

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA

Annual Financial Report

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025

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CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025

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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 Royston, 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 Royston, Georgia, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025 and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City of Royston, Georgia's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, based on our audit, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Royston Georgia, as of June 30, 2025 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 City of Royston, Georgia's 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 City of Royston, 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 judgement 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 judgement 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 Royston, 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 judgement, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the City of Royston, 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

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and the required supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such 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. 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 City of Royston, 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.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 3, 2025, on our consideration of the City of Royston, 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 Royston, Georgia's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Rushton, LLC

Gainesville, Georgia
October 3, 2025

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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Management of the City of Royston is pleased to provide this narrative discussion and analysis of the City's financial performance and activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. The City's financial performance is discussed and analyzed within the context, and in conjunction with, the City's financial statements following this section.

Financial Highlights

- The City of Royston's assets exceeded its liabilities at June 30, 2025 by $22,455,081 (reported as *net position).*

- As of June 30, 2025, Royston's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of $3,450,144. Approximately 64% of this total amount, $2,224,098 is available for spending at the City Council's discretion (*unassigned fund balance*).

More detailed information regarding these activities and funds begins on page 8.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis narrative is intended to serve as an introduction to the City of Royston's basic financial statements. The City of Royston's basic financial statements are composed of three elements: (1) government-wide financial statements; (2) fund financial statements; and (3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains required supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements.

Government-wide Financial Statements (Reporting the City as a Whole)

The focus of the government-wide financial statements is the overall financial position and activities of the City of Royston. These statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the City's financial activities in a manner similar to a private business enterprise.

The City's government-wide financial statements include the *Statement of Net Position* and the *Statement of Activities*. These two statements report information about the City of Royston using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector businesses. All the current year's revenues and expenses are considered regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The purpose of the *Statement of Net Position* (pages 17-18) is to report all the assets held and liabilities owed by the City. The City reports all its assets when it acquires ownership over the assets and reports all its liabilities when they are incurred. The difference between the total assets and total liabilities is labeled *net position.* As net position increases the financial position of the City generally is improving over time.

The *Statement of Activities* (page 19), on the other hand, presents the revenues and expenses of the City. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred in this statement. Thus, revenues are reported even when they may not be collected for several weeks after the end of the accounting period, and expenses are recorded even though they may not have used cash during the current period. The difference is described as *change in net position.* The primary focus of the Statement of Activities is on the *net cost* of various activities provided by the City and identifies the extent to which each function of the City draws from general revenues or is self-financing through fees, grants, or other sources.

In the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, Royston's services and functions are divided into three types of activities:

- ***Governmental Activities*** – Most of the City's basic services are reported under this category, including police, fire, public works, and general administration. Sales tax, property taxes, and intergovernmental revenues finance most of these services.

- ***Business-type Activities*** – The City charges fees to customers to assist in covering all or most of the cost for certain services it provides. The City's natural gas system, water and sewer system, and garbage collection fees are reported in this category.

- ***Discretely Presented Component Unit*** – Component units are legally separate organizations for which the elected officials of the City are financially accountable. The Downtown Development Authority, although legally separate, functions for all practical purposes as a department of the City of Royston, and therefore has been included as an integral part of the primary government.

The City's government-wide financial statements are presented on pages 17-19.

Fund Financial Statements (Reporting the City's Major Funds)

The focus of fund financial statements is directed to specific activities of the City and its most significant funds, not the City as a whole. A fund is an entity with a self-balancing set of accounts that the City uses to tract specific resources and expenditures, either for management purposes or because of legal mandates. The City's funds are divided into three broad categories – governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary – and use different accounting approaches.

Governmental Funds. These funds account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements; however governmental fund financial statements focus on the short-term view of the City's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash.

Because the focus of the governmental fund financial statements is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements and because of the different accounting methods used to prepare them, there are often significant differences between the totals presented in these financial statements. It is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. An analysis of the balance sheet and the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances that reconciles the two statements are provided at the bottom of each statement.

In addition to the General Fund, which is considered a major fund, the City of Royston maintains two governmental fund types: (1) Special Revenue Funds and (2) Capital Projects Funds.

The City of Royston adopts an annual appropriated budget for its General Fund. A budgetary comparison statement has been provided to demonstrate compliance with this budget.

The City's basic governmental fund financial statements are presented on pages 20-24 of this report.

Proprietary Funds. When the City charges customers for the services it provides – whether to outside customers or to other departments of the City – these services are generally reported in proprietary funds. These proprietary funds are prepared using the same accounting basis as the government-wide financial statements.

Enterprise fund statements report the same functions presented in the business-type activities columns of the government-wide financial statements. The City of Royston uses enterprise funds, which are considered major funds, to account for its natural gas system, water and sewer systems, and its sanitation functions.

The City's proprietary fund financial statements are presented on pages 25-29.

Fiduciary Funds. Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statement because the resources of those funds are not available to support the City of Royston's own programs. The accounting used for fiduciary funds is much like that used for proprietary funds. The City acts as a trustee or fiduciary for the Municipal Court Custodial Fund.

The City's fiduciary fund financial statements are presented on pages 30-31.

Notes to the financial statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements can be found on pages 32-65 of this report.

Required Supplementary Information

The required supplementary information provides additional information on the City's defined benefit pension plan. This information is necessary to provide a complete picture of the changes in the City's net pension liability. The required supplementary information can be found on pages 66-71.

Other Supplementary Information

Other supplementary information includes combining financial statements for non-major governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary funds. These funds are added together by fund type and presented in single columns in the basic financial statements but are not reported individually, as with major funds, on the government-wide financial statements.

This report includes two schedules (pages 21-23), which reconcile the amounts reported on the governmental fund financial statements (modified accrual basis of accounting) with the governmental activities reported on the government-wide financial statements (accrual basis of accounting). The following summarizes the impact of transitioning from modified accrual-to-accrual accounting:

- Capital assets used in governmental activities on the government-wide statements are not reported on fund financial statements.

- Certain tax revenues that are earned, but not available, are reported as revenue on the government-wide statement but are reported as deferred revenue on the fund statements. Unless due and payable, long-term liabilities, such as lease obligations, compensated absences, bonds and notes payable, and others only appear as liabilities in the government-wide statements.

- Capital outlay spending results in capital assets on the government-wide statements but is reported as expenditures on the governmental fund financial statements.

- Bond and note proceeds result in liabilities on the government-wide statements but are recorded as other financing sources on the governmental fund financial statements.

- Certain other outflows represent either increases or decreases in liabilities on the government-wide statements but are reported as expenditures on the governmental fund financial statements.

Overview of the City's Financial Position and Operations

The City's overall financial position and operations for this year is summarized as follows based on the information included in the government-wide financial statements (pages 17-19):

City of Royston
Net Position as of June 30, 2025 and 2024

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	2024	**2025**	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**	**2025**
Current assets	$3,447,917	$3,602,008	$ 7,811,635	$ 9,010,411	$11,259,552	$12,612,419
Noncurrent assets	5,377,846	5,607,610	7,917,989	8,308,927	13,295,835	13,916,537
Total assets	8,825,763	9,209,618	15,729,624	17,319,338	24,555,387	26,528,956
Total deferred outflows of resources	172,563	160,981	141,170	109,170	313,733	270,151
Current liabilities	268,811	266,951	671,972	536,813	940,783	803,764
Noncurrent liabilities	966,550	744,414	2,316,325	2,183,972	3,282,875	2,928,386
Total liabilities	1,235,361	1,011,365	2,988,297	2,720,785	4,223,658	3,732,150
Total deferred inflows of resources	402,384	511,821	8,248	100,055	410,632	611,876
Net Position						
Net investment in capital assets	4,601,845	4,919,773	5,919,619	6,322,592	10,521,464	11,242,365
Restricted	1,214,612	1,104,496	0	0	1,214,612	1,104,496
Unrestricted	1,544,124	1,823,144	6,954,630	8,285,076	8,498,754	10,108,220
Total net position	$7,360,581	$7,847,413	$ 12,874,249	$14,607,668	$20,234,830	$22,455,081

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. Assets for the City of Royston exceeded liabilities by $22,455,081 at the close of the current year.

The largest portion of the City of Royston's net position reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g., land, buildings, machinery and equipment, or infrastructure), less any related debt outstanding that was needed to construct or acquire the assets. The City uses capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending.

Although the City's invested 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.

Restricted net position of $1,104,496 is constrained by legal requirements and is not available for day-to-day operations of the City. The remaining balance of *unrestricted net position* ($10,108,220) may be used to meet the City's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors. The portion of unrestricted net position from business-type activities was $8,285,076 at the end of the fiscal year. The portion of unrestricted net position resulting from the City's governmental activities was $1,823,144 at the close of the fiscal year.

The City's net position increased by $2,220,251 during the current fiscal year. Governmental activities resulted in an increase in net position of $486,832 while business-type activities resulted in an increase of net position of $1,733,419.

The table on the following page was derived from the government-wide Statement of Activities and reflects how the City's net position changed during the fiscal year.

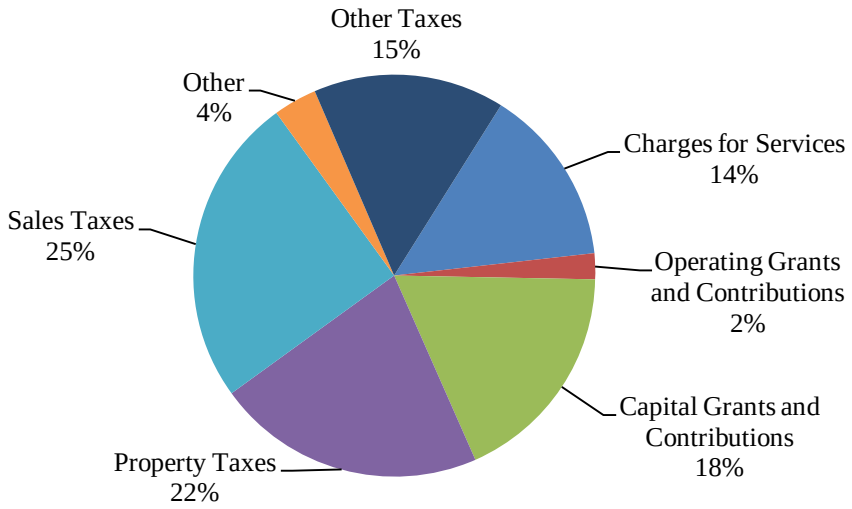
City of Royston
Changes in Net Position
for the Fiscal Years ended June 30, 2025 and 2024

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Program revenues:						
Charges for services	$ 518,715	$ 562,813	$ 5,343,739	$ 5,859,401	$ 5,862,454	$ 6,422,214
Operating grants and contributions	326,885	81,131	0	0	326,885	81,131
Capital grants and contributions	625,082	710,247	86,508	197,011	711,590	907,258
General revenues:						
Property taxes	829,653	848,671	0	0	829,653	848,671
Sales tax	934,692	979,190	0	0	934,692	979,190
Other taxes	563,329	602,327	0	0	563,329	602,327
Interest and investment earnings	33,760	80,575	86,945	256,983	120,705	337,558
Miscellaneous revenue	64,755	103,450	0	30,355	64,755	133,805
Total revenues	3,896,871	3,968,404	5,517,192	6,343,750	9,414,063	10,312,154
Expenses						
General Government	849,771	818,093	0	0	849,771	818,093
Judicial	10,736	19,972	0	0	10,736	19,972
Public Safety	1,305,076	1,474,546	0	0	1,305,076	1,474,546
Public Works	685,665	745,152	0	0	685,665	745,152
Culture and Recreation	222,266	255,541	0	0	222,266	255,541
Housing and Development	132,286	120,468	0	0	132,286	120,468
Interest on long term debt	12,095	17,586	0	0	12,095	17,586
Water and sewer	0	0	1,583,513	1,680,384	1,583,513	1,680,384
Natural gas	0	0	2,365,618	2,616,759	2,365,618	2,616,759
Sanitation	0	0	390,914	343,402	390,914	343,402
Total expenses	3,217,895	3,451,358	4,340,045	4,640,545	7,557,940	8,091,903
Increase (decrease) in net position before transfers	678,976	517,046	1,177,147	1,703,205	1,856,123	2,220,251
Transfers	(270,209)	(30,214)	270,209	30,214	0	0
Increase (decrease) in net position	408,767	486,832	1,447,356	1,733,419	1,856,123	2,220,251
Net position - beginning	6,951,814	7,360,581	11,426,893	12,874,249	18,378,707	20,234,830
Net position - ending	$ 7,360,581	$ 7,847,413	$ 12,874,249	$ 14,607,668	$ 20,234,830	$ 22,455,081

Governmental Activities. Governmental activities increased the net position of the City by $486,832. Revenues for the City's governmental activities increased by $26,160 compared to fiscal year 2024, which equates to an increase of only 0.7%. Expenses for governmental activities increased by $188,090 compared to fiscal year 2024, or 6%. Of this increase in expenses, about 66% is related to public safety and 32% is related to public works.

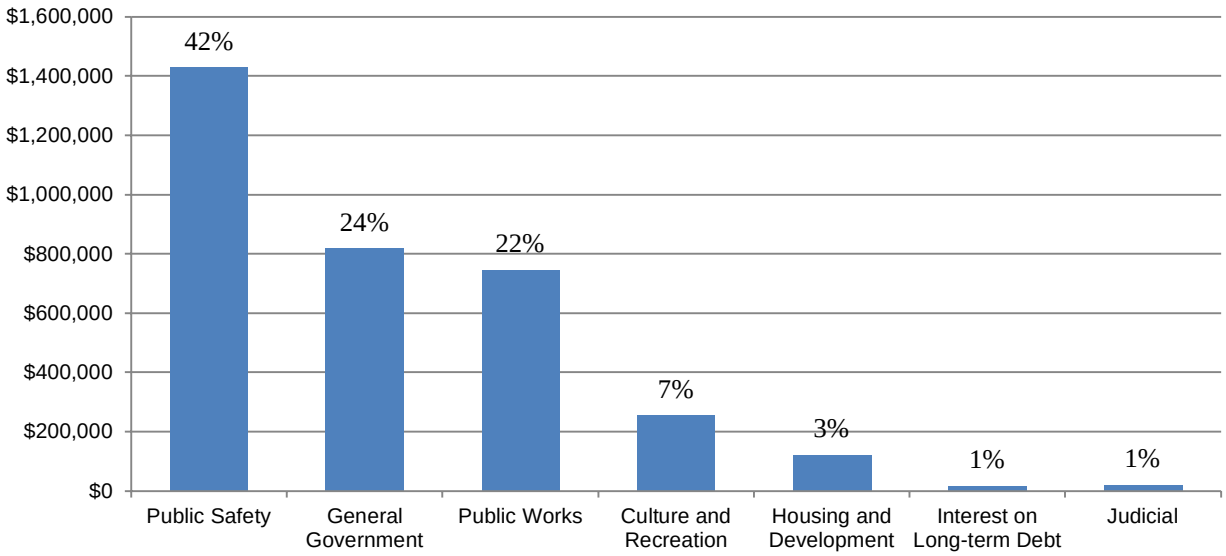
The following chart depicts revenues of the governmental activities for the year:

Revenue by Source - Governmental Activities



The following chart depicts the expenses of the governmental activities for the year:

Expenses by Function - Governmental Activities



Business-type Activities. Business-type activities increased the City's net position by $1,733,419. Key elements of this increase are as follows:

- Sales for business-type activities were $5.8 million, which was an increase of 10% over the prior year (or $515,662).

- Sales in the Water and Sewer Fund were $55,033 higher than in fiscal year 2024, an increase of 3%. The vast majority of this increase in revenue is a result of a rate increase implemented during the fiscal year. The rate increase was implemented to adjust for a higher cost of operating the water and sewer utilities over the last few years including price inflation on chemicals, electricity, and other operating supplies.

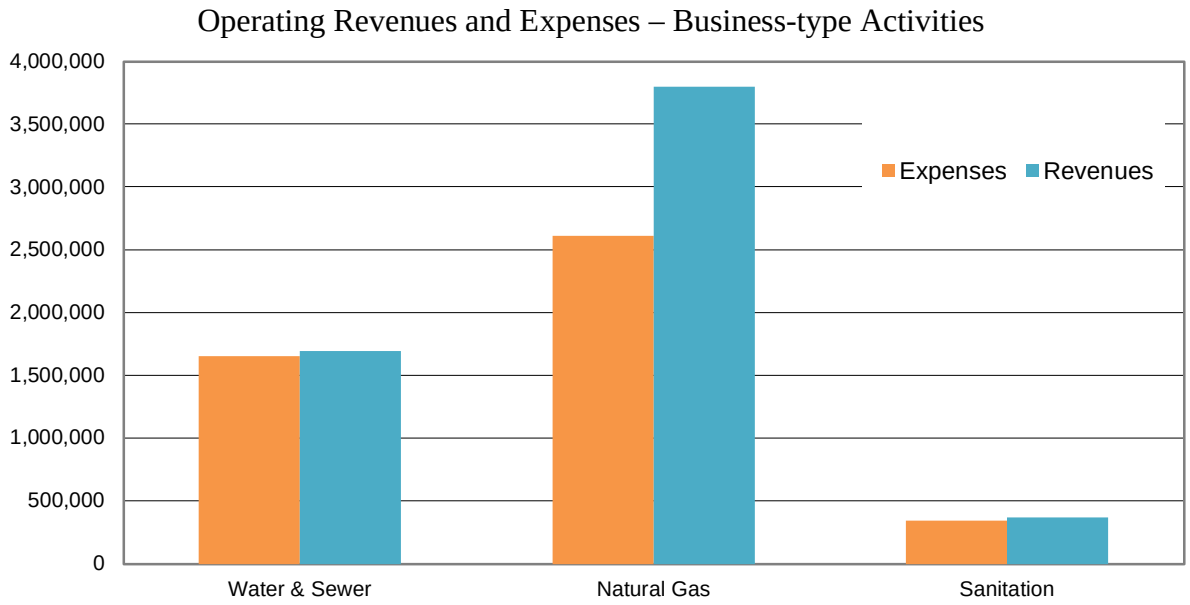
- The operating result of the Water and Sewer Fund decreased from an operating income of $154,616 in FY24 to an operating income of $43,599 in FY25. This decrease is mainly due to the increase in operating expenses in FY25 compared to FY24. In addition to increased costs of sales and services, the City repaired a large generator at the Water Treatment Plant that was damaged by lighting. The City also rented equipment to perform survey work on water mains to look for lead or galvanized piping as part of a mandate from regulatory agencies.

- Natural gas sales were about $3.8 million, which is an increase of 14% over the prior year (or $471,764). The cost of natural gas purchased for resale to customers also increased by $255,067 or 15%. This is due to a increase in the wholesale market price of natural gas during FY2025.

- Interest income in the Natural Gas Fund increased in FY25 to $218,822 from $69,301 the prior year. This is reflective of the higher interest rate environment during the fiscal year as well as the City investing in a Georgia Fund 1 account.

- Personal service and benefits expenses declined in the Natural Gas Fund in FY25 as a result of one position being vacated during the prior that was not filled until FY25. Pension expense also declined in FY25. Overall personal services and benefits expenses declined $42,525 or 8% over FY24.

- Sanitation sales increased slightly by 3%, but the expenses of the fund were reduced by $47,512 or 12%. This resulted in an operating income for Sanitation activities of $24,536 compared to a loss of $11,841 in FY24. This swing from a loss is attributable to lower personnel costs during the year and significantly reduced landfill and recycling expenses recognized in FY25 over FY24.



Financial Analysis of the City's Major Funds

As noted earlier, the City of Royston uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds. The focus of the City of Royston's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of *spendable* resources. Such information is useful in assessing the City's financing requirements. In particular, *unassigned fund balance* may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the year.

At the end of fiscal year 2025, its governmental funds reported a combined ending fund balance of $3,450,144. Of this amount, $2,224,098 (64%) constitutes *unassigned fund balance* which is available for spending at the City's discretion. The remainder of fund balance is either (a) *nonspendable* to indicate that these amounts cannot be spent because they are either not in a spendable form such as inventory and prepaid insurance, (b) are legally or contractually *restricted* for a particular purpose such as special purpose sales tax proceeds, or (c) are *assigned* for a particular purpose or project by management.

At the end of the current year, unassigned fund balance of the General Fund was $2,224,098 and the total fund balance reached $2,380,008. As a measure of the General Fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unassigned fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures. Unassigned fund balance represents 77% of the total General Fund expenditures, while total fund balance represents 82% of that same amount.

Revenues in the General Fund modestly increased $199,703 or 7% in FY25 over FY24. A significant portion of this increase is attributable to the increase in interest revenue after the City invested in Georgia Fund 1 during the fiscal year. Expenditures in the General Fund decreased

substantially in FY25 by $385,030 or 12%. This is primarily due to purchasing several vehicles totaling $491,674 in FY24, which was not done in FY25.

The City spent the remaining Franklin County Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax #5 Capital Projects Fund (FC SPLOST #5) funds in FY25 and reported $431,625 of expenditures for the purchase of two new police vehicles and a fire tanker truck.

The Franklin County Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax #6 Capital Projects Fund (FC SPLOST #6) recognized intergovernmental revenues in FY25 of $565,132. The City began spending this money in FY25 and reported $205,357 of expenditures for paving projects in the City as well as the purchase of new police radios.

Proprietary Funds. The City's proprietary funds provide the same type of information found in the government-wide financial statements, but in more detail. The change in net position in the proprietary funds is depicted in the following table. Factors concerning the performance of the major proprietary funds have already been addressed in the discussion of the City of Royston's business-type activities on page 12.

City of Royston Proprietary Funds
Net Position as of June 30, 2025

	Water & Sewer Fund	Natural Gas Fund	Sanitation Fund	Total
Operating Revenues	$ 1,693,718	$ 3,797,745	$ 367,938	$ 5,859,401
Operating Expenses	1,650,119	2,609,578	343,402	4,603,099
Operating income (loss)	43,599	1,188,167	24,536	1,256,302
Non-operating income (loss)	1,992	241,996	5,904	249,892
Capital Contributions	197,011	0	0	197,011
Transfers in (out)	30,214	0	0	30,214
Change in net position	272,816	1,430,163	30,440	1,733,419
Net Position, July 1	4,660,448	8,033,414	180,387	12,874,249
Net Position, June 30	$ 4,933,264	$ 9,463,577	$ 210,827	$ 14,607,668

General Fund Budget Highlights

There were several budget amendments approved during the fiscal year for the General Fund. The amendments only transferred expenditure appropriations among departments and did not affect the total budget. One amendment increased appropriations by $65,900 for the payments of a capital lease and to purchase new vehicles in the police department and public works department. A second amendment increased appropriations for Library contract services by $12,000.

General Fund revenues ended the year at 6%, or $179,406, above budget primarily due to increased interest revenue after investing in Georgia Fund 1 during the year. Expenditures in the

General Fund were $297,244, or 9%, under budget for the fiscal year. This was due to some personnel positions being vacant during the year and due to some street projects that were not initiated or completed during the year as originally planned.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets. The City of Royston has invested $13,533,935 in capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation). Capital assets include land, buildings, vehicles and equipment, infrastructure, and other items with a useful life beyond one year. Approximately 61% of these investments are related to business-type activities and approximately 39% relate to governmental activities.

Capital assets held by the City at the end of the current year are summarized as follows:

	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total
Land	$ 542,936	$ 81,702	$ 624,638
Buildings	4,733,847	206,501	4,940,348
Infrastructure	2,552,746	0	2,552,746
Land improvements	0	46,824	46,824
Distribution system	0	15,182,199	15,182,199
Vehicles and equipment	2,842,901	2,143,224	4,986,125
Furniture and fixtures	60,264	0	60,264
Software	94,030	0	94,030
Construction in progress	0	793,492	793,492
Total	10,826,724	18,453,942	29,280,666
Accumulated depreciation	(5,601,716)	(10,145,015)	(15,746,731)
Net Capital Assets	$ 5,225,008	$ 8,308,927	$ 13,533,935

Additional information on the City of Royston's capital assets can be found in the Notes to the Financial Statements on pages 51-52 of this report.

Long-term Debt. On June 30, 2025, the City of Royston reported $2,280,809 in notes payable outstanding. Approximately 87% of these investments are related to business-type activities and approximately 13% relate to governmental activities. The City decreased its long-term debt outstanding in fiscal year 2025 by $201,204 through payments of principal, and the City increased its long-term debt outstanding in fiscal year 2025 through the forgiveness of notes payable in the amount of $197,011. Additional information on the City's long-term debt can be found in the notes to the Financial Statements on pages 53-55 of this report.

	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total
Notes from direct borrowings	$ 305,235	$ 1,975,574	$ 2,280,809

Economic Condition and Outlook

The City of Royston continues to meet the needs of the city, its citizens, and its customers through a managed spending plan and budgeting process. The City also has a long-term capital improvement plan for the water, sewer, and natural gas systems.

Sales tax and property tax revenue has experienced growth in the last few years and modest increases are projected going forward and with the fiscal year 2026 budget.

The local elementary school closed in December 2024 during this fiscal year and relocated to a new facility several miles north of town. The City is in discussions with the Board of Education about the potential future uses of the school property which is located in a residential area but only a couple of blocks from the main highway.

One major retail store, Dill's Food City, burned in early 2024. This was an anchor institution for the City and for the shopping center in which Dill's was located. Some businesses closed permanently as a result of the fire and water damage or as a result of the loss of customer traffic. However, the store owners are planning to rebuild in 2026, and one tenant dislocated by the fire has returned to business in the shopping center once repairs were made. The west wing of the shopping complex received a new front façade updated in 2025 that included new sidewalks in front of the store. The City is upgrading the water main that services the property to enhance fire flow protection, and this project will be completed in the first quarter of 2026.

The City began a large capital project in FY26 to construct major improvements to its wastewater treatment facilities to meet current environmental standards at a cost of $3.5 million. A second project to improvement to the raw water intake facilities also began in FY26 and will enhance the amount of water available for pumping and treatment.

A major capacity expansion project for the natural gas system to bring more gas supply into the central part of Franklin County near, and just to the south of, Interstate 85 started in FY26. This capacity expansion will help to facilitate future growth in natural gas sales for new or expanding industry, but it will also help to support existing customers in the local agricultural industry. This project, at a cost of $6 million, will complete by the end of fiscal year 2026.

The City continues to work with the Franklin County Industrial Building Authority to support new and existing industry, and to make proposals to prospects. Royston is the natural gas provider for the immediate area in Franklin County and along parts of Interstate 85, and the City aims to support economic development in our region.

Requests for Information

Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional information should be address to the Office of the City Manager, 684 Franklin Springs Street, Royston, Georgia 30662.

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BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
June 30, 2025

	Primary Government			Component Unit
	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total	Downtown Development Authority
ASSETS				
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 3,204,016	$ 7,903,785	$ 11,107,801	$ 2,309
Certificates of deposit	83,797	0	83,797	0
Restricted assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	6,595	137,012	143,607	0
Receivables (net)				
Accounts	35,428	566,419	601,847	0
Taxes	122,818	0	122,818	0
Lease	21,369	0	21,369	0
Intergovernmental	43,061	222,105	265,166	487
Interest	3,065	0	3,065	0
Prepaid items	81,859	49,640	131,499	0
Inventories	0	131,450	131,450	0
Total current assets	3,602,008	9,010,411	12,612,419	2,796
Noncurrent assets				
Lease receivable	382,602	0	382,602	0
Capital assets				
Non-depreciable	542,936	875,194	1,418,130	0
Depreciable (net)	4,682,072	7,433,733	12,115,805	146,007
Total noncurrent assets	5,607,610	8,308,927	13,916,537	146,007
Total assets	9,209,618	17,319,338	26,528,956	148,803
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURSES				
Deferred outflows related to pension	160,981	109,170	270,151	0
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Payables				
Accounts	55,736	182,273	238,009	1,028
Refunds	7	0	7	0
Sales tax	0	3	3	0
Interest	9,795	9,203	18,998	0
Due to others	60,014	0	60,014	0
Accrued salaries and expenses	33,482	18,065	51,547	0
Compensated absences	37,414	36,210	73,624	0
Unearned revenue	0	15,602	15,602	0
Customer deposits payable	0	137,012	137,012	0
Notes payable	70,503	138,445	208,948	0
Total current liabilities	266,951	536,813	803,764	1,028

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
June 30, 2025

	Primary Government			Component Unit
	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total	Downtown Development Authority
Noncurrent liabilities				
Compensated absences	$ 4,157	$ 4,023	$ 8,180	$ 0
Net pension liability	505,525	342,820	848,345	0
Notes payable	234,732	1,837,129	2,071,861	0
Total noncurrent liabilities	744,414	2,183,972	2,928,386	0
Total liabilities	1,011,365	2,720,785	3,732,150	1,028
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES				
Deferred inflows related to pension	147,541	100,055	247,596	0
Deferred inflows related to leases	364,280	0	364,280	0
Total deferred inflows of resources	511,821	100,055	611,876	0
NET POSITION				
Net investment in capital assets	4,919,773	6,322,592	11,242,365	146,007
Restricted for:				
Public Safety	93,857	0	93,857	0
Capital outlay	1,010,639	0	1,010,639	0
Unrestricted	1,823,144	8,285,076	10,108,220	1,768
Total net position	$ 7,847,413	$ 14,607,668	$ 22,455,081	$ 147,775

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025

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	$ 818,093	$ 383,660	$ 0	$ 0	$ (434,433)
Judicial	19,972	1,913	0	0	(18,059)
Public Safety	1,474,546	168,070	81,131	0	(1,225,345)
Public Works	745,152	4,600	0	709,247	(31,305)
Culture and Recreation	255,541	0	0	1,000	(254,541)
Housing and Development	120,468	4,570	0	0	(115,898)
Interest on long term debt	17,586	0	0	0	(17,586)
Total governmental activities	3,451,358	562,813	81,131	710,247	(2,097,167)
Business-type activities					
Water and Sewer Utility	1,680,384	1,693,718	0	197,011	210,345
Natural Gas Utility	2,616,759	3,797,745	0	0	1,180,986
Sanitation	343,402	367,938	0	0	24,536
Total business-type activities	4,640,545	5,859,401	0	197,011	1,415,867
Total primary government	8,091,903	6,422,214	81,131	907,258	(681,300)
Component Unit					
Downtown Development Authority					
Housing and Development	29,534	4,641	4,624	0	(20,269)

	Primary Government: Governmental Activities	Primary Government: Business-Type Activities	Primary Government: Total	Component Unit
Change in net position				
Net (expense) revenue	$ (2,097,167)	$ 1,415,867	$ (681,300)	$ (20,269)
General revenues				
Taxes				
Property	848,671	0	848,671	0
Sales	979,190	0	979,190	0
Franchise	226,109	0	226,109	0
Insurance premium	252,544	0	252,544	0
Intangibles	11,366	0	11,366	0
Alcoholic beverage	63,549	0	63,549	0
Occupational	39,150	0	39,150	0
Hotel/Motel	9,609	0	9,609	0
Payments from City of Royston	0	0	0	14,608
Interest and investment earnings	80,575	256,983	337,558	0
Other	58,077	0	58,077	0
Gain of sale of assets	45,373	30,355	75,728	0
Transfers	(30,214)	30,214	0	0
Total general revenues and transfers	2,583,999	317,552	2,901,551	14,608
Change in net position	486,832	1,733,419	2,220,251	(5,661)
Net position - beginning	7,360,581	12,874,249	20,234,830	153,436
Net position - ending	$ 7,847,413	$ 14,607,668	$ 22,455,081	$ 147,775

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
June 30, 2025

	General	Franklin County SPLOST #5	Franklin County SPLOST #6	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total
ASSETS					
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 2,175,441	$ 0	$ 970,558	$ 58,017	$ 3,204,016
Certificates of deposit	83,797	0	0	0	83,797
Restricted assets					
Cash and equivalents	6,595	0	0	0	6,595
Receivables (net)					
Accounts	35,428	0	0	0	35,428
Taxes	122,331	0	0	487	122,818
Leases	403,971	0	0	0	403,971
Intergovernmental	0	0	40,081	2,980	43,061
Interest	3,065	0	0	0	3,065
Prepaid items	81,859	0	0	0	81,859
Total assets	$ 2,912,487	$ 0	$ 1,010,639	$ 61,484	$ 3,984,610
LIABILITIES					
Accounts payable	$ 53,749	$ 0	$ 0	$ 1,987	$ 55,736
Refunds payable	7	0	0	0	7
Accrued salaries	33,482	0	0	0	33,482
Due to others	60,014	0	0	0	60,014
Total liabilities	147,252	0	0	1,987	149,239
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES					
Unavailable revenue - property taxes	20,947	0	0	0	20,947
Leases	364,280	0	0	0	364,280
Total deferred inflows of resources	385,227	0	0	0	385,227
FUND BALANCES					
Nonspendable prepaid items	81,859	0	0	0	81,859
Nonspendable leases	39,691	0	0	0	39,691
Restricted for:					
Public Safety	34,360	0	0	59,497	93,857
Capital projects	0	0	1,010,639	0	1,010,639
Unassigned	2,224,098	0	0	0	2,224,098
Total fund balances	2,380,008	0	1,010,639	59,497	3,450,144
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances	$ 2,912,487	$ 0	$ 1,010,639	$ 61,484	$ 3,984,610

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET OF
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
June 30, 2025

Total fund balance - total governmental funds		$ 3,450,144
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		5,225,008
Long-term assets (receivables) are not available to pay current period expenditures and, therefore, are reported as unavailable revenue in the funds. These are:		
Property taxes		20,947
Deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions are applicable to future periods and, therefore, are not reported in the funds. These are:		
Deferred outflows of resources:		
Pension	$ 160,981	
Deferred inflows of resources:		
Pension	(147,541)	13,440
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and are not reported in the funds. These are:		
Accrued interest payable	(9,795)	
Notes payable	(305,235)	
Net pension liability	(505,525)	
Compensated absences	(41,571)	(862,126)
Net position of governmental activities		$ 7,847,413

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025

	General	Franklin County SPLOST #5	Franklin County SPLOST #6	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total
REVENUES					
Taxes	$ 2,418,219	$ 0	$ 0	$ 9,609	$ 2,427,828
Licenses and permits	35,610	0	0	0	35,610
Fines, fees and forfeitures	136,980	0	0	30,246	167,226
Charges for services	358,064	0	0	0	358,064
Intergovernmental	49,437	0	565,132	124,692	739,261
Interest	80,554	9,665	30,123	21	120,363
Contributions	2,140	0	0	10,190	12,330
Other	58,077	0	0	0	58,077
Total revenues	3,139,081	9,665	595,255	174,758	3,918,759
EXPENDITURES					
Current					
General Government	805,883	0	0	0	805,883
Judicial	16,836	0	0	0	16,836
Public Safety	1,227,746	12,227	0	51,236	1,291,209
Public Works	489,648	0	0	0	489,648
Culture and Recreation	182,036	0	0	0	182,036
Housing and Development	97,113	0	0	9,609	106,722
Capital outlay	0	419,398	205,357	168,582	793,337
Debt service	86,681	0	0	0	86,681
Total expenditures	2,905,943	431,625	205,357	229,427	3,772,352
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over (under) expenditures	233,138	(421,960)	389,898	(54,669)	146,407
Other financing sources (uses)					
Transfers out	0	(30,214)	0	0	(30,214)
Sale of capital assets	45,373	0	0	0	45,373
Total other financing sources (uses)	45,373	(30,214)	0	0	15,159
Net change in fund balance	278,511	(452,174)	389,898	(54,669)	161,566
Fund balances, July 1, as previously presented	2,101,497	0	620,741	566,340	3,288,578
Change within financial reporting entity	0	452,174	0	(452,174)	0
Fund balances, July 1, as restated	2,101,497	452,174	620,741	114,166	3,288,578
Fund balances, June 30	$ 2,380,008	$ 0	$ 1,010,639	$ 59,497	$ 3,450,144

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF ROYSTON, 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, 2025

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds		$ 161,566
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 outlays	$ 650,473	
Depreciation	(399,340)	251,133
In the statement of activities, the loss on the disposal of capital assets is reported, whereas in the governmental funds, the proceeds from the sale of capital assets increase financial resources.		
Cost of assets disposed	(826,521)	
Related accumulated depreciation	826,521	0
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 the 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 funds 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 repayments	66,795	
Net change in interest payable	2,300	69,095
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 property taxes.		4,274
Governmental funds report pension contributions as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of pension benefits earned net of employee contributions is reported as pension expense.		
Pension contributions	136,935	
Cost of benefits earned net of employee contributions	(134,140)	2,795
Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.		
Compensated absences		(2,031)
Change in net position of governmental activities		$ 486,832

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET (GAAP) AND ACTUAL
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025

	Budget			Variance with Final
	Original	Final	Actual	Budget
REVENUES				
Taxes	$ 2,397,750	$ 2,397,750	$ 2,418,219	$ 20,469
Licenses and permits	38,350	38,350	35,610	(2,740)
Fines, fees and forfeitures	86,150	86,150	136,980	50,830
Charges for services	349,350	349,350	358,064	8,714
Intergovernmental	25,000	25,000	49,437	24,437
Interest	15,100	15,100	80,554	65,454
Contributions	0	0	2,140	2,140
Other	47,975	47,975	58,077	10,102
Total revenues	2,959,675	2,959,675	3,139,081	179,406
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
General Government				
Mayor and Council	152,400	152,400	155,406	(3,006)
Administration	739,925	727,925	650,244	77,681
Elections	6,200	6,200	233	5,967
Judicial				
Municipal Court	35,200	35,200	16,836	18,364
Public Safety				
Police	1,174,104	1,108,204	1,072,326	35,878
Fire	128,460	128,460	131,712	(3,252)
Animal Control	30,800	30,800	23,708	7,092
Public Works				
Streets	447,150	447,150	369,334	77,816
Maintenance Shop	98,695	98,695	84,224	14,471
Cemetery	57,750	57,750	36,090	21,660
Culture and Recreation				
Library	50,400	62,400	62,147	253
Parks and Recreation	142,125	142,125	119,889	22,236
Housing and Development				
Planning and Zoning	12,000	12,000	311	11,689
Main Street	107,150	107,150	96,802	10,348
Debt service	20,828	86,728	86,681	47
Total expenditures	3,203,187	3,203,187	2,905,943	297,244
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(243,512)	(243,512)	233,138	476,650
Other financing sources (uses)				
Sale of capital assets	5,000	5,000	45,373	40,373
Contingency	(25,000)	(25,000)	0	25,000
Total other financing sources (uses)	(20,000)	(20,000)	45,373	65,373
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over (under) expenditures and other financing uses	(263,512)	(263,512)	278,511	542,023
Fund balances, July 1	263,512	263,512	2,101,497	1,837,985
Fund balances, June 30	$ 0	$ 0	$ 2,380,008	$ 2,380,008

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
June 30, 2025

	Business Type			
	Water and Sewer Utility	Natural Gas Utility	Nonmajor Sanitation	Totals
ASSETS				
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 777,217	$ 6,939,409	$ 187,159	$ 7,903,785
Restricted assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	41,520	95,492	0	137,012
Receivables (net)				
Accounts	227,685	280,961	57,773	566,419
Intergovernmental	222,105	0	0	222,105
Inventories	0	131,450	0	131,450
Prepaid items	11,719	32,804	5,117	49,640
Total current assets	1,280,246	7,480,116	250,049	9,010,411
Noncurrent assets				
Capital assets				
Non-depreciable	734,444	134,321	6,429	875,194
Depreciable (net)	5,087,982	2,337,792	7,959	7,433,733
Total noncurrent assets	5,822,426	2,472,113	14,388	8,308,927
Total assets	7,102,672	9,952,229	264,437	17,319,338
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURSES				
Deferred outflows related to pension	42,015	55,101	12,054	109,170
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Payables				
Accounts	114,387	58,167	9,719	182,273
Sales tax	0	3	0	3
Interest	5,204	3,999	0	9,203
Accrued salaries	7,755	8,366	1,944	18,065
Compensated absences	19,050	12,567	4,593	36,210
Unearned revenue	0	15,602	0	15,602
Notes payable	109,664	28,781	0	138,445
Liabilities payable from restricted assets:				
Customer deposits payable	41,520	95,492	0	137,012
Total current liabilities	297,580	222,977	16,256	536,813

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
June 30, 2025

	Business Type			
	Water and Sewer Utility	Natural Gas Utility	Nonmajor Sanitation	Totals
Noncurrent liabilities				
Net pension liability	$ 131,937	$ 173,032	$ 37,851	$ 342,820
Compensated absences	2,117	1,396	510	4,023
Notes payable	1,741,282	95,847	0	1,837,129
Total noncurrent liabilities	1,875,336	270,275	38,361	2,183,972
Total liabilities	2,172,916	493,252	54,617	2,720,785
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES				
Deferred inflows related to pension	38,507	50,501	11,047	100,055
NET POSITION				
Net investment in capital assets	3,971,480	2,336,724	14,388	6,322,592
Unrestricted	961,784	7,126,853	196,439	8,285,076
Total net position	$ 4,933,264	$ 9,463,577	$ 210,827	$ 14,607,668

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025

	Business Type			
	Water and Sewer Utility	Natural Gas Utility	Nonmajor Sanitation	Totals
OPERATING REVENUES				
Charges for sales and services	$ 1,693,718	$ 3,797,745	$ 367,938	$ 5,859,401
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Costs of sales and services	871,319	1,941,796	200,300	3,013,415
Personal services	473,910	502,331	110,514	1,086,755
Depreciation	304,890	165,451	32,588	502,929
Total operating expenses	1,650,119	2,609,578	343,402	4,603,099
Operating income (loss)	43,599	1,188,167	24,536	1,256,302
Non-operating revenues (expenses)				
Interest revenue	32,257	218,822	5,904	256,983
Interest expense	(30,265)	(7,181)	0	(37,446)
Gain (loss) on sale of capital assets	0	30,355	0	30,355
Total non-operating revenues (expenses)	1,992	241,996	5,904	249,892
Income before capital contributions and transfers	45,591	1,430,163	30,440	1,506,194
Capital contributions				
Intergovernmental	197,011	0	0	197,011
Income before transfers	242,602	1,430,163	30,440	1,703,205
Transfers in	30,214	0	0	30,214
Change in net position	272,816	1,430,163	30,440	1,733,419
Net position, July 1	4,660,448	8,033,414	180,387	12,874,249
Net position, June 30	$ 4,933,264	$ 9,463,577	$ 210,827	$ 14,607,668

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025

	Business Type			
	Water and Sewer Utility	Natural Gas Utility	Nonmajor Sanitation	Totals
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Receipts from customers	$ 1,689,820	$ 3,679,899	$ 363,916	$ 5,733,635
Payments to suppliers	(832,938)	(2,093,306)	(209,835)	(3,136,079)
Payments to employees	(492,083)	(535,790)	(116,387)	(1,144,260)
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	364,799	1,050,803	37,694	1,453,296
Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:				
Receipts from other funds	30,214	0	0	30,214
Receipts from other governments	377,475	151,900	0	529,375
Interest paid	(30,926)	(8,120)	0	(39,046)
Acquisition of capital assets	(734,434)	(93,875)	0	(828,309)
Payment of capital related accounts payable	(78,431)	0	0	(78,431)
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	0	30,355	0	30,355
Proceeds from issuance of debt - notes	85,959	0	0	85,959
Principal payments - notes	(107,137)	(27,272)	0	(134,409)
Net cash provided (used) by capital and related financing activities	(457,280)	52,988	0	(404,292)
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Interest received	32,257	218,822	5,904	256,983
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(60,224)	1,322,613	43,598	1,305,987
Cash and cash equivalents, July 1	878,961	5,712,288	143,561	6,734,810
Cash and cash equivalents, June 30	$ 818,737	$ 7,034,901	$ 187,159	$ 8,040,797

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025

	Business Type			
	Water and Sewer Utility	Natural Gas Utility	Nonmajor Sanitation	Totals
Reconciliation of operating income (loss) to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:				
Operating income (loss)	$ 43,599	$ 1,188,167	$ 24,536	$ 1,256,302
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:				
Depreciation expense	304,890	165,451	32,588	502,929
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	5,242	(77,799)	(4,022)	(76,579)
(Increase) decrease in prepaids	5,969	(17,485)	(791)	(12,307)
(Increase) decrease in inventories	0	(25,215)	0	(25,215)
(Increase) decrease in deferred outflows related to pension	12,316	16,152	3,534	32,002
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	32,412	(108,810)	(8,744)	(85,142)
Increase (decrease) in sales tax payable	0	(9,400)	0	(9,400)
Increase (decrease) in unearned revenue	(11,920)	(57,623)	0	(69,543)
Increase (decrease) in deferred inflows related to pension	35,333	46,338	10,136	91,807
Increase (decrease) in net pension liability	(75,025)	(98,394)	(21,523)	(194,942)
Increase (decrease) in accrued payroll liabilities	9,203	2,445	1,980	13,628
Increase (decrease) in gas assistance credit	0	22,402	0	22,402
Increase (decrease) in deposits payable	2,780	4,574	0	7,354
Total adjustments	321,200	(137,364)	13,158	196,994
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	$ 364,799	$ 1,050,803	$ 37,694	$ 1,453,296
Cash and cash equivalents reconciliation:				
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 777,217	$ 6,939,409	$ 187,159	$ 7,903,785
Restricted assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	41,520	95,492	0	137,012
Total cash and cash equivalents	$ 818,737	$ 7,034,901	$ 187,159	$ 8,040,797

Noncash investing, capital, and financing activities:

Acquisitions of capital assets through accounts payable totaled $65,558.

Increase of notes payable through intergovernmental receivables totaled $111,052.

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
MUNICIPAL COURT CUSTODIAL FUND
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
June 30, 2025

ASSETS	
Equity in pooled cash	$ 9,197
LIABILITIES	
Due to other agencies	9,197
NET POSITION	
Restricted for individuals, organizations, and other governments	$ 0

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
MUNICIPAL COURT CUSTODIAL FUND
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025

ADDITIONS		
Fines and forfeitures collected for other governments	$	73,767
DEDUCTIONS		
Distributions of fines and forfeitures to other governments		73,767
Change in net position		0
Net position, July 1		0
Net position, June 30	$	0

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

1. Description of Government Unit

The City of Royston was established in 1879. The City operates under a council/mayor form of government and provides the following services: public safety, street and sanitation, culture and recreation, public improvements and general and administrative services. In addition, the City operates public utilities for water, sewer, and gas for the incorporated and immediate surrounding areas.

The City is governed by an elected six-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

The accompanying financial statements present the government and its component units, entities for which the government is considered financially accountable. Blended component units are, in substance, part of the primary government's operations, even though they are legally separate entities. Thus, blended component units are appropriately presented as funds of the primary government. Each discretely presented component unit is reported in a separate column in the government-wide financial statements to emphasize that it is legally separate from the government.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

B. Reporting Entity, continued

City of Royston Downtown Development Authority

The City of Royston Downtown Development Authority was established as a legally separate entity, which operates pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The Authority consists of seven members appointed by the City Council and an executive director. The Downtown Development Authority provides for the vitalization of the downtown area of the City of Royston. In many respects, the Authority functions similar to a City department through regular participation in department director meetings, budget approval, accounting, payroll, etc.

The City of Royston 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 section labeled "Component Unit" (See Exhibit I). The City of Royston Downtown Development Authority has a June 30th year-end. Individual financial statements may be obtained by contacting the City of Royston Downtown Development Authority, 684 Franklin Springs Street, Royston, GA 30662.

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 is nevertheless shown 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. 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.

Franklin County SPLOST #5 Capital Projects Fund – This fund is used to account for long-term projects financed by the passage of the 2016 Franklin County special purpose local option sales tax.

Franklin County SPLOST #6 Capital Projects Fund – This fund is used to account for long-term projects financed by the passage of the 2022 Franklin County special purpose local option sales tax.

The City reports the following major proprietary funds:

Water and Sewer Utility Enterprise 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 Royston.

Natural Gas Utility Enterprise Fund – This fund is used to account for activities connected with the development, operation, and maintenance of natural gas services in the City of Royston.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

D. Basis of Presentation – Fund Financial Statements, continued

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.

Capital Projects Funds - This fund type is used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of capital assets (other than those financed by the proprietary or fiduciary funds).

Fiduciary Fund Types

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

Component Units

The Royston 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).

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

D. Basis of Presentation – Fund Financial Statements, continued

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 from/to 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.

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.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

E. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting, continued

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 of the end of the current fiscal period.

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 leases are reported as other financing sources.

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. The custodial fund has no measurement focus but utilizes the accrual basis of accounting for reporting its assets and liabilities.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

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.

Certain indirect costs have been included as part of program expenses reported for the various functional activities.

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, Natural Gas, and Solid Waste Funds 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.

G. Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The City Council adopts an annual budget for all governmental fund types, prior to July 1, except for the Capital Projects Funds. The Capital Projects Funds are budgeted by City Council when capital projects are approved. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them. The budget is legally enacted by the passage of a resolution.

Early each year, the department heads submit budget requests to the City Manager. Meetings are held between the City Manager and department heads each April to discuss the preparation of the proposed budget. The City Manager then submits the proposed budget to the City Council in May.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

G. Budgets and Budgetary Accounting, continued

During June, the Mayor and Council conduct a public hearing to discuss the proposed budget and to obtain input from the citizens of the City of Royston. This hearing is publicized in the local newspaper at least two weeks before the hearing. The final proposed budget is then adopted by the City Council on or before June 30 during a regular Council meeting, which is also open to the public.

The level of legal budgetary control (the level at which expenditures may not exceed appropriations) is the department level. All operating budget transfers between departments and all changes to Capital Projects budgets must be approved by City Council. Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year.

Budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) at the legal level of budgetary control, which is the department level. Expenditures may not exceed the appropriations within a fund. Budgets, as reported in the financial statements, are as originally passed by resolution, and subsequently amended. During the year, several supplementary appropriations are made as needed. The results are increases and decreases to the appropriations within the funds. All annual appropriations lapse at year-end.

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.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

I. Leases Receivable

Leases receivable are measured at the present value of lease payments expected to be received during the lease terms. Under the lease agreements, the City may receive variable lease payments that dependent upon the lessees' revenue. The variable payments are recorded as an inflow of resources in the period the payment is received.

A deferred inflow of resources is recorded for each of the leases. The deferred inflow of resources is recorded at the initiation of the lease in an amount equal to the initial recording of the lease receivable. The deferred inflow of resources is amortized on a straight-line basis over the term of the respective lease.

J. 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.

K. Inventories

Inventories of the Natural Gas Utility Enterprise Fund are valued at cost on the first-in, first-out method.

L. Prepaid Items

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

M. 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.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

M. Capital Assets, continued

GASB Statement No. 34 required the City to report and depreciate new infrastructure assets effective with the beginning of the fiscal year ended June 30, 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 July 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 Royston, retroactive reporting of infrastructure assets was not required.

All capital assets are valued at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual historical cost is not available. Donated capital assets are recorded 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	50	$ 10,000
Distribution systems	50	$ 50,000
Roads	50	$ 100,000
Bridges and culverts	50	$ 50,000
Equipment	10	$ 10,000
Vehicles	7	$ 10,000
Furniture and fixtures	5	$ 10,000
Land improvements	15	$ 10,000

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.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

N. 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. The City reports deferred outflows of resources related to their defined benefit pension plans.

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 property taxes revenues. The City also reports deferred inflows of resources related to their defined benefit pension plans and leases receivable. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period that the amounts become available.

O. Compensated Absences

In accordance with Government Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 101, it is the City's policy to permit employees to accumulate earned but unused paid time off (PTO) benefits which will be paid to the employees upon separation from City service. Accumulated PTO amounts are accrued when incurred by the City in the government-wide, proprietary, and fiduciary fund financial statements. The liability of the proprietary funds is recorded as an expense and a liability of those funds as the benefits accrue to the employees. 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)

P. Pensions

For the 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 City of Royston Employees' Pension Plan (the Plan) and additions to/deductions from the Plan's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the Plan. 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.

Q. 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.

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 financial 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.

R. 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.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

S. Fund Balances – Governmental Funds

The City of Royston implemented GASB No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, in fiscal year 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 fiscal 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 Royston'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. 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 120 days of fiscal year-end.

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 Council's adopted policy, amounts may be assigned by the City Manager, 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.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

S. Fund Balances – Governmental Funds, continued

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 is the only fund that should report this category of fund balance.

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.

T. 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.

U. 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)

V. 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.

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.

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, pooled investment programs of the State of Georgia, and no-load mutual funds of direct obligations of the United States. 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 the end of the current fiscal year consist of the following:

Major Funds		
General Fund		$ 35,428
Enterprise Funds		
Water and Sewer Utility	$ 280,372	
Less: Allowances for Uncollectibles	(52,687)	
Natural Gas Utility	339,645	
Less: Allowances for Uncollectibles	(58,684)	508,646
Nonmajor Funds		
Sanitation	75,965	
Less: Allowances for Uncollectibles	(18,192)	57,773
Total Primary Government		$ 601,847

5. Intergovernmental Receivables

Intergovernmental receivables at the end of the current fiscal year consist of the following:

Major Funds	
Governmental Funds	
Franklin County SPLOST #6	$ 40,081
Enterprise Funds	
Water and Sewer Utility	222,105
Nonmajor Governmental Funds	2,980
Total Primary Government	$ 265,166

6. Property Taxes

Taxes receivable at the end of the current year consist of property taxes for seven years as follows:

Tax Year	Amount
2024	$ 29,838
2023	1,612
2022	273
2021	152
2020	37
2019	18
2018	18
Less: allowance for uncollectible accounts	(1,115)
Totals	$ 30,834

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 fiscal year 2025, based upon the assessments of January 1, 2024, were billed on December 12, 2024, and due on February 12, 2025. Tax liens are issued 90 days after the due date. The tax rate of 8.408 mills for digest year 2024 was levied on November 12, 2024.

Other Taxes

$91,497 of sales taxes and $487 of other taxes are also included in taxes receivable.

7. Lease Receivable

In 2013, the City entered into a five year lease with a cell phone service provider to provide the tenant the right to a portion of real property, together with the right to use the tower located thereon. The lease provides for four additional, five-year terms. Under the lease, the tenant paid the City a monthly payment of $2,000 per month for the first 12 months of the lease. On the annual anniversary date of the commencement date, the monthly rent amount is increased by 2.5% of the rent paid in the previous year. The lease receivable is measured as the present value of the future minimum rent payments expected to be received during the lease term at an imputed discount rate of 2.784%. During the current fiscal year, the City recognized $28,022 of lease revenue (reported as other revenue on the statement of activities) and $14,240 of interest revenue under the lease.

Annual requirements to maturity are as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	Principal	Interest	Total
2026	$ 21,369	$ 10,976	$ 32,345
2027	22,790	10,363	33,153
2028	24,272	9,710	33,982
2029	25,817	9,015	34,832
2030	27,427	8,275	35,702
2031-2035	163,732	28,623	192,355
2036-2038	118,564	5,071	123,635
Totals	$ 403,971	$ 82,033	$ 486,004

8. Interfund Transfers

A summary of interfund transfers is as follows:

Transfer Out Fund	Transfer In Fund	Amount
Franklin County SPLOST #5	Water and Sewer Utility	$ 30,214

Interfund transfers are used to 1) move revenues from the fund that statute or budget requires collecting them to the fund that statute or budget requires to expend them, and 2) use unrestricted revenues collected to finance various programs accounted for in other funds in accordance with budgetary authorizations. Transfers are eliminated in the government-wide financial statements if the interfund transfer is within the governmental fund group or business-type fund group.

9. Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the primary government for the current fiscal year is as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Governmental activities				
Non-depreciable assets				
Land	$ 540,144	$ 2,792	$ 0	$ 542,936
Depreciable assets				
Buildings	4,733,847	0	0	4,733,847
Infrastructure	2,552,746	0	0	2,552,746
Vehicles and equipment	3,022,775	623,703	(803,577)	2,842,901
Software	94,030	0	0	94,030
Furniture and fixtures	59,230	23,978	(22,944)	60,264
Total depreciable assets	10,462,628	647,681	(826,521)	10,283,788
Accumulated depreciation				
Buildings	(2,686,006)	(73,751)	0	(2,759,757)
Infrastructure	(859,170)	(61,230)	0	(920,400)
Vehicles and equipment	(2,389,710)	(247,878)	803,577	(1,834,011)
Software	(37,612)	(9,403)	0	(47,015)
Furniture and fixtures	(56,399)	(7,078)	22,944	(40,533)
Total accumulated depreciation	(6,028,897)	(399,340)	826,521	(5,601,716)
Total depreciable assets, net	4,433,731	248,341	0	4,682,072
Governmental activities capital assets, net	$ 4,973,875	$ 251,133	$ 0	$ 5,225,008
Business-type activities				
Non-depreciable assets				
Land	$ 81,702	$ 0	$ 0	$ 81,702
Construction in progress	303,483	490,009	0	793,492
Total non-depreciable assets	385,185	490,009	0	875,194
Depreciable assets				
Buildings	206,501	0	0	206,501
Land improvements	46,824	0	0	46,824
Distribution system	15,023,096	159,103	0	15,182,199
Vehicles and equipment	2,026,117	244,755	(127,648)	2,143,224
Total depreciable assets	17,302,538	403,858	(127,648)	17,578,748
Accumulated depreciation				
Buildings	(156,714)	(5,016)	0	(161,730)
Land improvements	(27,315)	(1,614)	0	(28,929)
Distribution system	(8,131,021)	(310,039)	0	(8,441,060)
Vehicles and equipment	(1,454,684)	(186,260)	127,648	(1,513,296)
Total accumulated depreciation	(9,769,734)	(502,929)	127,648	(10,145,015)
Total depreciable assets, net	7,532,804	(99,071)	0	7,433,733
Business-type activities capital assets, net	$ 7,917,989	$ 390,938	$ 0	$ 8,308,927

9. Capital Assets (continued)

Capital asset activity for the Downtown Development Authority Component Unit for the current fiscal year is as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Component Unit				
Depreciable assets				
Buildings	$ 167,208	$ 0	$ 0	$ 167,208
Accumulated Depreciation				
Buildings	(17,857)	(3,344)	0	(21,201)
Downtown Development Authority				
Component Unit, net	$ 149,351	$ (3,344)	$ 0	$ 146,007

Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs as follows:

Primary Government	
Governmental activities	
General Government	$ 41,980
Public Safety	190,200
Public Works	86,714
Culture and Recreation	73,081
Housing and Development	7,365
Total depreciation expense for governmental activities	$ 399,340
Business-type activities	
Water and Sewer Utility	$ 304,890
Natural Gas Utility	165,451
Nonmajor Sanitation	32,588
Total depreciation expense for business-type activities	$ 502,929
Component Unit	
Downtown Development Authority	$ 3,344

10. Long-Term Debt

Notes from Direct Borrowings

Governmental Activities

On November 17, 2023, the City entered into an agreement to participate in a finance purchase program sponsored by the Georgia Municipal Association. A note from direct borrowing in the amount of $642,430 was issued with Magnolia Bank, Inc. to finance the purchase of multiple vehicles; interest at 5.30%, due in 5 consecutive annual payments beginning on November 17, 2024. The note is secured by the vehicles. Upon an event of default, all outstanding principal and accrued interest may be declared immediately due and payable. At the end of the current fiscal year, the outstanding balance of the note is $305,235.

Annual debt service requirements for notes from direct borrowings are as follows:

Year Ending June 30,	Principal	Interest	Total
2026	$ 70,503	$ 16,178	$ 86,681
2027	74,240	12,441	86,681
2028	78,175	8,506	86,681
2029	82,317	4,363	86,680
Totals	$ 305,235	$ 41,488	$ 346,723

10. Long-Term Debt (continued)

Notes from Direct Borrowings, continued

Business-type Activities

On November 7, 2017, the City entered into an agreement with the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority for improvements to the City's water and sewerage system. The City agreed to borrow up to $2,000,000 due in 239 consecutive monthly installments of principal and interest beginning on the earlier of the project completion date or October 1, 2019; interest at 1.55%. On September 10, 2019, an amendment was made to the agreement, allowing the City to borrow $2,347,413 due in 239 consecutive monthly installments of principal and interest beginning on February 1, 2020; interest at 1.55%. Upon an event of default, all outstanding principal and accrued interest may be declared immediately due and payable. Note payments and performance obligations are secured by revenues on taxes, fees and charges collected by the City. At the end of the current fiscal year, the outstanding balance of the note is $1,470,202.

On November 17, 2023, the City entered into an agreement to participate in a finance purchase program sponsored by the Georgia Municipal Association. A note from direct borrowing in the amount of $642,430 was issued to Magnolia Bank, Inc to finance the purchase of multiple vehicles; interest at 5.30%, due in 5 consecutive annual payments beginning on November 17, 2024. The note is secured by the equipment. Upon an event of default, all outstanding principal and accrued interest may be declared immediately due and payable. At the end of the current fiscal year, the outstanding balance of the note is $221,852.

On January 26, 2024, the City entered into an agreement with the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority for improvements to the City's water treatment plant, water distribution system, and related appurtenances. The City agreed to borrow up to $2,500,000 due in 239 consecutive monthly installments of principal and interest beginning on the earlier of the project completion date or April 1, 2027; interest at 1.55%. Upon an event of default, all outstanding principal and accrued interest may be declared immediately due and payable. Note payments and performance obligations are secured by revenues on taxes, fees and charges collected by the City. At the end of the current fiscal year, the outstanding balance of the note is $176,981. This note is still in drawdown phase, therefore it is not included in the annual debt service requirement table below.

10. Long-Term Debt (continued)

Notes from Direct Borrowings, continued

Business-type Activities (continued)

On January 26, 2024, the City entered into an agreement with the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority for construction of a tertiary treatment system, sludge handling system, and related appurtenances. The City agreed to borrow up to $3,000,000 due in 239 consecutive monthly installments of principal and interest beginning on the earlier of the project completion date or April 1, 2027; interest at 1.31%. Upon an event of default, all outstanding principal and accrued interest may be declared immediately due and payable. Note payments and performance obligations are secured by revenues on taxes, fees and charges collected by the City. At the end of the current fiscal year, the outstanding balance of the note is $106,539. This note is still in drawdown phase, therefore it is not included in the annual debt service requirement table below.

Annual debt service requirements for notes from direct borrowings are as follows:

Year Ending June 30,	Principal	Interest	Total
2026	$ 138,445	$ 33,928	$ 172,373
2027	142,522	29,851	172,373
2028	146,765	25,609	172,374
2029	151,180	21,193	172,373
2030	92,776	16,596	109,372
2031-2035	486,059	60,800	546,859
2036-2040	525,202	21,659	546,861
2041	9,105	11	9,116
Totals	$ 1,692,054	$ 209,647	$ 1,901,701

11. Long-Term Liabilities

Changes in Long-Term Liabilities

The following is a summary of changes in long-term liabilities of the City for the current fiscal year:

	Balance	Additions	Deductions	Balance	One Year
Governmental activities					
Notes from direct borrowings	$ 372,030	$ 0	$ (66,795)	$ 305,235	$ 70,503
Compensated absences	39,540	2,031	0	41,571	37,414
Total governmental activities	$ 411,570	$ 2,031	$ (66,795)	$ 346,806	$ 107,917
Business-type activities					
Notes from direct borrowings	$ 1,912,972	$ 197,011	$ (134,409)	$ 1,975,574	$ 138,445
Compensated absences	30,462	9,771	0	40,233	36,210
Total business-type activities	$ 1,943,434	$ 206,782	$ (134,409)	$ 2,015,807	$ 174,655

Total interest expense in the governmental activities for the current fiscal year is $17,586. Total interest expense in the business-type activities for the current fiscal year is $37,446.

12. Net Investment in Capital Assets

The net investment in capital assets reported on the government-wide statement of net position is calculated as follows at the end of the current fiscal year:

	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Component Unit
Cost of capital assets	$ 10,826,724	$ 18,453,942	$ 167,208
Accumulated Depreciation	(5,601,716)	(10,145,015)	(21,201)
Book value	5,225,008	8,308,927	146,007
Notes payable	(305,235)	(1,975,574)	0
Capital-related accounts payable	0	(65,558)	0
Intergovernmental receivables included in accounts payable	0	54,797	0
Net investment in capital assets	$ 4,919,773	$ 6,322,592	$ 146,007

13. Restricted and Assigned Fund Balances

A summary of restricted and assigned fund balances of the governmental funds as of the end of the current fiscal year is as follows:

	General	Franklin County SPLOST #6	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Restricted for:				
Public Safety				
Police department	$ 6,595	$ 0	$ 4,867	$ 11,462
Fire department	27,765	0	54,630	82,395
Capital projects	0	1,010,639	0	1,010,639
	$ 34,360	$ 1,010,639	$ 59,497	$ 1,104,496

14. Pension Plan

Plan Description. The City is a participating member of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS), a state-wide agent, multiple-employer retirement system, administered by the Georgia Municipal Association. This is a defined benefit pension plan, which provides retirement, disability and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. The City has established provisions, which assign the authority to the City council members to establish and amend the benefit provisions of the plan.

Control over the operation and administration of the plan is vested with GMEBS along with custody of the plan assets. The plan provides that the City has no liability with respect to payments or benefits or otherwise under the plan except to pay over to GMEBS such actuarially determined contributions as are required to meet minimum funding standards of the Public Retirement Systems Standards Law and provide benefits thereunder. If terminated, the plan provides that if there are funds remaining after the satisfaction of all liabilities, such funds shall not revert to the City but shall be allocated to employees. All employees are eligible for immediate participation. Officials are covered under the plan and are eligible for immediate participation.

14. Pension Plan (continued)

There are no loans to any of the City officials or other "party-in-interest," and there are no prohibited transactions. The plan assets do not include any securities or investments in the City of Royston. The funds are managed by independent money managers.

The annual report and more detailed information regarding the plan can be obtained from the Plan Administrator, the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System.

At January 1, 2024, the date of the most recent actuarial valuation, the participants consisted of the following:

Retirees and beneficiaries currently receiving benefits	22
Terminated vested participants entitled to but not yet receiving benefits	30
Active participants	30
Total number of participants	82

Benefits Provided. The plan provides retirement, disability, and death benefits. Benefits are based on years of credited service, equal to one year of full-time employment. Members with five years of total service are eligible to retire at age 62 with no reduction in benefit. Officials and Class One members (City Manager and City Clerk) are eligible to retire at age 62 with no reduction in benefit. Members and officials with ten years of total service are eligible to retire at age 55 with no reduction in benefit. Officials and Class One members are eligible for early retirement at age 55 with no reduction in benefit. Members are eligible for early retirement with reduced benefits based on the early retirement reduction table at age 55 after 10 years of service. The benefit formula is 1.75% with a five year vesting schedule. Officials and Class One members benefit formula is 1.75% with benefits vesting immediately.

Contributions. Employees make no contributions to the plan. The City is required to contribute the remaining amounts necessary to fund the plan in compliance with the minimum funding standards of the Public Retirement Systems Standards Law. The City's actuarially determined contribution rate for the current fiscal year was $212,230, or 12.63% of covered payroll. The City's covered payroll for employees participating in the Plan for the current fiscal year was $1,680,430. The Council provides for the benefits and funding policy through City ordinance and maintains the authority to change the policy. The administrative expenses set by contract with GMEBS are in addition to the state-required annual funding requirement. This funding policy, as specified by ordinance, has been the same since the inception of the plan.

14. Pension Plan (continued)

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, Deferred Outflows of Resources, and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions. At the end of the current fiscal year, the City reported a net pension liability of $848,345. The net pension liability was measured as of September 30, 2024, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension asset was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2025. For the governmental activities, the net pension liability is liquidated by the General Fund. For the current fiscal year, the City recognized pension expense in the amount of $155,866.

At the end of the current fiscal year, the City reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to the plan from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	$ 97,803	$ (7,785)
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	0	(239,811)
City contributions subsequent to the measurement date	172,348	0
Totals	$ 270,151	$ (247,596)

The $172,348 of deferred outflows of resources resulting from the City's contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net position liability during the next fiscal year. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year Ending June 30	
2026	$ (27,879)
2027	50,893
2028	(87,688)
2029	(85,119)
Totals	$ (149,793)

14. Pension Plan (continued)

Actuarial Assumptions. The total pension liability in the January 1, 2025 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.25%
Projected salary increases	2.25% plus service based merit increases
Cost of living adjustments	0.00%
Net investment rate of return	7.375%

Healthy mortality rates were based on the Sex-Distinct Pri-2012 Head-Count Weighted Healthy Retiree Mortality Table with rates multiplied by 1.25. Disabled mortality rates were based on the Sex-Distinct Pri-2012 Head-Count Weighted Disabled Retiree Mortality Table with rates multiplied by 1.25.

The mortality and economic actuarial assumptions used in the January 1, 2025 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period of January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2019.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighing the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the pension plan's target asset allocation as of September 30, 2024 are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic equity	45%	6.60%
International equity	20%	7.03%
Domestic fixed income	20%	2.70%
Real estate	10%	3.40%
Global fixed income	5%	3.70%
Total	100%	

14. Pension Plan (continued)

Discount Rate. The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.375 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from employer will be made at contractually required rates, actuarially determined. Based on those assumptions, the Plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current active and inactive employees. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on Plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Changes in Net Pension Liability

	Total Pension Liability (Asset) (a)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position (b)	Net Pension Liability (Asset) (a) - (b)
Balances at 9/30/23	$ 3,735,223	$ 2,540,100	$ 1,195,123
Changes for the year:			
Service cost	99,221	0	99,221
Interest	277,611	0	277,611
Differences between expected and actual experience	95,501	0	95,501
Contributions—employer	0	212,230	(212,230)
Net investment income	0	615,265	(615,265)
Benefit payments, including refunds of employee contributions	(140,463)	(140,463)	0
Administrative expense	0	(8,384)	8,384
Net changes	331,870	678,648	(346,778)
Balances at 9/30/24	$ 4,067,093	$ 3,218,748	$ 848,345

Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	79.14%
Covered payroll	$ 1,588,614
Employer's net pension liability as percentage of covered payroll	53.40%

14. Pension Plan (continued)

Sensitivity of the Net Pension Asset/Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate. The following presents what the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage-point lower (6.375 percent) or one percentage-point higher (8.375 percent) than the current rate:

	Discount Rate	Net Pension Liability (Asset)
1% decrease	6.375%	$ 1,378,571
Current discount rate	7.375%	848,345
1% increase	8.375%	402,784

Plan Fiduciary Net Position. Detailed information about the Plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System financial report

Other Plans. In addition to the plan above, various City employees are covered under the Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Georgia. Further information regarding this plan can be obtained from the plan's annual report. This plan is immaterial to the financial statements.

15. Deferred Compensation Plans

The City provides retirement benefits for its employees through two deferred compensation, defined contribution plans. The Plans were created under Internal Revenue Code Sections 457 and 401(a). The first plan is administered by the Public Employees Benefits Services Corporation (PEBSCO), an independent third party. In fiscal year 2002, the City elected to participate in the plan administered by the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), an independent third party. Participating employees at the time of the conversion were given the option of remaining with the plan administered by PEBSCO, or changing to the plan administered by GMA. All employees who became eligible to participate in the deferred compensation, defined contribution plan after the conversion were enrolled in the GMA plan. The City Council provides for the benefits and funding policy through a City ordinance and maintains the authority to change the policy.

15. Deferred Compensation Plans (continued)

Under the terms of the Plans, employees may defer a portion of their salary through voluntary contributions to the Plan. Employees may defer a maximum of 25% of their salary, up to the maximum allowable by federal law. After completing 90 days of service, the City will contribute 25% of the employee's contributions per year. At the end of the current fiscal year, there were 10 members of the Plans.

There is a cap of $1,000 per eligible employee for City contributions. Funds are vested 100% at the time of contribution. Amounts held in the Plans are not available to the employees until termination, retirement, death, or unforeseeable emergency.

During the current fiscal year, the City contributed $13,602 to the plans based on covered salaries of $545,414. Plan members made voluntary contributions of $24,954 to the plans. Total payroll was $2,171,129.

The City has no fiduciary relationship with the plans, and plan assets are not available to the City or its general creditors. The Plans assets are held in trust by the administrator for the exclusive benefit of the participants of the Plans.

16. Hotel/Motel Lodging Tax

The City has levied a 3% lodging tax. A summary of the transactions for the current fiscal year are as follows:

Lodging Tax Receipts	$9,609	
Disbursements to		
Downtown Development Authority	$9,609	100% of Tax Receipts

17. 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, 1310 West Ridge Road, Gainesville, Georgia 30501.

18. Related Organizations

The Housing Authority of the City of Royston is considered a related organization to the City of Royston. The City appoints members to the Authority but does not have the ability to impose its will or create a financial benefit or burden for the Authority. The Authority provides low-income housing for the individuals in the City of Royston. The City received $28,286 as payment-in-lieu-of-taxes during the current fiscal year. Separate financial statements may be obtained from Housing Authority of the City of Royston, 216 Hartwell Street, Royston, Georgia 30662.

19. 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; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters. City has elected to manage its risk financing activities through the purchase of commercial insurance. There have been no insurance settlements exceeding insurance coverage for any of the past three fiscal years.

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

20. Contingencies

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

21. Changes Within Financial Reporting Entity

During the current fiscal year, changes within the financial reporting entity were as follows:

	Reporting Units Affected by Restatements of Beginning Balances		
	Franklin County SPLOST #5	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total
July 1, 2024, as previously reported	$ 0	$ 566,340	$ 566,340
Change from nonmajor to major fund	452,174	(452,174)	0
July 1, 2024, as restated	$ 452,174	$ 114,166	$ 566,340

22. New Accounting Pronouncements

The City implemented GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, effective for the City's current fiscal year. The requirements of this statement are effective for periods beginning after December 15, 2023. The implementation of this new standard had no effect on the City's beginning net position.

The City implemented GASB Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures*, effective for the City's current fiscal year. The requirements of this statement are effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2024. This statement had no effect on net position of the City.

23. Subsequent Events

On September 1, 2025, the City entered into a note from direct borrowing with Northeast Georgia Bank through the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia to finance the 2025 Natural Gas Capacity Expansion Project in the amount of $6,000,000.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE NET PENSION LIABILITY (ASSET) AND RELATED RATIOS
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS
June 30, 2025
(Unaudited)

	Fiscal Year		
	2025	**2024**	**2023**
Total pension liability			
Service cost	$ 99,221	$ 86,510	$ 65,002
Interest	277,611	256,634	200,237
Differences between expected and actual experience	95,501	52,354	(18,937)
Changes of benefit terms	0	0	602,770
Benefit payments, including refunds of employee contributions	(140,463)	(107,110)	(104,614)
Other	0	0	0
Net change in total pension liability	331,870	288,388	744,458
Total pension liability - beginning	3,735,223	3,446,835	2,702,377
Total pension liability - ending (a)	4,067,093	3,735,223	3,446,835
Plan fiduciary net position			
Contributions - employer	$ 212,230	$ 153,529	$ 120,682
Net investment income	615,265	296,329	(432,954)
Benefit payments, including refunds of employee contributions	(140,463)	(107,110)	(104,614)
Administrative expense	(8,384)	(9,271)	(11,652)
Net change in total pension liability	678,648	333,477	(428,538)
Plan fiduciary net position - beginning	2,540,100	2,206,623	2,635,161
Plan fiduciary net position - ending (b)	$ 3,218,748	$ 2,540,100	$ 2,206,623
Net pension liability (asset) - ending : (a) - (b)	$ 848,345	$ 1,195,123	$ 1,240,212
Plan's fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	79.14%	68.00%	64.02%
Covered payroll	$ 1,588,614	$ 1,729,388	$ 1,563,646
Net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll	53.40%	69.11%	79.32%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Fiscal Year							
2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
$ 66,304	$ 61,407	$ 64,130	$ 73,242	$ 81,578	$ 83,644	$ 90,691
190,101	180,105	169,546	160,002	144,637	138,514	125,255
(15,255)	(13,799)	(4,561)	(11,124)	7,268	(84,767)	13,041
						0
(100,206)	(93,960)	(91,930)	(79,565)	(55,901)	(60,829)	(55,011)
0	0	48,041	0	28,081	0	0
140,944	133,753	185,226	142,555	205,663	76,562	173,976
2,561,433	2,427,680	2,242,454	2,099,899	1,894,236	1,817,675	1,643,699
2,702,377	2,561,433	2,427,680	2,242,454	2,099,899	1,894,237	$ 1,817,675
$ 129,561	$ 124,974	$ 133,511	$ 138,032	$ 148,055	$ 152,823	$ 152,263
510,861	185,874	56,456	160,594	203,670	126,653	7,629
(100,206)	(93,960)	(91,930)	(79,565)	(55,901)	(60,829)	(55,011)
(9,257)	(8,914)	(8,590)	(9,150)	(9,766)	(5,350)	(5,878)
530,959	207,974	89,447	209,911	286,058	213,297	99,003
2,104,202	1,896,228	1,806,781	1,596,870	1,310,812	1,097,515	998,512
$ 2,635,161	$ 2,104,202	$ 1,896,228	$ 1,806,781	$ 1,596,870	$ 1,310,812	$ 1,097,515
$ 67,216	$ 457,231	$ 531,452	$ 435,673	$ 503,029	$ 583,425	$ 720,160
97.51%	82.15%	78.11%	80.57%	76.05%	69.20%	60.38%
$ 1,571,624	$ 1,532,818	$ 1,444,009	$ 1,389,033	$ 1,541,958	$ 1,579,149	$ 1,514,806
4.28%	29.83%	36.80%	31.37%	32.62%	36.95%	47.54%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS
June 30, 2025
(Unaudited)

	Fiscal Year		
	2025	**2024**	**2023**
Actuarially determined contribution	$ 212,230	$ 153,529	$ 122,322
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	(212,230)	(153,529)	(122,322)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Covered payroll	$ 1,680,430	$ 1,588,614	$ 1,705,596
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	12.63%	9.66%	7.17%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Fiscal Year							
2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
129,250	$ 123,549	$ 136,831	$ 138,432	$ 148,055	$ 151,263	$ 153,343
(129,250)	(123,549)	(136,831)	(138,432)	(148,055)	(151,263)	(153,343)
$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
1,510,308	$ 1,492,413	$ 1,578,162	$ 1,518,135	$ 1,469,871	$ 1,580,444	$ 1,696,036
8.56%	8.28%	8.67%	9.12%	10.07%	9.57%	9.04%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

1. Valuation Date

The actuarially determined contribution rate was determined as of January 1, 2025, with an interest adjustment to the fiscal year. Contributions in relation to this actuarially determined contribution rate will be reported for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

2. Methods and Assumptions Used to Determine Contribution Rates

Actuarial cost method = Projected unit credit

Amortization method = Closed level dollar for remaining unfunded liability

Remaining amortization period = Remaining amortization period varies for the bases, with a net effective amortization period of 15 years

Asset valuation method = Sum of actuarial value at beginning of year and the cash flow during the year plus the assumed investment return, adjusted by 10% of the amount that the value exceeds or is less than the market value at end of year. The actuarial value is adjusted, if necessary, to be within 20% of market value.

Net investment rate of return = 7.375%

Projected salary increases = 2.25% plus service based merit increases

Cost of living adjustments = 0%

Retirement age for inactive vested participants = 65

Mortality = Healthy mortality rates were based on the Sex-Distinct Pri-2012 Head-Count Weighted Healthy Retiree Mortality Table with rates multiplied by 1.25. Disabled mortality rates were based on the Sex-Distinct Pri-2012 Head-Count Weighted Disabled Retiree Mortality Table with rates multiplied by 1.25.

3. Changes in Benefits

There were no changes in benefits in the last two fiscal years.

4. Changes of Assumptions

There were no changes in assumptions in the last two fiscal years.

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COMBINING STATEMENTS

NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
June 30, 2025

	Special Revenue			
	Confiscated Assets	**Hotel/Motel Tax**	**Technology Surcharge**	**Fire Department**
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 0	$ 0	$ 6,367	$ 51,650
Taxes receivable	0	487	0	0
Intergovernmental receivable	0	0	0	2,980
Total assets	$ 0	$ 487	$ 6,367	$ 54,630
LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable	$ 0	$ 487	$ 1,500	$ 0
FUND BALANCES				
Restricted for Public Safety	0	0	4,867	54,630
Total liabilities and fund balances	$ 0	$ 487	$ 6,367	$ 54,630

Capital Projects	Total
Hart County SPLOST #5	Nonmajor Governmental Funds
$ 0	$ 58,017
0	487
0	2,980
$ 0	$ 61,484
$ 0	$ 1,987
0	59,497
$ 0	$ 61,484

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025

	Special Revenue			
	Confiscated Assets	**Hotel/Motel Tax**	**Technology Surcharge**	**Fire Department**
REVENUES				
Taxes	$ 0	$ 9,609	$ 0	$ 0
Fines, fees, and forfeitures	0	0	30,246	0
Intergovernmental	0	0	0	21,505
Interest	0	0	21	0
Contributions	0	0	0	10,190
Total revenues	0	9,609	30,267	31,695
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Public Safety	4,375	0	13,502	33,359
Housing and Development	0	9,609	0	0
Capital outlay	0	0	23,375	42,020
Total expenditures	4,375	9,609	36,877	75,379
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(4,375)	0	(6,610)	(43,684)
Fund balances, July 1, as previously presented	4,375	0	11,477	98,314
Change within financial reporting entity	0	0	0	0
Fund balances, July 1, as restated	4,375	0	11,477	98,314
Fund balances, June 30	$ 0	$ 0	$ 4,867	$ 54,630

Capital Projects		
Formerly Nonmajor Franklin County SPLOST #5	Hart County SPLOST #5	Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
$	$ 0	$ 9,609
	0	30,246
	103,187	124,692
	0	21
	0	10,190
	103,187	174,758
	0	51,236
	0	9,609
	103,187	168,582
	103,187	229,427
	0	(54,669)
452,174	0	566,340
(452,174)	0	(452,174)
	0	114,166
$	$ 0	$ 59,497

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
CONFISCATED ASSETS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Public Safety			
Materials and supplies	1,300	1,239	61
Payments to others	3,200	3,136	64
Total expenditures	4,500	4,375	125
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(3,200)	(4,375)	(1,175)
Fund balances, July 1	3,200	4,375	1,175
Fund balances, June 30	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
HOTEL/MOTEL TAX SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES			
Hotel/motel taxes	$ 12,000	$ 9,609	$ (2,391)
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Housing and Development			
Agency allocations	12,000	9,609	2,391
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	0	0	0
Fund balances, July 1	0	0	0
Fund balances, June 30	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
TECHNOLOGY SURCHARGE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES			
Fines, fees, and forfeitures	$ 22,300	$ 30,246	$ 7,946
Interest	200	21	(179)
Total revenues	22,500	30,267	7,767
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Public Safety			
Contract services	20,500	13,502	6,998
Materials and supplies	2,000	0	2,000
Capital outlay	15,000	23,375	(8,375)
Total expenditures	37,500	36,877	623
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(15,000)	(6,610)	8,390
Fund balances, July 1	15,000	11,477	(3,523)
Fund balances, June 30	$ 0	$ 4,867	$ 4,867

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
FIRE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES			
Intergovernmental	$ 20,788	$ 21,505	$ 717
Contributions	3,000	10,190	7,190
Total revenues	23,788	31,695	7,907
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Public Safety			
Contract services	0	6,611	(6,611)
Materials and supplies	15,400	25,498	(10,098)
Capital outlay	60,000	42,020	17,980
Payments to others	0	1,250	(1,250)
Total expenditures	75,400	75,379	21
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(51,612)	(43,684)	7,928
Fund balances, July 1	51,612	98,314	46,702
Fund balances, June 30	$ 0	$ 54,630	$ 54,630

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COMPONENT UNIT

Downtown Development Authority – Used to account for governmental revenues and contributions reserved for City business development.

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (A COMPONENT UNIT)
BALANCE SHEET
June 30, 2025

ASSETS		
Cash	$	2,309
Intergovernmental receivable		487
Total assets	$	2,796
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	$	1,028
FUND BALANCES		
Assigned for Housing and Development		1,768
Total liabilities and fund balances	$	2,796

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (A COMPONENT UNIT)
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES			
Intergovernmental	$ 17,000	$ 14,609	$ (2,391)
Contributions	1,000	4,624	3,624
Event Fees	1,000	3,200	2,200
Miscellaneous	8,500	1,440	(7,060)
Total revenues	27,500	23,873	(3,627)
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Housing and Development			
Contract services	8,500	2,573	5,927
Materials and supplies	19,000	23,617	(4,617)
Payments to others	3,000	0	3,000
Total expenditures	30,500	26,190	4,310
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(3,000)	(2,317)	683
Fund balances, July 1	3,000	4,085	1,085
Fund balances, June 30	$ 0	$ 1,768	$ 1,768

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OTHER REPORTING SECTION

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RUSHTON
ACCOUNTING & BUSINESS ADVISORS | CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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 Royston, 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 Royston, Georgia, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City of Royston, Georgia's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated October 3, 2025.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the City of Royston Georgia's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the 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 City of Royston, Georgia's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the City of Royston, 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 of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We did identify a deficiency in internal control, described as follows that we consider to be a significant deficiency:

2025-001

Condition: While performing audit procedures on payroll disbursements, we noted that 11 of 40 (30%) tested time cards lacked proper approval.

Criteria: Proper internal controls require approval of time cards by an appropriate member of management.

Effect: Failure to approve time cards increases the City's risk of loss due to fraud.

2025-001, continued

Cause: The City is ensuring all time cards are approved by an appropriate member of management.

Recommendation: We recommend that the City has all time cards approved by an appropriate member of management.

Management Response: Management concurs with this finding. Management has a plan to approve all time cards before payroll is processed. 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 Royston, 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 determination of financial statement amounts. 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 Royston, Georgia's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the City of Royston, Georgia's response to the findings identified in our audit and described previously. The City of Royston, 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 City of Royston, Georgia'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
October 3, 2025

STATE REPORTING SECTION

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
SCHEDULE OF PROJECTS FINANCED WITH
SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025

Project	Estimated Cost *		Expenditures		
	Original	Current	Prior Years	Current Year	Total
FRANKLIN COUNTY SPLOST #5					
Library; Roads, Streets, Bridges, and Sanitation; Water, Sewer, and Stormwater and utilities; Public Safety and Fire; Recreation; Administrative Buildings/Government Buildings/Facilities:	$ 1,440,000	$ 1,440,000			
Administrative Buildings/ Government Buildings/Facilities			$ 22,927	$ 0	$ 22,927
Police Facilities and Equipment			143,849	125,527	269,376
Fire Facilities and Equipment			41,709	306,098	347,807
Library Facillities and Equipment			2,600	0	2,600
Recreation Facilities and Equipment			102,984	0	102,984
Street Improvements and Equipment			327,924	0	327,924
Water and Sewer Facilities and Equipment			695,557	30,214	725,771
Natural Gas Facilities and Equipment			111,026	0	111,026
Sanitation Facilities and Equipment			60,756	0	60,756
Total	$ 1,440,000	$ 1,440,000	$ 1,509,332	$ 461,839	$ 1,971,171

* Estimated cost represents the portion of these projects to be financed with Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. Actual costs that are in excess of these amounts have been financed through alternative funds.

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
SCHEDULE OF PROJECTS FINANCED WITH
SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025

Project	Estimated Cost *		Expenditures		
	Original	Current	Prior Years	Current Year	Total
HART COUNTY SPLOST #5					
Recreation; Public Safety; Water System Capital and Debt Service; Streets:	$ 358,400	$ 358,400			
Public Safety Capital Improvements and Equipment			$ 29,999	$ 103,187	$ 133,186
Capital Improvements to Streets, Sidewalks, and Bridges			71,120	0	71,120
Recreation Capital Improvements			30,000	0	30,000
Water System Capital Improvements and Debt Service			124,093	0	124,093
	$ 358,400	$ 358,400	$ 255,212	$ 103,187	$ 358,399

* Estimated cost represents the portion of these projects to be financed with Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. Actual costs that are in excess of these amounts have been financed through alternative funds.

CITY OF ROYSTON, GEORGIA
SCHEDULE OF PROJECTS FINANCED WITH
SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX
For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025

Project	Estimated Cost		Expenditures		
	Original	Current	Prior Years	Current Year	Total
FRANKLIN COUNTY SPLOST #6					
Water, sewer, stormwater and utilities	$ 900,000	$ 900,000	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Public safety and fire	300,000	300,000	0	37,240	37,240
Roads, streets, bridges and sanitation	300,000	406,685	0	168,117	168,117
Recreation	115,000	115,000	0	0	0
Administrative/Government Buildings	75,000	75,000	0	0	0
Library	35,000	35,000	0	0	0
Total	$ 1,725,000	$ 1,831,685	$ 0	$ 205,357	$ 205,357