CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA

Annual Financial Report

For the year ended December 31, 2023

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
For the year ended December 31, 2023

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RUSHTON
ACCOUNTING & BUSINESS ADVISORS | CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Independent Auditor's Report

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council
City of Franklin Springs, 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 discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Franklin Springs, Georgia, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City of Franklin Springs, Georgia'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 discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Franklin Springs, Georgia, as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in the financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof, and the budgetary comparison of the General Fund for the year then ended in conformity 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 the City of Franklin Springs, Georgia and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

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 City of Franklin Springs, Georgia'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 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 City of Franklin Springs, Georgia'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 City of Franklin Springs, Georgia'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

The City of Franklin Springs, Georgia has not presented the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, 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. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the City of Franklin Springs, Georgia's basic financial statements. The combining and individual fund financial statements and schedules and the schedule of projects financed with special purpose local option sales tax 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 fund financial statements and schedules and the schedule of projects financed with special purpose local option sales tax are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

We also have previously audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States, the City of Franklin Springs, Georgia's basic financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022, which are not presented with the accompanying financial statements. In our report dated May 15, 2023, we expressed unmodified opinions on the respective financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information. That audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the City of Franklin Springs, Georgia's basic financial statements as a whole. The individual fund financial statements and schedules related to the 2022 basic financial statements are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The individual fund financial statements and schedules are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the 2022 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 2022 individual fund financial statements and schedules are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements from which they have been derived.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 11, 2024, on our consideration of the City of Franklin Springs, Georgia's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the 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 City of Franklin Springs, Georgia's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Rushton, LLC

Gainesville, Georgia
June 11, 2024

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BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
December 31, 2023

	Primary Government			Component Unit
	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total	Downtown Development Authority
ASSETS				
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 1,747,616	$ 156,200	$ 1,903,816	$ 0
Certificates of deposit	0	14,924	14,924	0
Receivables (net)				
Accounts	6,289	22,951	29,240	0
Taxes	103,046	0	103,046	0
Intergovernmental	27,333	0	27,333	0
Prepaid items	7,327	1,832	9,159	0
Property held for resale	0	0	0	1,438,180
Total current assets	1,891,611	195,907	2,087,518	1,438,180
Noncurrent assets				
Capital assets				
Non-depreciable	17,500	48,953	66,453	0
Depreciable (net)	1,088,298	553,949	1,642,247	0
Total noncurrent assets	1,105,798	602,902	1,708,700	0
Total assets	2,997,409	798,809	3,796,218	1,438,180
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Accounts payable	24,964	10,919	35,883	0
Accrued salaries	3,309	942	4,251	0
Compensated absences	7,216	1,890	9,106	0
Unearned revenue	2,731	251	2,982	0
Customer deposits payable	0	19,743	19,743	0
Notes payable	38,288	0	38,288	0
Total current liabilities	76,508	33,745	110,253	0
Noncurrent liabilities				
Notes payable	544,899	0	544,899	0
Total liabilities	621,407	33,745	655,152	0
NET POSITION				
Investment in capital assets	1,105,798	602,902	1,708,700	0
Restricted for:				
Public Safety	13,353	0	13,353	0
Public Works	33,982	0	33,982	0
Capital outlay	1,036,459	0	1,036,459	0
Unrestricted	186,410	162,162	348,572	1,438,180
Total net position	$ 2,376,002	$ 765,064	$ 3,141,066	$ 1,438,180

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the year ended December 31, 2023

FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS	Expenses	Program Revenues: Charges for Services	Program Revenues: Operating Grants and Contributions	Program Revenues: Capital Grants and Contributions	Net (Expense) Revenue
Primary government					
Governmental activities					
General Government	$ 380,983	$ 9,776	$ 0	$ 17,204	$ (354,003)
Public Safety	347,017	46,862	16,847	50,000	(233,308)
Public Works	131,883	49,340	0	196,899	114,356
Housing and Development	6,302	0	0	0	(6,302)
Interest on long-term debt	15,018	0	0	0	(15,018)
Total governmental activities	881,203	105,978	16,847	264,103	(494,275)
Business-type activities					
Water and Sewer	365,332	311,859	0	0	(53,473)
Total primary government	1,246,535	417,837	16,847	264,103	(547,748)
Component Unit					
Downtown Development Authority	0	0	0	0	0

	Primary Government: Governmental Activities	Primary Government: Business-Type Activities	Primary Government: Total	Downtown Development Authority
Change in net position				
Net (expense) revenue	$ (494,275)	$ (53,473)	$ (547,748)	$ 0
General revenues				
Taxes				
Property	140,265	0	140,265	0
Sales	312,884	0	312,884	0
Franchise	93,601	0	93,601	0
Insurance premium	102,451	0	102,451	0
Intangibles	1,798	0	1,798	0
Alcoholic beverage	9,109	0	9,109	0
Hotel/Motel	5,109	0	5,109	0
Occupational	12,951	0	12,951	0
Interest and investment earnings	152	0	152	0
Other	1,742	23,943	25,685	0
Transfers	(47,201)	47,201	0	0
Total general revenues and transfers	632,861	71,144	704,005	0
Change in net position	138,586	17,671	156,257	0
Net position - beginning	2,237,416	747,393	2,984,809	1,438,180
Net position - ending	$ 2,376,002	$ 765,064	$ 3,141,066	$ 1,438,180

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
December 31, 2023

	General	SPLOST	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 703,549	$ 1,026,228	$ 17,839	$ 1,747,616
Receivables (net)				
Accounts	6,289	0	0	6,289
Taxes	102,462	0	584	103,046
Intergovernmental	7,102	20,231	0	27,333
Prepaid items	7,327	0	0	7,327
Total assets	$ 826,729	$ 1,046,459	$ 18,423	$ 1,891,611
Liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances				
Liabilities				
Accounts payable	$ 14,964	$ 10,000	$ 0	$ 24,964
Payroll liabilities	3,309	0	0	3,309
Unearned revenue	2,731	0	0	2,731
Total liabilities	21,004	10,000	0	31,004
Deferred inflows of resources				
Unavailable revenue-property taxes	1,128	0	0	1,128
Fund balances				
Nonspendable:				
Prepaid items	7,327	0	0	7,327
Restricted for:				
Public Safety	0	0	13,353	13,353
Public Works	33,982	0	0	33,982
Capital outlay	0	1,036,459	0	1,036,459
Assigned for:				
Public Works	2,368	0	0	2,368
Housing and Development	0	0	5,070	5,070
Unassigned	760,920	0	0	760,920
Total fund balances	804,597	1,036,459	18,423	1,859,479
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances	$ 826,729	$ 1,046,459	$ 18,423	$ 1,891,611

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
December 31, 2023

Total fund balance - total governmental funds		$ 1,859,479
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:		
Some assets are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds. These are:		
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation		1,105,798
Long-term assets (receivables) are not available to pay current period expenditures and, therefore, are unavailable in the funds. These are:		
Property taxes		1,128
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and are not reported in the funds. These are:		
Notes payable	$ (583,187)	
Compensated absences	(7,216)	(590,403)
Net position of governmental activities		$ 2,376,002

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	General	SPLOST	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total
REVENUES				
Taxes	$ 674,083	$ 0	$ 5,109	$ 679,192
Licenses and permits	9,776	0	0	9,776
Fines, fees and forfeitures	41,780	0	4,950	46,730
Charges for services	49,472	0	0	49,472
Intergovernmental	33,992	236,562	0	270,554
Interest	152	10,338	0	10,490
Contributions	59	0	0	59
Other	1,742	0	0	1,742
Total revenues	811,056	246,900	10,059	1,068,015
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
General Government	398,445	0	0	398,445
Public Safety	254,813	0	5,700	260,513
Public Works	121,319	0	0	121,319
Housing and Development	0	0	6,302	6,302
Capital Outlay	0	62,591	0	62,591
Debt Service	52,433	0	0	52,433
Total expenditures	827,010	62,591	12,002	901,603
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(15,954)	184,309	(1,943)	166,412
Other financing sources (uses)				
Transfers out	0	(47,201)	0	(47,201)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over(under) expenditures and other financing uses	(15,954)	137,108	(1,943)	119,211
Fund balances, January 1	820,551	899,351	20,366	1,740,268
Fund balances, December 31	$ 804,597	$ 1,036,459	$ 18,423	$ 1,859,479

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the year ended December 31, 2023

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds		$ 119,211
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:		
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.		
Capital outlay	$ 98,778	
Depreciation	(114,551)	(15,773)
Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds. These include recognition of unavailable revenue.		(1,025)
The proceeds of debt issuance provide current financial resources to governmental funds, but issuing debt increases long-term liabilities in the statement of net position. Repayment of debt principal is an expenditure in governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net position. In addition, interest on long-term debt is not recognized in the governmental fund until due, but is recognized in the statement of activities as it accrues. Further, governmental funds report bond premiums when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are deferred and amortized in the statement of net position.		
Debt principal payments		37,415
Expenses reported in the statement of activities that do not require the use of current financial resources and are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.		
Compensated absences		(1,242)
Change in net position of governmental activities		$ 138,586

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET (GAAP) AND ACTUAL
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Budget			Variance with Final
	Original	Final	Actual	Budget
REVENUES				
Taxes	$ 568,393	$ 674,083	$ 674,083	$ 0
Licenses and permits	3,400	9,776	9,776	0
Fines, fees and forfeitures	35,055	41,780	41,780	0
Charges for services	40,735	46,377	49,472	3,095
Intergovernmental	34,382	34,382	33,992	(390)
Interest	0	0	152	152
Contributions	50	50	59	9
Other	5,200	5,200	1,742	(3,458)
Total revenues	687,215	811,648	811,056	(592)
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
General Government				
Governing Body	30,840	39,840	40,714	(874)
Administration	248,669	348,669	357,731	(9,062)
Public Safety				
Police Department	232,275	209,275	212,463	(3,188)
Fire Department	47,000	42,000	42,350	(350)
Public Works				
Highways and Streets	92,431	78,431	80,197	(1,766)
Sanitation	36,000	41,000	41,122	(122)
Debt Service				
General Government				
Administration	0	52,433	52,433	0
Total expenditures	687,215	811,648	827,010	(15,362)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	0	0	(15,954)	(15,954)
Fund balances, January	0	0	820,551	820,551
Fund balances, December 31	$ 0	$ 0	$ 804,597	$ 804,597

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
December 31, 2023

	Water and Sewer
ASSETS	
Current assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 156,200
Certificates of deposit	14,924
Accounts receivable (net)	22,951
Prepaid items	1,832
Total current assets	195,907
Noncurrent assets	
Capital assets	
Non-depreciable	48,953
Depreciable (net)	553,949
Total noncurrent assets	602,902
Total assets	798,809
LIABILITIES	
Current liabilities	
Accounts payable	10,919
Accrued salaries	942
Compensated absences	1,890
Unearned revenue	251
Customer deposits payable	19,743
Total liabilities	33,745
NET POSITION	
Investment in capital assets	602,902
Unrestricted	162,162
Total net position	$ 765,064

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Water and Sewer
OPERATING REVENUES	
Charges for sales and services	$ 311,859
Other	23,943
Total operating revenues	335,802
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Costs of sales and services	233,943
Personal services	86,202
Depreciation	45,187
Total operating expenses	365,332
Operating income (loss) before transfers	(29,530)
Transfers in (out)	
Transfers in	47,201
Change in net position	17,671
Net position, January 1	747,393
Net position, December 31	$ 765,064

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Water and Sewer
Cash flows from operating activities:	
Receipts from customers	$ 328,257
Payments to suppliers	(223,772)
Payments to employees	(87,106)
Other receipts	10,443
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	27,822
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:	
Receipts from other funds	47,201
Acquisition of capital assets	(21,891)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	53,132
Cash and cash equivalents, January 1	103,068
Cash and cash equivalents, December 31	$ 156,200
Reconciliation of operating income (loss) to net cash cash provided (used) by operating activities:	
Operating income (loss)	$ (29,530)
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:	
Depreciation expense	45,187
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	1,337
(Increase) decrease in prepaid items	1,258
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	8,914
Increase (decrease) in customer deposits payable	1,560
Increase (decrease) in payroll liabilities	(904)
Total adjustments	57,352
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	$ 27,822

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
December 31, 2023

	Municipal Court Custodial Fund
ASSETS	
Cash	$ 0
LIABILITIES	
Due to others	0
NET POSITION	
Restricted for individuals, organizations, and other governements	$ 0

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Municipal Court Custodial Fund
ADDITIONS	
Fines and forfeitures collected for other governments	$ 22,838
DEDUCTIONS	
Distributions of fines and forfeitures to other governments	22,838
Change in net position	0
Net position, January 1	0
Net position, December 31	$ 0

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

1. Description of Government Unit

The City of Franklin Springs incorporated under the laws of the State of Georgia in 1924. The City operates under a council/mayor form of government and provides the following services: public safety, street and sanitation, public improvements and general and administrative services. In addition, the City operates a public utility (water and sewer) for the incorporated and immediate surrounding areas.

The City is governed by an elected five-member council.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Description of Government-wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the primary government and its component units. All fiduciary activities are reported only in the fund financial statements. Governmental activities, which normally are supported by taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange transactions, are reported separately from business-type activities, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges to external customers for support. Likewise, the primary government is reported separately from certain legally separate component units for which the primary government is financially accountable.

B. Reporting Entity

Standards published by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) define the financial reporting entity as (a) the primary government, (b) organizations for which the primary government is financially responsible, and (c) other organizations for which the primary government is not accountable, but for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

B. Reporting Entity, continued

City of Franklin Springs Downtown Development Authority

The City of Franklin Springs Downtown Development Authority was established as a legally separate entity, which operates pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The City Council appoints the members of the Authority's Board of Directors. The Downtown Development Authority provides for the vitalization of the downtown area of the City of Franklin Springs.

The City of Franklin Springs Downtown Development Authority is reported in a separate column to emphasize that it is legally separate from the City. Individual financial statements are presented as part of the City's Annual Financial Report in the sections labeled "Component Unit". The City of Franklin Springs Downtown Development Authority has a December 31st year-end.

C. Basis of Presentation - Government-wide Financial Statements

While separate government-wide and fund financial statements are presented, they are interrelated. The governmental activities column incorporates data from governmental funds, while business-type activities incorporate data from the government's enterprise funds. Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements.

As discussed earlier, the government has one discretely presented component unit. While the Downtown Development Authority is not considered to be a major component unit, it would be reported in a separate column in the government-wide financial statements.

As a general rule, the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

D. Basis of Presentation - Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide information about the government's funds, including its fiduciary funds and blended component units. 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. Major individual governmental and enterprise funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

The City reports the following major governmental funds:

General Fund - The general operating fund of the City is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

SPLOST Capital Projects Fund – This fund is used to account for long-term capital projects financed by the passage of the special purpose local option sale tax.

The City reports the following major proprietary fund:

Water and Sewer Fund - This fund is used to account for activities connected with the development, operation and maintenance of water and sewer services in the City of Franklin Springs.

Additionally, the City reports the following fund types:

Governmental Fund Types

Special Revenue Funds – This fund type is used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally or donor restricted to expenditure for specified purposes.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

D. Basis of Presentation - Fund Financial Statements, continued

Fiduciary Fund Types

Custodial Funds – are fiduciary in nature and are accounted for using the full accrual basis of accounting. These funds are used to account for assets that are collected and held for other agencies. The City utilizes a custodial fund to account for the activity of the Municipal Court.

Component Unit

The City of Franklin Springs Downtown Development Authority is accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus and uses the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e. when they both become measurable and available).

During the course of operations, the government has activity between funds for various purposes. Any residual balances outstanding at year end are reported as due to/from other funds and advances to/from other funds. While these balances are reported in fund financial statements, certain eliminations are made in the preparation of the government-wide financial statements. Balances between the funds included in governmental activities (i.e., the governmental funds) are eliminated so that only the net amount is included as internal balances in the governmental activities column. Similarly, balances between the funds included in business-type activities (i.e., the enterprise funds) are eliminated so that only the net amount is included as internal balances in the business-type activities column.

Further, certain activity occurs during the year involving transfers of resources between funds. In fund financial statements these amounts are reported at gross amounts as transfers in/out. While reported in fund financial statements, certain eliminations are made in the preparation of the government-wide financial statements. Transfers between the funds included in governmental activities are eliminated so that only the net amount is included as transfers in the governmental activities column. Similarly, balances between the funds included in business-type activities are eliminated so that only the net amount is included as transfers in the business-type activities column.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

E. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The accounting and financial reporting treatment is determined by the applicable measurement focus and basis of accounting. Measurement focus indicates the type of resources being measured such as current financial resources or economic resources. The basis of accounting indicates the timing of transactions or events for recognition in the financial statements.

The government-wide 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 when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

The governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both 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 subsequent to year-end.

Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to compensated absences, and claims and judgments, are recorded only when payment is due. General capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Issuance of long-term debt and acquisitions under notes payable are reported as other financing sources.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

E. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting, continued

Property taxes, sales taxes, franchise taxes, licenses, and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. Entitlements are recorded as revenues when all eligibility requirements are met, including any time requirements, and the amount is received during the period or within the availability period for this revenue source (within 60 days of year-end). Expenditure-driven grants are recognized as revenue when the qualifying expenditures have been incurred and all other eligibility requirements have been met, and the amount is received during the period or within the availability period for this revenue source (within 60 days of year-end). All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the government.

The proprietary funds are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting.

F. Revenues and Expenditures/Expenses

Program revenues include: 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment, and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. All taxes, including those dedicated for specific purposes, and other internally dedicated resources are reported as general revenues rather than as program revenues.

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from non-operating 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 Water and Sewer Fund are charges to customers for sales and services. Operating expenses for enterprise funds and internal services 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 non-operating revenues and expenses.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

G. Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

Formal budgetary accounting is employed as a management control for the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, and Enterprise Funds. Capital Projects Funds are budgeted by the City Council when capital projects are approved. Annual operating budgets are adopted each fiscal year through approval by the Council. Each year about the middle of November, the City Clerk submits a proposed budget to the City Council for their review. Prior to adoption, a public hearing is held to receive comment from the citizenry on the proposed budget. This hearing is publicized in the local newspaper one week before the hearing, and the budget document is made available for public inspection during this week. After the public hearing, the budget is then revised by the City Council and the first reading of the proposed budget is made. At the next City Council meeting, the second reading of the proposed budget is made and the City Council votes to adopt the proposed budget. The annual operating budget is adopted no later than December 31 for the following year.

The annual budgets for the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds are prepared in accordance with the basis of accounting utilized by that fund. The budgets for the Enterprise Funds are adopted under a basis consistent with GAAP, except that depreciation, certain capital expenses, non-operating income and expense items are not considered. All unencumbered budget appropriations, except project budgets, lapse at the end of each year.

The legal level of budgetary control is the departmental level. Any increases in total appropriations of a department require approval and amendment of the budget by the City Council. Except as indicated on the major fund budgetary comparison statement, budget amounts included in this report are as amended as of December 31.

The City does not use the encumbrance system of accounting.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

H. Cash and Investments

Cash and cash equivalents, as reported in the statement of cash flows, includes amounts in demand deposits, amounts with fiscal agents and investments with an original maturity at three months or less. Investments are reported at fair value with accrued interest shown under a separate caption on the balance sheet. Reinvested interest on certain debt service and capital project investments is included in the investment accounts.

I. Intergovernmental Receivables

Receivables for state, federal, and local governments are recorded as revenue for the period of the allocation or as earned based on expenditures made for which reimbursement is due.

J. Prepaid Items

Payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond the current year are recorded as prepaid items.

K. Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment, and infrastructure assets (i.e., roads, bridges, sidewalks, and similar items), are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities columns in the government-wide financial statements.

GASB Statement No. 34 required the City to report and depreciate new infrastructure assets effective with the year ended December 31, 2004. Infrastructure assets include roads, bridges, underground pipe (other than related to utilities), traffic signals, etc. These infrastructure assets are likely to be the largest asset class of the City. Prior to January 1, 2007, neither their historical costs nor related depreciation had historically been reported in the financial statements. For entities the size of the City of Franklin Springs, retroactive reporting of infrastructure assets was not required.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

K. Capital Assets, continued

All capital assets are valued at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual historical cost is not available. Donated capital assets are valued at their acquisition value on the date donated.

Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the respective assets ranging as follows:

	Useful Life in Years	Capitalization Threshold
Buildings	40	$ 5,000
Distribution systems	40	$ 10,000
Roads – per lane mile	40	$ 50,000
Bridges and culverts	40	$ 20,000
Machinery and equipment	10	$ 5,000
Vehicles	5	$ 5,000
Furniture and fixtures	5	$ 5,000
Land improvements	15	$ 5,000
Intangibles	5	$ 5,000

All land will be valued and capitalized. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add value or materially extend the life of the asset are charged to operations as incurred. Costs of major additions and improvements are capitalized.

L. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, 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. At the end of the current year, the City had no deferred outflows of resources to report.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

L. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, continued

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, 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 government has only one type of item, which arises only under a modified accrual basis of accounting, that qualifies for reporting in this category. Accordingly, the item, unavailable revenue, is reported only in the governmental funds balance sheet. The governmental funds report unavailable revenues from property taxes. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period that the amounts become available.

M. Net Position Flow Assumption

Sometimes the government will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted (e.g., restricted bond or grant proceeds) and unrestricted resources. In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted – net position and unrestricted – net position in the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements, a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. It is the government's policy to consider restricted – net position to have been depleted before unrestricted – net position is applied.

N. Fund Balance Flow Assumption

Sometimes the government will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted and unrestricted resources (the total of committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance). In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance in the governmental fund financial statements a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. It is the government's policy to consider restricted fund balance to have been depleted before using any of the components of unrestricted fund balance. Further, when the components of unrestricted fund balance can be used for the same purpose, committed fund balance is depleted first, followed by assigned fund balance. Unassigned fund balance is applied last.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

O. Restricted Assets and Restricted Net Position

Restricted assets of the Enterprise Funds represent certain resources set aside for the repayment of revenue bonds because they are maintained in a separate bank account and their use is limited by applicable bond covenants.

Restricted net position is equal to the excess of the restricted assets funded from operations over the liabilities to be paid with restricted assets which are due in one year or less. Restricted assets exclude bond proceeds for calculation of reserve.

P. Fund Balances – Governmental Funds

The City of Franklin Springs implemented GASB No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, in 2011. In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report the following classifications of fund balance:

Nonspendable – includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not spendable in form or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. All amounts reported as nonspendable at year end by the City are nonspendable in form. The City has not reported any amounts that are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted – includes amounts restricted by external sources (creditors, laws of other governments, etc.) or by constitutional provision or enabling legislation.

Committed – includes amounts that can only be used for specific purposes. Committed fund balance is reported pursuant to resolutions passed by the City Council, the City of Franklin Springs's highest level of decision making authority, which include the language "committed for the purpose of". Commitments may be modified or rescinded only through adoption of a subsequent resolution, which shall refer to the original resolution by its number. A resolution committing amounts must be adopted prior to the end of the fiscal year; however, the amount to be committed may be determined within 60 days of fiscal year-end.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

P. Fund Balances – Governmental Funds, continued

Assigned – includes amounts that the City intends to use for a specific purpose, but do not meet the definition of restricted or committed fund balance. Under the City's adopted policy, amounts may be assigned by the Mayor, under the authorization of the City Council, through a written memorandum. Amounts appropriated to eliminate a projected deficit in the subsequent fiscal year's budget shall constitute assignments and are documented by adoption of the City's annual operating budget. Equity amounts reported in special revenue funds, capital project funds, debt service funds, or permanent funds not otherwise classified as nonspendable, restricted, or committed shall constitute assignments of fund balance.

Unassigned – includes amounts that do not fall into one of the above four categories. This classification represents fund balance that has not been assigned to other funds and that has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the general fund. The General Fund reports positive fund balance only. Negative unassigned fund balances may be report in all funds.

For the purposes of fund balance classification, the City considers restricted amounts spent first when an expenditure is incurred for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available. Furthermore, when an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted classifications of fund balance can be used, then committed amounts are spent first, followed by assigned amounts, and then unassigned amounts.

Q. Compensation for Future Absences

It is the City's policy to permit employees to accumulate earned but unused vacation benefits which will be paid to the employees upon separation from City service. Accumulated unpaid vacation pay amounts are accrued when incurred by the City in the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements. In governmental fund types, a liability is recorded only if the benefit has matured and is expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

R. Long-Term Obligations

In the government-wide financial statements, and proprietary fund types in the 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 straight-line method. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount. Issuance costs are expensed as incurred.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types, bond premiums and discounts, as well as issuance costs, are recognized during the current period. The face amount of debt issued is reported as an other financing source. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, even if withheld from the actual net proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures.

S. Capital Contributions

Federal, state and local government assistance in the form of grants that are permanent in nature and restricted for the construction or acquisition of specific property and equipment is recorded as an asset and as non-operating revenue.

T. Comparative Data and Reclassifications

Comparative total data of the prior period has been presented in the accompanying individual fund financial statements in order to provide an understanding of changes in the City's financial position and operations. Certain 2022 amounts have been reclassified to conform to the 2023 presentation.

3. Deposit and Investment Risk

Custodial Credit Risk – Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a financial institution failure, the City's deposits may not be returned. The City has no formal policy, but follows the State of Georgia requirement that all deposits be federally insured or fully collateralized. At December 31, 2023, the City had no uninsured, uncollateralized deposits.

Interest Rate Risk

The City does not have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

Credit Risk

State of Georgia law limits investments to include certificates of deposit, repurchase agreements, direct and agency obligations of the United States, obligations of the State of Georgia or other states, obligations of other political subdivisions of the State of Georgia, and pooled investment programs of the State of Georgia. The City has no investment policy that would further limit its investment choices. Investments are reported at fair value.

Concentration of Credit Risk

The City has no formal policy on the amount the City may invest in any one issuer.

Foreign currency risk

The City has no investments denominated in a foreign currency.

4. Accounts Receivable

Net accounts receivable at December 31, 2023 consist of the following:

Major Funds	
General Fund	$ 6,289
Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund	22,951
Total Primary Government	$ 29,240

5. Intergovernmental Receivables

Intergovernmental receivables at December 31, 2023 consist of the following:

Major Funds	
General Fund	$ 7,102
SPLOST Fund	20,231
Total Primary Government	$ 27,333

6. Taxes Receivable

Property Taxes

Property taxes receivable as of December 31, 2023 consist of property taxes for seven years as follows:

Year of Levy	Amount
2023	$ 4,986
2022	22
2021	10
2020	10
2019	17
2018	16
2017	0
	5,061
Less allowance for uncollectible	(107)
Total	$ 4,954

Property tax rates are set by the City Council each year and are limited by statutory or constitutional provision. Property values are assessed as of January 1st each year. Property taxes for the year 2023, based upon the assessments of January 1, 2023, were billed on August 22, 2023, and due on November 15, 2023. Tax liens are issued 90 days after the due date. The tax rate of 5.0 mils for 2023 was levied on August 10, 2023.

Other Taxes

$68,898 of franchise taxes, $584 of hotel/motel taxes, $27,999 of sales taxes, and $611 of alcohol excise tax are also included in taxes receivable.

7. Interfund Transfers

A summary of interfund transfers is as follows:

Transfer Out Fund	Transfer In Fund	Amount
SPLOST	Water and Sewer	$ 47,201

Interfund transfers were used to transfer revenues from the SPLOST Fund to the Water and Sewer Fund for the purchase of capital assets. Transfers are eliminated in the government-wide financial statements if the interfund transfer is within the governmental fund group or business-type fund group.

8. Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the primary government for the year ended December 31, 2023 was as follows:

	Balance 12/31/2022	Increases	Decreases	Balance 12/31/2023
Governmental activities				
Non-depreciable assets				
Land	$ 17,500	$ 0	$ 0	$ 17,500
Depreciable assets				
Buildings	1,633,531	0	0	1,633,531
Land improvements	95,807	0	0	95,807
Vehicles	1,110,791	84,253	0	1,195,044
Machinery and equipment	731,740	14,525	0	746,265
Furniture and fixtures	40,942	0	0	40,942
Total depreciable assets	3,612,811	98,778	0	3,711,589
Accumulated depreciation				
Buildings	(653,610)	(41,019)	0	(694,629)
Land improvements	(95,672)	(135)	0	(95,807)
Vehicles	(1,033,462)	(49,553)	0	(1,083,015)
Machinery and equipment	(685,054)	(23,844)	0	(708,898)
Furniture and fixtures	(40,942)	0	0	(40,942)
Total accumulated depreciation	(2,508,740)	(114,551)	0	(2,623,291)
Total depreciable assets, net	1,104,071	(15,773)	0	1,088,298
Governmental activities capital assets, net	$ 1,121,571	$ (15,773)	$ 0	$ 1,105,798
Business-type activities				
Non-depreciable assets				
Land	$ 33,153	$ 0	$ 0	$ 33,153
Construction in progress	0	15,800	0	15,800
Total non-depreciable assets	33,153	15,800	0	48,953
Depreciable assets				
Distibution system	1,920,459	0	0	1,920,459
Intangibles	5,727	0	0	5,727
Vehicles	44,800	0	0	44,800
Machinery and equipment	126,618	6,091	0	132,709
Buildings	12,000	0	0	12,000
Total depreciable assets	2,109,604	6,091	0	2,115,695
Accumulated depreciation				
Distibution system	(1,345,253)	(41,841)	0	(1,387,094)
Intangibles	(5,727)	0	0	(5,727)
Vehicles	(44,800)	0	0	(44,800)
Machinery and equipment	(120,704)	(3,046)	0	(123,750)
Buildings	(75)	(300)	0	(375)
Total accumulated depreciation	(1,516,559)	(45,187)	0	(1,561,746)
Total depreciable assets, net	593,045	(39,096)	0	553,949
Business-type activities capital assets, net	$ 626,198	$ (23,296)	$ 0	$ 602,902

8. Capital Assets (continued)

Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs as follows:

Primary Government	
Governmental activities	
General Government	$ 19,612
Public Safety	86,310
Public Works	8,629
Total depreciation expense for governmental activities	$ 114,551
Business-type activities	
Water and Sewer	$ 45,187

9. Long-Term Debt

Notes from Direct Borrowings

In January 2023, the City entered into a lending agreement with a financial institution for the purchase of land. The amount of the agreement was $653,625, interest at 2.5%, for a term of 5 years. The outstanding balance was $583,187 at year end. As security for the payments, the City has pledged the deed to the property purchased. Upon an event of default, all outstanding principal and interest may be declared immediately due and payable.

Annual debt service requirements to maturity for this note are as follows:

Year Ending December 31,	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	$ 38,288	$ 14,145	$ 52,433
2025	39,256	13,176	52,432
2026	40,249	12,183	52,432
2027	465,394	1,596	466,990
Totals	$ 583,187	$ 41,100	$ 624,287

10. Long-Term Liabilities

Changes in Long-Term Liabilities

The following is a summary of changes in long-term liabilities of the City for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Governmental activities					
Notes from direct borrowings	$ 620,602	$ 0	$ 37,415	$ 583,187	$ 38,288
Compensated absences	5,974	7,216	5,974	7,216	7,216
Total governmental activities	$ 626,576	$ 7,216	$ 43,389	$ 590,403	$ 45,504
Business-type activities					
Compensated absences	$ 2,794	$ 1,890	$ 2,794	$ 1,890	$ 1,890

Compensated absences are liquidated by those funds that have salary and wage expenditures. In prior years, long-term liabilities, such as compensated absences, of the governmental activities were liquidated in the General Fund.

Total interest incurred and expensed in the governmental activities for the current year was $15,018.

11. Net Investment in Capital Assets

The net investment in capital assets reported on the government-wide statement of net position is calculated as follows for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities
Cost of capital assets	$ 3,729,089	$ 2,164,648
Accumulated depreciation	(2,623,291)	(1,561,746)
Net investment in capital assets	$ 1,105,798	$ 602,902

12. Restricted, Committed, and Assigned Fund Balances

The following is a summary of restricted, committed, and assigned fund balances of the governmental funds for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023:

	General Fund	SPLOST Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total
Restricted for:				
Public Safety				
Police Department	$ 0	$ 0	$ 13,353	$ 13,353
Public Works				
Street Department	33,982	0	0	33,982
Capital projects	0	1,036,459	0	1,036,459
	$ 33,982	$ 1,036,459	$ 13,353	$ 1,083,794
Assigned to:				
Housing and Development				
Trade and tourism	$ 0	$ 0	$ 5,070	$ 5,070
Public Works				
Capital projects	2,368	0	0	2,368
	$ 2,368	$ 0	$ 5,070	$ 7,438

13. Hotel/Motel Lodging Tax

The City has levied a 3% lodging tax, in accordance with Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCGA) Section 48-13-51. A summary of the transactions for the year ending December 31, 2023 follows:

Lodging tax receipts	$ 5,109	
Disbursements to promote tourism, conventions, and trade shows	$ 6,302	123% of tax receipts

14. Joint Ventures

Under Georgia law, the City, in conjunction with other cities and counties in the northeast Georgia area, is a member of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission and is required to pay annual dues thereto. Membership in an RC is required by the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCGA) Section 50-8-34 which provides for the organizational structure of the RC in Georgia. The RC Board membership includes the chief elected official of each county and municipality of the area. OCGA 50-8-39.1 provides that the member governments are liable for any debts or obligations of an RC. Separate financial statements may be obtained from Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, PO Box 1720, Gainesville, GA 30503.

15. Risk Management

Material estimates have been made by management about the life of depreciated capital assets. Management has used a conservative approach on these estimates.

The City is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; injuries to employees; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters. The City has joined together with other municipalities in the state as part of the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency Property and Liability Insurance Fund and the Georgia Municipal Association Group Self-Insurance Workers Compensation Fund, a public entity risk pool currently operating as a common risk management and insurance program for member local governments.

As part of these risk pools, the City is obligated to pay all contributions and assessments as prescribed by the pools, to cooperate with the pool's agents 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 City is also obligated to allow the pool's agents and attorneys to represent the City in investigation, settlement discussions and all levels of litigation arising out of any claim made against the City 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 cost 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.

Settled claims in the past three years have not exceeded the coverages.

Management estimates liabilities for unpaid claims based on the probability of losses exceeding the occurrence limits and the reasonableness of estimating those losses. At December 31, 2023, the City has no losses that are probable or estimable and accordingly has not recognized any liability.

16. Contingencies

The City's legal counsel has stated that there are presently no determinable lawsuits.

17. New Accounting Standards

The City implemented GASB Statement No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*, effective for the City's current fiscal year. The requirements of this statement are effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2022. The implementation of this new standard had no impact on the City's net position.

The City implemented GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, effective for the City's current fiscal year. The requirements of this statement are effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2022. The implementation of this new standard had no impact on the City's net position.

The City implemented GASB Statement No. 99, *Omnibus 2022*, effective for the City's current fiscal year. The requirements of this statement are effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2022. The implementation of this new standard had no impact on the City's net position.

18. Subsequent Event

Management has evaluated subsequent events through May 15, 2023, the date the financial statements were available to be issued. No events have occurred during this period that would require adjustment to or disclosure in the accompanying financial statements.

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COMBINING STATEMENTS

Nonmajor Governmental Funds

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
December 31, 2023

	Special Revenue			Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
	American Rescue Plan Act	Hotel/Motel Tax	Technology Surcharge	
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 0	$ 4,486	$ 13,353	$ 17,839
Taxes receivable	0	584	0	584
Total assets	$ 0	$ 5,070	$ 13,353	$ 18,423
FUND BALANCES				
Restricted for Public Safety	$ 0	$ 0	$ 13,353	$ 13,353
Assigned for Housing and Development	0	5,070	0	5,070
Total fund balances	$ 0	$ 5,070	$ 13,353	$ 18,423

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Special Revenue			Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
	American Rescue Plan Act	Hotel/Motel Tax	Technology Surcharge	
REVENUES				
Taxes	$ 0	$ 5,109	$ 0	$ 5,109
Fees, fines, and forfeitures	0	0	4,950	4,950
Total revenues	0	5,109	4,950	10,059
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Housing and Development	0	6,302	0	6,302
Public Safety	0	0	5,700	5,700
Total expenditures	0	6,302	5,700	12,002
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	0	(1,193)	(750)	(1,943)
Fund balances, January 1	0	6,263	14,103	20,366
Fund balances, December 31	$ 0	$ 5,070	$ 13,353	$ 18,423

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GENERAL FUND

The general operating fund of the City is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
GENERAL FUND
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEETS
December 31, 2023 and 2022

ASSETS	**2023**	**2022**
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 703,549	$ 719,473
Receivables (net)		
Accounts	6,289	6,077
Taxes	102,462	98,064
Intergovernmental	7,102	9,610
Prepaid items	7,327	9,271
Total assets	$ 826,729	$ 842,495
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	$ 14,964	$ 14,087
Accrued salaries	3,309	3,621
Unearned revenue	2,731	2,083
Total liabilities	21,004	19,791
Deferred inflows of resources		
Unavailable revenue-property taxes	1,128	2,153
Fund balances		
Nonspendable:		
Prepaid items	7,327	9,271
Restricted for Public Works	33,982	65,351
Assigned for Public Works	2,368	2,368
Unassigned	760,920	743,561
Total fund balances	804,597	820,551
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances	$ 826,729	$ 842,495

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
GENERAL FUND
COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
REVENUES		
Taxes	$ 674,083	$ 647,565
Licenses and permits	9,776	4,220
Fines, fees and forfeitures	41,780	29,964
Charges for services	49,472	48,196
Intergovernmental	33,992	56,942
Interest	152	60
Contributions	59	0
Other	1,742	817
Total revenues	811,056	787,764
EXPENDITURES		
Current		
General Government	398,445	352,312
Public Safety	254,813	231,260
Public Works	121,319	183,447
Housing and Development	0	1,438,180
Debt Service	52,433	48,063
Total expenditures	827,010	2,253,262
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(15,954)	(1,465,498)
Other financing sources (uses)		
Transfers in (out)		
Water and Sewer Fund	0	100,552
American Rescue Plan Act Fund	0	222,594
Proceeds from issuance of debt	0	653,625
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	0	6,623
Total other financing sources (uses)	0	983,394
Net change in fund balances	(15,954)	(482,104)
Fund balances, January 1	820,551	1,302,655
Fund balances, December 31	$ 804,597	$ 820,551

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
GENERAL FUND
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES
BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL
For the year ended December 31, 2023
(With comparative actual amounts for the year ended December 31, 2022)

	2023			2022
	Final Budget	Actual	Variance	Actual
REVENUES				
Taxes				
General property taxes				
Property tax	$ 135,000	$ 129,729	$ (5,271)	$ 128,408
Motor vehicle tax	27,725	11,560	(16,165)	16,858
Total general property taxes	162,725	141,289	(21,436)	145,266
Local option sales tax	312,171	312,884	713	297,249
Intangible tax	600	1,798	1,198	4,605
Franchise tax	110,000	93,601	(16,399)	93,842
Insurance premium tax	69,087	102,451	33,364	92,022
Alcoholic beverage excise tax	10,000	9,109	(891)	9,333
Occupational tax	9,500	12,951	3,451	5,248
Total taxes	674,083	674,083	0	647,565
Licenses and Permits				
Alcohol licenses	2,400	2,400	0	3,600
Building permits	7,376	7,376	0	620
Total licenses and permits	9,776	9,776	0	4,220
Fines, fees and forfeitures	41,780	41,780	0	29,964
Charges for Services				
Sanitation	45,342	47,840	2,498	47,215
Cemetery	1,000	1,500	500	850
Other	35	132	97	131
Total charges for services	46,377	49,472	3,095	48,196
Intergovernmental	34,382	33,992	(390)	56,942
Interest	0	152	152	60
Contributions	50	59	9	0
Other	5,200	1,742	(3,458)	817
Total revenues	$ 811,648	$ 811,056	$ (592)	$ 787,764

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
GENERAL FUND
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES
BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL
For the year ended December 31, 2023
(With comparative actual amounts for the year ended December 31, 2022)

	2023			2022
	Final Budget	Actual	Variance	Actual
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
General Government				
Governing Body				
Personal services	$ 28,340	$ 28,355	$ (15)	$ 28,484
Supplies and materials	11,500	12,359	(859)	6,936
Total Governing Body	39,840	40,714	(874)	35,420
Administration				
Personal services	215,319	215,602	(283)	212,991
Contract services	105,750	99,524	6,226	89,943
Supplies and materials	3,600	5,342	(1,742)	13,958
Capital outlay	24,000	37,263	(13,263)	0
Total Administration	348,669	357,731	(9,062)	316,892
Total General Government	388,509	398,445	(9,936)	352,312
Public Safety				
Police Department				
Personal services	147,500	147,033	467	126,327
Contract services	34,275	38,001	(3,726)	36,291
Supplies and materials	27,500	27,429	71	25,738
Total Police Department	209,275	212,463	(3,188)	188,356
Fire Department				
Contract services	29,050	30,702	(1,652)	23,514
Supplies and materials	12,950	11,648	1,302	19,390
Capital outlay	0	0	0	0
Total Fire Department	42,000	42,350	(350)	42,904
Total Public Safety	251,275	254,813	(3,538)	231,260
Public Works				
Highways and Streets				
Personal services	33,740	39,975	(6,235)	38,974
Contract services	38,391	34,441	3,950	97,854
Supplies and materials	6,300	5,781	519	5,627
Total Highways and Streets	78,431	80,197	(1,766)	142,455
Sanitation				
Contract services	41,000	41,122	(122)	40,992
Total Public Works	119,431	121,319	(1,888)	183,447
Housing and Development				
Downtown Development Authority				
Payments to others	0	0	0	1,438,180
Total Housing and Development	0	0	0	1,438,180
Debt Service				
General Government				
Administration	52,433	52,433	0	48,063
Total expenditures	$ 811,648	$ 827,010	$ (15,362)	$ 2,253,262

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SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Special revenue funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally or donor restricted to expenditure for specified purposes.

American Rescue Plan Act Fund – This fund is used to account for revenues and expenditures of the American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund

Hotel/Motel Tax Fund - This fund is used to collect Hotel/Motel taxes which are used to support trade and tourism in the City of Franklin Springs.

Technology Surcharges Fund - This fund is used to account for fines and fees received restricted for the purchase of computer hardware and software for the Police and Municipal Court Departments.

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CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEETS
December 31, 2023 and 2022

ASSETS	**2023**	**2022**
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 0	$ 0
LIABILITIES		
Due to other funds	$ 0	$ 0

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL
For the year ended December 31, 2023
(With comparative actual amounts for the year ended December 31, 2022)

	2023			2022
	Final Budget	Actual	Variance	Actual
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 222,594
EXPENDITURES				
Other financing sources (uses)				
Transfers in (out)				
General Fund	0	0	0	(222,594)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over (under) expenditures and other financing uses.	0	0	0	0
Fund balances, January 1	0	0	0	0
Fund balances, December 31	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
HOTEL/MOTEL TAX SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEETS
December 31, 2023 and 2022

ASSETS	**2023**	**2022**
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 4,486	$ 5,667
Taxes receivable	584	596
Total assets	$ 5,070	$ 6,263
FUND BALANCES		
Assigned for Housing and Development	$ 5,070	$ 6,263

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
HOTEL/MOTEL TAX SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL
For the year ended December 31, 2023
(With comparative actual amounts for the year ended December 31, 2022)

	2023			2022
	Final Budget	Actual	Variance	Actual
REVENUES				
Hotel/Motel taxes	$ 6,180	$ 5,109	$ (1,071)	$ 7,825
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Housing and Development				
Contract services	6,180	6,302	(122)	5,596
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	0	(1,193)	(1,193)	2,229
Fund balances, January 1	0	6,263	6,263	4,034
Fund balances, December 31	$ 0	$ 5,070	$ 5,070	$ 6,263

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
TECHNOLOGY SURCHARGE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEETS
December 31, 2023 and 2022

ASSETS	**2023**	**2022**
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 13,353	$ 14,103
FUND BALANCES		
Restricted for Public Safety	$ 13,353	$ 14,103

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
TECHNOLOGY SURCHARGE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL
For the year ended December 31, 2023
(With comparative actual amounts for the year ended December 31, 2022)

	2023			2022
	Final Budget	Actual	Variance	Actual
REVENUES				
Fees, fines, and forfeitures	$ 5,700	$ 4,950	$ (750)	$ 3,030
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Public Safety				
Supplies and materials	5,700	5,700	0	0
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	0	(750)	(750)	3,030
Fund balances, January 1	0	14,103	14,103	11,073
Fund balances, December 31	$ 0	$ 13,353	$ 13,353	$ 14,103

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CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

Capital projects funds are used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of specifically planned projects (other than those financed by proprietary funds.

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Fund – This fund is used to account for long-term projects financed by the passage of the special purpose local option sales tax.

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEETS
December 31, 2023 and 2022

ASSETS	**2023**	**2022**
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 1,026,228	$ 881,641
Intergovernmental receivables	20,231	17,710
Total assets	$ 1,046,459	$ 899,351
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	$ 10,000	$ 0
Fund balances		
Restricted for capital outlay	1,036,459	899,351
Total liabilities and fund balances	$ 1,046,459	$ 899,351

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND
COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
REVENUES		
Intergovernmental	$ 236,562	$ 223,458
Interest	10,338	1,068
Total revenues	246,900	224,526
EXPENDITURES		
Capital outlay		
Public Safety	61,515	0
Highways and Streets	1,076	0
Total expenditures	62,591	0
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	184,309	224,526
Other financing sources (uses)		
Transfers in (out)		
Water and Sewer Fund	(47,201)	0
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over (under) expenditures and other financing uses	137,108	224,526
Fund balances, January 1	899,351	674,825
Fund balances, December 31	$ 1,036,459	$ 899,351

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ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Enterprise funds are used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises. The funds are self-supporting in nature where the costs, including depreciation, of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis are financed or recovered primarily through user charges.

Water and Sewer Fund - Used to account for activities connected with the development, operation and maintenance of water and sewer services in the City of Franklin Springs.

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
WATER AND SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND
COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION
December 31, 2023 and 2022

ASSETS	**2023**	**2022**
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 156,200	$ 103,068
Certificates of deposit	14,924	14,924
Accounts receivable (net)	22,951	24,288
Prepaid items	1,832	3,090
Total current assets	195,907	145,370
Capital assets		
Land	33,153	33,153
Construction in progress	15,800	0
Buildings	12,000	12,000
Vehicles	44,800	44,800
Distribution system	1,920,459	1,920,459
Machinery and equipment	132,709	126,618
Intangibles	5,727	5,727
Accumulated depreciation	(1,561,746)	(1,516,559)
Total capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation)	602,902	626,198
Total assets	798,809	771,568
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	10,919	2,005
Accrued salaries	942	942
Compensated absences	1,890	2,794
Unearned revenue	251	251
Customer deposits payable	19,743	18,183
Total liabilities	33,745	24,175
NET POSITION		
Investment in capital assets	602,902	626,198
Unrestricted	162,162	121,195
Total net position	$ 765,064	$ 747,393

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
WATER AND SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND
COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION
For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

OPERATING REVENUES	**2023**	**2022**
Charges for sales and services		
Water sales	$ 170,719	$ 159,222
Sewer charges	141,140	126,069
Other	23,943	14,352
Total operating revenues	335,802	299,643
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Cost of sales and services	233,943	202,948
Personal services	86,202	82,060
Depreciation	45,187	46,148
Total operating expenses	365,332	331,156
Operating income (loss) before transfers	(29,530)	(31,513)
Transfers in (out)		
General Fund	0	(100,552)
SPLOST Fund	47,201	0
Total transfers in (out)	47,201	(100,552)
Change in net position	17,671	(132,065)
Net position, January 1	747,393	879,458
Net position, December 31	$ 765,064	$ 747,393

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
WATER AND SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND
COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Receipts from customers	$ 328,257	$ 288,603
Payments to suppliers	(223,772)	(208,439)
Payments to employees	(87,106)	(81,131)
Other receipts	10,443	8,293
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	27,822	7,326
Cash flows from non-capital financing activities:		
Payments to other funds	0	(100,552)
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:		
Receipts from other funds	47,201	0
Payments for acquisitions of capital assets	(21,891)	(12,000)
Net cash provided (used) by capital and related financing activities	25,310	(12,000)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	53,132	(105,226)
Cash and cash equivalents, January 1	103,068	208,294
Cash and cash equivalents, December 31	$ 156,200	$ 103,068
Reconciliation of operating income (loss) to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:		
Operating income (loss)	$ (29,530)	$ (31,513)
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation expense	45,187	46,148
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	1,337	(2,878)
(Increase) decrease in prepaid items	1,258	57
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	8,914	(5,547)
Increase (decrease) in customer deposits payable	1,560	130
Increase (decrease) in payroll liabilities	(904)	929
Total adjustments	57,352	38,839
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	$ 27,822	$ 7,326

CUSTODIAL FUNDS

Custodial funds are used to account for assets held by the City as an agent to be expended in accordance with the conditions of its agency capacity.

Municipal Court Fund – This fund is used to account, on a temporary basis, for fines collected by the municipal court that ultimately are transmitted to another agency.

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
MUNICIPAL COURT CUSTODIAL FUND
COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 0	$ 0
LIABILITIES		
Due to others	0	0
NET POSITION		
Restricted for individuals, organizations, and other governments	$ 0	$ 0

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
MUNICIPAL COURT CUSTODIAL FUND
COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
ADDITIONS		
Fines and forfeitures collected for other governments	$ 22,838	$ 14,874
DEDUCTIONS		
Distributions of fines and forfeitures to other governments	22,838	14,874
Change in net position	0	0
Net position, January 1	0	0
Net position, December 31	$ 0	$ 0

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COMPONENT UNIT

Downtown Development Authority – This component unit is used to account for governmental revenues and contributions reserved for City business development.

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (A COMPONENT UNIT)
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEETS
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Property held for resale	$ 1,438,180	$ 1,438,180
FUND BALANCE		
Assigned for housing and development	$ 1,438,180	$ 1,438,180

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (A COMPONENT UNIT)
COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
REVENUES		
Intergovernmental	$ 0	$ 1,438,180
EXPENDITURES		
Current		
Housing and development	0	0
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	0	1,438,180
Fund balance, January 1	1,438,180	0
Fund balance, December 31	$ 1,438,180	$ 1,438,180

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OTHER REPORTING SECTION

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Independent Auditor's Report 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*

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council
City of Franklin Springs, 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 discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Franklin Springs, Georgia, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City of Franklin Springs, Georgia's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 11, 2024.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the City of Franklin Springs, Georgia'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 City of Franklin Springs, Georgia's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the City of Franklin Springs, Georgia'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 and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control listed below that we consider to be material weaknesses.

2023-001

Condition: There is a lack of segregation of duties, as the City Clerk currently maintains the checkbook, prepares and makes deposits, prepares all bank reconciliations, posts all journal entries and makes all utility account adjustments for the City.

Criteria: The duties of disbursements, receipts, preparing bank reconciliations, and journal entries should be separated and assigned to different personnel.

Effect: Failure to maintain adequate separation of duties subjects the City to greater risk of loss due to employee fraud.

Cause: The same employee maintains the checkbook, prepares and makes deposits, prepares all bank reconciliations, posts all journal entries and makes all utility account adjustments.

2023-001, Continued

Recommendation: Because the City staff is too small to have an adequate separation of duties, the following mitigating procedures should be implemented. A formal journal entry approval process should be adopted and all journal entries made by the City Clerk should be reviewed and approved by the Mayor or other Council member before they are posted. The Mayor should review all journal entries, utility adjustments, and make all deposits.

Management Response: Management concurs with this finding. The Mayor will review all journal entries posted by the City Clerk on a monthly basis.

2023-002

Condition: City personnel may require additional training in the application of generally accepted accounting principles and the preparation of financial statements. Currently, the City relies on the external auditors for technical assistance in applying generally accepted accounting principles and the preparation of the financial statements. This is common for governments of similar size and structure to the City. Under current auditing standards, providing technical assistance does not impair the independence of the external auditor. However, future changes to auditing standards by standards setting boards could state that providing technical assistance would impair the independence of the external auditor. This does not indicate that the finance staff is not trained to perform the daily accounting functions, but that the City has elected as a cost benefit to outsource this expertise to their auditors. As required, we have indicated this as a significant deficiency in our letter on Internal Control and Compliance.

Criteria: Effective internal control requires that employees possess the necessary qualifications and training to fulfill their assigned duties.

Effect: Failure to ensure that employees possess the necessary qualifications to perform their assigned duties may lead to financial statements that are materially misstated.

Cause: Staff does not have proper training in generally accepted accounting principles to implement them or prepare financial statements.

Recommendation: City personnel should receive additional training in the identification and application of generally accepted accounting principles and the preparation of the City's financial statements. However, this may be cost prohibitive.

Management Response: Management concurs with this finding. The City has determined that the cost of training City personnel in identification and application of generally accepted accounting principles and financial statement preparation is cost prohibitive. The governing body and management have determined that personnel should receive training to the extent that is economically feasible and to continue to rely on the technical assistance of the external auditor or other qualified professional when necessary. This action was taken immediately upon receipt of the comment from our auditors.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the City of Franklin Springs, Georgia's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants 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*.

City of Franklin Springs, Georgia's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the City of Franklin Springs, Georgia's response to the findings identified in our audit and described previously. The City of Franklin Springs, Georgia's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion the response.

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.

Rushton, LLC

Gainesville, Georgia
June 11, 2024

CITY OF FRANKLIN SPRINGS, GEORGIA
SCHEDULE OF PROJECTS FINANCED WITH
SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX
For the year ended December 31, 2023

Project	Estimated Cost		Expenditures		
	Original	Current	Prior Years	Current Year	Total
SPLOST V Referendum					
Water and Sewer	$ 289,285	$ 289,285	$ 67,662	$ 47,201	$ 114,863
Roads, Streets, and Bridges	289,285	289,285	1,859	1,076	2,935
Public Safety and Fire	210,430	210,430	50,001	14,525	64,526
Total	$ 789,000	$ 789,000	$ 119,522	$ 62,802	$ 182,324

Project	Estimated Cost		Expenditures		
	Original	Current	Prior Years	Current Year	Total
SPLOST VI Referendum					
Water and Sewer	$ 375,000	$ 375,000	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Roads, Streets, and Bridges	375,000	375,000	0	0	0
Public Safety and Fire	250,000	250,000	0	46,990	46,990
Total	$ 1,000,000	$ 1,000,000	$ 0	$ 46,990	$ 46,990