MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Annual Financial Report

For the year ended December 31, 2023

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MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
For the year ended December 31, 2023

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ACCOUNTING & BUSINESS ADVISORS | CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Independent Auditor's Report

Honorable Commissioner
Murray County, Georgia

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Murray County, Georgia, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Murray County, Georgia's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, based on our audit and the report of the other auditors, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Murray County, Georgia, as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in the financial position and the budgetary comparisons of the General Fund and Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We did not audit the financial statements of the Murray County Health Department. Those statements were audited by other auditors whose report has been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the Murray County Health Department, is based solely on the reports of the other auditors.

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 Murray County, Georgia and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Murray County, Georgia's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Murray County, 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 on pages 4 through 13 and 62 through 65, respectively, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Murray County, Georgia's basic financial statements. The combining and individual fund financial statements and schedules, the schedule of projects financed with special purpose local option sales tax, and the schedule of projects financed with transportation 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, the schedule of projects financed with special purpose local option sales tax, and the schedule of projects financed with transportation 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 April 12, 2024, on our consideration of Murray County, 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 Murray County, Georgia's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Rushton, LLC

Gainesville, Georgia
April 12, 2024

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Murray County Commissioner's Office

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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Murray County management is proud to present this narrative discussion and analysis of Murray County's financial performance, making available an overview of the activities for the year ended December 31, 2023. This report is drafted annually to provide readers of financial statements with information that will help them make timely and meaningful financial decisions or draw conclusions about Murray County. As required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 34, this discussion and analysis affords comparisons with the previous fiscal year.

Financial Highlights

- Murray County's assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at December 31, 2023 by $67,679,281 (*net position*). Of this amount, $21,287,869 is reported as unrestricted net position. This is a decrease of $970,617 from the previous year for unrestricted. Total net position decreased by $3,905,139 from the previous year as a result of operations.

- As of December 31, 2023, Murray County's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of $35,927,897. Approximately 65% of this total amount, or $23,489,001, is reported as unassigned and available for spending at the County's discretion. Approximately 33%, or $11,688,389, is restricted for capital outlay. Information about Murray County's policy on fund balance can be found in Note 2R in the *Notes to the Financial Statements* beginning on page 37.

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 Murray County's basic financial statements. Murray County'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 our basic financial statements.

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

The focus of the government-wide financial statements is on the overall financial position and activities of Murray County and is designed to provide a broad overview of the County's financial activities in a manner similar to a private business enterprise.

The County's government-wide financial statements include the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities. These two statements report information about Murray County using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by non-public businesses. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The purpose of the ***Statement of Net Position*** (pages 14-15) is to report all of the assets held and liabilities owed by the County. The County reports all of its assets when it acquires ownership over the assets and reports all of its liabilities when they are incurred. The difference between the total assets and total liabilities is labeled *net position*. While the purpose of County Government is not to accumulate net position, as this amount increases it can indicate the strength of the County's financial position as a whole. When this amount decreases it can indicate a weakening of the County's financial position.

The ***Statement of Activities*** (page 16) presents the revenues and expenses of the County. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses 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 Statement of Activities primary focus is on the *net cost* of various activities provided by the County and identifies the extent to which each function of the County draws from general revenues or is self-financing through user fees, special revenues, grants, or other sources.

In the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, we divide Murray County into two types of activities:

- ***Governmental activities*** – Most of the County's basic services are reported under this category which includes: judicial, public safety, public works, and general administration. Taxes such as: real property, sales, insurance premium and intangible finance most of these services.

- ***Discretely Presented Component Units*** – A component unit is a legally separate organization for which the elected officials of the County are financially accountable. The Murray County Health Department and Murray County Recreation Commission, although legally separate, function for all practical purposes as departments of Murray County, and therefore have been included as an integral part of the primary government.

The County's government-wide financial statements are presented on pages 14-16.

Fund Financial Statements (Reporting the County's Major Funds)
The focus of fund financial statements is directed at specific activities of the County and its most significant funds, not the County as a whole. A fund is an entity with a self-balancing set of accounts that the County uses to track specific resources and expenditures, either for management purposes or because of legal mandates. In addition to the major funds, individual fund data for the County's non-major funds can be found beginning on page 66. The County's funds are divided into two broad categories: governmental and fiduciary. They use different prescribed accounting methodologies.

- ***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 County's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual, 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 so doing, 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 following each statement.

  Murray County maintains eleven individual governmental funds. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the General Fund, Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund, 2019 SPLOST Capital Projects Fund, and 2020 TSPLOST Capital Projects Fund, which are considered major governmental funds. Data from the other governmental funds are combined into a single, aggregated presentation. Individual fund data for each of these non-major governmental funds is provided in the form of combining statements on pages 66-67 of this report.

  Murray County adopts an annual appropriated budget for its General Fund and Special Revenue Funds. Budgetary comparison statements have been included for the General Fund and Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund to show the final result of actual revenues and expenditures as compared to the initial projections.

  The County's basic governmental fund financial statements are presented on pages 17-23 of this report.

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 County's own programs and services. The accounting used for fiduciary funds is similar to that used for proprietary funds. Fiduciary funds are presented in the fund financial statements but are not reported in the government-wide financial statements. The fiduciary fund financial statements are presented on pages 24-25.

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 26-61 of this report.

Required Supplementary Information
In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report presents certain required supplementary information concerning the County's defined benefit pension plan. The required supplementary information can be found on pages 62-65 of this report.

Other Supplementary Information
Other supplementary information includes combining financial statements for non-major governmental 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 18 and 20) 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 statements but as deferred inflows of resources 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.
- 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 County's Financial Position and Operations

The County's overall financial position and operations for this fiscal year is summarized as follows based on the information included in the government-wide financial statements (see pages 14-16):

Murray County
Net Position
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	Governmental Activities	
	2023	**2022**
Current assets	$ 40,485,515	$ 44,958,698
Capital assets	33,897,923	34,490,170
Total assets	74,383,438	79,448,868
Deferred outflows of resources	1,978,243	519,427
Current liabilities	2,832,079	3,964,284
Noncurrent liabilities	5,697,638	2,988,799
Total liabilities	8,529,717	6,953,083
Deferred inflows of resources	152,683	1,591,836
Net position:		
Net investment in capital assets	32,887,312	33,861,617
Restricted	13,504,100	15,303,273
Unrestricted	21,287,869	22,258,486
Total net position	$ 67,679,281	$ 71,423,376

Net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. Assets and deferred outflows of resources for Murray County exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by $67,679,281 at the close of the current year. Approximately 49% of Murray County's net position is reflected in its investment in capital assets (e.g., land, buildings, machinery and equipment, infrastructure), less any related debt outstanding that was needed to construct or acquire them. This is up 1% from 48% at the end of the prior year. The County uses capital assets to provide services to citizens. Consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the County's investment in 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 comprises 20%. This amount represents resources that are subject to external restrictions or enabling legislation on how they may be used. Unrestricted net position comprises the remaining 31% of net position.

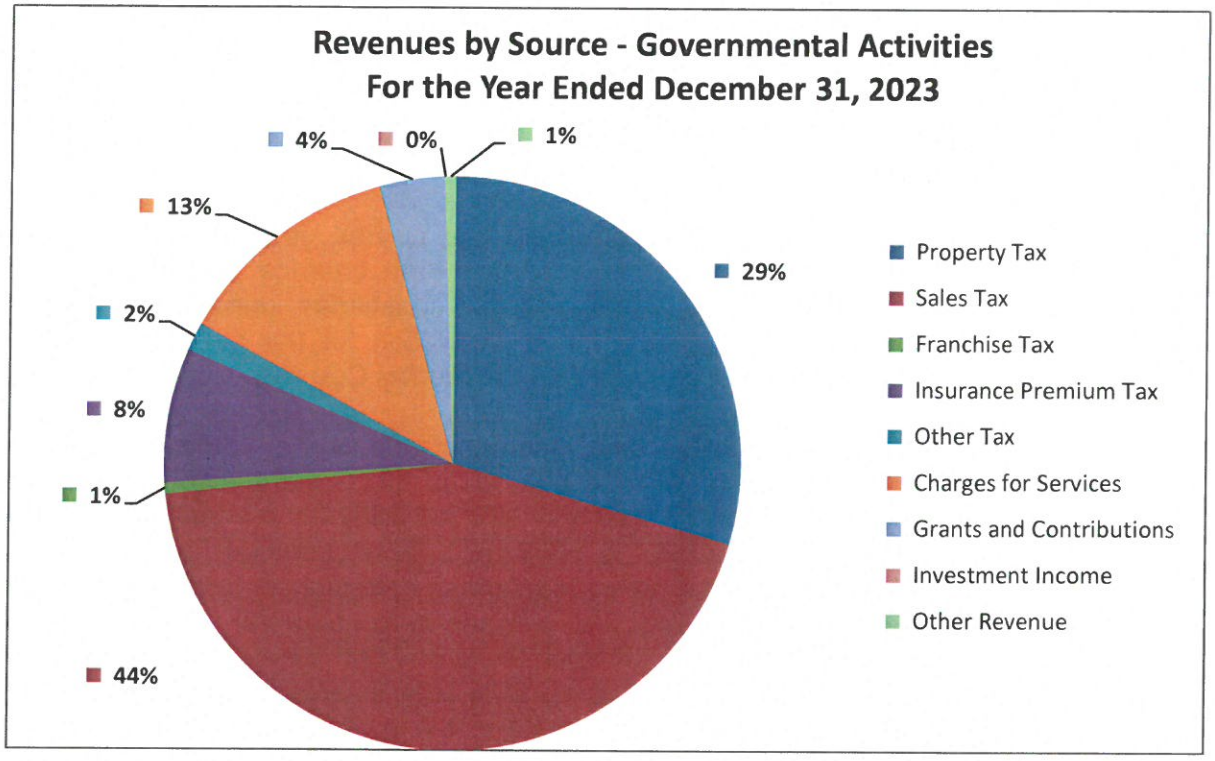
The following condensed financial information was derived from the government-wide Statement of Activities and reflects how Murray County's net position changed during the year.

Murray County
Changes in Net Position
For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

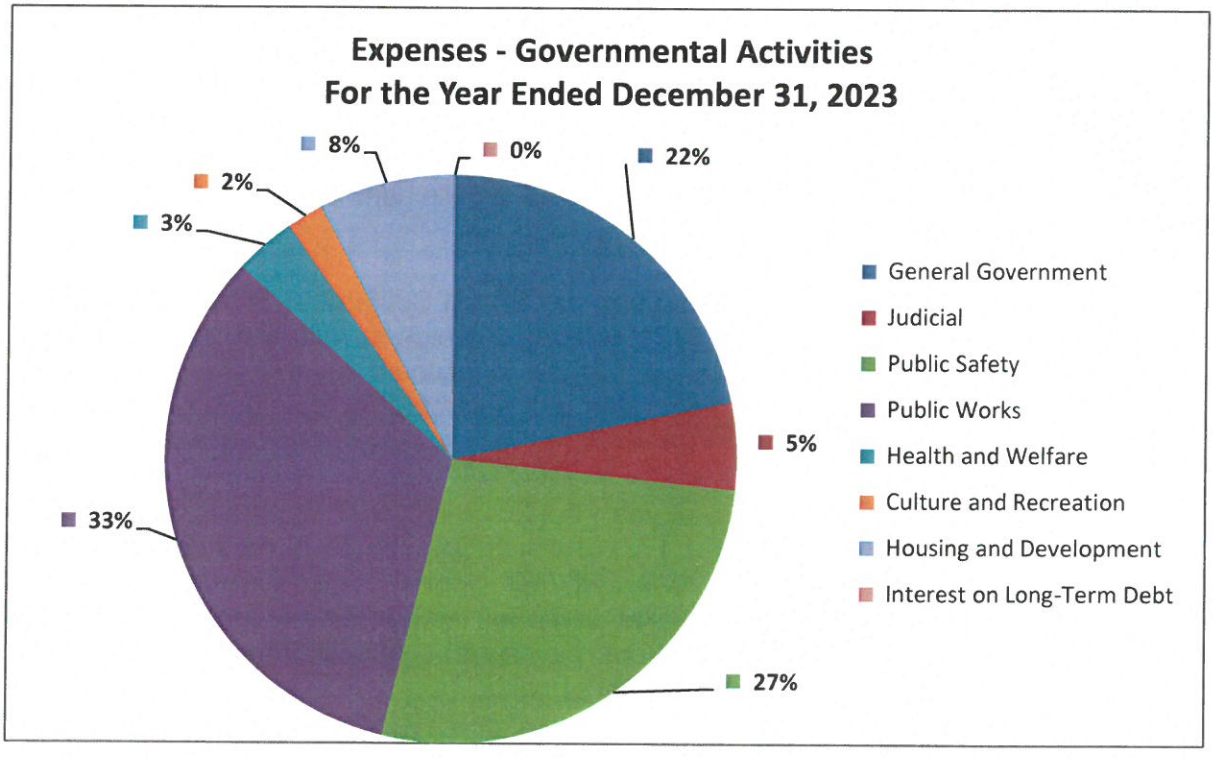
	Governmental Activities	
	2023	**2022**
Revenues		
Program revenues:		
Charges for services	$ 4,718,253	$ 3,754,475
Operating grants and contributions	487,198	8,010,879
Capital grants and contributions	873,456	991,613
General revenues:		
Property tax	10,943,489	12,883,054
Sales tax	16,264,322	23,472,434
Franchise tax	225,896	253,051
Insurance premium tax	2,812,921	2,595,744
Other taxes	589,015	714,482
Interest and investment earnings	948	1,031
Gain on sale of capital assets	50,205	26,471
Other revenues	224,732	150,596
Total revenues	37,190,435	52,853,830
Expenses		
General government	8,924,006	9,213,616
Judicial	2,035,779	2,046,838
Public Safety	11,161,312	10,798,262
Public Works	13,550,030	7,726,414
Health and Welfare	1,410,921	1,567,121
Culture and Recreation	858,100	888,174
Housing and Development	3,149,685	1,770,628
Interest on long-term debt	5,741	8,243
Total expenses	41,095,574	34,019,296
Increase (decrease) in net position	(3,905,139)	18,834,534
Net position - beginning (original)	71,423,376	52,023,216
Prior period adjustments	161,044	565,626
Net position - beginning (restated)	71,584,420	52,588,842
Net position - ending	$ 67,679,281	$ 71,423,376

Governmental Activities –

The following chart illustrates revenues of the governmental activities for the current year:



The following chart illustrates the expenses of the governmental activities for the current year:



Financial Analysis of the County's Funds
Murray County uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds. The main focus of the County's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of unrestricted resources. Such information is useful in assessing the County'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 fiscal year.

1) As the County completed the current year, its governmental funds reported a combined ending fund balance of $35,927,897. Of this amount, $23,489,001 (65%) constitutes unassigned fund balance, which is available for appropriation for the general purposes of the funds in accordance with the Murray County policy on fund balance.

The General Fund is the chief operating fund of the County. At the end of the current year, unassigned fund balance of the General Fund was $23,538,001, while total fund balance reached $23,705,298. As a measure of the General Fund's liquidity, it is useful to compare both unassigned fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures. Unassigned fund balance represents approximately 99% of total fund balance in the General Fund. Unassigned fund balance represents 97% of total General Fund expenditures, while total fund balance represents approximately 98% of that same amount. The County ended the fiscal year realizing a decrease in the overall fund balance in the General Fund by $806,580, or approximately 3%. The County decreased unassigned fund balance in the General Fund by $841,421. The change to a decrease from a substantial increase in the prior year was due to a significant decrease in revenues ($2,984,944) and large transfer from the American Rescue Plan Act Fund ($6,418,476). The decrease in revenues was due in large part to decreased local option sales taxes ($2,115,382) due to decreased sales. Expenditures increased $1,677,350. Sheriff expenditures increased by $655,488 due largely to increased personal services and capital outlay. Public Works Administration expenditures increased by $688,696 due largely to increased personal services. Many other departments increased smaller amounts due to increased personal services.

At the end of the current year, the Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund had total fund balance of $171,243, all of which is restricted for Opioid remediation efforts. This fund was established to account for the County's share of opioid settlement payment funds that are restricted for opioid remediation efforts. The County expended $28,947 toward these efforts during the current year.

At the end of the current year, the 2019 SPLOST Capital Projects Fund had total fund balance of $8,327,172, of which $8,275,089 is restricted for capital outlay. Fund balance of the 2019 SPLOST Capital Projects Fund increased $264,137 during the current year. The cause for the increase in fund balance was receipts of SPLOST revenues from the current referendum at a faster pace than continued spending on capital projects.

At the end of the current year, the 2020 TSPLOST Capital Projects Fund had total fund balance of $3,413,300, all of which is restricted for capital outlay. Fund balance of the 2020 TSPLOST Capital Projects Fund decreased $3,592,677 during the current year. The cause for the decrease in fund balance was receipts of TSPLOST revenues from the current referendum at a slower pace than continued spending on capital projects.

General Fund Budget Highlights

The original budget for the General Fund was amended reflecting grant awards, reimbursements, insurance claims, as well as unanticipated revenues and expenditures. The Commissioner also approved interdepartmental transfers. Overall, General Fund revenues exceeded final amended budget projections by $368,126, or 2%. General Fund expenditures were below the final amended budget projections by $285,035, or 1%.

The County has not budgeted to use fund balance in the General Fund for use in the next year. Current General Fund revenues are meeting estimates for 2024 and the General Fund fund balance is expected to remain similar.

Capital Assets and Long-Term Liability Administration

Capital Assets. Murray County has invested $33,897,923 in capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation) compared to $34,490,170 in the previous year. This represents a decrease of 1.7%. Capital assets held by the County at year-end are summarized as follows:

Murray County
Capital Assets (net of accumulated depreciation)
December 31, 2023 and 2022

	Governmental Activities	
	2023	2022
Land	$ 3,373,589	$ 3,373,589
Construction in progress	343,781	235,245
Land improvements	5,491,506	5,382,617
Infrastructure	121,300,863	121,300,863
Buildings	27,434,486	27,098,836
Machinery and equipment	6,913,291	6,552,068
Office equipment	770,405	681,562
Furniture and fixtures	290,684	252,594
Software	1,465,421	1,389,856
Vehicles	9,146,767	8,673,678
Total	176,530,793	174,940,908
Accumulated Depreciation	(142,632,870)	(140,450,738)
Net Capital Assets	$ 33,897,923	$ 34,490,170

Major capital asset expenditures during the current year for governmental activities included the following:

- Gym floor replacement
- Cabinets for jail kitchen
- Construction of pickleball courts
- Purchase of software
- Purchase of various vehicles and machinery and equipment

Additional information on Murray County's capital assets can be found in Note 8 on pages 43-44 of this report.

Long-Term Liabilities. At the end of the current year, Murray County had a total long-term liabilities balance outstanding for governmental activities in the amount of $1,744,473, as compared to $1,797,992 at the end of the previous year. This represents a decrease for governmental activities of $53,519 during the course of the year due mostly to regularly scheduled principal payments that exceeded increases in landfill closure and post-closure care costs and compensated absences.

Additional information on the County's long-term liabilities can be found in Note 9 on pages 45-46 of this report.

Economic Condition and Outlook

Murray County continues to fair well after recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Several factors were considered during preparation of the budget for 2024, including the following:

- Possible increases or decreases in revenues, particularly property and sales taxes
- Fluctuations in the price of fuel due to market instability.
- Plans for future capital improvements
- Unforeseen natural disasters, such as tornados, storms, etc.
- Capital outlay requirements for vehicles, equipment and program expansions to improve public services to the community

Contacting the County

This financial report is designed to provide County citizens, taxpayers, customers, and creditors with a general overview of Murray County's finances and to demonstrate the County's high level of accountability for the revenue it receives and the services it provides. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to:

Murray County Finance Department
P.O. Box 1129
Chatsworth, Georgia 30705
Telephone: 706-517-1400, Ext. 1367

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
December 31, 2023

	Primary Government	Component Units	
	Governmental Activities	Murray County Health Department	Murray County Recreation Commission
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 35,333,614	$ 897,937	$ 2,085
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	134,429	0	0
Receivables (net)			
Accounts	1,177,569	0	0
Intergovernmental	287,366	250,480	0
Taxes	3,336,758	0	0
Inventories	0	480	0
Prepaid items	215,779	0	0
Total current assets	40,485,515	1,148,897	2,085
Noncurrent assets			
Capital assets			
Non-depreciable	3,717,370	0	0
Depreciable (net)	30,180,553	3,400	0
Net OPEB asset	0	93,632	0
Total noncurrent assets	33,897,923	97,032	0
Total assets	74,383,438	1,245,929	2,085
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Deferred outflows of resources - pension plans	1,978,243	531,851	0
Deferred outflows of resources - OPEB plans	0	95,807	0
Total deferred outflows of resources	1,978,243	627,658	0
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable	819,468	74	0
Retainages payable	673,410	0	0
Claims payable	286,291	0	0
Accrued liabilities	475,481	0	0
Funds held in escrow	130,828	0	0
Compensated absences	338,849	23,778	0
Notes payable	107,752	0	0
Total current liabilities	2,832,079	23,852	0
Noncurrent liabilities			
Compensated absences	112,950	15,852	0
Net pension liability	4,399,766	1,173,807	0
Net OPEB liability	0	71,900	0
Notes payable	73,289	0	0
Landfill closure and post-closure care costs	1,111,633	0	0
Total noncurrent liabilities	5,697,638	1,261,559	0
Total liabilities	8,529,717	1,285,411	0

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
December 31, 2023

	Primary Government	Component Units	
	Governmental Activities	Murray County Health Department	Murray County Recreation Commission
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Deferred inflows of resources - pension plans	$ 152,683	$ 10,646	$ 0
Deferred inflows of resources - OPEB plans	0	87,366	0
Total deferred inflows of resources	152,683	98,012	0
NET POSITION			
Net investment in capital assets	32,887,312	3,400	0
Restricted for:			
Law library operations	119,836	0	0
Opioid remediation	875,400	0	0
Public safety activities	143,464	0	0
Senior center activities	3,601	0	0
OPEB benefits	0	93,632	0
Prior year program income	0	91,604	0
Capital outlay	12,361,799	0	0
Unrestricted	21,287,869	301,528	2,085
Total net position	$ 67,679,281	$ 490,164	$ 2,085

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the year ended December 31, 2023

FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS	Expenses	Program Revenues: Charges for Services	Program Revenues: Operating Grants and Contributions	Program Revenues: Capital Grants and Contributions	Net (Expense) Revenue
Primary government					
Governmental activities					
General Government	$ 8,924,006	$ 37,471	$ 195,603	$ 0	$ (8,690,932)
Judicial	2,035,779	298,233	49,128	150,000	(1,538,418)
Public Safety	11,161,312	3,564,250	72,539	0	(7,524,523)
Public Works	13,550,030	582,982	0	723,456	(12,243,592)
Health and Welfare	1,410,921	58,819	165,762	0	(1,186,340)
Culture and Recreation	858,100	176,498	4,166	0	(677,436)
Housing and Development	3,149,685	0	0	0	(3,149,685)
Interest on long-term debt	5,741	0	0	0	(5,741)
Total primary government	41,095,574	4,718,253	487,198	873,456	(35,016,667)
Component Units					
Murray County Health Department					
Health and Welfare	1,199,158	375,866	1,083,074	0	259,782
Murray County Recreation Commission					
Culture and Recreation	4,997	0	5,000	0	3
Total component units	1,204,155	375,866	1,088,074	0	259,785

	Primary Government: Governmental Activities	Component Units: Murray County Health Department	Component Units: Murray County Recreation Commission
Change in net position			
Net (expense) revenue	$ (35,016,667)	$ 259,782	$ 3
General revenues			
Taxes			
Property	10,943,489	0	0
Sales	16,264,322	0	0
Franchise	225,896	0	0
Insurance premium	2,812,921	0	0
Other	589,015	0	0
Interest and investment earnings	948	3	0
Gain on sale of capital assets	50,205	0	0
Other	224,732	0	0
Total general revenues	31,111,528	3	0
Change in net position	(3,905,139)	259,785	3
Net position - beginning (original)	71,423,376	230,379	2,082
Prior period adjustments	161,044	0	0
Net position - beginning (restated)	71,584,420	230,379	2,082
Net position - ending	$ 67,679,281	$ 490,164	$ 2,085

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
December 31, 2023

	General	Opioid Settlement	2019 SPLOST	2020 TSPLOST	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Totals
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 23,377,912	$ 0	$ 7,972,747	$ 3,684,629	$ 298,326	$ 35,333,614
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	134,429	0	0	0	0	134,429
Receivables (net)						
Accounts	351,517	704,157	0	0	121,895	1,177,569
Intergovernmental	172,108	0	0	0	115,258	287,366
Taxes	2,299,594	0	534,744	497,671	4,749	3,336,758
Due from other funds	156,111	171,243	0	0	5,609	332,963
Prepaid items	163,696	0	52,083	0	0	215,779
Total assets	$ 26,655,367	$ 875,400	$ 8,559,574	$ 4,182,300	$ 545,837	$ 40,818,478
LIABILITIES						
Accounts payable	$ 432,143	$ 0	$ 186,732	$ 95,590	$ 105,003	$ 819,468
Retainages payable	0	0	0	673,410	0	673,410
Claims payable	286,291	0	0	0	0	286,291
Accrued liabilities	455,972	0	0	0	19,509	475,481
Due to other funds	176,852	0	45,670	0	110,441	332,963
Funds held in escrow	130,828	0	0	0	0	130,828
Total liabilities	1,482,086	0	232,402	769,000	234,953	2,718,441
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES						
Unavailable property taxes	1,467,983	0	0	0	0	1,467,983
Unavailable fines, fees and forfeitures	0	704,157	0	0	0	704,157
Total deferred inflows of resources	1,467,983	704,157	0	0	0	2,172,140
FUND BALANCES						
Nonspendable:						
Prepaid items	163,696	0	52,083	0	0	215,779
Restricted for:						
Law library operations	0	0	0	0	119,836	119,836
Opioid remediation	0	171,243	0	0	0	171,243
Public safety activities	0	0	0	0	143,464	143,464
Senior center activities	3,601	0	0	0	0	3,601
Capital outlay	0	0	8,275,089	3,413,300	0	11,688,389
Assigned to:						
Emergency 911 system operations	0	0	0	0	96,584	96,584
Unassigned	23,538,001	0	0	0	(49,000)	23,489,001
Total fund balances	23,705,298	171,243	8,327,172	3,413,300	310,884	35,927,897
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resouces, and fund balances	$ 26,655,367	$ 875,400	$ 8,559,574	$ 4,182,300	$ 545,837	$ 40,818,478

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
December 31, 2023

Total fund balance - total governmental funds		$ 35,927,897
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		33,897,923
Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds. These are:		
Property taxes	$ 1,467,983	
Fines, fees and forfeitures	704,157	2,172,140
Deferred outflows and inflows of resources are applicable to future periods and, therefore, are not reported in the funds. These are:		
Deferred outflows of resources - pension plans	$ 1,978,243	
Deferred inflows of resources - pension plans	(152,683)	1,825,560
Some liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds. These are:		
Compensated absences	$ (451,799)	
Net pension liability	(4,399,766)	
Notes payable	(181,041)	
Landfill closure and post-closure care costs	(1,111,633)	(6,144,239)
Net position of governmental activities		$ 67,679,281

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

	General	Opioid Settlement	2019 SPLOST	2020 TSPLOST	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Totals
REVENUES						
Taxes	$ 19,452,784	$ 0	$ 5,881,923	$ 5,429,233	$ 107,896	$ 30,871,836
Licenses and permits	185,729	0	0	0	0	185,729
Fines, fees and forfeitures	848,830	39,146	0	0	168,259	1,056,235
Charges for services	1,508,417	0	0	0	713,777	2,222,194
Intergovernmental	1,455,246	0	0	0	430,730	1,885,976
Interest	897	0	8,280	5,470	51	14,698
Contributions	4,166	0	0	0	6,700	10,866
Other	224,732	0	0	0	0	224,732
Total revenues	23,680,801	39,146	5,890,203	5,434,703	1,427,413	36,472,266
EXPENDITURES						
Current						
General Government	8,915,136	0	0	0	0	8,915,136
Judicial	1,816,739	0	0	0	238,380	2,055,119
Public Safety	9,316,534	28,947	0	0	1,220,499	10,565,980
Public Works	2,689,911	0	0	0	51,647	2,741,558
Health and Welfare	367,352	0	0	0	146,351	513,703
Culture and Recreation	635,376	0	0	0	0	635,376
Housing and Development	497,383	0	0	0	105,897	603,280
Capital outlay	0	0	2,562,439	8,484,457	0	11,046,896
Debt service	0	0	110,930	0	0	110,930
Intergovernmental	0	0	2,952,697	542,923	0	3,495,620
Total expenditures	24,238,431	28,947	5,626,066	9,027,380	1,762,774	40,683,598
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(557,630)	10,199	264,137	(3,592,677)	(335,361)	(4,211,332)
Other financing sources (uses)						
Transfers in	1,999	0	0	0	317,427	319,426
Transfers out	(317,427)	0	0	0	(1,999)	(319,426)
Sale of capital assets	66,478	0	0	0	0	66,478
Total other financing sources (uses)	(248,950)	0	0	0	315,428	66,478
Net change in fund balance	(806,580)	10,199	264,137	(3,592,677)	(19,933)	(4,144,854)
Fund balances, January 1 (original)	24,511,878	0	8,063,035	7,005,977	330,817	39,911,707
Prior period adjustments	0	161,044	0	0	0	161,044
Fund balances, January 1 (restated)	24,511,878	161,044	8,063,035	7,005,977	330,817	40,072,751
Fund balances, December 31	$ 23,705,298	$ 171,243	$ 8,327,172	$ 3,413,300	$ 310,884	$ 35,927,897

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

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

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds			$ (4,144,854)
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	$ 2,060,617		
Depreciation	(2,636,591)		(575,974)
In the statement of activities, the gain/loss on the disposal of assets is reported, whereas in the governmental funds, the proceeds from the sale of capital assets increases financial resources.			
Cost of assets disposed	$ (470,732)		
Related accumulated depreciation	454,459		(16,273)
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	$ 578,291		
Cost of benefits earned net of employee contributions	(467,812)		110,479
The proceeds of debt issuance, net of premiums, discounts and issuance costs 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.			
Debt principal payments			105,189
Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds. These include recognition of unavailable revenue.			667,964
Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.			
Compensated absences	$ (30,093)		
Landfill closure and post-closure care costs	(21,577)		(51,670)
Change in net position of governmental activities			$ (3,905,139)

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

	Budget			Variance with
	Original	Final	Actual	Final Budget
REVENUES				
Taxes	$ 20,039,979	$ 20,039,979	$ 19,452,784	$ (587,195)
Licenses and permits	144,500	144,500	185,729	41,229
Fines and forfeitures	634,650	634,650	848,830	214,180
Charges for services	1,159,450	1,159,450	1,508,417	348,967
Intergovernmental	1,439,250	1,278,206	1,455,246	177,040
Interest	500	500	897	397
Contributions	1,000	1,000	4,166	3,166
Other	54,390	54,390	224,732	170,342
Total revenues	23,473,719	23,312,675	23,680,801	368,126
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
General Government				
County Commissioner	369,050	374,200	374,102	98
Board of Elections	168,660	168,660	142,752	25,908
General Administration	5,206,341	5,045,297	4,972,739	72,558
Tax Commissioner	453,200	457,300	457,231	69
Tax Assessor	452,020	452,020	410,261	41,759
Board of Equalization	6,600	6,600	4,612	1,988
Risk Management	1,342,146	1,518,400	1,518,383	17
General Government Buildings	998,525	1,035,100	1,035,056	44
Judicial				
Superior Court	266,639	266,639	249,135	17,504
Clerk of Superior Court	445,030	445,030	435,472	9,558
District Attorney	304,911	309,500	309,463	37
Magistrate Court	322,652	322,652	312,932	9,720
Probate Court	270,670	270,670	269,911	759
Juvenile Court	256,675	256,675	239,826	16,849
Public Safety				
Sheriff	2,969,451	3,475,600	3,475,563	37
Jail Operations	3,028,149	3,028,149	3,002,357	25,792
Fire Department	2,419,020	2,419,020	2,398,976	20,044
Coroner	54,734	54,734	48,869	5,865
Animal Control	225,600	286,100	283,016	3,084
Emergency Management Agency	19,750	107,800	107,753	47
Public Works				
Administration	2,133,376	2,381,700	2,381,632	68
Solid Waste and Recycling Administration	320,800	320,800	308,279	12,521
Health and Welfare				
Senior Citizen's Center	198,550	198,550	187,476	11,074
Transportation Services	185,000	185,000	179,876	5,124
Culture and Recreation				
Recreation	635,500	635,500	635,376	124
Housing and Development				
Agricultural Resources	94,203	94,203	91,727	2,476
Forest Resources	6,867	6,867	6,867	0
Code Enforcement	44,935	48,300	48,224	76
Building Inspections	147,665	151,100	151,029	71
Land and Use Development	155,500	155,500	153,775	1,725
Community and Economic Development	21,500	45,800	45,761	39
Total expenditures	23,523,719	24,523,466	24,238,431	285,035

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

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

	Budget			Variance with
	Original	Final	Actual	Final Budget
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	$ (50,000)	$ (1,210,791)	$ (557,630)	$ 653,161
Other financing sources (uses)				
Transfers in	0	0	1,999	1,999
Transfers out	0	(317,500)	(317,427)	73
Sale of capital assets	50,000	50,000	66,478	16,478
Total other financing sources (uses)	50,000	(267,500)	(248,950)	18,550
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over (under) expenditures and other financing uses	0	(1,478,291)	(806,580)	671,711
Fund balances, January 1	0	1,478,291	24,511,878	23,033,587
Fund balances, December 31	$ 0	$ 0	$ 23,705,298	$ 23,705,298

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
OPIOID SETTLEMENT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET (GAAP) AND ACTUAL
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Budget			Variance with
	Original	Final	Actual	Final Budget
REVENUES				
Fines, fees and forfeitures	$ 161,044	$ 161,044	$ 39,146	$ (121,898)
Total revenues	161,044	161,044	39,146	(121,898)
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Public Safety	161,044	161,044	28,947	132,097
Total expenditures	161,044	161,044	28,947	132,097
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	0	0	10,199	10,199
Fund balances, January 1 (original)	0	0	0	0
Prior period adjustments	0	0	161,044	161,044
Fund balances, January 1 (restated)	0	0	161,044	161,044
Fund balances, December 31	$ 0	$ 0	$ 171,243	$ 171,243

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
December 31, 2023

	Custodial Funds
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 1,586,963
Taxes receivable	4,015,642
Total assets	5,602,605
LIABILITIES	
Due to others	5,068,944
NET POSITION	
Restricted for individuals, organizations, and other governments	$ 533,661

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Custodial Funds
ADDITIONS	
Taxes collected for other agencies	$ 20,015,977
Court fees collected for other agencies	1,845,747
Court individual cases	101,199
Sheriff fees collected	2,605
Sheriff seizures	27,107
Sheriff inmate account deposits	362,229
Total additions	22,354,864
DEDUCTIONS	
Taxes distributed to other agencies	20,015,977
Court fees distributed to other agencies	1,845,747
Payments to others	216,010
Sheriff fees distributed to other agencies	2,605
Payments from inmates to others	358,053
Total deductions	22,438,392
Change in net position	(83,528)
Net position - beginning	617,189
Net position - ending	$ 533,661

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

1. Description of Government Unit

Murray County, Georgia (the County) is a political subdivision of the State of Georgia and was created by a legislative act in 1832. The County operates under a Commission-Administrator form of government and is governed by an elected sole county commissioner, governed by state statutes and regulations. There are certain elected officials whose operations are wholly included within the financial records and financial statements of the County. These elected officials include the Sheriff, Tax Commissioner, Probate Court Judge, Magistrate Court Judge, Juvenile Court Judge, Superior Court Judge and Clerk of the Superior Court. The County's major services include general government, courts, public safety, public works, health and welfare, parks, recreation and culture and planning and community development.

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. The primary government includes governmental activities, which normally are supported by taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange transactions. The primary government is reported separately from certain legally separate component units for which the primary government is financially accountable.

B. Reporting Entity

As required by generally accepted accounting principles, the financial statements of the reporting entity include those of Murray County (the primary government) and material component units. The component units discussed below are included in the County's reporting entity because of the significance of their operational and financial relationship with the County.

In conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, as set forth in Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 14, *The Financial Reporting Entity*, as amended by Statement No. 61, the financial statements of component units have been included either as blended or discretely presented component units.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

B. Reporting Entity, continued

Discretely Presented Component Units – Discretely presented component units are reported in separate columns in the government-wide financial statements to emphasize they are legally separate from the government.

Murray County Health Department – The Health Department works to promote and preserve the health of the citizens of the County. The Health Department's Board consists of seven members, four of these members are appointed by the County Commissioner. Although the County does not have the authority to approve or modify the Health Department's budgets, it does have the ability to control the amount of funding it provides to the Health Department and such funding is significant to the overall operations of the Health Department. The Health Department is reported on a June 30 fiscal year. Complete financial statements for the Health Department may be obtained from its administrative office at Northwest Health District 1 Unit 1, 111 Bryant Crossing, Suite AA, Dalton, Georgia 30720.

Murray County Recreation Commission – The Recreation Commission manages and maintains park and recreation facilities for the benefit of Murray County citizens. The County Commissioner appoints all of the Commission's board members and the County has a significant financial relationship with the Recreation Commission. Financial information related to the Recreation Commission may be obtained from the Parks and Recreation clerk of Murray County.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

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. Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements.

As discussed earlier, the government has two discretely presented component units that are shown in separate columns in the government-wide financial statements.

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

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 and fiduciary—are presented. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental funds, each displayed in a separate column. All remaining governmental funds are aggregated and reported as nonmajor funds.

The County reports the following major governmental funds:

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

Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund - This fund is used to account for the County's share of opioid settlement payment funds that are restricted for opioid remediation efforts.

2019 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Capital Projects Fund - This fund is used to account for the proceeds of a 1 percent special purpose local option sales tax for funding various long-term projects.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

D. Basis of Presentation – Fund Financial Statements, continued

2020 Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Capital Projects Fund -This fund is used to account for the proceeds of a 1 percent transportation special purpose local option sales tax for funding various long-term projects.

Additionally, the County reports the following fund types:

Governmental Fund Types

Special Revenue Funds – accounts for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally or donor restricted to be expended for specified purposes.

Capital Projects Funds – accounts for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of specifically planned projects (other than those financed by proprietary 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.

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.

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.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

E. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

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

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

The governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days 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.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

E. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting, continued

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

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.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

G. Budgetary Information

The applicable statues of the State of Georgia require the County to operate under an annual balanced budget adopted by resolution. The County adopts an annual operating budget for all governmental funds except the capital projects funds, which have an adopted project budget. The budget resolution reflects the total of each department's appropriation in each fund.

The legal level of control (the level at which expenditures may not legally exceed appropriations) for each adopted annual operating budget generally is the department level within each individual fund. Any change in total to a fund or changes between department appropriations within a fund requires approval of the County Commissioner.

The budget is adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles, and on the same basis of accounting used by each fund to which the budget applies. The County Commissioner must also approve budget transfers within departments.

The current year original budget was amended during the year. All unencumbered annual appropriations lapse at year-end. Encumbered appropriations are carried forward to the subsequent year automatically.

H. Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Investments

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, demand deposits, certificates of deposits and deposits with the Georgia Fund I (i.e., the local government investment pool) as well as short-term investments with a maturity date within three months of the date acquired by the County.

Currently, the County 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. Investments are stated at fair value based on quoted market prices.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

H. Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Investments, continued

Georgia law authorizes the County to invest in the following type of obligations:

- Obligations of the State of Georgia or of any other states
- Obligations of the United States Government
- Obligations fully insured or guaranteed by the United States Government or United States Government Agency
- Obligations of any corporation of the United States Government
- Prime bankers' acceptances
- The State of Georgia local government investment pool (i.e., Georgia Fund I)
- Repurchase agreements
- Obligations of the other political subdivisions of the State of Georgia

I. Intergovernmental Receivables

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

J. Inventories

Certain governmental fund-types had a de minimis amount of expendable supplies on hand at year end. Accordingly, none are shown on the balance sheets at year-end. The County uses the purchase method of accounting for the purchase of materials and supplies or services. These items are charged directly to the expenditure account.

K. Prepaid Items

Payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond the current year are recorded as prepaid items. The costs of governmental fund-type prepaid items are recorded as expenditures when consumed rather than when purchased.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

L. Capital Assets

General capital assets are those assets not specifically related to activities reported in the proprietary funds. These assets generally result from expenditures in governmental funds. The County reports these assets in the governmental activities column of the government-wide statement of net position but does not report these assets in the government funds balance sheet.

All capital assets are capitalized at cost (or estimated historical cost) and updated for additions and retirements during the year. Donated capital assets are recorded at acquisition value. The County maintains a capitalization threshold of $5,000 and an estimated useful life of two years or more (excluding infrastructure). All infrastructure is capitalized with a cost of $50,000 and an estimated life of two years or more. The County's infrastructure consists of roads and bridges. The County's entire infrastructure has been reported regardless of acquisition date. Improvements to capital assets are capitalized. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend an asset's life are expensed.

All reported capital assets are depreciated except for land and construction in progress. Improvements are depreciated over the remaining useful lives of the related capital assets. Useful lives for infrastructure were estimated based on the County's historical records of necessary improvements and replacement.

Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

	Useful Life in Years
Land improvements	25-50
Site improvements	50
Infrastructure	15-30
Buildings	25-50
Machinery and equipment	6-15
Office equipment	5
Furniture and fixtures	20
Intangibles - software	5
Vehicles	6-15

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

M. 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 County reports deferred outflows of resources related to their defined benefit pension plan.

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 County has only one type of item, which arises only under a modified accrual basis of accounting that qualifies for reporting in this category. Accordingly, the item, unavailable revenue, is reported only in the governmental funds balance sheet. The governmental funds report unavailable revenues for property taxes, special assessments, and fines, fees and forfeitures. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period that the amounts become available. The County also reports deferred inflows of resources related to their defined benefit pension plan.

N. Compensated Absences

Vacation benefits are accrued as a liability as the benefits are earned if the employees' rights to receive compensation are attributable to services already rendered and it is probable that the employer will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or some other means.

All compensated absences liabilities include salary-related payments, where applicable.

The total compensated absences liability is reported on the government-wide financial statements. Governmental funds report a compensated absences liability only if the benefit has matured (is, unused reimbursable leave still outstanding following an employee's resignation or retirement) and is expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

O. Net Position Flow Assumption

Sometimes the County 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 financial statements, a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. It is the County's policy to consider restricted net position to have been depleted before unrestricted net position is applied.

P. Fund Balance Flow Assumption

Sometimes the County 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 County'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.

Q. Restricted Assets and Restricted Net Position

Restricted assets represent certain resources restricted by funding source or required to be set aside for the repayment of debt. They are maintained in a separate bank account and their use is limited.

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 restricted net position.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

R. Fund Balances – Governmental Funds

Fund equity at the governmental fund financial reporting level is classified as "fund balance." Fund equity for all other reporting is classified as "net position."

Fund Balance – Generally, fund balance represents the difference between the assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources under the current financial resources management focus of accounting. In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report fund balance classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the County is bound to honor constraints on the specific purpose for which amounts in those funds can be spent.

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 by the County as nonspendable at the end of the current year are nonspendable in form. The County 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 County Commissioner, the County's highest level of decision making authority, which include the language "committed for the purpose of". Commitments may be modified or rescinded only through adoption of a subsequent resolution, which shall refer to the original resolution by its number.

Assigned – includes amounts that are intended to be used by the County for a specific purpose, but do not meet the definition of restricted or committed fund balance. Intent can only be expressed by the County Commissioner or their designee. Assigned Fund Balance differs from Committed Fund Balance in that assignments do not require a resolution.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

R. 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. In addition, any remaining deficits in the County's governmental funds which remain after all other fund balances have been exhausted are classified as unassigned.

S. Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources in reporting, which utilizes the economic resources measurement focus. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used (i.e., the amount that the County has spent) for the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted using the same definition as used for restricted fund balance as described in the section above. All other net position is reported as unrestricted.

T. Pensions

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Murray County Defined Benefit 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.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

U. Long-Term Obligations

In the government-wide financial statements long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities under governmental activities. 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. Prepaid bond insurance is amortized over the term of the debt. Issuance costs are recognized during the current period.

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

V. 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 program revenue.

W. Management Estimates

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

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 County's deposits may not be returned. The County has no formal policy, but follows the State of Georgia requirement that all deposits be federally insured or fully collateralized.

Interest Rate Risk

The County 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, prime bankers' acceptances, repurchase agreements, direct and agency obligations of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, obligations of the State of Georgia or other states, obligations of other political subdivisions of the State of Georgia, and pooled investment programs of the State of Georgia. The County has no investment policy that would further limit its investment choices.

Concentration of Credit Risk

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

Foreign Currency Risk

The County has no investments denominated in a foreign currency.

4. Accounts Receivable

Net accounts receivable at the end of the current year consist of the following:

Primary Government:	
Major Funds	
General Fund	$ 351,517
Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund	704,157
Nonmajor Funds	
E-911 Special Revenue Fund	121,895
Total primary government	$ 1,177,569

5. Intergovernmental Receivables

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

Primary Government:		
Major Funds		
General Fund		$ 172,108
Nonmajor Funds		
Special Revenue Funds		
Multi-Grant	$ 114,203	
Substance Abuse	1,055	115,258
Total primary government		$ 287,366
Component Units		
Murray County Health Department		$ 250,480

6. Property Taxes

The County Commissioner levied property taxes on September 7, 2023. Property taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property as of January 1. Property taxes were billed on October 20, 2023 and are due upon receipt. However, the actual due date was December 20, 2023. The County bills and collects its own property taxes and also collects property taxes for the County Board of Education and the State of Georgia. The County also collects vehicle and mobile home taxes for the cities located in the County and the State of Georgia. Collection of the County's taxes and for the other governmental agencies is the responsibility of the Tax Commissioner's Office, which is accounted for in a custodial fund.

7. Interfund Receivables, Payables, and Transfers

A summary of interfund receivables and payables at the end of the current year is as follows:

Receivable Fund	Payable Fund	Amount
General	2019 SPLOST	$ 45,670
	Nonmajor Governmental	110,441
Opioid Settlement	General	171,243
Nonmajor Governmental	General	5,609
		$ 332,963

The balances reported as Due to/Due from resulted from timing differences between the dates that transactions are recorded and payments between the funds are made.

A summary of interfund transfers for the current year is as follows:

Transfer Out Fund	Transfer In Fund	Amount
General	Nonmajor Governmental	$ 317,427
Nonmajor Governmental	General	1,999
		$ 319,426

7. Interfund Receivables, Payables, and Transfers (continued)

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.

8. Capital Assets

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

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Governmental activities				
Non-depreciable assets				
Land	$ 3,373,589	$ 0	$ 0	$ 3,373,589
Construction in progress	235,245	108,536	0	343,781
Total non-depreciable assets	3,608,834	108,536	0	3,717,370
Depreciable assets				
Land improvements	5,382,617	108,889	0	5,491,506
Infrastructure	121,300,863	0	0	121,300,863
Buildings	27,098,836	335,650	0	27,434,486
Machinery and equipment	6,552,068	545,934	(184,711)	6,913,291
Office equipment	681,562	88,843	0	770,405
Furniture and fixtures	252,594	38,090	0	290,684
Software	1,389,856	75,565	0	1,465,421
Vehicles	8,673,678	759,110	(286,021)	9,146,767
Total depreciable assets	171,332,074	1,952,081	(470,732)	172,813,423
Less accumulated depreciation				
Land improvements	(3,141,089)	(202,113)	0	(3,343,202)
Infrastructure	(113,702,470)	(881,089)	0	(114,583,559)
Buildings	(9,846,773)	(589,511)	0	(10,436,284)
Machinery and equipment	(4,535,094)	(433,741)	174,972	(4,793,863)
Office equipment	(555,676)	(24,241)	0	(579,917)
Furniture and fixtures	(91,392)	(20,587)	0	(111,979)
Software	(1,354,090)	(18,788)	0	(1,372,878)
Vehicles	(7,224,154)	(466,521)	279,487	(7,411,188)
Total accumulated depreciation	(140,450,738)	(2,636,591)	454,459	(142,632,870)
Total depreciable assets, net	30,881,336	(684,510)	(16,273)	30,180,553
Governmental activities capital assets, net	$ 34,490,170	$ (575,974)	$ (16,273)	$ 33,897,923

8. Capital Assets (continued)

Capital asset activity for the discretely presented component units for the respective year ends was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Murray County Health Department				
Depreciable assets				
Office equipment	$ 62,679	$ 0	$ 0	$ 62,679
Computer equipment	18,957	0	0	18,957
Leasehold improvements	23,982	0	0	23,982
Total depreciable assets	105,618	0	0	105,618
Less accumulated depreciation				
Office equipment	(55,353)	(4,061)	0	(59,414)
Computer equipment	(18,957)	0	0	(18,957)
Leasehold improvements	(23,847)	0	0	(23,847)
Total accumulated depreciation	(98,157)	(4,061)	0	(102,218)
Total depreciable assets, net	7,461	(4,061)	0	3,400
Murray County Health Department capital assets, net	$ 7,461	$ (4,061)	$ 0	$ 3,400

Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs as follows:

Primary Government	
Governmental activities	
General Government	$ 317,998
Judicial	30,915
Public Safety	911,714
Public Works	1,163,595
Health and Welfare	15,571
Culture and Recreation	175,818
Housing and Development	20,980
Total depreciation expense for governmental activities	$ 2,636,591
Component units	
Murray County Health Department	$ 4,061

9. Long-Term Liabilities

Notes from Direct Borrowings

The County entered into an agreement with a financial institution to finance the acquisition of certain public works equipment. 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. The note bears interest at a rate of 2.41% and requires annual payments through 2025. The remaining principal balance at the end of the current fiscal year is $181,041.

The annual requirements to amortize notes from direct borrowings at the end of the current year follows:

Year Ending December 31,	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	$ 107,752	$ 3,178	$ 110,930
2025	73,289	664	73,953
Totals	$ 181,041	$ 3,842	$ 184,883

9. Long-Term Liabilities (continued)

Changes in Long - Term Liabilities

The following is a summary of changes in long-term liabilities of the County and discretely presented component units for the respective year ends:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Governmental activities					
Compensated absences	$ 421,706	$ 346,373	$ 316,280	$ 451,799	$ 338,849
Landfill closure and post-closure care costs	1,090,056	21,577	0	1,111,633	0
Notes from direct borrowings	286,230	0	105,189	181,041	107,752
Totals	$ 1,797,992	$ 367,950	$ 421,469	$ 1,744,473	$ 446,601

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Murray County Health Department					
Compensated absences	$ 58,411	$ 35,046	$ 53,827	$ 39,630	$ 23,778

In prior years, long-term liabilities, such as compensated absences and landfill closure and post-closure care costs were liquidated by the General Fund.

The total interest incurred and charged to expense for the current year was $5,741 for the governmental activities.

10. Landfill Closure and Post-Closure Care Costs

State and Federal laws and regulations require that the County place a final cover on its landfill when officially closed as well as perform certain maintenance and monitoring functions at the landfill site for a period of thirty years after such closure. In addition to operating expenses related to current activities of the landfill, an expense provision and related liability are being recognized based on the future closure and post closure care costs that will be incurred near or after the date the landfill no longer accepts waste. The recognition of these landfill closure and post closure care costs is based on the amount of the landfill capacity used during the year.

The County owns two landfill sites. Site 1 was operated by the County until 1997 when it reached capacity and stopped accepting waste. Site 2, leased and operated by Capital Waste Services, is operated on a cell basis; that is, only a portion or cell of the landfill is used at a time. The term of the lease agreement shall be the operational life of the landfill as determined by remaining capacity from time to time, which is based on current waste density and tonnage currently estimated to end in 2050.

The County has met all of its closure obligations for Site 1; therefore, there is no further liability for closure costs. Closure certificates were obtained in late 2003 and early 2004. The post-closure period for this location is estimated to end in 2033. Under the existing lease agreement, Capital Waste Services shall be responsible for post-closure care during the term of the agreement.

Under the existing lease agreement, Capital Waste Services is also responsible for the construction, maintenance, and closure costs of each cell of Site 2 it operates. Capital Waste Services shall also be responsible for the post-closure care of those sites while the lease agreement remains in effect. Following the termination of this lease, the County immediately assumes full responsibility for the post-closure costs for the balance of the 30-year period. Based on the use of 14.62% of the estimated capacity of the landfill, the County has recognized a liability for post-closure costs accrued to date of $1,111,633 and has not recognized related closure costs of $1,538,420 to be provided by Capital Waste Services under the lease agreement.

10. Landfill Closure and Post-Closure Care Costs (continued)

The remaining estimated costs of closure and post-closure in the amount of $15,474,726 will be recognized as the remaining capacity is used, with the County responsible for $6,491,272 of such post closure costs, and Capital Waste Services responsible for the remaining $8,983,454 of closure costs. These amounts are based on what it would cost to perform all closure and post closure care in the current year. Any changes to the lease term as well as additional bonds or letters of credit provided by Capital Waste Services could change these assumptions. Actual costs may also vary due to inflation or deflation, changes in technology or changes in laws and regulations.

11. Net Investment in Capital Assets

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

	Governmental Activities
Cost of capital assets	$ 176,530,793
Accumulated depreciation	(142,632,870)
Book value	33,897,923
Capital-related accounts payable	(156,160)
Retainages payable	(673,410)
Notes payable	(181,041)
Net investment in capital assets	$ 32,887,312

12. Deficit Equity Balances

At the end of the current year, the Multi-Grant Special Revenue Fund has a deficit fund balance of $49,000. This is due to the payment of services in anticipation of future revenues. The County plans to liquidate this deficit fund balance through future revenue recognition.

13. Retirement Plans

County Defined Benefit Pension Plan

Plan Description. The Murray County Defined Benefit Pension Plan and Trust, (the "Plan"), is affiliated with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia Defined Benefit Plan (ACCG), an agent multiple-employer public employee retirement system that acts as a common investment and administrative agent for participating counties in Georgia. The authority for the Plan, benefits, vesting and contributions are established by the Board of Commissioners. The Plan is administered by the Government Employee Benefits Corporation of Georgia (GEB Corp). GEB Corp issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for ACCG. The Plan is a defined benefit pension plan that provides retirement, disability and death benefits to Plan members and beneficiaries. All full-time employees, defined as those providing at least 1,000 hours of service to the County per Plan year, are eligible for participation in the Plan. Any eligible employee who has both completed one year of service and has attained the age of 21 may participate in the Plan. The Plan is closed to employees with a commencement date on or after November 1, 2013.

Employees become vested after five years of service to the County. All full-time eligible employees hired prior to November 1, 2013 were participants in the ACCG Plan (Plan) upon employment.

13. Retirement Plans (continued)

County Defined Benefit Pension Plan, continued

Participant counts as of January 1, 2022 (the most recent actuarial valuation) are as follows:

Retirees, beneficiaries, and disablees currently receiving benefits	88
Terminated participants entitled to but not yet receiving benefits	135
Active employees participating in the plan	85
Total number of participants	308

Benefits Provided. The County sponsors the Plan. The Plan provides retirement, disability, and death benefits to plan participants. The plan assets shall be used only for the payment of benefits to the members of the plan, in accordance with the terms of the plan. All full time employees and employees receiving county supplements participate in the plan. Benefits vest after 5 years. Participants may retire at normal retirement, which is the later of age 65, or 5 years of vesting service. Early retirement eligibility is the later of age 55 or 10 years of vesting service. The benefit formula is as follows:

- 1.00% of a participant's annualized average monthly compensation multiplied by years of credited service,
- A fixed dollar amount of $36 multiplied by years of credited service.

Compensation is defined as the highest five years of base wages during employment with the County.

13. Retirement Plans (continued)

County Defined Benefit Pension Plan, continued

Contributions. County employees are not required to contribute to the Plan. The County contributes the entire cost of the Plan, using the actuarial basis described in the annual valuation report. The County's contributions to the Plan for the current year totaled $578,291, or 14.78% of covered payroll. The County Commissioner provides for the benefits and funding policy through County ordinance and maintains the authority to change the policy. The administrative expenses set by contract between the ACCG and GEBCorp are in addition to the state-required annual funding requirement.

The Georgia Constitution enables the governing authority of the County, the County Commissioner, to establish, and amend from time-to-time contribution rates for the County and its Plan participants.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, Deferred Outflows of Resources, and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions. At the end of the current year, the County reported a net pension liability of $4,399,766. The net pension liability was measured as of December 31, 2022 and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2022. For the current year, the County recognized pension expense of $467,812. The net pension liability is liquidated by the General Fund.

13. Retirement Plans (continued)

County Defined Benefit Pension Plan, continued

The components of the net pension liability are as follows:

	Total Pension Liability (a)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position (b)	Net Pension Liability (a)-(b)
Balances at December 31, 2021	$ 16,625,947	$ 15,013,671	$ 1,612,276
Changes for the year:			
Service cost	152,097	0	152,097
Interest	1,139,207	0	1,139,207
Liability experience (gain) / loss	(294,478)	0	(294,478)
Assumption change	23,716	0	23,716
Employer contributions	0	496,495	(496,495)
Net investment income	0	(2,141,309)	2,141,309
Benefit payments	(703,112)	(703,112)	0
Administrative expense	0	(38,292)	38,292
Other changes	0	(83,842)	83,842
Net changes	317,430	(2,470,060)	2,787,490
Balances at December 31, 2022	$ 16,943,377	$ 12,543,611	$ 4,399,766

Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	74.03%
Covered payroll	$ 3,926,048
Net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll	112.07%

At the end of the current year, the County 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
County contributions subsequent to the measurement date	$ 578,291	$ 0
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	1,383,977	0
Differences between expected and actual experience	0	(152,683)
Changes of assumptions	15,975	0
Totals	$ 1,978,243	$ (152,683)

13. Retirement Plans (continued)

County Defined Benefit Pension Plan, continued

The $578,291 of deferred outflows of resources resulting from the County's contributions subsequent to measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the subsequent year. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year Ending December 31,	
2024	$ (116,337)
2025	289,910
2026	429,680
2027	644,016
Totals	$ 1,247,269

Actuarial Assumptions. The total pension liability in the January 1, 2022 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	3.00%
Future salary increases	4.00% per year with an age based scale
Cost of living adjustments	N/A
Net investment rate of return	7.00%

Healthy mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 Amount Weighted Mortality Table with a blend of 50% of the General Employees Table and 50% of the Public Safety Employees Table with Scale AA to 2022. Disabled rates were derived from the 1985 CIDA Table Class I.

The mortality and economic actuarial assumptions used in the January 1, 2022 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study conducted in February 2019.

13. Retirement Plans (continued)

County Defined Benefit Pension Plan, continued

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.

The pension plan's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2022 is summarized in the following table:

	Target Allocation	Range
Fixed Income	30%	25%-35%
Large Cap	30%	25%-35%
Mid Cap	5%	2.5%-10%
Small Cap	5%	2.5%-10%
REIT	5%	2.5%-10%
International	15%	10%-20%
Multi Cap	5%	2.5%-10%
Global Allocation	5%	2.5%-10%

Discount Rate. The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00 percent. The discount rate is determined through a blend of using a building blocks approach based on 20-year benchmarks (33.33%) and 30-year benchmarks (33.33%), as well as the forward-looking capital market assumptions for a moderate asset allocation (33.34%), as determined by UBS. 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.

13. Retirement Plans (continued)

County Defined Benefit Pension Plan, continued

Sensitivity of the Net Pension 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 (6.00 percent) or one percentage-point higher (8.00 percent) than the current rate:

	Discount Rate	Net Pension Liability
1% decrease	6.00%	$ 6,477,330
Current discount rate	7.00%	4,399,766
1% increase	8.00%	2,661,515

Plan Fiduciary Net Position. Detailed information about the Plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued Association County Commissioners of Georgia GEBCorp financial report.

County Defined Contribution Plan

The County provides retirement benefits for its employees through a deferred compensation, defined contribution plan with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia Defined Contribution Plan. The Plan was created under Internal Revenue Code Sections 457 and 401(a). The Plan is administered by the Government Employee Benefits Corporation of Georgia (GEBCORP) as the third party service provider and The Charles Schwab Trust Company serves as the trustee of the trust fund under the Plan. Under the terms of the Plan, participating employees are required to contribute 3% of the employee's salary per year to the 401(a) and the County contributes 3% of the employee's salary per year to the 401(a). Employees can make voluntary contributions to the 457 and the County will match ½% for each 1% voluntarily contributed by employee up to a total County match of 2%.

Employee contributions are vested 100% at the time of contribution. Employer contributions vest 0% prior to three full years of employee service, 50% after three full years of employee service and 100% after four full years of employee service. Amounts held in the Plan are not available to the employees until termination, retirement, death, or unforeseeable emergency.

13. Retirement Plans (continued)

County Defined Contribution Plan, continued

During the current year, County and employee contributions to the Plan totaled $296,748 and $426,595, respectively.

The County has no fiduciary relationship with the plan, and plan assets are not available to the County or its general creditors. The Plan assets are held in trust by the administrator for the exclusive benefit of the participants of the Plan. The County Commissioner provides for the funding policy though a County ordinance and maintains the authority to change the policy. Separate financial statements are not issued for the Plan.

Other County Plans

In addition to the plans above, various County employees are covered under the following plans: Georgia Firefighters' Pension Fund, Georgia State Employees' Retirement System (ERS), Magistrates' Retirement Fund of Georgia, Peace Officers' Annuity and Benefit Fund of Georgia, Probate Judges' Retirement Fund of Georgia, Sheriffs' Retirement Fund of Georgia, and Superior Court Clerks' Retirement Fund of Georgia. Further information regarding these plans can be obtained from the plans' annual reports. These plans are immaterial to the financial statements.

Murray County Health Department Retirement Plan

Eligible employees of the Murray County Health Department participate in the Georgia State Employees' Retirement System (ERS), a statewide multiple-employer public employee retirement system. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the Department contributed $160,356. As of June 30, 2023, the Department reported a liability in the amount of $1,173,807 for its proportionate share (0.017576%) of the net pension liability. The Department recognized pension expense of $298,065 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. Further information regarding the plan can be obtained from Department's annual audit report by contacting Murray County Health Department, 709 Old Dalton Ellijay Road, Chatsworth, Georgia 30705.

14. Other Post-Employment Benefits

Murray County Health Department Component Unit

Eligible employees of the Murray County Health Department are provided OPEB through the State of Georgia OPEB Fund, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit post-employment healthcare plan and life insurance through the SEAD-OPEB Fund, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit other post-employment benefit plan. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the Department contributed $30,468. As of June 30, 2023, the Department reported a net OPEB asset in the amount of $93,632 and net OPEB liability in the amount of $71,900 for its proportionate share (0.025472% for the SEAD-OPEB Fund and 0.016002% for the State of Georgia OPEB Fund) of the net OPEB asset and liability. The Department recognized OPEB expense of ($85,190) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. Further information regarding the plans can be obtained from Department's annual audit report by contacting Murray County Health Department, 709 Old Dalton Ellijay Road, Chatsworth, Georgia 30705.

15. Tax Abatements

Murray County is subject to tax incentives granted by the Development Authority of Murray County. These incentives are negotiated on an individual basis as a reduction of property taxes and have the stated purpose of increasing business activity and employment in the County by allowing localities to abate property taxes for a variety of economic development purposes, including business relocation, retention, and expansion. The incentives may be granted to any business located within or promising to relocate to a local government's geographic area. The County has not made any commitments as part of the agreements other than to reduce taxes. For the current year, Murray County abated property taxes totaling $634,456 under this program, including the following tax abatement agreement over 10% of the total abated:

- 55% property tax abatements for a local manufacturer investing in personal property for its facility in Murray County. The abatement amounted to $556,879.

16. Hotel/Motel Lodging Tax

Pursuant to an ordinance approved on June 27, 2005, the County has levies a 5% lodging tax in accordance with OCGA 48-13-51. A summary of the transactions for the current year follows:

Lodging Tax Receipts	$	107,896	
Disbursements for trade and tourism	$	95,896	89% of tax receipts
Transfers to the General Fund	$	1,999	

17. Joint Ventures

The County, in conjunction with cities and counties in the thirteen-county northwest Georgia area are members of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (RC). Membership in an RC is automatic for each municipality and county in the state. The official Code of Georgia Section 50-8-34 (Georgia Planning Act of 1989) provides for the organizational structure of the RC's. Each county and municipality in the state is required by law to pay minimum annual dues to the RC. The RC Board membership includes the chief elected official of each county and the chief elected official of each municipality. The County board members and municipal board members from the same county elect one member of the Board who is a resident (but not an elected or appointed official or employee of the County or municipality) to serve as the non-public Board member from a County. The Georgia Planning Act of 1989 (O.C.G.A. 50-8-34) defines RC's as "public agencies" and instrumentalities of their members. Georgia laws also provide that the member governments are liable for any debts or obligations of an RC beyond its resources (O.C.G.A. 50-8-39.1). Separately issued financial statements are available at the RC's administrative office.

18. Risk Management

The County is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters. The County carries commercial insurance to cover the risks of loss in amounts deemed prudent by County management. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded insurance coverage in any of the past three years.

The County maintains a group health insurance plan through American National that carries a specific employee plan deductible of $75,000 per participant with an additional $40,000 aggregating specific. Claims up to that amount are paid by the County through the Murray County Benefits account, a self-insurance fund. The third party administrator reviews and approves all claims on behalf of the County.

A summary of the changes in claims liability for the current year is as follows:

Beginning balance	$ 505,548
Incurred claims, net of any changes	2,991,910
Payments	(3,211,167)
Ending balance	$ 286,291

19. Commitments and Contingencies

Commitments

At the end of the current year, contractual commitments on uncompleted contracts totaled $2,575,510.

19. Commitments and Contingencies (continued)

Contingencies

The County has received federal and state grants for specific purposes that are subject to review and audit by the grantor agencies or their designee. These audits could result in a request for reimbursement to the grantor agency for costs disallowed under the terms of the grant. Based on prior experience, the County believes such disallowances, if any, will be immaterial.

The County was a defendant in several lawsuits at the end of the current year. In the opinion of County management, the outcome of these contingencies will not have a material effect on the financial position of the County.

20. Transportation Expenditures

Amounts expended on transportation include transportation maintenance and operation costs and correspond with classifications and subclassifications specified in the local government uniform chart of accounts under subsection (e) of Code Section 36-81-3 within section 4200, including noncapital expenditures within sections 4210-4290.

Total general fund expenditures within these categories totaled $2,381,632 for the current fiscal year.

21. New Accounting Pronouncements

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

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

21. New Accounting Pronouncements (continued)

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

22. Changes in Beginning Balances

Governmental Activities

General Fund

A prior period adjustment has been made to correct the balances of unearned revenue and due to other funds at December 31, 2022. This adjustment had no effect on beginning fund balance.

Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund

A prior period adjustment has been made to correct the balance of due from other funds at December 31, 2022. This adjustment increased beginning fund balance by $161,044.

The net effect of these adjustments was to increase beginning net position in the Governmental Activities by $161,044.

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REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE NET PENSION LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS
LAST TEN YEARS
December 31, 2023
(Unaudited)

	Year End								
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Total pension liability									
Service cost	$ 152,097	$ 163,062	$ 172,548	$ 168,376	$ 156,494	$ 171,135	$ 161,935	$ 142,240	$ 132,324
Interest	1,139,207	1,098,750	1,058,621	972,907	854,320	801,228	757,496	677,632	651,480
Liability experience (gain) / loss	(294,478)	(41,730)	(49,493)	188,797	637,776	322,349	226,897	386,181	0
Assumption change	23,716	31,567	22,060	519,122	1,083,680	29,402	331,428	318,394	0
Benefit payments, including refunds of employee contributions	(703,112)	(644,279)	(616,645)	(632,772)	(601,862)	(581,751)	(470,828)	(448,351)	(421,888)
Net change in total pension liability	317,430	607,370	587,091	1,216,430	2,130,408	742,363	1,006,928	1,076,096	361,916
Total pension liability - beginning	16,625,947	16,018,577	15,431,486	14,215,056	12,084,648	11,342,285	10,335,357	9,259,261	8,897,345
Total pension liability - ending (a)	$ 16,943,377	$ 16,625,947	$ 16,018,577	$ 15,431,486	$ 14,215,056	$ 12,084,648	$ 11,342,285	$ 10,335,357	$ 9,259,261
Plan fiduciary net position									
Contributions - employer	$ 496,495	$ 527,629	$ 550,988	$ 497,536	$ 423,816	$ 443,544	$ 400,299	$ 351,187	$ 364,000
Net investment income	(2,141,309)	2,036,058	1,557,791	2,077,903	(486,768)	1,495,672	645,752	76,815	634,957
Benefit payments, including refunds of employee contributions	(703,112)	(644,279)	(616,645)	(632,772)	(601,862)	(581,751)	(470,828)	(448,351)	(421,888)
Administrative expense	(38,292)	(36,642)	(37,714)	(37,391)	(27,420)	(26,102)	(29,893)	(25,538)	(23,041)
Other changes	(83,842)	(132,332)	(67,669)	(53,136)	(61,724)	(80,663)	(111,143)	(89,036)	(59,147)
Net change in plan fiduciary net position	(2,470,060)	1,750,434	1,386,751	1,852,140	(753,958)	1,250,700	434,187	(134,923)	494,881
Plan fiduciary net position - beginning	15,013,671	13,263,237	11,876,486	10,024,346	10,778,304	9,527,604	9,093,417	9,228,340	8,733,459
Plan fiduciary net position - ending (b)	$ 12,543,611	$ 15,013,671	$ 13,263,237	$ 11,876,486	$ 10,024,346	$ 10,778,304	$ 9,527,604	$ 9,093,417	$ 9,228,340
Net pension liability - ending : (a) - (b)	$ 4,399,766	$ 1,612,276	$ 2,755,340	$ 3,555,000	$ 4,190,710	$ 1,306,344	$ 1,814,681	$ 1,241,940	$ 30,921
Plan's fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	74.03%	90.30%	82.80%	76.96%	70.52%	89.19%	84.00%	87.98%	99.67%
Covered payroll	$ 3,926,048	$ 4,180,138	$ 4,323,225	$ 4,377,778	$ 4,622,475	$ 4,798,756	$ 4,835,780	$ 4,493,559	$ 4,231,406
Net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll	112.07%	38.57%	63.73%	81.21%	90.66%	27.22%	37.53%	27.64%	0.73%

Note: 2015 was the first year of implementation. Therefore, years prior are not reported.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS
LAST TEN YEARS
December 31, 2023
(Unaudited)

	Year End								
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Actuarially determined contribution	$ 578,291	$ 496,495	$ 527,629	$ 550,988	$ 497,536	$ 423,816	$ 436,686	$ 400,299	$ 351,187
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	(578,291)	(496,495)	(527,629)	(550,988)	(497,536)	(423,816)	(443,544)	(400,299)	(351,187)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ (6,858)	$ 0	$ 0
Covered payroll	$ 3,911,636	$ 4,162,616	$ 4,595,104	$ 4,304,709	$ 4,377,778	$ 4,622,475	$ 4,798,756	$ 4,835,780	$ 4,493,559
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	14.78%	11.93%	11.48%	12.80%	11.37%	9.17%	9.24%	8.28%	7.82%

Note: 2015 was the first year of implementation. Therefore, years prior are not reported.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

1. Valuation Date

The actuarially determined contribution rate was determined as of January 1, 2022, with an interest adjustment to the fiscal year. Contributions in relation to this actuarially determined contribution rate will be reported for the year ending December 31, 2024.

2. Methods and Assumptions Used to Determine Contribution Rates

Actuarial cost method = Entry Age Normal

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 = Smoothed market value with a 5-year smoothing period

Net investment rate of return = 7.00%

Future salary increases = 4.00% per year with age based scale

Cost of living adjustments = N/A

Normal retirement age = 65

Mortality = Healthy mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 Amount Weighted Mortality Table with a blend of 50% of the General Employees Table and 50% of the Public Safety Employees Table with Scale AA to 2022. Disabled rates were derived from the 1985 CIDA Table Class I.

3. Changes in Benefits

There have been no substantive changes since the last actuarial valuation.

4. Changes of Assumptions

The mortality improvements for the Pub-2010 GE (50%) and PS (50%) Amt-Weighted mortality table is projected to 2022 instead of 2021 with Scale AA.

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COMBINING STATEMENTS

Nonmajor Governmental Funds

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
December 31, 2023

	Special Revenue							Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
	Law Library	Confiscated Assets	E-911	Multi-Grant	Substance Abuse	Hotel Motel	MCSO Scholarship Fund	
ASSETS								
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 119,836	$ 85,475	$ 0	$ 0	$ 79,183	$ 0	$ 13,832	$ 298,326
Receivables								
Accounts	0	0	121,895	0	0	0	0	121,895
Intergovernmental	0	0	0	114,203	1,055	0	0	115,258
Taxes	0	0	0	0	0	4,749	0	4,749
Due from other funds	0	0	0	0	0	5,609	0	5,609
Total assets	$ 119,836	$ 85,475	$ 121,895	$ 114,203	$ 80,238	$ 10,358	$ 13,832	$ 545,837
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES								
Liabilities								
Accounts payable	$ 0	$ 0	$ 5,802	$ 88,843	$ 0	$ 10,358	$ 0	$ 105,003
Accrued liabilities	0	0	19,509	0	0	0	0	19,509
Due to other funds	0	0	0	74,360	36,081	0	0	110,441
Total liabilities	0	0	25,311	163,203	36,081	10,358	0	234,953
Fund balances								
Restricted for:								
Law library operations	119,836	0	0	0	0	0	0	119,836
Public safety activities	0	85,475	0	0	44,157	0	13,832	143,464
Assigned to emergency 911 system operations	0	0	96,584	0	0	0	0	96,584
Unassigned	0	0	0	(49,000)	0	0	0	(49,000)
Total fund balances	119,836	85,475	96,584	(49,000)	44,157	0	13,832	310,884
Total liabilities and fund balances	$ 119,836	$ 85,475	$ 121,895	$ 114,203	$ 80,238	$ 10,358	$ 13,832	$ 545,837

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

	Special Revenue							Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds
	Law Library	Confiscated Assets	E-911	Multi-Grant	Substance Abuse	Hotel Motel	MCSO Scholarship Fund	
REVENUES								
Taxes	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 107,896	$ 0	$ 107,896
Fines and forfeitures	14,844	102,223	0	0	51,192	0	0	168,259
Charges for services	0	0	713,777	0	0	0	0	713,777
Intergovernmental	0	0	0	430,730	0	0	0	430,730
Interest	2	49	0	0	0	0	0	51
Contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,700	6,700
Total revenues	14,846	102,272	713,777	430,730	51,192	107,896	6,700	1,427,413
EXPENDITURES								
Current								
Judicial	1,656	0	0	236,724	0	0	0	238,380
Public Safety	0	94,259	997,514	78,870	44,856	0	5,000	1,220,499
Public Works	0	0	0	51,647	0	0	0	51,647
Health and Welfare	0	0	0	146,351	0	0	0	146,351
Housing and Development	0	0	0	0	0	105,897	0	105,897
Total expenditures	1,656	94,259	997,514	513,592	44,856	105,897	5,000	1,762,774
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	13,190	8,013	(283,737)	(82,862)	6,336	1,999	1,700	(335,361)
Other financing sources (uses)								
Transfers in	0	0	283,565	33,862	0	0	0	317,427
Transfers out	0	0	0	0	0	(1,999)	0	(1,999)
Total other financing sources (uses)	0	0	283,565	33,862	0	(1,999)	0	315,428
Net change in fund balances	13,190	8,013	(172)	(49,000)	6,336	0	1,700	(19,933)
Fund balances, January 1	106,646	77,462	96,756	0	37,821	0	12,132	330,817
Fund balances, December 31	$ 119,836	$ 85,475	$ 96,584	$ (49,000)	$ 44,157	$ 0	$ 13,832	$ 310,884

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NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Special revenue funds are used to account for specific revenues that are legally or donor restricted or committed to expenditure for particular purposes.

Law Library Fund – This fund is used to account for the fines and forfeitures received that are restricted for providing a County Law Library.

Confiscated Assets Fund – This fund is used to account for confiscated seizures that are restricted for law enforcement.

E-911 Fund – This fund is used to account for receipt of fees imposed on land and wireless telephone lines in the County used to offset the operation and personnel costs of providing emergency services.

Multi-Grant Fund – This fund is used to account for grant monies received from various Federal and State agencies and the expenditure of these monies for the purposes intended.

Substance Abuse Fund – This fund is used to account for the fines and fees received restricted for substance abuse treatment and education programs in the County.

Hotel Motel Fund – This fund is used to account for hotel/motel tax collections that are restricted for tourism in the County.

MCSO Scholarship Fund – This fund is used to account for contributions that are restricted for scholarships.

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
LAW LIBRARY SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES			
Fines and forfeitures	$ 10,000	$ 14,844	$ 4,844
Interest	0	2	2
Total revenues	10,000	14,846	4,846
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Judicial			
Materials and supplies	10,000	1,656	8,344
Total expenditures	10,000	1,656	8,344
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	0	13,190	13,190
Fund balance, January 1	0	106,646	106,646
Fund balance, December 31	$ 0	$ 119,836	$ 119,836

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
CONFISCATED ASSETS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES			
Fines and forfeitures	$ 95,000	$ 102,223	$ 7,223
Interest	0	49	49
Total revenues	95,000	102,272	7,272
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Public Safety			
Contract services	38,500	33,681	4,819
Materials and supplies	11,500	28,676	(17,176)
Capital outlay	45,000	31,902	13,098
Total expenditures	95,000	94,259	741
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	0	8,013	8,013
Fund balance, January 1	0	77,462	77,462
Fund balance, December 31	$ 0	$ 85,475	$ 85,475

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
E-911 SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES			
Charges for services	$ 1,071,400	$ 713,777	$ (357,623)
Total revenues	1,071,400	713,777	(357,623)
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Public Safety			
Personal services	869,300	809,129	60,171
Contract services	196,950	186,087	10,863
Materials and supplies	5,150	2,298	2,852
Total expenditures	1,071,400	997,514	73,886
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	0	(283,737)	(283,737)
Other financing sources (uses)			
Transfers in (out)			
General Fund	0	283,565	283,565
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over (under) expenditures and other financing uses	0	(172)	(172)
Fund balance, January 1	0	96,756	96,756
Fund balance, December 31	$ 0	$ 96,584	$ 96,584

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
MULTI-GRANT SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES			
Intergovernmental	$ 481,380	$ 430,730	$ (50,650)
Total revenues	481,380	430,730	(50,650)
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Judicial			
Personal services	87,000	86,724	276
Capital outlay	150,000	150,000	0
Public Safety			
Contract services	800	0	800
Materials and supplies	40,251	20,667	19,584
Capital outlay	38,391	58,203	(19,812)
Public Works			
Capital outlay	52,000	51,647	353
Health and Welfare			
Personal services	134,900	132,049	2,851
Contract services	2,800	7,847	(5,047)
Materials and supplies	9,100	6,455	2,645
Total expenditures	515,242	513,592	1,650
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(33,862)	(82,862)	(49,000)
Other financing sources (uses)			
Transfers in (out)			
General Fund	33,862	33,862	0
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over (under) expenditures and other financing uses	0	(49,000)	(49,000)
Fund balance, January 1	0	0	0
Fund balance, December 31	$ 0	$ (49,000)	$ (49,000)

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES			
Fines and forfeitures	$ 45,000	$ 51,192	$ 6,192
Total revenues	45,000	51,192	6,192
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Public Safety			
Personal services	37,000	36,081	919
Materials and supplies	8,000	8,775	(775)
Total expenditures	45,000	44,856	144
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	0	6,336	6,336
Fund balance, January 1	0	37,821	37,821
Fund balance, December 31	$ 0	$ 44,157	$ 44,157

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
HOTEL MOTEL SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES			
Taxes	$ 106,000	$ 107,896	$ 1,896
Total revenues	106,000	107,896	1,896
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Housing and Development			
Contract services	12,000	10,001	1,999
Payments to others	94,000	95,896	(1,896)
Total expenditures	106,000	105,897	103
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	0	1,999	1,999
Other financing sources (uses)			
Transfers in (out)			
General Fund	0	(1,999)	(1,999)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over (under) expenditures and other financing uses	0	0	0
Fund balance, January 1	0	0	0
Fund balance, December 31	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
MCSO SCHOLARSHIP FUND SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES			
Contributions	$ 9,000	$ 6,700	$ (2,300)
Total revenues	9,000	6,700	(2,300)
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Public Safety			
Payments to others	9,000	5,000	4,000
Total expenditures	9,000	5,000	4,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	0	1,700	1,700
Fund balance, January 1	0	12,132	12,132
Fund balance, December 31	$ 0	$ 13,832	$ 13,832

CUSTODIAL FUNDS

These funds are used to account for assets held by the County as a custodian to be expended in accordance with the conditions of its custodial capacity.

Clerk of Superior Court, Probate Court, Magistrate Court and Juvenile Court - These funds account for assets and related liabilities for the collection of court related fees.

Sheriff - This fund accounts for deposits held for incarcerated inmates.

Tax Commissioner - This fund accounts for assets and related liabilities for the collection of taxes and tag and title fees.

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
December 31, 2023

	Tax Commissioner	Clerk of Superior Court	Sheriff	Probate Court	Magistrate Court	Juvenile Court	Total Custodial Funds
ASSETS							
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 913,683	$ 280,054	$ 102,970	$ 278,527	$ 11,187	$ 542	$ 1,586,963
Taxes receivable	4,015,642	0	0	0	0	0	4,015,642
Total assets	4,929,325	280,054	102,970	278,527	11,187	542	5,602,605
LIABILITIES							
Due to others	4,929,325	108,134	2,297	17,459	11,187	542	5,068,944
NET POSITION							
Restricted for individuals, organizations, and other governments	$ 0	$ 171,920	$ 100,673	$ 261,068	$ 0	$ 0	$ 533,661

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
For the year ended December 31, 2023

	Tax Commissioner	Clerk of Superior Court	Sheriff	Probate Court	Magistrate Court	Juvenile Court	Total Custodial Funds
ADDITIONS							
Taxes collected for other agencies	$ 20,015,977	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 20,015,977
Court fees collected for other agencies	0	1,446,330	0	189,684	201,029	8,704	1,845,747
Court individual cases	0	7,141	0	94,058	0	0	101,199
Sheriff fees collected	0	0	2,605	0	0	0	2,605
Sheriff seizures	0	0	27,107	0	0	0	27,107
Sheriff inmate account deposits	0	0	362,229	0	0	0	362,229
Total additions	20,015,977	1,453,471	391,941	283,742	201,029	8,704	22,354,864
DEDUCTIONS							
Taxes distributed to other agencies	20,015,977	0	0	0	0	0	20,015,977
Court fees distributed to other agencies	0	1,446,330	0	189,684	201,029	8,704	1,845,747
Payments to others	0	44,624	32,269	139,117	0	0	216,010
Sheriff fees distributed to other agencies	0	0	2,605	0	0	0	2,605
Payments from inmates to others	0	0	358,053	0	0	0	358,053
Total deductions	20,015,977	1,490,954	392,927	328,801	201,029	8,704	22,438,392
Change in net position	0	(37,483)	(986)	(45,059)	0	0	(83,528)
Net position, January 1	0	209,403	101,659	306,127	0	0	617,189
Net position, December 31	$ 0	$ 171,920	$ 100,673	$ 261,068	$ 0	$ 0	$ 533,661

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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 Commissioner
Murray County, Georgia

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards,* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Murray County, Georgia, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Murray County, Georgia's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated April 12, 2024. Our report includes a reference to other auditors who audited the financial statements of the Murray County Health Department, as described in our report on Murray County, Georgia's financial statements. This report does not include the results of the other auditors' testing of internal control over financial reporting or compliance and other matters that were reported on separately by those auditors.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Murray County, 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 Murray County, Georgia's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Murray County, Georgia's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph 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 were not identified. However, as described below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses and significant deficiencies.

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. We consider the following deficiency to be a material weakness:

2023-001

Condition: The prior year financial statements were restated for errors and incorrectly reported amounts in the General Fund and Nonmajor Governmental Funds.

Criteria: Generally accepted accounting principles require that accruals be properly calculated and recorded.

Effect: Failure to properly apply generally accepted accounting principles led to financial statements that were materially misstated.

Cause: Staff made various posting and classification errors.

2023-001, continued

Recommendation: Management should review their year-end procedures for recording assets and liabilities.

Management Response: Management concurs with this finding. County personnel will review all year-end accruals to ensure they are properly calculated and recorded. This action was taken immediately upon receipt of the comment from our auditors.

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. We consider the following deficiencies to be significant deficiencies:

2023-002

Condition: Appropriate segregation of duties does not exist among recording, distribution, and reconciliation of cash accounts and other operational functions in the various funds maintained by the County. This is especially prominent in the offices of the Tax Commissioner and Magistrate Court.

Criteria: Segregation of employees' duties is a common practice in an effective internal control structure. Segregation of duties is when specific employee functions related to important accounting areas (such as cash receipting and cash disbursements) are separated among different individuals to significantly reduce the risk that any one individual could intentionally or unintentionally misappropriate assets.

Effect: Failure to maintain adequate segregation of duties exposes the assets of the County to greater risk of misappropriation.

Cause: There are several departments and constitutional offices of the County in which the segregation of duties could be improved.

Recommendation: We recommend that each County office review its policies and procedures to determine where it can adequately segregate duties to alleviate the segregation of duties issues.

Management Response: Management concurs with this finding. Due to the small number of staff members in these offices, it is challenging to fully segregate duties. Management plans to segregate further as additional staff members are added.

2023-003

Condition: County personnel may require additional training in the application of generally accepted accounting principles and the preparation of financial statements. Currently, the County relies on the external auditors for technical assistance in applying generally accepted accounting principles and the preparation of the financial statements. This is common for governments of similar size and structure to Murray County. Under current auditing standards, providing technical assistance does not impair the independence of the external auditor. However, changes to auditing standards by standards setting boards could state that providing technical assistance would impair the independence of the external auditor. This does not indicate that the Finance Department is not trained to perform the daily accounting functions, but that the County has elected as a cost benefit to outsource this expertise to their auditors.

Criteria: Effective internal control requires that the County accept responsibility and understanding of the audited financial report.

Effect: Failure to understand the financial statements increases the risk of material misstatements.

2023-003, continued

Cause: County personnel do not have the necessary training in the application of generally accepted accounting principles and the preparation of financial statements.

Recommendation: County personnel should continue to receive training in the identification and application of generally accepted accounting principles and the preparation of the County's financial statements.

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

2023-004

Condition: While performing audit procedures on public works receipts, we noted instances where deposits were not made timely. We noted 7 of 15 (47%) receipts tested were held for more than seven days before depositing.

Criteria: Proper internal controls require that cash receipts be deposited and transactions recorded in a timely manner.

Effect: Failure to deposit cash receipts in a timely manner exposes the County to a greater risk of loss due to fraud.

Cause: Staff is not depositing receipts at least once per week.

Recommendation: At a minimum, deposits should be made weekly.

Management Response: Management concurs with this finding. Management has advised the department head to implement the recommendation and to ensure that deposits are made timely. This action was taken immediately upon receipt of the comment from our auditors.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Murray County, 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*.

Murray County, Georgia's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on Murray County, Georgia's response to the findings identified in our audit and described previously. Murray County, 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 Murray County, 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
April 12, 2024

STATE REPORTING SECTION

This section contains additional reports required by the State of Georgia.

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

Project	Estimated Cost *		Expenditures		
	Original	Current	Prior Years	Current Year	Total
SPLOST 2019					
Roads and Bridges:					
Infrastructure	$ 10,455,304	$ 10,455,304	$ 3,887,096	$ 1,280,205	$ 5,167,301
Vehicles and equipment	1,135,000	1,564,100	2,270,647	348,984	2,619,631
Other Projects:					
Fire Station #2	360,000	360,000	0	0	0
Fire Station #7	360,000	360,000	0	400	400
Fire Station #8	360,000	360,000	406,206	0	406,206
Recreation buildings and equipment	416,000	416,000	268,054	373,036	641,090
Hospital capital projects	5,250,000	5,250,000	3,475,000	875,000	4,350,000
Communication / Technical System	1,107,000	1,107,000	451,721	208,621	660,342
Public safety vehicles and equipment	2,598,446	2,618,446	1,008,143	253,899	1,262,042
Economic development projects	500,000	500,000	207,024	1,342,457	1,549,481
General buildings and equipment	2,309,500	2,309,500	809,677	208,224	1,017,901
Other departments vehicles and equipment	305,000	305,000	183,741	0	183,741
Contractual Payments:					
City of Chatsworth	3,018,750	3,018,750	2,465,430	617,602	3,083,032
City of Eton	575,000	575,000	469,605	117,638	587,243
Total	$ 28,750,000	$ 29,199,100	$ 15,902,344	$ 5,626,066	$ 21,528,410

* 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.

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
SCHEDULE OF PROJECTS FINANCED WITH TRANSPORTATION SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX
For the year ended December 31, 2023

Project	Estimated Cost *		Expenditures		
	Original	Current	Prior Years	Current Year	Total
TSPLOST 2020					
Road, street and bridge purposes and related equipment	$ 21,150,000	$ 21,150,000	$ 8,341,802	$ 8,484,457	$ 16,826,259
Contractual Payments:					
City of Chatsworth	1,880,000	1,880,000	1,363,421	434,338	1,797,759
City of Eton	470,000	470,000	340,855	108,585	449,440
Total	$ 23,500,000	$ 23,500,000	$ 10,046,078	$ 9,027,380	$ 19,073,458

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

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