



# OCONEE COUNTY SNAPSHOT 2025

Oconee County – A diverse, growing, safe, vibrant community guided by rural traditions and shaped by natural beauty; where employment, education and recreation offer a rich quality of life for all generations, both today and tomorrow.

**CAPITAL  
INVESTMENT**

**\$55 M**



**NEW  
JOBS**

## PLANNING AND ZONING

4,462 Permit Reviews

720 Plats

31 Subdivisions



**\$2.7 M**

**BUILDING  
PERMIT  
REVENUE**

**BUILDING CODES ISSUED  
3,154 PERMITS & COMPLETED  
8,087 INSPECTIONS IN 2025**

**35**

**AVERAGE DAILY  
INSPECTIONS**

**New 911 Addresses  
Assigned within County**

**1,472**



**53 New Roads Added to  
GIS and 911 Database**

**IMPLEMENTED SAFETY & SECURITY  
UPGRADES  
CONDUCTED EMERGENCY / SAFETY  
TRAINING FOR ALL PERSONNEL**



## PROCUREMENT

**ISSUED 554 PURCHASE ORDERS  
TOTALING \$24,362,774**

**PURCHASES INCLUDED VARIOUS  
VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND CAPITAL  
ITEMS ACROSS VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**

## VETERAN AFFAIRS

12 Veterans Secured Housing

180 Veterans Transported for Health  
Services

71 Military Burial Honors

700 Served at Annual Appreciation Day

**8**

**COUNTY-WIDE ELECTIONS**

**Five General Elections and  
Three Special Elections for  
Municipalities**

144,949 Visitors at the Public Libraries  
1,819 New Library Cards Issued



## PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

24 Capital Improvement Projects  
350,000+ Visitors

## ACCOMMODATIONS TAX

\$140,000 Grants Provided to 17 Agencies  
\$40,000 to Museum and Historic Sites  
\$750,000 offset costs to General Fund

45,000 Park Passes Issued  
23,000 Overnight Camping  
10 Staff Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Trained



## MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE

Total Managed – 121,083 Tons  
Landfill – 44,940 Tons  
Transfer Station – 56,014 Tons  
Recyclables – 4,376 Tons  
Cardboard Recycling – 1,463 Tons

**\$10.6**  
MILLION

## ROCK QUARRY REVENUE

Implemented Pilot Program Reserving Wednesdays for In-County Customer Sales  
Implemented Out-of-County Customer Rates

**28** COUNTY ROADS PAVED

COMPLETED 491 ENCROACHMENT PERMITS



COMPLETED 2,090 WORK ORDERS AND HAULED 22,865 TONS OF STONE IN 2025

**660**  
MILES

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF ROADWAYS

## EMERGENCY SERVICES / FIRE

Established Peer Support Team  
Addition of the Office & Operations Supervisor  
Hosted 30 Basic Life Support Classes  
200 Individuals Certified in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)  
Held 9 Emergency Medical First Responders Classes,  
Certifying/Recertifying 80 Responders

BOUNTYLAND FIRE STATION CALLS FOR SERVICE

**1,299**



3 PERSON CREW AT BOUNTYLAND STATION

IMPROVED ISO RATING AND INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR RESIDENTS



**OCONEE COUNTY  
STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT  
FEBRUARY 20, 2026**

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

County Council and Administration hold an Annual Strategic Planning Retreat to review the previous year's accomplishments, establish goals for the upcoming year, and prioritize longer term goals in preparation for the future.

At the Strategic Planning Retreat, Administration provides a brief review of departmental data related to the previous calendar year. Statistics from each department help to demonstrate the needs of the citizens of Oconee County.



## Oconee County Mission Statement

It is the mission of Oconee County to provide our current and future citizens and visitors' quality services while protecting our communities, heritage, environment and natural resources, in an ever-changing world.

## Oconee County Vision Statement

Oconee County – A diverse, growing, safe, vibrant community guided by rural traditions and shaped by natural beauty; where employment, education and recreation offer a rich quality of life for all generations, both today and tomorrow.



## ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

	2024	2025
E-MAIL INQUIRIES	2,079	2,216
DEED / LEGAL DOCUMENT REVIEWS	10,373	11,186
PLATS	759	786

## BUILDING CODES

	2024	2025
PERMITS	3,748	3,154
INSPECTIONS	7,669	8,087
PERMIT FEES	\$1,771,114	\$2,708,513



## DELINQUENT TAX

	2024	2025
TAX SALE ITEMS	233	301
TITLE SEARCHES	883	1,010
TITLE UPDATES	249	151
REDEMPTIONS	115	211
CANCELED	7	3
DEEDS	111	106
PAYMENTS	5,161	6,188
COLLECTED	\$3,416,949	\$6,510,756

THE DELINQUENT TAX OFFICE SAW INCREASED EXECUTION VOLUME, IMPROVED DEED PROCESSING TIMELINES, REDUCED CANCELATIONS AND A STRATEGIC CHANGE IN NOTICE-MAILING VENDORS. STAFF CONTINUITY AND GROWING INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE SUPPORTED IMPROVED COMPLIANCE AND SERVICE DELIVERY.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

	2024	2025
CAPITAL INVESTMENTS	\$114.5 MILLION	\$55 MILLION
NEW JOBS	324	92
INQUIRIES	64	93
LEADS	37	55
PROSPECTS	13	33

IN 2025, INDUSTRIES, INCLUDING LIFT-TEK, ULBRICH, BAXTER MANUFACTURING AND HORTON ANNOUNCED EXPANSION TO THEIR MANUFACTURING FACILITIES IN OCONEE COUNTY. OCONEE COUNTY RANKS 5<sup>TH</sup> AMONG COUNTIES IN THE STATE FOR MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT WITH 25% OF ALL JOBS IN THE SECTOR.



## EMERGENCY SERVICES

	2024	2025
TOTAL CALLS	3,257	8,482
FIRES	170	302
EXPLOSIONS	4	2
RESCUE / EMS	1,902	5,745
HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS	79	64
SERVICE CALLS	558	1,101
GOOD INTENT	328	1,043
FALSE CALLS	170	212
SEVERE WEATHER	12	5



# FIRE MARSHALL DIVISION

	2024	2025
FIRE INVESTIGATIONS	75	85
BUSINESS INSPECTIONS	270	150
NEW CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS	70	154
PLAN REVIEWS	122	108
FEASIBILITY INSPECTIONS	25	20

IN 2025, THE BOUNTYLAND FIRE STATION'S 3-PERSON ENGINE CREW RESPONDED TO 1,299 CALLS FOR SERVICE, PROVIDING CRITICAL SUPPORT TO THE COMMUNITY AND ITS CITIZENS



## FINANCE

	2024	2025
LAT COLLECTIONS	\$1,082,110	\$1,123,358
ATAX COLLECTIONS	\$598,520	\$718,814

## HUMAN RESOURCES

	2024	2025
NEW HIRES	184	107
TERMINATIONS/RESIGNATIONS	107	123



## LIBRARY

	2024	2025
TOTAL VISITORS	134,992	144,949
NEW LIBRARY CARDS ISSUED	2,072	1,819
ITEMS CHECKED OUT	173,973	257,057

## PARKS, RECREATION & TOURISM

	2024	2025
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	19	24
EMR TRAINED EMPLOYEES	6	10
ATAX GRANTS PROVIDED	\$130,000 TO 20 AGENCIES	\$140,000 TO 17 AGENCIES



## PLANNING / ZONING

	2024	2025
PLATS	681	720
SUBDIVISIONS	36	31
PERMIT REVIEWS	4,222	4,462

## PROCUREMENT

	2024	2025
PURCHASE ORDERS	605	554
PURCHASE TOTALS	\$20,478,186	\$24,362,774



## ROADS & BRIDGES

	2024	2025
WORK ORDERS	2,519	2,090
STONE HAULED (TONS)	23,707	22,865

## ROCK QUARRY

	2024	2025
TOTAL SALES	\$9,289,592	\$10,655,791

WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUT-OF-COUNTY PRICE RATES AND THE LIMITATION TO IN-COUNTY SALES ON WEDNESDAYS, THE TOTAL TONNAGE SOLD WAS SIMILAR TO THAT SOLD IN 2024; HOWEVER, REVENUE INCREASED.



## SOLID WASTE

	2024 (TONS)	2025 (TONS)
MANAGED	127,804	121,083
RECYCLABLES	4,371	4,376
CARDBOARD	1,388	1,463

IN 2025, OCONEE COUNTY SOLID WASTE COLLECTED \$2,625,118 IN TIPPING FEES AT THE LANDFILL AND TRANSFER STATION. AN ADDITIONAL \$460,855 WAS COLLECTED THROUGH THE SALE OF RECYCLABLES. THE TOTAL REVENUE FOR OCONEE COUNTY SOLID WASTE WAS \$3.1 MILLION FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR.



# PLANNING AHEAD

Looking ahead to FY 2026-2027, Oconee County Administration has identified key areas of focus.

## Internal Controls and Restructuring

- Budget FY25/26 Projections
- Identify, Standardize and Implement
- Controls – Insurance, Policies/Procedures, Continuity Planning and Communications
- Restructuring– Building Codes, Planning and Emergency Services
- Greater Transparency





# 2025 OCONEE COUNTY YEAR IN REVIEW



## **A Brief History of Oconee County**

Oconee County, located in the northwest corner of South Carolina on the edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains, takes its name from a Cherokee word meaning “land beside the water”. The County was formed in 1868 when the State legislature divided Pickens District into Pickens and Oconee Counties.

Native Americans lived here for thousands of years, and this area was home to the Cherokee. Their villages were located near water, good hunting grounds and tillable land. Dwellings in the Cherokee villages were houses not unlike the rustic homes of early European settlers. They farmed hundreds of acres of corn in the rich land along the rivers and maintained peach and apple orchards. During Colonial time the Cherokee were allies and trading partners with the British. They had an extensive trading network including a trading path that extended from Charleston to the Mississippi River and intersected other paths at the Cherokee “lower town” of Keowee. The main path also went through Oconee Town and crossed Oconee Mountain (formerly known as Station Mountain). The British built Fort Prince George across the Keowee River from Keowee Town to protect the Cherokee and the important trade paths.

It was the Cherokee’s choice to side with the British during the Revolutionary War, which led to the destruction of their Lower Towns and the loss of most of their tribal land in the Upstate in the Treaty of DeWitt’s Corner in 1777. They sold the remainder of their tribal land in South Carolina in the Treaty of 1816, but were not forced to leave and many of their descendants live here today. The Cherokee cultural legacy has become an integral part of our County’s heritage.

Following the Revolutionary War, veterans and settlers from other parts of the State began moving in, including a small group of Germans under the leadership of General John A. Wagener and the German Colonization Society of Charleston, South Carolina, who founded and settled the town of Walhalla in 1850. Today, Walhalla serves as the County seat.

A number of Irishmen came to Stumphouse Mountain in the mid-1850’s to build the Blue Ridge Railroad that was chartered to connect Charleston with the Midwest. Economic reasons and the Civil War caused the project to fail to meet completion. Stumphouse Tunnel is today a tourist attraction on the National Register of Historic Places.

After the Civil War, the Richmond and Air Line Railroad (now the Southern Railroad) was built through Oconee County, and the present towns of Seneca and Westminster came into being. Large textile mills were built in the Upstate in the 1890’s, with Newry in southeast Oconee County remaining as one of the earliest, least-altered textile villages in South Carolina.

As Oconee County welcomed in the new century, textile manufacturing expanded, lumber mills prospered, and agricultural enterprises, such as dairy farms and commercial apple orchards, contributed to the County’s economy. By 1960, the County’s economy was becoming more diverse with the opening of the Torrington Company, set to manufacture precision needles, and the plans of Duke Energy to construct electrical energy projects in the County that would ultimately create Lakes Keowee and Jocassee, as well as a nuclear energy facility.

Oconee County continues to be a strong contender in the national and global marketplace. Today, the County’s economic diversity can be attributed to a number of high-tech manufacturers that employ a well-trained work force able to meet the needs of business and industry. Tourism now plays a vital role in the County’s economy, as tourists visit many local and state parks, historical sites, and take part in

recreation that includes hiking, waterfall viewing, rafting, and other nature-based activities. Quality of life in Oconee County is excellent, as measured based on the social and economic environment provided by our freedoms, happiness, material well-being, environmental health, and community life factors. The citizens of Oconee County are committed to fostering economic growth while protecting the natural beauty of the County.



Top Left to Right: White Waterfalls, The Old Seneca Depot; Bottom Left to Right: The Old Jail and Kenneth Mill; Provided by Oconee History Museum

## Overview of Oconee County and Our Government

- **Oconee’s Seal** symbolizes Oconee’s rich Native American history. “Oconee” (Ae-quo-nee) is an ancient Cherokee word meaning “land beside the water.” The design of the seal reflects the Native American symbols for “land” and “water.” The green, upper part of the design is the symbol for mountain while the blue, lower part of the design is the symbol for water – representative of the five main rivers of Oconee: Chattooga, Chauga, Tugaloo, Keowee and Seneca. The blood-red ring around the design in the traditional Cherokee “circle of life” connecting all living things.

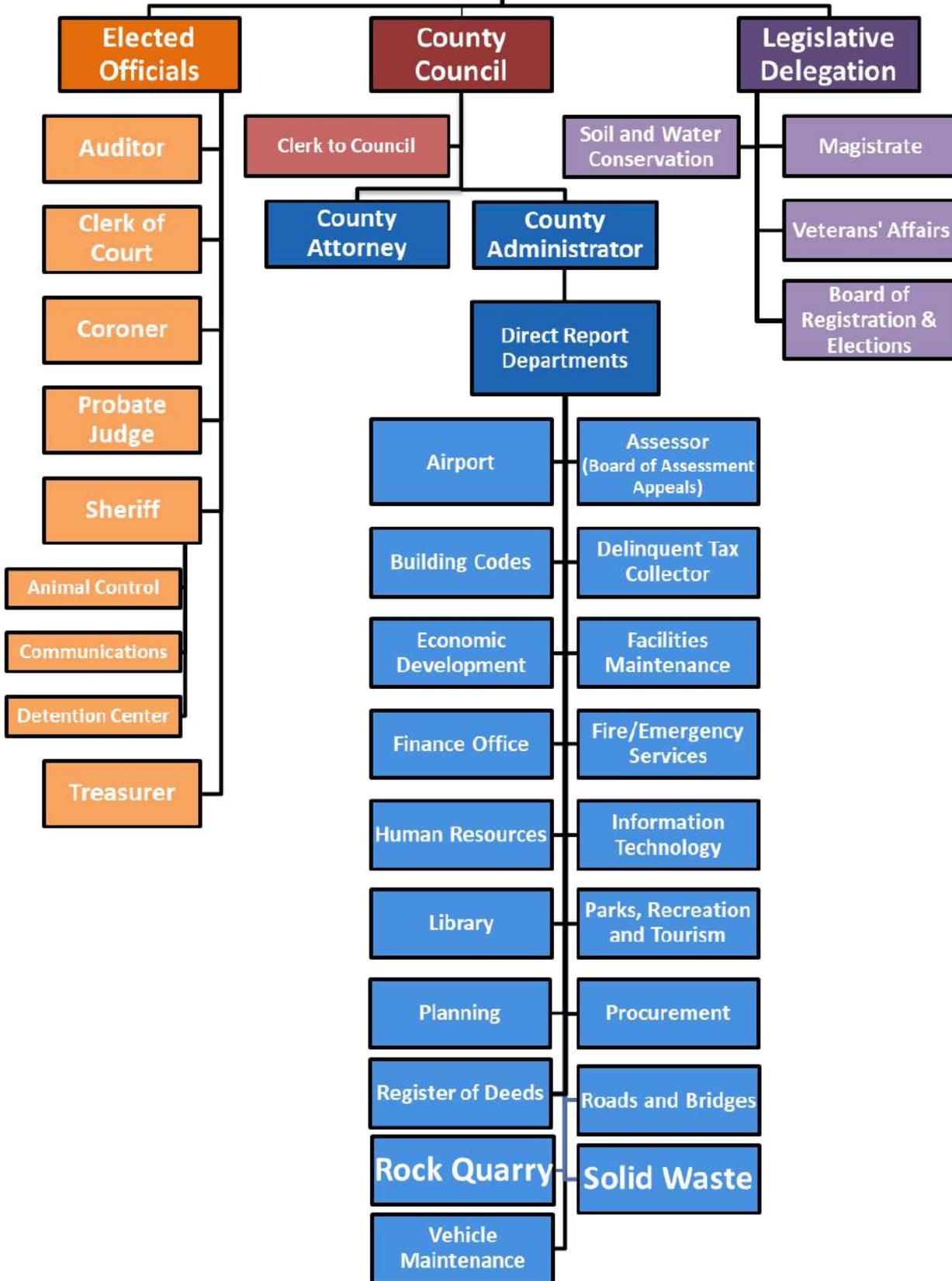


- **Called “The Golden Corner”**, Oconee County is located in an area known as the “Upstate of South Carolina.”
- **The land area** of Oconee County is 625.41 square miles.
- **The geography** plays host to significant environmental resources:
  - Sumter National Forest
  - Ellicott Rock Wilderness Area
  - Jocassee Gorge Wilderness Area
  - Campgrounds
  - State and County Parks:
    - Chau Ram County Park
    - High Falls County Park
    - South Cove County Park
    - Devils Fork State Park
    - Lake Hartwell State Park
    - Oconee State Park
    - Oconee Station State Park
    - Coneross Campground
    - Oconee Point
    - Stumphouse Tunnel /Issaqueena Falls Park
  - Rivers:
    - Chauga River
    - Chattooga River
    - Whitewater River
    - Little River

- Major Lakes:
  - Lake Jocassee
  - Lake Keowee
  - Lake Hartwell
  
- **Oconee County is home** to five (5) municipalities:
  - Town of Salem
  - City of Seneca
  - City of Walhalla (County Seat)
  - Town of West Union
  - City of Westminster
  
- **Oconee County adjoins 10 other counties in 3 states:** Anderson and Pickens in South Carolina; Jackson, Transylvania and Macon in North Carolina; and Rabun, Habersham, Stephens, Franklin and Hart in Georgia.



# Citizens of Oconee County



**Form of Government:**

- The Council – Administrator form of professional government was approved by voter referendum in November 2003. Oconee County was formerly under the Council – Elected Supervisor form of government.

**County Council:**

- Five (5) officials are elected from single-member districts for staggered four-year terms.
- Oconee County Council Members:
 

District I	John Elliott
District II	Matthew Durham, Chairman
District III	Don Mize
District IV	Thomas James
District V	James Glenn Hart

**Other County Elected Officials:**

Clerk of Court	Lisa Burton
Coroner	Karl E. Addis
County Auditor	Christy Hubbard
County Treasurer	Gena Acree
Probate Judge	Danny Singleton
Sheriff	Michael Crenshaw
Solicitor	Micah Black

**Oconee County Legislative Delegation:**

State Senator, South Carolina District #1  
The Honorable Thomas C. Alexander

State Representative, South Carolina District #1  
The Honorable William R. Whitmire

State Representative, South Carolina District #2  
The Honorable Adam Duncan

**United States Congressman:**

South Carolina's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District  
The Honorable Sheri Biggs

**United States Senators:**

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham  
The Honorable Timothy E. (Tim) Scott

## Oconee County Mission Statement

It is the mission of Oconee County to provide our current and future citizens and visitors quality services while protecting our communities, heritage, environment and natural resources, in an ever-changing world.

## Oconee County Vision Statement

Oconee County – A diverse, growing, safe, vibrant community guided by rural traditions and shaped by natural beauty; where employment, education and recreation offer a rich quality of life for all generations, both today and tomorrow.

## County Council Priorities

Each year, County Council and Administration hold a Strategic Planning Retreat to review the previous year's accomplishments, establish goals for the upcoming year, and prioritize longer term goals in preparation for the future. The Oconee County Strategic Planning Retreat was held on Friday, February 24, 2023. During the retreat, County Administrator, Amanda Brock, presented the Annual Budget Update, followed by the 2022 Annual Report.

The strategic planning initiatives are ranked based on Council members' commitment to a specific matter, and further discussion.

## Tier One Priorities

**County Council members unanimously identified several core initiatives. The following priorities were supported by all five members during the Strategic Planning Retreat. This extensive list indicates Council's commitment to planning for a better Oconee County.**

### **1. Cost of Living – Employee Wages**

- *Oconee County implemented a Cost-of-Living Adjustment of 2.25% [consistent with state] for all County staff and Elected Officials, exempting only Council, on September 15, 2025.*

### **2. Golden Corner Commerce Park Industry Occupant:**

- *This initiative, anchored in Council's desire to stimulate economic development, addresses infrastructure and site improvements at GCCP to enhance future recruitment of industry.*
- *In 2024, the clearing, grubbing and grading of approximately sixty-three acres was nearly completed in the Golden Corner Commerce Park when Hurricane Helene caused damages to the site.*
- *In 2025, repairs to the site were completed and requests for financial recoupment were submitted to FEMA. Oconee County anticipates the project will be completed in early 2026.*

### **3. Maintain Momentum on Exit 4 Sewer Expansion:**

- *Sewer expansion has steadily continued along the I-85 corridor.*

### **4. Implementation of County Paving Crews / Road Maintenance**

- *The Oconee County Roads & Bridges Crew Leader position has been posted to the Job Opportunities Board on the County website.*
- *In 2025, Roads & Bridges crews paved Lewis Road (0.9) miles and completed pot hole repairs.*

### **5. Increase Quarry Production / Stabilize Stockpiles**

- *In August of 2024, Oconee County Rock Quarry implemented different rates for in-county and out-of-county customers resulting in a better balance of quarry product availability while keeping pricing moderate for County residents.*

- In July 2025, the Rock Quarry implemented a Pilot Program where Wednesdays are reserved for in-county customer sales only.
- The Rock Quarry sales leveled out in tonnage with the implementation of the out-of-county price rate; however, record revenue continued, as seen in June, when the Rock Quarry sold 56,4141 tons of stone for a total of \$ 1,017,256.85, the highest dollar amount the Quarry has ever sold in one month.
- Rock Quarry sales for the year totaled \$ 10,655,791, an increase of \$1,366,199 from the previous year.

**6. Development of a Capital Improvement Plan [\*indicates items below that would fall into the scope of implementation of a CIP]**

- Various staff members were identified to assist with this priority; however, no other action was taken.

**7. \*Removal of Documents from former Health Dept. Building / Clemson Rural Health Expansion**

- This priority was not funded during the FY 2025-2026 Budget process.

**8. \*Sewer Plant Planning for Southern Oconee to Address Future Capacity**

- This priority was not funded during the FY 2025-2026 Budget process.

**9. \*Expansion of Fire and Emergency Services / Reimplement Local Training Options**

- This priority focused on the development of regionalized fire stations in the counties primary quadrants that are future focused for anticipated growth and emergency service needs.
- The priority was identified for FY 2026-2027; therefore, no action was taken in FY 2025-2026.

**10. \*Solid Waste Planning – Transfer Station, Landfill and Recycling Centers**

- As the County realizes increased growth, Council recognizes the need to plan for that growth in primary service areas. The Solid Waste Division is one of the target areas slated for enormous expansion in both use and expectation.

**11. \*Pine Street Security – Continue Implementation Efforts**

- Due to risks, this information is confidential; however, security improvements are ongoing.

## **Tier Two Priorities**

These priorities, identified by three Council members during the Strategic Planning Retreat, were addressed by a majority, and were prioritized in the FY 2025-2026 Budget and beyond.

**Alignment of Chapters 32 and 38 / Ordinance Revisions for Consistent BZA Approvals:**

- Oconee County Planning Commission and staff have continued to work through Ordinance language on a routine and regular basis to resolve conflicting information.

**Address Shelter Spatial Needs / Improve Animal Control Response:**

- This priority was not funded during the FY 2025-2026 Budget process.

**Oconee Regional Airport Hangar Construction / Expansion:**

- No action was taken.

**Former Fair Play School Demolition:**

- *Oconee County does not own the former Fair Play school; thus, no action was taken on this matter.*

**Implementation of Municipal Overlays:**

- *In January 2025, Oconee County Administration and GIS had initial discussions regarding potential boundary maps. No other action was taken.*

**Tier Three Priorities**

**Tier Three initiatives were prioritized by two County Council members during the strategic planning meeting.**

**Municipal / County Recreation:**

- *Because this was not a priority of a majority of Council, this matter did not receive staff priority.*

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

**In addition to the specific priorities established by Council, Oconee County departments consistently delivered exceptional services across the board, while maintaining responsible stewardship of public funds.**

**Airport:** KCEU saw a notable rise in aircraft arrivals and departures in 2025. This surge in air traffic volume generated a significant increase in Jet-A fuel sales, which exceeded half a million gallons for the year. Spring and Summer seasons proved to be the busiest in airport history, reflecting growth in operational demands.

Significant progress was made toward improving airport infrastructure. Capital projects continued momentum with the completion of our Airport Taxiway Rehabilitation Design Project. Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding request applications were also submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and South Carolina Aeronautics Commission (SCAC) for the Taxiway Rehabilitation Construction phase of this project. Those applications were successfully approved with Oconee County receiving Grant Awards marking a major step forward in enhancing safety, efficiency and long-term operational capacity.

The airport's rotating beacon is a key component of safety and night operations. It provides pilots with a clear visual reference to locate the airport during nighttime and low-visibility conditions. The installation of the new 108-foot beacon significantly enhanced this safety capability. Funding for this project was obtained through a cost-share maintenance grant between the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission and Oconee County, replacing the previous beacon, which has been in service for over 50 years and was due for replacement.

**Assessor:** 2025 was a year of continued growth for Oconee County. The Assessor's Office staff assisted with 18,056 calls, 2,216 email inquiries, and thousands of applications (including 2,377 applications for legal residence) that our office received. Most importantly, despite the large workload, they kept service at the forefront. Many citizens went out of their way to commend our staff with thank you notes and words of appreciation for their efforts to assist in making an issue like property tax as customer friendly as possible.

Property assessment workloads have seen similar growth. Our staff reviewed an incredible 11,186 deeds and legal documents, as well as 786 plats, in order to process ownership transfers, mapping updates, and Assessable Transfers of Interest. Our appraisers also reviewed 1,953 building permits, including 506 new construction homes.

The end result of this effort is an assessed value that is used for taxation. For 2025, that assessed value was \$501,812,181, which means that the efforts of the Assessor's Office contribute over \$36,000,000 to the county tax base, not to mention school and municipal taxes. This demonstrates the vital role that the Assessor's Office plays in providing the critical funding for our first responders, roads, solid waste, and many other important services that our citizens rely on every day.

**Auditor:** The Auditor sets debt millage, and provides assessments to the Administrator and County Council for millage to cover the approved operational budget for Oconee County and Oconee County School District. We annually assist all municipalities and special revenue districts with their assessed values for their budgetary needs. Millage is based on the County's total assessed value. Assessed values are determined by the county assessor for real estate and the SC DOR (via guidelines determined by state law) for all personal and real property. Assessed values are totaled, which results in the levy of property taxes for real estate and personal property. The Auditor generates all tax notices that are collected by the Oconee County Treasurer; processes personal property values and assessments (vehicles and all other property with a license plate, boats, motors, airplanes, documented vessels, business personal property, utilities, railroads, manufacturing and FILOT properties) based upon SC Department of Revenue guidelines. The office also processes Homestead Exemptions, Homestead Reimbursement from the SC DOR and the Manufacturing/MPVE Reimbursement. We also assist citizens with exemptions for other property once granted by the SC DOR.

Recent Accomplishments:

- Customer satisfaction, we strive to ensure that our wait times are low and our service is high.

- Introduction to new protocols were worked on daily to ensure that we are meeting all guidelines and ensuring tax notices are on time and accurate. Our schedule is to be met by SC CODE of LAW per deadlines. We are proud that we have always met these deadlines.
- Online requests are now available to be paid immediately on our website with no lag time.

**Building Codes:** In 2025, several large commercial projects, including the construction of Target and three large apartment complexes, began in Oconee County. Construction of that magnitude required timely inspections and sometimes multiple inspection requests daily. For all commercial projects, the Fire Marshal, Clint Livingston, has to be present for multiple inspections throughout the construction process to make sure the International Fire Code requirements are met.

The Building Codes Department, staffed by 4 County employees, 2 contracted inspectors and 1 inspector in training, saw the following numbers in 2025:

- Permit totals: 3,154
- Average Daily Inspections: 35
- Inspection totals: 8,087
- Permit fee totals: \$2,708,512.88

**Delinquent Tax:** The Delinquent Tax Office experienced a productive and efficient year in 2025, marked by increased execution volume, improved deed processing timelines, reduced cancellations, and a strategic change in notice-mailing vendors. Staff continuity and growing institutional knowledge supported improved compliance and service delivery.

The vendor previously contracted to mail delinquent tax notices showed no measurable improvement in performance during 2025. As a result, a new vendor has been selected to mail 2025 delinquent tax year notices, which are scheduled to be issued in calendar year 2026. This change is intended to improve accuracy, reliability, and timeliness of notice delivery. Vendor performance will be closely monitored to ensure continued statutory compliance and service expectations.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>TAX SALE ITEMS</b>	374	343	238	304	233	301
<b>TITLE SEARCHES</b>	613	834	967	893	883	1010
<b>TITLE UPDATES</b>	221	221	166	166	249	151
<b>REDEMPTIONS</b>	138	139	90	64	115	211
<b>CANCELED</b>	37	116	85	30	7	3
<b>DEEDS</b>	198	1	200	251	111	106
<b>PAYMENTS</b>	6647	5591	5691	5534	5161	6188
<b>COLLECTED</b>	\$7,744,824.09	\$4,002,528.08	\$4,597,920.80	\$3,731,590.64	\$3,416,949.05	\$6,510,755.64

**Economic Development:** Oconee County Economic Development announced four projects, representing an anticipated \$55 million in capital investments and the creation of 92 new jobs. (*Annual Report provided.*)

**Emergency Services / Fire and Rescue:** Emergency Services continues to partner with volunteer and paid departments to meet the growing needs of our citizens. Utilizing local partnerships and resources, as well as local, state and federal grants, Emergency Services has expanded services across all areas of the department with a focus on staffing, training, planning and community outreach.

**Bountyland Fire Station:** Since its opening in March 2024, the Bountyland Fire Station has proven to be very busy since its opening in March 2024. In 2025, the 3-person Engine Crew has responded to 1,299 calls for service, providing critical support to the community and its citizens.

**Mental Health:** Oconee County Emergency Services established a Peer Support team, ensuring immediate response to critical incidents. Staff also conducted lectures on Mental Health Awareness to all four Healthcare Coalitions and was awarded the Upstate Healthcare Coalition's Beacon Award for these efforts.

**Staffing:** Oconee County Fire added an Office & Operations Supervisor to the team. Several firefighters were promoted from Firefighter I to Firefighter II as part of their career progression, having met the required experience and training for the new position. In September, the department held its annual promotional assessments for officers (Captain and Lieutenant) and engineers. Five individuals participated in the Captain assessment, nine in the Lieutenant assessment, and eight in the Engineer assessment. All participants passed and were placed on a promotional list for 12 months to fill future openings within the department. Following a Captain vacancy, one individual was promoted to Captain, one to Lieutenant, and one to Engineer.

**Training:** In 2025, 30 Basic Life Support classes were held and over 200 individuals, including Emergency Services personnel and County volunteers/employees, were certified in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation. Oconee County Emergency Services also hosted 9 Emergency Medical First Responders classes which certified/recertified 80 responders.

**Community Outreach and Rescue:** In 2025, Community Outreach conducted 40 Home & Safety visits and installed 90 smoke detectors. Staff also organized a Smoke Detector Blitz with Walhalla City Fire, South Carolina Fire and Red Cross in the Cory Road Community of Walhalla and attended 15 community events providing Home Health/Fire Safety material and information to the citizens of Oconee County.

**Grant-funded Programs:** Emergency Services received various grants to support various initiatives for superior services/support for the people of Oconee County.

**2025 Oconee County Data****Total Calls** **8,482**

Fires	302
(121 Structure Fires)	
Overpressure, explosions	2
Rescue, EMS Calls	5,745
Hazardous Situations	64
Service Calls	1101
Good Intent Calls	1043
False Calls	212
Severe Weather Calls	5
Special Incident Calls	8

**Fire Marshal Division**

Fire Investigations	85
Business Inspections	150
New Construction Inspections	154
Plans Reviews	108
Feasibility Inspections	20

**Facilities Maintenance:** In 2025, Facilities Maintenance completed hundreds of routine work orders for building maintenance, custodial services, and grounds keeping. In addition to these, scores of special projects were completed that may require several days to several months to complete. Project included:

- Repair of the front and rear exterior of the South Cove Park Office;
- Installation of 700' of waterline and hydrants; a deck, steps and door with a canopy at the Chau Ram County Park Superintendent Residence;
- Power upgrades at the High Falls County Park campground;
- Construction of a meeting room and the installation of new flooring and new receptacles at the Walhalla Library;
- Security improvements at the Brown Building;
- Installation of new flooring at the Probation & Parole Building, as well as at the Maintenance Shop;
- Painting of all office and replaced the door at the Sheriff's Substation/Coroner's Office;
- Removal of trees due to safety concerns around the Oconee County Courthouse; and
- Rewiring and installation of a new electrical panel at the Animal Shelter Building.

**Finance:** The Finance Office remained committed to ensuring sound financial management, transparency, and compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations. In 2025, the department focused on maintaining accurate financial records, supporting county operations, and improving internal processes to better serve County Council, Administration, department heads, and employees—while operating for several months without the direction of a Finance Director.

- LAT Collections for Calendar Year 2025 - \$ 1,123,357.81
- ATAX Collections for Calendar Year 2025 - \$ 718,814

**Human Resources:** In 2025, Human Resources onboarded 107 new hires and processed 123 terminations/resignations. Human Resources staff also processed FY 25/26 COLA's for over 500 employees and 150 employee changes (promotions, demotions, incentive increases and status changes).

**Information Technology / Geographic Information Systems (GIS):** In 2025, IT continued to strengthen security on the networks and found ways to reduce costs. Many projects revolved around phones, including the migration, configuration and deployment of the 3CX phone system. IT also revamped the call manager to use greetings for all offices, informing the public of county closures and reducing call volume. IT also saw a 20% increase in tickets or work order requests, while making essential security upgrades.

In 2025, the GIS / Addressing Department assigned 1,472 new 911 addresses (compared to 1,007 previous year) and added 53 new roads to the GIS and 911 databases (compared to 16 in 2024). Throughout the year, the GIS department assisted departments with maps and data collection for various projects. Major projects included:

- Chlorine Tank Dispersal Maps
- 1 Mile Buffer - Parcel - 066-00-01-013
- Walhalla Limits Map for Voter Reg
- Oconee County Boundary Change Official
- Map 250 Revolutionary War
- High Falls County Park underground utility survey
- Solid Waste Population Stat maps
- Fire District Stat Map
- Quarry Project Expansion Maps
- CitizenServe Property owner information services issues
- Senior Solutions Seneca Route Maps
- Bridge Weight limit Map
- GPS New lines and survey utility on western part of South Cove Park
- Produced Utility Survey Map of South Cove County Park
- BPP Results Auditors Office
- Proposed Expansion - Airport Map
- Tax District Share ATT
- Updated 2020 Council Map
- 4 Financial Year 2024-2025 Maps CAFR.

**Library:** In 2025, the library saw some significant improvements, including the completion and dedication of the Maria Macauley Room, a small conference room that can be used by the staff, Library Board, Friends of the Library and general public. The library also saw improvements to the network for the public internet computers. This allowed the libraries to provide Microsoft Office products for the first time in several years.

While the library saw a decrease in new library cards issued compared to previous years, the total number of visitors and items checked out by users increased.

- 144,949 total visitors to the libraries
- 1,819 new library cards issued
- 257,057 items checked out by library users
- 9,107 total items added into circulation

In November 2025, a new Strategic Plan for the library system was completed. The plan allows for the enhancement of the volunteer program and seeks to increase outreach to even more underserved areas of the County.

**Magistrate’s Court:** All Oconee County Magistrate Courts have continued to operated hours and services, as mandated by the Chief Justice and Court Administration. The three Magistrate Offices, as well, as the bond court, continue to serve not only during normal operating hours, but after hours and weekends as well on a rotating basis. The Walhalla and Seneca Magistrate Courts continue to see increased needs for maintenance, repairs and security improvements to meet the needs of the public and staff.

**Parks, Recreation and Tourism:** Oconee County Council has been a major supporter in our ability to provide and enhance the resources managed by our parks, recreation and tourism division. The creation of the parks, recreation and tourism capital projects fund along with the increased accommodations tax revenues from a targeted compliance effort, have provided the resource tools necessary to make significant improvements into deferred park maintenance items and new capital projects that will help sustain our facilities and meet the demands in our community.

To enhance guests’ experiences within the County-operated Park system, twenty-four (24) capital improvement projects are ongoing or were completed in 2025. The Park improvement campaign continues to enhance aging infrastructure and increase our service capabilities for our citizens. Partnering with other County departments, proper planning and the addition of our project manager position have all contributed to the success of our park improvement initiative.

1. New Gateway signs for County secondary roads and Airport - Complete
2. New transient dock/kayak launch/fishing pier at South Cove Park - Complete
3. New transient dock and fishing pier at High Falls Park - Complete
4. High Falls recreation building new covered deck/building remodel - Complete
5. High Falls electric gate for improved emergency access - Complete
6. Shoreline Stabilization Phase 1 at High Falls/South Cove County Parks - Complete
7. Helene damage repair-South Cove County Park recreation building - Complete
8. Enhanced solid waste space at Chau Ram County Park (Roads/Bridges) - Complete
9. Chau Ram Gazebo replacement-storm damage - Complete
10. Chau Ram erosion control - Shelter 1 (Roads/Bridges) - Complete
11. New courtesy dock at South Union Access Area on Lake Hartwell - Complete
12. Maintenance building at Chau Ram County Park - Ongoing
13. Playground/trail enhancements at Chau Ram County Park - Ongoing
14. Enhance pedestrian bridge over Ramsey Creek-Chau Ram - Ongoing
15. Demolition and rebuild of the shelter 1 at Chau Ram County Park - Ongoing
16. High Falls Electrical fire damage repair/upgrade to code - Ongoing
17. High Falls Electrical upgrades to code Superintendent residence - Ongoing
18. High Falls shoreline stabilization Phase 2 - Ongoing
19. Preservation of the Alexander-Cannon-Hill House at High Falls - Ongoing
20. South Cove tennis/pickle ball/parking improvements - Ongoing
21. South Cove pavilion repair - Ongoing
22. South Cove dump station #1 rebuild - Ongoing
23. Campsite rehabilitation completed annually to priority needs - Ongoing
24. Hartwell buildings-electrical/restroom upgrades to code

**Park Improvements/Operational Efficiency:** Oconee parks welcomed 350,000 people through our gates in 2025 in all recreation areas. Park attendance and engagement has continued to be above average post pandemic and is sustaining at all-time highs year over year. In 2025, we had over 400 building rentals, processed over 45,000 parking passes, over 22,000 camping nights and staff also managed to provide or participate in nearly 150 educational programs for our citizens. Included below is our program summary for 2025 that hosted over 5,600 attendees. The addition of the Kids in Parks Track Trail program logged over 700 users in our first year and includes a trail at each park, with the Sparkleberry Nature Trail at High Falls being the newest addition. Staff training and safety is a priority in our service to the public. We currently have ten PRT staff members certified

as Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) to enhance our response and provide support to park emergency calls. During 2025, all 25 staff members participated in a level of industry specific training and we currently are proud to have 15 different employees holding some sort of industry specific certification, including multiple Master Naturalist on staff. Park staff regularly looks for grant opportunities to enhance public service. This year, we received over \$275,000 in direct grants for specific projects.

**Accommodations Tax Use:** As our accommodations tax revenues continue to rise with the implementation of the short-term rental compliance, the use of these revenues provides a number of positive benefits for our community. In 2025, \$140,000 in accommodations grants were provided to 17 different agencies and over \$40,000 was used to provide docents for 4 historic sites and museums to maintain public access. In addition, ATAX revenues funded 5 full time positions, all of our park seasonal staff as well as all of our park maintenance in 2025. This alone represents over \$750,000 removed from the general fund budget.

**Short Term Rental Compliance:** Local ATAX revenues continue to rise due to our investment in host compliance software. Since implementing the software just five short years ago, compliance is consistently above 90% and local ATAX revenues have increased over 250% providing project funding to much needed capital and maintenance items which dramatically decrease the burden of the general fund budget for PRT project needs. Since implementation, over 560 short term rentals have been identified and moved from non-compliance to compliance.

**Planning / Zoning:** In 2025, the Planning Zoning and Code Enforcement Department saw a slight decrease in subdivision applications and vegetative buffer permits. However, Plat reviews and over permit reviews continue to increase.

- The Planning Department has completed the following reviews:
 

Plats:	720
Subdivisions:	31
Permit Reviews:	4,462

**Probate Court:** The Probate Court has continued to improve on providing services to citizens in a time and efficient manner. In general, most walk-ins are taken care of at that time rather than the need of scheduling an appointment. In 2025, the Probate Court provided the following services:

- Received 753 Estate Cases
- Disposed of 1,112 Estate Cases.
- Scheduled 192 Estate, Guardianship and/or Conservatorship cases for court hearings
- Mental Health cases filed: 551
- Orders/Hearings for Mental Health Cases: 119
- Marriage License Issued: 571 (Increased from 482 in 2024)
- Marriage Ceremonies performed at the court: 185

In May of 2025, Probate hosted our 2nd Annual Oconee Probate Court Mental Health Summit at South Cove County Park. This brought all facets of mental partners together to discuss a wide range of various mental health issues and trends. Judge Danny Singleton intend to continue this Summit on a yearly basis. At any given time, the Court may have well over 500 patients throughout the year that is under the jurisdiction of the Court concerning court-ordered mental health and/or drug treatment.

**Procurement:** Procurement reviewed and approved all P-Card transactions processed between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025, to verify proper documentation, compliance with applicable policies, and accuracy of accounting codes. During this period, approximately 12,410 transactions were reviewed, totaling \$3,392,568.93.

In 2025, Procurement issued 554 purchase orders, totaling \$ 24,362,773.66. These purchases included numerous vehicles, equipment and capital items purchased from the 325 Capital Replacement Fund, 335 Emergency Services Fund, 340 One Time Capital and 10 Fund Capital line items. Staff issued four (4) Construction Bids, two (2) non-construction bids, four (4) Request for Proposals, four (4) Request for Quotes and issued twenty-two (22) ITB / RFP /RFQ Renewals. Projects awarded in 2025 include:

- Inmate Food Services
- Inmate Health Care
- Physicals for Firefighters
- Alexander-Cannon Hill House
- South Cove Court Improvements
- Employee Benefits Consultant Services
- Airport Taxiway Pavement Rehabilitation
- Financial Auditing Services
- Concrete Pad at Chau Ram County Park
- On-Call Grinding Services for Solid Waste

**Roads & Bridges:** The Roads and Bridges Department performs routine maintenance on 660 miles of roadway (approximately 500 paved miles and 160 gravel miles). The Road Department completed 2,090 work orders. Part of routine maintenance not captured in work orders is gravel road maintenance, mowing and sloping mowing the road right-of-way, cleaning out culvert pipes found by crews. The department hauled 22,865 tons of stone which is down from 23,707 tons in 2024.

**Rock Quarry:** The Rock Quarry sales in tonnage leveled some in 2025 with the implementation of the out-of-county price rate and limitation to in-county sales on Wednesdays. However, record revenue continued, as seen in June, when the Rock Quarry sold 56,4141 tons of stone for a total of \$ 1,017,256.85, the highest dollar amount the Quarry has ever sold in one month. Rock Quarry sales for the year totaled \$ 10,655,791, an increase of \$1,366,199 from the previous year.

In July, the Rock Quarry implemented a Pilot Program where Wednesdays are reserved for In-County Sales only. While there has been frustration expressed by a handful of out-of-county customers, many customers and residents are thankful to have more access and larger quantities staying within the County.

The Rock Quarry began the process for moving the crushing plant to its new location. This project required new incoming electrical service, plumbing and process/stormwater ponds. The project also required a new wall and Dump Box, which will allow staff to feed the plant in a more cohesive way. The project should be completed by March 2026.

**Solid Waste:** Including Municipal Solid Waste, Construction & Demolition Debris (C&D), Yard Waste, Mulch, Recyclable C&D Debris and Recyclables, Oconee County Solid Waste managed 121,083 tons while staying in compliance with the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SC DES). The Oconee County Solid Waste department saw an increase in recyclables (4,376 tons) collected, including cardboard (1,463 tons). This equates to approximately 73 tractor trailer loads of recycled cardboard. Revenue of \$2,625,118 dollars was collected on tipping fees at the landfill and transfer station, as well as, \$460,855 dollars were collected on recyclable sales for a total revenue of nearly \$3.1 Million dollars.

**Veteran's Affairs:** In 2025, Oconee County hosted the Fourth Annual Oconee Veterans Appreciation Day in October at our beautiful South Cove County Park where 700 Oconee County Veterans and family members enjoyed a special day by the lake. Various public service agencies were on hand share their services for our veterans to help make their lives better and more fulfilled.

For the year 2025, the Oconee County Veterans Affairs Office made services available to thousands of veterans and family members. The following is a snapshot of the myriad of services we assisted our great veterans with:

- 12 veterans were secured temporary or permanent housing
- Over 180 veterans were provided transportation to healthcare appointments in Greenville and Anderson
- 71 military burial honors for local deceased veterans
- Over 150 Pension claims for disabled veterans and their surviving spouses
- 350 claims for veterans who suffered varying degrees of injury / health issues

**Voter Registration and Elections:** In 2025, Voter Registration and Elections conducted eight elections: Five General Elections for our municipalities (Walhalla, West Union, Westminster, Salem, and Seneca) and Three Special Elections for municipalities (Walhalla, West Union, and Westminster).

During the South Carolina Association of Registration and Elections Officials annual conference in January 2025, the Voter Registration and Elections director, Kristie Burr, was recognized with a Heart of Service Award for her leadership in and dedication to the organization.

## IN CLOSING

“It is the mission of Oconee County to provide our current and future citizens and visitors quality services while protecting our communities, heritage, environment and natural resources in an ever-changing world.” Oconee County delivered on this mission, as exhibited by each department’s accomplishments throughout 2025, while managing staffing shortages, continued growth and ever-increasing demands.

### County Insurance Cost Budgeted vs Actual



# 02/20/20 Strategic Planning Retreat

John Elliott

Don Mize

David Root

Matthew Durham

Tommy James

Brittney Martin

Elen Hart

Shannon Stevens

Stewart Jones

Sean Smith - The Jewel

Judy Wilson

Phil Shirlee

Kevin Robinson

Dick Mangrum

Caleb Gilbert

# THE JOURNAL

## PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF OCONEE

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

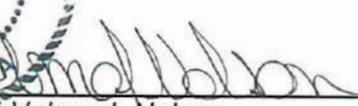
IN RE:

*BEFORE ME* the undersigned, a Notary Public for the State and County above named, This day personally came before me, Larry Davidson, who being first duly sworn according to law, says that he is the General Manager of **THE JOURNAL**, a newspaper published Tuesday through Saturday in Seneca, SC and distributed in **Oconee County, Pickens County** and the Pendleton area of **Anderson County** and the notice (of which the annexed is a true copy) was inserted in said papers on

**January 10, 2026**

the rate charged therefore is not in excess of the regular rates charged private individuals for similar insertions.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Davidson  
General Manager

  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Velma J. Nelson  
Notary Public  
State of South Carolina

Subscribed and sworn to before me this  
1/10/2026

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## HOUSES FOR SALE

### PUBLISHERS NOTICE

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitations or discrimination" based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

## LEGALS

### Public Notice

Linda A. Traylor, Director of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, is a Non-Construction in Navigable Waters Permit to remove 177 cubic yards of silt by using an excavator on a barge at the edge of the shoreline and transported by barge to the off-load staging area. The silt will be removed from under and around the privately owned dock located at 122 Fair Haven Ct in Seneca, SC on Lake Keowee. Comments will be received by South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control at 2600 Bull St, Columbia SC 29201, ATTN: Charles Hightower, Division of Water Quality, until January 23, 2025.

### Public Notice

Sharon Swindale has applied to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control for a Construction in Navigable Waters Permit to remove 256 cubic yards of silt by using an excavator on a barge at the edge of the shoreline and transported by barge to the off-load staging area. The silt will be removed from under and around the privately owned dock located at 13058 Janda Road in Seneca, SC on Lake Keowee. Comments will be received by South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control at 2600 Bull St, Columbia SC 29201, ATTN: Charles Hightower, Division of Water Quality, until January 23, 2025.

The Oconee County Aeronautics Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday January 29, 2026 has been canceled.

The meeting will instead be held on Tuesday January 27, 2026 at 3:30 pm in the Oconee County Chambers located at 415 S. Pine St., Walhalla, SC.

### MEETING NOTICE OF THE PIONEER RURAL WATER DISTRICT

5500 West-Oak Hwy., Westminster, SC  
Tuesday January 13, 2026 @ 3:00 pm

Agenda:  
Call To Order  
Concerns of the District  
Limited: 2 citizens per meeting, for 5 minutes,  
prior scheduling required.  
Agenda & Non Agenda Items: Combined both are limited to a total of forty (40) minutes, four (4) minutes per person.  
Approval of Minutes  
Financial Report / System Report  
Treatment Plant PER Discussion  
Old Business  
New Business  
Adjourn

The Oconee County Council will meet in 2026 on the first and third Tuesday of each month with the following exceptions:

June and November meetings, which will be only on the third Tuesday of each of these months; October and December meetings, which will be only on the first Tuesday of each of these months.

All Council meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held in Council Chambers, Oconee County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, South Carolina.

Oconee County Council will also hold a Planning Retreat beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 20, 2026 to establish short- and long-term goals.

This meeting will be held off-site at Tri-County Technical College, Oconee Campus, conference room located at 552 Education Way, Westminster, South Carolina.

Oconee County Council will also meet on Tuesday, January 5, 2027 in Council Chambers at which point they will establish their 2027 Council and Committee meeting schedules. Additional Council meetings, workshops, and/or committee meetings may be added throughout the year as needed.

Oconee County Council Committees will meet in 2026 prior to County Council meetings on the following dates/times in Council Chambers located at 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, South Carolina unless otherwise advertised.

The Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health, & Welfare Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: February 17, May 19, July 21, & September 15, 2026.

The Transportation Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: February 17, May 19, July 21, & September 15, 2026.

The Real Estate, Facilities, & Land Management Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: April 7, June 16, August 18, & October 06, 2026. The Planning & Economic Development Committee at 4:30 p.m. on

the following dates: April 7, June 16, August 18, & October 06, 2026. The Budget, Finance, & Administration Committee at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates: Friday, February 20th [Strategic Planning Retreat], Friday, February 27th [Budget Workshop] and 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: March 3, April 21, & May 5, 2026.

The Corinth-Shiloh Fire Commission will meet during 2026 on the third Thursday of each month. All Commission meetings, unless otherwise noted, will be held at the Corinth-Shiloh Fire Department, 940 Old Clemson Highway, Seneca, SC 29672, at 6:00 p.m. in the training room.

The Commission will hold two budget workshops on Tuesday, February 12, and Tuesday, March 6, at 6:00 p.m. at the fire department. The annual budget meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Additional Commission meetings and/or workshops may be scheduled throughout the year as needed. A monthly schedule is available at the fire department.

Members of the Commission are invited to attend Corinth-Shiloh Volunteer Fire Department meetings, trainings, and community activities. These events will have no Commission agenda items and no Commission action will be taken. The monthly department meeting is held on the first Monday of each month. Training is held on the third Monday of each month, as well as the Saturday following the third Monday. A monthly schedule of activities, including dates and times, is available at the fire department.

Several fire department ceremonies are planned for 2026, to which the Fire Commission is invited. These events will have no Commission agenda items and no Commission action will be taken. Scheduled events include Meet the Chief on January 15 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and the Transfer of Command on Friday, February 27, at 6:00 p.m. Summer and fall family events, Station Open Houses and other community fire department events, and the annual Christmas dinner has not yet been scheduled. Once

finalized, dates, times, and locations will be available at the fire department. These events will have no Commission agenda items and no Commission action will be taken.

Commission agendas will be available and publicized no later than the day prior to the scheduled meeting and/or workshop at [www.corinthshilohfd.com](http://www.corinthshilohfd.com). All meetings and workshops, with the exception of executive sessions, are open to the public.

**CLASSIFIEDS WORK!**

# Oconee County Council

Oconee County  
Administrative Offices  
415 South Pine Street  
Walhalla, SC 29691

Phone: 864-718-1023  
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John Elliott  
District I

Matthew Durham  
Chairman  
District II

Don Mize  
Vice Chairman  
District III

Thomas James  
Chairman Pro Tem  
District IV

J. Glenn Hart  
District V



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Sec. 2-61. - Access to and conduct at county meetings, facilities and property.

(a) *Purpose.* The county council has determined that it is necessary to regulate access to county facilities, grounds and property in order to ensure the safety and security of the public who visit these areas or the county employees who serve them. **The conduct of persons who visit county facilities and/or who have contact with county employees must also be regulated to preserve public order, peace and safety.** The regulation of access and conduct must be balanced with the right of the public to have reasonable access to public facilities and to receive friendly, professional service from county employees. These regulations apply to all county facilities and meetings, as defined below, for and over which county council exercises control and regulation, and to the extent, only, not pre-empted by state or federal law.

(b) *Definitions.* The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*Facility* means any building, structure, or real property owned, leased, rented, operated or occupied by the county or one of its departments, offices or agencies.

***Meeting* means any assemblage of persons for the purpose of conducting county governmental business, operations or functions or any assemblage of persons within a county governmental facility.** The term "meeting" includes, but is not limited to, county council meetings, county board and committee and staff meetings, trials, hearings and other proceedings conducted in the courts of general sessions and common pleas, family court, master-in-equity, probate court and magistrate's court; and other meetings by entities duly authorized by the county council.

(c) *Prohibited acts.* It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- (1) **Utter loud, obscene, profane, threatening, disruptive or abusive language or to engage in any disorderly or disruptive conduct that impedes, disrupts or disturbs the orderly proceedings of any meeting,** or operations of any department or function of the county government, including, without limitation, speaking when not explicitly recognized and authorized to do so by the presiding official in such meeting.
- (2) Bring, carry, or otherwise introduce any firearm, knife with blade longer than two inches or other dangerous weapon, concealed or not concealed, into any facility or meeting. This prohibition does not apply to law enforcement personnel or any other person whose official, governmental duties require them to carry such firearm, knife, or other weapon.
- (3) Engage in partisan political activity, including speech, in any meeting not authorized and called for the purpose of partisan political activity and explicitly authorized for such purpose in the facility in which such activity is to be conducted, or refusing to cease such activity when

the presiding official of the meeting in question has ruled that the activity in question is partisan political activity and has directed that such activity stop.

- (4) Interfere with, impede, hinder or obstruct any county governmental official or employee in the performance of his duties, whether or not on county government property.
- (5) Enter any area of a county government facility, grounds or property when such entry is prohibited by signs, or obstructed or enclosed by gates, fencing or other physical barriers. Such areas include rooms if clearly marked with signs to prohibit unauthorized entry.
- (6) Enter by vehicle any area of a county governmental facility, grounds or property when such area is prohibited by signs or markings or are obstructed by physical barriers; or park a vehicle in such restricted areas; or park in a manner to block, partially block or impede the passage of traffic in driveways; or park within 15 feet of a fire hydrant or in a fire zone; or park in any area not designated as a parking space; or park in a handicapped parking space without proper placarding or license plate; or park in a reserved parking space without authorization.
- (7) Use any county governmental facility, grounds or other property for any purpose not authorized by law or expressly permitted by officials responsible for the premises.
- (8) Enter without authorization or permission or refuse to leave any county governmental facility, grounds or other property after hours of operation.
- (9) Obstruct or impede passage within a building, grounds or other property of any county governmental facility.
- (10) Enter, without legal cause or good excuse, a county governmental facility, grounds or property after having been warned not to do so; or, having entered such property, fail and refuse without legal cause or good excuse to leave immediately upon being ordered or requested to do so by an official, employee, agent or representative responsible for premises.
- (11) Damage, deface, injure or attempt to damage, deface or injure a county governmental property, whether real property or otherwise.
- (12) Enter or attempt to enter any restricted or nonpublic ingress point or any restricted access area, or bypass or attempt to bypass the designated public entrance or security checkpoint of a facility without authorization or permission.
- (13) Perform any act which circumvents, disables or interferes with or attempts to circumvent, disable or interfere with a facility's security system, alarm system, camera system, door lock or other intrusion prevention or detection device. This includes, without limitation, opening, blocking open, or otherwise disabling an alarmed or locked door or other opening that would allow the entry of an unauthorized person into a facility or restricted access area of the facility.
- (14) Exit or attempt to exit a facility through an unauthorized egress point or alarmed door.

(d) *Penalty for violation of section.* Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished in accordance with section 1-7. In addition, vehicles that are improperly parked on any county property, facility, or other premises may be towed at the owner's expense.

(Ord. No. 2003-04, §§ 1—4, 4-15-2003; Ord. No. 2012-06, § 1, 4-3-2012)