WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2025

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

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WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

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FINANCIAL SECTION

MAULDIN & JENKINS
CPAs & ADVISORS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Commissioners
of Wilkes County, Georgia
Washington, Georgia

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of **Wilkes County, Georgia** (the "County"), as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, 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 aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County, as of June 30, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position, and the respective budgetary comparison for the General Fund and the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") Fund for the fiscal year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We did not audit the financial statements of Wilkes County Health Department (the "Health Department"), which represent 24%, 9%, and 74%, respectively, of the assets, net position, and revenues of the aggregate discretely presented component units as of June 30, 2025. 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 Health Department, is based solely on the report 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 the County, and to meet our other 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 opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

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

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Schedule of Changes in the County's Net Pension Liability and Related Ratios and the Schedule of County Contributions, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We and other auditors 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.

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considered it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements. The accompanying combining and individual nonmajor fund statements and schedules and the Schedules of Expenditures of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Proceeds, as required by the Official Code of Georgia Annotated ("O.C.G.A") §48-8-121, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and schedules and the Schedules of Expenditures of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Proceeds 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 December 30, 2025, on our consideration of the County's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the County's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC

Macon, Georgia
December 30, 2025

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2025

	Primary Government	Component Units	
	Governmental Activities	Health Department	Payroll Development Authority
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 13,571,867	$ 553,681	$ 488,854
Taxes receivable	197,744	-	-
Accounts receivable	63,633	20,611	-
Leases receivable	45,020	-	90,211
Due from other governments	416,252	-	-
SEAD-OPEB Asset	-	141,789	-
Capital assets, non-depreciable	1,499,851	-	554,425
Capital assets, depreciable (net of accumulated depreciation)	25,610,910	-	1,156,259
Total assets	41,405,277	716,081	2,289,749
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Other post-employment benefits	-	26,091	-
Pension	190,453	84,424	-
Total deferred outflows of resources	190,453	110,515	-
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	282,704	3,252	-
Accrued liabilities	19,661	3,170	-
Unearned revenue	589,704	-	-
Bonds payable due within one year	265,000	-	-
Bonds payable due in more than one year	1,035,000	-	-
Compensated absences due within one year	-	81,853	-
Compensated absences due in more than one year	600,045	53,245	-
Landfill due in more than one year	1,396,244	-	-
Net pension liability due in more than one year	1,593,189	392,292	-
Total liabilities	5,781,547	533,812	-
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Leases	43,914	-	86,958
Other post-employment benefits	-	32,471	-
Pension	169,549	49,472	-
Total deferred inflows of resources	213,463	81,943	86,958
NET POSITION			
Net investment in capital assets	25,810,761	-	1,710,684
Restricted for:			
Grant purposes	-	-	-
Judicial	99,915	-	-
Public safety	339,693	-	-
Public works	32,201	-	-
Culture and recreation	17,637	-	-
Housing and development	1,000	-	-
Health and welfare	13,646		
Capital projects	6,339,114	-	-
Other purposes	-	235,805	-
Unrestricted	2,946,753	(24,964)	492,107
Total net position	$ 35,600,720	$ 210,841	$ 2,202,791

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues: Charges for Services	Program Revenues: Operating Grants and Contributions	Program Revenues: Capital Grants and Contributions
Primary government:				
General government	$ 4,785,079	$ 841,208	$ 545,749	$ 2,088,487
Judicial	694,106	1,528,455	-	-
Public safety	7,117,089	72,283	-	404,446
Public works	3,670,312	-	-	5,074
Health and welfare	275,304	-	13,938	-
Culture and recreation	437,824	-	-	-
Housing and development	310,661	-	-	-
Interest on long-term debt	53,798	-	-	-
Total primary government	$ 17,344,173	$ 2,441,946	$ 559,687	$ 2,498,007
Component units:				
Health Department	$ 426,792	$ 125,066	$ 364,433	$ -
Payroll Development Authority	235,554	156,257	-	-
Total component units	$ 662,346	$ 281,323	$ 364,433	$ -

General revenues:
- Property taxes
- Sales taxes
- Other taxes
- Unrestricted investment earnings
- Other

Total general revenues

Change in net position

Net position, beginning of year

Net position, end of year

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Net (Expenses) Revenues and Changes in Net Position		
Primary Government	Component Units	
Governmental Activities	Health Department	Payroll Development Authority
$ (1,309,635)	$ -	$ -
834,349	-	-
(6,640,360)	-	-
(3,665,238)	-	-
(261,366)	-	-
(437,824)	-	-
(310,661)	-	-
(53,798)	-	-
(11,844,533)	-	-
-	62,707	-
-	-	(79,297)
-	62,707	(79,297)
5,094,476	-	-
4,776,625	-	-
1,382,952	-	-
12	9,344	-
-	-	15,298
11,254,065	9,344	15,298
(590,468)	72,051	(63,999)
36,191,188	138,790	2,266,790
$ 35,600,720	$ 210,841	$ 2,202,791

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2025

ASSETS	General Fund	TSPLOST 2013 Fund	SPLOST Fund	ARPA Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 6,476,765	$ 3,313,141	$ 2,710,035	$ 589,704	$ 482,222	$ 13,571,867
Taxes receivable	197,744	-	-	-	-	197,744
Accounts receivable	-	-	-	-	63,633	63,633
Leases receivable	45,020	-	-	-	-	45,020
Due from other governments	115,935	124,037	176,280	-	-	416,252
Total assets	$ 6,835,464	$ 3,437,178	$ 2,886,315	$ 589,704	$ 545,855	$ 14,294,516
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES						
LIABILITIES						
Accounts payable	$ 259,477	$ 23,227	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 282,704
Accrued liabilities	193	-	-	-	2,915	3,108
Unearned revenue	-	-	-	589,704	-	589,704
Total liabilities	259,670	23,227	-	589,704	2,915	875,516
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES						
Unavailable revenue - property taxes	115,984	-	-	-	-	115,984
Lease related	43,914	-	-	-	-	43,914
Total deferred inflows of resources	159,898	-	-	-	-	159,898
FUND BALANCES						
Fund balances:						
Restricted for:						
Judicial	-	-	-	-	99,915	99,915
Public safety	-	-	-	-	339,693	339,693
Public works	-	-	-	-	32,201	32,201
Culture and recreation	-	-	-	-	17,637	17,637
Housing and development	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
Health and welfare	-	-	-	-	13,646	13,646
Capital projects	-	3,413,951	2,886,315	-	38,848	6,339,114
Unassigned	6,415,896	-	-	-	-	6,415,896
Total fund balances	6,415,896	3,413,951	2,886,315	-	542,940	13,259,102
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balances	$ 6,835,464	$ 3,437,178	$ 2,886,315	$ 589,704	$ 545,855	

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	27,110,761
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the funds.	115,984
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	(4,889,478)
Deferred outflows of resources are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	190,453
Deferred inflows of resources are not available to pay for current expenditures and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	(169,549)
Interest on long-term debt is not accrued in the governmental funds, but rather is recognized as an expenditure when due.	(16,553)
Net position of governmental activities	$ 35,600,720

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	General Fund	TSPLOST 2013 Fund	SPLOST Fund	ARPA Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES						
Property taxes	$ 5,124,781	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 5,124,781
Sales taxes	1,342,170	1,393,700	2,040,755	-	-	4,776,625
Other taxes	1,294,306	-	-	-	88,646	1,382,952
Licenses and permits	41,181	-	-	-	-	41,181
Intergovernmental	2,088,487	-	-	7,888	404,446	2,500,821
Charges for services	800,027	-	-	-	72,283	872,310
Court fees, fines and forfeitures	1,468,198	-	-	-	60,257	1,528,455
Interest	-	-	5,074	-	12	5,086
Other	537,861	-	-	-	13,938	551,799
Total revenues	12,697,011	1,393,700	2,045,829	7,888	639,582	16,784,010
EXPENDITURES						
Current:						
General government	2,145,957	-	-	-	-	2,145,957
Judicial	688,722	-	-	-	3,040	691,762
Public safety	5,753,953	-	-	-	180,550	5,934,503
Public works	3,064,841	-	-	-	265,879	3,330,720
Health and welfare	219,584	-	-	-	55,720	275,304
Culture and recreation	92,651	-	-	-	333,555	426,206
Housing and development	263,032	-	-	-	47,629	310,661
Intergovernmental	-	-	539,526	-	-	539,526
Capital outlay	-	1,173,921	978,992	7,888	-	2,160,801
Debt service:						
Interest	-	-	49,660	-	-	49,660
Total expenditures	12,228,740	1,173,921	1,568,178	7,888	886,373	15,865,100
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	468,271	219,779	477,651	-	(246,791)	918,910
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)						
Transfers in	-	-	-	-	275,472	275,472
Transfers out	(275,472)	-	-	-	-	(275,472)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(275,472)	-	-	-	275,472	-
Net change in fund balances	192,799	219,779	477,651	-	28,681	918,910
FUND BALANCES, beginning of year	6,223,097	3,194,172	2,408,664	-	514,259	12,340,192
FUND BALANCES, end of year	$ 6,415,896	$ 3,413,951	$ 2,886,315	$ -	$ 542,940	$ 13,259,102

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:		
Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds		$ 918,910
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. This is the amount by which depreciation exceeded capital outlay in the current period.		(1,323,139)
Revenues in the Statement of Activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds.		
Deferred property taxes	$ (30,305)	(30,305)
Some expenses reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.		
Compensated absences	$ (75,081)	
Accrued interest	(4,138)	
Net pension liability and related account	(43,991)	
Landfill liability	(32,724)	(155,934)
Change in net position - governmental activities		$ (590,468)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	Budget			Variance with
	Original	Final	Actual	Final Budget
REVENUES				
Property taxes	$ 5,177,761	$ 5,177,761	5,124,781	$ (52,980)
Sales taxes	1,201,609	1,201,609	1,342,170	140,561
Other taxes	1,181,218	1,181,218	1,294,306	113,088
Licenses and permits	42,800	42,800	41,181	(1,619)
Intergovernmental	2,231,703	2,231,703	2,088,487	(143,216)
Charges for services	805,187	805,187	800,027	(5,160)
Fines and forfeitures	1,762,787	1,762,787	1,468,198	(294,589)
Other	382,654	382,654	537,861	155,207
Total revenues	12,785,719	12,785,719	12,697,011	(88,708)
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
General government:				
Governing body	130,682	130,682	134,839	(4,157)
Elections	130,593	130,593	140,097	(9,504)
Voter registrar	1,500	1,500	1,563	(63)
General administration	1,088,183	1,088,183	1,308,100	(219,917)
Tax Commissioner	203,979	203,979	212,801	(8,822)
Tax Assessor	222,157	222,157	219,522	2,635
Tax equalization board	6,388	6,388	1,100	5,288
Buildings and plant	134,039	134,039	127,935	6,104
Total general government	1,917,521	1,917,521	2,145,957	(228,436)
Judicial:				
Clerk of superior court	347,880	347,880	324,146	23,734
District attorney	21,500	21,500	33,826	(12,326)
Public defender	25,000	25,000	27,304	(2,304)
Magistrate Court	123,461	123,461	101,514	21,947
Probate Court	203,007	203,007	201,932	1,075
Total judicial	720,848	720,848	688,722	32,126
Public safety:				
Sheriff	2,693,198	2,693,198	2,326,919	366,279
Jail operations	1,247,375	1,247,375	1,268,914	(21,539)
Fire	100,650	100,650	112,869	(12,219)
Emergency medical services	1,404,523	1,404,523	1,425,498	(20,975)
Coroner	25,543	25,543	21,088	4,455
E-911	580,559	580,559	536,210	44,349
Animal control	41,000	41,000	41,860	(860)
Emergency management	21,758	21,758	20,595	1,163
Total public safety	6,114,606	6,114,606	5,753,953	360,653
Public works:				
Roads and bridges	1,157,099	1,157,099	1,926,527	(769,428)
Solid waste collection	422,992	422,992	405,036	17,956
Solid waste disposal	664,436	664,436	650,330	14,106
Airport	905,900	905,900	82,948	822,952
Total public works	3,150,427	3,150,427	3,064,841	85,586

(Continued)

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	Budget			Variance with
	Original	Final	Actual	Final Budget
EXPENDITURES (CONTINUED)				
Current (Continued):				
Health and welfare:				
General clinics	$ 78,800	$ 78,800	$ 63,155	$ 15,645
Administration DFCS	11,515	11,515	7,700	3,815
Senior citizens nutrition	122,166	122,166	127,666	(5,500)
Family services	5,000	5,000	5,000	-
Education	26,000	26,000	16,063	9,937
Total health and welfare	243,481	243,481	219,584	23,897
Culture and recreation:				
Recreation	133,100	133,100	26,673	106,427
Library	65,978	65,978	65,978	-
Total culture and recreation	199,078	199,078	92,651	106,427
Housing and development:				
Conservation	182,978	182,978	171,370	11,608
Georgia forestry commission	22,531	22,531	22,683	(152)
Protective inspections department	20,350	20,350	18,550	1,800
Payroll development authority	66,893	66,893	44,137	22,756
Regional development center	6,300	6,300	6,292	8
Total housing and development	299,052	299,052	263,032	36,020
Total expenditures	12,645,013	12,645,013	12,228,740	416,273
Excess of revenues over expenditures	140,706	140,706	468,271	327,565
OTHER FINANCING USES				
Transfers out	-	-	(275,472)	(275,472)
Total other financing uses	-	-	(275,472)	(275,472)
Net change in fund balances	140,706	140,706	192,799	52,093
FUND BALANCES, beginning of year	6,223,097	6,223,097	6,223,097	-
FUND BALANCES, end of year	$ 6,363,803	$ 6,363,803	$ 6,415,896	$ 52,093

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

ARPA FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	Budget			Variance with
	Original	Final	Actual	Final Budget
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	$ -	$ -	$ 7,888	$ 7,888
Total revenues	-	-	7,888	7,888
EXPENDITURES				
Capital outlay	-	-	7,888	(7,888)
Total expenditures	-	-	7,888	(7,888)
Net change in fund balances	-	-	-	-
FUND BALANCES, beginning of year	-	-	-	-
FUND BALANCES, end of year	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds
ASSETS	
Cash	$ 545,094
Taxes receivable	293,202
Total assets	$ 838,296
LIABILITIES	
Due to others	$ 143,246
Uncollected taxes	293,202
Total liabilities	$ 436,448
NET POSITION	
Restricted for individuals, organizations, and other governments	$ 401,848

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
FIDUCIARY FUNDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	Custodial Funds
ADDITIONS	
Taxes collected	$ 8,774,922
Fines and fees collected	1,101,579
Total additions	9,876,501
DEDUCTIONS	
Taxes disbursed	8,738,242
Fines and fees disbursed	1,041,617
Total deductions	9,779,859
Change in net position	96,642
Net position, beginning of year	305,206
Net position, end of year	$ 401,848

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

A. The Reporting Entity

Wilkes County, Georgia was organized in 1777 by an act of the Georgia State Legislature. The County is under a five-member Board of Commissioners, and the Chairman serves as Chief Executive of the County.

As required by GAAP, the financial statements of the reporting entity include those of Wilkes County, Georgia (the "primary government") and its component units. The component units discussed below are included in the County's reporting entity because of the significance of their operational or financial relationship with the County. In conformity with GAAP, as set forth in GASB Statement No. 14, as amended, the financial statements of the component units are appropriately presented in the government-wide financial statements.

Discretely Presented Component Units

Wilkes County Health Department

The Wilkes County Health Department (the "Health Department") provides public health services to the residents of the County under a contract with the Georgia Department of Human Resources. Although the County does not have the authority to approve or modify the budget of the Health Department, the County is obligated to provide financial support to the Health Department. The Health Department has a June 30th year-end. The Health Department's statements have been prepared separately and can be obtained by writing to: Wilkes County Health Department, Gordon Street, Washington, Georgia 30673.

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

A. The Reporting Entity (Continued)

Discretely Presented Component Units (Continued)

Washington-Wilkes Payroll Development Authority

The governing board of the Washington-Wilkes Payroll Development Authority (the "Payroll Development Authority") consists of five members appointed by the County, City of Washington, and the Washington-Wilkes Chamber of Commerce. The Payroll Development Authority is a state-chartered authority designed to enhance and improve the commercial and industrial base in the County. Although the County does not have the authority to approve or modify the budget of the Payroll Development Authority, the County does provide financial support to the Payroll Development Authority. Separately issued financial statements are not available for the Payroll Development Authority.

Blended Component Unit

Washington-Wilkes Parks and Recreation Department

The Washington-Wilkes Parks and Recreation Department (the "Department") is responsible for the County's parks and recreation day to day operations. Although the County does not have the authority to approve or modify the Department's budget, the Department is fiscally dependent on the County considering the Department's debt is expected to be repaid entirely with the County's resources. Separately issued financial statements are not available for the Department.

B. Government-wide and Fund 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 non-fiduciary activities of the government. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. *Governmental activities*, which normally are supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from *business-type activities*, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support.

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

B. Government-wide and Fund Financial Statements (Continued)

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. *Direct expenses* are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. *Program revenues* include: 1) charges to those 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. Taxes and other items not included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*.

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements. Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*, as are the the fiduciary fund financial statements, which have no measurement focus. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of the 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.

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 County 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.

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation (Continued)

Property taxes, sales taxes, intergovernmental grants, and investment income associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and, therefore, have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the County.

The County reports the following major governmental funds:

The ***General Fund*** is the County's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

The ***Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax ("TSPLOST") 2013 Fund*** accounts for the proceeds of the Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. Funds are used for various transportation projects within the County.

The ***Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax ("SPLOST") Fund*** accounts for the proceeds of a 2017 and 2023 1% Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. Funds are used for road and drainage improvements, public safety projects, recreation projects, public building projects, County administration projects, debt service, and other City projects within the County.

The ***American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") Fund*** is used to account for monies received from the U.S Department of Treasury for grant activity.

Additionally, the County reports the following fund types:

The ***Special Revenue Funds*** account for specific revenues that are legally restricted to expenditures for particular purposes.

The ***Custodial Funds*** are used to account for the collection and disbursement of monies by the County on behalf of other governments and individuals, such as cash bonds, traffic fines, support payments and ad valorem and property taxes.

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

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation (Continued)

Amounts reported as *program revenues* include: 1) charges for services provided, 2) operating grants and contributions, and 3) capital grants and contributions. Internally dedicated resources are reported as *general revenues* rather than as program revenues. Likewise, general revenues include all taxes.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the County's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

D. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The County's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

E. Interfund Receivables and Payables

During the course of operations, numerous transactions occur between individual funds for goods provided or services rendered. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from the government-wide Statement of Net Position. In the fund financial statements, these receivables and payables are classified as "due from other funds" or "due to other funds."

F. Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include buildings and improvements; equipment, furniture, and vehicles; and infrastructure assets (e.g., roads, bridges, sidewalks, and similar items), are reported in the applicable governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the County as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than $5,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of two years. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at acquisition value. The County has retroactively reported major general infrastructure assets. In this case, the County chose to include all items regardless of their acquisition date. The County was able to estimate the historical cost for the initial reporting of these assets through back trending.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the assets or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized.

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

F. Capital Assets (Continued)

Capital assets of the primary government are depreciated using the straight line method over the following useful lives:

Asset Category	Years
Buildings and improvements	40
Equipment, furniture and vehicles	7
Infrastructure	50

Capital assets of the Washington-Wilkes Payroll Development Authority are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

Asset Category	Years
Buildings and improvements	10
Engineering and construction	10

G. Leases

Lessor: Wilkes County, Georgia ("County") and Wilkes County Payroll Development Authority ("PDA") are a lessor for noncancellable leases. The County and PDA recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources in the government-wide and governmental fund financial statements. At the commencement of a lease, the County and PDA initially measure the lease receivable at the present value of payments expected to be received during the lease term. Subsequently, the lease receivable is reduced by the principal portion of lease payments received. The deferred inflow of resources is initially measured as the initial amount of the lease receivable, adjusted for lease payments received at or before the lease commencement date. Subsequently, the deferred inflow of resources is recognized as revenue over the life of the lease term.

Key estimates and judgments include how the County and PDA determine: 1) the discount rate it uses to discount the expected lease receipts to present value, 2) lease term, and 3) lease receipts.

- The County and PDA uses its estimated incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate for leases.
- The lease term includes the noncancellable period of the lease. Lease receipts included in the measurement of the lease receivable is composed of fixed payments from the lessee.

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

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

H. Compensated Absences

Unused vacation leave, not to exceed 360 hours, is paid when employees separate from service with the County. All vacation pay is accrued when incurred in the government-wide financial statements. A liability for these amounts is reported in the governmental funds only if they have matured, for example, as a result of employee resignations and retirements. There is no liability for unpaid accumulated sick leave since the payment of benefits is contingent upon the future illness of an employee.

I. Long-Term Obligations

In the government-wide financial statements in the fund financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the governmental activities of the Statement of Net Position.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types report the face amount of the debt issued as other financing sources.

J. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the Statement of Net 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, therefore, will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The County has three items that qualify for reporting in this category. These items, relating to the County's retirement plan, qualify for reporting in this category and are combined in the Statement of Net Position under the heading "Pension". The County reports deferred outflow of resources for assumption changes which are amortized against pension expense over time. Also, experience differences result from periodic studies by the County's actuary, which adjust the net pension liability for actual experience for certain trend information that was previously assumed, resulting as a deferred outflow of resources and amortized over time. In addition, the differences between projected investment return on pension investments and actual return on those investments is deferred and amortized over time, resulting in recognition as a deferred outflow of resources.

In addition to liabilities, the Statement of Net Position and the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet 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, therefore, will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The County has three items that qualify for reporting in this category, one of which arises only under the modified accrual basis of accounting. Accordingly, the item, *unavailable revenue*, is reported only in the governmental funds balance sheet.

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

J. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources (Continued)

The governmental funds report unavailable revenues from property taxes and these amounts are deferred and will be recognized as an inflow of resources in the period in which the amounts become available. Assumption changes which are amortized into pension expense over the average expected remaining service lives of plan members. Experience differences result from periodic studies by the County's actuary, which adjust the net pension liability for actual experience for certain trend information that was previously assumed, resulting as a deferred inflow of resources and amortized over time. The third item, deferred inflow of resources related to leases, is discussed further in Note 12.

K. Fund Equity

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 and liabilities under the current financial resources measurement 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 purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent. Fund balances are classified as follows:

- ***Non-spendable*** – Fund balances are reported as non-spendable when amounts cannot be spent because they are either: a) not in spendable form (i.e., items that are not expected to be converted to cash), or b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

- ***Restricted*** – Fund balances are reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the County or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments.

- ***Committed*** – Fund balances are reported as committed when they can be used only for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the Board of Commissioners through the adoption of a resolution. Only the Board of Commissioners may modify or rescind the commitment.

- ***Assigned*** – Fund balances are reported as assigned when amounts are constrained by the County's intent to be used for specific purposes but are neither restricted nor committed. Through resolution, the Board of Commissioners has authorized the County Chairman to assign fund balances.

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

K. Fund Equity (Continued) –

***Fund Balance (Continued)* –**

- ***Unassigned*** – Fund balances are reported as unassigned as the residual amount when the balances do not meet any of the above criterion. The County reports positive unassigned fund balance only in the General Fund. Negative unassigned fund balance may be reported in all funds.

Flow Assumptions – When both restricted and unrestricted amounts of fund balance are available for use for expenditures incurred, it is the County's policy to use restricted amounts first and then unrestricted amounts as they are needed. For unrestricted amounts of fund balance, it is the County's policy to use fund balance in the following order: 1) committed, 2) assigned, and 3) unassigned.

Net Position – Net position represents the difference between assets and liabilities 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.

The County applies restricted resources first when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available.

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

L. Use of Estimates

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

M. New Accounting Pronouncements

In fiscal year 2025, the County adopted GASB Statement No. 101, Compensated Absences. The objective of this statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by updating the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences. This is achieved by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures. The adoption of this statement did not have a material impact on the County's financial statements. This statement will be applied prospectively.

In fiscal year 2025, the County adopted GASB Statement No. 102, Certain Risk Disclosures. The objective of this statement is to provide financial statement users with essential information about risks related to a government's vulnerabilities due to certain concentrations or constraints. The adoption of this statement did not have a material impact on the County's financial statements. This statement will be applied prospectively.

NOTE 2. RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A. Explanation of Certain Differences Between the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet and the Government-wide Statement of Net Position

The governmental fund balance sheet includes reconciliation between *fund balance – total governmental funds* and *net position – governmental activities* as reported in the government-wide Statement of Net Position. One element of that reconciliation explains that "long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds." The details of this difference are as follows:

General obligation bonds	$ (1,300,000)
Landfill post-closure costs	(1,396,244)
Net pension liability	(1,593,189)
Compensated absences	(600,045)
Net adjustment to reduce *fund balance - total governmental funds* to arrive at *net position - governmental activities*	$ (4,889,478)

B. Explanation of Certain Differences between the Governmental Fund Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances and the Government-wide Statement of Activities

The governmental fund Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances includes reconciliation between net changes in fund balances – total governmental funds and changes in net position of governmental activities as reported in the government-wide Statement of Activities. One element of that reconciliation explains that "Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense." The details of this difference are as follows:

Capital outlay	$ 219,000
Depreciation expense	(1,542,139)
Net adjustment to reduce *net changes in fund balances - total governmental funds* to arrive at *changes in net position - governmental activities*	$ (1,323,139)

NOTE 2. RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

B. Explanation of Certain Differences between the Governmental Fund Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances and the Government-wide Statement of Activities (Continued)

Another element of that reconciliation states that "Some expenses reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds." The details of this difference are as follows:

Compensated absences	$	(75,081)
Accrued interest		(4,138)
Landfill post-closure costs		(32,724)
Net pension liability and related deferred outflows/inflows of resources		(43,991)
Net adjustment to reduce *net changes in fund balances - total governmental funds* to arrive at *changes in net position - governmental activities*	$	(155,934)

NOTE 3. LEGAL COMPLIANCE – BUDGETS

A. Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

Budgetary Data

The annual budget document is the financial plan for the operation of the County. The budget process exists for the purpose of providing a professional management approach to the establishment of priorities and the implementation of work programs while providing an orderly means for control and evaluation of the financial posture of the County. All budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with GAAP.

The County adopts an annual operating budget for the General Fund and each Special Revenue Fund. A project budget is adopted for each Capital Projects Fund. The budget resolution reflects the total of each department's appropriation in each fund.

The legal level of control for each legally adopted annual budget is the department level with the following provisions:

- The County Administrator may transfer funds from one object or purpose to another within the same department.
- The County Commission may amend the budget during the fiscal year.

Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year for all budgets funds.

NOTE 3. LEGAL COMPLIANCE – BUDGETS (CONTINUED)

B. Excess Expenditures over Appropriations

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, expenditures exceeded budget in the applicable governmental funds, as follows:

Fund or Department	Excess
General Fund:	
Governing body	$ 4,157
Elections	9,504
Voter registrar	63
General administration	219,917
Tax Commissioner	8,822
District attorney	12,326
Public defender	2,304
Jail operations	21,539
Fire	12,219
Emergency medical services	20,975
Animal control	860
Roads and bridges	769,428
Senior citizens nutrition	5,500
Goergia forestry commission	152
ARPA Fund:	
Capital Outlay	7,888
Law Library Fund:	
Judicial	3,040
Parks and Recreation Department:	
Culture and recreation	76,500
Opioid Settlement Fund:	
Health and welfare	55,720

These over expenditures were funded by additional unanticipated revenues and future transfers.

NOTE 4. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

Credit Risk. State statutes authorize the County to invest in obligations of the State of Georgia or other states; obligations issued by the U.S. government; obligations fully insured or guaranteed by the U.S. government or by a government agency of the United States; obligations of any corporation of the U.S. government; prime bankers' acceptances; the local government investment pool established by state law; repurchase agreements; and obligations of other political subdivisions of the State of Georgia. It is the County's policy to limit its investments to those allowed and authorized by state law. As of June 30, 2025, the County held no investments.

Balances per Statement of Net Position:		
Cash and cash equivalents - primary government	$	13,571,867
Cash - custodial funds		545,094
	$	14,116,961

Balances by type:		
Cash deposited with financial institutions	$	14,116,961
	$	14,116,961

Custodial Credit Risk – Deposits. Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, a government will not be able to recover deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. State statutes require all deposits and investments (other than federal or state government instruments) to be collateralized by depository insurance, obligations of the U.S. government, or bonds of public authorities, counties, or municipalities. As of June 30, 2025, the deposits of the County and its component units were properly insured and collateralized as defined by GASB pronouncements and the Official Code of Georgia Annotated ("O.C.G.A.").

Interest Rate Risk. The County's investment policy is a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates. As such, they adhere to the following criteria regarding investments as outlined in the County's policies and procedures manual: the investment must always be concerned with the preservation of principal; all investments must be relatively liquid; and there must be a realization of competitive interest rates relative to the risk assumed. The County Manager is authorized to make all investment decisions on behalf of the County.

NOTE 5. RECEIVABLES

Receivables at June 30, 2025 consist of the following:

	General	TSPLOST 2013	SPLOST
Receivables:			
Taxes	$ 197,744	$ -	$ -
Accounts	-	-	-
Leases	45,020	-	-
Due from other governments	115,935	124,037	176,280
Total receivables	$ 358,699	$ 124,037	$ 176,280

	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Receivables:		
Taxes	$ -	$ 197,744
Accounts	63,633	63,633
Leases	-	45,020
Due from other governments	-	416,252
Total receivables	$ 63,633	$ 722,649

Property taxes were levied on September 13, 2024. Bills are payable on or before December 20, 2024, after which the applicable property is subject to lien, penalties and interest are assessed. Property taxes attached as an enforceable lien on property as of December 20,2024. The County bills and collects its own property taxes. Property taxes levied for 2025 are recorded as receivables, net of estimated uncollectibles. The net receivables collected during the year ended June 30, 2025, and collected by August 31, 2025, are recognized as revenues in the year ended June 30, 2025. Net receivables estimated to be collected subsequent to August 31, 2025, are deferred as of June 30, 2025, and recorded as revenue when received. Prior year levies were recorded using substantially the same principles, and remaining receivables are reevaluated annually.

NOTE 6. CAPITAL ASSETS

A. Primary Government

Capital asset activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, is as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Transfers	Ending Balance
Governmental activities:					
Capital assets, not being depreciated:					
Land	$ 1,384,651	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,384,651
Constuction in progress	47,400	67,800	-	-	115,200
Total	1,432,051	67,800	-	-	1,499,851
Capital assets, being depreciated:					
Infrastucture	22,312,047	-	-	-	22,312,047
Buildings and improvements	22,537,867	-	-	-	22,537,867
Equipment, furniture and vehicles	9,931,849	151,200	-	-	10,083,049
Total	54,781,763	151,200	-	-	54,932,963
Less accumulated depreciation for:					
Infrastucture	(6,834,048)	(458,529)	-	-	(7,292,577)
Buildings and improvements	(12,952,992)	(441,075)	-	-	(13,394,067)
Equipment, furniture and vehicles	(7,992,874)	(642,535)	-	-	(8,635,409)
Total	(27,779,914)	(1,542,139)	-	-	(29,322,053)
Total capital assets, being depreciated, net	27,001,849	(1,390,939)	-	-	25,610,910
Governmental activities capital assets, net	$ 28,433,900	$ (1,323,139)	$ -	$ -	$ 27,110,761

Depreciation expense was charged to functions of the County as follows:

Governmental activities:	
General government	$ 968,377
Public safety	412,414
Public works	149,730
Culture and recreation	11,618
Total depreciation expense	$ 1,542,139

NOTE 6. CAPITAL ASSETS (CONTINUED)

B. Discretely Presented Component Unit – Payroll Development Authority

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Transfers	Ending Balance
Payroll Development Authority:					
Capital assets, not being depreciated:					
Land	$ 554,425	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 554,425
Total	554,425	-	-	-	554,425
Capital assets, being depreciated:					
Buildings and improvements	2,279,873	-	-	-	2,279,873
Engineering and construction	377,987	-	-	-	377,987
Total	2,657,860	-	-	-	2,657,860
Less accumulated depreciation for:					
Buildings and improvements	(1,215,180)	(87,975)	-	-	(1,303,155)
Engineering and construction	(190,886)	(7,560)	-	-	(198,446)
Total	(1,406,066)	(95,535)	-	-	(1,501,601)
Total capital assets, being depreciated, net	1,251,794	(95,535)	-	-	1,156,259
Payroll Development Authority capital assets, net	$ 1,806,219	$ (95,535)	$ -	$ -	$ 1,710,684

Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs of the Payroll Development Authority as follows:

Component Unit - Payroll Development Authority	
Housing and development	$ 95,535
Total depreciation expense	$ 95,535

NOTE 7. LONG-TERM DEBT

A. Primary Government

The following is a summary of long-term debt activity for the primary government for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Governmental activities:					
General obligation bonds	$ 1,300,000	$ -	$ -	$ 1,300,000	$ 265,000
Net pension liability	1,560,463	849,313	(816,587)	1,593,189	-
Compensated absences	524,964	124,856	(49,775)	600,045	-
Landfill post-closure costs	1,363,520	32,724	-	1,396,244	-
Governmental activities Long-term liabilities	$ 4,748,947	$ 1,006,893	$ (866,362)	$ 4,889,478	$ 265,000

For governmental activities, compensated absences and net pension liability are generally liquidated by the General Fund.

General Obligation Bonds. The County issued the Wilkes County General Obligation Sales Tax Bond, Series 2023 on July 11, 2023 in the amount of $1,300,000. The proceeds from the sale of the bonds were used for the purpose of financing certain capital outlay projects of the County and for paying the costs of issuing the bonds. General obligation bonds are direct obligations and pledge the full faith and credit of the County. The bonds interest rate was 3.82% and are due on September 1, 2028.

The bonds payable debt service requirements to maturity, including interest, are as follows:

Fiscal year ending June 30,	Principal	Interest	Total
2026	$ 265,000	$ 44,599	$ 309,599
2027	335,000	33,139	368,139
2028	345,000	20,151	365,151
2029	355,000	6,781	361,781
Total	$ 1,300,000	$ 104,670	$ 1,404,670

NOTE 7. LONG-TERM DEBT (CONTINUED)

A. Primary Government (Continued)

Landfill Post-closure Costs. Effective October 27, 2000, the County closed its landfill, and no additional waste has been accepted. According to state and federal laws and regulations, the County must perform certain maintenance and monitoring functions at the site for a minimum of 30 years. As of June 30, 2025, the County has a remaining 15 years of monitoring. Engineering studies estimate post-closure costs of approximately $1,396,244 over the 15-year period. These costs are based on the amount that would be paid if all equipment, facilities and services required to monitor and maintain the landfill were acquired as of June 30, 2025. Actual costs may be higher due to changes in inflation, changes in technology, or changes in regulations. Should any problems occur during this post-closure period, the costs and time period required for the maintenance and monitoring functions may substantially increase.

NOTE 8. INTERFUND TRANSFERS

Interfund transfers for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025 are as follows:

Transfers In	Transfers Out	Amount
Nonmajor Governmental Funds	General Fund	$ 275,472
		$ 275,472

Transfers are used to: 1) move revenues from the fund that statute or budget requires to collect them to the fund that the statute or budget requires to expend them, and 2) use unrestricted revenues collected in the General Fund to finance various programs accounted for in other funds in accordance with budgetary authorizations.

NOTE 9. JOINT VENTURE

Under Georgia law, the County is a participating member of the Central Savannah River Area County (“CSRA”) and is required to pay annual dues thereto. During its fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the County paid $5,942 in such dues. Membership in CSRA is required by the O.C.G.A. §50-8-34 which provides for the organizational structure of the CSRA in Georgia. The CSRA Board membership includes the chief elected official of each county and municipality of the area. O.C.G.A. §50-8-39.1 provides that the member governments are liable for any debts and obligations of CSRA. Separate financial statements may be obtained from: Central Savannah River Area County, 2123 Wrightsboro Road, Augusta, Georgia 30914.

NOTE 10. RETIREMENT PLANS

Plan Description

The County sponsors the Association County Commissioners of Georgia Wilkes County Defined Benefit Plan (the "Plan"), which is a defined benefit pension plan. The County's pension plan is administered through the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia Third Restated Defined Benefit Plan (the "ACCG Plan"), an agent multiple-employer pension plan administered by GEBCorp and affiliated with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia ("ACCG"). The Plan provides retirement, disability and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. The ACCG, in its role as the Plan sponsor, has the sole authority to establish and amend the benefit provisions and the contribution rates of the County related to the Plan, as provided in Section 19.03 of the ACCG Plan document. The County has the authority to amend the adoption agreement, which defines the specific benefit provisions of the Plan, as provided in Section 19.02 of the ACCG Plan document. The ACCG Plan issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the pension trust. That report may be obtained at www.gebcorp.com, by writing to Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, Retirement Services, 191 Peachtree Street, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30303 or by calling (800) 736-7166.

Plan membership as of January 1, 2024, (the most recent actuarial valuation date) is as follows:

Inactive plan members or beneficiaries currently receiving benefits	13
Inactive plan members entitled to but not receiving benefits	27
Active plan members	70
	110

The County is required to contribute an actuarially determined amount annually to the Plan's trust. The contribution amount is determined using actuarial methods and assumptions approved by the ACCG Plan trustees and must satisfy the minimum contribution requirement contained in the State of Georgia statutes. Plan participants are not required to contribute to the Plan. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the County's contribution rate was 15.8% of annual payroll. County contributions to the Plan were $458,361 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

NOTE 10. RETIREMENT PLAN (CONTINUED)

Net Pension Liability of the County

The County's net pension liability was measured as of December 31, 2024. The total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2024, with update procedures performed by the actuary to roll forward to the total pension liability measured as of December 31, 2024.

Actuarial Assumptions. The total pension liability in the January 1, 2024 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation:	3.00%
Salary increases:	3.00% - 7.00%
Investment rate of return:	7.00%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

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 with a Scale AA to 2023.

The actuarial assumptions used in the January 1, 2024 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for February 2025.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined through a blend of using a building-block method based on 20-year benchmarks (33.33%) and 30-year benchmarks (33.33%), as well as forward-looking capital market assumptions for a moderate asset allocation (33.34%), as determined by UBS. Expected future 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 weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

NOTE 10. RETIREMENT PLAN (CONTINUED)

Net Pension Liability of the County (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions (Continued). Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the pension plan's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2024, are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Range
Fixed income	30%	25 - 35 %
Large cap equity	30%	25 - 35 %
Mid cap equity	5%	2.5 - 10 %
Small cap equity	5%	2.5 - 10 %
International equity	15%	10 - 20 %
Other equity	10%	2.5 - 10 %
Real estate	5%	2.5 - 10 %
Total	100%	

* Rates shown are net of the 3.00% assumed rate of inflation.

Discount Rate. The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that County contributions will be made based on the average County contribution made to the Plan over the prior five years. Based on this assumption, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all of the projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

NOTE 10. RETIREMENT PLAN (CONTINUED)

Net Pension Liability of the County (Continued)

Changes in the Net Pension Liability of the County. The changes in the components of the net pension liability of the County for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, were as follows:

	Total Pension Liability (a)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position (b)	Net Pension Liability (a) - (b)
Beginning balance	$ 4,794,383	$ 3,233,920	$ 1,560,463
Changes for the year:			
Service cost	137,252	-	137,252
Interest	310,302	-	310,302
Liability experience (gain)/loss	160,025	-	160,025
Assumption change	9,039	-	9,039
Plan change	152,580	-	152,580
Contributions-employer	-	458,361	(458,361)
Net investment income	-	358,226	(358,226)
Benefit payments, including refunds of employee contributions	(722,989)	(722,989)	-
Administrative expense	-	(36,388)	36,388
Other changes	-	(43,727)	43,727
Net changes	46,209	13,483	32,726
Ending balance	$ 4,840,592	$ 3,247,403	$ 1,593,189

The required Schedule of Changes in the County's Net Pension Liability and Related Ratios immediately following the notes to the financial statements presents multi-year trend information about whether the value of plan assets is increasing or decreasing over time relative to the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate. The following presents the net pension liability of the County, calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%, as well as what the County's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (6.00%) or 1-percentage-point higher (8.00%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
County's net pension liability	$ 2,296,799	$ 1,593,189	$ 1,006,922

NOTE 10. RETIREMENT PLAN (CONTINUED)

Net Pension Liability of the County (Continued)

Sensitivity of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate (Continued). Actuarial valuations involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of events far into the future. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual revision as results are compared to past expectations and new estimates are made about the future. Actuarial calculations reflect a long-term perspective. Calculations are based on the substantive plan in effect as of December 31, 2024, and the current sharing pattern of costs between employer and employee.

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

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the County recognized pension expense of $502,352. At June 30, 2025, the County reported deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Investment earnings difference	$ 19,801	$ -
Differences between expected and actual experience	158,845	61,352
Changes in assumptions	11,807	108,197
Total	$ 190,453	$ 169,549

The County's deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Fiscal year ending June 30,	
2026	$ (47,905)
2027	(48,808)
2028	166,525
2029	(48,908)
Total	$ 20,904

NOTE 11. RISK MANAGEMENT

The County is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; thefts of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The County participates in the ACCG Group Self-Insurance Workers' Compensation Fund and the Interlocal Risk Management Agency Property and Liability Insurance Fund, public entity risk pools currently operating as common risk management and insurance programs for member local governments.

As part of these risk pools, the County is obligated to pay all contributions and assessments as prescribed by the pools, to cooperate with the pools' agents and attorneys, to follow loss reduction procedures established by the funds, and to report as promptly as possible, and in accordance with any coverage descriptions issued, all incidents which could result in the funds being required to pay any claim of loss. The County is also to allow the pools' agents and attorneys to represent the County in investigation, settlement discussions and all levels of litigation arising out of any claim made against the County within the scope of loss protection furnished by the funds.

The funds are to defend and protect the members of the funds against liability or loss as prescribed in the member government contract and in accordance with the Workers' Compensation Law of Georgia. The funds are to pay all costs taxed against members in any legal proceeding defended by the members, all interest accruing after entry of judgment, and all expenses incurred for investigation, negotiation or defense.

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

NOTE 12. LEASES

A. Primary Government

During fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the County began leasing a building to a third party. The lease is for thirty-three months and the County will receive monthly payments of $4,556. The County recognized $52,696 in lease revenue and $1,931 in interest revenues during the current fiscal year related to this lease. As of June 30, 2025, the County's receivable for lease payments was $45,020. Also, the County has a deferred inflow of resources associated with this lease that will be recognized as revenue over the lease term. As of June 30, 2025, the balance of the deferred inflow of resources was $43,914.

NOTE 12. LEASES (CONTINUED)

B. Discretely Presented Component Unit – Payroll Development Authority

During the fiscal year ended 2022, the Payroll Development Authority (the "Authority") began leasing a building to a third party. The lease is for four years and the Authority will receive monthly payments of $13,000. The Authority recognized $149,071 in lease revenue and $4,522 in interest revenues during the current fiscal year related to this lease. As of June 30, 2025, the Authority's receivable for lease payments was $90,211. Also, the Authority has a deferred inflow of resources associated with this lease that will be recognized as revenue over the lease term. As of June 30, 2025, the balance of the deferred inflow of resources was $86,958.

NOTE 13. CONTINGENCIES AND COMMITMENTS

Grant 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 representatives. Such audits could lead to the disallowance of certain expenditures previously reimbursed by those agencies. Based upon prior experience, County management believes such disallowances, if any, will not be significant.

Litigation: The County is involved in a pending lawsuit. Liability, if any, which might result from these proceedings, would not, in the opinion of management and legal counsel, have a material adverse effect on the financial position of the County.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE COUNTY'S NET PENSION LIABILITY
AND RELATED RATIOS
FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	2025	2024	2023	2022
Total pension liability				
Service cost	**$ 137,252**	$ 158,772	$ 159,994	$ 157,482
Interest on total pension liability	**310,302**	339,752	346,904	321,764
Differences between expected and actual experience	**160,025**	(33,029)	(120,186)	164,332
Plan change	**152,580**			
Changes of assumptions	**9,039**	(182,815)	9,080	7,669
Benefit payments, including refunds of employee contributions	**(722,989)**	(683,798)	(312,121)	(272,069)
Net change in total pension liability	**46,209**	(401,118)	83,671	379,178
Total pension liability - beginning	**4,794,383**	5,195,501	5,111,830	4,732,652
Total pension liability - ending (a)	**4,840,592**	4,794,383	5,195,501	5,111,830
Plan fiduciary net position				
Contributions - employer	**458,361**	415,722	387,195	373,668
Net investment income	**358,226**	453,349	(520,096)	494,427
Benefit payments, including refunds of employee contributions	**(722,989)**	(683,798)	(312,121)	(272,069)
Administrative expenses	**(36,388)**	(34,708)	(32,812)	(30,642)
Other	**(43,727)**	(37,316)	(55,805)	(14,674)
Net change in fiduciary net position	**13,483**	113,249	(533,639)	550,710
Plan fiduciary net position - beginning	**3,233,920**	3,120,671	3,654,310	3,103,600
Plan fiduciary net position - ending (b)	**3,247,403**	3,233,920	3,120,671	3,654,310
County's net pension liability - ending (a) - (b)	**$ 1,593,189**	$ 1,560,463	$ 2,074,830	$ 1,457,520
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of total pension liability	**67.1%**	67.5%	71.5%	71.5%
Covered payroll	**$ 2,919,833**	$ 3,021,562	$ 2,839,250	$ 2,785,993
County's net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll	**54.6%**	51.6%	73.1%	52.3%

Notes to the Schedule:

The assumptions used in the preparation of the above schedule are disclosed in Note 10 in the Notes to the Financial Statements.

2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
$ 143,788	$ 130,006	$ 120,513	$ 92,551	$ 88,130	$ 86,117
295,903	285,611	265,067	266,943	267,779	241,538
243,447	(75,260)	121,044	8,763	116,072	9,107
8,427	201,957	(166,719)	(498,821)	(466,605)	148,471
(372,217)	(418,320)	293,310	104,683	106,219	(270,713)
319,348	123,994	633,215	(25,881)	111,595	214,520
4,413,304	4,289,310	3,656,095	3,681,976	3,570,381	3,355,861
4,732,652	4,413,304	4,289,310	3,656,095	3,681,976	3,570,381
373,551	354,231	329,485	324,000	321,312	311,638
382,635	507,823	(123,878)	360,174	137,230	21,015
(372,217)	(418,320)	(160,887)	(481,371)	(449,740)	(270,713)
(29,437)	(28,161)	(16,415)	(12,582)	(16,955)	(14,060)
(26,900)	(70,138)	(57,172)	(67,819)	7,367	(42,807)
327,632	345,435	(28,867)	122,402	(786)	5,073
2,775,968	2,430,533	2,459,400	2,336,998	2,337,784	2,372,711
3,103,600	2,775,968	2,430,533	2,459,400	2,336,998	2,377,784
$ 1,629,052	$ 1,637,336	$ 1,858,777	$ 1,196,695	$ 1,344,978	$ 1,192,597
65.5%	62.9%	56.7%	67.3%	63.5%	66.6%
$ 2,607,218	$ 2,510,577	$ 2,320,448	$ 1,902,290	$ 2,067,659	$ 2,157,433
65.2%	62.5%	80.1%	62.9%	65.0%	55.3%

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF COUNTY CONTRIBUTIONS
FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDED JUNE 30,

	2025	2024	2023	2022
Actuarially determined contribution	**$ 458,361**	$ 415,722	$ 387,195	$ 373,668
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	**458,361**	415,722	387,195	373,668
Contribution deficiency (excess)	**$ -**	$ -	$ -	$ -
Covered payroll	**$ 2,909,613**	$ 2,919,833	$ 3,021,562	$ 2,839,250
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	**15.8%**	14.2%	12.8%	13.2%

Notes to the Schedule:

Valuation Date	January 1, 2025
Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Actuarial Asset Valuation Method	Smoothed market value with a 5-year smoothing period
Assumed Rate of Return on Investments	7.00%
Projected Salary Increases	3.00% - 7.00%
Remaining Amortization Period	None remaining

The schedule will present 10 years of information once it is accumulated.

2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
$ 373,639	$ 373,493	$ 354,231	$ 339,139	$ 349,381	$ 321,178
373,639	373,493	354,231	339,139	349,381	321,178
$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
$ 2,558,897	$ 2,607,218	$ 2,415,513	$ 2,111,369	$ 1,984,975	$ 2,112,546
14.6%	14.3%	14.7%	16.1%	17.6%	15.2%

COMBINING AND INDIVIDUAL
FUND STATEMENTS AND SCHEDULES

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Section 5311 Transport Fund is used to account for activity from the Section 5311 grant.

Drug Abuse Treatment Fund is used to account for collection of additional penalties for certain drug related crimes and for expenditure of those funds solely and exclusively for drug abuse treatment and education programs.

Jail Construction and Staffing Fund is used to account for the expenditures made towards maintenance and operations of the County jail.

Law Library Fund is used to account for costs of operating and maintaining the County Law Library. Financing is provided from a charge added to and collected on all costs in civil and criminal cases.

Hotel/Motel Tax Fund is used to account for hotel/motel tax funds received. The resources are restricted by state law for tourism and tourism product development.

E-911 Fund is used to account for the cost of operating and maintaining the County E-911 system.

Airport Fuel Tax Fund is used to account for the airport gas tax funds received.

Parks and Recreation Department Fund is used to account for the activity from the parks and recreation operations.

Opioid Settlement Fund is used to account for the activity from the receipts from the national opioid settlement.

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2025

	Special Revenue Funds			
	Section 5311 Transport Fund	Drug Abuse Treatment Fund	Jail Construction/ Staffing Fund	Law Library Fund
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	$ -	$ 19,204	$ 78,738	$ 99,915
Accounts receivable	32,201	-	-	-
Total assets	$ 32,201	$ 19,204	$ 78,738	$ 99,915
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES				
LIABILITIES				
Accrued liabilities	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total liabilities	-	-	-	-
FUND BALANCES				
Restricted for:				
Judicial	-	-	-	99,915
Public safety	-	19,204	78,738	-
Public works	32,201	-	-	-
Culture and recreation	-	-	-	-
Housing and development	-	-	-	-
Health and welfare	-	-	-	-
Capital projects	-	-	-	-
Total fund balances	32,201	19,204	78,738	99,915
Total liabilities and fund balances	$ 32,201	$ 19,204	$ 78,738	$ 99,915

Special Revenue Funds						
Hotel/Motel Tax Fund	E-911 Fund	Airport Fuel Tax Fund	Parks and Recreation Department	Opioid Settlement	Nonmajor Governmental Funds
$ 1,000	$ 210,319	$ 38,848	$ 20,552	$ 13,646	$ 482,222
-	31,432	-	-	-	63,633
$ 1,000	$ 241,751	$ 38,848	$ 20,552	$ 13,646	$ 545,855
$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 2,915	$ -	$ 2,915
-	-	-	2,915	-	2,915
-	-	-	-	-	99,915
-	241,751	-	-	-	339,693
-	-	-	-	-	32,201
-	-	-	17,637	-	17,637
1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000
-	-	-	-	13,646	13,646
-	-	38,848	-	-	38,848
1,000	241,751	38,848	17,637	13,646	542,940
$ 1,000	$ 241,751	$ 38,848	$ 20,552	$ 13,646	$ 545,855

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	Special Revenue Funds			
	Section 5311 Transport Fund	Drug Abuse Treatment Fund	Jail Construction/ Staffing Fund	Law Library Fund
REVENUES				
Other taxes	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Intergovernmental	86,900	8,493	-	-
Charges for services	-	-	-	-
Court fees, fines and forfeitures	-	-	31,906	9,913
Interest	-	12	-	-
Other	13,938	-	-	-
Total revenues	100,838	8,505	31,906	9,913
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Judicial	-	-	-	3,040
Public safety	-	9,064	54,000	-
Public works	244,472	-	-	-
Health and welfare	-	-	-	-
Culture and recreation	-	-	-	-
Housing and development	-	-	-	-
Total expenditures	244,472	9,064	54,000	3,040
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(143,634)	(559)	(22,094)	6,873
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
Transfers in	170,472	-	-	-
Total other financing sources	170,472	-	-	-
Net change in fund balances	26,838	(559)	(22,094)	6,873
FUND BALANCES, beginning of year	5,363	19,763	100,832	93,042
FUND BALANCES, end of year	$ 32,201	$ 19,204	$ 78,738	$ 99,915

Special Revenue Funds						
Hotel/Motel Tax Fund	E-911 Fund	Airport Fuel Tax Fund	Parks and Recreation Department	Opioid Settlement	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	
$ 47,629	$ -	$ 41,017	$ -	$ -	$ 88,646	
-	184,053	-	125,000	-	404,446	
-	-	-	72,283	-	72,283	
-	-	-	-	18,438	60,257	
-	-	-	-	-	12	
-	-	-	-	-	13,938	
47,629	184,053	41,017	197,283	18,438	639,582	
-	-	-	-	-	3,040	
-	117,486	-	-	-	180,550	
-	-	21,407	-	-	265,879	
-	-	-	-	55,720	55,720	
-	-	-	333,555	-	333,555	
47,629	-	-	-	-	47,629	
47,629	117,486	21,407	333,555	55,720	886,373	
-	66,567	19,610	(136,272)	(37,282)	(246,791)	
-	-	-	105,000	-	275,472	
-	-	-	105,000	-	275,472	
-	66,567	19,610	(31,272)	(37,282)	28,681	
1,000	175,184	19,238	48,909	50,928	514,259	
$ 1,000	$ 241,751	$ 38,848	$ 17,637	$ 13,646	$ 542,940	

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	Section 5311 Transport Fund		
	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget
REVENUES			
Other taxes	$ -	$ -	$ -
Intergovernmental	133,500	86,900	(46,600)
Court fees, fines and forfeitures	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-
Other	17,000	13,938	(3,062)
Total revenues	150,500	100,838	(49,662)
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
Public safety	-	-	-
Public works	274,206	244,472	29,734
Total expenditures	274,206	244,472	29,734
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(123,706)	(143,634)	(19,928)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
Transfers in	-	170,472	170,472
Total other financing sources	-	170,472	170,472
Net change in fund balances	(123,706)	26,838	150,544
FUND BALANCES, beginning of year	5,363	5,363	-
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS), end of year	$ (118,343)	$ 32,201	$ 150,544

(Continued)

Drug Abuse Treatment Fund			Jail Construction/Staffing Fund		
Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget
$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
10,000	8,493	(1,507)	-	-	-
-	-	-	60,000	31,906	(28,094)
115	12	(103)	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-
10,115	8,505	(1,610)	60,000	31,906	(28,094)
15,000	9,064	5,936	60,000	54,000	6,000
-	-	-	-	-	-
15,000	9,064	5,936	60,000	54,000	6,000
(4,885)	(559)	4,326	-	(22,094)	(22,094)
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-
(4,885)	(559)	4,326	-	(22,094)	(22,094)
19,763	19,763	-	100,832	100,832	-
$ 14,878	$ 19,204	$ 4,326	$ 100,832	$ 78,738	$ (22,094)

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	Law Library Fund		
	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget
REVENUES			
Other taxes	$ -	$ -	$ -
Intergovernmental	-	-	-
Court fees, fines and forfeitures	-	9,913	9,913
Total revenues	-	9,913	9,913
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
Judicial	-	3,040	(3,040)
Public safety	-	-	-
Housing and development	-	-	-
Total expenditures	-	3,040	(3,040)
Net change in fund balances	-	6,873	6,873
FUND BALANCES, beginning of year	93,042	93,042	-
FUND BALANCES, end of year	$ 93,042	$ 99,915	$ 6,873

(Continued)

Hotel/Motel Tax Fund			E-911 Fund		
Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget
$ 53,000	$ 47,629	$ (5,371)	$ -	$ -	$ -
-	-	-	189,200	184,053	5,147
-	-	-	-	-	-
53,000	47,629	(5,371)	189,200	184,053	5,147
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	189,200	117,486	71,714
53,000	47,629	5,371	-	-	-
53,000	47,629	5,371	189,200	117,486	71,714
-	-	-	-	66,567	66,567
1,000	1,000	-	175,184	175,184	-
$ 1,000	$ 1,000	$ -	$ 175,184	$ 241,751	$ 66,567

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	Airport Fuel Tax Fund		
	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget
REVENUES			
Other taxes	$ 56,000	$ 41,017	$ (14,983)
Intergovernmental	-	-	-
Charges for services	-	-	-
Court fees, fines and forfeitures	-	-	-
Total revenues	56,000	41,017	(14,983)
EXPENDITURES			
Current:			
Public works	47,000	21,407	25,593
Health and welfare	-	-	-
Culture and recreation	-	-	-
Total expenditures	47,000	21,407	25,593
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	9,000	19,610	10,610
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
Transfers in	-	-	-
Total other financing sources	-	-	-
Net change in fund balances	9,000	19,610	10,610
FUND BALANCES, beginning of year	19,238	19,238	-
FUND BALANCES, end of year	$ 28,238	$ 38,848	$ 10,610

Parks and Recreation Department			Opioid Settlement		
Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget
$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
125,000	125,000	-	-	-	-
-	72,283	72,283	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	18,438	18,438
125,000	197,283	72,283	-	18,438	18,438
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	55,720	(55,720)
257,055	333,555	(76,500)	-	-	-
257,055	333,555	(76,500)	-	55,720	(55,720)
(132,055)	(136,272)	(4,217)	-	(37,282)	(37,282)
105,000	105,000	-	-	-	-
105,000	105,000	-	-	-	-
(27,055)	(31,272)	(4,217)	-	(37,282)	(37,282)
48,909	48,909	-	-	50,928	
$ 21,854	$ 17,637	$ (4,217)	$ -	$ 13,646	$ (37,282)

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX PROCEEDS - 2017 ISSUE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	Original Estimated Cost	Current Estimated Cost	Prior Years	Current Year	Total
City of Washington	$ 1,336,778	$ 1,814,132	$ 1,814,132	$ -	$ 1,814,132
City of Tignall	176,387	240,466	240,466	-	240,466
City of Rayle	64,390	86,526	86,526	-	86,526
Jail renovations and improvements	500,000	500,000	441,769	79,880	521,649
Acquisition of bus for 4-H Department	40,000	52,962	52,962	-	52,962
E911 building and equipment	463,425	463,425	475,563	-	475,563
Floor and roof renovations - Health Department	15,000	32,530	32,530	-	32,530
Acquisition of fire/rescue vehicle	176,600	176,600	55,754	-	55,754
Acquisition of vehicles for law enforcement	290,000	290,000	237,361	-	237,361
Driveway improvements for Library	15,000	15,000	1,466	-	1,466
Recreation improvements	200,000	200,000	173,109	-	173,109
Hospital	500,000	500,000	500,000	-	500,000
Acquisition of election machines	40,000	40,000	9,373	-	9,373
Acquisition of tractor with backhoe for Solid Waste Management Department	130,000	130,000	63,500	-	63,500
Acquisition of vehicles and equipment for EMS	339,000	339,000	347,841	-	347,841
Renovations for airport hangars	75,000	75,000	-	-	-
Renovations for fire stations and acquisition of vehicles and equipment for fire service	551,600	810,276	810,276	-	810,276
Road, street and bridge improvements and equipment	683,385	1,520,400	1,520,400	668,354	2,188,754
Total	$ 5,596,565	$ 7,286,317	6,863,028	748,234	$ 7,611,262
Debt service payments on bond payments			1,783,672	-	
			$ 8,646,700	$ 748,234	

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX PROCEEDS - 2023 ISSUE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	Original Estimated Cost	Current Estimated Cost	Prior Years	Current Year	Total
Level-One County-Wide Projects:	$ 720,000	$ 720,000	$ 487,085	$ 33,071	$ 520,156
Jail capital and renovations					
Courthouse renovations, office upgrades, and electric/plumbing upgrades					
Health department renovation and upgrades projects					
Level-Two County-Wide Projects:	2,275,000	2,275,000	583,868	197,687	781,555
Law enforcement capital					
Emergency 911 capital and bond costs and interest for renovations, upgrades and equipment					
Acquisition of capital for operations of the 4-H program					
Elections capital					
Emergency Management Services capital including vehicles and equipment and upgrades (includes bond interests and/or costs)					
Hospital building renovations and/or construction					
Library renovations and/or improvements					
Recreation facilities, capital and improvements					
Animal Shelter for renovations and/or improvements					
Remaining County SPLOST Projects:	2,095,917	2,095,917	-	-	-
Airport hangar upgrades and capital improvements					
Fire vehicles and fire equipment and capital upgrades					
Renovation improvements and upgrades for the McGill Building					
Road equipment and road improvements					
Solid Waste equipment, renovations and upgrades					
City of Washington	1,522,576	1,522,576	429,359	460,657	890,016
City of Tignall	196,674	196,674	48,900	59,504	108,404
City of Rayle	64,006	64,006	18,017	19,365	37,382
Total	$ 6,874,173	$ 6,874,173	1,567,229	770,284	$ 2,337,513
Debt service payments on bond payments			457,436	49,660	
			$ 2,024,665	$ 819,944	

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

CUSTODIAL FUNDS

Tax Commissioner – To account for the collection and payment to Wilkes County and other taxing units of the property taxes levied, billed and collected by the Tax Commissioner on behalf of Wilkes County and other taxing units.

Clerk of Superior Court – To account for all monies received by the Clerk of Superior Court on behalf of individuals, private organizations, other governmental units, and other funds.

Probate Court – To account for all monies received by the Probate Court on behalf of individuals, private organizations, other governmental units and other funds.

Magistrate Court – To account for all monies received by the Magistrate Court on behalf of individuals, private organizations, other governmental units and other funds.

Sheriff – To account for all monies received by the Sheriff's Department on behalf of individuals, private organizations, other governmental units and other funds.

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

COMBINING STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2025

	Tax Commissioner	Clerk of Superior Court	Probate Court	Magistrate Court	Sheriff	Total
ASSETS						
Cash	$ 348,028	$ 85,797	$ 30,362	$ 18,522	$ 62,385	$ 545,094
Taxes receivable	293,202	-	-	-	-	293,202
Total assets	641,230	85,797	30,362	18,522	62,385	838,296
LIABILITIES						
Due to others	104,242	2,063	6,271	9,238	21,432	143,246
Uncollected taxes	293,202	-	-	-	-	293,202
Total liabilities	397,444	2,063	6,271	9,238	21,432	436,448
NET POSITION						
Restricted for individuals, organizations, and other governments	$ 243,786	$ 83,734	$ 24,091	$ 9,284	$ 40,953	$ 401,848

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

COMBINING STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
CUSTODIAL FUNDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	Tax Commissioner	Clerk of Superior Court	Probate Court	Magistrate Court	Sheriff	Total
ADDITIONS						
Taxes collected	$ 8,774,922	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 8,774,922
Fines and fees collected	-	234,626	272,018	93,876	501,059	1,101,579
Total additions	8,774,922	234,626	272,018	93,876	501,059	9,876,501
DEDUCTIONS						
Taxes disbursed	8,738,242	-	-	-	-	8,738,242
Fines and fees disbursed	-	203,289	248,386	90,229	499,713	1,041,617
Total deductions	8,738,242	203,289	248,386	90,229	499,713	9,779,859
Change in net position	36,680	31,337	23,632	3,647	1,346	96,642
Net position, beginning of year	207,106	52,397	459	5,637	39,607	305,206
Net position, end of year	$ 243,786	$ 83,734	$ 24,091	$ 9,284	$ 40,953	$ 401,848

COMPLIANCE SECTION

MAULDIN & JENKINS
CPAs & ADVISORS

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*

Board of Commissioners
of Wilkes County, Georgia
Washington, Georgia

We have audited, 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, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Wilkes County, Georgia (the "County") as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 30, 2025. Our report includes a reference to other auditors who audited the financial statements of the Wilkes County Health Department (the "Health Department"), as described in our report on the County'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 are 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 the County's internal control over financial reporting ("internal control") as basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control.

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as items 2025-001 and 2025-003 that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the County's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as item 2025-002.

Wilkes County, Georgia's Response to Findings

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

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC

Macon, Georgia
December 30, 2025

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

SECTION I
SUMMARY OF AUDIT RESULTS

Financial Statements

Type of report auditor issued on whether the financial statements audited were prepared in accordance with GAAP.	Unmodified
Internal control over financial reporting:	
Material weaknesses identified?	__X__ Yes ____ No
Significant deficiencies identified not considered to be material weaknesses?	___ Yes __X__ None Reported
Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?	__X__ Yes ____ No

Federal Awards

There was not an audit of major federal programs as of June 30, 2025 due to the total amount expended being less than $750,000.

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

SECTION II
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

2025-001 – General Accounting Matters/Close Out Procedures

Criteria: Internal control is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance about the achievement of an entity's objectives with regard to the reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Internal control is also a process of safeguarding assets against unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition, and includes controls related to financial reporting and operations objectives. Generally accepted accounting principles require assets, liabilities, revenues and expenditures to be recognized in the accounting period in which they become both measurable and available. Further, a fundamental principle in accounting and financial reporting is the notion of timely recognition and recording of financial and non-financial transactions and activities.

Condition: During our audit, we noted an inordinate amount of accounting, reporting and reconciling not being properly performed and reviewed during the fiscal year which required a significant effort to close the County's 2025 fiscal year. Significant adjustments were determined and required to be recorded in the months that followed June 30, 2025. Specifically, we noted a lack of timely and/or accurate financial and non-financial information needed:

- to properly review bank reconciliations;
- to properly maintain payables on a periodic basis throughout the year;
- to properly maintain receivables on a periodic basis throughout the year;
- to accurately maintain and record the County's capital assets; and
- to close-out and report activities, events and transactions on a periodic basis

Context: We addressed the matter with the County officials who were able to provide all respective details and reconciliations as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Effect: The ultimate effect of the above condition is the potential for errors and irregularities to occur and not be detected and corrected in a timely manner.

Cause: There was a lack of appropriate controls implemented at the County during the fiscal year to properly maintain financial and non-financial information and to properly close out the year-end.

Recommendation: We recommend the County consider a variety of options in addressing the above condition. The County needs to consider and evaluate its strengths and weaknesses relative to the accounting function, and take measures to address the concerns noted above with a goal of providing timely recording, reconciling and reporting of County operations and financial and non-financial activities. We also recommend the County seek the expertise of a technician to come in and diagnose the issues with the County's accounting software related to the accounts payable and capital assets to improve the overall audit.

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

SECTION II
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

2025-001 – General Accounting Matters/Close Out Procedures (Continued)

Views of Responsible Officials and Planned Corrective Action: We concur with the finding. We will continue to review and improve policies and procedures in an effort to eliminate error and identify deficiencies from both operational and financial perspectives.

2025-002 – Budgetary Requirements

Criteria: Georgia Statutes (O.C.G.A. §36-81) establish budgetary requirements for governmental entities that there be a legal level of control at a minimum to be at the department level. In addition, each unit of local government shall adopt and operate under an annual balanced budget for the General Fund, each Special Revenue Fund, and each Debt Service Fund in use by the local government. The annual balanced budget shall be adopted by ordinance or resolution and administered in accordance with this article.

Condition: For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the County was in violation of State budget statutes:

- An annual budget was not adopted for the following funds:
  - Law Library Fund – no budget was adopted.
  - ARPA Fund – no budget was adopted.
  - Opioid Settlement Fund – no budget was adopted.
  - Drug Abuse Treatment Fund – budget was adopted but was not balanced.
  - Section 5311 Transport Fund - budget was adopted but was not balanced.
  - Parks and Recreation Department Fund – budget was adopted but was not balanced.
  - Airport Fuel Tax Fund – budget was adopted but was not balanced.

Context: We addressed the matter with the County to determine the appropriate actions needed as to be in compliance with state budget requirements at June 30, 2025.

SECTION II
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

2025-002 – Budgetary Requirements (Continued)

Effects: The County did not adopt an annual balanced budget for the funds noted above for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

Cause: The above conditions were caused by the County not adopting a balanced budget for all necessary funds.

Recommendation: We recommend the County adopt balanced budgets.

Views of Responsible Officials and Planned Corrective Action: We concur with the finding. We will continue to review and improve policies and procedures in an effort to eliminate error and identify deficiencies from both operational and financial perspectives. We will also review budgets to assure balanced budgets are adopted.

2025-003 – Segregation of Duties – Cash Accounts and Other Operational Functions

Criteria: Internal controls should be in place which provide reasonable assurance that an individual cannot misappropriate funds without such actions being detected during the normal course of business.

Condition: There is not appropriate segregation of duties among recording, distribution, and reconciliation of cash accounts and other operational functions at various offices of elected officials/custodial funds. Further, we noted a general lack of segregation of duties. We noted several bank statements were being reconciled by employees of these elected officials with no consistent review of the reconciled statements being performed. Specifically, we noted the following:

- Tax Commissioner's Office – one individual with the authority to post receipts to the general ledger/system also prepares bank deposits for the bank, deposits cash receipts at the bank, maintains access to cash, and reconciles bank statements. Also, the same individual with the authority to sign checks also prepares checks, mails checks, and reconciles the bank accounts.
- Magistrate Court – one individual with the authority to open the mail also prepares bank deposits for the bank, reconciles bank statements, maintains access to cash, and posts transactions to the general ledger/system. The same individual with the authority to sign checks also prepares checks, reconciles bank statements and opens the mail. Another individual with the authority to deposit cash receipts at the bank also reconciles the bank statement and maintains access to cash. Further, we noted no independent review of the reconciled bank statements.

SECTION II
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS AND RESPONSES

2025-003 – Segregation of Duties – Cash Accounts and Other Operational Functions (Continued)

- Probate Court – one individual with the authority to open the mail also prepares bank deposits for the bank, deposits cash receipts at the bank, reconciles bank statements, maintains access to cash, and posts transactions to the general ledger/system.
- Sheriff's Office – one individual with the authority to deposit cash receipts at the bank also prepares deposits for the bank, opens the mail, reconciles bank statements, maintains access to cash, and posts cash receipts to the general ledger/system. Also, the same individual with the authority to sign checks also prepares checks, opens the mail and reconciles bank statements. Further, we noted no independent review of the reconciled bank statements and noted that all bank statements are not reconciled on a monthly basis.
- Clerk of Court – one individual with the authority to open the mail also deposits cash receipts at the bank, reconciles bank statements, maintains access to cash, and posts transactions to the general ledger/system.

Context: Several instances of overlapping duties were noted during interviews regarding internal control procedures.

Effect: Failure to properly segregate duties can lead to misappropriation of funds that is not detected during the normal course of business.

Cause: The lack of segregation of duties is primarily due to the limited number of individuals in each office available to perform all of the duties.

Recommendation: We recommend the duties of recording, distributing, and reconciling of accounts be segregated among employees. Also, we recommend greater separation of duties relative to: preparing deposits, making deposits, opening the mail, posting receipts, reconciling bank statements, and signing of checks.

Views of Responsible Officials and Planned Corrective Action: We concur with the finding. We will continue to review and improve policies and procedures in an effort to eliminate error and identify deficiencies from both operational and financial perspectives.

WILKES COUNTY, GEORGIA

SUMMARY OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

2024-001 – General Accounting Matters/Close Out Procedures

Criteria: Internal control is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance about the achievement of an entity's objectives with regard to the reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Internal control is also a process of safeguarding assets against unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition, and includes controls related to financial reporting and operations objectives. Generally accepted accounting principles require assets, liabilities, revenues and expenditures to be recognized in the accounting period in which they become both measurable and available. Further, a fundamental principle in accounting and financial reporting is the notion of timely recognition and recording of financial and non-financial transactions and activities.

Condition: During our audit, we noted an inordinate amount of accounting, reporting and reconciling not being properly performed and reviewed during the fiscal year which required a significant effort to close the County's 2024 fiscal year. Significant adjustments were determined and required to be recorded in the months that followed June 30, 2024. Specifically, we noted a lack of timely and/or accurate financial and non-financial information needed:

- to properly review bank reconciliations;
- to properly maintain the accounts payable on a periodic basis throughout the year;
- to accurately maintain and record the County's capital assets; and
- to close-out and report activities, events and transactions on a periodic basis

Auditee Response/Status: Unresolved. This is included in the current finding 2025-001.

2024-002 – Budgetary Requirements

Criteria: Georgia Statutes (O.C.G.A. §36-81) establish budgetary requirements for governmental entities that there be a legal level of control at a minimum to be at the department level. In addition, each unit of local government shall adopt and operate under an annual balanced budget for the General Fund, each Special Revenue Fund, and each Debt Service Fund in use by the local government. The annual balanced budget shall be adopted by ordinance or resolution and administered in accordance with this article.

Condition: For the year ended June 30, 2024, the County was in violation of State budget statutes:

- Departmental expenditures exceeded budgeted amounts at the legal level of control for the following funds:
  - General Fund
  - Hotel/Motel Tax Fund
  - Section 5311 Transport Fund
  - ARPA Fund
  - Parks and Recreation Department Fund
  - Airport Fuel Tax Fund

2024-002 – Budgetary Requirements (Continued)

- An annual budget was not adopted for the following funds:
  - Law Library Fund – no budget was adopted.
  - ARPA Fund – no budget was adopted.
  - Opioid Settlement Fund – no budget was adopted.
  - Drug Abuse Treatment Fund – budget was adopted but was not balanced.
  - Section 5311 Transport Fund - budget was adopted but was not balanced.
  - Parks and Recreation Department Fund – budget was adopted but was not balanced.
  - Jail Construction/Staffing Fund – budget was adopted but was not balanced.
  - Airport Fuel Tax Fund – budget was adopted but was not balanced.

Auditee Response/Status: Unresolved. This is included in the current finding 2025-002.

2024-003 – Segregation of Duties – Cash Accounts and Other Operational Functions

Criteria: Internal controls should be in place which provide reasonable assurance that an individual cannot misappropriate funds without such actions being detected during the normal course of business.

Condition: There is not appropriate segregation of duties among recording, distribution, and reconciliation of cash accounts and other operational functions at various offices of elected officials/custodial funds. Further, we noted a general lack of segregation of duties. We noted several bank statements were being reconciled by employees of these elected officials with no consistent review of the reconciled statements being performed. Specifically, we noted the following:

- Tax Commissioner's Office – one individual with the authority to post receipts to the general ledger/system also prepares bank deposits for the bank, deposits cash receipts at the bank, maintains access to cash, and reconciles bank statements. Also, the same individual with the authority to sign checks also prepares checks, mails checks, and reconciles the bank accounts.
- Magistrate Court – one individual with the authority to open the mail also prepares bank deposits for the bank, reconciles bank statements, maintains access to cash, and posts transactions to the general ledger/system. The same individual with the authority to sign checks also prepares checks, reconciles bank statements and opens the mail. Another individual with the authority to deposit cash receipts at the bank also reconciles the bank statement and maintains access to cash. Further, we noted no independent review of the reconciled bank statements.
- Probate Court – one individual with the authority to open the mail also prepares bank deposits for the bank, deposits cash receipts at the bank, reconciles bank statements, maintains access to cash, and posts transactions to the general ledger/system.

2024-003 – Segregation of Duties – Cash Accounts and Other Operational Functions (Continued)

- Sheriff's Office – one individual with the authority to deposit cash receipts at the bank also prepares deposits for the bank, opens the mail, reconciles bank statements, maintains access to cash, and posts cash receipts to the general ledger/system. Also, the same individual with the authority to sign checks also prepares checks, opens the mail and reconciles bank statements. Further, we noted no independent review of the reconciled bank statements and noted that all bank statements are not reconciled on a monthly basis.
- Clerk of Court – one individual with the authority to open the mail also deposits cash receipts at the bank, reconciles bank statements, maintains access to cash, and posts transactions to the general ledger/system.

Auditee Response/Status: Unresolved. This is included in the current finding 2025-003.