267,598</u>	<u>572,841</u>	<u>(77,415)</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances (deficits)	<u>\$ 814,103</u>	<u>\$ 549,802</u>	<u>\$ 267,659</u>	<u>\$ 572,841</u>	<u>\$ 75,536</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Balance Sheet
Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds
June 30, 2024
(continued)

	DA ASSET FORFEITURES	DA VICTIMS ASSISTANCE	DA WELFARE FRAUD	DA BOND FORFEITURES	FEDERAL ASSET SHARING FUND	STATE CONDEMNATION FUND
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 31,582	\$ 306,073	\$ 1,517	\$ 1,225	\$ 71,180	\$ 101,245
Investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accounts receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest receivable	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental receivable	-	1,932	945	-	-	-
Due from other funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prepaid items	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total assets	<u>\$ 31,582</u>	<u>\$ 308,005</u>	<u>\$ 2,462</u>	<u>\$ 1,225</u>	<u>\$ 71,180</u>	<u>\$ 101,245</u>
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES						
Liabilities:						
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Accrued payroll	-	2,289	-	-	-	-
Unearned revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-
Due to other funds	-	31,357	-	-	-	-
Total liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>33,646</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Deferred inflows of resources:						
Unavailable revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total deferred inflow of resources	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	<u>-</u>	<u>33,646</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balances (deficits):						
Nonspendable for prepaid items	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted for special programs	31,582	274,359	2,462	1,225	71,180	101,245
Committed to special programs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total fund balances (deficits)	<u>31,582</u>	<u>274,359</u>	<u>2,462</u>	<u>1,225</u>	<u>71,180</u>	<u>101,245</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances (deficits)	<u>\$ 31,582</u>	<u>\$ 308,005</u>	<u>\$ 2,462</u>	<u>\$ 1,225</u>	<u>\$ 71,180</u>	<u>\$ 101,245</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Balance Sheet
Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds
June 30, 2024
(continued)

	LODGING TAX FUND	MULTIPLE GRANT FUND	2020 GENERATOR GRANT FUND	SHERIFF'S GIFTS/DONATIONS	INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 72,722	\$ 100
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Accounts receivable	179,504	-	-	-	-
Interest receivable	-	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental receivable	-	42,419	152,566	-	-
Due from other funds	2,319,409	182,832	-	-	5,849,973
Prepaid items	221	-	-	-	7,504
Total assets	<u>\$ 2,499,134</u>	<u>\$ 225,251</u>	<u>\$ 152,566</u>	<u>\$ 72,722</u>	<u>\$ 5,857,577</u>
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES					
Liabilities:					
Accounts payable	\$ 151,651	\$ 42,419	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 116,344
Accrued payroll	20,832	-	-	-	137,557
Unearned revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Due to other funds	-	-	152,566	-	-
Total liabilities	<u>172,483</u>	<u>42,419</u>	<u>152,566</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>253,901</u>
Deferred inflows of resources:					
Unavailable revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Total deferred inflow of resources	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	<u>172,483</u>	<u>42,419</u>	<u>152,566</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>253,901</u>
Fund balances (deficits):					
Nonspendable for prepaid items	221	-	-	-	7,504
Restricted for special programs	2,326,430	182,832	-	-	5,596,172
Committed to special programs	-	-	-	72,722	-
Unassigned	-	-	-	-	-
Total fund balances (deficits)	<u>2,326,651</u>	<u>182,832</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,722</u>	<u>5,603,676</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances (deficits)	<u>\$ 2,499,134</u>	<u>\$ 225,251</u>	<u>\$ 152,566</u>	<u>\$ 72,722</u>	<u>\$ 5,857,577</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Balance Sheet
Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds
June 30, 2024
(concluded)

	COMMUNITY EVENTS FUND	MEMORIAL WALL FUND	GA SUP CT CK'S COOP AUTH	LAW LIBRARY FUND	TSPLOST 25% DISCRETIONARY FUND	Total Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 97,729	\$ -	\$ 32,264	\$ 81,398	\$ 3,975,425	\$ 9,003,079
Investments	-	-	-	130,736	-	423,099
Accounts receivable	8,800	-	-	-	-	197,643
interest receivable	-	-	-	-	-	4,540
Intergovernmental receivable	-	-	-	-	322,607	592,962
Due from other funds	165,395	7,730	-	-	1,429,681	15,025,457
Prepaid items	-	-	-	-	3,522	16,416
Total assets	<u>\$ 271,924</u>	<u>\$ 7,730</u>	<u>\$ 32,264</u>	<u>\$ 212,134</u>	<u>\$ 5,731,235</u>	<u>\$ 25,263,196</u>
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES						
Liabilities:						
Accounts payable	\$ 4,884	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,045	\$ 378,176
Accrued payroll	492	-	-	-	67,222	360,591
Unearned revenue	5,650	-	-	-	-	5,650
Due to other funds	-	-	-	-	-	277,887
Total liabilities	<u>11,026</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>70,267</u>	<u>1,022,304</u>
Deferred inflows of resources:						
Unavailable revenue	-	-	-	-	-	69,991
Total deferred inflow of resources	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69,991</u>
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	<u>11,026</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>70,267</u>	<u>1,092,295</u>
Fund balances (deficits):						
Nonspendable for prepaid items	-	-	-	-	3,522	16,416
Restricted for special programs	-	-	32,264	212,134	5,657,446	21,133,649
Committed to special programs	260,898	7,730	-	-	-	3,098,290
Unassigned	-	-	-	-	-	(77,454)
Total fund balances (deficits)	<u>260,898</u>	<u>7,730</u>	<u>32,264</u>	<u>212,134</u>	<u>5,660,968</u>	<u>24,170,901</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances (deficits)	<u>\$ 271,924</u>	<u>\$ 7,730</u>	<u>\$ 32,264</u>	<u>\$ 212,134</u>	<u>\$ 5,731,235</u>	<u>\$ 25,263,196</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	BUILDING STANDARDS FUND	LIBRARY BOARD	RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD	STREET LIGHTS FUND	911 FUND
REVENUES					
Taxes - sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Taxes - other	-	-	-	-	2,264
Licenses and permits	2,799,724	-	-	-	-
Charges for services	137,658	-	148,332	2,239,580	3,193,860
Intergovernmental revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Fines and forfeitures	-	77,129	-	-	-
Investment income	-	20,676	4,135	-	39,779
Contributions and donations	-	-	-	7,901	-
Other income	2,145	6,596	37,630	-	-
Total revenues	<u>2,939,527</u>	<u>104,401</u>	<u>190,097</u>	<u>2,247,481</u>	<u>3,235,903</u>
EXPENDITURES					
Current:					
General government	-	-	-	-	-
Judicial	-	-	-	-	-
Public safety	-	-	-	-	2,931,973
Public works	-	-	-	2,308,954	-
Culture and recreation	-	35,662	200,692	-	-
Housing and development	2,249,366	-	-	-	-
Debt service:					
Principal	9,272	-	-	-	-
Interest	338	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>2,258,976</u>	<u>35,662</u>	<u>200,692</u>	<u>2,308,954</u>	<u>2,931,973</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>680,551</u>	<u>68,739</u>	<u>(10,595)</u>	<u>(61,473)</u>	<u>303,930</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers out	-	-	-	-	-
Total other financing source (uses)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balances	680,551	68,739	(10,595)	(61,473)	303,930
Fund balances - beginning	941,654	585,592	200,304	2,628,704	1,864,638
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ 1,622,205</u>	<u>\$ 654,331</u>	<u>\$ 189,709</u>	<u>\$ 2,567,231</u>	<u>\$ 2,168,568</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(continued)

	OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND	DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT	SUPPLEMENTAL JUVENILE SERV	JAIL FUND	ACCOUNTABILITY COURT
REVENUES					
Taxes - sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Taxes - other	-	-	-	-	-
Licenses and permits	-	-	-	-	-
Charges for services	-	-	39,724	-	60,463
Intergovernmental revenue	-	-	-	-	254,285
Fines and forfeitures	441,867	119,029	-	187,053	-
Investment income	-	11,756	5,027	10,040	-
Contributions and donations	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	-	-	-	-	-
Total revenues	<u>441,867</u>	<u>130,785</u>	<u>44,751</u>	<u>197,093</u>	<u>314,748</u>
EXPENDITURES					
Current:					
General government	-	-	-	-	-
Judicial	-	-	17,287	-	376,966
Public safety	-	-	-	-	-
Public works	-	-	-	-	-
Culture and recreation	-	-	-	-	-
Housing and development	-	-	-	-	-
Debt service:					
Principal	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,287</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>376,966</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>441,867</u>	<u>130,785</u>	<u>27,464</u>	<u>197,093</u>	<u>(62,218)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers out	-	(50,000)	-	(150,000)	-
Total other financing source (uses)	<u>-</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(150,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balances	441,867	80,785	27,464	47,093	(62,218)
Fund balances - beginning	372,236	469,017	240,134	525,748	(15,197)
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ 814,103</u>	<u>\$ 549,802</u>	<u>\$ 267,598</u>	<u>\$ 572,841</u>	<u>\$ (77,415)</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(continued)

	DA ASSET FORFEITURES	DA VICTIMS ASSISTANCE	DA WELFARE FRAUD	DA BOND FORFEITURES	FEDERAL ASSET SHARING FUND	STATE CONDEMNATION FUND
REVENUES						
Taxes - sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Taxes - other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Licenses and permits	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charges for services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fines and forfeitures	20,010	122,815	945	1,222	615	63,013
Investment income	296	4,406	31	3	1,463	1,717
Contributions and donations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total revenues	<u>20,306</u>	<u>127,221</u>	<u>976</u>	<u>1,225</u>	<u>2,078</u>	<u>64,730</u>
EXPENDITURES						
Current:						
General government	-	-	-	-	-	-
Judicial	-	30,001	-	-	-	-
Public safety	-	-	-	-	-	55,207
Public works	-	-	-	-	-	-
Culture and recreation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Housing and development	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debt service:						
Principal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>30,001</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55,207</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>20,306</u>	<u>97,220</u>	<u>976</u>	<u>1,225</u>	<u>2,078</u>	<u>9,523</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)						
Transfers out	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total other financing source (uses)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balances	20,306	97,220	976	1,225	2,078	9,523
Fund balances - beginning	11,276	177,139	1,486	-	69,102	91,722
Fund balances - ending	<u>\$ 31,582</u>	<u>\$ 274,359</u>	<u>\$ 2,462</u>	<u>\$ 1,225</u>	<u>\$ 71,180</u>	<u>\$ 101,245</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(continued)

	LODGING TAX FUND	MULTIPLE GRANT FUND	2020 GENERATOR GRANT FUND	SHERIFF'S GIFTS/DONATIONS	INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX
REVENUES					
Taxes - sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Taxes - other	2,229,419	-	-	-	11,237,726
Licenses and permits	-	-	-	-	-
Charges for services	-	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental revenue	-	276,986	152,566	-	-
Fines and forfeitures	-	-	-	-	-
Investment income	-	-	-	1,750	-
Contributions and donations	-	-	-	28,290	-
Other income	-	-	-	-	-
Total revenues	2,229,419	276,986	152,566	30,040	11,237,726
EXPENDITURES					
Current:					
General government	-	182,873	-	-	53,501
Judicial	-	10,846	-	-	-
Public safety	-	6,936	-	50,711	-
Public works	-	-	-	-	7,724,617
Culture and recreation	1,571,149	-	-	-	570,434
Housing and development	-	-	-	-	-
Debt service:					
Principal	5,719	-	-	-	-
Interest	281	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	1,577,149	200,655	-	50,711	8,348,552
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	652,270	76,331	152,566	(20,671)	2,889,174
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)					
Transfers out	-	-	-	-	-
Total other financing source (uses)	-	-	-	-	-
Net change in fund balances	652,270	76,331	152,566	(20,671)	2,889,174
Fund balances - beginning	1,674,381	106,501	(152,566)	93,393	2,714,502
Fund balances - ending	\$ 2,326,651	\$ 182,832	\$ -	\$ 72,722	\$ 5,603,676

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(concluded)

	COMMUNITY EVENTS FUND	MEMORIAL WALL FUND	GA SUP CT CK'S COOP AUTH	LAW LIBRARY FUND	TSPLOST 25% DISCRETIONARY FUND	Total Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds
REVENUES						
Taxes - sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,956,087	\$ 3,956,087
Taxes - other	-	-	-	-	-	13,469,409
Licenses and permits	-	-	-	-	-	2,799,724
Charges for services	135,362	-	-	-	-	5,954,979
Intergovernmental revenue	-	-	-	-	-	683,837
Fines and forfeitures	-	-	-	61,370	-	1,095,068
Investment income	1,764	-	-	2,680	116,653	222,176
Contributions and donations	98,850	-	-	-	-	135,041
Other income	100,130	-	-	20,025	-	166,526
Total revenues	336,106	-	-	84,075	4,072,740	28,482,847
EXPENDITURES						
Current:						
General government	-	-	-	-	-	236,374
Judicial	-	-	20	87,993	-	523,113
Public safety	-	-	-	-	-	3,044,827
Public works	-	-	-	-	2,184,940	12,218,511
Culture and recreation	247,591	-	-	-	-	2,625,528
Housing and development	-	-	-	-	-	2,249,366
Debt service:						
Principal	-	-	-	-	-	14,991
Interest	-	-	-	-	-	619
Total expenditures	247,591	-	20	87,993	2,184,940	20,913,329
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	88,515	-	(20)	(3,918)	1,887,800	7,569,518
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)						
Transfers out	-	-	-	-	(1,388,464)	(1,588,464)
Total other financing source (uses)	-	-	-	-	(1,388,464)	(1,588,464)
Net change in fund balances	88,515	-	(20)	(3,918)	499,336	5,981,054
Fund balances - beginning	172,383	7,730	32,284	216,052	5,161,632	18,189,847
Fund balances - ending	\$ 260,898	\$ 7,730	\$ 32,264	\$ 212,134	\$ 5,660,968	\$ 24,170,901

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Balance Sheet
Nonmajor Capital Projects Funds
June 30, 2024

	2009 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN FUND	2017 GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND	Total Nonmajor Capital Projects Funds
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Intergovernmental receivable	-	-	-
Due from other funds	-	-	-
Prepaid items	-	-	-
Total assets	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES			
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Accrued payroll	-	-	-
Due to other funds	-	-	-
Total liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Deferred inflows of resources:			
Total deferred inflow of resources	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
 Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balances (deficits):			
Nonspendable for prepaid items	-	-	-
Restricted for capital projects	-	-	-
Total fund balances (deficits)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
 Total liabilities and fund balances (deficits)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Nonmajor Capital Projects Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Formerly Nonmajor Fund 2023-2028 SPLOST	2009 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN FUND	2017 GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND	Total Nonmajor Capital Projects Funds
REVENUES				
Investment income	\$ -	\$ 204	\$ 324	\$ 528
Total revenues	-	204	324	528
EXPENDITURES				
Capital outlay	-	719,731	3,938,174	4,657,905
Total expenditures	-	719,731	3,938,174	4,657,905
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	(719,527)	(3,937,850)	(4,657,377)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	-	-	2,664,907	2,664,907
Transfers out	-	(832,487)	-	(832,487)
Total other financing source (uses)	-	(832,487)	2,664,907	1,832,420
Net change in fund balances	-	(1,552,014)	(1,272,943)	(2,824,957)
Fund balances - beginning, as previously presented	14,962,622	1,552,014	1,272,943	17,787,579
Change within financial reporting entity (nonmajor to major)	(14,962,622)	-	-	(14,962,622)
Fund balances - beginning, as adjusted or restated	-	1,552,014	1,272,943	2,824,957
Fund balances - ending	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Balance Sheet
Nonmajor Debt Service Funds
June 30, 2024

	DEBT SERVICE FUND- 2016 GO BOND	DEBT SERVICE FUND- 2017 GO BOND	DEBT SERVICE FUND- 2022 GO BOND	Total Nonmajor Debt Service Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ -	\$ 160,897	\$ -	\$ 160,897
Taxes receivable	-	27,125	-	27,125
Total assets	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 188,022</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 188,022</u>
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES				
Deferred inflows of resources:				
Unavailable revenue	-	24,071	-	24,071
Total deferred inflow of resources	<u>-</u>	<u>24,071</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,071</u>
 Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	<u>-</u>	<u>24,071</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,071</u>
 Fund balances (deficits):				
Restricted for debt service	-	163,951	-	163,951
Total fund balances (deficits)	<u>-</u>	<u>163,951</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>163,951</u>
 Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances (deficits)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 188,022</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 188,022</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Nonmajor Debt Service Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	DEBT SERVICE FUND- 2016 GO BOND	DEBT SERVICE FUND- 2017 GO BOND	DEBT SERVICE FUND- 2022 GO BOND	Total Nonmajor Debt Service Funds
REVENUES				
Taxes - property	\$ -	\$ 4,702,343	\$ -	\$ 4,702,343
Investment income	-	16,742	-	16,742
Total revenues	-	4,719,085	-	4,719,085
EXPENDITURES				
Debt service:				
Principal	2,245,000	2,504,999	510,000	5,259,999
Interest	19,640	477,625	1,119,323	1,616,588
Other	-	1,600	-	1,600
Total expenditures	2,264,640	2,984,224	1,629,323	6,878,187
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(2,264,640)	1,734,861	(1,629,323)	(2,159,102)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	2,264,640	-	1,629,323	3,893,963
Transfers out	-	(1,629,323)	-	(1,629,323)
Total other financing source (uses)	2,264,640	(1,629,323)	1,629,323	2,264,640
Net change in fund balances	-	105,538	-	105,538
Fund balances - beginning	-	58,413	-	58,413
Fund balances - ending	\$ -	\$ 163,951	\$ -	\$ 163,951

Columbia County, Georgia
BUILDING STANDARDS FUND
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Licenses and permits	\$ 3,019,163	\$ 3,019,163	\$ 2,799,724	\$ (219,439)
Charges for services	69,229	69,229	137,658	68,429
Other income	-	-	2,145	2,145
Total revenues	<u>3,088,392</u>	<u>3,088,392</u>	<u>2,939,527</u>	<u>(148,865)</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Housing and development	3,088,392	3,088,392	2,249,366	839,026
Debt service:				
Principal	-	-	9,272	(9,272)
Interest	-	-	338	(338)
Total expenditures	<u>3,088,392</u>	<u>3,088,392</u>	<u>2,258,976</u>	<u>829,416</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	680,551	680,551
Net change in fund balances	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	680,551	<u>\$ 680,551</u>
Fund balances - beginning			941,654	
Fund balances - ending			<u>\$ 1,622,205</u>	

Columbia County, Georgia
LIBRARY BOARD
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Fines and forfeitures	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 77,129	\$ 7,129
Investment income	-	-	20,676	20,676
Other income	5,000	5,000	6,596	1,596
Total revenues	75,000	75,000	104,401	29,401
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Culture and recreation	75,000	75,000	35,662	39,338
Total expenditures	75,000	75,000	35,662	39,338
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	68,739	68,739
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	68,739	\$ 68,739
Fund balances - beginning			585,592	
Fund balances - ending			\$ 654,331	

Columbia County, Georgia
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Charges for services	\$ 93,000	\$ 160,693	\$ 148,332	\$ (12,361)
Investment income	-	-	4,135	4,135
Other income	40,000	40,000	37,630	(2,370)
Total revenues	<u>133,000</u>	<u>200,693</u>	<u>190,097</u>	<u>(10,596)</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Culture and recreation	<u>133,000</u>	<u>200,693</u>	<u>200,692</u>	<u>1</u>
Total expenditures	<u>133,000</u>	<u>200,693</u>	<u>200,692</u>	<u>1</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(10,595)</u>	<u>(10,595)</u>
Net change in fund balances	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>(10,595)</u>	<u>\$ (10,595)</u>
Fund balances - beginning			200,304	
Fund balances - ending			<u>\$ 189,709</u>	

Columbia County, Georgia
STREET LIGHTS FUND
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Charges for services	\$ 2,870,000	\$ 2,870,000	\$ 2,239,580	\$ (630,420)
Contributions and donations	-	-	7,901	7,901
Total revenues	<u>2,870,000</u>	<u>2,870,000</u>	<u>2,247,481</u>	<u>(622,519)</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Public works	2,870,000	2,870,000	2,308,954	561,046
Total expenditures	<u>2,870,000</u>	<u>2,870,000</u>	<u>2,308,954</u>	<u>561,046</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	(61,473)	(61,473)
Net change in fund balances	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	(61,473)	<u>\$ (61,473)</u>
Fund balances - beginning			2,628,704	
Fund balances - ending			<u>\$ 2,567,231</u>	

Columbia County, Georgia
911 FUND
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with
	Original	Final	Actual	Final Budget
REVENUES				
Taxes - other	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,264	\$ 264
Charges for services	3,400,000	3,400,000	3,193,860	(206,140)
Investment income	-	-	39,779	39,779
Other income	175,388	175,388	-	(175,388)
Total revenues	<u>3,577,388</u>	<u>3,577,388</u>	<u>3,235,903</u>	<u>(341,485)</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Public safety	3,577,388	3,577,388	2,931,973	645,415
Total expenditures	<u>3,577,388</u>	<u>3,577,388</u>	<u>2,931,973</u>	<u>645,415</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>303,930</u>	<u>303,930</u>
Net change in fund balances	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>303,930</u>	<u>\$ 303,930</u>
Fund balances - beginning			1,864,638	
Fund balances - ending			<u>\$ 2,168,568</u>	

Columbia County, Georgia
OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Fines and forfeitures	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 441,867	\$ 41,867
Total revenues	400,000	400,000	441,867	41,867
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Judicial	400,000	400,000	-	400,000
Total expenditures	400,000	400,000	-	400,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	441,867	441,867
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	441,867	\$ 441,867
Fund balances - beginning			372,236	
Fund balances - ending			<u>\$ 814,103</u>	

Columbia County, Georgia
DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Fines and forfeitures	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 119,029	\$ 69,029
Investment income	-	-	11,756	11,756
Total revenues	50,000	50,000	130,785	80,785
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers out	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	-
Total other financing source (uses)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	-
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	80,785	\$ 80,785
Fund balances - beginning			469,017	
Fund balances - ending			\$ 549,802	

Columbia County, Georgia
SUPPLEMENTAL JUVENILE SERV
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Charges for services	\$ 23,000	\$ 23,000	\$ 39,724	\$ 16,724
Investment income	-	-	5,027	5,027
Total revenues	23,000	23,000	44,751	21,751
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Judicial	23,000	23,000	17,287	5,713
Total expenditures	23,000	23,000	17,287	5,713
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	27,464	27,464
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	27,464	\$ 27,464
Fund balances - beginning			240,134	
Fund balances - ending			\$ 267,598	

Columbia County, Georgia
JAIL FUND
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Fines and forfeitures	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 187,053	\$ 37,053
Investment income	-	-	10,040	10,040
Total revenues	150,000	150,000	197,093	47,093
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers out	(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)	-
Total other financing source (uses)	(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)	-
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	47,093	\$ 47,093
Fund balances - beginning			525,748	
Fund balances - ending			<u>\$ 572,841</u>	

Columbia County, Georgia
ACCOUNTABILITY COURT
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Charges for services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,463	\$ 60,463
Intergovernmental revenue	332,690	376,967	254,285	(122,682)
Total revenues	332,690	376,967	314,748	(62,219)
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Judicial	332,690	376,967	376,966	1
Total expenditures	332,690	376,967	376,966	1
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	(62,218)	(62,218)
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	(62,218)	\$ (62,218)
Fund balances - beginning			(15,197)	
Fund balances - ending			<u>\$ (77,415)</u>	

Columbia County, Georgia
DA ASSET FORFEITURES
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with
	Original	Final	Actual	Final Budget
REVENUES				
Fines and forfeitures	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,010	\$ 10,010
Investment income	-	-	296	296
Total revenues	10,000	10,000	20,306	10,306
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Judicial	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Total expenditures	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	20,306	20,306
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	20,306	\$ 20,306
Fund balances - beginning			11,276	
Fund balances - ending			\$ 31,582	

Columbia County, Georgia
DA VICTIMS ASSISTANCE
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Fines and forfeitures	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 122,815	\$ 72,815
Investment income	-	-	4,406	4,406
Total revenues	50,000	50,000	127,221	77,221
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Judicial	50,000	50,000	30,001	19,999
Total expenditures	50,000	50,000	30,001	19,999
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	97,220	97,220
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	97,220	\$ 97,220
Fund balances - beginning			177,139	
Fund balances - ending			\$ 274,359	

Columbia County, Georgia
DA WELFARE FRAUD
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Fines and forfeitures	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 945	\$ (55)
Investment income	-	-	31	31
Total revenues	1,000	1,000	976	(24)
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Judicial	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Total expenditures	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	976	976
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	976	\$ 976
Fund balances - beginning			1,486	
Fund balances - ending			<u>\$ 2,462</u>	

Columbia County, Georgia
DA BOND FORFEITURES
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Fines and forfeitures	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,222	\$ 222
Investment income	-	-	3	3
Total revenues	1,000	1,000	1,225	225
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Judicial	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Total expenditures	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	1,225	1,225
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	1,225	\$ 1,225
Fund balances - beginning			-	
Fund balances - ending			\$ 1,225	

Columbia County, Georgia
FEDERAL ASSET SHARING FUND
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Fines and forfeitures	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 615	\$ (9,385)
Investment income	-	-	1,463	1,463
Total revenues	10,000	10,000	2,078	(7,922)
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Public safety	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Total expenditures	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	2,078	2,078
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	2,078	\$ 2,078
Fund balances - beginning			69,102	
Fund balances - ending			\$ 71,180	

Columbia County, Georgia
STATE CONDEMNATION FUND
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Fines and forfeitures	\$ 50,000	\$ 55,207	\$ 63,013	\$ 7,806
Investment income	-	-	1,717	1,717
Total revenues	50,000	55,207	64,730	9,523
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Public safety	50,000	55,207	55,207	-
Total expenditures	50,000	55,207	55,207	-
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	9,523	9,523
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	9,523	\$ 9,523
Fund balances - beginning			91,722	
Fund balances - ending			\$ 101,245	

Columbia County, Georgia
LODGING TAX FUND
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Taxes - other	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 2,229,419	\$ 429,419
Other income	470,000	470,000	-	(470,000)
Total revenues	<u>2,270,000</u>	<u>2,270,000</u>	<u>2,229,419</u>	<u>(40,581)</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Culture and recreation	2,270,000	2,270,000	1,571,149	698,851
Debt service:				
Principal	-	-	5,719	(5,719)
Interest	-	-	281	(281)
Total expenditures	<u>2,270,000</u>	<u>2,270,000</u>	<u>1,577,149</u>	<u>692,851</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>652,270</u>	<u>652,270</u>
Net change in fund balances	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>652,270</u>	<u>\$ 652,270</u>
Fund balances - beginning			1,674,381	
Fund balances - ending			<u>\$ 2,326,651</u>	

Columbia County, Georgia
MULTIPLE GRANT FUND
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental revenue	\$ 209,838	\$ 209,838	\$ 276,986	\$ 67,148
Total revenues	209,838	209,838	276,986	67,148
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General government	130,000	130,000	182,873	(52,873)
Judicial	59,838	59,838	10,846	48,992
Public safety	20,000	20,000	6,936	13,064
Total expenditures	209,838	209,838	200,655	9,183
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	76,331	76,331
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	76,331	\$ 76,331
Fund balances - beginning			106,501	
Fund balances - ending			\$ 182,832	

Columbia County, Georgia
2020 GENERATOR GRANT FUND
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental revenue	\$ 152,566	\$ 152,566	\$ 152,566	\$ -
Total revenues	152,566	152,566	152,566	-
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General government	152,566	152,566	-	152,566
Total expenditures	152,566	152,566	-	152,566
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	152,566	152,566
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	152,566	\$ 152,566
Fund balances - beginning			(152,566)	
Fund balances - ending			\$ -	

Columbia County, Georgia
SHERIFF'S GIFTS/DONATIONS
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Investment income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,750
Contributions and donations	10,000	50,711	28,290	(22,421)
Total revenues	10,000	50,711	30,040	(20,671)
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Public safety	10,000	50,711	50,711	-
Total expenditures	10,000	50,711	50,711	-
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	(20,671)	(20,671)
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	(20,671)	\$ (20,671)
Fund balances - beginning			93,393	
Fund balances - ending			\$ 72,722	

Columbia County, Georgia
INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Taxes - other	\$ 10,934,930	\$ 11,094,435	\$ 11,237,726	\$ 143,291
Total revenues	<u>10,934,930</u>	<u>11,094,435</u>	<u>11,237,726</u>	<u>143,291</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General government	2,114,858	2,114,858	53,501	2,061,357
Public works	8,189,387	8,348,892	7,724,617	624,275
Culture and recreation	630,685	630,685	570,434	60,251
Total expenditures	<u>10,934,930</u>	<u>11,094,435</u>	<u>8,348,552</u>	<u>2,745,883</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,889,174</u>	<u>2,889,174</u>
Net change in fund balances	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>2,889,174</u>	<u>\$ 2,889,174</u>
Fund balances - beginning			<u>2,714,502</u>	
Fund balances - ending			<u>\$ 5,603,676</u>	

Columbia County, Georgia
COMMUNITY EVENTS FUND
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Charges for services	\$ 48,500	\$ 48,500	\$ 135,362	\$ 86,862
Investment income	-	-	1,764	1,764
Contributions and donations	127,000	127,000	98,850	(28,150)
Other income	85,000	85,000	100,130	15,130
Total revenues	<u>260,500</u>	<u>260,500</u>	<u>336,106</u>	<u>75,606</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Culture and recreation	260,500	260,500	247,591	12,909
Total expenditures	<u>260,500</u>	<u>260,500</u>	<u>247,591</u>	<u>12,909</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>88,515</u>	<u>88,515</u>
Net change in fund balances	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>88,515</u>	<u>\$ 88,515</u>
Fund balances - beginning			172,383	
Fund balances - ending			<u>\$ 260,898</u>	

Columbia County, Georgia
MEMORIAL WALL FUND
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Contributions and donations	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ (1,000)
Total revenues	1,000	1,000	-	(1,000)
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Culture and recreation	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Total expenditures	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	-	-
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -
Fund balances - beginning			7,730	
Fund balances - ending			\$ 7,730	

Columbia County, Georgia
GA SUP CT CK'S COOP AUTH
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Charges for services	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ (1,000)
Total revenues	1,000	1,000	-	(1,000)
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Judicial	1,000	1,000	20	980
Total expenditures	1,000	1,000	20	980
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	(20)	(20)
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	(20)	\$ (20)
Fund balances - beginning			32,284	
Fund balances - ending			<u>\$ 32,264</u>	

Columbia County, Georgia
LAW LIBRARY FUND
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Fines and forfeitures	\$ 20,000	\$ 87,993	\$ 61,370	\$ (26,623)
Investment income	-	-	2,680	2,680
Other income	-	-	20,025	20,025
Total revenues	<u>20,000</u>	<u>87,993</u>	<u>84,075</u>	<u>(3,918)</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Judicial	20,000	87,993	87,993	-
Total expenditures	<u>20,000</u>	<u>87,993</u>	<u>87,993</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	(3,918)	(3,918)
Net change in fund balances	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	(3,918)	<u>\$ (3,918)</u>
Fund balances - beginning			216,052	
Fund balances - ending			<u>\$ 212,134</u>	

Columbia County, Georgia
TSPLOST 25% DISCRETIONARY FUND
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Taxes - sales	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 3,573,406	\$ 3,956,087	\$ 382,681
Investment income	-	-	116,653	116,653
Total revenues	3,500,000	3,573,406	4,072,740	499,334
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Public works	2,487,403	2,487,403	2,184,940	302,463
Total expenditures	2,487,403	2,487,403	2,184,940	302,463
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	1,012,597	1,086,003	1,887,800	801,797
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers out	(1,012,597)	(1,086,003)	(1,388,464)	(302,461)
Total other financing source (uses)	(1,012,597)	(1,086,003)	(1,388,464)	(302,461)
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	499,336	\$ 499,336
Fund balances - beginning			5,161,632	
Fund balances - ending			\$ 5,660,968	

Columbia County, Georgia
DEBT SERVICE FUND-2016 GO BOND
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
EXPENDITURES				
Debt service:				
Principal	2,245,000	2,245,000	2,245,000	-
Interest	20,317	20,317	19,640	677
Total expenditures	2,265,317	2,265,317	2,264,640	677
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(2,265,317)	(2,265,317)	(2,264,640)	677
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	2,265,317	2,265,317	2,264,640	(677)
Total other financing source (uses)	2,265,317	2,265,317	2,264,640	(677)
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -
Fund balances - beginning			-	
Fund balances - ending			\$ -	

Columbia County, Georgia
DEBT SERVICE FUND-2017 GO BOND
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Taxes - property	\$ 2,983,225	\$ 2,984,225	\$ 4,702,343	\$ 1,718,118
Investment income	-	-	16,742	16,742
Total revenues	2,983,225	2,984,225	4,719,085	1,734,860
EXPENDITURES				
Debt service:				
Principal	2,505,000	2,505,000	2,504,999	1
Interest	477,625	477,625	477,625	-
Other	600	1,600	1,600	-
Total expenditures	2,983,225	2,984,225	2,984,224	1
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	-	-	1,734,861	1,734,861
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers out	-	-	(1,629,323)	(1,629,323)
Total other financing source (uses)	-	-	(1,629,323)	(1,629,323)
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	105,538	\$ 105,538
Fund balances - beginning			58,413	
Fund balances - ending			\$ 163,951	

Columbia County, Georgia
DEBT SERVICE FUND-2022 GO BOND
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
EXPENDITURES				
Debt service:				
Principal	510,000	510,000	\$ 510,000	\$ -
Interest	1,119,323	1,119,323	1,119,323	-
Other	2,000	2,000	-	2,000
Total expenditures	1,631,323	1,631,323	1,629,323	2,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(1,631,323)	(1,631,323)	(1,629,323)	2,000
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Transfers in	1,631,323	1,631,323	1,629,323	(2,000)
Total other financing source (uses)	1,631,323	1,631,323	1,629,323	(2,000)
Net change in fund balances	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -
Fund balances - beginning			-	
Fund balances - ending			\$ -	

NONMAJOR ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Statement of Net Position
Nonmajor Enterprise Funds
June 30, 2024

	COMMUNICATIONS UTILITY	SAVANNAH RAPIDS PAVILION	PERFORMING ARTS CENTER	EXHIBITION CENTER	Total Nonmajor Enterprise Funds
ASSETS					
Current assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,527,375	\$ -	\$ 1,539,559	\$ -	\$ 4,066,934
Accounts receivable	67,135	5,731	100,625	4,592	178,083
Lease receivable	472,883	-	-	-	472,883
Interest receivable	637	-	-	-	637
Due from other funds	37,110	-	3,275	-	40,385
Prepaid items	236	-	107	43	386
Total current assets	3,105,376	5,731	1,643,566	4,635	4,759,308
Noncurrent assets:					
Capital assets, net of acc dep/amort	10,152,986	1,256,838	-	-	11,409,824
Total noncurrent assets	10,152,986	1,256,838	-	-	11,409,824
Total assets	13,258,362	1,262,569	1,643,566	4,635	16,169,132
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES					
OPEB changes in assumptions	6,571	8,384	2,030	870	17,855
Total deferred outflows of resources	6,571	8,384	2,030	870	17,855
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	13,264,933	1,270,953	1,645,596	5,505	16,186,987
LIABILITIES					
Current liabilities:					
Accounts payable	13,429	17,696	675,313	15,512	721,950
Lease payable	12,988	-	-	-	12,988
Accrued payroll	27,788	11,695	26,883	5,926	72,292
Accrued compensated absences	34,224	3,682	16,665	6,130	60,701
Unearned revenue	-	130,805	-	69,925	200,730
Due to other funds	-	520,107	-	143,747	663,854
Accrued interest payable	28	-	-	-	28
Customer deposits	-	37,576	-	-	37,576
Total current liabilities	88,457	721,561	718,861	241,240	1,770,119
Noncurrent liabilities:					
Accrued compensated absences	34,224	3,682	16,665	6,130	60,701
Advances from other funds	2,451,050	-	-	-	2,451,050
Net OPEB liability	43,921	47,606	21,626	9,268	122,421
Total noncurrent liabilities	2,529,195	51,288	38,291	15,398	2,634,172
Total liabilities	2,617,652	772,849	757,152	256,638	4,404,291
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES					
Lease related	460,024	-	-	-	460,024
OPEB expected vs actual experience	18,704	20,534	3,658	1,568	44,464
OPEB changes in assumptions	8,276	8,197	490	210	17,173
Total deferred inflows of resources	487,004	28,731	4,148	1,778	521,661
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	3,104,656	801,580	761,300	258,416	4,925,952
NET POSITION					
Net investment in capital assets	10,139,998	1,256,838	-	-	11,396,836
Unrestricted	20,279	(787,465)	884,296	(252,911)	(135,801)
Total net position	\$ 10,160,277	\$ 469,373	\$ 884,296	\$ (252,911)	\$ 11,261,035

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position
Nonmajor Enterprise Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	COMMUNICATIONS UTILITY	SAVANNAH RAPIDS PAVILION	PERFORMING ARTS CENTER	EXHIBITION CENTER	Total Nonmajor Enterprise Funds
OPERATING REVENUES					
Charges for services	\$ 2,811,443	\$ 461,157	\$ 2,102,822	\$ 250,590	\$ 5,626,012
Rental income	123,465	-	688,981	50	812,496
Other income	-	66,320	5,965	59,908	132,193
Total operating revenues	<u>2,934,908</u>	<u>527,477</u>	<u>2,797,768</u>	<u>310,548</u>	<u>6,570,701</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES					
Personal services	737,358	321,670	684,896	136,974	1,880,898
Purchased/contract services	669,000	86,182	1,143,516	29,003	1,927,701
Supplies and materials	122,273	130,771	554,143	197,088	1,004,275
Interfund charges	355,821	14,966	-	-	370,787
Depreciation/amortization	894,858	122,582	28,163	-	1,045,603
Other costs	37,427	-	97	-	37,524
Total operating expenses	<u>2,816,737</u>	<u>676,171</u>	<u>2,410,815</u>	<u>363,065</u>	<u>6,266,788</u>
Operating income (loss)	<u>118,171</u>	<u>(148,694)</u>	<u>386,953</u>	<u>(52,517)</u>	<u>303,913</u>
NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)					
Gain on sale of capital assets	-	3,982	312	-	4,294
Lease revenue	213,383	-	-	-	213,383
Investment income	67,521	-	39,061	-	106,582
Interest expense	(558)	-	-	-	(558)
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)	<u>280,346</u>	<u>3,982</u>	<u>39,373</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>323,701</u>
Income (loss) before contributions and transfers	<u>398,517</u>	<u>(144,712)</u>	<u>426,326</u>	<u>(52,517)</u>	<u>627,614</u>
Transfers in	-	-	-	49,928	49,928
Change in net position	<u>398,517</u>	<u>(144,712)</u>	<u>426,326</u>	<u>(2,589)</u>	<u>677,542</u>
Total net position - beginning	\$ 9,761,760	\$ 614,085	457,970	(250,322)	10,583,493
Total net position - ending	<u>\$ 10,160,277</u>	<u>\$ 469,373</u>	<u>\$ 884,296</u>	<u>\$ (252,911)</u>	<u>\$ 11,261,035</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Statement of Cash Flows
Nonmajor Enterprise Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	COMMUNICATIONS UTILITY	SAVANNAH RAPIDS PAVILION	PERFORMING ARTS CENTER	EXHIBITION CENTER	Total Nonmajor Enterprise Funds
Operating activities					
Cash received from customers and others	\$ 2,379,374	\$ 507,034	\$ 2,690,842	\$ 314,714	\$ 5,891,964
Cash paid to suppliers and others	(1,316,235)	(205,652)	(1,971,945)	(226,668)	(3,720,500)
Cash paid to employees	(688,012)	(305,364)	(653,048)	(137,974)	(1,784,398)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>375,127</u>	<u>(3,982)</u>	<u>65,849</u>	<u>(49,928)</u>	<u>387,066</u>
Noncapital financing activities					
Transfer from other funds	-	-	-	49,928	49,928
Net cash provided by (used in) noncapital financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49,928</u>	<u>49,928</u>
Capital and related financing activities					
Proceeds from leases	231,006	-	-	-	231,006
Acquisition and construction of capital assets	(610,822)	-	-	-	(610,822)
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	-	3,982	312	-	4,294
Principal paid on leases/sbitas	(18,689)	-	(27,651)	-	(46,340)
Interest paid on leases/sbitas	(594)	-	(1,021)	-	(1,615)
Net cash provided by (used in) capital and related financing activities	<u>(399,099)</u>	<u>3,982</u>	<u>(28,360)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(423,477)</u>
Investing activities					
Interest received	52,247	-	39,061	-	91,308
Net cash provided by (used) in investing activities	<u>52,247</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,061</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>91,308</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	<u>28,275</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>76,550</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>104,825</u>
Cash and cash equivalents					
Beginning of year	<u>2,499,100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,463,009</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,962,109</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 2,527,375</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,539,559</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 4,066,934</u>
Reconciliation of operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities					
Operating income (loss)	\$ 118,171	\$ (148,694)	\$ 386,953	\$ (52,517)	\$ 303,913
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:					
Depreciation and amortization	894,858	122,582	28,163	-	1,045,603
Change in assets and liabilities					
Accounts receivable	(6,584)	2,388	(96,288)	1,800	(98,684)
Deferred charges / prepaid expense	(61)	243	(25)	(10)	147
Due from other funds	(35,848)	-	(3,275)	-	(39,123)
Accounts payable	(95,805)	7,269	(267,605)	2,236	(353,905)
Accrued liabilities	49,346	16,306	31,848	7,972	105,472
Customer deposits	-	19,354	-	(33,994)	(14,640)
Due to other funds	-	18,755	(3,284)	(11,775)	3,696
Advances from other funds	(548,950)	-	-	-	(548,950)
Unearned revenue	-	(42,185)	(10,638)	36,360	(16,463)
Total adjustments	<u>256,956</u>	<u>144,712</u>	<u>(321,104)</u>	<u>2,589</u>	<u>83,153</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>\$ 375,127</u>	<u>\$ (3,982)</u>	<u>\$ 65,849</u>	<u>\$ (49,928)</u>	<u>\$ 387,066</u>

NONMAJOR INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Statement of Net Position
Nonmajor Internal Service Funds
June 30, 2024

	EMPLOYEE MEDICAL FUND	RISK MANAGEMENT FUND	UTILITY DAMAGE PREVENTION	CUSTOMER SERVICE AND INFORMATION CENTER	FLEET REPLACEMENT FUND	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS	Total Internal Service Funds
ASSETS							
Current assets:							
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,405,446	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,405,446
Accounts receivable	547,779	2,313	-	-	-	-	550,092
Due from other funds	-	1,202,964	759,191	28,952	-	103,878	2,094,985
Prepaid items	66	461	1,750	91	-	979	3,347
Total current assets	4,953,291	1,205,738	760,941	29,043	-	104,857	7,053,870
Noncurrent assets:							
Capital assets, net of acc dep	-	-	166,147	-	7,360,355	498,889	8,025,391
Total noncurrent assets	-	-	166,147	-	7,360,355	498,889	8,025,391
Total assets	4,953,291	1,205,738	927,088	29,043	7,360,355	603,746	15,079,261
LIABILITIES							
Current liabilities:							
Accounts payable	55,843	27,010	437	645	154,972	136,163	375,070
SBITA payable	-	-	-	-	-	158,265	158,265
Claims payable	2,000,000	865,211	-	-	-	-	2,865,211
Accrued payroll	7,709	7,243	25,606	9,644	-	27,898	78,100
Accrued compensated absences	1,152	12,129	35,005	9,377	-	31,003	88,666
Due to other funds	4,288,172	282,016	831,035	-	497,155	-	5,898,378
Accrued interest payable	-	-	-	-	-	3,325	3,325
Total current liabilities	6,352,876	1,193,609	892,083	19,666	652,127	356,654	9,467,015
Noncurrent liabilities:							
SBITA payable	-	-	-	-	-	164,028	164,028
Accrued compensated absences	1,152	12,129	35,005	9,377	-	31,003	88,666
Total noncurrent liabilities	1,152	12,129	35,005	9,377	-	195,031	252,694
Total liabilities	6,354,028	1,205,738	927,088	29,043	652,127	551,685	9,719,709
NET POSITION							
Net investment in capital assets	-	-	166,147	-	7,360,355	176,596	7,703,098
Unrestricted	(1,400,737)	-	(166,147)	-	(652,127)	(124,535)	(2,343,546)
Total net position	\$ (1,400,737)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,708,228	\$ 52,061	\$ 5,359,552

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position
Nonmajor Internal Service Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	EMPLOYEE MEDICAL FUND	RISK MANAGEMENT FUND	UTILITY DAMAGE PREVENTION	CUSTOMER SERVICE AND INFORMATION CENTER	FLEET REPLACEMENT FUND	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS	Total Internal Service Funds
OPERATING REVENUES							
Charges for services	\$ 14,021,139	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,021,139
Intergovernmental revenue	-	1,942,422	900,388	267,577	2,100,385	1,521,157	6,731,929
Other income	-	-	-	-	-	266	266
Total operating revenues	14,021,139	1,942,422	900,388	267,577	2,100,385	1,521,423	20,753,334
OPERATING EXPENSES							
Personal services	207,823	198,205	689,225	263,162	-	767,477	2,125,892
Purchased/contract services	16,288,396	1,349,887	59,197	1,454	1,115,628	590,869	19,405,431
Supplies and materials	-	27,042	112,873	2,961	-	34,510	177,386
Depreciation/amortization	-	-	39,093	-	1,696,179	125,242	1,860,514
Total operating expenses	16,496,219	1,575,134	900,388	267,577	2,811,807	1,518,098	23,569,223
Operating income (loss)	(2,475,080)	367,288	-	-	(711,422)	3,325	(2,815,889)
NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)							
Gain on sale of capital assets	-	-	-	-	257,116	-	257,116
Investment income	102,754	-	-	-	-	-	102,754
Interest expense	-	-	-	-	-	(3,325)	(3,325)
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)	102,754	-	-	-	257,116	(3,325)	356,545
Income (loss) before contributions and transfers	(2,372,326)	367,288	-	-	(454,306)	-	(2,459,344)
Transfers in	-	-	-	-	493,288	-	493,288
Transfers out	-	(367,288)	-	-	-	-	(367,288)
Change in net position	(2,372,326)	-	-	-	38,982	-	(2,333,344)
Total net position - beginning	\$ 971,589	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,669,246	\$ 52,061	7,692,896
Total net position - ending	\$ (1,400,737)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,708,228	\$ 52,061	\$ 5,359,552

Columbia County, Georgia
Combining Statement of Cash Flows
Nonmajor Internal Service Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	EMPLOYEE MEDICAL FUND	RISK MANAGEMENT FUND	UTILITY DAMAGE PREVENTION	CUSTOMER SERVICE AND INFORMATION CENTER	FLEET REPLACEMENT FUND	GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS	Total Internal Service Funds
Operating activities							
Cash received from (paid to) customers and others	\$ 14,523,529	\$ 1,940,484	\$ 900,388	\$ 267,577	\$ 4,055,796	\$ 1,521,423	\$ 23,209,197
Cash paid to suppliers and others	(15,139,891)	(1,380,253)	(60,090)	(3,982)	(1,199,976)	(592,018)	(18,376,210)
Cash paid to employees	(206,138)	(192,943)	(672,297)	(263,595)	-	(759,405)	(2,094,378)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(822,500)	367,288	168,001	-	2,855,820	170,000	2,738,609
Noncapital financing activities							
Transfer to other funds	-	(367,288)	-	-	-	-	(367,288)
Net cash provided by (used in) noncapital financing activities	-	(367,288)	-	-	-	-	(367,288)
Capital and related financing activities							
Transfer from other funds	-	-	-	-	493,288	-	493,288
Acquisition and construction of capital assets	-	-	(168,001)	-	(3,606,224)	-	(3,774,225)
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	-	-	-	-	257,116	-	257,116
Principal paid on leases/sbitas	-	-	-	-	-	(170,000)	(170,000)
Net cash provided by (used in) capital and related financing activities	-	-	(168,001)	-	(2,855,820)	(170,000)	(3,193,821)
Investing activities							
Interest received	102,754	-	-	-	-	-	102,754
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	102,754	-	-	-	-	-	102,754
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(719,746)	-	-	-	-	-	(719,746)
Cash and cash equivalents							
Beginning of year	5,125,192	-	-	-	-	-	5,125,192
End of year	\$ 4,405,446	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,405,446
Reconciliation of operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities							
Operating income (loss)	\$ (2,475,080)	\$ 367,288	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (711,422)	\$ 3,325	\$ (2,815,889)
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:							
Depreciation and amortization	-	-	39,093	-	1,696,179	125,242	1,860,514
Change in assets and liabilities							
Accounts receivable	502,390	(1,938)	-	-	315	-	500,767
Deferred charges / prepaid expense	(11)	(97)	(100)	(16)	-	(169)	(393)
Due from other funds	-	105,196	31,839	(4,258)	1,458,256	(80,731)	1,510,302
Accounts payable	498,126	(108,423)	58	449	(84,663)	114,261	419,808
Accrued liabilities	1,685	5,262	16,928	3,825	-	8,072	35,772
Due to other funds	650,390	-	80,183	-	497,155	-	1,227,728
Total adjustments	1,652,580	-	168,001	-	3,567,242	166,675	5,554,498
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	\$ (822,500)	\$ 367,288	\$ 168,001	\$ -	\$ 2,855,820	\$ 170,000	\$ 2,738,609
Noncash investing, capital, and financing activities:							
Acquisition of capital assets from leases/sbitas	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 492,293	\$ 492,293

CUSTODIAL FUNDS

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Combining Statement of Fiduciary Net Position
Custodial Funds
June 30, 2024

	Clerk of Superior Court	Probate Court	Magistrate Court	Sheriff's Office	Tax Commissioner's Office	Total
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,927,742	\$ 1,933,684	\$ 120,996	\$ 1,093,518	\$ 1,028,373	\$ 6,104,313
LIABILITIES						
Due to others	219,186	209,617	50,704	26,715	969,167	1,475,389
NET POSITION						
Restricted for individuals, organizations, and other governments	\$ 1,708,556	\$ 1,724,067	\$ 70,292	\$ 1,066,803	\$ 59,206	\$ 4,628,924

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Combining Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
Custodial Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Clerk of Superior Court	Probate Court	Magistrate Court	Sheriff's Office	Tax Commissioner's Office	Total
ADDITIONS						
Taxes	\$ 6,020,760	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,051,005	\$ 306,071,765
Fines and fees	652,473	2,360,157	875,479	842,223	-	4,730,332
Criminal and civil bonds	24,228	1,592,056	-	496,470	-	2,112,754
Other	1,253,314	458,170	-	1,045,138	-	2,756,622
Total additions	7,950,775	4,410,383	875,479	2,383,831	300,051,005	315,671,473
DEDUCTIONS						
Taxes and fees paid to other governments	603,326	570,373	169,195	701,731	148,418,261	150,462,886
Payments to County	6,715,127	731,710	455,090	349,467	73,298,167	81,549,561
Other custodial disbursements	1,742,122	2,081,976	215,553	1,180,050	78,319,511	83,539,212
Total deductions	9,060,575	3,384,059	839,838	2,231,248	300,035,939	315,551,659
Change in fiduciary net position	(1,109,800)	1,026,324	35,641	152,583	15,066	119,814
Net position, beginning of year	2,818,356	697,743	34,651	914,220	44,140	4,509,110
Net position, end of year	\$ 1,708,556	\$ 1,724,067	\$ 70,292	\$ 1,066,803	\$ 59,206	\$ 4,628,924

SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX FUNDS

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX
2011 - 2016 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Program
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Project	Original Project Budget*	Prior Years' Cost	Current Year Cost	Total Cost	Estimated Percentage of Completion
Level One Countywide projects	\$ 48,666,645	\$ 31,863,209	\$ -	\$ 31,863,209	100%
Transportation projects	46,633,663	36,276,351	-	36,276,351	100%
Recreation facilities	14,017,674	13,077,662	719,731	13,797,393	100%
Public Safety and Emergency Services buildings, facilities and equipment	9,270,041	7,319,321	-	7,319,321	100%
County administrative buildings and facilities	7,895,642	6,306,065	-	6,306,065	100%
Improvements to stormwater and water systems	13,800,847	9,263,750	-	9,263,750	100%
City of Harlem	3,178,601	2,372,447	-	2,372,447	100%
City of Grovetown	11,156,888	8,324,742	-	8,324,742	100%
	<u>\$ 154,620,001</u>	<u>\$ 114,803,547</u>	<u>\$ 719,731</u>	<u>\$ 115,523,278</u>	
			832,487		
			<u>\$ 1,552,218</u>		

* Tier I & II Only

Note: 2009 Capital Projects Improvements Plan Fund accounts for projects funded by the 2009 General Obligations Bonds and collections from the 2011-2016 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX
2017 - 2022 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Program
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Project	Original Project Budget	Prior Years' Cost	Current Year Cost	Total Cost	Estimated Percentage of Completion
Countywide projects	\$ 57,665,280	\$ 7,697,841	\$ 3,564,353	\$ 11,262,194	20%
Transportation projects	7,000,000	6,320,209	1,132,694	7,452,903	90%
Community Services	21,000,160	6,005,151	1,358,278	7,363,429	35%
IT and Broadband Projects	3,993,019	969,749	945,332	1,915,081	48%
Public Safety and Emergency Services buildings, facilities and equipment	5,654,000	2,371,437	1,878,895	4,250,332	75%
Public Health	30,000,000	388,616	2,063,881	2,452,497	8%
County administrative buildings and facilities	1,514,258	1,063,837	60,881	1,124,718	75%
Stormwater Improvements	7,000,000	2,447,173	2,317,004	4,764,177	68%
City of Harlem	2,590,041	3,093,313	-	3,093,313	100%
City of Grovetown	8,633,472	10,311,037	-	10,311,037	100%
	<u>\$ 145,050,230</u>	<u>\$ 40,668,363</u>	<u>13,321,318</u>	<u>\$ 53,989,681</u>	
			Transfer to Debt Service Funds	2,264,640	
			<u>\$ 15,585,958</u>		

Note: 2017-2022 SPLOST program includes projects funded by the 2015 General Obligations Bonds. The capital outlay included above is recorded as expenditures in the 2015 General Obligation Bond Fund and the Special Local Option Sales Tax 2017-2022 Fund.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX
2023 - 2028 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Program
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Project	Original Project Budget	Prior Years' Cost	Current Year Cost	Total Cost	Estimated Percentage of Completion
Countywide projects	\$ 29,319,578	\$ -	\$ 344,320	\$ 344,320	1%
Transportation projects	30,680,420	7,272	320,308	327,580	1%
Community Services	96,183,544	-	172,160	172,160	0%
IT and Broadband Projects	8,258,500	-	-	-	0%
Public Safety and Emergency Services buildings, facilities and equipment	37,003,053	-	137,824	137,824	0%
Economic Development	6,375,479	-	-	-	0%
County administrative buildings and facilities	8,951,888	-	172,160	172,160	2%
Utilities	37,442,338	-	78,898	78,898	0%
City of Harlem	7,796,585	438,348	948,356	1,386,704	18%
City of Grovetown	25,988,615	1,461,170	3,161,212	4,622,382	18%
	<u>\$ 288,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,906,790</u>	<u>\$ 5,335,238</u>	<u>\$ 7,242,028</u>	

STATISTICAL SECTION

STATISTICAL SECTION

This part of Columbia County, Georgia's annual comprehensive financial report presents detailed information as a context for understanding what the information in the financial statements, note disclosures, and required supplementary information says about the government's overall financial health.

Contents	Page
Financial Trends	
<i>These schedules contain trend information to help the reader understand how the government's financial performance and well-being have changed over time.</i>	174
Revenue Capacity	
<i>These schedules contain information to help the reader assess the government's most significant local revenue sources, the property tax and the sales tax.</i>	179
Debt Capacity	
<i>These schedules present information to help the reader assess the affordability of the government's current levels of outstanding debt and the government's ability to issue additional debt in the future.</i>	186
Demographic and Economic Information	
<i>These schedules offer demographic and economic indicators to help the reader understand the environment within which the government's financial activities take place.</i>	190
Operating Information	
<i>These schedules contain service and infrastructure data to help the reader understand how the information in the government's financial report relates to the services the government provides and the activities it performs.</i>	193

Sources: Unless otherwise noted, the information in these schedules is derived from the comprehensive annual financial reports for the relevant year.

Columbia County, Georgia
Net Position By Component
Last Ten Fiscal Years
(accrual basis of accounting)

	Fiscal Year Ended June 30,									
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Governmental activities										
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 208,779,154	\$ 219,854,303	\$ 237,032,052	\$ 250,250,514	\$ 265,461,677	\$ 279,597,682	\$ 312,857,870	\$ 332,088,980	\$ 372,162,519	\$ 416,978,425
Restricted	34,451,325	41,209,614	43,080,606	44,526,019	52,560,511	69,159,288	83,848,458	137,985,879	135,225,742	159,514,714
Unrestricted	28,856,123	23,997,583	18,357,245	23,750,285	25,386,286	36,255,030	41,814,715	17,494,161	48,371,273	64,684,422
Total governmental activities net position	<u>\$ 272,086,602</u>	<u>\$ 285,061,500</u>	<u>\$ 298,469,903</u>	<u>\$ 318,526,818</u>	<u>\$ 343,408,474</u>	<u>\$ 385,012,000</u>	<u>\$ 438,521,043</u>	<u>\$ 487,569,020</u>	<u>\$ 555,759,534</u>	<u>\$ 641,177,561</u>
Business-type activities										
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 232,641,731	\$ 252,963,528	\$ 260,360,538	\$ 263,428,107	\$ 273,214,360	\$ 285,541,279	\$ 293,916,078	\$ 311,957,663	\$ 325,477,859	\$ 328,175,920
Restricted	6,502,175	6,496,162	6,000,870	2,675,820	2,765,314	2,904,297	645,536	646,839	745,385	885,233
Unrestricted	48,413,058	44,880,794	53,331,362	61,164,670	61,372,493	61,648,479	66,904,948	56,416,911	57,346,431	61,704,626
Total business-type activities net position	<u>\$ 287,556,964</u>	<u>\$ 304,340,484</u>	<u>\$ 319,692,770</u>	<u>\$ 327,268,597</u>	<u>\$ 337,352,167</u>	<u>\$ 350,094,055</u>	<u>\$ 361,466,562</u>	<u>\$ 369,021,413</u>	<u>\$ 383,569,675</u>	<u>\$ 390,765,779</u>
Primary government										
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 441,420,885	\$ 472,817,831	\$ 497,392,590	\$ 513,678,621	\$ 538,676,037	\$ 565,138,961	\$ 606,773,948	\$ 644,046,643	\$ 697,640,378	\$ 745,154,345
Restricted	40,953,500	47,705,776	49,081,476	47,201,839	55,325,825	72,063,585	84,493,994	138,632,718	135,971,127	160,399,947
Unrestricted	77,269,181	68,878,377	71,688,607	84,914,955	86,758,779	97,903,509	108,719,663	73,911,072	105,717,704	126,389,048
Total primary government net position	<u>\$ 559,643,566</u>	<u>\$ 589,401,984</u>	<u>\$ 618,162,673</u>	<u>\$ 645,795,415</u>	<u>\$ 680,760,641</u>	<u>\$ 735,106,055</u>	<u>\$ 799,987,605</u>	<u>\$ 856,590,433</u>	<u>\$ 939,329,209</u>	<u>\$ 1,031,943,340</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
Changes in Net Position
Last Ten Fiscal Years
(accrual basis of accounting)

	For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30,									
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Expenses										
Governmental activities:										
General government	\$ 16,621,251	\$ 19,420,487	\$ 20,143,478	\$ 19,527,218	\$ 19,567,469	\$ 20,073,741	\$ 23,545,990	\$ 24,992,459	\$ 27,476,973	\$ 29,653,014
Judicial system	7,153,128	7,382,451	7,672,098	7,863,092	8,281,359	8,740,345	8,234,335	8,683,398	9,663,804	10,772,436
Public safety	42,845,188	43,817,193	46,115,229	46,777,469	50,967,030	53,762,526	52,617,624	59,597,270	59,479,819	64,821,854
Public works	21,441,998	22,639,026	24,859,630	25,084,280	25,212,568	24,516,735	25,918,796	28,062,613	29,717,507	31,244,070
Health and welfare	1,721,658	1,859,378	1,704,218	1,740,327	1,815,315	2,576,890	1,380,553	1,521,908	1,540,054	6,153,051
Culture and recreation	6,527,623	7,145,689	7,808,566	8,151,722	8,375,812	7,704,021	9,651,530	12,348,726	14,421,268	11,847,983
Housing and development	3,905,752	4,071,607	4,687,428	6,847,532	5,760,467	6,174,711	8,705,763	5,487,540	5,888,491	6,350,607
Debt service - interest and fees	2,229,517	2,533,437	3,286,174	3,285,591	4,580,806	2,657,170	2,373,153	1,371,688	1,973,532	2,767,966
Total governmental activities expenses	<u>102,446,115</u>	<u>108,869,268</u>	<u>116,276,821</u>	<u>119,277,231</u>	<u>124,560,826</u>	<u>126,206,139</u>	<u>132,427,744</u>	<u>142,065,602</u>	<u>150,161,448</u>	<u>163,610,981</u>
Business-type activities:										
Water and sewer	25,871,589	27,331,033	28,671,102	31,682,676	32,387,698	34,201,419	33,939,842	36,281,789	38,525,791	42,420,767
Storm water	3,944,870	4,435,893	5,080,834	5,261,893	5,578,729	5,917,026	6,491,048	7,229,728	7,631,306	7,995,974
Solid waste management	561,225	464,271	1,097,376	1,117,994	1,124,943	1,059,742	1,100,555	1,351,434	(4,005,404)	1,423,689
Rental facilities (SRP, PAC, EC)	833,384	928,698	909,198	855,123	884,854	882,739	1,083,181	2,411,113	2,499,492	3,458,849
Communications utility	1,931,029	2,102,998	2,271,075	2,656,968	2,172,163	2,428,688	2,598,719	2,465,056	2,544,144	2,760,723
Total business-type activities expenses	<u>33,142,097</u>	<u>35,262,893</u>	<u>38,029,585</u>	<u>41,574,654</u>	<u>42,148,387</u>	<u>44,489,614</u>	<u>45,213,345</u>	<u>49,739,120</u>	<u>47,195,329</u>	<u>58,060,002</u>
Total primary government expenses	<u>\$ 135,588,212</u>	<u>\$ 144,132,161</u>	<u>\$ 154,306,406</u>	<u>\$ 160,851,885</u>	<u>\$ 166,709,213</u>	<u>\$ 170,695,753</u>	<u>\$ 177,641,089</u>	<u>\$ 191,804,722</u>	<u>\$ 197,356,777</u>	<u>\$ 221,670,983</u>
Program Revenues										
Governmental activities:										
Charges for services:										
General government	\$ 2,269,204	\$ 2,161,960	\$ 2,239,766	\$ 2,261,130	\$ 2,419,343	\$ 2,472,606	\$ 2,739,267	\$ 2,815,042	\$ 3,126,652	\$ 3,345,305
Judicial system	3,066,341	2,880,152	2,868,380	2,738,272	3,321,325	2,795,401	3,403,281	3,196,341	3,317,731	3,829,316
Public safety	3,095,173	3,058,053	3,186,568	4,582,597	3,264,293	3,542,509	3,723,490	4,059,597	3,970,143	3,816,430
Other activities	5,227,520	5,459,911	6,180,772	6,148,046	5,645,010	5,952,720	6,533,453	6,922,795	6,570,857	7,699,313
Operating grants and contributions	1,069,776	1,613,277	1,742,368	1,742,091	1,512,047	7,084,124	3,725,079	4,067,740	2,506,644	6,191,149
Capital grants and contributions	10,407,094	10,561,235	14,734,666	7,900,602	7,903,855	7,401,359	6,906,759	9,191,092	16,129,171	20,630,969
Total governmental activities program revenues	<u>25,135,108</u>	<u>25,734,588</u>	<u>30,952,520</u>	<u>25,372,738</u>	<u>24,065,873</u>	<u>29,248,719</u>	<u>27,031,329</u>	<u>30,252,607</u>	<u>35,621,198</u>	<u>45,512,482</u>
Business-type activities:										
Charges for services:										
Water and sewer	32,036,580	34,583,144	36,018,804	35,320,188	36,237,859	37,926,404	39,215,358	40,057,332	38,722,291	43,944,754
Storm water	3,038,638	3,959,943	4,997,996	5,475,348	5,605,951	5,750,445	5,747,570	5,913,627	6,000,762	5,954,266
Rental facilities (SRP, PAC, EC)	513,352	507,124	537,722	562,631	611,815	414,934	433,359	1,191,607	1,915,942	2,814,569
Communications utility	827,484	1,037,552	1,362,904	1,501,751	1,901,969	1,678,947	1,880,712	2,393,224	2,101,855	2,811,443
Operating grants and contributions	-	959	336	308,507	391,975	391,266	362,333	343,390	413,626	108,249
Capital grants and contributions	8,966,062	10,438,511	9,423,779	4,912,074	4,913,952	8,728,324	8,353,692	7,626,380	10,434,222	4,956,481
Total business-type activities program revenues	<u>45,382,116</u>	<u>50,527,233</u>	<u>52,341,541</u>	<u>48,080,499</u>	<u>49,663,521</u>	<u>54,890,320</u>	<u>55,993,024</u>	<u>57,525,560</u>	<u>59,588,698</u>	<u>60,589,762</u>
Total primary government program revenues	<u>\$ 70,517,224</u>	<u>\$ 76,261,821</u>	<u>\$ 83,294,061</u>	<u>\$ 73,453,237</u>	<u>\$ 73,729,394</u>	<u>\$ 84,139,039</u>	<u>\$ 83,024,353</u>	<u>\$ 87,778,167</u>	<u>\$ 95,209,896</u>	<u>\$ 106,102,244</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
Changes in Net Position (Continued)
Last Ten Fiscal Years
(accrual basis of accounting)

	For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30,									
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Net (expense)/revenue										
Governmental activities	\$ (77,311,007)	\$ (83,134,680)	\$ (85,324,301)	\$ (93,904,493)	\$ (100,494,953)	\$ (96,957,420)	\$ (105,396,415)	\$ (111,812,995)	\$ (114,540,250)	\$ (118,098,499)
Business-type activities	12,240,019	15,264,340	14,311,956	6,505,845	7,515,134	10,400,706	10,779,679	7,786,440	12,393,369	2,529,760
Total primary government net expense	<u>\$ (65,070,988)</u>	<u>\$ (67,870,340)</u>	<u>\$ (71,012,345)</u>	<u>\$ (87,398,648)</u>	<u>\$ (92,979,819)</u>	<u>\$ (86,556,714)</u>	<u>\$ (94,616,736)</u>	<u>\$ (104,026,555)</u>	<u>\$ (102,146,881)</u>	<u>\$ (115,568,739)</u>
General Revenues and Other Changes in Net Position										
Governmental activities:										
Taxes										
Property taxes, general	\$ 44,808,849	\$ 46,612,056	\$ 49,241,893	\$ 56,994,517	\$ 59,396,566	\$ 64,933,183	\$ 70,173,862	\$ 71,369,280	\$ 76,447,333	\$ 81,142,390
Sales taxes	38,445,119	38,928,718	39,974,085	45,164,499	52,809,519	60,600,966	75,245,507	78,327,807	88,366,671	99,502,871
Other taxes	8,525,795	9,055,643	9,674,268	10,211,943	10,880,452	11,211,716	12,092,916	13,327,234	15,919,650	16,746,355
Revenues from use of money and property	446,671	498,240	369,572	410,914	1,331,966	1,047,525	96,908	(2,881,211)	1,735,866	4,858,836
Gain on sale of capital assets	340,311	181,780	236,784	31,845	89,430	31,440	95,850	373,343	1,232	680,493
Miscellaneous	894,964	1,135,029	1,047,307	1,290,588	1,177,218	1,119,857	1,466,371	1,543,662	1,560,114	1,797,822
Transfers	(7,017,566)	(301,888)	(164,450)	(142,898)	(308,542)	(383,741)	(265,956)	(1,199,143)	(1,300,102)	(1,212,241)
Total governmental activities	<u>86,444,143</u>	<u>96,109,578</u>	<u>100,379,459</u>	<u>113,961,408</u>	<u>125,376,609</u>	<u>138,560,946</u>	<u>158,905,458</u>	<u>160,860,972</u>	<u>182,730,764</u>	<u>203,516,526</u>
Business-type activities:										
Revenues from use of money and property	719,811	688,273	244,078	161,005	1,683,912	1,373,583	(245,591)	(2,661,512)	(179,681)	1,811,398
Gain on sale of capital assets	33,545	24,260	34,243	512	7,759	3,282	220	1,444	125	311,239
Miscellaneous	386,159	504,759	890,690	765,567	568,223	580,576	572,243	1,229,336	1,034,347	1,331,466
Transfers	7,017,566	301,888	164,450	142,898	308,542	383,741	265,956	1,199,143	1,300,102	1,212,241
Total business-type activities	<u>8,157,081</u>	<u>1,519,180</u>	<u>1,333,461</u>	<u>1,069,982</u>	<u>2,568,436</u>	<u>2,341,182</u>	<u>592,828</u>	<u>(231,589)</u>	<u>2,154,893</u>	<u>4,666,344</u>
Total primary government	<u>\$ 94,601,224</u>	<u>\$ 97,628,758</u>	<u>\$ 101,712,920</u>	<u>\$ 115,031,390</u>	<u>\$ 127,945,045</u>	<u>\$ 140,902,128</u>	<u>\$ 159,498,286</u>	<u>\$ 160,629,383</u>	<u>\$ 184,885,657</u>	<u>\$ 208,182,870</u>
Change in Net Position										
Governmental activities	\$ 9,133,136	\$ 12,974,898	\$ 15,055,158	\$ 20,056,915	\$ 24,881,656	\$ 41,603,526	\$ 53,509,043	\$ 49,047,977	\$ 68,190,514	\$ 85,418,027
Business-type activities	20,397,100	16,783,520	15,645,417	7,575,827	10,083,570	12,741,888	11,372,507	7,554,851	14,548,262	7,196,104
Total primary government	<u>\$ 29,530,236</u>	<u>\$ 29,758,418</u>	<u>\$ 30,700,575</u>	<u>\$ 27,632,742</u>	<u>\$ 34,965,226</u>	<u>\$ 54,345,414</u>	<u>\$ 64,881,550</u>	<u>\$ 56,602,828</u>	<u>\$ 82,738,776</u>	<u>\$ 92,614,131</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
Fund Balances of Governmental Funds
Last Ten Fiscal Years
(modified accrual basis of accounting)

	Fiscal Year Ended June 30,									
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
General fund (1)										
Nonspendable	\$ 7,531,652	\$ 5,097,413	\$ 5,119,956	\$ 5,060,518	\$ 5,080,455	\$ 5,060,197	\$ 4,979,031	\$ 4,970,862	\$ 4,956,220	\$ 4,470,167
Assigned	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Unassigned	27,110,368	31,620,258	33,583,402	38,798,433	40,356,037	38,479,211	50,784,752	53,103,615	44,404,434	47,961,913
Total general fund	<u>\$ 38,642,020</u>	<u>\$ 40,717,671</u>	<u>\$ 42,703,358</u>	<u>\$ 47,858,951</u>	<u>\$ 47,936,492</u>	<u>\$ 46,039,408</u>	<u>\$ 58,263,783</u>	<u>\$ 60,574,477</u>	<u>\$ 51,860,654</u>	<u>\$ 54,932,080</u>
 All other governmental funds										
Nonspendable (2)	\$ 19,935	\$ 36,850	\$ 35,730	\$ 1,679,692	\$ 41,069	\$ 37,074	\$ 39,786	\$ 40,533	\$ 43,314	\$ 48,719
Restricted (3)	49,700,194	62,055,673	124,706,086	120,879,700	104,183,346	89,370,112	101,777,291	115,679,190	128,799,868	231,105,595
Committed	1,616,606	1,724,867	2,571,910	3,098,291	2,026,965	5,289,840	2,658,494	2,880,438	3,673,465	5,666,604
Assigned (4)	993,924	2,488,159	3,485,273	3,247,067	11,508,861	25,748,134	16,536,991	25,756,507	39,508,177	49,623,989
Unassigned	(942,680)	(65,227)	(343,103)	(75,705)	-	(174,674)	(2,225)	(2,096,150)	(2,862,282)	(9,456,389)
Total all other governmental funds	<u>\$ 51,387,979</u>	<u>\$ 66,240,322</u>	<u>\$ 130,455,896</u>	<u>\$ 128,829,045</u>	<u>\$ 117,760,241</u>	<u>\$ 120,270,486</u>	<u>\$ 121,010,337</u>	<u>\$ 142,260,518</u>	<u>\$ 169,162,542</u>	<u>\$ 276,988,518</u>
Total all governmental funds	<u>\$ 90,029,999</u>	<u>\$ 106,957,993</u>	<u>\$ 173,159,254</u>	<u>\$ 176,687,996</u>	<u>\$ 165,696,733</u>	<u>\$ 166,309,894</u>	<u>\$ 179,274,120</u>	<u>\$ 202,834,995</u>	<u>\$ 221,023,196</u>	<u>\$ 331,920,598</u>

(1) Information concerning the fund balance of the General Fund is included in Management's Discussion and Analysis.

(2) The increase in nonspendable during FY 2018 is due to the prepayment of interest in debt service funds.

(3) The decrease in restricted fund balance during FYs 2018 - 2020 was due to the expenditure of proceeds for capital projects. The increase in restricted fund balance during FYs 2016, 2017, and 2024 was due to the proceeds from the issuance of general obligation bonds. The increase in FYs 2021 - 2023 was due to the timing of the collection of grant and splost proceeds as compared to project expenditures.

(4) Assigned fund balance for other governmental funds is proceeds set aside from the Title Ad Valorem Tax to be used for capital projects.

Columbia County, Georgia
Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds
Last Ten Fiscal Years
(modified accrual basis of accounting)

	For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30,									
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Revenues										
Taxes	\$ 91,873,725	\$ 94,952,781	\$ 99,493,894	\$ 112,312,437	\$ 123,072,260	\$ 136,679,575	\$ 157,680,890	\$ 163,036,405	\$ 180,648,840	\$ 197,228,091
Licenses and permits	2,039,101	2,147,916	2,549,319	2,605,790	2,171,782	2,514,995	2,979,357	2,927,790	2,329,691	3,313,009
Charges for services	9,277,792	9,298,749	9,817,341	9,607,838	10,396,729	10,479,678	11,486,591	12,126,102	12,144,654	12,288,778
Intergovernmental	4,579,748	5,533,601	9,497,948	6,928,699	6,733,511	11,557,365	7,536,961	8,808,091	11,291,391	17,890,430
Fines and forfeitures	2,345,613	2,117,903	2,109,997	3,514,853	2,079,645	1,765,163	1,942,714	1,936,425	2,511,134	3,085,374
Investment income	621,100	781,692	815,550	1,407,524	2,777,789	2,025,169	287,874	(2,575,469)	4,217,438	10,695,864
Contributions and donations	512,765	729,735	1,859,863	246,236	262,368	468,799	247,795	269,237	473,616	437,156
Other	894,964	1,135,029	1,047,307	1,290,587	1,177,218	1,119,857	1,466,371	1,543,662	1,560,114	1,797,822
Total revenues	<u>112,144,808</u>	<u>116,697,406</u>	<u>127,191,219</u>	<u>137,913,964</u>	<u>148,671,302</u>	<u>166,610,601</u>	<u>183,628,553</u>	<u>188,072,243</u>	<u>215,176,878</u>	<u>246,736,524</u>
Expenditures										
General government	13,798,527	16,683,372	14,822,878	15,574,388	15,631,115	15,800,164	18,099,981	19,901,205	20,303,353	21,345,356
Judicial system	6,445,833	6,591,265	6,815,959	7,040,890	7,338,036	7,739,041	7,560,811	7,896,449	9,017,837	9,670,182
Public safety	40,143,916	41,142,284	42,944,957	44,678,766	46,920,589	49,347,291	50,709,104	56,296,424	57,337,342	58,225,347
Public works	11,852,353	12,224,399	14,195,994	14,390,234	14,405,121	14,238,191	15,539,981	16,699,465	17,931,151	19,129,730
Health and welfare	1,400,141	1,344,856	1,387,633	1,429,012	1,487,789	1,053,930	1,116,052	1,242,775	1,288,272	1,320,582
Culture and recreation	4,954,652	5,446,030	6,398,601	6,738,595	6,831,248	7,488,691	7,961,190	9,255,595	10,177,779	11,113,906
Housing and development	3,977,732	4,154,917	4,655,936	5,295,034	6,065,083	6,727,752	6,201,320	6,179,715	6,701,687	6,563,641
Intergovernmental	1,763,880	1,777,730	2,134,471	1,520,311	1,658,292	1,844,186	3,130,573	3,115,725	4,161,830	4,768,265
Capital outlay	11,829,256	11,481,034	21,240,451	23,245,494	41,580,622	49,282,095	49,781,407	33,383,823	50,450,435	70,094,105
Debt service										
Principal	11,900,000	12,865,000	28,200,000	9,560,000	11,980,000	6,520,000	6,785,000	7,319,099	8,686,686	5,392,360
Interest	2,935,025	2,870,597	2,439,709	3,750,622	5,474,664	3,548,897	3,281,930	2,062,037	2,252,240	1,626,875
Other	<u>2,200</u>	<u>350,805</u>	<u>1,010,932</u>	<u>2,050</u>	<u>1,950</u>	<u>2,950</u>	<u>3,350</u>	<u>511,100</u>	<u>2,700</u>	<u>928,718</u>
Total expenditures	<u>111,003,515</u>	<u>116,932,289</u>	<u>146,247,521</u>	<u>133,225,396</u>	<u>159,374,509</u>	<u>163,593,188</u>	<u>170,170,699</u>	<u>163,863,412</u>	<u>188,311,312</u>	<u>210,179,067</u>
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>1,141,293</u>	<u>(234,883)</u>	<u>(19,056,302)</u>	<u>4,688,568</u>	<u>(10,703,207)</u>	<u>3,017,413</u>	<u>13,457,854</u>	<u>24,208,831</u>	<u>26,865,566</u>	<u>36,557,457</u>
Other financing sources (uses)										
Sale of property	44,982	44,898	100,326	4,953	20,486	17,489	27,696	26,433	1,232	680,493
Leases and SBITAs issued	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,001,088	121,505	-
Transfers in	19,418,412	19,724,970	15,010,059	26,778,925	25,413,050	29,710,412	26,271,821	21,414,137	28,621,381	33,276,301
Transfers out	(19,643,933)	(20,026,858)	(15,174,509)	(27,943,704)	(25,721,592)	(32,132,153)	(26,793,145)	(23,613,280)	(37,421,483)	(34,614,542)
Payment to refunded bond escrow agent	-	-	(11,307,287)	-	-	-	-	(44,466,334)	-	-
Proceeds from refunding bonds	-	-	25,830,000	-	-	-	-	44,990,000	-	-
Proceeds from debt issuance	-	15,000,000	60,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	69,080,000
Proceeds from bond premium	-	2,419,867	10,798,974	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,917,693
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(180,539)</u>	<u>17,162,877</u>	<u>85,257,563</u>	<u>(1,159,826)</u>	<u>(288,056)</u>	<u>(2,404,252)</u>	<u>(493,628)</u>	<u>(647,956)</u>	<u>(8,677,365)</u>	<u>74,339,945</u>
Net change in fund balances	<u>\$ 960,754</u>	<u>\$ 16,927,994</u>	<u>\$ 66,201,261</u>	<u>\$ 3,528,742</u>	<u>\$ (10,991,263)</u>	<u>\$ 613,161</u>	<u>\$ 12,964,226</u>	<u>\$ 23,560,875</u>	<u>\$ 18,188,201</u>	<u>\$ 110,897,402</u>
Debt service as a percentage of noncapital expenditures	16.89%	15.09%	23.12%	11.97%	12.97%	8.97%	8.44%	7.36%	8.03%	5.05%

Note: 2017 debt service includes refunding of outstanding general obligation bonds in the amount of \$25.290 million.

Columbia County, Georgia
Assessed Value and Estimated Actual Value of Taxable Property
Last Ten Calendar Years

Calendar Year of Levy	Real Property (a)	Personal Property	Motor Vehicle	Mobile Homes	Public Utilities	Gross Digest	Less: Operating Exemptions	Taxable Assessed Value - M & O	Less: Debt Service Exemptions	Taxable Assessed Value - Bond	Total Direct Tax Rate	Estimated Actual Taxable Value	Taxable Assessed Value as a Percentage of Actual Value
2015	4,281,906,882	396,077,187	249,235,870	8,586,697	75,963,445	5,011,770,081	(443,109,297)	4,568,660,784	(405,347,297)	4,606,422,784	8.637	12,529,425,203	40%
2016	4,505,197,397	388,372,831	187,278,900	8,561,448	80,787,300	5,170,197,876	(458,018,672)	4,712,179,204	(420,744,672)	4,749,453,204	8.637	12,925,494,690	40%
2017	4,838,174,287	370,091,398	138,118,220	8,398,916	84,551,422	5,439,334,243	(437,441,827)	5,001,892,416	(399,973,827)	5,039,360,416	9.637	13,598,335,608	40%
2018	5,131,531,249	431,064,013	105,681,360	8,195,396	87,928,437	5,764,400,455	(510,159,750)	5,254,240,705	(472,455,750)	5,291,944,705	9.539	14,411,001,138	40%
2019	5,440,563,928	458,052,891	85,807,370	8,611,755	92,778,746	6,085,834,690	(549,160,657)	5,536,674,033	(511,348,739)	5,574,485,951	9.447	15,214,586,725	40%
2020	5,784,521,800	448,288,708	81,900,920	8,432,549	100,742,399	6,423,886,376	(559,905,315)	5,863,981,061	(522,358,232)	5,901,528,144	9.447	16,059,715,940	40%
2021	6,252,430,918	429,260,301	59,095,520	8,618,850	100,867,583	6,850,273,172	(597,157,207)	6,253,115,965	(551,797,630)	6,298,475,542	9.071	17,125,682,930	40%
2022	7,170,039,666	547,790,678	53,868,880	10,670,332	100,867,583	7,883,237,139	(656,260,523)	7,226,976,616	(610,461,744)	7,272,775,395	8.618	19,708,092,848	40%
2023	8,161,352,377	640,675,087	54,095,120	12,251,800	106,259,924	8,974,634,308	(770,634,520)	8,203,999,788	(724,485,967)	8,250,148,341	8.242	22,436,585,770	40%
2024	9,008,545,506	666,923,837	50,730,800	12,889,066	106,259,960	9,845,349,169	(954,111,410)	8,891,237,759	(905,695,324)	8,939,653,845	7.872	24,613,372,923	40%

SOURCE: Tax Commissioner's Office

NOTES:

Property in the County is reassessed annually. In accordance with Georgia law, property, other than timber, is assessed at approximately 40% of actual value. Estimated actual taxable value is calculated by dividing Gross Digest value by 40%. Tax rates are per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value. Taxes levied are based on a calendar year which does not coincide with the County's fiscal year.

(a) Includes assessed value of timber.

**Columbia County, Georgia
Property Tax Levies and Collections
Last Ten Calendar Years**

Calendar Year	Total Tax Levy	Collected within the Calendar Year of Levy		Collections in Subsequent Years	Total Collections to Date	
		Amount	Percentage of Levy		Amount	Percentage of Levy
2015	36,411,000	35,003,408	96.13%	1,407,459	36,410,867	100.00%
2016	38,318,377	37,099,467	96.82%	1,218,784	38,318,251	100.00%
2017	45,925,005	43,893,388	95.58%	2,031,476	45,924,864	100.00%
2018	47,966,066	47,084,573	98.16%	881,353	47,965,926	100.00%
2019	50,169,750	47,095,488	93.87%	3,073,293	50,168,780	100.00%
2020	53,216,470	49,343,902	92.72%	3,870,610	53,214,512	100.00%
2021	54,820,870	51,187,005	93.37%	3,631,922	54,818,927	100.00%
2022	60,124,975	55,918,239	93.00%	4,184,795	60,103,034	99.96%
2023	61,757,280	57,304,430	92.79%	4,334,549	61,638,979	99.81%
2024	67,281,991	61,965,207	92.10%	-	61,965,207	92.10%

SOURCE: Tax Commissioner's Office

- Notes:
- (1) Property tax levies are based on a calendar year which does not coincide with the County's fiscal year.
 - (2) Amounts include taxes levied and collected for the Columbia County Board of Commissioners:
County Bond, County Tax, & County Fire Tax.
 - (3) Total County Tax Collections are as of November 21, 2024.
 - (4) 2024 Property Tax due date was November 15, 2024.
 - (5) Total County Tax Levy is for real and personal property only and includes all adjustments made to original approved digest as of November 21, 2024.

Columbia County, Georgia
Property Tax Rates
Direct and Overlapping Governments
Last Ten Calendar Years
(rate per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value)

Calendar Year	County Direct Rates				Overlapping Rates					
	Operating	Debt Service	Fire	Total County Direct	School District			Cities		State
					Operating	Debt Service	Total School	Harlem Operating	Grovetown Operating	State of Georgia
2015	6.402	0.154	2.081	8.637	18.300	0.000	18.300	8.350	7.000	0.050
2016	6.349	0.207	2.081	8.637	18.300	0.000	18.300	9.350	6.900	0.000
2017	6.189	1.207	2.241	9.637	18.300	0.000	18.300	9.350	6.900	0.000
2018	6.091	1.207	2.241	9.539	18.300	0.000	18.300	9.350	8.000	0.000
2019	5.999	0.890	2.558	9.447	18.300	0.000	18.300	9.350	7.876	0.000
2020	5.999	0.840	2.608	9.447	18.300	0.000	18.300	9.350	7.620	0.000
2021	5.683	0.780	2.608	9.071	18.100	0.000	18.100	9.350	7.620	0.000
2022	5.147	0.683	2.788	8.618	17.350	0.000	17.350	9.350	7.620	0.000
2023	4.895	0.559	2.788	8.242	17.200	0.000	17.200	9.350	7.620	0.000
2024	4.568	0.516	2.788	7.872	17.100	0.000	17.100	9.350	7.313	0.000

SOURCE: Tax Commissioner's Office

- NOTES: (1) County fire millage rate applies only to property located within the unincorporated areas of the County (i.e., does not apply to County property located within the geographic boundaries of the cities). Rates for debt service are adjusted each year based on that year's debt service requirements.
- (2) Overlapping rates are those of local, county, and state governments that apply to property owners within Columbia County, Georgia. Not all overlapping rates apply to County property owners; for example, the city tax rates apply only to County property owners whose property is located within that city's geographic boundaries.
- (3) Property tax levies are based on a calendar year which does not coincide with the County's fiscal year.

**Columbia County, Georgia
Principal Property Tax Payers
Current Year and Nine Years Ago**

TAXPAYER	2024			2015		
	Taxable Assessed Value	Rank	Percentage of Total Taxable Assessed Value	Taxable Assessed Value	Rank	Percentage of Total Taxable Assessed Value
AMAZON.COM SERVICES LLC	\$ 109,982,758	1	1.24%	\$ -		0.00%
GEORGIA POWER CO	71,945,608	2	0.81%	48,119,522	1	1.05%
JOHN DEERE	32,046,566	3	0.36%	39,399,381	2	0.86%
GEORGIA IRON WORKS	28,964,533	4	0.33%	11,584,917	7	0.25%
RK RIVERSTONE DST	24,282,012	5	0.27%	-		0.00%
SPYGLASS - AUGUSTA LLC	23,920,355	6	0.27%	-		0.00%
POLLARD LAND COMPANY	23,390,043	7	0.26%	14,623,510	5	0.32%
GRAND OAK RIVER ISLAND LLC	22,987,519	8	0.26%	-		0.00%
LCS BRANDON WILDE LLC	22,150,000	9	0.25%	-		0.00%
CLUB CAR LLC	21,324,523	10	0.24%	10,242,953	8	0.22%
WAL-MART				23,311,325	3	0.51%
QUAD GRAPHICS				17,172,198	4	0.38%
KRG EVANS MULLINS LLC				12,327,343	6	0.27%
AVR AUGUSTA LLC				9,875,661	9	0.22%
BELL SOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS				9,474,335	10	0.21%
Total	\$ 380,993,917		4.29%	\$ 196,131,145		4.29%
Total taxable assessed value	\$ 8,891,237,759			\$ 4,568,660,784		

SOURCE: Tax Commissioner's Office

**Columbia County, Georgia
Taxable Sales by Category
Last Ten Calendar Years
(in thousands)**

Calendar Year	<u>Accommodations</u>	<u>Auto</u>	<u>Construction</u>	<u>Food Service Drinking Establishments</u>	<u>General Merchandise</u>	<u>Home Furnishings/ Appliances</u>	<u>Manufacturing</u>	<u>Retail</u>	<u>Utility</u>	<u>Wholesale</u>	<u>Other Services</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total Direct Sales Tax Rate</u>
2014	11,830	54,853	13,197	401,927	314,804	202,253	103,042	230,181	158,178	233,594	173,472	1,897,331	2%
2015	11,748	61,298	14,040	417,083	332,502	209,445	107,927	231,770	165,155	205,261	177,958	1,934,189	2%
2016	14,162	65,198	10,658	438,191	297,225	227,202	117,209	233,988	158,605	195,275	224,505	1,982,220	2%
2017	17,320	68,583	10,911	458,446	306,664	237,930	112,350	242,355	151,960	201,233	222,517	2,030,267	2%
2018	18,184	72,372	8,626	467,925	317,656	244,229	101,238	259,144	160,767	219,419	281,916	2,151,477	2%
2019	16,978	78,079	11,780	496,532	395,223	245,358	111,299	291,064	169,858	244,899	282,898	2,343,966	2%
2020	13,749	86,648	26,939	553,319	659,749	296,292	132,453	422,351	168,149	227,620	301,768	2,889,037	2%
2021	19,648	98,379	27,832	634,051	479,720	327,217	172,179	545,894	176,588	286,270	346,262	3,114,040	2%
2022	23,299	112,920	15,453	689,722	505,597	353,520	174,427	633,551	189,338	339,393	376,914	3,414,133	2%
2023	23,542	118,404	13,263	710,937	522,519	316,531	166,340	604,902	207,735	358,525	462,096	3,504,794	2%

SOURCE: Georgia Department of Revenue

**Columbia County, Georgia
Sales Tax Rates
Direct and Overlapping Governments
Last Ten Calendar Years**

Calendar Year	County Direct Rates			Overlapping Rates		
	Local Option Sales Tax	Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax	Total County Direct	School District	State of Georgia	Regional Transportation Sales Tax
2014	1%	1%	2%	1%	4%	1%
2015	1%	1%	2%	1%	4%	1%
2016	1%	1%	2%	1%	4%	1%
2017	1%	1%	2%	1%	4%	1%
2018	1%	1%	2%	1%	4%	1%
2019	1%	1%	2%	1%	4%	1%
2020	1%	1%	2%	1%	4%	1%
2021	1%	1%	2%	1%	4%	1%
2022	1%	1%	2%	1%	4%	1%
2023	1%	1%	2%	1%	4%	1%

NOTES: (1) The Cities of Harlem and Grovetown entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the County for the distribution of the proceeds of the 1% Local Options Sales Tax for the period of January 2023 through December 2032. A Certificate of Distribution has been filed with the Georgia Department of Revenue. Proceeds of the 1% LOST shall be distributed as follows: County, 86.50%; Harlem, 2.50%; Grovetown, 11.00%.

(2) The Cities of Harlem and Grovetown entered into intergovernmental agreements with the County for the distribution of proceeds from the 1% Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax for the period of January 2023 through December 2028. The County shall receive the first \$28.114 million of the SPLOST proceeds and then shall distribute from the remaining proceeds received by the County an amount equal to 3.0% to the City of Harlem and amount equal to 10.0% to the City of Grovetown.

Columbia County, Georgia
Sales Tax Revenue Payers by Industry
Current Year and Nine Years Ago

	2024				2015			
	Number of Filers	Percentage of Total	Tax Liability	Percentage of Total	Number of Filers	Percentage of Total	Tax Liability	Percentage of Total
Food Services	not available	not available	\$ 5,697,943	20.61%	not available	not available	\$ 4,170,831	21.56%
General Merchandise	not available	not available	3,956,366	14.31%	not available	not available	3,325,024	17.19%
Automotive	not available	not available	853,661	3.09%	not available	not available	612,983	3.17%
Home Furnishings	not available	not available	2,632,546	9.52%	not available	not available	2,094,453	10.83%
Building Materials	not available	not available	100,565	0.36%	not available	not available	140,399	0.73%
Miscellaneous Services	not available	not available	1,934,510	7.00%	not available	not available	1,369,686	7.08%
Manufacturers	not available	not available	1,407,192	5.09%	not available	not available	1,079,268	5.58%
Utilities	not available	not available	1,878,334	6.80%	not available	not available	1,651,546	8.54%
Wholesale	not available	not available	2,818,125	10.20%	not available	not available	2,052,613	10.61%
Other	not available	not available	6,362,584	23.02%	not available	not available	2,845,081	14.71%
Total			<u>\$ 27,641,825</u>	<u>100.00%</u>			<u>\$ 19,341,885</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

SOURCE: Georgia Department of Revenue

NOTES:

1. Due to confidentiality issues, the names of the ten largest revenue payers are not available. The categories presented are intended to provide alternative information regarding the sources of the County's revenue.
2. Calendar year 2024 is for the months of January through September.
3. The Georgia Department of Revenue could not provide the number of filers within each industry category. An attempt will be made to obtain this information for future years.

**Columbia County, Georgia
Ratios of Outstanding Debt by Type
Last Ten Fiscal Years**

Fiscal Year	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total Primary Government	Percentage of Personal Income(a)	Per Capita(a)
	General Obligation Bonds	Leases/SBITAs	Water/Sewer Revenue Bonds	Leases/SBITAs			
2015	52,869,951	2,526,731	79,020,581	-	134,417,263	2.25%	965
2016	56,684,125	2,198,868	75,471,784	-	134,354,777	2.11%	933
2017	113,055,929	2,813,370	73,444,190	-	189,313,489	2.80%	1,284
2018	102,653,497	2,741,229	69,923,215	-	175,317,941	2.41%	1,157
2019	89,831,065	2,098,362	66,100,202	-	158,029,629	2.07%	1,024
2020	82,468,633	1,442,557	61,814,979	-	145,726,169	1.82%	930
2021	74,841,201	773,400	57,312,708	-	132,927,309	1.52%	852
2022	67,740,846	1,070,660	52,630,437	49,346	121,491,289	1.31%	761
2023	59,067,662	401,560	47,773,166	59,328	107,301,716	1.12%	661
2024	128,365,804	591,492	39,670,895	12,988	168,641,179	1.68%	1,021

Note: Details regarding the County's outstanding debt can be found in the notes to the financial statements.

(a) See Schedule of Demographic and Economic Statistics for personal income and population data.

Columbia County, Georgia
Ratios of General Bonded Debt Outstanding and Legal Debt Margin
Last Ten Fiscal Years

Fiscal Year	General Obligation Bonds	Resources Restricted to Repaying Principal	Net General Obligation Bonds	Percentage of Estimated Actual Taxable Value of Property(a)	Per Capita(b)	Legal Debt Limit(c)	Total Debt Applicable To Debt Limit	Legal Debt Margin(d)	Total Debt Applicable to Debt Limit as Percentage of Debt Limit
2015	52,869,951	9,001,370	43,868,581	0.35%	315	460,642,278	43,868,581	416,773,697	9.52%
2016	56,684,125	9,805,370	46,878,755	0.36%	325	474,945,320	46,878,755	428,066,565	9.87%
2017	113,055,929	3,084,684	109,971,245	0.81%	746	503,936,042	109,971,245	393,964,797	21.82%
2018	102,653,497	3,138,745	99,514,752	0.69%	657	529,194,471	99,514,752	429,679,719	18.80%
2019	89,831,065	3,500,985	86,330,080	0.57%	560	557,448,595	86,330,080	471,118,515	15.49%
2020	82,468,633	3,335,383	79,133,250	0.49%	505	590,152,814	79,133,250	511,019,564	13.41%
2021	74,841,201	3,669,083	71,172,118	0.42%	456	629,847,554	71,172,118	558,675,436	11.30%
2022	67,740,846	4,891,032	62,849,814	0.32%	394	727,277,540	62,849,814	664,427,726	8.64%
2023	59,067,662	49,160	59,018,502	0.26%	363	825,014,834	59,018,502	765,996,332	7.15%
2024	128,365,804	160,897	128,204,907	0.52%	776	893,965,385	128,204,907	765,760,478	14.34%

Note: Details regarding the County's outstanding debt can be found in the notes to the financial statements.

(a) See Schedule of Assessed Value and Estimated Actual Value of Taxable Property for property value data.

(b) See Schedule of Demographic and Economic Statistics for population data.

(c) State finance statutes limit the County's outstanding general debt to no more than 10% of the net assessed value of property applicable to debt service.

(d) The legal debt margin is the County's available borrowing authority under state finance statutes and is calculated by subtracting the total debt applicable to the legal debt limit from the legal debt limit.

Legal Debt Margin Calculation for Fiscal Year 2024

Taxable assessed value - Bond Digest	\$ 8,939,653,845
Legal debt limit - 10%	893,965,385
Debt applicable to debt limit	128,204,907
Legal debt margin	<u>\$ 765,760,478</u>

Columbia County, Georgia
Direct and Overlapping Governmental Activities Debt
As of June 30, 2022

<u>Governmental Unit</u>	<u>Debt Outstanding</u>	<u>Estimated Percentage Applicable(b)</u>	<u>Estimated Share of Overlapping Debt</u>
Columbia County Board of Education (a)	\$ 146,195,000	100%	<u>\$ 146,195,000</u>
Subtotal, overlapping debt			146,195,000
Columbia County direct debt			128,957,296
Total direct and overlapping debt			<u><u>\$ 275,152,296</u></u>

(a) Data provided by Columbia County Board of Education Finance Office. Debt repaid with education special purpose local option sales tax.

(b) The percentage of overlapping debt applicable is based on the share of taxable sales for sales taxes. Since the Columbia County Board of Education and the Columbia County government occupy the same geographic boundaries and all taxable sales are equally applied to both the BOE and the County in determining sales tax distributions, the overlap percentage is 100%.

(c) The Cities of Harlem and Grovetown have no outstanding governmental activity debt.

Note: Overlapping governments are those that coincide, at least in part, with the geographic boundaries of the County. This schedule estimates the portion of the outstanding debt of those overlapping governments that is borne by residents and businesses of Columbia County, Georgia. This process recognizes that, when considering the government's ability to issue and repay long-term debt, the entire debt burden borne by residents and businesses should be taken into account. However, this does not imply that every taxpayer is a resident, and therefore responsible for repaying the debt of each overlapping government.

**Columbia County, Georgia
Pledged-Revenue Coverage
Last Ten Fiscal Years**

Fiscal Year	Water and Sewerage Revenue Bonds					
	Operating Revenues	Less: Operating Expenses	Net Available Revenue	Debt Service		Coverage
				Principal	Interest	
2015	32,798,409	17,073,709	15,724,700	3,050,000	3,339,082	2.46
2016	35,373,521	18,462,444	16,911,077	3,175,000	3,208,930	2.65
2017	36,305,066	18,238,734	18,066,332	3,140,000	3,113,878	2.89
2018	35,524,304	19,405,909	16,118,395	3,260,000	1,977,553	3.08
2019	36,963,189	19,647,351	17,315,838	3,750,000	1,863,347	3.08
2020	38,685,790	21,921,570	16,764,220	3,950,000	1,987,627	2.82
2021	39,681,491	21,139,850	18,541,641	3,800,000	2,456,794	2.96
2022	40,604,530	23,047,086	17,557,444	3,980,000	2,262,035	2.81
2023	39,223,479	25,346,340	13,877,139	4,155,000	2,091,911	2.22
2024	44,643,368	28,873,917	15,769,451	7,400,000	1,946,488	1.69

Notes:

Details regarding the County's outstanding debt can be found in the notes to the financial statements.

Operating expenses do not include interest, depreciation, or amortization expense. Operating revenues include interest earned on operating funds and lease revenue.

**Columbia County, Georgia
Demographic and Economic Statistics
Last Ten Calendar Years**

Calendar Year	Population	Personal Income (amounts in thousands)	Per Capita Personal Income	School Enrollment	Unemployment Rate
2014	139,257	5,976,392	42,916	25,973	5.80%
2015	144,052	6,374,345	44,250	26,756	5.10%
2016	147,450	6,769,192	45,908	27,138	4.70%
2017	151,579	7,277,164	48,009	27,748	4.20%
2018	154,291	7,633,192	49,473	28,321	3.50%
2019	156,714	8,021,273	51,184	28,328	3.10%
2020	156,010	8,766,766	56,194	28,717	4.20%
2021	159,639	9,297,756	58,242	29,052	2.70%
2022	162,419	9,564,735	58,889	28,882	2.80%
2023	165,162	10,042,972	60,807	28,638	2.60%

Sources: Georgia Department of Labor
School enrollment provided by Columbia County Board of Education as of August 26, 2024.

**Columbia County, Georgia
Principal Employers
Current Year and Nine Years Ago**

Industry	2024			2015		
	Employees	Rank	Percentage of Total County Employment	Employees	Rank	Percentage of Total County Employment
Retail Trade	6,754	1	17.24%	5,047	1	16.75%
Accommodation and Food Services	5,613	2	14.33%	3,737	2	12.40%
Educational Services	4,847	3	12.37%	3,673	3	12.19%
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,793	4	12.23%	3,378	4	11.21%
Manufacturing	3,212	5	8.20%	2,722	5	9.03%
Administrative and Support and Waste Manageme	3,142	6	8.02%	2,427	6	8.05%
Construction	3,040	7	7.76%	2,045	7	6.79%
Public Administration	1,884	8	4.81%	1,375	9	4.56%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	1,489	9	3.80%	1,080	10	3.58%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Servi	1,441	10	3.68%	1529	8	5.07%
Finance and Insurance	677	11	1.73%	998	11	3.31%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	620	12	1.58%	337	16	1.12%
Transportation and Warehousing	540	13	1.38%	0	0	0.00%
Wholesale Trade	539	14	1.38%	512	13	1.70%
Information	303	15	0.77%	355	15	1.18%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	285	16	0.73%	548	12	1.82%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	128	17	0.33%	372	14	1.23%
Total	39,179		100.33%	30,135		100.00%

Source: Georgia Department of Labor

Note: Due to confidentiality issues, the number of employees of specific employers cannot be obtained. The categories presented are intended to provide alternative information regarding the County's employment base.

Columbia County, Georgia
Full-time Equivalent County Government Positions by Function
Last Ten Fiscal Years

Function	Full-time Equivalent Positions as of June 30,									
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
General government	148	140	145	142	146	143	147	149	150	152
Judicial system	69	68	70	70	72	70	97	110	114	113
Public safety	551	551	563	563	591	595	604	610	622	629
Public works	133	141	139	161	152	163	176	184	195	201
Health and welfare	15	16	16	16	12	12	12	12	11	11
Culture and recreation	86	95	101	101	117	120	121	123	131	134
Housing and development	51	56	57	57	57	59	60	68	69	66
Water and sewer	132	144	155	155	160	168	177	183	191	200
Storm water	31	36	37	40	48	47	51	51	51	51
Solid waste management	8	7	11	11	12	7	7	7	7	7
Rental facilities	8	7	7	7	7	8	14	15	15	16
Communications utility	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
Total	<u>1236</u>	<u>1265</u>	<u>1306</u>	<u>1328</u>	<u>1381</u>	<u>1399</u>	<u>1473</u>	<u>1520</u>	<u>1565</u>	<u>1589</u>

Source: Columbia County Human Resources Office

**Columbia County, Georgia
Operating Indicators by Function
Last Ten Fiscal Years**

	For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30,									
Function	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
General government										
Number of Registered Voters	92,182	96,682	94,457	102,307	109,938	111,652	120,858	119,360	125,065	123,836
Personal Property Accounts	12,477	12,941	14,917	16,909	12,738	11,900	13,184	12,668	13,055	13,136
Judicial system										
Number of Gun Permits	2,987	4,085	3,842	3,953	3,509	4,114	7,388	3,907	2,737	2,526
Number of Marriage Licenses	1,074	1,351	1,779	1,745	1,672	1,729	1,704	1,795	1,683	1,707
Public safety										
Animal Adoptions	989	1002	1192	1,324	1,329	800	752	792	991	1251
Number of Prisoners Processed	3,587	3,568	3,789	4,040	4,444	3,404	2,602	3,111	4,759	5,788
Public works										
Potholes Repaired	519	747	479	580	655	669	674	641	644	652
Road Signs Replaced	202	234	278	316	443	646	804	424	344	240
Health and welfare										
Home Delivered Meals	37,459	32,508	31,264	31,547	29,948	28,522	15,423	31,778	43,276	35,572
Congregate Meals Served	8,190	6,450	9,633	10,474	9,060	5,933	1,268	7,845	10,158	11,215
Culture and recreation										
Library Book Circulation	551,924	554,074	565,697	571,553	642,259	408,325	315,777	618,399	740,801	576,577
Library Collection Size	209,252	181,700	190,066	186,991	194,346	233,553	211,180	212,855	220,677	226,517
Recreation Youth Sports Participation	4,295	4,958	6,329	5,288	5,065	6,413	4,866	7,563	8,295	8,905
Housing and development										
Number of Single Family Building Permits	1,252	1,043	1,064	867	705	832	984	956	631	675
Number of Burn Permits	12,173	12,919	10,600	11,399	10,627	12,037	12,400	135	162	127
Water										
Daily Water Treatment Production Capacity in gallons	53,900,000	53,900,000	53,900,000	53,900,000	53,900,000	53,900,000	53,900,000	53,900,000	54,000,000	54,000,000
Number of Accounts	42,945	43,461	44,814	45,741	46,646	47,508	48,548	52,390	53,043	55,010
Sewer										
Maximum Daily Capacity of Treatment Plant in gallons	12,400,000	12,400,000	12,400,000	12,400,000	12,400,000	12,400,000	12,400,000	12,650,000	13,000,000	13,000,000
Number of Accounts	35,320	35,934	36,863	37,879	38,669	39,397	40,237	42,725	43,209	53,910
Solid waste management										
Number of Ground Water Monitoring Wells	35	36	36	40	38	39	39	39	39	40

Source: Various County departments

Columbia County, Georgia
Capital Asset Statistics by Function
Last Ten Fiscal Years

<u>Function</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
General government										
County office buildings	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Public safety										
Patrol vehicles	207	215	223	239	262	270	283	269	284	289
Fire stations	17	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	15
Public works										
Miles of County maintained roads	729	729	729	729	806	812	814	816	812	824
Miles of road resurfacing	7.16	7.03	3.67	4.5	1.3	7.5	42.48	22.9	23	32
Health and welfare										
Transit operating vans	9	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Culture and recreation										
Park acreage	1,413	1463	1463	1463	1463	1528	1528	1528	1537	1537
Parks	12	12	12	12	12	14	14	14	15	15
Community centers	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Water and sewer										
Donated subdivisions	29	34	26	21	18	30	17	15	16	14
Water treatment plants	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Waste water treatment plants	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
Storm water										
Donated subdivisions	25	32	20	16	9	12	12	14	10	3
Solid waste management										
Authorized vehicles and heavy equipment	7	9	6	5	5	6	6	6	6	6

Source: Various County departments

Note: No capital asset indicators are available for the judicial system and housing and development.

REVENUE BONDS DISCLOSURE

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
Water and Sewerage Revenue Bonds
Continuing Disclosure

Water and Sewer Rates

The following water and sewer rates have been in effect since July 1, 2023.

Residential Rates					
Water			Sewer		
water tap size <= 1"			levelized winter billing		
Amount		Per 1,000		Per 1,000	
<u>in gallons</u>	<u>Base</u>	<u>gallons</u>	<u>Base</u>	<u>gallons</u>	
< 10,000	\$ 12.31	\$ 2.42	\$ 15.67	\$ 2.74	
≥ 10,000	\$ 12.31	3.36			
≥ 20,000	\$ 12.31	4.89			
≥ 40,000	\$ 12.31	6.64			

Commercial Rates					
Water			Sewer		
Water Tap Size	Base	Per 1,000	Base	Per 1,000	
		<u>gallons</u>		<u>gallons</u>	
3/4 & 1.0"	\$ 21.00	\$ 2.44	\$ 25.27	\$ 2.78	
1.5"	47.24	\$ 2.44	56.87	\$ 2.78	
2.0"	83.79	\$ 2.44	101.07	\$ 2.78	
3.0"	188.98	\$ 2.44	227.39	\$ 2.78	
4.0"	336.00	\$ 2.44	404.31	\$ 2.78	
6.0"	755.16	\$ 2.44	914.74	\$ 2.78	
8.0"	1,347.04	\$ 2.44	1,539.54	\$ 2.78	

Source: Columbia County Water and Sewer Services Division.

Tap and Connection Charges

Tap Categories	
A	Developer installs main & taps
B	County installed taps
*Columbia County does not install Commercial Taps. The developer must hire a licensed utility contractor to install the tap.	

Residential Tap Fees			
Size	Category	Water	Sewer
3/4"	A	\$1,250	\$1,000
	B	\$2,750	\$4,750
1"	A	\$1,500	\$1,000
	B	\$3,000	\$4,750
1 1/2"	A	\$3,500	\$1,500
	B	\$4,500	\$5,250
2"	A	\$4,000	\$2,500
	B	\$5,500	\$5,750

Commercial Tap Fees			
Size	Category	Water	Sewer
3/4"	A	\$715	\$1,000
1"	A	\$1,250	\$1,800
1 1/2"	A	\$4,500	\$6,800
2"	A	\$8,000	\$13,000
3"	A	\$18,000	\$30,000
4"	A	\$35,000	\$55,000
6" Standard Meter	A	\$75,000	\$120,000
6" Domestic/Fire Line	A	\$80,000	\$120,000
8" Standard Meter	A	\$140,000	\$230,000
8" Domestic/Fire Line	A	\$145,000	\$230,000

Source: Columbia County Water and Sewer Services Division.

Top Ten Customers

The following table shows the ten largest users of the System and the revenues derived from such customers for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

Top Ten Customers			
<u>User</u>	<u>Business</u>	<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>% of Total Operating Revenues</u>
City of Grovetown	Municipality	\$754,926	1.72%
Columbia County Board of Education	Education	361,926	0.82%
Columbia County Board of Commissioners	Government	286,960	0.65%
Brandon Wilde	Retirement Community	137,017	0.31%
Shenandoah Ridge	Apartment Complex	104,139	0.24%
BSFR Prop Management	Rental Properties	97,214	0.22%
Graybul Lullwater	Apartment Complex	92,069	0.21%
Michelson Realty LLC	Apartment Complex	88,530	0.20%
CX Station at Brighton Lease Company, LLC	Apartment Complex	87,963	0.20%
Lakeside on Riverwatch	Apartment Complex	86,246	0.20%
		<u>\$2,096,990</u>	<u>4.76%</u>

⁽¹⁾ Based upon total fiscal year 2024 operating revenues of \$43,944,754.
Source: Columbia County Water and Sewer Services Division.

Total Customers

Water and Sewerage Customers

<u>Year</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Sewer</u>
2020	47,508	39,397
2021	48,548	40,237
2022	52,390	42,725
2023	53,043	43,209
2024	53,759	43,807

The total number of accounts as of June 30, 2024, was 53,789, consisting of water only, sewer only, and water/sewer accounts.

Source: Columbia County Water and Sewer Services Division.

Historical Water and Wastewater Demand

Set forth below are water and wastewater demand statistics for the past four calendar years and the six months ended June 30, 2024.

<u>Plant</u>		<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Blanchard	Avg Flow MGD	13.73	14.88	16.30	10.42	13.38
	Max Flow MGD	25.98	27.96	33.06	26.08	33.23
Clark's Hill	Avg Flow MGD	2.49	2.16	2.34	2.03	2.12
	Max Flow MGD	3.28	2.88	6.14	2.72	3.48
Total	Avg Flow MGD	16.22	17.04	18.64	12.45	15.5
	Max Flow MGD	29.26	30.84	39.20	28.80	36.71

Wastewater Demand

<u>Plant</u>		<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Reed Creek	Avg Flow MGD	4.14	3.55	3.22	3.79	3.55
	Max Flow MGD	7.19	6.38	7.53	10.19	7.51
Crawford Creek	Avg Flow MGD	1.05	1.00	0.93	0.99	0.99
	Max Flow MGD	1.39	1.19	1.21	1.33	1.49
Little River	Avg Flow MGD	5.42	5.02	4.42	4.96	4.89
	Max Flow MGD	6.17	5.59	8.11	9.77	8.46
Kiokee Creek	Avg Flow MGD	0.037	0.070	0.11	0.11	0.1
	Max Flow MGD	0.050	0.083	0.19	0.27	0.19
Harlem	Avg Flow MGD	N/A	0.23	0.21	0.23	0.22
	Max Flow MGD	N/A	0.27	0.45	0.79	0.41
Total	Avg Flow MGD	10.65	9.87	8.89	10.08	9.75
	Max Flow MGD	14.80	13.51	17.49	22.35	18.06

Source: Columbia County Water and Sewer Services Division.

Five Year Operating History

Set forth below is a historical, comparative summary of the operating results of the System for the past five fiscal years. For more detailed information regarding the financial results and condition of the System, see the audited financial statements of the County for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, included in the financial section of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The information in the following table for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2020 through 2023 has been extracted from previous audited financial statements of the County.

COLUMBIA COUNTY WATER AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM Summary of Operating Results Fiscal Years Ended June 30

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Operating revenue					
Charges for services	\$ 36,126,152	\$ 37,205,472	\$ 37,840,294	\$ 37,242,608	\$ 40,953,252
Tap fees	1,800,252	2,009,886	2,217,038	1,479,683	2,991,502
Other	187,777	66,620	143,308	8,936	-
Total operating revenue	<u>38,114,181</u>	<u>39,281,978</u>	<u>40,200,640</u>	<u>38,731,227</u>	<u>43,944,754</u>
Operating expenses					
Operating expenses	21,921,570	21,139,850	23,047,086	25,346,340	28,873,917
Depreciation/amortization	11,694,615	11,889,195	12,466,130	12,818,850	13,068,277
Total operating expenses	<u>33,616,185</u>	<u>33,029,045</u>	<u>35,513,216</u>	<u>38,165,190</u>	<u>41,942,194</u>
Operating income	<u>4,497,996</u>	<u>6,252,933</u>	<u>4,687,424</u>	<u>566,037</u>	<u>2,002,560</u>
Non-operating revenues/(expenses)					
Interest income	1,083,065	(289,199)	(2,507,670)	(398,899)	1,325,419
Interest expense	(1,401,542)	(1,837,684)	(1,655,183)	(1,477,160)	(1,261,301)
Lease revenue	-	-	66,741	61,394	59,082
Gain on sale of capital assets	3,282	220	964	-	284,715
Total non-operating revenues/(expenses)	<u>(315,195)</u>	<u>(2,126,663)</u>	<u>(4,095,148)</u>	<u>(1,814,665)</u>	<u>407,915</u>
Income before contributions/transfers	<u>4,182,801</u>	<u>4,126,270</u>	<u>592,276</u>	<u>(1,248,628)</u>	<u>2,410,475</u>
Contributions/transfers					
Capital contributions	6,839,794	5,406,098	4,833,348	7,560,221	3,432,516
Net transfers	-	(66,825)	196,444	585,005	808,429
Total contributions/transfers	<u>6,839,794</u>	<u>5,339,273</u>	<u>5,029,792</u>	<u>8,145,226</u>	<u>4,240,945</u>
Net income/change in net position	<u>\$ 11,022,595</u>	<u>\$ 9,465,543</u>	<u>\$ 5,622,068</u>	<u>\$ 6,896,598</u>	<u>\$ 6,651,420</u>

Historical Debt Service Coverage

The following table shows the historical debt service coverage of the System for the past five fiscal years.

	Fiscal Year Ended June 30				
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Net income/change in net position	\$ 11,022,595	\$ 9,465,543	\$ 5,622,068	\$ 6,896,598	\$ 6,651,420
Plus:					
Interest expense	1,401,542	1,837,684	1,655,183	1,477,160	1,261,301
Depreciation/amortization	11,694,615	11,889,195	12,466,130	12,818,850	13,068,277
	<u>13,096,157</u>	<u>13,726,879</u>	<u>14,121,313</u>	<u>14,296,010</u>	<u>14,329,578</u>
Less:					
Changes in FV of investments	511,456	(688,712)	(2,844,819)	(829,757)	685,887
Gain on sale of capital assets	3,282	220	964	-	284,715
Capital contributions	6,839,794	5,406,098	4,833,348	7,560,221	3,432,516
Net transfers	-	(66,825)	196,444	585,005	808,429
	<u>7,354,532</u>	<u>4,650,781</u>	<u>2,185,937</u>	<u>7,315,469</u>	<u>5,211,547</u>
Net income available for debt service (1)	<u>16,764,220</u>	<u>18,541,641</u>	<u>17,557,444</u>	<u>13,877,139</u>	<u>15,769,451</u>
Total annual revenue bond debt service (2)	<u>\$ 5,937,627</u>	<u>\$ 6,256,794</u>	<u>\$ 6,242,035</u>	<u>\$ 6,246,911</u>	<u>\$ 9,346,488</u>
Historical debt service coverage	2.82	2.96	2.81	2.22	1.69

(1) Net income available for debt service, per the Master Bond Resolution, excludes the sale of capital assets, unrealized gains or losses from investments, and earnings on construction funds.

(2) The final payment on the 2014 revenue bond due on 6/1/2025 in the amount of \$3,045,000 was paid during fiscal year 2024.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS DISCLOSURE

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
General Obligation Bonds
Continuing Disclosure

Sales and Use Tax

Pursuant to an election held in the County in 2022, the County authorized the levy and collection of a special purpose local option sales and use tax, which commenced on January 1, 2023, for a period of time of six years. The County entered into intergovernmental agreements with the Cities of Harlem and Grovetown, Georgia. Pursuant to these agreements, the County shall receive the first \$28.114 million of the Sales and Use Tax proceeds. After that amount is collected by the County, the County shall remit 3.0% and 10.0% of the remaining proceeds of the Sales and Use Tax to Harlem and Grovetown, respectively. The amounts remitted to the cities will not be available to pay debt service on the bonds. Set forth below are historical collections of the Existing Sales and Use Tax for the past five calendar years. These historical collections are indicative of anticipated collections of the Sales and Use Tax; however, no assurance can be made that future collections will equal or exceed past collections of the Existing Sales and Use Tax.

<u>Calendar Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
2020(1)	\$ 29,397,657	35.51%
2021	\$ 31,357,554	6.67%
2022	\$ 34,233,504	9.17%
2023	\$ 35,190,701	2.80%
2024(2)	\$ 27,058,646	-23.11%

(1) Includes disbursement from GA DOR audit of previous years.

(2) Nine months of collections.

Tax Levies and Collection

The Columbia County Tax Commissioner collects taxes which have been levied by the State of Georgia, the County, the Columbia County School District and the Cities of Grovetown and Harlem. Tax bills are normally mailed in September and may be paid without interest or penalty through November 15th of each year. However, whenever the tax bills are mailed a taxpayer has 60 days to pay. After the due date, interest at the rate of 1% per month (or any portion thereof) and a penalty of 10% per annum (after 90 days) are added.

<u>Calendar Year</u>	<u>Total Tax Levy</u>	<u>Collected within the Calendar Year of Levy</u>		<u>Collections in Subsequent Years</u>	<u>Total Collections to Date</u>	
		<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percentage of Levy</u>		<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percentage of Levy</u>
2020	53,216,470	49,343,902	92.72%	3,870,610	53,214,512	100.00%
2021	54,820,870	51,187,005	93.37%	3,631,922	54,818,927	100.00%
2022	60,124,975	55,918,239	93.00%	4,184,795	60,103,034	99.96%
2023	61,757,280	57,304,430	92.79%	4,334,549	61,638,979	99.81%
2024	67,281,991	61,965,207	92.10%	-	61,965,207	92.10%

(1) Includes all taxes levied by the Columbia County Board of Commissioners only.

(2) As of November 21, 2024.

Source: Columbia County Tax Commissioner.

Historical Property Tax Data

The following table presents the assessed value (40% of fair market value, except timber which is 100% of fair market value) of taxable property within the County for the last five calendar years.

Calendar Year of Levy	Real & Personal Property (3)	Motor Vehicle	Mobile Homes	Public Utilities	Gross Digest	Less: Operating Exemptions	Maintenance & Operations Tax Digest (2)	Less: Debt Service Exemptions	General Obligation Bond Tax Digest (1)	Estimated Actual Taxable Value
2020	6,232,810,508	81,900,920	8,432,549	100,742,399	6,423,886,376	(559,905,315)	5,863,981,061	(522,358,232)	5,901,528,144	16,059,715,940
2021	6,681,691,219	59,095,520	8,618,850	100,867,583	6,850,273,172	(597,157,207)	6,253,115,965	(551,797,630)	6,298,475,542	17,125,682,930
2022	7,717,830,344	53,868,880	10,670,332	100,867,583	7,883,237,139	(656,260,523)	7,226,976,616	(610,461,744)	7,272,775,395	19,708,092,848
2023	8,802,027,464	54,095,120	12,251,800	106,259,924	8,974,634,308	(770,634,520)	8,203,999,788	(724,485,967)	8,250,148,341	22,436,585,770
2024	9,675,469,343	50,730,800	12,889,066	106,259,960	9,845,349,169	(954,111,410)	8,891,237,759	(905,695,324)	8,939,653,845	24,613,372,923

⁽¹⁾Total assessed value, after deducting exemptions, for purposes of levying tax for County's general obligation bonds.

⁽²⁾Total assessed value, after deducting exemptions, for purposes of levying tax for the support and maintenance of the County.

⁽³⁾Includes assessed value of timber.

Source: Columbia County Tax Commissioner.

Tax Rates - Mills

Set forth below is information concerning the rate of levy of property taxes per \$1,000 of assessed value (millage rates) of the County for the past five calendar years.

Calendar Year	County Direct Rates				Overlapping Rates					
					School District			Cities		State
	Operating	Debt Service	Fire	Total County Direct	Operating	Debt Service	Total School	Harlem Operating	Grovetown Operating	State of Georgia
2020	5.999	0.840	2.608	9.447	18.300	0.000	18.300	9.350	7.620	0.000
2021	5.683	0.780	2.608	9.071	18.100	0.000	18.100	9.350	7.620	0.000
2022	5.147	0.683	2.788	8.618	17.350	0.000	17.350	9.350	7.620	0.000
2023	4.895	0.559	2.788	8.242	17.200	0.000	17.200	9.350	7.620	0.000
2024	4.568	0.516	2.788	7.872	17.100	0.000	17.100	9.350	7.313	0.000

(1) Fire Tax applies to unincorporated areas only.

Source: Columbia County Tax Commissioner.

Principal Taxpayers

Set forth below are the ten largest taxpayers of the County in 2024. No independent investigation has been made of, and consequently no representation can be made as to, the financial condition of any of the taxpayers listed below or that such taxpayers will continue to maintain their status as major taxpayers in the County. Taxes levied are for maintenance and operations only.

Taxpayer	Assessed Valuation	Taxes Levied	Percentage of Total Taxable Assessed Value
1. Amazon.Com Services LLC	\$ 109,982,758	\$ 502,401	1.24%
2. Georgia Power	71,945,608	328,648	0.81%
3. John Deere Commercial Products	32,046,566	146,389	0.36%
4. Georgia Iron Works	28,964,533	132,310	0.33%
5. RK Riverstone DST	24,282,012	110,920	0.27%
6. Spyglass-Augusta LLC	23,920,355	109,268	0.27%
7. Pollard Land Company	23,390,043	106,846	0.26%
8. Grand Oak River Island LLC	22,987,519	105,007	0.26%
9. LCS Brandon Wilde LLC	22,150,000	101,181	0.25%
10. Club Car LLC	21,324,523	97,410	0.24%
	<u>\$ 380,993,917</u>	<u>\$ 1,740,381</u>	<u>4.29%</u>
Total taxable assessed value	<u>\$ 8,891,237,759</u>		

Source: Columbia County Tax Commissioner.

Summary of County Indebtedness by Category

Set forth below is information concerning the outstanding tax-supported debt of the County as of June 30, 2024.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount Issued</u>	<u>Amount Outstanding</u>
General obligation bonds:		
Series 2016A	14,400,000	-
Series 2017	60,000,000	8,300,000
Series 2022	44,990,000	43,640,000
Series 2024 PFA	69,080,000	69,080,000
Bond issuance premiums	-	7,345,804
Total	<u>\$ 188,470,000</u>	<u>\$ 128,365,804</u>

Debt Limitation

The State of Georgia limits the amount of general obligation debt that a unit of government can issue to 10% of the net assessed value of taxable property located within that government's boundaries. The legal debt limit for the County, as set forth in the table below, is \$894.0 million and the legal debt margin is \$765.8 million.

Computation of Legal Debt Margin

Taxable (net) assessed value - Bond Digest - as of January 1, 2024	<u>\$ 8,939,653,845</u>
Legal debt limit - 10%	893,965,385
Debt applicable to debt limit, less resources restricted to repaying principal	<u>(128,204,907)</u>
Legal debt margin	<u>\$ 765,760,478</u>

Five Year General Fund Operating History.

Set forth below is a historical, comparative summary of the revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance of the County's General Fund for the past five fiscal years. For more detailed information regarding the financial results, see the audited financial statements of the County for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, included in the financial section of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The information in the following table for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2020 through 2023 has been extracted from previous audited financial statements of the County.

	Fiscal Years Ended June 30				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Revenues:					
Taxes - Property	\$ 46,092,568	\$ 50,058,820	\$ 50,345,794	\$ 52,056,696	\$ 54,826,831
Taxes - Sales	21,458,947	27,783,634	28,531,303	29,755,131	31,320,621
Taxes - Other	2,807,545	3,038,528	3,203,354	3,266,007	3,276,946
Licenses and Permits	455,413	473,005	530,569	482,995	513,285
Charges for Services	5,015,256	5,817,765	5,975,029	5,893,712	6,333,799
Intergovernmental Revenue	3,646,688	3,354,473	2,771,689	2,916,236	3,414,496
Fines and Forfeitures	1,431,713	1,620,384	1,481,997	1,619,941	1,990,306
Investment Income	898,415	31,997	(2,949,220)	352,811	2,897,697
Contributions and donations	530	-	-	-	-
Other Income	1,059,271	1,326,552	1,393,539	1,421,283	1,626,296
Total Revenues	<u>82,866,346</u>	<u>93,505,158</u>	<u>91,284,054</u>	<u>97,764,812</u>	<u>106,200,277</u>
Expenditures:					
Current:					
General Government	15,800,164	18,070,666	18,872,457	19,724,907	20,397,721
Judicial	7,517,025	7,343,826	7,417,184	7,741,688	8,431,244
Public Safety	27,850,390	30,173,615	32,051,778	34,251,601	35,543,869
Public Works	5,176,855	5,519,726	6,120,668	6,635,369	6,911,219
Health and Welfare	1,053,930	1,116,052	1,242,775	1,288,272	1,320,582
Culture and Recreation	5,906,781	6,170,542	7,031,787	7,633,364	8,427,593
Housing and Development	4,228,965	3,632,536	3,744,674	3,998,752	4,027,493
Debt Service	-	-	78,576	90,560	88,601
Total Expenditures	<u>67,534,110</u>	<u>72,026,963</u>	<u>76,559,899</u>	<u>81,364,513</u>	<u>85,148,322</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	15,332,236	21,478,195	14,724,155	16,400,299	21,051,955
Other Financing Sources (Uses)					
Sale of Property	17,489	27,696	26,433	1,232	10,683
Leases/SBITAs Issued	-	-	461,638	30,150	-
Transfers Out	(17,446,809)	(9,481,516)	(13,101,532)	(27,039,714)	(18,191,212)
Transfers In	200,000	200,000	200,000	1,894,210	200,000
Total Other Finance Sources (Uses)	<u>(17,229,320)</u>	<u>(9,253,820)</u>	<u>(12,413,461)</u>	<u>(25,114,122)</u>	<u>(17,980,529)</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	(1,897,084)	12,224,375	2,310,694	(8,713,823)	3,071,426
Fund Balance, Beginning	47,936,492	46,039,408	58,263,783	60,574,477	51,860,654
Fund Balance, Ending	<u>\$ 46,039,408</u>	<u>\$ 58,263,783</u>	<u>\$ 60,574,477</u>	<u>\$ 51,860,654</u>	<u>\$ 54,932,080</u>

Current Year General Fund Budget

Set forth below is a summary of the County's General Fund budget adopted for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, and the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, prepared in conformity with GAAP as applied to governmental units. The budgets for fiscal year 2024 and 2025 are based upon certain assumptions and estimates of the County's management regarding future events, transactions, and circumstances. Realizations of the results projected in the budgets will depend upon implementation by management of policies and procedures consistent with the assumptions. Accordingly, the actual results achieved could materially vary from those projected in the budget shown below.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
<i>Sources:</i>		
Taxes - property	\$ 51,078,999	\$ 54,947,068
Taxes - sales	29,293,304	30,350,233
Taxes - other	3,105,000	3,105,000
Licenses and permits	475,000	500,000
Charges for services	5,375,000	5,550,000
Intergovernmental revenue	2,700,765	2,973,971
Fines and forfeitures	1,448,500	1,458,500
Investment income	300,000	300,000
Other income	1,199,396	1,259,496
Transfers in	200,000	200,000
Total sources	<u>\$ 95,175,964</u>	<u>\$ 100,644,268</u>
<i>Uses:</i>		
General government	\$ 26,448,326	\$ 29,776,890
Judicial	8,351,989	9,256,528
Public safety	35,032,265	37,733,446
Public works	6,957,197	7,551,334
Health and welfare	1,283,002	1,338,165
Culture and recreation	7,690,484	9,001,466
Housing and development	4,071,175	4,880,539
Transfers out	5,341,526	1,105,900
Total uses	<u>\$ 95,175,964</u>	<u>\$ 100,644,268</u>

SINGLE AUDIT SECTION

**Report of Independent Auditor on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on
Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements
Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards**

To the Columbia County Board of Commissioners
Columbia County, Georgia

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Columbia County, Georgia (the "County") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated December 13, 2024.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the County's internal control over financial reporting ("internal control") as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or, significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the County's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Augusta, Georgia
December 13, 2024

Report of Independent Auditor on Compliance for Each Major Program and on Internal Control over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance

To the Columbia County Board of Commissioners
Columbia County, Georgia

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Columbia County, Georgia's (the "County") compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on the County's major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2024. The County's major federal program is identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the County complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* ("Uniform Guidance"). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the County and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the County's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the County's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the County's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and, therefore, is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the County's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the County's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the County's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control over Compliance

A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Cherry Bekaert LLP

Augusta, Georgia
December 13, 2024

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Federal Grantor	Federal Assistance Listing Number	Pass-Through Number	Federal Expenditures
Pass-Through Grantor Cluster			
Federal Program Title			
Program Description			
<u>U.S. Department of Justice</u>			
Passed through the State of Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council			
Federal Victims of Crime Act Assistance Grant Program			
Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA)	16.575	15POVC-22-GG-00691-A / C22-8-076	\$ 28,526
Bureau of Justice Assistance			
Project Safe Neighborhoods	16.609	Z19-8-002	26,900
Total U.S. Department of Justice			55,426
<u>U.S. Department of Transportation</u>			
Passed through Georgia Department of Transportation			
Highway Planning and Construction Cluster			
Highway Planning and Construction			
Hereford Farm Road Widening	20.205	PI 0012865	179,162
Hardy McManus	20.205	PI 0013704	3,561,677
Total Highway Planning and Construction Cluster			3,740,839
Formula Grants for Rural Areas			
UMTA/Transit Operating Assistance	20.509	GA-2022-011-00	213,645
Total U.S. Department of Transportation			3,954,484
<u>U.S. Department of the Treasury</u>			
Passed through State of Georgia Governor's Office			
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)			
COVID - 19 ARPA Judicial Grant - 2023	21.027	2023_ARPA_3Y009	448,962
COVID - 19 ARPA Judicial Grant - 2024-2025	21.027	2024-25_ARPA_3Y009	249,703
COVID - 19 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)	21.027	Unknown	4,559,373
Total Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds			5,258,038
Total U.S. Department of the Treasury			5,258,038
<u>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</u>			
Passed through CSRA Regional Commission			
Social Services Block Grant			
DHR/Coordinated Transportation	93.667	2086-00-25 8202.0039	43,080
Passed through Criminal Justice Coordinating Council			
Block Grants for Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse			
Accountability Courts	93.959	J23-8-132	358,050
Total U.S. Department of Health and Human Services			401,130
<u>U.S. Department of Homeland Security</u>			
Passed through Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency			
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)			
Hazard Mitigation Grant - HMGP Generators	97.039	HMGP 4338-0035	152,566
Emergency Management Performance Grants	97.042	EMA-2022-EO-00005-S01 / OEM22-038	40,938
Total U.S. Department of Homeland Security			193,504
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			\$ 9,862,582

See notes to schedule of the expenditures of federal awards.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Note 1—Basis of presentation

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards (the "Schedule") includes the federal award activity of Columbia County, Georgia (the "County") under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2024. The information in this Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements of Federal Awards* ("Uniform Guidance").

Note 2—Summary of significant accounting policies

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement. Pass-through entity identifying numbers are presented where available.

Note 3—Indirect cost rate

The County has elected not to use the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate allowed under Uniform Guidance.

Note 4—Subrecipients

The County did not provide federal awards to subrecipients during the year ended June 30, 2024.

Note 5—Noncash awards

The County did not receive noncash federal awards during the year ended June 30, 2024.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Section I—Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued on whether the financial statements were prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP: Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

- Material weakness(es) identified? _____ yes X no
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified? _____ yes X none reported
- Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? _____ yes X no

Federal Awards

Internal control over major federal programs:

- Material weakness(es) identified? _____ yes X no
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified? _____ yes X none reported

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major programs: Unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR Section 200.516(a) of the Uniform Guidance _____ yes X no

Identification of Major Programs

The program tested as major a program of Columbia County, Georgia included:

<u>ALN #</u>	<u>Name of Federal Program</u>
21.027	Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

The dollar threshold for Type A programs was \$750,000.

The County did qualify as a low-risk auditee.

Section II—Findings in Relation to the Audit of the Financial Statements

None reported.

Section III—Federal Awards Findings and Questioned Costs

None reported.

COMPLIANCE SECTION

Report of Independent Accountant

To the Columbia County Board of Commissioners
Columbia County, Georgia

We have examined management's assertion included in the accompanying Certification 9-1-1 Expenditures regarding the Columbia County, Georgia's (the "County") compliance during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 with the requirement to expend 9-1-1 funds in compliance with the expenditure requirements of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Section 46-5-134. County's management is responsible for the County's compliance with this requirement. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assertions about the County's compliance based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with the attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether management's assertions are in accordance with the criteria, in all material respects. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about management's assertions. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement of management's assertion whether due to fraud or error. We believe the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement.

In our opinion, management's assertion that the County complied with the aforementioned requirement during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 is fairly stated, in all material respects.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than the specified parties.



Augusta, Georgia
December 13, 2024

Columbia County Board of Commissioners

Certification of 9-1-1 Expenditures

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Line No.	O.C.G.A. Reference:	
1		Indicate UCOA Fund Type Used to Account for 9-1-1 Activity (choose one): <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Special Revenue Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Enterprise Fund </div>
2	46-5-134(e)	Expenditures (UCOA Activity 3800) Wireless service supplier cost recovery charges (identify each supplier individually on lines below - attach list, if necessary) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 80%;"></div> <div style="text-align: right; width: 15%;">\$</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 5%; text-align: center;">-</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 80%;"></div> <div style="text-align: right; width: 15%;">\$</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 5%; text-align: center;">-</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 80%;"></div> <div style="text-align: right; width: 15%;">\$</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 5%; text-align: center;">-</div> </div>
3		Emergency telephone equipment, including necessary computer hardware, software, and data base provisioning, addressing, and nonrecurring costs of establishing a 9-1-1 system:
3a	46-5-134(f)(1)(A)	Lease costs \$ -
3b	46-5-134(f)(1)(A)	Purchase costs \$ 106,806
3c	46-5-134(f)(1)(A)	Maintenance costs \$ 678,807
4	46-5-134(f)(1)(B)	Rates associated with the service suppliers 9-1-1 service and other service suppliers recurring charges \$ 226,440
5		Employees hired by the local government solely for the operation and maintenance of the emergency 9-1-1 system and employees who work as directors as defined in O.C.G.A. §46-5-138.2
5a	46-5-134(f)(1)(C)	Salaries and wages \$ 1,439,072
5b	46-5-134(f)(1)(C)	Employee benefits \$ 420,716
6	46-5-134(f)(1)(D)	Cost of training of employees who work as dispatchers or directors \$ 11,583
7	46-5-134(f)(1)(E)	Office supplies of the public safety answering points used directly in providing emergency 9-1-1 system services \$ 26,470
8		Building used as a public safety answering point:
8a	46-5-134(f)(1)(F)	Lease costs \$ -
8b	46-5-134(f)(1)(F)	Purchase costs \$ -
9		Computer hardware and software used at a public safety answering point, including computer assisted dispatch systems and automatic vehicle location systems:
9a	46-5-134(f)(1)(G)	Lease costs \$ -
9b	46-5-134(f)(1)(G)	Purchase costs \$ -
9c	46-5-134(f)(1)(G)	Maintenance costs \$ -

Columbia County Board of Commissioners

Certification of 9-1-1 Expenditures

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Line No.		O.C.G.A. Reference:	
10	Supplies directly related to providing emergency 9-1-1 system services, including the cost of printing emergency 9-1-1 public education materials	46-5-134(f)(1)(H)	\$ -
11	Logging recorders used at a public safety answering point to record telephone and radio traffic:		
11a	Lease costs	46-5-134(f)(1)(I)	\$ -
11b	Purchase costs	46-5-134(f)(1)(I)	\$ -
11c	Maintenance costs	46-5-134(f)(1)(I)	\$ -
12	Insurance purchased to insure against risks and liability in the operation and maintenance of the 9-1-1 system on behalf of the local government or on behalf of employees hired by the local government solely for the operation and maintenance of the 9-1-1 system and employees who work as directors	46-5-134(f)(2)(B)(i)	\$ -
13	Mobile communications vehicle and equipment, if the primary purpose and designation of such vehicle is to function as a backup 9-1-1 system center		
13a	Lease costs	46-5-134(f)(2)(B)(ii)	\$ -
13b	Purchase costs	46-5-134(f)(2)(B)(ii)	\$ -
13c	Maintenance costs	46-5-134(f)(2)(B)(ii)	\$ 18,027
14	Allocation of indirect costs associated with supporting the 9-1-1 system center and operations as identified and outlined in an indirect cost allocation plan approved by the local governing authority that is consistent with the costs allocated within the local government to both governmental and business-type activities	46-5-134(f)(2)(B)(iii)	\$ -
15	Mobile public safety voice and data equipment, geo-targeted text messaging alert systems, or towers necessary to carry out the function of 9-1-1 system operations		
15a	Lease costs	46-5-134(f)(2)(B)(iv)	\$ -
15b	Purchase costs	46-5-134(f)(2)(B)(iv)	\$ -
15c	Maintenance costs	46-5-134(f)(2)(B)(iv)	\$ -
16	Public safety voice and data communications systems located in the 9-1-1 system facility that further the legislative intent of providing the highest level of emergency response service on a local, regional, and state-wide basis, including equipment and associated hardware and software that supports the use of public safety wireless voice and data communication systems		
16a	Lease costs	46-5-134(f)(2)(B)(v)	\$ -
16b	Purchase costs	46-5-134(f)(2)(B)(v)	\$ -
16c	Maintenance costs	46-5-134(f)(2)(B)(v)	\$ -

Columbia County Board of Commissioners

Certification of 9-1-1 Expenditures

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Line No.		O.C.G.A. Reference:
17	Other expenditures not included in Lines 2 through 16 above. Identify by object and purpose.	
	Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 4,048
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$
18	Total Expenditures (total of all amounts reported on Lines 2 through 17 above)	\$ 2,931,969

Certification of Local Government Officials

I have reviewed the information presented in this report and certify that it is accurate and correct. I further certify that the 9-1-1 funds were expended in compliance with the expenditure requirements specified in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCGA), Section 46-5-134. I understand that, in accordance with OCGA Section 46-5-134(m)(2), any local government which makes expenditures not in compliance with this Code section may be held liable for pro rata reimbursement to telephone and wireless telecommunications subscribers of amounts improperly expended. Further, the noncompliant local government shall be solely financially responsible for the reimbursement and for any costs associated with the reimbursement. Such reimbursement shall be accomplished by the service providers abating the imposition of the 9-1-1 charges and 9-1-1 wireless enhanced charges until such abatement equals the total amount of the rebate.

Signature of Chief Elected Official

Date

11/5/2024

Print Name of Chief Elected Official

DOUGLAS R. DUNCAN JR.

Title of Chief Elected Official

Chairman, Columbia County Board of Commissioners

Signature of Chief Financial Officer

Date

11.5.2024

Print Name of Chief Financial Officer

LEANNE C REECE