

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA

Annual Financial Report

For the year ended December 31, 2024

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MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
For the year ended December 31, 2024

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RUSHTON

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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, 2024, 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, 2024, 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 61 through 64, 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 4, 2025 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 4, 2025

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MURRAY COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Telephone 706-517-1400 • Fax 706-517-5193
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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, 2024. 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, 2024 by $64,751,263 (*net position*). Of this amount, $19,467,315 is reported as unrestricted net position. This is a decrease of $1,820,554 from the previous year for unrestricted. Total net position decreased by $2,618,416 from the previous year as a result of operations.

- As of December 31, 2024, Murray County's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of $31,944,968. Approximately 63% of this total amount, or $22,122,305, is reported as unassigned and available for spending at the County's discretion. Approximately 38%, or $8,832,026, 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 65. 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 65-66 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 26-60 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 61-64 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, 2024 and 2023

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
Current assets	$ 36,657,857	$ 40,485,515
Capital assets	34,685,099	33,897,923
Total assets	71,342,956	74,383,438
Deferred outflows of resources	1,291,128	1,978,243
Current liabilities	2,286,588	2,832,079
Noncurrent liabilities	5,596,233	5,697,638
Total liabilities	7,882,821	8,529,717
Deferred inflows of resources	0	152,683
Net position:		
Net investment in capital assets	34,628,024	32,887,312
Restricted	10,655,924	13,504,100
Unrestricted	19,467,315	21,287,869
Total net position	$ 64,751,263	$ 67,679,281

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 $64,751,263 at the close of the current year. Approximately 53% 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 4% from 49% 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 16%. 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.

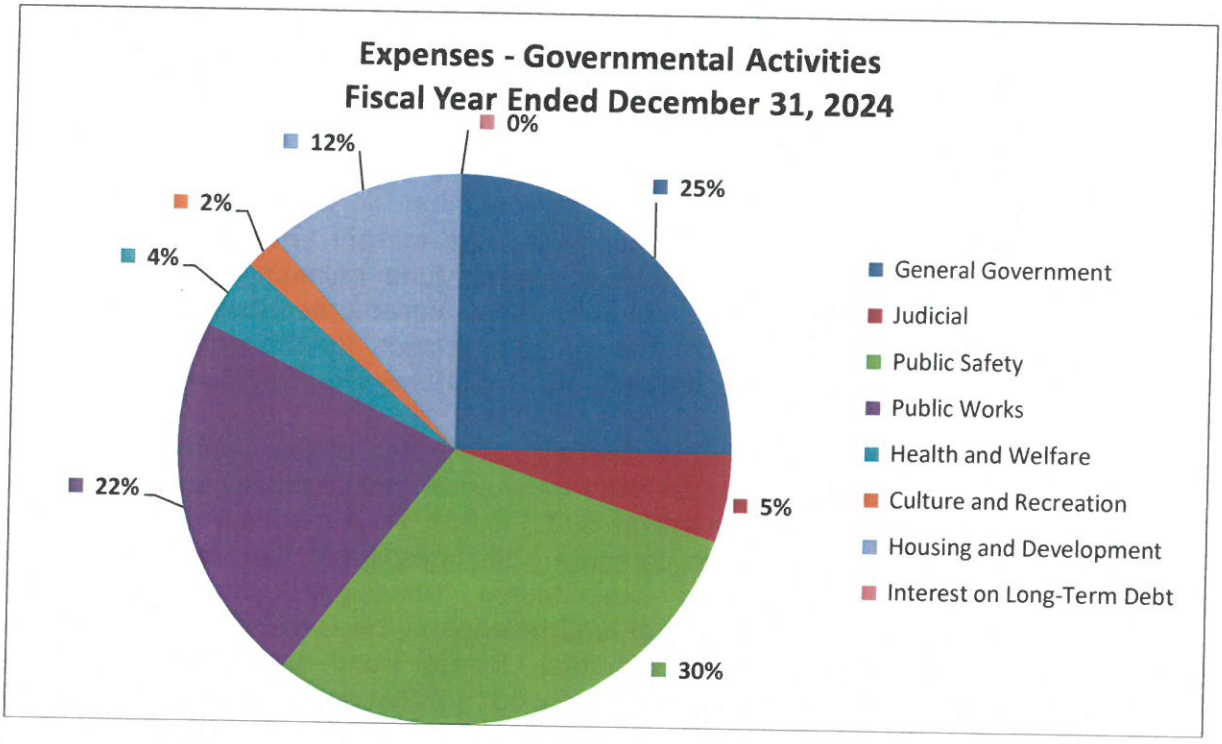
The following condensed financial information was derived from the government-wide Statement of Activities and reflects how Murray County's net position changed during the year.

Murray County
Changes in Net Position
For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

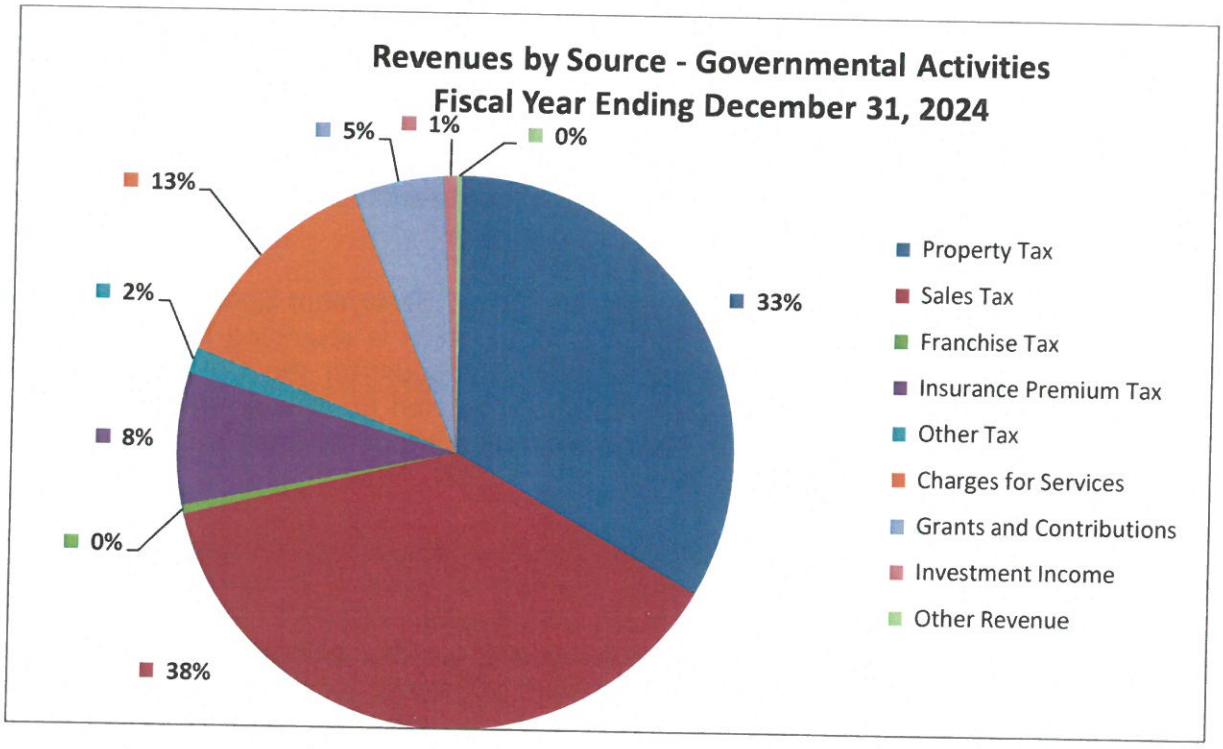
	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
Revenues		
Program revenues:		
Charges for services	$ 4,950,481	$ 4,718,253
Operating grants and contributions	333,588	487,198
Capital grants and contributions	1,704,909	873,456
General revenues:		
Property tax	12,873,121	10,943,489
Sales tax	14,699,827	16,264,322
Franchise tax	191,710	225,896
Insurance premium tax	2,993,874	2,812,921
Other taxes	590,439	589,015
Interest and investment earnings	280,391	948
Gain on sale of capital assets	24,176	50,205
Other revenues	86,171	224,732
Total revenues	38,728,687	37,190,435
Expenses		
General government	10,353,288	8,924,006
Judicial	2,131,401	2,035,779
Public Safety	12,475,307	11,161,312
Public Works	9,056,131	13,550,030
Health and Welfare	1,735,372	1,410,921
Culture and Recreation	837,384	858,100
Housing and Development	4,756,872	3,149,685
Interest on long-term debt	1,348	5,741
Total expenses	41,347,103	41,095,574
Increase (decrease) in net position	(2,618,416)	(3,905,139)
Net position - beginning (as previously reported)	67,679,281	71,423,376
Change in accounting principle	(309,602)	161,044
Net position - beginning (restated)	67,369,679	71,584,420
Net position - ending	$ 64,751,263	$ 67,679,281

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 $31,944,968. Of this amount, $22,122,305 (69%) 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 $22,122,305, while total fund balance was $22,385,669. 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 79% of total General Fund expenditures, while total fund balance represents approximately 80% of that same amount. The County ended the fiscal year realizing a decrease in the overall fund balance in the General Fund by $1,319,629, or approximately 6%. The County decreased unassigned fund balance in the General Fund by $1,415,696. The significant decrease was due to a significant increase in expenditures from 24,238,431 to 27,971,934. Expenditures increased $3,733,503, while revenues only increased $3,332,833. General Administration expenditures increased $1,068,272 due largely to increased medical claims expense. Jail operations expenditures increased by $318,263 due largely to increased personal services. Public Works Administration expenditures increased by $1,315,736 due largely to increased capital outlay. 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 $360,601, 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 $56,722 toward these efforts during the current year increase of $27,775 from the prior year.

At the end of the current year, the 2019 SPLOST Capital Projects Fund had total fund balance of $6,549,733 of which $6,546,400 is restricted for capital outlay. Fund balance of the 2019 SPLOST Capital Projects Fund decreased $1,777,439 during the current year. The cause for the decrease in fund balance was spending on capital projects and payments to other governments increased substantially. Multiple large projects were ongoing during the year, so expenditures increased to $8,202,805 from $5,626,066 in the prior year.

At the end of the current year, the 2020 TSPLOST Capital Projects Fund had total fund balance of $2,285,626, all of which is restricted for capital outlay. Fund balance of the 2020 TSPLOST Capital Projects Fund decreased $1,127,674 during the current year. The cause for the decrease in fund balance was receipts of TSPLOST revenues from the current referendum ended during the current year combined with continued spending on capital projects.

General Fund Budget Highlights

The original budget for the General Fund was amended reflecting grant awards and reimbursements, as well as unanticipated revenues and expenditures. Overall, General Fund revenues exceeded final amended budget projections by $530,073, or 1%. General Fund expenditures were below the final amended budget projections by $290,893, 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 2025 and the General Fund fund balance is expected to remain similar.

Capital Assets and Long-Term Liability Administration

Capital Assets. Murray County has invested $34,685,099 in capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation) compared to $33,897,923 in the previous year. This represents an increase of 2.3%. Capital assets held by the County at year-end are summarized as follows:

Murray County
Capital Assets (net of accumulated depreciation)
December 31, 2024 and 2023

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
Land	$ 3,373,589	$ 3,373,589
Construction in progress	1,047,132	343,781
Land improvements	5,491,506	5,491,506
Infrastructure	121,300,863	121,300,863
Buildings	27,434,486	27,434,486
Machinery and equipment	8,579,971	6,913,291
Office equipment	770,405	770,405
Furniture and fixtures	374,526	290,684
Software	1,465,421	1,465,421
Vehicles	9,856,496	9,146,767
Total	179,694,395	176,530,793
Accumulated Depreciation	(145,009,296)	(142,632,870)
Net Capital Assets	$ 34,685,099	$ 33,897,923

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

- Camera system at jail
- Various upgrades to Health Department building
- Engineering and construction of bridges
- 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 $2,268,721, as compared to $2,054,075 at the end of the previous year. This represents an increase for governmental activities of $214,646 during the course of the year due mostly to increases in landfill closure and post-closure care costs and compensated absences. During the current year, the County paid off the remaining principal balance of notes payable.

Additional information on the County's long-term liabilities can be found in Note 9 on page 45 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 2025, including the following:

- Possible increases in revenues, particularly property and sales taxes
- Fluctuations in the price of fuel and utilities due to market instability.
- Plans for future capital improvements, including a new six year SPLOST
- 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, 2024

	Primary Government	Component Units	
	Governmental Activities	Murray County Health Department	Murray County Recreation Commission
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 31,443,337	$ 1,090,562	$ 2,084
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	194,466	0	0
Receivables (net)			
Accounts	1,563,829	0	0
Intergovernmental	123,972	110,588	0
Taxes	3,068,847	0	0
Inventories	0	480	0
Prepaid items	263,406	350	0
Total current assets	36,657,857	1,201,980	2,084
Noncurrent assets			
Capital assets			
Non-depreciable	4,420,721	0	0
Depreciable (net)	30,264,378	65,922	0
Net OPEB asset	0	116,024	0
Total noncurrent assets	34,685,099	181,946	0
Total assets	71,342,956	1,383,926	2,084
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Deferred outflows of resources - pension plans	1,291,128	281,195	0
Deferred outflows of resources - OPEB plans	0	119,286	0
Total deferred outflows of resources	1,291,128	400,481	0
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable	824,807	1,903	0
Claims payable	300,523	0	0
Accrued liabilities	395,361	0	0
Funds held in escrow	191,175	0	0
Compensated absences	574,722	27,762	0
Total current liabilities	2,286,588	29,665	0
Noncurrent liabilities			
Compensated absences	191,574	18,508	0
Net pension liability	3,902,234	1,123,798	0
Net OPEB liability	0	48,599	0
Landfill closure and post-closure care costs	1,502,425	0	0
Total noncurrent liabilities	5,596,233	1,190,905	0
Total liabilities	7,882,821	1,220,570	0

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
December 31, 2024

	Primary Government	Component Units	
	Governmental Activities	Murray County Health Department	Murray County Recreation Commission
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Deferred inflows of resources - pension plans	$ 0	$ 2,633	$ 0
Deferred inflows of resources - OPEB plans	0	53,803	0
Total deferred inflows of resources	0	56,436	0
NET POSITION			
Net investment in capital assets	34,628,024	65,922	0
Restricted for:			
Law library operations	132,649	0	0
Opioid remediation	1,509,001	0	0
Public safety activities	159,709	0	0
Senior center activities	3,291	0	0
OPEB benefits	0	116,024	0
Prior year program income	0	27,430	0
Capital outlay	8,851,274	0	0
Unrestricted	19,467,315	298,025	2,084
Total net position	$ 64,751,263	$ 507,401	$ 2,084

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the year ended December 31, 2024

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	$ 10,353,288	$ 48,004	$ 22,836	$ 0	$ (10,282,448)
Judicial	2,131,401	284,491	0	0	(1,846,910)
Public Safety	12,475,307	3,770,201	92,237	0	(8,612,869)
Public Works	9,056,131	610,859	49,000	1,704,909	(6,691,363)
Health and Welfare	1,735,372	51,001	165,653	0	(1,518,718)
Culture and Recreation	837,384	185,925	3,862	0	(647,597)
Housing and Development	4,756,872	0	0	0	(4,756,872)
Interest on long-term debt	1,348	0	0	0	(1,348)
Total primary government	41,347,103	4,950,481	333,588	1,704,909	(34,358,125)
Component Units					
Murray County Health Department					
Health and Welfare	1,259,931	290,577	986,588	0	17,234
Murray County Recreation Commission					
Culture and Recreation	5,001	0	5,000	0	(1)
Total component units	1,264,932	290,577	991,588	0	17,233

	Primary Government: Governmental Activities	Component Units: Murray County Health Department	Component Units: Murray County Recreation Commission
Change in net position			
Net (expense) revenue	$ (34,358,125)	$ 17,234	$ (1)
General revenues			
Taxes			
Property	12,873,121	0	0
Sales	14,699,827	0	0
Franchise	191,710	0	0
Insurance premium	2,993,874	0	0
Other	590,439	0	0
Interest and investment earnings	280,391	3	0
Gain on sale of capital assets	24,176	0	0
Other	86,171	0	0
Total general revenues	31,739,709	3	0
Change in net position	(2,618,416)	17,237	(1)
Net position - beginning, as previously reported	67,679,281	490,164	2,085
Change in accounting principle	(309,602)	0	0
Net position - beginning, restated	67,369,679	490,164	2,085
Net position - ending	$ 64,751,263	$ 507,401	$ 2,084

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
December 31, 2024

	General	Opioid Settlement	2019 SPLOST	2020 TSPLOST	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Totals
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 22,774,680	$ 0	$ 6,108,871	$ 2,284,794	$ 274,992	$ 31,443,337
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	194,466	0	0	0	0	194,466
Receivables (net)						
Accounts	291,786	1,148,400	0	0	123,643	1,563,829
Intergovernmental	110,392	0	0	0	13,580	123,972
Taxes	2,421,222	0	638,566	1,522	7,537	3,068,847
Due from other funds	22,149	365,910	0	0	18,151	406,210
Prepaid items	260,073	0	3,333	0	0	263,406
Total assets	$ 26,074,768	$ 1,514,310	$ 6,750,770	$ 2,286,316	$ 437,903	$ 37,064,067
LIABILITIES						
Accounts payable	$ 594,969	$ 5,309	$ 178,888	$ 690	$ 44,951	$ 824,807
Claims payable	300,523	0	0	0	0	300,523
Accrued liabilities	365,748	0	0	0	29,613	395,361
Due to other funds	384,061	0	22,149	0	0	406,210
Funds held in escrow	191,175	0	0	0	0	191,175
Total liabilities	1,836,476	5,309	201,037	690	74,564	2,118,076
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES						
Unavailable property taxes	1,852,623	0	0	0	0	1,852,623
Unavailable fines, fees and forfeitures	0	1,148,400	0	0	0	1,148,400
Total deferred inflows of resources	1,852,623	1,148,400	0	0	0	3,001,023
FUND BALANCES						
Nonspendable:						
Prepaid items	260,073	0	3,333	0	0	263,406
Restricted for:						
Law library operations	0	0	0	0	132,649	132,649
Opioid remediation	0	360,601	0	0	0	360,601
Public safety activities	0	0	0	0	145,213	145,213
Senior center activities	3,291	0	0	0	0	3,291
Capital outlay	0	0	6,546,400	2,285,626	0	8,832,026
Assigned to:						
Emergency 911 system operations	0	0	0	0	85,477	85,477
Unassigned	22,122,305	0	0	0	0	22,122,305
Total fund balances	22,385,669	360,601	6,549,733	2,285,626	363,339	31,944,968
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances	$ 26,074,768	$ 1,514,310	$ 6,750,770	$ 2,286,316	$ 437,903	$ 37,064,067

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, 2024

Total fund balance - total governmental funds			$ 31,944,968
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			34,685,099
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	$ 1,852,623		
Fines, fees and forfeitures	1,148,400		3,001,023
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			1,291,128
Some liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds. These are:			
Compensated absences	$ (766,296)		
Net pension liability	(3,902,234)		
Landfill closure and post-closure care costs	(1,502,425)		(6,170,955)
Net position of governmental activities			$ 64,751,263

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
For the year ended December 31, 2024

	General	Opioid Settlement	2019 SPLOST	2020 TSPLOST	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Totals
REVENUES						
Taxes	$ 21,517,177	$ 0	$ 6,417,993	$ 2,909,977	$ 119,188	$ 30,964,335
Licenses and permits	176,599	0	0	0	0	176,599
Fines, fees and forfeitures	914,938	246,080	0	0	123,434	1,284,452
Charges for services	1,756,327	0	0	0	729,240	2,485,567
Intergovernmental	2,278,210	0	0	0	300,791	2,579,001
Interest	280,350	0	7,373	3,780	41	291,544
Contributions	3,862	0	0	0	4,100	7,962
Other	86,171	0	0	0	0	86,171
Total revenues	27,013,634	246,080	6,425,366	2,913,757	1,276,794	37,875,631
EXPENDITURES						
Current						
General Government	10,220,233	0	0	0	0	10,220,233
Judicial	1,977,068	0	0	0	1,802	1,978,870
Public Safety	9,983,698	56,722	0	0	1,321,987	11,362,407
Public Works	4,190,376	0	0	0	0	4,190,376
Health and Welfare	451,915	0	0	0	168,869	620,784
Culture and Recreation	648,780	0	0	0	0	648,780
Housing and Development	499,864	0	0	0	117,188	617,052
Capital outlay	0	0	3,236,281	3,750,433	0	6,986,714
Debt service	0	0	182,388	0	0	182,388
Intergovernmental	0	0	4,784,136	290,998	0	5,075,134
Total expenditures	27,971,934	56,722	8,202,805	4,041,431	1,609,846	41,882,738
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(958,300)	189,358	(1,777,439)	(1,127,674)	(333,052)	(4,007,107)
Other financing sources (uses)						
Transfers in	27,763	0	0	0	413,268	441,031
Transfers out	(413,268)	0	0	0	(27,763)	(441,031)
Sale of capital assets	24,176	0	0	0	0	24,176
Total other financing sources (uses)	(361,329)	0	0	0	385,505	24,176
Net change in fund balance	(1,319,629)	189,358	(1,777,439)	(1,127,674)	52,453	(3,982,931)
Fund balances, January 1	23,705,298	171,243	8,327,172	3,413,300	310,886	35,927,899
Fund balances, December 31	$ 22,385,669	$ 360,601	$ 6,549,733	$ 2,285,626	$ 363,339	$ 31,944,968

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, 2024

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds			$ (3,982,931)
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	$ 3,448,921		
Depreciation	(2,661,745)		787,176
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	$ (285,319)		
Related accumulated depreciation	285,319		0
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	$ 490,771		
Cost of benefits earned net of employee contributions	(527,669)		(36,898)
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			181,041
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.			828,883
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	$ (4,895)		
Landfill closure and post-closure care costs	(390,792)		(395,687)
Change in net position of governmental activities			$ (2,618,416)

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, 2024

	Budget			Variance with
	Original	Final	Actual	Final Budget
REVENUES				
Taxes	$ 20,374,485	$ 21,395,485	$ 21,517,177	$ 121,692
Licenses and permits	160,000	160,000	176,599	16,599
Fines and forfeitures	690,850	690,850	914,938	224,088
Charges for services	1,544,136	1,754,036	1,756,327	2,291
Intergovernmental	1,285,650	2,222,650	2,278,210	55,560
Interest	500	188,350	280,350	92,000
Contributions	1,000	1,000	3,862	2,862
Other	71,190	71,190	86,171	14,981
Total revenues	24,127,811	26,483,561	27,013,634	530,073
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
General Government				
County Commissioner	385,008	385,008	385,586	(578)
Board of Elections	266,918	266,918	206,860	60,058
General Administration	5,655,607	6,041,607	6,041,011	596
Tax Commissioner	482,960	501,460	501,278	182
Tax Assessor	476,360	476,360	442,600	33,760
Board of Equalization	6,160	6,160	5,243	917
Risk Management	1,562,927	1,562,927	1,511,582	51,345
General Government Buildings	1,020,096	1,127,096	1,126,073	1,023
Judicial				
Superior Court	269,940	269,940	274,782	(4,842)
Clerk of Superior Court	460,941	460,941	457,817	3,124
District Attorney	372,474	393,474	392,558	916
Magistrate Court	329,466	329,466	327,014	2,452
Probate Court	285,180	285,180	283,847	1,333
Juvenile Court	255,324	255,324	241,050	14,274
Public Safety				
Sheriff	3,375,796	3,651,796	3,651,653	143
Jail Operations	3,168,381	3,321,381	3,320,620	761
Fire Department	2,761,120	2,761,120	2,699,886	61,234
Coroner	59,009	59,009	52,661	6,348
Animal Control	243,730	243,730	239,554	4,176
Emergency Management Agency	19,650	19,650	19,324	326
Public Works				
Administration	2,381,300	3,701,300	3,697,368	3,932
Solid Waste and Recycling Administration	478,200	493,100	493,008	92
Health and Welfare				
Senior Citizen's Center	221,336	221,336	220,131	1,205
Transportation Services	175,000	232,000	231,784	216
Culture and Recreation				
Recreation	658,377	658,377	648,780	9,597
Housing and Development				
Agricultural Resources	95,412	95,412	96,135	(723)
Forest Resources	6,867	6,867	6,867	0
Code Enforcement	54,473	54,473	53,764	709
Building Inspections	153,875	153,875	153,446	429
Land and Use Development	160,190	160,190	122,330	37,860
Community and Economic Development	65,000	67,350	67,322	28
Total expenditures	25,907,077	28,262,827	27,971,934	290,893

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, 2024

	Budget		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	$ (1,779,266)	$ (1,779,266)	$ (958,300)	$ 820,966
Other financing sources (uses)				
Transfers in	0	0	27,763	27,763
Transfers out	0	0	(413,268)	(413,268)
Sale of capital assets	50,000	50,000	24,176	(25,824)
Total other financing sources (uses)	50,000	50,000	(361,329)	(411,329)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over (under) expenditures and other financing uses	(1,729,266)	(1,729,266)	(1,319,629)	409,637
Fund balances, January 1	1,729,266	1,729,266	23,705,298	21,976,032
Fund balances, December 31	$ 0	$ 0	$ 22,385,669	$ 22,385,669

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, 2024

	Budget			Variance with
	Original	Final	Actual	Final Budget
REVENUES				
Fines, fees and forfeitures	$ 0	$ 57,000	$ 246,080	$ 189,080
Total revenues	0	57,000	246,080	189,080
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Public Safety	0	57,000	56,722	278
Total expenditures	0	57,000	56,722	278
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	0	0	189,358	189,358
Fund balances, January 1	0	0	171,243	171,243
Fund balances, December 31	$ 0	$ 0	$ 360,601	$ 360,601

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
December 31, 2024

	Custodial Funds
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 1,206,613
Taxes receivable	4,043,386
Total assets	5,249,999
LIABILITIES	
Due to others	4,826,423
NET POSITION	
Restricted for individuals, organizations, and other governments	$ 423,576

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, 2024

	Custodial Funds
ADDITIONS	
Taxes collected for other agencies	$ 23,662,154
Court fees collected for other agencies	1,783,501
Court individual cases	254,136
Sheriff fees collected	5,511
Sheriff seizures	33,206
Sheriff inmate account deposits	433,381
Total additions	26,171,889
DEDUCTIONS	
Taxes distributed to other agencies	23,662,154
Court fees distributed to other agencies	1,770,410
Payments to others	380,645
Sheriff fees distributed to other agencies	36,202
Payments from inmates to others	432,563
Total deductions	26,281,974
Change in net position	(110,085)
Net position - beginning	533,661
Net position - ending	$ 423,576

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 used to account for assets that are held for others. They are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and accrual basis of accounting.

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

Sick and 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 in accordance with GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*.

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		$ 291,786
Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund		1,148,400
Nonmajor Funds		
Special Revenue Funds		
Confiscated Assets	$ 2,696	
E-911	120,947	123,643
Total primary government		$ 1,563,829

5. Intergovernmental Receivables

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

Primary Government:		
Major Funds		
General Fund		$ 110,392
Nonmajor Funds		
Special Revenue Funds		
Multi-Grant	$ 13,075	
Substance Abuse	505	13,580
Total primary government		$ 123,972
Component Units		
Murray County Health Department		$ 110,588

6. Property Taxes

The County Commissioner levied property taxes on August 23, 2024. Property taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property as of January 1. Property taxes were billed on October 1, 2024 and are due upon receipt. However, the actual due date was December 1, 2024. 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	$ 22,149
Opioid Settlement	General	365,910
Nonmajor Governmental	General	18,151
		$ 406,210

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	$ 413,268
Nonmajor Governmental	General	27,763
		$ 441,031

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	343,781	703,351	0	1,047,132
Total non-depreciable assets	3,717,370	703,351	0	4,420,721
Depreciable assets				
Land improvements	5,491,506	0	0	5,491,506
Infrastructure	121,300,863	0	0	121,300,863
Buildings	27,434,486	0	0	27,434,486
Machinery and equipment	6,913,291	1,666,680	0	8,579,971
Office equipment	770,405	0	0	770,405
Furniture and fixtures	290,684	83,842	0	374,526
Software	1,465,421	0	0	1,465,421
Vehicles	9,146,767	995,048	(285,319)	9,856,496
Total depreciable assets	172,813,423	2,745,570	(285,319)	175,273,674
Less accumulated depreciation				
Land improvements	(3,343,202)	(201,311)	0	(3,544,513)
Infrastructure	(114,583,559)	(837,176)	0	(115,420,735)
Buildings	(10,436,284)	(589,420)	0	(11,025,704)
Machinery and equipment	(4,793,863)	(474,847)	0	(5,268,710)
Office equipment	(579,917)	(36,932)	0	(616,849)
Furniture and fixtures	(111,979)	(24,875)	0	(136,854)
Software	(1,372,878)	(18,824)	0	(1,391,702)
Vehicles	(7,411,188)	(478,360)	285,319	(7,604,229)
Total accumulated depreciation	(142,632,870)	(2,661,745)	285,319	(145,009,296)
Total depreciable assets, net	30,180,553	83,825	0	30,264,378
Governmental activities capital assets, net	$ 33,897,923	$ 787,176	$ 0	$ 34,685,099

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	67,783	0	91,765
Total depreciable assets	105,618	67,783	0	173,401
Less accumulated depreciation				
Office equipment	(59,414)	(1,633)	0	(61,047)
Computer equipment	(18,957)	0	0	(18,957)
Leasehold improvements	(23,847)	(3,628)	0	(27,475)
Total accumulated depreciation	(102,218)	(5,261)	0	(107,479)
Total depreciable assets, net	3,400	62,522	0	65,922
Murray County Health Department capital assets, net	$ 3,400	$ 62,522	$ 0	$ 65,922

Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs as follows:

Primary Government	
Governmental activities	
General Government	$ 305,523
Judicial	49,431
Public Safety	914,989
Public Works	1,177,337
Health and Welfare	21,150
Culture and Recreation	175,543
Housing and Development	17,772
Total depreciation expense for governmental activities	$ 2,661,745
Component units	
Murray County Health Department	$ 5,261

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 of this note was paid off during the current fiscal year.

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	$ 761,401	$ 4,895	$ 0	$ 766,296	$ 574,722
Landfill closure and post-closure care costs	1,111,633	390,792	0	1,502,425	0
Notes from direct borrowings	181,041	0	181,041	0	0
Totals	$ 2,054,075	$ 395,687	$ 181,041	$ 2,268,721	$ 574,722

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Murray County Health Department					
Compensated absences	$ 39,630	$ 40,918	$ 34,278	$ 46,270	$ 27,762

Beginning balances of long-term liabilities have been restated for the implementation of GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*. See Note 21 for additional details. The additions noted for compensated absences reflect the net change for the period.

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 $1,348 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 19.07% of the estimated capacity of the landfill, the County has recognized a liability for post-closure costs accrued to date of $1,502,425 and has not recognized related closure costs of $1,213,571 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 $18,777,271 will be recognized as the remaining capacity is used, with the County responsible for $7,876,610 of such post closure costs, and Capital Waste Services responsible for the remaining $10,900,661 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	$ 179,694,395
Accumulated depreciation	(145,009,296)
Book value	34,685,099
Capital-related accounts payable	(57,075)
Net investment in capital assets	$ 34,628,024

12. 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.

12. Retirement Plans (continued)

County Defined Benefit Pension Plan, continued

Participant counts as of January 1, 2023 (the most recent actuarial valuation) are as follows:

Retirees, beneficiaries, and disablees currently receiving benefits	99
Terminated participants entitled to but not yet receiving benefits	133
Active employees participating in the plan	74
Total number of participants	306

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.

12. 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 $490,771, or 11.28% 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 $3,902,234. The net pension liability was measured as of December 31, 2023 and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2023. For the current year, the County recognized pension expense of $527,669. The net pension liability is liquidated by the General Fund.

12. 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, 2022	$ 16,943,377	$ 12,543,611	$ 4,399,766
Changes for the year:			
Service cost	139,292	0	139,292
Interest	1,159,507	0	1,159,507
Liability experience (gain) / loss	458,649	0	458,649
Assumption change	37,794	0	37,794
Employer contributions	0	578,291	(578,291)
Net investment income	0	1,863,524	(1,863,524)
Benefit payments	(757,979)	(757,979)	0
Administrative expense	0	(40,135)	40,135
Other changes	0	(108,906)	108,906
Net changes	1,037,263	1,534,795	(497,532)
Balances at December 31, 2023	$ 17,980,640	$ 14,078,406	$ 3,902,234
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability		78.30%	
Covered payroll		$ 3,886,939	
Net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll		100.39%	

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	$ 490,771	$ 0
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	595,940	0
Differences between expected and actual experience	188,855	
Changes of assumptions	15,562	0
Totals	$ 1,291,128	$ 0

12. Retirement Plans (continued)

County Defined Benefit Pension Plan, continued

The $490,771 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,	
2025	$ 302,410
2026	237,763
2027	452,100
2028	(191,916)
Totals	$ 800,357

Actuarial Assumptions. The total pension liability in the January 1, 2023 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 2023. Disabled rates were derived from the 1985 CIDA Table Class I.

The mortality and economic actuarial assumptions used in the January 1, 2023 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study conducted in February 2024.

12. 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, 2023 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.

12. 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%	$ 6,090,820
Current discount rate	7.00%	3,902,234
1% increase	8.00%	2,070,397

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.

12. Retirement Plans (continued)

County Defined Contribution Plan, continued

During the current year, County and employee contributions to the Plan totaled $325,328 and $470,607, 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, 2024, the Department contributed $137,724. As of June 30, 2024, the Department reported a liability in the amount of $1,123,798 for its proportionate share (0.0118838%) of the net pension liability. The Department recognized pension expense of $330,358 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. 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.

13. 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, 2024, the Department contributed $66,121. As of June 30, 2024, the Department reported a net OPEB asset in the amount of $116,024 and net OPEB liability in the amount of $48,599 for its proportionate share (0.026309% for the SEAD-OPEB Fund and 0.017146% for the State of Georgia OPEB Fund) of the net OPEB asset and liability. The Department recognized OPEB expense of ($36,614) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. 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.

14. 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 $434,161 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 $359,970.

15. 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	$	119,188	
Disbursements for trade and tourism	$	107,188	90% of tax receipts
Transfers to the General Fund	$	2,000	2% of tax receipts

16. 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.

17. 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	$ 286,291
Incurred claims, net of any changes	3,964,107
Payments	(3,949,875)
Ending balance	$ 300,523

18. Commitments and Contingencies

Commitments

At the end of the current year, contractual commitments on uncompleted contracts totaled $2,447,690.

18. 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.

19. 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 $3,697,368 for the current fiscal year.

20. New Accounting Pronouncements

The County implemented GASB Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections—an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 62*, effective for the County's current fiscal year. The requirements of this statement are effective for periods beginning after June 15, 2023. The implementation of this new standard had no impact on the County's net position.

The County implemented GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, effective for the County's current fiscal year. The requirements of this statement are effective for periods beginning after December 15, 2023. The implementation of this new standard decreased the County's beginning net position in the amount of $309,602. See Note 21 for additional details.

21. Changes in Beginning Balances

Changes in Accounting Principles

Governmental Activities

To implement GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences,* the County adjusted beginning compensated absences in the Governmental Activities. The implementation of this standard decreased beginning net position in the amount of $309,602.

A summary of the change in beginning balances is presented below:

	Beginning As Previously Reported	Change in Accounting Principle	Ending As Restated
Governmental Activities	$ 67,679,281	$ (309,602)	$ 67,369,679

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE NET PENSION LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS
LAST TEN YEARS
December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

	Year End									
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Total pension liability										
Service cost	$ 139,292	$ 152,097	$ 163,062	$ 172,548	$ 168,376	$ 156,494	$ 171,135	$ 161,935	$ 142,240	$ 132,324
Interest	1,159,507	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	458,649	(294,478)	(41,730)	(49,493)	188,797	637,776	322,349	226,897	386,181	0
Assumption change	37,794	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	(757,979)	(703,112)	(644,279)	(616,645)	(632,772)	(601,862)	(581,751)	(470,828)	(448,351)	(421,888)
Net change in total pension liability	1,037,263	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	16,943,377	16,625,947	16,018,577	15,431,486	14,215,056	12,084,648	11,342,285	10,335,357	9,259,261	8,897,345
Total pension liability - ending (a)	$ 17,980,640	$ 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	$ 578,291	$ 496,495	$ 527,629	$ 550,988	$ 497,536	$ 423,816	$ 443,544	$ 400,299	$ 351,187	$ 364,000
Net investment income	1,863,524	(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	(757,979)	(703,112)	(644,279)	(616,645)	(632,772)	(601,862)	(581,751)	(470,828)	(448,351)	(421,888)
Administrative expense	(40,135)	(38,292)	(36,642)	(37,714)	(37,391)	(27,420)	(26,102)	(29,893)	(25,538)	(23,041)
Other changes	(108,906)	(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	1,534,795	(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	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	8,733,459
Plan fiduciary net position - ending (b)	$ 14,078,406	$ 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)	$ 3,902,234	$ 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	78.30%	74.03%	90.30%	82.80%	76.96%	70.52%	89.19%	84.00%	87.98%	99.67%
Covered payroll	$ 3,886,939	$ 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	100.39%	112.07%	38.57%	63.73%	81.21%	90.66%	27.22%	37.53%	27.64%	0.73%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS
LAST TEN YEARS
December 31, 2024
(Unaudited)

	Year End									
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Actuarially determined contribution	$ 490,771	$ 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	(490,771)	(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	$ 0	$ (6,858)	$ 0	$ 0
Covered payroll	$ 4,350,190	$ 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	11.28%	14.78%	11.93%	11.48%	12.80%	11.37%	9.17%	9.24%	8.28%	7.82%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

1. Valuation Date

The actuarially determined contribution rate was determined as of January 1, 2023, 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, 2025.

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 2023. 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 2023 instead of 2022 with Scale AA.

Based on the February 2024 experience study:

- The adjustment to the base salary increase rate was increase from 1.0% to 1.5% for participants under age 30.
- The turnover table was extended to age 60.
- The disability table was changed to reflect actual disabilities.
- The retirement rates were updated to reflect actual retirement rates over the past 5 years.
- 1.0% load was added to the active retirement liability to account for unused sick leave and annual leave credited at retirement.

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COMBINING STATEMENTS

Nonmajor Governmental Funds

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
December 31, 2024

	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	$ 132,649	$ 69,821	$ 0	$ 0	$ 59,590	$ 0	$ 12,932	$ 274,992
Receivables								
Accounts	0	2,696	120,947	0	0	0	0	123,643
Intergovernmental	0	0	0	13,075	505	0	0	13,580
Taxes	0	0	0	0	0	7,537	0	7,537
Due from other funds	0	0	0	1,900	0	16,251	0	18,151
Total assets	$ 132,649	$ 72,517	$ 120,947	$ 14,975	$ 60,095	$ 23,788	$ 12,932	$ 437,903
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES								
Liabilities								
Accounts payable	$ 0	$ 331	$ 5,857	$ 14,975	$ 0	$ 23,788	$ 0	$ 44,951
Accrued liabilities	0	0	29,613	0	0	0	0	29,613
Total liabilities	0	331	35,470	14,975	0	23,788	0	74,564
Fund balances								
Restricted for:								
Law library operations	132,649	0	0	0	0	0	0	132,649
Public safety activities	0	72,186	0	0	60,095	0	12,932	145,213
Assigned to emergency 911 system operations	0	0	85,477	0	0	0	0	85,477
Total fund balances	132,649	72,186	85,477	0	60,095	0	12,932	363,339
Total liabilities and fund balances	$ 132,649	$ 72,517	$ 120,947	$ 14,975	$ 60,095	$ 23,788	$ 12,932	$ 437,903

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
For the year ended December 31, 2024

	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	$ 119,188	$ 0	$ 119,188
Fines and forfeitures	14,613	45,214	0	0	63,607	0	0	123,434
Charges for services	0	0	729,240	0	0	0	0	729,240
Intergovernmental	0	0	0	300,791	0	0	0	300,791
Interest	2	39	0	0	0	0	0	41
Contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,100	4,100
Total revenues	14,615	45,253	729,240	300,791	63,607	119,188	4,100	1,276,794
EXPENDITURES								
Current								
Judicial	1,802	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,802
Public Safety	0	58,542	1,153,615	57,159	47,671	0	5,000	1,321,987
Health and Welfare	0	0	0	168,869	0	0	0	168,869
Housing and Development	0	0	0	0	0	117,188	0	117,188
Total expenditures	1,802	58,542	1,153,615	226,028	47,671	117,188	5,000	1,609,846
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	12,813	(13,289)	(424,375)	74,763	15,936	2,000	(900)	(333,052)
Other financing sources (uses)								
Transfers in	0	0	413,268	0	0	0	0	413,268
Transfers out	0	0	0	(25,763)	0	(2,000)	0	(27,763)
Total other financing sources (uses)	0	0	413,268	(25,763)	0	(2,000)	0	385,505
Net change in fund balances	12,813	(13,289)	(11,107)	49,000	15,936	0	(900)	52,453
Fund balances, January 1	119,836	85,475	96,584	(49,000)	44,159	0	13,832	310,886
Fund balances, December 31	$ 132,649	$ 72,186	$ 85,477	$ 0	$ 60,095	$ 0	$ 12,932	$ 363,339

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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, 2024

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES			
Fines and forfeitures	$ 10,000	$ 14,613	$ 4,613
Interest	0	2	2
Total revenues	10,000	14,615	4,615
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Judicial			
Materials and supplies	10,000	1,802	8,198
Total expenditures	10,000	1,802	8,198
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	0	12,813	12,813
Fund balance, January 1	0	119,836	119,836
Fund balance, December 31	$ 0	$ 132,649	$ 132,649

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, 2024

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES			
Fines and forfeitures	$ 70,000	$ 45,214	$ (24,786)
Interest	0	39	39
Total revenues	70,000	45,253	(24,747)
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Public Safety			
Contract services	42,000	9,524	32,476
Materials and supplies	28,000	30,018	(2,018)
Capital outlay	0	19,000	(19,000)
Total expenditures	70,000	58,542	11,458
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	0	(13,289)	(13,289)
Fund balance, January 1	0	85,475	85,475
Fund balance, December 31	$ 0	$ 72,186	$ 72,186

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, 2024

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES			
Charges for services	$ 1,158,725	$ 729,240	$ (429,485)
Total revenues	1,158,725	729,240	(429,485)
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Public Safety			
Personal services	965,625	960,786	4,839
Contract services	190,550	190,201	349
Materials and supplies	2,550	2,628	(78)
Total expenditures	1,158,725	1,153,615	5,110
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	0	(424,375)	(424,375)
Other financing sources (uses)			
Transfers in (out)			
General Fund	0	413,268	413,268
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over (under) expenditures and other financing uses	0	(11,107)	(11,107)
Fund balance, January 1	0	96,584	96,584
Fund balance, December 31	$ 0	$ 85,477	$ 85,477

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, 2024

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES			
Intergovernmental	$ 253,900	$ 300,791	$ 46,891
Total revenues	253,900	300,791	46,891
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Judicial			
Public Safety			
Materials and supplies	10,000	17,754	(7,754)
Capital outlay	47,300	39,405	7,895
Health and Welfare			
Personal services	138,800	111,186	27,614
Contract services	4,800	4,763	37
Materials and supplies	53,000	52,920	80
Total expenditures	253,900	226,028	27,872
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	0	74,763	74,763
Other financing sources (uses)			
Transfers in (out)			
General Fund	0	(25,763)	(25,763)
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	(49,000)	(49,000)
Fund balance, December 31	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0

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, 2024

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES			
Fines and forfeitures	$ 47,700	$ 63,607	$ 15,907
Total revenues	47,700	63,607	15,907
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Public Safety			
Personal services	39,700	39,673	27
Materials and supplies	8,000	7,998	2
Total expenditures	47,700	47,671	29
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	0	15,936	15,936
Fund balance, January 1	0	44,159	44,159
Fund balance, December 31	$ 0	$ 60,095	$ 60,095

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, 2024

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES			
Taxes	$ 117,200	$ 119,188	$ 1,988
Total revenues	117,200	119,188	1,988
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Housing and Development			
Contract services	10,000	10,000	0
Payments to others	107,200	107,188	12
Total expenditures	117,200	117,188	12
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	0	2,000	2,000
Other financing sources (uses)			
Transfers in (out)			
General Fund	0	(2,000)	(2,000)
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, 2024

	Final Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES			
Contributions	$ 8,000	$ 4,100	$ (3,900)
Total revenues	8,000	4,100	(3,900)
EXPENDITURES			
Current			
Public Safety			
Payments to others	8,000	5,000	3,000
Total expenditures	8,000	5,000	3,000
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	0	(900)	(900)
Fund balance, January 1	0	13,832	13,832
Fund balance, December 31	$ 0	$ 12,932	$ 12,932

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, 2024

	Tax Commissioner	Clerk of Superior Court	Sheriff	Probate Court	Magistrate Court	Juvenile Court	Total Custodial Funds
ASSETS							
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 635,166	$ 173,025	$ 103,171	$ 267,322	$ 27,413	$ 516	$ 1,206,613
Taxes receivable	4,043,386	0	0	0	0	0	4,043,386
Total assets	4,678,552	173,025	103,171	267,322	27,413	516	5,249,999
LIABILITIES							
Due to others	4,678,552	99,922	3,443	16,577	27,413	516	4,826,423
NET POSITION							
Restricted for individuals, organizations, and other governments	$ 0	$ 73,103	$ 99,728	$ 250,745	$ 0	$ 0	$ 423,576

MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
For the year ended December 31, 2024

	Tax Commissioner	Clerk of Superior Court	Sheriff	Probate Court	Magistrate Court	Juvenile Court	Total Custodial Funds
ADDITIONS							
Taxes collected for other agencies	$ 23,662,154	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 23,662,154
Court fees collected for other agencies	0	1,356,518	0	200,089	219,668	7,226	1,783,501
Court individual cases	0	78	0	254,058	0	0	254,136
Sheriff fees collected	0	0	5,511	0	0	0	5,511
Sheriff seizures	0	0	33,206	0	0	0	33,206
Sheriff inmate account deposits	0	0	433,381	0	0	0	433,381
Total additions	23,662,154	1,356,596	472,098	454,147	219,668	7,226	26,171,889
DEDUCTIONS							
Taxes distributed to other agencies	23,662,154	0	0	0	0	0	23,662,154
Court fees distributed to other agencies	0	1,343,427	0	200,089	219,668	7,226	1,770,410
Payments to others	0	111,986	4,278	264,381	0	0	380,645
Sheriff fees distributed to other agencies	0	0	36,202	0	0	0	36,202
Payments from inmates to others	0	0	432,563	0	0	0	432,563
Total deductions	23,662,154	1,455,413	473,043	464,470	219,668	7,226	26,281,974
Change in net position	0	(98,817)	(945)	(10,323)	0	0	(110,085)
Net position, January 1	0	171,920	100,673	261,068	0	0	533,661
Net position, December 31	$ 0	$ 73,103	$ 99,728	$ 250,745	$ 0	$ 0	$ 423,576

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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, 2024, 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 4, 2025. 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.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control, described below that we consider to be significant deficiencies:

2024-001

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 office of the Tax Commissioner.

2024-001, continued

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.

2024-002

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.

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.

2024-003

Condition: While performing audit procedures on cash receipts, we noted instances where deposits were not made timely. We noted 7 of 15 (47%) of public works receipts tested and 5 of 40 (12.5%) of building permits 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 4, 2025

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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, 2024

Project	Estimated Cost *		Expenditures		
	Original	Current	Prior Years	Current Year	Total
SPLOST 2019					
Roads and Bridges:					
Infrastructure	$ 10,455,304	$ 10,455,304	$ 5,167,301	$ 684,606	$ 5,851,907
Vehicles and equipment	1,135,000	1,564,100	2,619,631	892,857	3,512,488
Other Projects:					
Fire Station #2	360,000	360,000	0	0	0
Fire Station #7	360,000	360,000	400	400	800
Fire Station #8	360,000	360,000	406,206	0	406,206
Recreation buildings and equipment	416,000	416,000	641,090	2,406	643,496
Hospital capital projects	5,250,000	5,250,000	4,350,000	1,050,000	5,400,000
Communication / Technical System	1,107,000	1,107,000	660,342	127,941	788,283
Public safety vehicles and equipment	2,598,446	2,618,446	1,262,042	409,339	1,671,381
Economic development projects	500,000	500,000	1,549,481	2,931,887	4,481,368
General buildings and equipment	2,309,500	2,309,500	1,017,901	1,301,120	2,319,021
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	3,083,032	673,889	3,756,921
City of Eton	575,000	575,000	587,243	128,360	715,603
Total	$ 28,750,000	$ 29,199,100	$ 21,528,410	$ 8,202,805	$ 29,731,215

* 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, 2024

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	$ 16,826,259	$ 3,750,433	$ 20,576,692
Contractual Payments:					
City of Chatsworth	1,880,000	1,880,000	1,797,759	232,798	2,030,557
City of Eton	470,000	470,000	449,440	58,200	507,640
Total	$ 23,500,000	$ 23,500,000	$ 19,073,458	$ 4,041,431	$ 23,114,889

* 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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