

PROCUREMENT - AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

OCONEE COUNTY, SC

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: September 1, 2026

ITEM TITLE:

Procurement #: RFP 26-01

Title: Aviation Fuel

Department(s): Airport

Estimated Amount: \$2,186,168.00

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Procurement was approved by Council in Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget process.

Finance Approval: _____

Budget: \$2,186,168* Project Cost: \$2,186,168* **Balance: 0**

(\$270,000.00 for Avgas, \$1,892,000.00 for Jet A, and \$24,168.00 for leased equipment. Total budget reflected. Previous contract expenditures pending. Actual PO and expenditures for recommended contract will align with remaining budget amount after closing previous contract.)*

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION:

The RFP is for the purchase and delivery of aviation fuels, including 100 Octane Low Lead (Avgas) and Jet A, on an as-needed basis for the County Airport's Fixed Base Operator (FBO), as well as the lease of fuel trucks for the duration of the contract.

Pricing will be based on the Weekly Market Rack Price for Avgas and the Weekly U.S. Gulf Coast Mean Average for Jet A for the week prior to the order and delivery. The primary terminal for Avgas is Wilmington, NC, and the primary terminal for Jet A is Belton, SC. If fuel is not available at the primary terminals, alternate terminals in Savannah, GA, for Avgas and North Augusta, SC, for Jet A, will be utilized.

The fuels are sold to the public, including aircraft based at the Airport and transient aircraft visiting the Airport. There are currently 85 based aircraft at the Airport.

The current fuel contract expires on **September 30, 2026**. Award of the RFP is necessary to avoid an interruption in fuel supply to Airport customers.

Quantities included in the RFP were estimated for pricing purposes. The cost of bulk fuel is offset through retail fuel sales. Bulk fuel costs are reflected as expenditures in the Airport's budget and retail fuel sales are reflected as revenues.

The cost of bulk fuel is paid through retail fuel sales and is reflected as revenue and expenditures in the Airport's budget.

The total amount requested for Council approval is based on the amounts budgeted in the Airport's FY 2026-2027 budget for fuel purchases and leased equipment:

- **\$270,000.00** – Avgas
- **\$1,892,000.00** – Jet A
- **\$24,168.00** – Leased Equipment
- **Total: \$2,186,168.00**

Because the current fuel contract expires on September 30, 2026, which is partway through the FY 2026-2027 fiscal year, a portion of the budgeted funds for fuel purchases has already been utilized for fuel purchases made in July, August, and September under the expiring contract. Accordingly, the purchase order for FY 2026-2027 will be issued for the amounts remaining available in the applicable budget codes. This timing accounts for the difference between the total contract award amount and the budgeted amounts reflected in the Financial Impact section, as a portion of the FY 2026-2027 budget has already been expended under the current contract.

Sealed proposals were opened on July 21, 2026. Eleven (11) fuel providers were originally notified of the opportunity, and five (5) companies submitted proposals. A County Staff Evaluation Committee reviewed and scored the proposals and unanimously recommended award to Eastern Aviation Fuels, Inc., dba Titan Aviation Fuels, of New Bern, NC.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. RFP 26-01 Committee Scoring Sheet

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is the staff's recommendation that Council:

1. Approve the award of RFP 26-01, Aviation Fuel, to Eastern Aviation Fuels, Inc., dba Titan Aviation Fuels, of New Bern, NC, in an estimated amount of \$2,186,168.00.
2. Authorize the County Administrator to execute the contract documents and renew the contract for up to four (4) additional one-year periods, provided the annual amount does not exceed the amount budgeted for aviation fuel and leased equipment and the services provided are satisfactory.

Submitted or Prepared By: _____ Approved for Submittal to Council: _____
Tronda C. Popham, Procurement Director Stewart O. Jones, County Administrator

Council has directed that they receive their agenda packages a week prior to each Council meeting, therefore, Agenda Item Summaries must be submitted to the Administrator for his review/approval no later than 12 days prior to each Council meeting. It is the Department Head / Elected Officials responsibility to ensure that all approvals are obtained prior to submission to the Administrator for inclusion on an agenda.

A calendar with due dates marked may be obtained from the Clerk to Council.

RFP 26-01

Aviation Fuel for Oconee County Regional Airport
SCORES - 500 point scale

Open Date: July 21, 2026 @ 2:00pm

Bidders	Ascent Aviation Group, Inc. a subsidiary of World Fuel Services, Inc.	Associated Energy Group, LLC	Avfuel Corporation	Campbell Oil Company	Eastern Aviation Fuels, Inc. dba Titan Aviation Fuels
Evaluator 1	268.00	292.00	270.00	254.00	388.00
Evaluator 2	320.00	330.00	376.00	168.00	446.00
Evaluator 3	372.00	372.00	378.00	290.00	492.00
Evaluator 4	392.00	322.00	392.00	66.00	464.00
Evaluator 5	274.00	276.00	248.00	146.00	422.00
TOTAL SCORE	1626.00	1592.00	1664.00	924.00	2212.00
RANKING	3	4	2	5	1
AVERAGE SCORE	325.20	318.40	332.80	184.80	442.40
AVERAGE RANKING	3	4	2	5	1

PROCUREMENT - AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

OCONEE COUNTY, SC

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: September 1, 2026

ITEM TITLE:

Procurement #: RFP 25-09 Title: Professional Engineering/Consultant On-Call Services Department(s): All Amount: TBD

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no dollar amount associated with this approval at this time. All County departments with a budget for professional services may utilize this RFP, provided expenditures do not exceed the amounts budgeted for these services. Any future professional services project in any category with a total cost exceeding \$50,000 will be brought to Council for approval on a project-by-project basis.

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION:

Request for Proposals (RFP) 25-09, Professional Engineering / Consultant On-Call Services, was issued to solicit qualified firms to provide professional engineering and architectural services in the following categories of work:

- Category A – On-Call Planning Services
- Category B – On-Call Roadway and Bridge Services
- Category C – On-Call Environmental Assessment Services
- Category D – On-Call Geotechnical Engineering and Construction Testing Services
- Category E – On-Call General Engineering Services
- Category F – On-Call Surveying Services
- Category G – On-Call Architectural/Engineering Services
- Category H – On-Call Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing (MEP) Services

When a county department has a project requiring services within one of the identified categories, the department head may contact the primary firm awarded for that category and request a proposal for the required services. This process eliminates the need for the County to issue a separate RFP each time these services are needed.

The contract also provides flexibility when the primary top-ranked firm is unable to perform the requested services due to scheduling constraints, workload, other limitations, or because the specific project falls outside the firm's area of specialty. In such instances, the County may offer the opportunity to the next highest-ranked firm within the applicable category, and so on. The County may then negotiate pricing for the specific project with the selected firm.

RFP 25-09 was issued on May 8, 2026, and distributed to ninety-six (96) firms. Twenty-six (26) firms responded to the solicitation, with some firms submitting proposals for multiple categories. An Evaluation Committee consisting of County staff reviewed and evaluated the proposals in accordance with the established evaluation criteria and applicable procurement requirements. Proposals were reviewed and scored within each applicable category, with firms advancing through the evaluation process as appropriate. Categories A, B, E, and G required interviews, which were conducted on August 5–6, 2026. Final award recommendations were based on the established evaluation criteria and the results of the applicable evaluation process.

The Evaluation Committee recommends awarding the following categories to the respective firms:

- Category A: Inspire Placemaking Collective, Inc., Atlanta, GA
- Categories B and F: Davis & Floyd, Inc., Greenwood, SC
- Categories C and D: Terracon Consultants, Inc., Greenville, SC
- Category E: Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co., Greenville, SC
- Category G: LS3P Associates, LTD., Greenville, SC
- Category H: Devita & Associates, Inc., Greenville, SC

Each contract will have an initial term of one year, with the option for up to four additional one-year renewals, contingent upon satisfactory performance and the County's continued need for the services.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. RFP Tab Sheet – showing all twenty-six (26) firms and associated categories
2. Summary Score Sheet

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that Council:

1. Approve the award of RFP 25-09 for Professional Engineering / Consultant On-Call Services to the following firms for the listed categories:
Category A: Inspire Placemaking Collective, Inc., Atlanta, GA
Categories B and F: Davis & Floyd, Inc., Greenwood, SC
Categories C and D: Terracon Consultants, Inc., Greenville, SC
Category E: Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co., Greenville, SC
Category G: LS3P Associates, LTD., Greenville, SC
Category H: Devita & Associates, Inc., Greenville, SC
2. Authorize the County Administrator to execute contracts with each awarded firm and to renew the contracts for up to four (4) additional one-year terms, provided that performance remains satisfactory and the services continue to be needed.

Submitted or Prepared By: _____ Approved for Submittal to Council: _____
Tronda C. Popham, Procurement Director Stewart O. Jones, County Administrator

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SUMMARY SHEET
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING / CONSULTING ON-CALL SERVICES RFP 25-09

CATEGORY A - PLANNING										
ROUND 1 - Proposals Submitted/Interview Selection						ROUND 2 - Interviews/Selection				
	Benchmark CMR, Inc.	Davis & Floyd, Inc.	Inspire Placemaking Collective, Inc	LS3P Associates, LTD.	Seamon Whiteside & Associates, Inc.					
TOTAL	383.5	331.5	363.5	286	347					
RANKING	1	4	2	5	3					
CATEGORY B - ROADWAY AND BRIDGE SERVICES										
ROUND 1 - Proposals Submitted/Interview Selection						ROUND 2 - Interviews/Selection				
	Davis & Floyd, Inc.	GFT Infrastructure, Inc.	Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering, LLC	JMT	Summit Engineering Group, Inc.					
TOTAL	386.5	365.5	383.5	356.5	235.5					
RANKING	1	3	2	4	5					
CATEGORY C - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SERVICES										
ROUND 1 - Proposals Submitted/Interview Selection						ROUND 2 - Interviews/Selection				
	Bunnell-Lammons Engineering, Inc.	Davis & Floyd, Inc.	EAS Professionals, Inc.	ECS Southeast, LLC	Goldie & Associates	Consulting & Engineering, LLC	JMT	S&ME, Inc.	Smith Gardner, Inc.	Terracon Consultants, Inc.
TOTAL	363.5	352	300.5	354	344	334	332.5	371.5	334.5	373
RANKING	3	5	10	4	6	8	9	2	7	1
CATEGORY D - GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION TESTING SERVICES										
ROUND 1 - Proposals Submitted/Interview Selection						ROUND 2 - Interviews/Selection				
	Bunnell-Lammons Engineering, Inc.	EAS Professionals, Inc.	ECS Southeast, LLC	Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering, LLC	MC Squared, LLC	NOVA Engineering and Environmental, LLC	S&ME, Inc.	Terracon Consultants, Inc.		
TOTAL	357.5	348.5	377	331	323.5	343	371.5	390		
RANKING	4	5	2	7	8	6	3	1		
CATEGORY E - GENERAL ENGINEERING SERVICES										
ROUND 1 - Proposals Submitted/Interview Selection						ROUND 2 - Interviews/Selection				
	Alliance Consulting Engineers, Inc	Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.	Goldie & Associates	JMT	REI Engineers, Inc.	Seamon, Whiteside & Associates, Inc.	Summit Engineering Group, Inc.	Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co.		
TOTAL	357.5	348	336.5	350.5	242.5	363.5	289	353		
RANKING	2	5	6	4	8	1	7	3		
CATEGORY F - SURVEYING SERVICES										
ROUND 1 - Proposals Submitted/Interview Selection						ROUND 2 - Interviews/Selection				
	Davis & Floyd, Inc.	EAS Professionals, Inc.	Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering, LLC	JMT	Seamon, Whiteside & Associates, Inc.	Smith Gardner, Inc.	Stephen R. Edwards and Assoc.	Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co.		
TOTAL	394.5	360	360	354	362	360	191.5	352.5		
RANKING	1	3	3	6	2	3	8	7		
CATEGORY G - ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SERVICES										
ROUND 1 - Proposals Submitted/Interview Selection						ROUND 2 - Interviews/Selection				
	Goldie & Associates	JMT	LS3P Associates, LTD.	Craig, Gaulding & Davis, LLC dba CGD /	Raymond Global, Inc.					
TOTAL	245	326.5	367.5	364	360					
RANKING	5	4	1	2	3					
CATEGORY H - Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing (MEP)										
ROUND 1 - Proposals Submitted/Interview Selection						ROUND 2 - Interviews/Selection				
	Devita & Associates, Inc.	JMT								
TOTAL	380	337.5								
RANKING	1	2								

Bidders	Firm Location	Category A- Planning Services	Category B - Roadway and Bridge Services	Category C - Environmental Assessment Services	Category D - Geotechnical Engineering and Construction Testing Services	Category E - General Engineering Services	Category F - Surveying Services	Category G - Architectural/ Engineering Services	Category H MEP Engineering Services
Alliance Consulting Engineers, Inc	Greenville, SC					X			
Benchmark CMR, Inc.	Charlotte, NC	X							
Bunnell-Lammons Engineering, Inc.	Greenville, SC				X				
Bunnell-Lammons Engineering, Inc.	Greenville, SC			X					
Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.	Greenville, SC					X			
Davis & Floyd, Inc.	Greenwood, SC	X	X	X			X		
Devita & Associates, Inc.	Greenville, SC								X
EAS Professionals, Inc.	Greenville, SC			X	X		X		
ECS Southeast, LLC	Greenville, SC				X				
ECS Southeast, LLC	Greenville, SC			X					
GFT Infrastructure, Inc.	Greenville, SC		X						
Goldie & Associates	Seneca, SC			X		X		X	
Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering, LLC	Greenville, SC		X	X	X		X		
Inspire Placemaking Collective, Inc	Orlando, FL / Closest Office Atlanta, GA	X							
JMT	Spartanburg, SC		X	X		X	X	X	X
LS3P Associates, LTD.	Greenville, SC	X						X	
MC Squared, LLC	Kennesaw, GA Supported by Columbia, SC and Pawleys Island, SC				X				
NOVA Engineering and Environmental, LLC.	Greenville, SC				X				
Craig Gauden & Davis, LLC. Dba CDG / PBK	Greenville, SC							X	
Raymond Global, Inc.	Greenville, SC							X	
REI Engineers, Inc.	Charlotte, NC Closest Office: Seneca, SC					X			
S&ME, Inc.	Greenville, SC			X	X				
Seamon, Whiteside & Associates, Inc.	Greenville, SC	X				X	X		
Smith Gardner, Inc.	Columbia, SC			X			X		
Stephen R. Edwards and Associates, Inc.	West Union, SC						X		
Summit Engineering Group, Inc.	Spartanburg, SC		X			X			
Terracon Consultants, Inc.	Greenville, SC			X	X				
Thomas & Hutton Engineering Co.	Greenville, SC					X	X		
Total Responses per Category		5	5	10	8	8	8	5	2

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF OCONEE
PROCLAMATION 2026-09**

**A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE 88TH ANNIVERSARY OF
AMERICA’S FIRST FARM CONSERVATION PLAN ESTABLISHED IN
OCONEE COUNTY ON PLOMA M. ADAMS’S FARMLAND**

WHEREAS, the soil and water resources of Oconee County are the foundation for the health and well-being of our residents; and

WHEREAS, the wise use of soil and water in Oconee County is essential to a sound environment, a strong economy, and the vibrancy of agriculture, forestry, and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, each county in South Carolina is organized as a Soil and Water Conservation District and managed by a board of commissioners; and

WHEREAS, these districts are dedicated to preserving Oconee County’s natural resources by promoting the sustainable use of soil and water for the entire community; and

WHEREAS, Oconee Soil and Water Conservation District is the first Conservation District in the United States of America to establish a farm conservation plan on February 4, 1938; and

WHEREAS, Ploma M. Adams, an Oconee County native, held 330 acres of this farmland just west of the City of Seneca; and

WHEREAS, Ploma M. Adams implemented conservation practices such as cover crops, crop rotation, and combating soil erosion through terracing to protect soil health.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Oconee County Council, do hereby recognize the 88th anniversary of America’s first farm conservation plan established in Oconee County on Ploma M. Adams’s farmland.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of September 2026.

Attest:

OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to County Council
Oconee County

Matthew Durham, Chairman
Oconee County Council

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF OCONEE
PROCLAMATION 2026-10**

**A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES
CONSTITUTION WEEK**

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States of America, the guardian of our liberties, embodies the principles of limited government and has served as a guiding document for our nation through times of great challenge and change, protecting the rights and freedoms of generations of Americans; and

WHEREAS, September 17, 2026, marks the 239th anniversary of the signing of the final draft of the Constitution by the delegates to the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, it is important for citizens of all ages to understand and appreciate the principles and ideals embodied in the Constitution and the responsibilities of citizenship necessary to preserve our constitutional form of government; and

WHEREAS, Constitution Week provides an opportunity for citizens to reflect upon the significance of the Constitution, recognize the sacrifices made to protect our freedoms and reaffirm our commitment to the principles upon which the United States was founded.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Oconee County Council, do hereby recognize the week of September 17–23, 2026 as **CONSTITUTION WEEK** and urge all citizens to study the Constitution and reflect on the privilege of being an American with all the rights and responsibilities which that privilege involves.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of September 2026.

Attest:

OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to County Council
Oconee County

Matthew Durham, Chairman
Oconee County Council

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF OCONEE
ORDINANCE 2026-26**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING AN ARTICLE ENTITLED “PROTECTION FROM MASS SURVEILLANCE”; TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF COUNTY FUNDS, PROPERTY, PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT, CONTRACTS, INFORMATION-TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS, AND OTHER COUNTY RESOURCES FOR PROHIBITED MASS SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS; TO PROHIBIT THE PLACEMENT OR OPERATION OF SUCH SYSTEMS ON COUNTY PROPERTY AND WITHIN COUNTY-CONTROLLED ROAD RIGHTS-OF-WAY; TO ESTABLISH ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCRETIONARY COUNTY APPROPRIATIONS, RECREATION FUNDS, ACCOMMODATIONS-TAX AWARDS, GRANTS, SPONSORSHIPS, AND OTHER COUNTY-CONTROLLED DISTRIBUTIONS; TO INCLUDE MUNICIPALLY SPONSORED EVENTS AND MATERIAL IN-KIND MUNICIPAL SUPPORT WITHIN SUCH ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS; TO PREVENT CIRCUMVENTION THROUGH AFFILIATED OR SEPARATELY INCORPORATED ENTITIES; TO AMEND CHAPTER 30, ARTICLE III, BY ADDING PERMANENT ACCOMMODATIONS-TAX ELIGIBILITY, DISCLOSURE, AND ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS; TO AMEND CHAPTER 26 BY PROHIBITING MASS SURVEILLANCE ENCROACHMENTS WITHIN COUNTY-CONTROLLED RIGHTS-OF-WAY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, Oconee County, South Carolina, the “County,” is a body politic and corporate and a political subdivision of the State of South Carolina, acting by and through the Oconee County Council, the “County Council”; and

WHEREAS, S.C. Code § 4-9-25 authorizes counties to enact regulations, resolutions, and ordinances, not inconsistent with the Constitution and general law of South Carolina, respecting subjects that counties determine to be necessary and proper for their security, general welfare, convenience, health, peace, order, and good government, and directs that County powers be liberally construed in favor of counties; and

WHEREAS, S.C. Code § 4-9-30 authorizes County Council, among other powers, to acquire and control real and personal property, make and execute contracts, make appropriations for County functions and operations, provide for accounting and disbursement of funds, regulate County roads and public works, and enact and enforce ordinances implementing those powers; and

WHEREAS, County Council recognizes a fundamental distinction between the observation of a particular person, vehicle, device, activity, or event at a specific place and time and the systematic collection, aggregation, identification, retention, analysis, and sharing of large numbers of observations in a manner capable of reconstructing the movements, activities, behaviors, relationships, and associations of persons who are not suspected of criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, Modern surveillance systems may automatically identify, distinguish, classify, follow, track, or associate persons, vehicles, electronic devices, activities, movements, and locations through automated license plate recognition, vehicle-feature recognition, facial recognition, biometric identification, artificial intelligence, machine learning, computer vision, wireless-device

identification, geolocation analysis, persistent aerial surveillance, and other existing or future technologies; and

WHEREAS, County Council does not intend to prohibit automated license plate recognition merely because a system reads alphanumeric plate characters or performs a basic exact-match comparison against a specifically identified, lawfully maintained hot list, but does intend to prohibit systems that add historical tracking, external network sharing, warrantless external access, artificial intelligence, biometric recognition, persistent monitoring, or other capabilities that constitute mass surveillance; and

WHEREAS, County Council recognizes that a system whose retained information is inaccessible unless prior individualized judicial authorization is technically verified, and that neither contributes information to nor is searchable through an external surveillance database or network, does not present the same mass-surveillance risks as an open, shared, or warrantless system; and

WHEREAS, County Council finds that the indiscriminate collection of identifying or reasonably linkable information concerning persons who are not suspected of criminal activity, when combined with artificial intelligence, machine learning, algorithmic analysis, interstate information sharing, external databases, or access by agencies outside the collecting jurisdiction without prior individualized judicial authorization, creates substantial risks to personal privacy, freedom of movement, freedom of association, freedom of religion, political participation, property rights, and other liberties protected by the United States Constitution, the South Carolina Constitution, and the traditions of a free society; and

WHEREAS, County Council finds that a person's movements and activities may reveal visits to a home, church, medical provider, attorney, political meeting, campaign event, civic organization, place of employment, school, charitable organization, or other location from which sensitive personal activities, beliefs, and associations may be inferred; and

WHEREAS, County Council finds that the governmental collection of information from a place open to public view does not eliminate the heightened privacy and liberty concerns created when large numbers of individual observations are aggregated into a comprehensive, searchable, analyzable, and shareable history of a person's movements, activities, behaviors, and associations; and

WHEREAS, County Council finds that artificial intelligence and algorithmic analysis can transform ordinary images, sounds, observations, or electronic signals into detailed profiles, behavioral patterns, associations, predictions, classifications, alerts, and investigative leads concerning persons who are not suspected of criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, County Council finds that requiring individualized judicial authorization before accessing a detailed history of a person's movements, activities, or associations provides an important safeguard against indiscriminate, improper, politically motivated, or otherwise abusive surveillance; and

WHEREAS, County Council does not intend through this Ordinance to direct the conduct of any specific criminal investigation, interfere with a lawful emergency response, regulate ordinary cameras located entirely on private property outside County property or County-controlled rights-of-way, alter any duty expressly assigned to an elected official by the general law of South Carolina, or regulate the operational decision of a constitutional officer or municipal law-enforcement officer to request, receive, or use lawfully available information from a system that the officer's jurisdiction

does not own, fund, contract for, operate, host, maintain, or supply with locally collected surveillance information; and

WHEREAS, County Council does intend to exercise its lawful authority over County appropriations, County property, County contracts, County equipment, County personnel resources, County information-technology systems, County-administered grants, County-controlled road rights-of-way, and other County-controlled resources; and

WHEREAS, County Council finds that County taxpayers should not be required to purchase, fund, operate, maintain, host, power, connect, or otherwise support a mass surveillance system that systematically records, identifies, analyzes, or shares information concerning County residents and visitors who are not suspected of criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, County Council further finds that a municipality or other governmental entity has no entitlement to receive a discretionary County appropriation, grant, sponsorship, recreation allocation, capital contribution, or other discretionary distribution of County-controlled funds; and

WHEREAS, County Council finds that it is contrary to County policy and inconsistent with the County's stewardship of limited public resources to provide discretionary financial assistance to a governmental entity that chooses to participate in a prohibited mass surveillance system; and

WHEREAS, County accommodations-tax revenues are intended to promote tourism, attract visitors, support tourism-related facilities and events, and enhance the experience of persons visiting Oconee County, subject to the requirements of S.C. Code §§ 6-4-10, 6-4-25, 6-1-520, and 6-1-530; and

WHEREAS, County Council finds that it is inconsistent with those purposes to use County-administered discretionary tourism funds to subsidize a municipality that systematically identifies, records, catalogs, analyzes, tracks, or shares information concerning the residents and visitors whom those funds are intended to serve or attract; and

WHEREAS, County Council recognizes that municipalities frequently sponsor festivals and events through nonprofit corporations, festival boards, committees, chambers of commerce, civic organizations, fiscal agents, or other separately organized entities; and

WHEREAS, County Council finds that municipal sponsorship may consist of appropriated money or material in-kind assistance, including law-enforcement details, traffic control, road closures, barricades, municipal park or street space, public works labor, sanitation, equipment, insurance, administrative assistance, promotion, utility service, fee waivers, or other governmental support having material value; and

WHEREAS, County Council finds that the substance and economic reality of a municipality's relationship with an event should control over the legal name, tax status, or nominal independence of the event organizer and that the eligibility requirements established by this Ordinance should not be circumvented by routing an application or payment through a separate committee, nonprofit corporation, contractor, chamber of commerce, fiscal agent, or affiliated organization; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 26 of the Oconee County Code of Ordinances and the County's adopted encroachment policies regulate activities and installations within County-maintained roads, easements, and rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, County Council finds that County-owned property and County-controlled road rights-of-way should not be used as platforms for prohibited mass surveillance systems, regardless of whether a camera, sensor, scanner, device, supporting pole, communications equipment, software

platform, or associated infrastructure is owned by a governmental entity, private vendor, utility company, contractor, or other person; and

WHEREAS, County Council has determined that the following provisions are necessary and proper for the protection of the general welfare, preservation of liberty, responsible administration of County resources, and good government of Oconee County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Oconee County Council, in meeting duly assembled, that:

SECTION 1. CREATION OF CHAPTER 2 ARTICLE

Chapter 2 of the Oconee County Code of Ordinances is amended by adding a new Article VII, entitled “Protection from Mass Surveillance,” consisting of Sections 2-500 through 2-516, to read as follows.

ARTICLE VII. PROTECTION FROM MASS SURVEILLANCE

Sec. 2-500. Title.

This article shall be known and may be cited as the “Oconee County Protection from Mass Surveillance Ordinance.”

Sec. 2-501. Purpose and construction.

(a) The purposes of this article are to:

1. Prevent County-controlled funds and resources from being used to acquire, own, fund, operate, maintain, host, or otherwise support prohibited mass surveillance systems;
2. Prevent County-owned or County-controlled property and road rights-of-way from being used for the installation, hosting, support, or operation of prohibited mass surveillance systems;
3. Establish uniform eligibility requirements for discretionary County appropriations, grants, accommodations-tax awards, recreation funds, sponsorships, and other County-controlled distributions;
4. Prevent circumvention of those eligibility requirements through separate corporations, nonprofit organizations, festival committees, affiliated entities, fiscal agents, contractors, or other intermediaries;
5. Protect the privacy, liberty, freedom of movement, freedom of religion, freedom of association, political participation, property rights, and other rights of Oconee County residents and visitors; and
6. Ensure that County-controlled funds and resources are administered consistently with the policies adopted by County Council.

(b) This article shall be construed broadly to accomplish its remedial and protective purposes, but not in a manner inconsistent with the Constitution or general law of South Carolina.

(c) The capability, configuration, operation, integration, and practical effect of a system shall control over its brand name, marketing description, nominal purpose, ownership, or characterization by its vendor or operator.

(d) A system composed of several separately owned or operated components shall be evaluated according to the collective capabilities and practical effect of the integrated system.

(e) As applied to an independently elected County officer whose office is created by the Constitution or general law of South Carolina, this article governs only: (1) the appropriation or expenditure of County-controlled funds; (2) contracts or procurements entered into by or on behalf of the County using County-controlled funds; and (3) the installation, ownership, operation, hosting, or maintenance of a prohibited mass surveillance system on County property or within a County-controlled right-of-way over which County Council possesses lawful proprietary or regulatory authority.

(f) Nothing in this article regulates or prohibits the operational decision of such a constitutional officer or the officer's employees to search, query, request, receive, analyze, or use lawfully available information from a system owned and operated by another entity. Ordinary use of County-provided office space, personnel, computers, networks, utilities, or communications in the lawful performance of the officer's duties does not, standing alone, constitute County acquisition, ownership, operation, hosting, maintenance, or support of a prohibited mass surveillance system.

Sec. 2-502. Definitions.

For purposes of this article, the following definitions apply:

Artificial intelligence or algorithmic analysis

“Artificial intelligence or algorithmic analysis” means artificial intelligence, machine learning, neural-network processing, computer vision, predictive analytics, pattern recognition, automated classification, automated decision-making, or another computational process used to identify, distinguish, verify, classify, compare, rank, associate, follow, track, predict, infer, profile, or generate an alert concerning a person, vehicle, electronic device, object, location, route, activity, behavior, characteristic, or association.

The term does not include basic motion detection, image stabilization, cybersecurity filtering, nonidentifying traffic counting, optical character recognition used solely to read alphanumeric license plate characters, or a basic one-to-one exact-match comparison of those characters against a specifically identified, lawfully maintained hot list, unless used as part of a prohibited mass surveillance system.

Automated biometric recognition

“Automated biometric recognition” means the automated or algorithmic identification, attempted identification, verification, categorization, reidentification, or tracking of a person based upon a biological, physiological, physical, or behavioral characteristic.

The term includes recognition or analysis based upon:

1. Face or facial geometry;
2. Iris or retina;
3. Voice or voiceprint;
4. Gait or manner of movement;
5. Fingerprint;
6. Hand, palm, or vein geometry;
7. Body shape or body geometry;
8. Ear shape;
9. Tattoos, scars, birthmarks, or other distinguishing physical features;
10. Clothing or combinations of physical appearance;

11. Behavioral characteristics; or

12. A mathematical, digital, or algorithmic template derived from any such characteristic.

The term does not include automated face or license plate detection used solely to blur, mask, or redact identities in a recording or image before disclosure or release, provided the technology is not used to identify, reidentify, classify, or track a person.

County

“County” means Oconee County, South Carolina, including its departments, agencies, boards, commissions, offices, facilities, employees, officials, and other organizational units, only to the extent County Council possesses lawful appropriations, property, contracting, administrative, or policy authority over them. With respect to an independently elected constitutional officer, the term does not extend County Council’s authority to the officer’s operational law-enforcement or other statutory decisions.

County-controlled funds

“County-controlled funds” means any money, revenue, account, appropriation, allocation, grant, reimbursement, fee, tax revenue, bond proceeds, special-revenue funds, capital funds, County-administered state or federal funds, accommodations-tax revenue, recreation funds, council-district funds, or other financial resources over which County Council possesses legal appropriation, allocation, contracting, grant-making, or expenditure authority.

The term includes County money transferred to or administered by another governmental entity, elected office, nonprofit organization, contractor, fiscal agent, committee, or other recipient.

The term does not include money that the County is expressly and unconditionally required by state or federal law, final court order, binding bond covenant, or preexisting enforceable contract to distribute to a specifically identified recipient.

Whether forfeiture proceeds, restricted grants, donations, or other funds received or administered by an independently elected constitutional officer constitute County-controlled funds shall be determined under controlling law and the terms governing the particular funds. Such funds are not deemed County-controlled solely because they are received or held by the officer’s office.

County-controlled right-of-way

“County-controlled right-of-way” means a County-owned, County-maintained, or County-controlled road, street, bridge, shoulder, median, sidewalk, drainage area, easement, right-of-way, or other transportation corridor, including the space above or below it, within which the County possesses legal authority to regulate encroachments or uses.

The term does not include an SCDOT-maintained right-of-way or a municipal right-of-way unless the County possesses a separate ownership interest, easement, maintenance responsibility, or other legal authority over the particular location.

County property

“County property” means real or personal property owned, leased, occupied, managed, maintained, or legally controlled by the County, including:

1. Administrative and governmental buildings;
2. Courthouse property;
3. Law-enforcement and detention facilities;
4. Fire, rescue, and emergency medical facilities;

5. Libraries;
6. Parks and recreation facilities;
7. Solid-waste facilities;
8. Public works and road facilities;
9. County airport property;
10. County quarry property;
11. Communications towers and sites;
12. Parking lots;
13. County vehicles, trailers, drones, poles, signs, bridges, fixtures, utility structures, traffic-control devices, computer systems, software, accounts, databases, and communications equipment; and
14. Property controlled by a County board, commission, department, agency, district, or authority to the extent County Council possesses lawful control over the use of such property.

Discretionary County distribution

“Discretionary County distribution” means any appropriation, allocation, grant, award, sponsorship, contribution, reimbursement, capital assistance, recreation allocation, council-district allocation, in-kind assistance, preferential use of County property, or other transfer of County-controlled funds or resources for which the recipient has no absolute statutory or contractual right to receive a specifically determined amount.

External agency

“External agency” means a law-enforcement agency, governmental entity, fusion center, task force, private contractor, vendor, commercial entity, nonprofit organization, or other person or organization outside the agency or jurisdiction that originally collected the surveillance information.

External surveillance database or network

“External surveillance database or network” means a multijurisdictional, regional, statewide, interstate, national, international, vendor-controlled, third-party, federated, reciprocal-access, cloud-based, shared, or otherwise interconnected system through which surveillance information may be uploaded, stored, indexed, searched, transmitted, analyzed, compared, retrieved, requested, or made accessible outside the jurisdiction that originally collected it.

The term applies regardless of whether the information is physically combined in one database or remains in separate databases that are accessible through a shared portal, federated search, reciprocal agreement, request process, vendor-assisted search, or other coordinated process.

Individualized judicial authorization

“Individualized judicial authorization” means a warrant, court order, or other prior authorization issued by a neutral judicial officer and particularized to a specifically identified person, vehicle, electronic device, place, offense, or criminal investigation.

The following do not constitute individualized judicial authorization:

1. A user entering an internal reason code;
2. Supervisory approval within the requesting agency;
3. A documented law-enforcement purpose;
4. A vendor’s terms of service;
5. An agency policy permitting access;

6. A generalized memorandum of understanding;
7. Participation in a shared database or reciprocal-access network;
8. A case number entered by the user; or
9. An audit conducted after access or use has occurred.

In-kind municipal support

“In-kind municipal support” means material assistance, services, property, labor, equipment, insurance, promotion, fee relief, utilities, or other support provided by or through a municipality without the event organizer paying the full actual cost of the assistance, or provided on preferential terms not generally available to similarly situated private applicants.

In-kind municipal support includes, but is not limited to:

1. Dedicated police details, security, traffic control, or law-enforcement personnel;
2. Dedicated fire protection, emergency medical services, rescue, or emergency-management support;
3. Road or street closures;
4. Barricades, cones, signs, detours, or traffic-control equipment;
5. Sanitation, waste collection, portable restroom service, or cleanup;
6. Public works personnel, vehicles, equipment, setup, teardown, or logistical assistance;
7. Free, donated, discounted, or preferential use of municipal parks, streets, sidewalks, buildings, parking lots, stages, facilities, or other property;
8. Municipal insurance, indemnification, purchasing, contracting, or fiscal-agent services;
9. Administrative personnel or planning assistance;
10. Electricity, water, communications service, or other utilities;
11. Printing, signs, advertising, website placement, social-media promotion, or other promotional assistance;
12. Waiver, reduction, reimbursement, or absorption of permit fees, rental charges, personnel expenses, utility charges, or other costs;
13. Appointment of members to an organizing board, committee, or governing body; or
14. Any other assistance having material financial, operational, organizational, or promotional value.

Mass surveillance

“Mass surveillance” means the systematic or routine observation, acquisition, collection, recording, identification, retention, indexing, aggregation, analysis, tracking, or sharing of information concerning persons, vehicles, electronic devices, activities, movements, locations, behaviors, or associations when:

1. The activity is not limited to a specifically identified target selected on the basis of individualized reasonable suspicion, probable cause, or individualized judicial authorization; and
2. The activity collects, processes, retains, or makes searchable information concerning persons who are not suspected of criminal activity.

Mass surveillance includes systematic collection from persons, vehicles, or electronic devices generally passing through, present within, or observable from a geographic area.

Mass surveillance may occur even when:

1. Each individual observation occurs in a public or publicly accessible place;
2. The information is initially retained for a limited period;
3. The information is collected, processed, or stored by a private contractor;
4. The collecting agency states that the information may be used only for law-enforcement or public-safety purposes;
5. Access is subject to an internal policy, internal approval, case-number requirement, or later audit;
6. Data is stored in separate databases rather than one centralized database; or
7. The system is described as a crime-prevention, public-safety, investigative, traffic-management, intelligence, or community-safety tool.

Material municipal support

“Material municipal support” means financial, operational, promotional, administrative, organizational, or in-kind municipal assistance that contributes to the planning, organization, funding, promotion, location, operation, security, traffic control, setup, cleanup, or other meaningful function of an event.

The forms of assistance specifically listed in the definition of “in-kind municipal support” are deemed material when provided for the planned operation of an event.

Municipally sponsored event

“Municipally sponsored event” means an event, festival, program, activity, performance, celebration, competition, parade, fair, concert, market, exhibition, promotion, or other gathering that is:

1. Organized, administered, controlled, funded, co-sponsored, materially supported, or officially promoted by a municipality;
2. Conducted by a nonprofit corporation, festival committee, chamber of commerce, civic organization, contractor, fiscal agent, affiliated organization, or other entity acting in partnership with or receiving material municipal support from a municipality;
3. Presented or marketed as an official municipal event;
4. Governed in whole or in part by persons appointed by a municipal governing body or municipal official; or
5. Conducted with material financial or in-kind municipal support.

The substance and economic reality of the relationship shall control over the event organizer’s corporate form, tax status, legal name, or nominal independence.

The issuance of an ordinary permit, performance of a routine governmental inspection, or provision of an unplanned emergency response available to the general public does not, standing alone, constitute municipal sponsorship.

Planned dedicated personnel, donated or discounted services, preferential use of municipal property, road closures, barricades, public works support, or other event-specific operational assistance constitute municipal sponsorship.

Participating governmental entity

“Participating governmental entity” means a municipality or other governmental entity that directly or indirectly:

1. Owns, leases, purchases, subscribes to, operates, administers, funds, or contracts for a prohibited mass surveillance system;
2. Installs, hosts, operates, maintains, or permits such a system on property or a right-of-way under its control;
3. Provides electricity, communications, infrastructure, maintenance, equipment, or other material operational support for such a system;
4. Contributes surveillance information collected by or on behalf of the entity to an external surveillance database or network; or
5. Knowingly permits a contractor, vendor, task force, other governmental entity, or affiliated organization to own, operate, administer, host, maintain, or contribute locally collected surveillance information to such a system on the entity's behalf.

A governmental entity does not become a participating governmental entity solely because one of its law-enforcement officers or employees searches, queries, requests, receives, analyzes, or uses information collected by a system owned and operated by another entity, provided the governmental entity does not otherwise engage in conduct described in items 1 through 5 of this definition.

Period of participation

“Period of participation” means the period beginning when an entity first engages in conduct described in the definition of “participating governmental entity” and ending upon written restoration of eligibility under Section 2-512.

Personally identifying or reasonably linkable information

“Personally identifying or reasonably linkable information” means information that directly identifies a person or may reasonably be used, alone or together with other information, to distinguish, locate, identify, reidentify, follow, track, profile, or associate a person, household, vehicle, or electronic device.

The term includes:

1. Facial or biometric information;
2. Images or recordings of identifiable persons;
3. License plate information;
4. Vehicle characteristics or vehicle signatures;
5. Geographic location;
6. Dates and times of presence or travel;
7. Cellular, wireless, Bluetooth, network, advertising, or other electronic device identifiers;
8. Voice, audio, or acoustic signatures;
9. Travel routes or location histories;
10. Associations between persons, vehicles, devices, organizations, or locations; and
11. Profiles, classifications, predictions, or inferences derived from such information.

Prohibited mass surveillance system

“Prohibited mass surveillance system” means any fixed, mobile, portable, temporary, vehicle-mounted, body-mounted, pole-mounted, airborne, or otherwise deployed camera, microphone, sensor, scanner, drone, aircraft, communications device, software platform, database, network, service, artificial-intelligence system, or combination thereof that:

First, systematically or routinely captures, collects, receives, derives, processes, identifies, indexes, stores, searches, analyzes, transmits, or shares personally identifying or reasonably linkable information concerning persons, vehicles, electronic devices, activities, movements, locations, behaviors, characteristics, or associations in public or publicly accessible places; and

Automated license plate recognition consisting solely of optical character recognition of alphanumeric plate characters, together with a basic one-to-one exact-match comparison against a specifically identified, lawfully maintained hot list, does not, standing alone, constitute a prohibited capability. A system using those functions is prohibited only if it otherwise satisfies this definition and also possesses, performs, enables, contributes to, or participates in at least one capability listed below.

Second, possesses, performs, enables, contributes to, or participates in one or more of the following capabilities:

1. Automated biometric recognition, including facial recognition, when used in or directed toward a public or publicly accessible place;
2. Identification, location, or tracking of electronic devices through cellular, wireless, Bluetooth, radio-frequency, advertising, network, or other electronic identifiers or signals;
3. Automated identification, reidentification, or tracking of a person, vehicle, object, or electronic device across multiple observations, cameras, sensors, locations, or times;
4. Creation of a searchable historical record of a person's, vehicle's, or device's locations, movements, routes, activities, behaviors, or associations;
5. Upload, transmission, contribution, or availability of surveillance information to an external surveillance database or network;
6. Searchability by, or access for, an external agency without prior individualized judicial authorization;
7. Artificial intelligence or algorithmic analysis used to identify patterns, behaviors, characteristics, associations, travel histories, routes, common locations, groups, relationships, risks, anomalies, predictions, classifications, investigative leads, or other inferences;
8. Automated generation of alerts, flags, rankings, classifications, watch-list matches, or risk assessments based upon behavior, association, route, location pattern, biometric characteristic, vehicle feature other than exact alphanumeric plate characters, or an algorithmically generated criterion; provided that a basic one-to-one exact-match comparison of plate characters against a specifically identified, lawfully maintained hot list does not, standing alone, satisfy this item;
9. Combination of surveillance information with commercial data, communications information, mobile-device information, social-media information, property records, public records, biometric information, or another database for identification, tracking, profiling, classification, or inference;
10. Persistent aerial, drone-based, camera-based, sensor-based, audio-based, or electronic monitoring of public or publicly accessible places;
11. Identification or tracking based upon facial appearance, gait, voice, clothing, body shape, tattoos, distinguishing features, vehicle appearance, device signals, or another physical, behavioral, or electronic characteristic; or
12. A capability substantially equivalent to one or more of items 1 through 11 that permits the system to perform "mass surveillance" as defined in this article.

A system may constitute a prohibited mass surveillance system regardless of:

1. Its brand name or vendor;
2. Whether its equipment, software, or database is publicly or privately owned;
3. Whether information is physically stored inside or outside South Carolina;
4. Whether separate databases are searched through a common portal rather than physically combined;
5. Whether information is retained for a limited number of hours or days;
6. Whether agency policy requires a user to enter a reason, case number, or documented purpose;
7. Whether access is labeled direct, indirect, reciprocal, shared, federated, assisted, or request-based;
8. Whether the system is provided without charge, through a trial program, by donation, through a grant, or through another entity;
9. Whether the vendor or operator describes the technology as artificial intelligence; or
10. Whether a system performs prohibited processing remotely after ordinary cameras, microphones, or sensors collect the original information.

Surveillance information

“Surveillance information” means any image, video, audio, signal, record, identifier, metadata, time, date, location, search history, query, alert, analytical output, profile, classification, association, prediction, or inference captured, collected, received, produced, or derived by a surveillance system.

Sec. 2-503. Limited exclusions.

(a) A prohibited mass surveillance system does not include:

1. A camera or system used solely to control entry into a secured building, gated facility, restricted parking area, utility site, detention facility, computer system, or other restricted property, provided that:
 - a. Its use is limited to verifying the identity or authority of persons seeking access;
 - b. It is not primarily directed toward persons or traffic in a public or publicly accessible area;
 - c. Its information is not used to track a person outside the secured location; and
 - d. Its information is not contributed to or searchable through an external surveillance database or network;
2. An ordinary premises-security camera that is not configured or used to conduct automated biometric recognition, automated reidentification, cross-camera tracking, historical movement analysis, or external database sharing;
3. A camera or sensor used solely for real-time traffic-flow management, nonidentifying traffic counting, road-condition monitoring, weather observation, traffic-signal operation, infrastructure monitoring, or emergency detection, provided that it does not create person-specific, vehicle-specific, or device-specific records, permit retrospective identification or tracking, or transmit identifying information to another database;
4. Periodic aerial or satellite imagery acquired for mapping, tax assessment, planning, engineering, environmental monitoring, infrastructure management, or damage assessment, provided the imagery is not used to identify or track particular persons, vehicles, or electronic devices and is not incorporated into a prohibited mass surveillance system;

5. A body-worn camera, manually operated camera, or vehicle dashboard camera used to record an officer's direct interaction, traffic stop, emergency response, or specifically identified incident, provided its recordings are not routinely subjected to automated biometric recognition, mass identification, cross-camera tracking, or incorporation into an external mass surveillance network;
6. A manually operated camera, sensor, or investigative device used during a particularized investigation pursuant to the judicial authorization required by law;
7. A temporary system narrowly deployed to locate a specifically identified abducted, missing, endangered, or fleeing person during an objectively reasonable emergency, provided that:
 - a. Deployment is limited in geographic scope and duration;
 - b. Access and use are limited to the emergency;
 - c. Information concerning uninvolved persons is not retained or used for an unrelated purpose; and
 - d. Information is not contributed to a general-purpose external surveillance database or network;
8. Incident-specific aerial or drone operations conducted for search and rescue, disaster response, fire suppression, accident reconstruction, scene documentation, fugitive apprehension, or response to a specific reported incident, provided the operation is limited in geographic scope and duration, is not a routine or persistent aerial patrol of the general public, and its information is not contributed to a general-purpose external surveillance database or network;
9. A parking, payment, toll, or access-control system that collects only the information reasonably necessary to complete a transaction or control entry and does not contribute information to a law-enforcement or mass surveillance database;
10. A cybersecurity system used to protect County computer networks, information systems, or accounts, provided it is not used to monitor the physical movements or activities of persons in public places;
11. A system used solely for emergency dispatch, emergency communications, or response to a specific reported incident, provided it is not used for continuous mass identification or tracking;
12. A system whose use is expressly required by controlling state or federal law, but only to the minimum extent expressly required; or
13. A system otherwise described in the definition of "prohibited mass surveillance system," if:
 - a. Every search, query, retrieval, or analytical use of retained information is technically conditioned upon prior individualized judicial authorization;
 - b. The technical controls prevent such access unless information identifying the judicial authorization is entered or verified and create an auditable record of the access;
 - c. The system does not contribute information to, and is not searchable through, an external surveillance database or network; and
 - d. The system does not perform real-time identification, tracking, alerting, or analytical use before the required individualized judicial authorization.

For purposes of item 13, an agency policy, user attestation, supervisor approval, case-number requirement, or after-the-fact audit, standing alone, is not a technical condition upon access.

(b) A system otherwise falling within an exclusion loses the exclusion if its information is routinely uploaded to, made accessible through, searched through, analyzed by, combined with, or used as an input for a prohibited mass surveillance system.

(c) In any eligibility determination under this article or application for a County permit, license, lease, easement, encroachment authorization, use agreement, or other County approval, the person or entity claiming an exclusion bears the burden of demonstrating that the system qualifies for an exclusion under this section. This subsection does not alter any burden of proof applicable in an enforcement action, judicial proceeding, or constitutional challenge.

Sec. 2-504. Prohibition on County expenditures and resources.

(a) No County-controlled funds may be appropriated, transferred, allocated, expended, encumbered, obligated, reimbursed, or otherwise made available, directly or indirectly, for a prohibited mass surveillance system.

(b) The prohibition includes, but is not limited to:

1. Purchase, lease, rental, financing, or acquisition;
2. Subscription, license, software, database-access, network-access, or service fees;
3. Installation, construction, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, removal, or renewal;
4. Electricity, communications, internet service, networking, cloud services, data storage, computing, or technical support;
5. Cameras, microphones, sensors, scanners, drones, poles, cabinets, foundations, signs, batteries, solar panels, wiring, communications equipment, servers, or related infrastructure;
6. Training, travel, consulting, legal, administrative, or personnel expenses;
7. Real-time alerts, retrospective searches, biometric searches, watch-list participation, hot-list participation, shared-network access, vendor-assisted searches, or analytical services;
8. Reimbursement to another governmental entity, vendor, contractor, nonprofit organization, or private person;
9. A matching contribution associated with a state, federal, private, or nonprofit grant;
10. Renewal or extension of a contract, subscription, trial, memorandum of understanding, information-sharing agreement, or other arrangement;
11. Any expenditure having the purpose or practical effect of supporting or facilitating a prohibited system.

(c) Except as provided in Section 2-501(e) and (f), no County property, County equipment, County vehicle, County drone, County communications system, County information-technology network, County software, County database, County account, County credential, County purchasing card, County employee time, or other County resource may be used to install, own, operate, host, maintain, connect, promote, or otherwise support a prohibited mass surveillance system.

(d) No County department, office, board, commission, agency, employee, official, contractor, or person acting on behalf of the County may:

1. Enter into or renew a contract, memorandum of understanding, data-contribution agreement, reciprocal hosting agreement, trial agreement, or other arrangement to acquire, own, fund, operate, administer, host, maintain, or supply locally collected surveillance information to a prohibited system;
2. Accept a donation, free trial, private grant, loaned equipment, software service, or other thing of value for the acquisition, installation, operation, hosting, maintenance, or support of a prohibited system using County property or resources;

3. Contribute County-collected surveillance information to a prohibited system or external surveillance database or network; or
 4. Do indirectly through another person or entity what this article prohibits the County from doing directly.
- (e) Each annual budget ordinance, supplemental appropriation, procurement, grant agreement, intergovernmental agreement, and departmental expenditure is subject to this section.

Sec. 2-505. Prohibition on County property.

- (a) No prohibited mass surveillance system may be installed, placed, attached, owned, operated, maintained, hosted, powered, connected, or allowed to remain on, within, above, beneath, or attached to County property.
- (b) The prohibition applies regardless of whether the system or supporting equipment is owned by:
1. The County;
 2. A County elected office;
 3. A municipality;
 4. Another county;
 5. A state or federal agency;
 6. A private vendor;
 7. A utility company;
 8. A contractor;
 9. A nonprofit organization; or
 10. Any other person or entity.
- (c) No County officer, employee, department, board, commission, agency, contractor, or other person acting on behalf of the County may issue, approve, execute, or recommend a lease, license, easement, right-of-entry agreement, attachment agreement, utility authorization, use agreement, memorandum of understanding, or other permission authorizing a prohibited system on County property.
- (d) The prohibition includes equipment that collects surveillance information for processing, identification, analysis, storage, or sharing through software or infrastructure located elsewhere.

Sec. 2-506. County road rights-of-way and encroachments.

- (a) No prohibited mass surveillance system may be installed, placed, attached, owned, operated, maintained, hosted, powered, connected, or allowed to remain within, upon, above, or beneath a County-controlled right-of-way.
- (b) The prohibition applies to a device or system attached to or supported by:
1. A County-owned pole or structure;
 2. A utility-owned pole or structure;
 3. A privately owned pole or structure;
 4. A vendor-installed pole or structure;
 5. A traffic-control device;
 6. A bridge, sign, cabinet, fixture, communications facility, or utility facility; or

7. Any other publicly or privately owned supporting infrastructure located within a County-controlled right-of-way.

(c) Ownership of a camera, microphone, sensor, scanner, device, pole, structure, communications equipment, electrical connection, or supporting infrastructure does not determine whether this section applies. Physical occupation or use of a County-controlled right-of-way is sufficient.

(d) No encroachment permit, utility authorization, attachment authorization, construction permit, right-of-entry agreement, license, lease, easement, or other permission may be issued for a prohibited system within a County-controlled right-of-way.

(e) An application involving a prohibited system shall be denied as a prohibited use and shall not be eligible for a variance, administrative exception, or staff waiver.

(f) A prohibited system installed without lawful County permission constitutes an unauthorized encroachment.

(g) This section does not assert County permitting authority over an SCDOT-maintained right-of-way or a municipal right-of-way where the County possesses no ownership, easement, maintenance responsibility, or other legal authority.

Sec. 2-507. Existing systems and removal.

(a) Within thirty days after the effective date of this article, the County Administrator, County Engineer, information-technology personnel, facilities personnel, and other appropriate County staff shall identify, to the extent reasonably ascertainable, any prohibited system:

1. Located on County property;
2. Located within a County-controlled right-of-way;
3. Supported by County-controlled funds or resources;
4. Operated, hosted, maintained, connected, or materially supported through County-owned equipment, software, networks, accounts, databases, or credentials; or
5. Operated under a County contract, permit, agreement, subscription, or authorization.

(b) The County Administrator shall consult with the County Attorney concerning any existing permit, contract, easement, property right, grant condition, or other legal obligation affecting removal or termination.

(c) Except where a different procedure is legally required, the County shall provide written notice to the owner, operator, vendor, contractor, governmental entity, utility, or other responsible person directing that:

1. County-funded or County-hosted collection, processing, analysis, transmission, and contribution to an external surveillance database or network be discontinued within ten business days after receipt of notice;
2. County-funded subscriptions, accounts, software services, and data-contribution connections be terminated within ten business days after receipt of notice; and
3. Physical devices and associated equipment be removed from County property or the County-controlled right-of-way within thirty days after receipt of notice.

(d) A revocable permit, license, authorization, or permission for a prohibited system is revoked as of the effective date of this article, subject to any notice or procedural requirement imposed by law or the applicable instrument.

(e) If a responsible person fails to remove an unauthorized device within the required period, the County may:

1. Disconnect, cover, disable, or remove the device;
2. Terminate power, communications, network, or other County-provided service;
3. Disable or terminate County-funded subscriptions, accounts, software services, or data-contribution connections;
4. Store the device for a reasonable period;
5. Recover the County's removal, storage, restoration, administrative, and legal costs;
6. Pursue injunctive or other relief; and
7. Exercise any other lawful remedy.

(f) The County shall not destroy equipment belonging to another person without legal authority and appropriate notice.

(g) Nothing in this section authorizes the unconstitutional impairment of an enforceable contract or vested property right. Where such a claim is asserted, the County Attorney shall determine the appropriate lawful procedure.

Sec. 2-508. Eligibility for discretionary County distributions.

(a) A participating governmental entity is ineligible to receive a discretionary County distribution during the period of its participation in a prohibited mass surveillance system.

(b) The ineligibility established by this section applies to:

1. General-fund appropriations;
2. Recreation funds;
3. Council-district appropriations or recommendations;
4. Capital-project assistance;
5. Economic-development grants;
6. Beautification grants;
7. Community grants;
8. Sponsorships;
9. Contributions;
10. Reimbursements;
11. County-provided in-kind assistance;
12. Use of County personnel, equipment, facilities, or property;
13. County-administered grant programs; and
14. Any other discretionary transfer of County-controlled funds or resources.

(c) No participating governmental entity may avoid ineligibility by requesting that funds be awarded to:

1. A nonprofit organization;
2. A committee;
3. A chamber of commerce;

4. A festival board;
5. A contractor;
6. A fiscal agent;
7. An affiliated entity;
8. A separate authority or commission; or
9. Another intermediary acting for, benefiting, reimbursing, or supporting the participating governmental entity.

(d) A recipient may not use County-controlled funds to pay an expense that would otherwise be paid by a participating governmental entity, thereby freeing the entity's own money for a prohibited system.

(e) This section establishes eligibility for discretionary County assistance. It does not impose a fine or require a participating governmental entity to terminate its system.

Sec. 2-509. Accommodations-tax eligibility.

(a) To the fullest extent permitted by state law, no participating governmental entity shall be eligible to receive a discretionary award, grant, allocation, sponsorship, contract, reimbursement, or distribution administered by the County from:

1. State accommodations-tax revenue allocated for tourism promotion or tourism-related expenditures under S.C. Code § 6-4-10;
2. Local accommodations-tax revenue imposed and administered under S.C. Code §§ 6-1-510 through 6-1-570;
3. Accommodations-tax revenue lawfully allocated to the County general fund and subsequently offered through a discretionary grant, contribution, sponsorship, or funding program; or
4. Any other County-administered tourism fund.

(b) No County-administered accommodations-tax award may be made for a municipally sponsored event associated with a participating municipality.

(c) Subsection (b) applies regardless of whether the named applicant or event organizer is:

1. Separately incorporated;
2. Tax exempt;
3. Governed by an independent or nominally independent board;
4. A chamber of commerce;
5. A festival committee;
6. A civic organization;
7. A contractor;
8. A fiscal agent; or
9. Otherwise legally distinct from the municipality.

(d) An event is associated with a participating municipality when that municipality provides material municipal support, including material in-kind municipal support.

(e) Police details, road closures, barricades, donated or preferential use of municipal parks or streets, public works assistance, sanitation, dedicated fire or emergency services, municipal insurance, administrative support, municipal promotion, fee waivers, utilities, equipment, and other planned

event-specific assistance shall be counted as municipal sponsorship when provided as defined in this article.

(f) The County accommodations-tax advisory committee or other advisory body shall incorporate the eligibility requirements of this article and Chapter 30, Article III, Division 2 into its application guidelines and review process.

(g) Every application must continue to be reviewed, and every expenditure must continue to satisfy the procedural and substantive tourism requirements of applicable state law.

(h) Nothing in this article:

1. Authorizes accommodations-tax money to be used for a purpose not otherwise authorized by state law;
2. Eliminates advisory-committee review required by state law;
3. Requires County Council to approve an advisory-committee recommendation;
4. Requires the County to fund every applicant or every otherwise qualifying tourism activity;
5. Affects a distribution that state law expressly and unconditionally requires the County to make to a specifically designated recipient; or
6. Authorizes the County to divert restricted accommodations-tax revenue to an unauthorized use.

(i) When an advisory committee recommends an award to an ineligible applicant, County Council may reject the recommendation and select another lawful tourism-related expenditure in accordance with state law.

(j) The independently codified provisions of Chapter 30, Article III, Division 2 shall also apply to accommodations-tax awards and shall be read consistently with this section.

Sec. 2-510. Municipally sponsored events.

(a) A municipally sponsored event associated with a participating municipality is ineligible for a discretionary County distribution.

(b) In determining whether an event is municipally sponsored, the County shall consider the totality of the financial, operational, promotional, administrative, organizational, and property relationship between the event and municipality.

(c) The following constitute municipal sponsorship when provided for the planned operation of an event:

1. Dedicated municipal police personnel or traffic control;
2. Municipal road or street closures;
3. Municipal barricades, cones, signs, or traffic-control devices;
4. Dedicated municipal fire, rescue, or emergency medical support;
5. Free, discounted, donated, or preferential use of municipal parks, streets, sidewalks, buildings, stages, parking areas, or facilities;
6. Municipal public works personnel or equipment;
7. Municipal sanitation, setup, teardown, or cleanup;
8. Municipal insurance or indemnification;
9. Municipal advertising or official promotion;
10. Municipal administrative or fiscal-agent services;

11. Waiver or absorption of fees or expenses;

12. Municipal utility service;

13. Direct municipal appropriations; or

14. Appointment or control of members of the event's board or organizing committee.

(d) An event organizer may not divide municipal support among several organizations or characterize municipal services as unrelated expenditures for the purpose or practical effect of avoiding this article.

(e) The County shall consider the fair value and operational importance of municipal support rather than merely whether the municipality issued a check to the organizer.

(f) A private event does not become municipally sponsored solely because:

1. The municipality issues an ordinary permit on the same terms applicable to similarly situated applicants;

2. The organizer pays the full published and actual cost of all municipal services and receives no preferential treatment; or

3. Municipal police, fire, rescue, or emergency medical personnel respond to an unplanned emergency.

Sec. 2-511. Applications, disclosure, and certification.

(a) Every applicant for a discretionary County distribution shall disclose:

1. Each municipality or governmental entity sponsoring or supporting the applicant, program, project, or event;

2. All municipal financial contributions;

3. All municipal in-kind support;

4. Use of municipal property;

5. Municipal personnel or equipment provided;

6. Municipal fee waivers or discounted services;

7. Municipal appointment or control of board or committee members;

8. Whether the applicant is acting as a fiscal agent, intermediary, contractor, or affiliate of a municipality;

9. Whether any participating governmental entity will directly or indirectly benefit from the requested funds; and

10. Any other information reasonably necessary to determine eligibility under this article.

(b) An applicant shall certify that:

1. The application contains a complete and accurate disclosure;

2. The requested funds will not directly or indirectly support a prohibited mass surveillance system;

3. The applicant is not being used to circumvent this article;

4. No portion of the award will be transferred, reimbursed, credited, or otherwise provided to an ineligible entity except for an arm's-length payment for lawful goods or services unrelated to a prohibited system; and

5. The applicant will notify the County of any material change in eligibility before final payment or expenditure.
- (c) The certification shall be incorporated into the grant agreement, contract, award letter, reimbursement agreement, or other instrument governing the distribution.
- (d) The County may require documentation establishing the actual cost or fair value of municipal in-kind support.
- (e) A materially false, incomplete, or misleading certification constitutes grounds for:
 1. Denial of the application;
 2. Suspension or termination of the award;
 3. Withholding of unpaid funds;
 4. Repayment of funds already disbursed;
 5. Recovery of collection and legal costs where authorized by law;
 6. Ineligibility for future discretionary County distributions for up to three years; and
 7. Any other remedy available under the grant agreement or applicable law.
- (f) Before imposing a period of future ineligibility, the County shall provide written notice of the alleged violation and a reasonable opportunity for the applicant to respond.

Sec. 2-512. Eligibility determinations and cure.

- (a) The County Administrator shall maintain a list of governmental entities determined to be participating governmental entities.
- (b) Before placing an entity on the list, the County Administrator shall provide written notice stating the factual basis for the proposed determination and allow the entity at least fifteen business days to submit responsive information.
- (c) The County Administrator shall issue a written determination following consideration of the available information.
- (d) An affected entity may appeal the determination to County Council by filing written notice with the Clerk to Council within fifteen business days.
- (e) County Council may affirm, reverse, or modify the determination following consideration at a public meeting.
- (f) An entity's ineligibility ends when the County determines that the entity has satisfied either of the following:
 1. Terminated the conduct that caused it to be a participating governmental entity, including termination of applicable contracts or subscriptions, removal of applicable devices from property under its control, withdrawal from external surveillance databases and networks, cessation of locally collected data contributions and material operational support, and submission of a certification and supporting documentation reasonably satisfactory to the County; or
 2. Reconfigured the system so that it qualifies for an exclusion under Section 2-503 or otherwise no longer constitutes a prohibited mass surveillance system, as verified by documentation reasonably satisfactory to the County.
- (g) Eligibility may be restored prospectively. Restoration does not require the County to reconsider an application or award previously denied, nor does it create an entitlement to future funding.

Sec. 2-513. Anti-circumvention.

(a) No person or entity may knowingly structure, divide, route, relabel, reimburse, transfer, or administer a transaction for the purpose or practical effect of avoiding this article.

(b) The County shall evaluate the substance and economic reality of a transaction, relationship, sponsorship, or arrangement rather than its nominal form.

(c) Prohibited circumvention includes:

1. Routing an application through a separate nonprofit organization or committee;
2. Naming a fiscal agent as the recipient while an ineligible entity controls or materially benefits from the funds;
3. Using County funds for event expenses ordinarily paid by a participating municipality;
4. Transferring County-funded equipment, services, or reimbursements to an ineligible entity;
5. Dividing one project into separate applications;
6. Characterizing material municipal support as routine permitting when it provides event-specific operational assistance;
7. Omitting or materially undervaluing municipal in-kind support;
8. Using a vendor, utility, contractor, or other governmental entity to install or operate a prohibited system on County property or in a County-controlled right-of-way.

Sec. 2-514. Administration and annual reporting.

(a) The County Administrator, County Attorney, Finance Director, Procurement Director, County Engineer, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director, information-technology personnel, and other appropriate staff shall implement this article within their respective areas of responsibility.

(b) County procurement documents, grant guidelines, applications, contracts, sponsorship agreements, accommodations-tax materials, information-technology policies, and encroachment-permit procedures shall be revised as necessary to implement this article.

(c) At least annually, the County Administrator shall provide County Council with a report identifying:

1. Known prohibited systems on County property or County-controlled rights-of-way;
2. County-funded contracts, subscriptions, hosting arrangements, and data-contribution arrangements reviewed under this article;
3. Participating governmental entities;
4. Applications denied under this article;
5. Certifications and disclosures received;
6. Removal or enforcement activity;
7. Eligibility restorations; and
8. Recommended administrative or legislative changes.

(d) No report required by this section shall disclose information that is confidential under state or federal law.

Sec. 2-515. Enforcement and remedies.

(a) The County may enforce this article through any lawful remedy, including:

1. Denial or revocation of a permit or authorization;
 2. Termination or nonrenewal of a contract, subscription, account, or agreement;
 3. Suspension or denial of a County payment;
 4. Removal of an unauthorized encroachment;
 5. Recovery of removal, restoration, storage, and administrative costs;
 6. Repayment or contractual recovery of grant funds;
 7. Injunctive or declaratory relief;
 8. Disqualification from discretionary County funding; and
 9. Any other civil, contractual, administrative, or equitable remedy authorized by law.
- (b) The County Attorney is authorized to seek injunctive relief and other civil, contractual, administrative, or equitable remedies in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (c) Grant ineligibility under this article is an eligibility condition and not a criminal penalty.

Sec. 2-516. Savings and limitations.

- (a) Nothing in this article shall be construed to:
1. Direct the handling or outcome of a particular criminal investigation;
 2. Prevent an officer or other person from directly observing a person, vehicle, object, or activity in public;
 3. Prevent a law-enforcement officer from searching, querying, requesting, receiving, analyzing, or using lawfully available information during a lawful traffic stop, emergency, search-and-rescue operation, or particularized investigation, including pursuant to individualized judicial authorization, solely because the information was collected by a prohibited mass surveillance system, provided the officer's jurisdiction does not own, fund, contract for, operate, host, maintain, or contribute locally collected surveillance information to that system in violation of this article;
 4. Regulate an ordinary private camera located entirely on private property outside County property and County-controlled rights-of-way;
 5. Assert County control over an SCDOT or municipal right-of-way where the County has no legal authority;
 6. Require withholding of money that the County is expressly and unconditionally required by state or federal law, final court order, binding bond covenant, or preexisting enforceable contract to distribute;
 7. Authorize the expenditure of restricted funds for an unauthorized purpose;
 8. Prohibit compliance with a valid court order directed to the County;
 9. Alter a duty expressly imposed upon an elected official by general state law; or
 10. Prevent the County from taking actions necessary to protect its legal interests or comply with controlling law.
- (b) Nothing in this article creates a private cause of action against the County, County Council, a County employee, or a County official.
- (c) No person or entity possesses a vested right to receive a future discretionary County distribution.

- (d) Where application of a particular provision would be preempted by controlling state or federal law, that provision shall be limited only to the minimum extent necessary to avoid preemption.
- (e) This article shall be construed consistently with any subsequently enacted state statutory framework governing the technologies addressed herein and shall yield to the extent, and only to the extent, of any direct conflict.

SECTION 2. CHAPTER 30 ACCOMMODATIONS-TAX CODIFICATION

Chapter 30, Article III, of the Oconee County Code of Ordinances is amended by adding a new Division 2, beginning with Section 30-111, to read as follows:

DIVISION 2. MASS SURVEILLANCE ELIGIBILITY RESTRICTIONS FOR COUNTY-ADMINISTERED ACCOMMODATIONS-TAX FUNDS

Sec. 30-111. Purpose and applicability.

(a) The purposes of this division are to:

1. Prevent County-administered accommodations-tax funds from being used directly or indirectly to acquire, own, fund, operate, maintain, host, support, or subsidize prohibited mass surveillance systems;
2. Establish prospective and uniform eligibility requirements for discretionary County-administered accommodations-tax awards;
3. Protect the privacy, liberty, freedom of movement, freedom of association, and other rights of Oconee County residents and visitors;
4. Prevent municipalities from circumventing County funding restrictions through separate committees, nonprofit organizations, festival boards, chambers of commerce, fiscal agents, contractors, or affiliated entities; and
5. Ensure that County-administered tourism funds are expended consistently with County policy and applicable state law.

(b) This division applies to discretionary accommodations-tax funds administered, allocated, awarded, or expended by the County, including:

1. The County of Oconee Local Accommodations Tax Special Revenue Fund;
2. State accommodations-tax funds administered by the County for tourism promotion or tourism-related expenditures;
3. Accommodations-tax revenue lawfully allocated to the County general fund and subsequently offered through a discretionary grant, sponsorship, contribution, or award program; and
4. Any other discretionary County-administered tourism fund derived in whole or in part from accommodations-tax revenue.

(c) This division does not authorize an expenditure for a purpose not otherwise authorized by state law.

(d) This division does not require the County to withhold a distribution that state law expressly and unconditionally requires the County to make to a specifically designated recipient.

(e) This division applies prospectively to applications, awards, contracts, renewals, and authorizations submitted, made, or arising on or after the effective date of the ordinance enacting this

division. No accommodations-tax award approved before the effective date shall be rescinded solely on the basis of this division.

Sec. 30-112. Definitions.

(a) The definitions contained in Chapter 2, Article VII, Protection from Mass Surveillance, are incorporated into this division and shall have the same meanings when used herein.

(b) For purposes of this division, “County-administered accommodations-tax funds” means accommodations-tax revenue over which County Council possesses lawful discretion to select a recipient, event, program, project, expenditure, contract, grant, sponsorship, reimbursement, or other use.

(c) Where a term contained in this division conflicts with a definition contained in Division 1 of this article, the more specific definition applicable to mass surveillance eligibility shall govern solely for purposes of this division.

Sec. 30-113. Prohibited expenditures.

(a) No County-administered accommodations-tax funds may be appropriated, awarded, transferred, allocated, expended, encumbered, reimbursed, or otherwise made available, directly or indirectly, for a prohibited mass surveillance system.

(b) The prohibition includes:

1. Purchase, lease, rental, subscription, financing, or acquisition;
2. Installation, construction, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, or renewal;
3. Software, artificial-intelligence, database, cloud, network, storage, communications, or access fees;
4. Cameras, microphones, sensors, scanners, drones, poles, equipment, electricity, communications, networking, or related infrastructure;
5. Training, personnel, consulting, legal, administrative, or operational expenses;
6. A matching contribution associated with an outside grant;
7. Reimbursement to a municipality, governmental entity, vendor, contractor, nonprofit organization, or other person; and
8. Any expenditure having the purpose or practical effect of supporting, facilitating, subsidizing, or freeing other funds for a prohibited mass surveillance system.

(c) No applicant or recipient may use County-administered accommodations-tax funds to pay an expense ordinarily paid by a participating governmental entity when doing so would enable or free the participating entity to direct its own funds toward a prohibited mass surveillance system.

Sec. 30-114. Ineligible applicants, recipients, and events.

(a) A participating governmental entity is ineligible to receive a discretionary award of County-administered accommodations-tax funds during the period of participation.

(b) A municipally sponsored event associated with a participating municipality is ineligible to receive a discretionary award of County-administered accommodations-tax funds during the period of participation.

(c) Subsection (b) applies regardless of whether the named applicant or organizer is:

1. Separately incorporated;

2. Tax exempt;
3. Governed by an independent or nominally independent board;
4. A nonprofit organization;
5. A chamber of commerce;
6. A festival committee;
7. A civic organization;
8. A contractor;
9. A fiscal agent; or
10. Otherwise legally distinct from the participating municipality.

(d) A participating municipality may not avoid ineligibility by requesting that funds be paid to an intermediary, affiliated organization, contractor, committee, nonprofit organization, festival board, chamber of commerce, or fiscal agent.

(e) The substance and economic reality of the relationship between the municipality, applicant, recipient, and event shall control over legal form or nominal independence.

Sec. 30-115. Municipal sponsorship and in-kind support.

(a) For purposes of this division, material in-kind municipal support constitutes municipal sponsorship.

(b) Municipal sponsorship includes:

1. Dedicated police details, security, or traffic control;
2. Road or street closures;
3. Barricades, cones, signs, detours, or traffic-control devices;
4. Dedicated fire, rescue, emergency medical, or emergency-management support;
5. Free, donated, discounted, or preferential use of municipal parks, streets, sidewalks, buildings, stages, parking areas, or facilities;
6. Public works labor, vehicles, equipment, setup, teardown, or logistical assistance;
7. Sanitation, waste collection, portable restroom service, or cleanup;
8. Municipal insurance, indemnification, contracting, purchasing, or fiscal-agent services;
9. Municipal advertising, promotion, printing, signage, website placement, or social-media support;
10. Municipal administrative or planning assistance;
11. Waiver, reduction, reimbursement, or absorption of fees or expenses;
12. Municipal electricity, water, communications, or utility service;
13. Direct municipal appropriations; or
14. Municipal appointment or control of members of an event board or organizing committee.

(c) The County shall consider the fair value and operational importance of municipal support rather than merely whether the municipality issued a monetary payment.

(d) An otherwise private event shall not become municipally sponsored solely because:

1. The municipality issues an ordinary permit on the same terms applicable to similarly situated applicants;

2. The organizer pays the full published and actual cost of all municipal services and receives no preferential treatment; or
 3. Municipal police, fire, rescue, or emergency medical personnel respond to an unplanned emergency.
- (e) Planned, dedicated, donated, discounted, preferential, or event-specific municipal assistance constitutes municipal sponsorship.

Sec. 30-116. Applications, disclosure, and certification.

- (a) Every applicant for County-administered accommodations-tax funds shall disclose:
1. Each municipality or governmental entity sponsoring, supporting, funding, organizing, or promoting the applicant, project, program, or event;
 2. All direct municipal financial contributions;
 3. All anticipated or received municipal in-kind support;
 4. Use of municipal streets, parks, sidewalks, buildings, stages, parking areas, or other property;
 5. Municipal personnel, equipment, security, traffic control, public works, sanitation, emergency services, utilities, insurance, administrative support, advertising, or promotion;
 6. Municipal fee waivers, discounts, reimbursements, or absorbed expenses;
 7. Municipal appointment or control of board or committee members;
 8. Whether the applicant is acting as a fiscal agent, intermediary, contractor, or affiliate of a municipality;
 9. Whether a participating governmental entity will directly or indirectly benefit from the requested award; and
 10. Any other information reasonably necessary to determine eligibility.
- (b) Every applicant shall certify that:
1. Its disclosures are complete and accurate;
 2. The requested funds will not directly or indirectly support a prohibited mass surveillance system;
 3. The applicant is not being used to circumvent this division or Chapter 2;
 4. No portion of an award will be transferred, reimbursed, credited, or otherwise provided to an ineligible recipient, except through an arm's-length payment for lawful goods or services unrelated to a prohibited system; and
 5. The applicant will report any material change affecting eligibility before final payment or expenditure.
- (c) The County may require an applicant to calculate and disclose the estimated fair value of municipal in-kind support.
- (d) The certifications required by this section shall be incorporated into every applicable grant agreement, contract, award letter, reimbursement agreement, or other funding instrument.
- (e) A materially false, incomplete, or misleading application, disclosure, or certification constitutes grounds for:
1. Denial;
 2. Suspension or termination of an award;
 3. Withholding of unpaid funds;

4. Repayment of funds already disbursed;
5. Recovery of collection and legal expenses where permitted;
6. Ineligibility for future discretionary County awards for up to three years; and
7. Any other remedy authorized by the funding agreement or applicable law.

(f) Before imposing a period of future ineligibility, the County shall provide written notice and a reasonable opportunity to respond.

Sec. 30-117. Advisory review and County Council action.

(a) The County accommodations-tax advisory committee or other advisory body shall incorporate the eligibility requirements of this division and Chapter 2 into its application guidelines and review process.

(b) Every application required by state law to receive advisory review shall continue to receive such review.

(c) The advisory body shall not recommend an award to an applicant determined to be ineligible under this division.

(d) County Council shall consider advisory recommendations in accordance with state law and shall take final action upon proposed expenditures.

(e) When an advisory body recommends an award to an ineligible applicant, County Council may reject the recommendation and select another lawful tourism-related expenditure.

(f) Nothing in this division requires County Council to fund every applicant, project, program, event, or activity that may otherwise satisfy a statutory tourism category.

(g) All expenditures from the County of Oconee Local Accommodations Tax Special Revenue Fund remain subject to approval by County Council under § 30-85.

Sec. 30-118. Determinations, cure, anti-circumvention, and enforcement.

(a) The eligibility determination, notice, appeal, cure, anti-circumvention, administration, and enforcement provisions of Chapter 2, Article VII, apply to this division.

(b) An entity's ineligibility ends when the County determines that the entity has satisfied either of the following:

1. Terminated the conduct that caused it to be a participating governmental entity, including termination of applicable contracts or subscriptions, removal of applicable devices from property under its control, withdrawal from external surveillance databases and networks, cessation of locally collected data contributions and material operational support, and submission of a certification and supporting documentation reasonably satisfactory to the County; or
2. Reconfigured the system so that it qualifies for an exclusion under Section 2-503 or otherwise no longer constitutes a prohibited mass surveillance system, as verified by documentation reasonably satisfactory to the County.

(c) Eligibility shall be restored prospectively following written County approval.

(d) Restoration does not create an entitlement to an award, require reconsideration of a previously denied application, or require displacement of another approved recipient.

(e) No applicant, recipient, municipality, or other person may structure, route, divide, relabel, transfer, reimburse, or administer a transaction for the purpose or practical effect of avoiding this division.

(f) The County shall evaluate the substance and economic reality of a transaction and relationship rather than its nominal form.

(g) Nothing in this division:

1. Authorizes accommodations-tax revenue to be expended for a purpose not permitted by state law;
2. Eliminates advisory review, reporting, accounting, segregation, expenditure deadlines, or other requirements imposed by state law;
3. Requires withholding of a payment that state law expressly and unconditionally requires the County to distribute to a specifically designated recipient; or
4. Prevents application of the remaining provisions to other discretionary accommodations-tax funds if application to a particular category is found to conflict with controlling law.

(h) This division shall be construed consistently with any subsequently enacted state statutory framework governing the technologies addressed herein and shall yield to the extent, and only to the extent, of any direct conflict.

SECTION 3. CHAPTER 26 CONFORMING AMENDMENT

Chapter 26 of the Oconee County Code of Ordinances is amended by adding a new Article IV, entitled “Mass Surveillance Encroachments,” consisting of Section 26-201, to read as follows:

ARTICLE IV. MASS SURVEILLANCE ENCROACHMENTS

Sec. 26-201. Prohibited mass surveillance encroachments.

(a) The definitions contained in Chapter 2, Article VII, Protection from Mass Surveillance, are incorporated into this section.

(b) No prohibited mass surveillance system may be installed, placed, attached, owned, operated, maintained, hosted, powered, connected, or allowed to remain within, upon, above, or beneath a County-owned, County-maintained, or County-controlled road, street, bridge, shoulder, median, drainage area, sidewalk, easement, or right-of-way.

(c) The prohibition applies to systems attached to or supported by:

1. County-owned poles or structures;
2. Utility-owned poles or structures;
3. Privately owned poles or structures;
4. Vendor-installed poles or structures;
5. Traffic-control devices;
6. Bridges, signs, cabinets, fixtures, utility facilities, or communications facilities; or
7. Other publicly or privately owned infrastructure located within the County-controlled right-of-way.

(d) Ownership of the camera, microphone, sensor, scanner, device, pole, structure, communications equipment, electrical connection, or supporting infrastructure does not determine whether this section applies.

(e) No encroachment permit, attachment authorization, utility authorization, construction permit, license, lease, easement, right-of-entry agreement, or other County permission may be issued for a prohibited mass surveillance system.

(f) An application involving a prohibited mass surveillance system shall be denied as a prohibited use and shall not be eligible for an administrative waiver, exception, or variance.

(g) A prohibited system installed without authorization or remaining after revocation, termination, or expiration of authorization constitutes an unauthorized encroachment and is subject to removal and enforcement under Chapters 2 and 26.

(h) This section does not assert County authority over an SCDOT or municipal right-of-way where the County possesses no ownership interest, easement, maintenance responsibility, or other legal authority.

SECTION 4. IMPLEMENTATION

(a) Within thirty days after the effective date of this Ordinance, the County Administrator shall direct all County departments and offices subject to County Council's lawful administrative authority to identify:

1. Existing County-funded or County-administered contracts, subscriptions, permits, memoranda of understanding, data-contribution agreements, hosting arrangements, and other arrangements involving mass surveillance technology;
2. Cameras, microphones, sensors, scanners, drones, equipment, or other devices located on County property or within County-controlled rights-of-way that may participate in a prohibited mass surveillance system;
3. County expenditures supporting such systems;
4. County-owned equipment, software, networks, databases, accounts, or credentials used to operate, host, maintain, connect, or contribute locally collected information to such systems; and
5. Pending applications for discretionary County distributions involving participating governmental entities or municipally sponsored events.

(b) Within sixty days after the effective date, the County Administrator shall present County Council with an implementation report.

(c) County staff shall revise County grant, recreation-fund, accommodations-tax, sponsorship, procurement, contracting, information-technology, property-use, and encroachment-permit documents before the next applicable application, procurement, renewal, or award cycle.

(d) The County Administrator shall cause the permanent substantive provisions of Sections 1, 2, and 3 to be submitted for codification in Chapters 2, 30, and 26, respectively.

SECTION 5. EXISTING OBLIGATIONS

Nothing in this Ordinance shall be interpreted to impair a binding contract, bond covenant, vested property right, final court order, or mandatory distribution in violation of controlling law.

The County Attorney shall review any claimed existing obligation and advise County Council and County staff concerning the lawful method of termination, nonrenewal, disconnection, removal, or compliance.

No County-funded contract, permit, subscription, data-contribution agreement, hosting agreement, memorandum of understanding, or other arrangement may be renewed, extended, expanded, or materially modified in a manner inconsistent with this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY

Should any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase, definition, application, or provision of this Ordinance be declared unconstitutional, preempted, invalid, or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining portions shall remain in full force and effect.

County Council declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance and each section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase, definition, application, and provision independently of any portion subsequently declared invalid or unenforceable.

If application of the accommodations-tax provisions to a particular category of revenue or recipient is declared invalid, the remaining restrictions concerning other accommodations-tax revenues, County general funds, recreation funds, grants, County property, County-controlled rights-of-way, County contracts, County personnel, information-technology systems, and other County resources shall remain in effect.

SECTION 7. CONFLICTING PROVISIONS

All ordinances, resolutions, policies, practices, contracts, approvals, permits, or actions of the County inconsistent with this Ordinance are repealed, revoked, rescinded, or superseded only to the extent of the inconsistency and only to the extent permitted by law.

SECTION 8. CODIFICATION

The Clerk to Council and the County's codifier are authorized to:

1. Make any technical adjustments to article, division, and section numbering that are necessary to conform to the Code, without changing the substantive codification placements specified herein;
2. Correct typographical and grammatical errors;
3. Update cross-references;
4. Format the provisions consistently with the Oconee County Code of Ordinances; and
5. Make other nonsubstantive changes necessary for codification.

No codification change may alter the meaning or substantive effect of this Ordinance.

Sections 1, 2, and 3 are expressly intended to be permanent provisions of the Oconee County Code of Ordinances and shall be codified in Chapters 2, 30, and 26, respectively.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption following the required readings and public hearing, except that:

The funding-eligibility, grant, award, contract, renewal, and authorization provisions of this Ordinance apply prospectively to applications, awards, contracts, renewals, permits, and

authorizations submitted, made, or arising on or after the effective date. No discretionary award approved before the effective date shall be rescinded solely on the basis of this Ordinance. This prospective-application provision does not limit the existing-system, County-property, County-right-of-way, nonrenewal, or existing-obligations provisions of this Ordinance.

1. Existing-system identification shall occur within thirty days;
2. Required application and administrative forms shall be revised within sixty days or before the next applicable funding cycle, whichever occurs first; and
3. Removal, disconnection, termination, or disabling of existing systems shall proceed according to the notice, cure, contractual, property-right, and legal-review provisions contained herein.

ORDAINED in meeting, duly assembled, this ____ of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Oconee County Council

Matthew Durham
Chair, Oconee County Council

First Reading: August 18, 2026
Second Reading: September 01, 2026
Third Reading: September 15, 2026
Public Hearing: September 15, 2026

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF OCONEE
ORDINANCE 2026-27**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, “ADMINISTRATION,” OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, BY ADDING ARTICLE VIII, ENTITLED “POSITION AUTHORIZATION AND CLASSIFICATION CONTROL”; TO REQUIRE ALL COUNTY POSITIONS, REGARDLESS OF FUNDING SOURCE, TO BE INCLUDED IN A POSITION AUTHORIZATION AND CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE APPROVED BY COUNTY COUNCIL; TO PROVIDE THAT THE RECEIPT OR AVAILABILITY OF A GRANT, STATE APPROPRIATION, DONATION, RESTRICTED REVENUE, FEE, OR OTHER FUNDING DOES NOT INDEPENDENTLY AUTHORIZE THE CREATION OR CONTINUATION OF A COUNTY POSITION; TO ESTABLISH UNIFORM PROCEDURES FOR THE CREATION, RECLASSIFICATION, CONTINUATION, EXPIRATION, AND ABOLITION OF COUNTY POSITIONS; TO PRESERVE LAWFUL APPOINTMENT AND PERSONNEL AUTHORITY; TO PROHIBIT CIRCUMVENTION; AND TO PROVIDE FOR CODIFICATION, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTING PROVISIONS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Oconee County Council is the governing body and responsible fiscal authority of Oconee County;

WHEREAS, Section 4-9-25 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina authorizes counties to enact ordinances necessary and proper for the general welfare, convenience, and good government of the county and requires that county powers be liberally construed in favor of the county;

WHEREAS, Section 4-9-30 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina authorizes County Council to make appropriations for the functions and operations of the County and to establish, prescribe, modify, and abolish county offices, departments, boards, commissions, and agencies, subject to the Constitution and general law of the State;

WHEREAS, Section 4-9-140 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina requires County Council to adopt annual operating and capital budgets and authorizes Council to require reports, estimates, and statistics from county agencies and departments necessary for Council to perform its duties as the responsible fiscal body of the County;

WHEREAS, Section 4-9-630 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina provides that the County Administrator shall administer personnel policies, salary plans, and classification plans approved by County Council and shall exercise employment and discharge authority subject to the appropriation of funds by County Council;

WHEREAS, the creation of a position may create financial and operational obligations extending beyond the period during which a grant, state appropriation, donation, or other outside funding source remains available;

WHEREAS, County Council finds that transparency, fiscal accountability, consistency, and responsible management require all positions within county government to be expressly authorized by County Council, regardless of the proposed source of salary, benefits, equipment, facilities, administrative support, or other costs associated with the position;

WHEREAS, County Council intends to regulate the authorization, classification, funding, and continued existence of county positions without improperly exercising the hiring, supervision, disciplinary, or discharge authority lawfully assigned to the County Administrator, an elected official, an appointed board, a department head, or another appointing authority; and

WHEREAS, County Council finds that the acceptance or availability of outside funds should not, by itself, permit a county entity to expand the size, scope, or recurring obligations of county government without legislative authorization.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the County Council of Oconee County, South Carolina, in meeting duly assembled, that the Code of Ordinances of Oconee County is amended as follows:

SECTION 1. CHAPTER 2 AMENDED

Chapter 2, "Administration," of the Code of Ordinances of Oconee County, South Carolina, is amended by adding Article VIII, entitled "Position Authorization and Classification Control," Sections 2-550 through 2-565, to read as follows:

ARTICLE VIII. POSITION AUTHORIZATION AND CLASSIFICATION CONTROL

Sec. 2-550. Purpose and legislative intent.

(a) The purpose of this article is to establish a uniform and transparent system under which County Council determines the total number, classification, and organizational placement of positions authorized within county government.

(b) County Council retains legislative authority to determine whether a position is authorized to exist, subject to the Constitution and general law of the State of South Carolina.

(c) Nothing in this article authorizes County Council or an individual council member to select, appoint, hire, supervise, discipline, evaluate, or discharge a particular employee when such authority is assigned by law to the County Administrator, an elected official, an appointed board, a department head, or another lawful appointing authority.

(d) The authorization of a position is distinct from: (1) the selection or appointment of the individual who occupies the position; (2) the day-to-day supervision of an employee; (3) employee discipline or discharge; (4) the assignment of duties reasonably within an authorized classification; and (5) other administrative personnel decisions lawfully assigned to the County Administrator or another appointing authority.

Sec. 2-551. Definitions.

For purposes of this article, the following words and phrases have the meanings stated in this section:

Authorized Position

"Authorized position" means a full-time, part-time, temporary, seasonal, grant-funded, state-funded, restricted-fund, or other employment position that is expressly included in the position authorization and classification schedule approved by County Council or has otherwise been expressly authorized by ordinance. The term does not include a bona fide independent contractor who satisfies the requirements of this article.

County

"County" means Oconee County, South Carolina.

County Entity

"County entity" means a county department, division, office, agency, program, institution, board, commission, committee, authority, or other entity created by County Council or operating as a component or function of Oconee County government; the Oconee County Public Library System and its Board of Trustees; an office or operation administered by the County Administrator; an office of an elected or appointed county official to the extent the position at issue is funded, compensated, insured, classified, administered, or supported by Oconee County and is not exclusively controlled by the Constitution or general law of the State; and any other organizational unit whose employees are treated

as county employees for payroll, benefits, retirement, workers' compensation, liability coverage, human-resources administration, or other employment purposes. The term does not include a municipality, an independent special purpose district, or another separate political subdivision merely because the entity receives a county appropriation, grant, or distribution, unless the entity or position has been legally incorporated into county government.

Employee

"Employee" means an individual providing services in an employer-employee relationship, without regard to whether the individual is classified as full-time, part-time, temporary, seasonal, provisional, probationary, at-will, grant-funded, state-funded, or otherwise.

Outside Funds

"Outside funds" means money or financial support received or anticipated from a source other than unrestricted county general-fund revenue, including federal, state, or regional grants; state aid or state appropriations; donations, gifts, bequests, or contributions; restricted or designated revenues; special revenues; fees, charges, fines, or program income; reimbursements; proceeds received under an agreement with a public or private entity; foundation or nonprofit funding; funds held in trust or for a restricted purpose; and any other external or non-general-fund revenue.

Position authorization and Classification Schedule

"Position authorization and classification schedule" means the official schedule approved by County Council identifying the employment positions authorized within county government. The schedule may identify the county entity or organizational unit; the position title or classification; the number of authorized positions or full-time equivalents; whether the position is full-time, part-time, temporary, or seasonal; the assigned pay grade or compensation range; the principal funding source; whether the position is subject to a funding expiration date or other condition; and any other information County Council determines necessary for fiscal or organizational control.

Position

"Position" means an employment role or set of continuing employment duties intended to be performed by one or more employees. The term includes a full-time-equivalent position, a part-time position, a shared position, and a position divided among multiple employees.

Sec. 2-552. County Council authorization required.

- (a) Every position within a county entity, regardless of funding source, must be expressly included in the position authorization and classification schedule adopted by County Council or otherwise expressly authorized by ordinance.
- (b) No county entity may create, establish, advertise, recruit for, fill, appoint an individual to, employ an individual in, or continue a position unless the position has been authorized in accordance with this article.
- (c) The acceptance, receipt, award, availability, transfer, or expenditure of a grant, state appropriation, state aid, donation, gift, restricted revenue, fee, reimbursement, program income, or other funding does not independently authorize the creation, filling, or continuation of a county position.
- (d) An appropriation to a county entity, approval of a budget, authorization to apply for or accept outside funding, approval of a grant agreement, or approval of an expenditure does not authorize a position unless County Council's action expressly identifies the position or classification, the number of positions or full-time equivalents authorized, the county entity to which the position is assigned, and any expiration date, funding limitation, or other condition applicable to the position.
- (e) No position may be implied from historical practice, the availability of funding, an internal budget transfer, an organizational chart, a job description, a personnel requisition, a grant application, a grant award, an administrative approval, or the authority of a county entity to receive or expend funds.

Sec. 2-553. Outside funds do not independently authorize positions.

- (a) A county entity seeking to use outside funds for personnel costs must obtain express authorization for the position before advertising or recruiting for the position, making an offer of employment, appointing or assigning an individual to the position, entering into an employment commitment, charging salary or benefits to the outside funding source, or representing to the funding source that the County has committed to establish or continue the position.
- (b) Before requesting authorization for an outside-funded position, the requesting county entity shall disclose the proposed title and classification, duties and organizational placement, total projected salary and benefit cost, funding source and restrictions, beginning and ending dates of funding, matching-fund requirements, potential county costs and liabilities, any expectation of continuation after the funding expires, and the proposed disposition of the position when the funding ends.
- (c) Unless County Council expressly provides otherwise by ordinance, an outside-funded position terminates upon the earliest of the expiration or exhaustion of the funding, the expiration date specified in the position authorization, the loss of eligibility to use the funds for personnel expenses, or abolition of the position by County Council.
- (d) The expiration of outside funding does not create an entitlement to continued employment or require the County to continue the position using unrestricted or other county revenues.
- (e) No county entity may transfer, supplement, or substitute county funds to continue an outside-funded position beyond its authorized term without prior approval by ordinance of County Council.

Sec. 2-554. Annual position authorization and classification schedule.

- (a) The County Administrator shall submit a proposed position authorization and classification schedule to County Council with the proposed annual operating budget.
- (b) The proposed schedule must include every position within each county entity covered by this article, regardless of funding source.
- (c) The position authorization and classification schedule shall be adopted as part of the annual budget ordinance. Any amendment to the schedule during the fiscal year must be approved by a subsequent ordinance amending the annual budget ordinance.
- (d) The schedule must distinguish among regular full-time positions, regular part-time positions, temporary or seasonal positions, positions funded wholly or partially by outside funds, positions subject to a fixed expiration date, and vacant but authorized positions.
- (e) The schedule shall identify the total authorized full-time-equivalent positions for each county entity and for county government as a whole.
- (f) The County Administrator and Human Resources Director shall maintain the official administrative record of the schedule as approved and subsequently amended by County Council.
- (g) No administrative document, internal spreadsheet, personnel roster, or organizational chart may alter the number or classification of authorized positions established by County Council.

Sec. 2-555. Creation, continuation, reclassification, and abolition of positions.

- (a) A new position may be created only through express inclusion in the annual budget ordinance or by a subsequent ordinance amending the annual budget ordinance.
- (b) A request to create a position must include the proposed position title and classification, job description, assigned county entity and organizational unit, number of positions or full-time equivalents requested, compensation grade or range, complete annualized salary and benefit cost, funding source, operational justification, permanent or temporary status, expiration date if any, and anticipated future costs or obligations.

(c) County Council may authorize, deny, limit, condition, defer, or establish an expiration date for a proposed position.

(d) A material reclassification requires prior approval by County Council when the reclassification creates a substantially different function or occupation, moves the position into a higher compensation grade, materially expands the scope of a program or service, changes a temporary or outside-funded position into a regular or continuing position, extends a position beyond its authorized expiration date, results in increased annualized compensation or benefit costs not authorized in the adopted budget, or otherwise has the practical effect of creating a new position.

(e) Routine administrative adjustments that do not increase the number of authorized positions, change the essential function of a position, expand a program, or exceed compensation authority approved by County Council may be administered by the County Administrator in accordance with the County's personnel policies and classification plan.

(f) County Council may abolish, reduce, consolidate, condition, or establish an expiration date for an authorized position by ordinance, subject to applicable constitutional, statutory, contractual, and employee-grievance requirements.

(g) The abolition of a position is a legislative and organizational action and is not a directive concerning the discipline or discharge of a particular employee. Implementation shall be performed by the official or entity possessing lawful personnel authority.

Sec. 2-556. Vacancies and transfer of position authority.

(a) A vacancy does not abolish an authorized position unless County Council has established an expiration date, the position is abolished by ordinance, the annual schedule does not continue the position, or a funding or other condition upon which authorization depends has expired.

(b) An authorized but vacant position may not be transferred from one county entity, department, division, program, classification, or principal function to another without prior approval by County Council when the transfer would materially change duties or classification, increase compensation or benefits beyond existing authority, establish or expand a county service or program, continue a position after outside funding expires, or circumvent this article.

(c) Position authority belongs to the approved classification and organizational unit and may not be treated as an unrestricted personnel allowance.

Sec. 2-557. Independent contractors and circumvention prohibited.

(a) No county entity may avoid this article by designating an employee or employment relationship as an independent contractor, consultant, professional-service provider, temporary-agency worker, leased employee, compensated volunteer, employee of a foundation or nonprofit organization, or any similar designation.

(b) In determining whether an arrangement constitutes a position, the County shall consider the degree of control exercised over the individual's work, whether the duties are continuing or indefinite, whether the individual performs substantially the same duties as a county employee, whether the services are integral to an ongoing county operation, whether the County provides workspace, equipment, supervision, scheduling, or administrative support, whether the individual represents the County to the public, whether compensation is based primarily on time worked rather than completion of a defined deliverable, and applicable federal and state standards.

(c) A bona fide independent contractor performing a defined service or delivering a specified work product under a procurement or professional-services agreement is not a position solely because the contractor provides services to the County.

(d) No contract may be used to provide continuing personnel services when the arrangement's primary purpose or effect is to avoid Council authorization of a position.

(e) A contract that would provide the functional equivalent of a continuing county position for more than six months must specifically disclose that fact to County Council before approval or execution. Successive contracts, amendments, renewals, or changes in vendors must be considered together.

Sec. 2-558. Elected officials and positions controlled by state law.

(a) This article shall not be interpreted to interfere with the constitutional or statutory authority of an elected official to select, appoint, supervise, discipline, or discharge personnel.

(b) Except where general law expressly provides otherwise, positions funded, compensated, insured, classified, or administratively supported by the County remain subject to County Council's appropriation authority, the total position authorization established by County Council, countywide personnel and compensation policies lawfully applicable to the position, and the reporting requirements of this article.

(c) When general law mandates the existence, number, compensation, or appointment of particular personnel, that law controls to the extent of any direct conflict.

(d) The County Administrator and County Attorney shall identify any position believed to be wholly or partially exempt and provide County Council with the legal basis for the exemption.

Sec. 2-559. Boards, commissions, authorities, and component units.

(a) A county board, commission, authority, institution, or component unit does not possess independent authority to create a county position merely because it possesses authority to manage a county function, select or appoint staff, receive or expend grants or other revenues, adopt an internal budget, enter into contracts, or recommend personnel or organizational changes.

(b) Unless general law expressly provides otherwise, all positions within such an entity must be included in the position authorization and classification schedule approved by County Council.

(c) After County Council authorizes a position, the board, commission, authority, or other entity possessing lawful appointment and personnel authority retains that authority, subject to applicable law and county policy.

(d) Nothing in this section authorizes County Council or an individual council member to direct the selection, supervision, discipline, or discharge of a specific employee when such authority is vested elsewhere by law.

Sec. 2-560. Temporary and emergency personnel.

(a) The County Administrator may authorize temporary or seasonal personnel only within the number of positions, total full-time-equivalent authority, total compensation authority, and duration approved by County Council.

(b) In response to a declared emergency affecting life, health, safety, or property, the County Administrator may employ temporary emergency personnel without prior position authorization when the employment is reasonably necessary, delay would materially impair the response, the employment does not exceed sixty days unless extended by ordinance, and written notice is provided to County Council within five business days identifying the number of individuals, duties, duration, funding source, and estimated cost.

(c) This section does not authorize the establishment of a permanent or continuing position without Council approval.

Sec. 2-561. Certification and reporting.

(a) The County Administrator, Human Resources Director, and Finance Director shall establish administrative procedures necessary to enforce this article.

(b) Before an individual is added to the County payroll or benefit system, Human Resources and Finance shall verify that the position is authorized, assigned to the correct county entity and classification, supported by sufficient compensation authority, funded through a lawful and available source, and subject to any documented expiration date or condition.

(c) No salary, benefit, stipend, allowance, or other personnel expense may be paid for an unauthorized position.

(d) The County Administrator shall provide County Council with a position report at least quarterly showing authorized positions by county entity, filled and vacant positions, full-time-equivalent totals, positions funded wholly or partially by outside funds, positions scheduled to expire within twelve months, material reclassifications, temporary emergency personnel, and any variance or suspected noncompliance.

(e) Each county entity shall provide information requested to verify compliance.

Sec. 2-562. Effect of unauthorized action.

(a) An administrative action, internal approval, job posting, offer, appointment, employment agreement, funding transfer, or other commitment made in violation of this article does not bind the County beyond the extent required by applicable law.

(b) Upon discovering a suspected violation, the County Administrator shall prevent additional expenditures to the extent legally permissible, notify the Chairman of County Council and County Attorney, determine the legal, financial, and personnel consequences, present a corrective-action recommendation to County Council, and take lawful administrative action to prevent continued noncompliance.

(c) Nothing in this section eliminates any right afforded to an affected employee under state or federal law, the County's grievance procedure, an enforceable contract, or an applicable personnel policy.

(d) An employee shall not be personally penalized solely because the employee accepted or occupied a position that the employee reasonably believed had been properly authorized.

Sec. 2-563. No entitlement or guarantee of employment.

(a) Authorization of a position does not guarantee that the position will be filled.

(b) Authorization of a position does not create a contract of employment, property interest in employment, guarantee of continued funding, guarantee that the position will continue in a future fiscal year, or limitation upon lawful appointment, supervision, discipline, or discharge authority.

(c) All positions remain subject to funding availability, applicable law, County personnel policies, and future legislative action by County Council.

Sec. 2-564. Construction.

(a) This article shall be construed to preserve the lawful separation between County Council's legislative, fiscal, organizational, appropriation, position-authorization, and policy-making authority and the administrative and personnel authority vested in the County Administrator, elected officials, appointed boards, department heads, and other appointing authorities.

(b) When this article conflicts with a specific requirement of the Constitution or general law of the State of South Carolina, the Constitution or general law controls only to the extent of the direct conflict.

(c) The receipt of funds carrying conditions imposed by federal or state law does not waive the requirements of this article unless compliance is expressly prohibited by controlling law.

Secs. 2-565—2-575. Reserved.

SECTION 2. Implementation.

The County Administrator, Human Resources Director, Finance Director, and County Attorney are directed to take all lawful actions necessary to implement this ordinance and ensure that all county positions are administered consistently with the positions authorized in the annual budget ordinance.

SECTION 3. Codification.

The provisions of Section 1 shall be codified in Chapter 2, Article VIII, sections 2-550 through 2-564, of the Code of Ordinances of Oconee County, South Carolina. The Clerk to Council and the County's codifier may correct manifest typographical, grammatical, numbering, and cross-reference errors and may make nonsubstantive formatting corrections necessary for codification, provided no substantive change is made.

SECTION 4. Severability.

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, that determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions. County Council declares that it would have adopted this ordinance and each portion thereof irrespective of the fact that one or more portions may be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 5. Repeal of Conflicting Provisions.

All ordinances, resolutions, policies, practices, and prior actions in conflict with this ordinance are repealed or superseded to the extent of the conflict. Any provision that is not in conflict remains in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. Savings Clause.

Nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to impair a vested contractual right, eliminate an employee grievance right established by law, or authorize an employment action contrary to state or federal law.

SECTION 7. Effective Date.

This ordinance takes effect immediately upon approval following third reading.

ORDAINED in meeting, duly assembled, this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Oconee County Council

Matthew Durham
Chair, Oconee County Council

First Reading: August 18, 2026
Second Reading: September 01, 2026
Third Reading: September 15, 2026
Public Hearing: September 15, 2026

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF OCONEE
ORDINANCE 2026-28**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 2-191, “APPOINTMENT; DUTIES,” OF DIVISION 4, “COUNTY ATTORNEY,” OF ARTICLE III, “OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES,” OF CHAPTER 2, “ADMINISTRATION,” OF THE OCONEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, IN ORDER TO REQUIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AUTHORIZATION BEFORE A COUNTY AGENCY, COMMISSION, BOARD, DEPARTMENT, OR COMMITTEE MAY EMPLOY OR RETAIN AN ATTORNEY OTHER THAN THE COUNTY ATTORNEY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, Oconee County, South Carolina (“County”), acting by and through the Oconee County Council (“County Council”), is authorized by Sections 4-9-25 and 4-9-30 of the South Carolina Code of Laws to enact ordinances necessary for the governance, administration, and general welfare of the County; and,

WHEREAS, Section 2-191 of the Oconee County Code of Ordinances establishes the position, duties, and responsibilities of the County Attorney; and,

WHEREAS, the County Attorney is responsible for providing legal services to County Council, the County Administrator, and County departments and agencies; and,

WHEREAS, County Council finds that the centralized provision and coordination of legal services promotes consistency in the County’s legal positions, protects the attorney-client privilege, reduces unnecessary legal expenses, and ensures proper oversight of the expenditure of public funds; and,

WHEREAS, County Council therefore desires to require its specific authorization before any County agency, commission, board, department, or committee may employ, retain, contract with, or otherwise engage an attorney other than the County Attorney.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Oconee County Council, in meeting duly assembled, that:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT OF SECTION 2-191.

Section 2-191, “Appointment; duties,” of Division 4, “County Attorney,” of Article III, “Officers and Employees,” of Chapter 2, “Administration,” of the Oconee County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2-191. Appointment; duties; retention of other attorneys.

The County Attorney shall be an employee of the County and shall be compensated on a mutually agreeable basis, with the usual benefits of a County employee. The County Attorney shall provide legal services to the County Council, the County Administrator, and County departments and agencies. The County Attorney shall serve under the management of the County Administrator, in coordination with, and pursuant to, the directives and policies of County Council. The County Attorney may be subject to a contract of employment, to be executed by the County Administrator on behalf of the County at the direction of the County Council.

No County agency, commission, board, department, or committee shall employ, retain, contract with, or otherwise engage an attorney other than the County Attorney unless specifically authorized by County Council. Any such authorization shall be granted by

motion, resolution, or ordinance duly approved by County Council and shall identify the agency, commission, board, department, or committee authorized to obtain separate legal counsel.

SECTION 2. EXISTING LEGAL REPRESENTATION.

Nothing in this Ordinance shall terminate or impair an existing contract for legal services that was specifically approved by County Council before the effective date of this Ordinance. Any renewal, extension, amendment, or replacement of such contract shall require specific authorization by County Council in accordance with Section 2-191.

SECTION 3. CONFLICTING PROVISIONS.

All ordinances, resolutions, policies, and provisions of the Oconee County Code of Ordinances that are inconsistent with this Ordinance are repealed or amended to the extent necessary to give effect to this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this Ordinance is held invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 5. CODIFICATION.

The provisions of Section 1 of this Ordinance shall be codified as part of the Oconee County Code of Ordinances. Sections of this Ordinance that are temporary, transitional, or administrative in nature need not be codified.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon approval following third reading by County Council.

ORDAINED in meeting duly assembled this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Oconee County Council

Matthew Durham
Chair, Oconee County Council

First Reading: August 18, 2026
Second Reading: September 01, 2026
Third Reading: September 15, 2026
Public Hearing: September 15, 2026

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF OCONEE
ORDINANCE 2026-31**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, "ADMINISTRATION," OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, BY ADDING DIVISION 4, "APPOINTMENTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL OATHS," TO ARTICLE II, "COUNTY COUNCIL," CONSISTING OF SECTIONS 2-96 THROUGH 2-101; TO ESTABLISH A UNIFORM CONSTITUTIONAL OATH REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN PERSONS APPOINTED BY OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL; TO PROVIDE FOR ADMINISTRATION, SUBSCRIPTION, FILING, AND RETENTION OF SUCH OATHS; TO REQUIRE THE PROVISION OF A COPY OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES TO CERTAIN PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND SWORN COUNTY PERSONNEL; TO PROVIDE FOR TRANSITION, RATIFICATION, COMPLIANCE, AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of South Carolina provides that officers of the State and its political subdivisions, before entering upon the duties of their respective offices, shall take and subscribe the oath of office prescribed by Article VI, Section 5;

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 5 of the Constitution of the State of South Carolina prescribes an oath by which an elected or appointed officer affirms that the officer is duly qualified to exercise the duties of the office, will faithfully discharge those duties, and will preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the State of South Carolina and the Constitution of the United States;

WHEREAS, Oconee County Council appoints citizens to county boards, commissions, authorities, committees, and other public bodies, and directly appoints or employs certain officials who exercise governmental authority on behalf of Oconee County;

WHEREAS, County Council finds that persons entrusted by Council with governmental authority should formally acknowledge their duty to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitutions under which that authority is exercised;

WHEREAS, County Council further finds that elected county officeholders and sworn law enforcement and public safety officers should be provided ready access to the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, County Council desires to codify these permanent requirements in a new Division 4, "Appointments and Constitutional Oaths," within Article II, "County Council," of Chapter 2, "Administration," using a portion of the section numbers presently reserved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the County Council of Oconee County, South Carolina, duly assembled:

SECTION 1. CHAPTER 2 AMENDED.

Chapter 2, "Administration," of the Code of Ordinances of Oconee County, South Carolina, is amended by adding Division 4, entitled "APPOINTMENTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL OATHS," to Article II, "COUNTY COUNCIL," Sections 2-96 through 2-101, to read as follows:

DIVISION 4. - APPOINTMENTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL OATHS

Sec. 2-96. - Constitutional oath required.

(a) As a condition of appointment or service, as applicable, the following persons shall take and subscribe the oath prescribed by Article VI, Section 5 of the Constitution of the State of South Carolina:

1. Each member appointed by Oconee County Council to a county board, commission, authority, committee, or other public body created by Oconee County or otherwise subject to County Council's appointment authority, except where the governing state law, enabling legislation, or intergovernmental agreement provides otherwise;
2. The Oconee County Administrator;
3. The Oconee County Attorney;
4. The Clerk to Oconee County Council; and
5. Any other officer or position directly appointed by County Council that County Council expressly identifies, at the time of appointment or reappointment, as exercising governmental authority on behalf of Oconee County and as subject to this oath requirement. The Clerk to Council shall maintain a current list of positions so identified.

(b) Every person newly appointed to a position covered by section 2-96 shall take and subscribe the oath following appointment and prior to entering upon or assuming the duties of the office or position.

(c) Every person reappointed to a position covered by section 2-96 shall take and subscribe the oath following reappointment and prior to entering upon or assuming the duties of the new term.

(d) Nothing in this article shall apply solely by reason of ordinary employment with Oconee County to employees who are not directly appointed by County Council.

Sec. 2-97. - Form and administration of oath.

(a) The oath administered pursuant to this article shall be the oath prescribed by Article VI, Section 5 of the Constitution of the State of South Carolina:

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am duly qualified, according to the Constitution of this State, to exercise the duties of the office to which I have been elected, (or appointed), and that I will, to the best of my ability, discharge the duties thereof, and preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of this State and of the United States. So help me God.”

(b) A person may take the oath by affirmation rather than by swearing. The concluding phrase “So help me God” may be omitted when permitted or required by applicable law. No person shall be disqualified from appointment or service on account of a lawful election to affirm or to omit that concluding phrase.

(c) The oath or affirmation shall be administered by a person authorized by law to administer oaths and in a manner consistent with the Constitution and laws of the State of South Carolina.

Sec. 2-98. - Written subscription; filing and retention.

(a) Each person taking the oath shall sign a written copy of the oath.

(b) The written oath shall state the person's name; the office, position, board, commission, authority, committee, or public body in which the person will serve; the date the oath was administered; the signature of the person taking the oath; and the name, title, and signature of the person administering the oath.

(c) The original or an official copy of each subscribed oath shall be filed with the Clerk to Council.

(d) The Clerk to Council shall maintain the subscribed oaths as public records in accordance with the South Carolina Public Records Act and applicable records-retention schedules, and such records shall be subject to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

Sec. 2-99. - Provision of Constitution of the United States.

(a) Oconee County shall provide a printed copy of the Constitution of the United States of America to:

1. Each person required to take the oath pursuant to section 2-96;
2. Each elected Oconee County officeholder;
3. Each sworn law enforcement officer employed by Oconee County or the Oconee County Sheriff's Office; and
4. Each sworn or credentialed public safety officer employed by Oconee County in fire, rescue, emergency medical services, emergency management, or another County public safety agency designated by County Council.

(b) For purposes of this section, the distribution requirement does not extend to municipal officers or employees, volunteer personnel, or personnel of another political subdivision unless County Council expressly provides otherwise.

(c) The Clerk to Council shall ensure that copies required by this section are made available. For elected officeholders and Council appointees, the Clerk shall provide the copy directly. For sworn law enforcement and public safety personnel, the Clerk shall provide copies in sufficient quantity to the Sheriff or applicable County public safety agency head, who shall distribute them to current personnel and thereafter to newly sworn, hired, or credentialed personnel as part of the agency's onboarding or swearing-in process.

(d) County Council finds that providing the Constitution of the United States serves the public purpose of ensuring that persons entrusted with governmental authority and public safety responsibilities have ready access to the federal Constitution.

Sec. 2-100. - Compliance and construction.

(a) A person appointed or reappointed after the effective date of the ordinance adopting this article shall not exercise the powers, cast a vote, or otherwise perform the official duties of the applicable appointment or position until the oath required by section 2-96 has been taken and subscribed.

(b) A person appointed or reappointed after the effective date who fails or refuses to take and subscribe the required oath within thirty (30) days after appointment or reappointment shall be deemed to have declined the appointment, and the position shall be treated as vacant to the extent permitted by applicable law. If state law, enabling legislation, or an intergovernmental agreement establishes a different procedure for qualification, declination, removal, or vacancy, that authority shall control.

(c) Nothing in this article shall be construed to create a new constitutional office, to declare that any particular position constitutes an office for purposes of Article VI of the South Carolina Constitution, to alter qualifications established by state law, to affect the constitutional prohibition against dual office holding, or to interfere with the authority of an independently elected official or another governmental entity.

(d) If general law, enabling legislation, or an intergovernmental agreement governing a particular office, board, commission, authority, committee, or other public body conflicts with this article, the controlling law or agreement shall govern to the extent of the conflict.

(e) A violation of this article shall not constitute a criminal offense or infraction and shall not be subject to the general penalty provisions of section 1-7 of this Code.

Sec. 2-101—2-130. - Reserved.

SECTION 2. CURRENT APPOINTEES; TRANSITION.

- (a) Each person serving on the effective date of this Ordinance in a position subject to the oath requirement established by Section 2-96 shall take and subscribe the oath within ninety (90) days after the effective date. Such persons may continue to exercise the duties of their positions during that ninety-day transition period.
- (b) The prohibition against exercising official duties before taking the oath applies only to persons appointed or reappointed on or after the effective date of this Ordinance and shall not suspend or interrupt the service of a person who was already serving on the effective date during the transition period provided in subsection (a).
- (c) To the fullest extent permitted by law, Oconee County Council hereby ratifies, confirms, and approves all lawful official actions, votes, decisions, recommendations, and other acts previously taken by persons appointed by County Council before the effective date of this Ordinance, notwithstanding the absence of a subscribed oath required by this Ordinance.
- (d) Nothing in this Section shall be construed as a determination or admission that any person serving before the effective date of this Ordinance violated the Constitution or laws of this State, lacked authority to act, or that any prior official action was invalid because the person had not taken or subscribed the oath required prospectively by this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this Ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. CONFLICTING PROVISIONS.

All ordinances, resolutions, policies, or portions thereof inconsistent with this Ordinance are repealed, revised, or superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall become effective upon approval following third reading and public hearing as required by law.

ORDAINED in meeting duly assembled this ____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Oconee County Council

Matthew Durham
Chair, Oconee County Council

First Reading: September 01, 2026
Second Reading: September 15, 2026
Third Reading: October 06, 2026
Public Hearing: October 06, 2026

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF OCONEE
RESOLUTION 2026-12**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE WITHHOLDING OF FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000) IN DISTRICT 3 RECREATIONAL FUNDING AND THE REALLOCATION OF SUCH FUNDS TO HELP OFFSET INCREASED COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND DISPATCH COSTS DUE TO THE CITY OF SENECA CLOSING ITS DISPATCH CENTER AND FAILING TO ASSIST OCONEE COUNTY WITH CONSOLIDATION COSTS.

WHEREAS, Oconee County Council adopted Ordinance 2026-01, establishing the Oconee County budget for Fiscal Year 2026–2027 and adopted Ordinance 2026-16 regarding Seneca offloading dispatch operations onto the Oconee County Emergency Communications Center; and

WHEREAS, Section 20 of Ordinance 2026-01, located on page 15 of the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget Ordinance, expressly provides:

“County Council, at its sole discretion, has the authority to amend or withhold District Recreational Funding for each district based on each district’s willingness to allow for broader opportunities for expanded recreational participation. Council strongly supports the expansion of youth recreational opportunities in Oconee County, and thus, will provide priority funding for those districts that demonstrate their willingness to accommodate that goal.”; and

WHEREAS, Section 20 expressly grants Oconee County Council discretion to withhold District Recreational Funding for individual County Council districts; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seneca has closed its municipal dispatch center, resulting in additional emergency communications and dispatch responsibilities being assumed by the Oconee County Emergency Communications Center; and

WHEREAS, the closure of the City of Seneca dispatch center resulted in an increase in County dispatch call volume from approximately 200 calls per day to approximately 300 calls per day, representing a 50% increase in daily call volume and additional needed staff; and,

WHEREAS, the increased call volume has materially increased the workload of County dispatch personnel and has required Oconee County to hire additional personnel in order to provide adequate staffing and maintain emergency communications services; and

WHEREAS, the additional personnel, salary, benefits, training, overtime, equipment, and related operational expenses associated with the increased dispatch workload have created additional costs to Oconee County taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the County Council recognizes that emergency communications and 911 dispatch services are essential public safety functions and that adequate staffing of the County Emergency Communications Center is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Oconee County; and

WHEREAS, County Council further recognizes that the increased workload being absorbed by the County is directly associated with the closure of the City of Seneca's municipal dispatch center and the resulting transfer of dispatch responsibilities to the County; and

WHEREAS, County Council finds that the immediate need to maintain adequate emergency communications and dispatch staffing constitutes a compelling County public safety priority and warrants the withholding and reallocation of a portion of the District 3 recreational funding otherwise available for Fiscal Year 2026–2027; and

WHEREAS, County Council determines, pursuant to the authority granted by Section 20 of Ordinance 2026-01, that Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) of District 3 recreational funding shall be withheld for Fiscal Year 2026–2027; and as Ordinance 2026-16 codified that the total cost to the County of absorbing Seneca's dispatch operations is \$240,000 per year for four years total, and

WHEREAS, County Council further determines that the withheld funds should be utilized to partially offset the increased costs incurred by Oconee County in providing emergency communications and dispatch services resulting from the closure of the City of Seneca dispatch center;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Oconee County Council:

Section 1. Exercise of Authority.

Pursuant to Section 20 of Ordinance 2026-01, Oconee County Council hereby exercises its authority to withhold Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) from the District 3 Recreational Funding appropriation for Fiscal Year 2026–2027.

Section 2. Reallocation of Withheld Funds.

Pursuant to Section 6 of the Budget Provisos incorporated into Ordinance 2026-01, County Council hereby approves the transfer of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) of existing Fiscal Year 2026-2027 appropriations from District 3 Recreational Funding to the County's E911 Communications (104) budget. The District 3 Recreational Funding appropriation shall be reduced by \$50,000, and the E911 Communications appropriation shall be increased by \$50,000.

County Council finds that this transfer does not increase the total appropriations authorized for the applicable fund, does not appropriate new or previously unbudgeted revenues, grants, or fund balance, and is supported by available appropriated balances within the transferring budget unit.

The \$50,000 in withheld District 3 recreational funding shall be used to partially offset the additional costs incurred by the County as a result of the increased dispatch responsibilities and call volume following the closure of the City of Seneca dispatch center.

Section 3. Permitted Uses.

The funds may be utilized for costs directly associated with the increased emergency communications workload, including:

1. Additional dispatch personnel;
2. Salaries and employee benefits;
3. Overtime;
4. Training;
5. Dispatch equipment and technology; and
6. Other necessary operating expenses directly attributable to the increased dispatch workload.

Section 4. Public Safety Determination.

County Council finds that the increase of approximately 100 additional calls per day has created a significant increase in the workload of the County Emergency Communications Center and has required the County to increase staffing.

County Council further finds that maintaining sufficient emergency communications personnel and resources is an essential public safety responsibility and that the use of \$50,000 for this purpose is in the best interest of the citizens of Oconee County.

Section 5. Budgetary Action.

Consistent with Ordinance 2026-01 and applicable South Carolina Law, the County Administrator and Finance Department are hereby authorized and directed to make all budgetary and accounting entries necessary to implement the transfer approved by this Resolution, including reducing the District 3 Recreational Funding appropriation by \$50,000 and increasing the E911 Communications appropriation by \$50,000. This Resolution constitutes the prior approval of County Council required by Section 6 of the Budget Provisos incorporated into Ordinance 2026-01.

Section 6. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW

OCONEE COUNTY , SOUTH CAROLINA

Matthew Durham
Chair, Oconee County Council

Don Mize, Vice Chairman

John Elliott, Council Member

Thomas James, Council Member

Glenn Hart, Council Member

ATTEST:

Jennifer C. Adams
Clerk to Oconee County Council

**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY
OCONEE COUNTY, SC**

**COUNCIL MEETING DATE September 1, 2026
COUNCIL MEETING TIME: 6:00 PM**

ITEM TITLE [Brief Statement]:

Council consideration to approve an ordinance agreement between Project Fox and Oconee County to locate a new manufacturing operation in Oconee County.

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION:

Project Fox is an international manufacturer of products used in the food processing and healthcare delivery sectors. Oconee County is one of several communities the project is considering for the new operation. The project is anticipated to have a capital investment of \$75 million and create twenty-five new jobs. The Oconee Economic Alliance (OEA) has been working with this competitive project since 2025. The OEA has recommended a property tax incentive package and sale of county owned industrial land for the project in an effort to secure Project Fox's commitment to locate in Oconee County. The OEA is recommending the following county incentives for the project:

1. A 30-Year Fee-In-Lieu-of-Taxes (FILOT) agreement with a fixed property assessment rate of 6% and millage rate of 281.7 mills.
2. A 15-Year Special Source Revenue Credits (SSRC) that provides an annual abatement of 50% of the FILOT payment.
3. Sale of Oconee County owned industrial land (size to be determined) at a price of \$5,000/acre.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS OR CONCERNS [only if applicable]:

- Project Fox is a well-established and financially strong company that supports critical and strategically important business sectors in the U.S.
- The project is a significant investment in the Oconee County.
- The jobs created by the project will have an average salary of approximately \$58,000.
- The project will bring development to an area that has lacked the business growth experienced in other areas of Oconee County.

FINANCIAL IMPACT [Brief Statement]:

- The project is expected to generate in total property taxes (after incentives) an estimated \$2,900,000 over 10 years, \$4,600,000 over 20 years and \$6,800,000 over 30 years.
- The FILOT and SSRCs are estimated to provide Project Fox with a property tax savings of \$4,100,000 over 30 years or 38%.

___Check here if Item Previously approved in the Budget. No additional information required.

Approved by: _____ **Finance**

ATTACHMENTS

STAFF RECOMMENDATION [Brief Statement]:

It is the staff's recommendation that Council approve the ordinance for Project Fox.

Council has directed that they receive their agenda packages a week prior to each Council meeting, therefore, Agenda Items Summaries must be submitted to the Administrator for his review/approval no later than 12 days prior to each Council meeting. It is the Department Head / Elected Officials responsibility to ensure that all approvals are obtained prior to submission to the Administrator for inclusion on an agenda. A calendar with due dates marked may be obtained from the Clerk to Council.

Submitted or Prepared By:

Jamie Gilbert, Economic Development Director

Approved for Submittal to Council:

Stewart Jones, County Administrator

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Date: September 1, 2026

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into between Oconee County Emergency Services and the Corinth Shiloh Fire District.

The purpose of this agreement is to allow the Corinth Shiloh Fire District to operate under the medical direction of Oconee County Emergency Services and to temporarily utilize the South Carolina Department of Health Emergency Medical Services (EMS) license held by Oconee County Emergency Services, as well as the South Carolina Labor, Licensing and Regulation (SCLLR) EMS Non-Dispensing Drug Outlet Permit, as applicable.

This agreement is intended to provide temporary authorization and medical oversight while the Corinth Shiloh Fire District completes the process of obtaining its own licensure from the South Carolina Department of Health and the appropriate permits from SCLLR.

This MOU shall remain in effect until December 31, 2026, or until such time that the Corinth Shiloh Fire District obtains its own EMS licensure and required permits, whichever occurs first.

Both parties agree to comply with all applicable state regulations, medical protocols, and operational guidelines governing Emergency Medical Services within the State of South Carolina during the term of this agreement.

Signatures

_____ Date:

Dave Scheuerer

Fire Chief, Corinth Shiloh Fire District

_____ Date:

Michael Carroll

EMS Director, Oconee County Emergency Services

_____ Date:

Dr. Gerald Beltran,

Medical Director

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

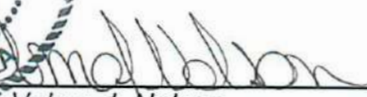
January 10, 2026

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

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




Larry Davidson
General Manager



Velma J. Nelson
Notary Public
State of South Carolina

FILED PLACE

864.973.6676

upstatetoday.com

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. Traynor, of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, is a 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. 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
Fax: 864 718-1024

E-mail:
jennifercadams@oconeesc.com

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)

From: [Dan . Ezell](#)
To: [Jennifer C. Adams](#)
Subject: Proposed ordinance 2026-27
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 12:02:32 PM
Attachments: [County Council 2026-27.pages](#)



As a resident of Oconee County, district 5, and a volunteer, I am opposed to the creation of Proposed ordinance 2026-27. Please provide the attached to County Council members prior to their upcoming deliberation on the matter

Members of County Council,

I oppose Ordinance 2026-27.

While I understand the desire for accountability and consistency, I believe this ordinance moves too far into the day-to-day management of county operations. County Council's proper role is to establish policy, approve budgets, and provide oversight. Department heads and county administration should retain the flexibility necessary to manage staffing and organizational needs.

I am particularly concerned that requiring Council approval for all positions, regardless of funding source, may create unnecessary delays and reduce the ability of departments to respond quickly to changing circumstances. If a department receives a grant, restricted funding, or other revenue specifically intended for staffing, that department should have reasonable authority to utilize those funds within approved budgetary and administrative guidelines.

This ordinance appears to centralize personnel decisions that are often best made by the professionals responsible for running county departments. In doing so, it risks creating additional bureaucracy, reducing organizational flexibility, and slowing the delivery of county services.

I encourage Council to consider whether existing budget oversight and personnel policies already provide sufficient accountability without imposing additional layers of approval and control.

Thank you for your consideration. Dan Ezell, 1540 Fort Hill Drive, Seneca, SC 29678



Public Comment
SIGN IN SHEET
6:00 PM

September 01, 2026

The Public Comment Sessions at this meeting is limited to a total of 50 minutes, 5 minutes per person. Please be advised that citizens not utilizing their full four [5] minutes may not "donate" their remaining time to another speaker.

PLEASE PRINT

	FULL NAME	PURPOSE OF COMMENT
1	John Brubacher	Flock Camera concern.
2	Valerie McCarthy	Flock Camera
3	Jude Adams	Flock Camera
4	Bill Bull	Flock 2026-26
5	Abe Connally	Flock
6	Mary Montejó	South Cove, Pickleball Court
7	Pamyl Smith	Flock
8	Lauren Ballard	Flock Cameras
9	Mario Suarez	Invitation
10	Valerie McCarthy Lynell Hecht	Flock Cameras
11	Mickey Harey	Flock Camera
12	Doug Hedden	Flock Cameras
13	ALEX JAMES	FLOCK CAMERAS
14	Lee Shehan	26-12 & Flock Cameras
15	Emerson Cooke	Flock Cameras
16	Devin Clay	Flock cameras
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Everyone speaking before Council will be required to do so in a civil manner. Council will not tolerate personal attacks on individual council members, county staff or any person or group. Racial slurs will not be permitted. Council's number one priority is to conduct business for the citizens of this county. All citizens who wish to address Council and all Boards and Commission appointed by Council should do so in an appropriate manner.

September 01, 2026

Response to ORDINANCE 2026-26

My name is Bill Bull, as some of you know I am running for County Council District one, the seat currently held by John Elliot. I was here two weeks ago and heard the passionate case made for Ordinance 2026-26. I fully understand that passion, no one wants "Big Brother" looking into their lives. Unfortunately, in today's information-based society it is extremely difficult to be anonymous. If you carry a cell phone or a fitness watch you can be tracked. If your car was manufactured after around 2000, you can be tracked. Someone can put an AirTag in your car or clothing, and you can be tracked. You cannot be tracked with a few Flock cameras; the camera can only say that at a specific point in time your vehicle passed by the camera headed in a specific direction.

There are over 120,000 Flock cameras in the United States of America. According to Sheriff Crenshaw, Oconee County has 5 of them. I'm sure Walhalla, Westminster, and Seneca have some of their own. In 2025, nationwide, the Flock system helped find 10,000 missing people. 40% of the law enforcement agencies that use the system estimate that it helped recover over half of their stolen vehicles. In Indiana an abducted infant was located in under two hours, in Ohio a missing girl was located in about 30 minutes.

We live in the information age; everything has or is going digital. 82% of retail stores use live video surveillance, such as Walmart, Home Depot, Lowes, and I'm sure the new Target. There are 59 million homes with video doorbells. There are around 90 million unique surveillance systems that have multiple cameras, for a total camera count of over 500 million installed across the USA. Every time you go to the airport or drive on a toll road your car tag is entered into a database. There are about 15,000 live traffic vision cameras, cameras that monitor all traffic at all hours, most of them can be accessed by anyone. In addition, there are red light and speed cameras; I personally have become acquainted with two of them, one in Maryland and another in Washington DC. Let's not forget satellite and drone surveillance, anyone can go online and get a Google satellite image of your property.

David Stumbo, who is running for South Carolina Attorney General, was here recently and was asked about Flock cameras. He stated it was a good tool for law enforcement, that policies could be formulated to fix current issues, such as the recent change where data storage is now 7 days, instead of 30. Data can only be kept longer if a case number is assigned. David also stated, and I'm going to paraphrase here, "it would be a shame to, 'throw the baby out with the bath water'."

What about abuse of the data? While there is no single definitive number, credible tracking shows at least 24 confirmed misuse cases and over 50 reported incidents of Flock camera

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data abuse from 2024 to July 2026. This can be resolved with better oversight of law enforcement personnel, who are the only ones with access to the data.

Personally, I'm concerned that if this Ordinance passes, we will experience some unintended consequences. If I was a criminal, and I knew there were no Flock cameras in a specific area, it might encourage me to move my illegal operations to and through that area.

Another concern I have is that we are being psychologically motivated by fear via online influencers into hamstringing law enforcement, essentially defunding them. My understanding is this system has been in use since 2019 when it was first deployed in Atlanta. So why now? Could it be that we are being fear driven against the Flock Camera system? Could it be from groups that would like to defund law enforcement? I don't know, but I hope the Council continues to gather information and keep an open mind.