

Oconee County
Annual Budget Update
for the fiscal year ending
June 30, 2022



CONTENTS

Oconee County's Annual Budget is comprised of the General Fund; Capital Projects Funds; Special Revenue Funds; and the Enterprise Fund.

- The General Fund accounts for the basic operations of the County and is the primary operating fund.
- The Capital Projects Funds are made of appropriated funds set aside for major capital projects and acquisitions.
- The Special Revenue Funds account for restricted revenue sources that are expended for specified purposes including the special tax districts like the Unincorporated Emergency Services Special Tax District.
- The Enterprise Funds consists of the Rock Quarry operations.

- Revenue History & Projections
- Expenditure History
- Millage Rate Trends
- Debt Margin
- Fund Balance Breakdown
- Capital Projects Funds
- Special Revenue Funds
- Rock Quarry
- Items of Interest?



REVENUE HISTORY & PROJECTIONS

GENERAL FUND

	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Budget	FY 2022 Projected	Increase (Decrease)
Property Taxes	\$36,208,256	\$36,826,068	\$40,033,741	\$41,801,385	\$42,076,416	\$275,031
Intergovernmental	4,234,575	4,056,652	3,936,332	4,144,712	4,250,363	\$105,651
Licenses, Permits & Fees	4,525,197	5,195,420	4,121,400	6,156,250	6,948,957	\$792,707
Fines and Forfeitures	228,269	231,260	201,600	222,600	246,113	\$23,513
Charges for Services	2,193,335	2,053,879	2,058,616	2,071,016	3,127,553	\$1,056,537
Interest Revenue	982,420	903,345	475,000	475,000	81,243	(\$393,757)
Miscellaneous & Other	174,758	210,933	184,189	204,189	367,815	\$163,626
Other Financing Sources	1,271,136	3,052,463	1,128,043	\$1,260,000	\$1,731,000	\$471,000
Total Revenues & Other Financing Sources	\$49,817,946	\$52,530,020	\$52,138,921	\$56,335,152	\$58,829,460	\$2,494,308



EXPENDITURE HISTORY

GENERAL FUND

	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Budgeted
General Government	\$8,813,294	\$8,793,900	8,809,952	9,180,241	10,869,909
Public Safety	18,652,461	21,478,763	21,040,202	23,947,389	24,065,349
Transportation	3,626,822	4,271,113	3,727,396	3,996,246	4,348,773
Public Works	4,281,306	4,196,287	4,372,329	4,945,624	5,411,117
Culture and Recreation	2,852,357	3,015,616	3,740,084	3,366,533	3,619,955
Judicial Services	2,663,618	2,719,372	2,939,908	2,956,903	3,275,390
Health and Welfare	263,819	234,305	945,791	880,902	927,604
Economic Development	1,108,986	620,571	564,168	581,958	682,691
Non-Departmental	3,420,893	1,507,117	1,538,323	3,400,555	2,148,822
Debt Service (Lease Payments)	899,966	947,494	982,646	1,401,749	738,542
Other Financing Uses	3,133,078	199,216	275,000	140,000	747,000
	\$49,716,600	\$47,983,754	\$48,935,799	\$54,798,100	\$56,835,152



MILLAGE RATE TRENDS

Fiscal Year	Property Tax Rates						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Operating	57.6	60.4	60.3	62.5	63.9	63.9	63.9
Debt Service	6.0	3.2	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.0
Economic Development	2.2	2.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Parks, Recreation and Tourism	-	-	-	-	1.3	1.3	1.3
Bridges and Culverts	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Capital Equipment & Vehicles	-	-	-	-	2.0	2.0	2.0
Emergency Services Protection	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Road Maintenance	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Tri-County Tech Operations	2.1	2.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0

Assessed Property Value of Taxable Property				
Fiscal Year	Real Property	Personal Property	Other	Total Taxable Assessed Value
2015	320,742,833	40,299,075	164,301,126	525,343,034
2016	323,167,245	42,705,030	180,421,797	546,294,072
2017	333,937,375	42,504,784	183,478,946	559,921,105
2018	335,399,830	42,663,982	190,688,108	568,751,920
2019	342,029,234	44,396,985	190,205,574	576,631,793
2020	349,404,947	48,724,000	171,731,216	569,860,163
2021	360,945,320	52,374,432	186,068,558	599,388,310



DEBT MARGIN

Fiscal Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Assessed Value of Taxable Property	\$525,343,034	\$546,294,072	\$559,921,105	\$568,751,920	\$576,631,793	\$569,860,163	\$599,388,310
Legal Debt Limit (8% of Assessed Value)	\$42,027,443	\$43,703,526	\$44,793,688	\$45,500,154	\$46,130,543	\$45,588,813	\$47,951,065
Net Debt Applicable to Limit	13,282,472	11,157,424	14,454,286	12,712,573	11,785,454	11,096,091	8,973,240
Legal Debt Margin	\$28,744,971	\$32,546,102	\$30,339,402	\$32,787,581	\$34,345,089	\$34,492,722	\$38,977,825
Total Net Debt Applicable to the Limit as a Percentage of Debt Limit	31.60%	25.53%	32.27%	27.94%	25.55%	24.34%	18.71%

Current County Debt

	Interest Rate	Outstanding Principal as of 06/30/2021	Term (Years)	Final Maturity Year
GO Bond Series 2013 A (Echo Hills)	3 - 3.6%	1,365,000	15	2028
GO Bond Series 2016 B (Oconee County Workforce Development Center)	1.70%	1,896,000	10	2026
GO Refunding Bond Series 2020 (2011 Detention Center)	2 - 5%	7,810,000	10	2031
Total Outstanding Principal as of 06/30/2021		11,071,000		
Less: amount set aside for repayment of general obligation bonds		(2,107,893)		
Plus: amortized premium unamortized premium for the GO Bond Series 2013 A (Echo Hills)		10,133		
Net Debt Applicable to Limit		8,973,240		



FUND BALANCE BREAKDOWN

General Fund Fund Balance History					
	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Nonspendable:					
Prepaid Expenditures	241,897	48,595	12,054	3,819	12,930
Inventories	171,737	165,793	175,316	190,362	209,190
Assets Held for Resale	162,529	80,015	131,678	139,966	87,967
Assets Held for Economic Development	2,754,025	2,254,220	2,254,220	2,254,220	2,254,221
Advances to other Funds (FOCUS)	8,999,872	6,173,939	6,173,939	6,173,939	6,173,939
Nonspendable:	12,330,060	8,722,562	8,747,207	8,762,306	8,738,247
Assigned:					
Solid Waste Reserve	1,665,700	1,017,942	912,806	912,806	912,806
Health Care Reserve	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Transportation Grant	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	-
OPEB Reserve	1,207,715	1,207,715	1,207,715	1,207,715	1,207,715
Duke Energy Appeal	-	-	-	224,549	-
Subsequent Year's Budget	229,305	525,181	1,679,482	2,728,389	693,573
Assigned:	5,402,720	5,050,838	6,100,003	7,373,459	4,814,094
Unassigned	6,003,573	6,412,141	7,172,523	9,478,187	11,122,634
Total Nonspendable, Assigned and Unassigned	23,736,353	20,185,541	22,019,733	25,613,952	24,674,975
Increases to unassigned per year	224,749	408,568	760,382	2,305,664	1,644,447



Fund Balance Policy

General Fund -Fund Balance Policy				
Ordinance 2018-23				
	Actual Expenditures Minus Other Financing Uses	Target: 25% of Expenditures	Audit Unassigned Fund Balance	Difference
FY 2018	46,589,661	11,647,415.25	6,412,141	(5,235,274)
FY 2019	47,784,538	11,946,134.50	7,172,523	(4,773,612)
FY 2020	48,661,553	12,165,388.25	9,478,187	(2,687,201)
FY 2021	54,658,100	13,664,525.00	11,122,634	(2,541,891)

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS

- ❖ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND
- ❖ BRIDGE & CULVERTS FUND
- ❖ CAPITAL EQUIPMENT & VEHICLE FUND
- ❖ GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND



CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS

Economic Development Capital Project Fund

	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Budget
Number of Mills	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Revenues	\$835,700	\$1,766,415	\$2,279,432	\$1,327,164	\$1,110,822
Expenditures	(6,127,911)	(456,168)	(2,130,960)	(1,382,489)	(1,110,822)
Other Financing Sources	-	22,225	-	-	-
Beginning Fund Balance	8,209,254	2,917,042	4,249,514	4,249,514	4,249,514
Ending Fund Balance	\$2,917,043	\$4,249,514	\$4,397,986	\$4,194,189	\$4,249,514

Bridges & Culverts Capital Project Fund

	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Budget
Number of Mills	1.0	1.0	1.0		
Revenues	\$576,243	\$571,735	\$574,740	\$600,000	\$550,000
Expenditures	(56,878)	(35,039)	(215,344)	(209,247)	(550,000)
Other Financing Sources	-	-	-	-	-
Beginning Fund Balance	3,313,321	3,832,686	4,339,382	4,698,778	5,089,531
Ending Fund Balance	\$3,832,686	\$4,369,382	\$4,698,778	\$5,089,531	\$5,089,531



CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS

Capital Equipment & Vehicle Capital Project Fund

	FY2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Budget
Number of Mills	2.0	2.0	2.0
Revenues	\$1,219,161	\$1,317,196	\$1,421,728
Expenditures	(1,248,087)	(840,298)	(1,621,728)
Other Financing Sources	404,223	125,862	0
Beginning Fund Balance	-	375,297	978,057
Ending Fund Balance	\$375,297	\$978,057	\$778,057

PRT Capital Project Fund

	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2021 Budget
Number of Mills		1.3	1.3	1.3
Revenues	-	726,285	776,432	717,051
Expenditures	(2,727)	(178,795)	(54,059)	(717,051)
Other Financing Sources - Use of Fund Balance	-	-	-	(782,949)
Beginning Fund Balance	-	(2,727)	544,763	1,267,136
Ending Fund Balance	(2,727)	544,763	1,267,136	484,187



CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS

GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST

Future Acquisitions - Insurance Proceeds	(\$3,069) ***
Solid Waste Permit	119,216
Settlement Project - Airport	0
Airport Improvement Projects - Federal Grants	(746,938) *
2021 TD Bank Capital Lease - Johnson Controls	
Energy Upgrades	1,809,578 **
2015 GO Bond Construction - Bountyland	
Substation	456,554 **
2020 GO Refunding Bond - Fire Truck	620,030 **

* Pending grant reimbursements.

** Restricted use.

*** Will be corrected in FY21/22.



SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

- ❖ EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND
- ❖ 911 COMMUNICATIONS FUND
- ❖ TRI-COUNTY TECHNICAL COLLEGE FUND
- ❖ ROAD MAINTENANCE FUND



SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Emergency Services Special Revenue Fund

	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Budget
Number of Mills	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Revenues	\$1,509,945	\$1,512,020	\$1,508,384	\$1,663,251	\$1,512,000
Expenditures	(1,715,448)	(1,468,207)	(1,426,184)	(1,438,953)	(1,512,000)
Other Financing Sources	-	-	-	-	-
Beginning Fund Balance	482,593	277,090	320,903	403,103	627,401
Ending Fund Balance	\$277,090	\$320,903	\$403,103	\$627,401	\$627,401

911 Communications Special Revenue Fund

	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Budget
Revenues	\$446,666	\$687,201	\$887,764	\$552,965	\$490,000
Expenditures	(498,085)	(437,970)	(1,036,115)	(610,557)	(984,000)
Other Financing Sources	-	-	-	0	-
Beginning Fund Balance	1,343,654	1,292,235	1,541,466	1,393,115	1,335,523
Ending Fund Balance	\$1,292,235	\$1,541,466	\$1,393,115	\$1,335,523	\$841,523



SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Tri-County Technical College Special Revenue Fund

	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Budget
Number of Mills	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Revenues	\$1,689,570	\$1,729,564	\$1,727,340	\$1,808,868	\$1,700,000
Expenditures	(1,512,498)	(1,590,397)	(1,535,801)	(1,645,262)	(1,580,200)
Other Financing Sources	-	-	-	-	-
Beginning Fund Balance	549,597	726,669	865,836	1,057,375	1,220,981
Ending Fund Balance	\$726,669	\$865,836	\$1,057,375	\$1,220,981	\$1,340,781

Road Maintenance Special Revenue Fund

	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Budget
Number of Mills	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Revenues	\$1,377,997	\$1,371,674	\$1,360,440	\$1,401,515	\$1,391,920
Expenditures	(394,325)	(511,737)	(858,839)	(875,901)	(2,545,000)
Other Financing Sources	-	-	-	-	-
Beginning Fund Balance	1,276,232	2,259,904	3,119,841	3,621,442	4,147,056
Ending Fund Balance	\$2,259,904	\$3,119,841	\$3,621,442	\$4,147,056	\$2,993,976



ENTERPRISE FUND

Rock Quarry Fund

	FY 2018 Actual *	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Budget
Operating Revenues	\$5,869,860	\$6,109,579	\$6,469,063	\$6,643,233	\$6,760,000
Operating Expenses	(3,515,615)	(3,332,946)	(3,689,248)	(4,025,926)	(5,107,050)
Non-Operating Income (Expense)	(69,487)	(139,724)	(193,096)	(210,406)	-
Capital Contributions	7,660				
Transfers	(500,000)	(500,000)	(750,000)	(750,000)	(1,000,000)
Beginning Net Position	6,814,980	8,607,398	10,744,307	12,581,026	14,237,927
Ending Net Position	\$8,607,398	\$10,744,307	\$12,581,026	\$14,237,927	\$14,890,877

* The FY 2018 Beginning Net Position decreased by \$566,877 as a result of a change in accounting principle due to the implementation of GASB Statement No. 75 regarding the accounting for Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB).



That's all Folks!





2022 ANNUAL REPORT

OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

District I – John Elliott, Chairman
District II – Matthew Durham
District III – Paul A. Cain, Esq.
District IV – Julian Davis III
District V – James Glenn Hart
Administrator – Amanda F. Brock

Strategic Planning

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

The year 2021 brought with it many challenges. Oconee County Administration and staff demonstrated both grit and grace through historic, trying times, while maintaining excellence in public service to citizens we serve.

With direction and guidance from County Council, Administration and Oconee County staff has worked diligently over the last year to accomplish the strategic goals to meet the expectations of Council and our citizens.



County Council Priorities

Tier I Strategic Initiatives

Tier I initiatives were identified by three or more Council members as priorities during the Strategic Planning Retreat.

- Public Safety
 - Improved services through training, equipment and program updates
- Utica Revitalization
 - Hosted the 2nd Annual Utica Mill Team Up to Clean Up
 - Partnered with Clemson University and the Blue Ridge Community Center for the Mill Hill Opportunity Zone Proposal
 - Demolished the “Compound”
- Expansion of County Parks
 - Improved all three county-maintained parks
 - Added the Friendship Boat Ramp and Recreation Area
 - Approved/started site improvements at the Seneca Creek Access Area on Lake Hartwell



County Council Priorities

Tier II Strategic Initiatives

Tier II initiatives were identified by at least two Council members during the Strategic Planning Retreat.

- Oconee Regional Airport Improvements
 - Completed West Apron Expansion
 - Completed necessary asphalt repairs to runway
 - Improved main entrance to terminal
- Highway Safety / Traffic Alleviation
 - Focused efforts on highway safety, resulting in over 1,600 vehicle stops
 - Participated regional planning initiatives

Tier III Strategic Initiatives

- Greenway
- Bountyland Fire Substation
- FARM Center
- Wastewater Treatment Expansion
- Roadway Infrastructure
- Broadband Expansion
- Stormwater Management Personnel / Engineer
- Alternative Solid Waste Opportunities



2021 Annual Report

Oconee County continues to realize the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic which prompted a state of emergency in March 2020. As Oconee County resumed normal operations, personnel continued to provide key services to the citizens despite staffing shortages, personnel changes and sickness.

General Government

- Covid-19 “Sick Bank” – Staff donate sick or vacation time to the bank from their own earned time so others would not have to go without pay due to sickness. No cost to taxpayers.
- Premium Pay for Essential Workers – Council directed Administrator to present an ordinance to establish Premium Pay for eligible workers who performed essential duties during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Fourth year employee wage increase.
- Redistricting – Oconee County drafted, discussed and held public hearings for Ordinance 2022-05 to adopt a redistricting plan based off the 2020 Census Benchmark Report.
- Millage Reduction – Council approved the Auditor’s recommendation to lower the millage rate from 227.0 to 226.0.
- ARPA – Council approved funding allocations to municipalities for critical water and wastewater infrastructure improvements from the American Recovery Plan Act



Law Enforcement & Public Safety

The Oconee County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Services continue to improve services to the citizens of Oconee County through training, equipment and program updates and community outreach.

Emergency Services

- Received the Assistance for Firefighter Grant, in the amount of \$998,636.36, for the replacement of the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses

Oconee E-911 Communications

- Reported 176,950 calls including 44,321 emergency calls and 133,629 non-emergency calls

Oconee County Animal Control

- Took in 2,089 animals in 2021, of which, 935 were adopted, 696 were transferred to no-kill rescues and 281 were returned to the owners.



Law Enforcement & Public Safety

Oconee County Sheriff's Office

- Wrote 2,872 warning tickets and 2,511 uniform traffic citations
- Re-established the Drug Abuse Resistance (D.A.R.E) education throughout the School District of Oconee County.
- Established the Our Oconee Litter Cleanup Program
- Based on 1,733 arrests made, only 1.3% resulted in the use of force
- All units within the Oconee County Sheriff's Office met or exceeded expectations based on previous years



Oconee County Public Works

Roads and Bridges

- Tornado Debris Removal for the County's in-kind match for the \$4.3 million UDFS Stream Restoration Grant
- Demolition of Westminster Magistrate Parking Lot
- Bridge Replacement on Cherokee Lake Road
- General Maintenance of 660 Miles of Road
- Completion of 3,129 Work Orders
- Worked with Solid Waste on the relocation of Landfill Tipping Area



Oconee County Public Works



Solid Waste

- Class 2 C&D Landfill permitted for 88 acre expansion; tonnage limit increased to 87,615; and life of the landfill increased to a max life of 75 years
- Resumed plastic recycling
- Managed record MSW and C&D tons

2020 – 2021 Tons Managed by Oconee County Solid Waste Department

Location / Tons	2020	2021	% Increase
Transfer Station	48,957	54,914	12.17%
C&D	44,310	59,006	33.17%
Recyclables	4,318	4,329	0.25%
Yard Waste	11,803	3,046	-74.19%
Recycle Center MSW	17,030	17,757	2.90%
*C&D Recycled	16,467	22,512	36.71%
Total Tons Managed	125,855	143,807	14.26%



Oconee County Public Works



Rock Quarry

- Sold 611,473 tons of rock, bringing in \$7,148,528 in revenue
- Provided thousands of tons in material to Oconee County Roads & Bridges for special projects and to provide stabilization from weather events for disaster management
- Continued daily record sales and production



Finance

- For the 13th consecutive year, Received Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report
- Worked with Human Resources to convert payroll processing to new system
- Increased compliance related to Local Accommodations Tax

Procurement

- Streamlined purchasing process
- Managed Capital Replacement Plan
- Westminster Magistrate Office
- Managed county-wide upgrades with Xerox



Delinquent Tax / Information Technology

Delinquent Tax

- Held annual tax sale at Walhalla Performing Arts Center
 - 250 Registered Bidders
 - Total collection: \$2,634,925.00

Information Technology

- Replaced wireless network with new equipment
- Purchased new wired network equipment
- Deployed over 80 PCs to replace virtual PCs
- Migrated phone service to Flowroute for cost savings



Growth and Development

Economic Development

- \$51.5M Capital Investments
- 82 Total Jobs
- 64 Total Inquiries
- 20 Existing Industry Visits
- 45 Consultant Interactions

Planning

- Reviewed plans for over 825 new lots
- Interacted with thousands of citizens, future-citizens, developers and business owners regarding land use, planning and complaints

Building Codes

- Received 3,643 permit applications and issued 2,657 permits
- Collected \$1,624,394.70 in permit fees

GIS

- Assigned 1,072 new addresses
- Added 33 private roads to the road network



Judicial Services

Clerk of Court

- Implemented various upgrades to improve services to the public, including:
 - Installation of a Digital Court Reporting System
 - Implementation of the Jury Information Line
 - Revision of the Court Emergency Action Plan

Probate Court

- Averaged 100 Probate Estate cases per month
- Improved communication with the public

Westminster Magistrate

- Broke ground for the new building in August 2021
- On track to be completed in early 2022, on time and on budget



Summary

The past two years have been extremely challenging, for everyone. Somehow, we've managed to get through what I hope is the worst of it relatively unscathed. We are a powerful force as a team. I've found that finding issues is the easy part. There will always be issues and problems in an organization of this size and scope. What continues to amaze me is that in spite of every difficult step, TEAM Oconee shows up, stands up, and works together for solutions.



2022 Annual Report



A Brief History of Oconee County

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Oconee County continues to be a strong contender in the national and global marketplace. Today, the County's economic diversity can be attributed to a number of high-tech manufacturers that employ a well trained work force able to meet the needs of business and industry. Tourism now plays a vital role in the County's economy, as tourists visit many local and state parks, historical sites, and take part in recreation that includes hiking, waterfall viewing, rafting, and other nature-based activities. Quality of life in Oconee County is excellent, as measured based on the social and economic environment provided by our freedoms, happiness, material well-being, environmental health, and community life factors. The citizens of Oconee County are committed to fostering economic growth while protecting the natural beauty of the County.



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

Oconee County

Overview of Oconee County and Our Government

Oconee County

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



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

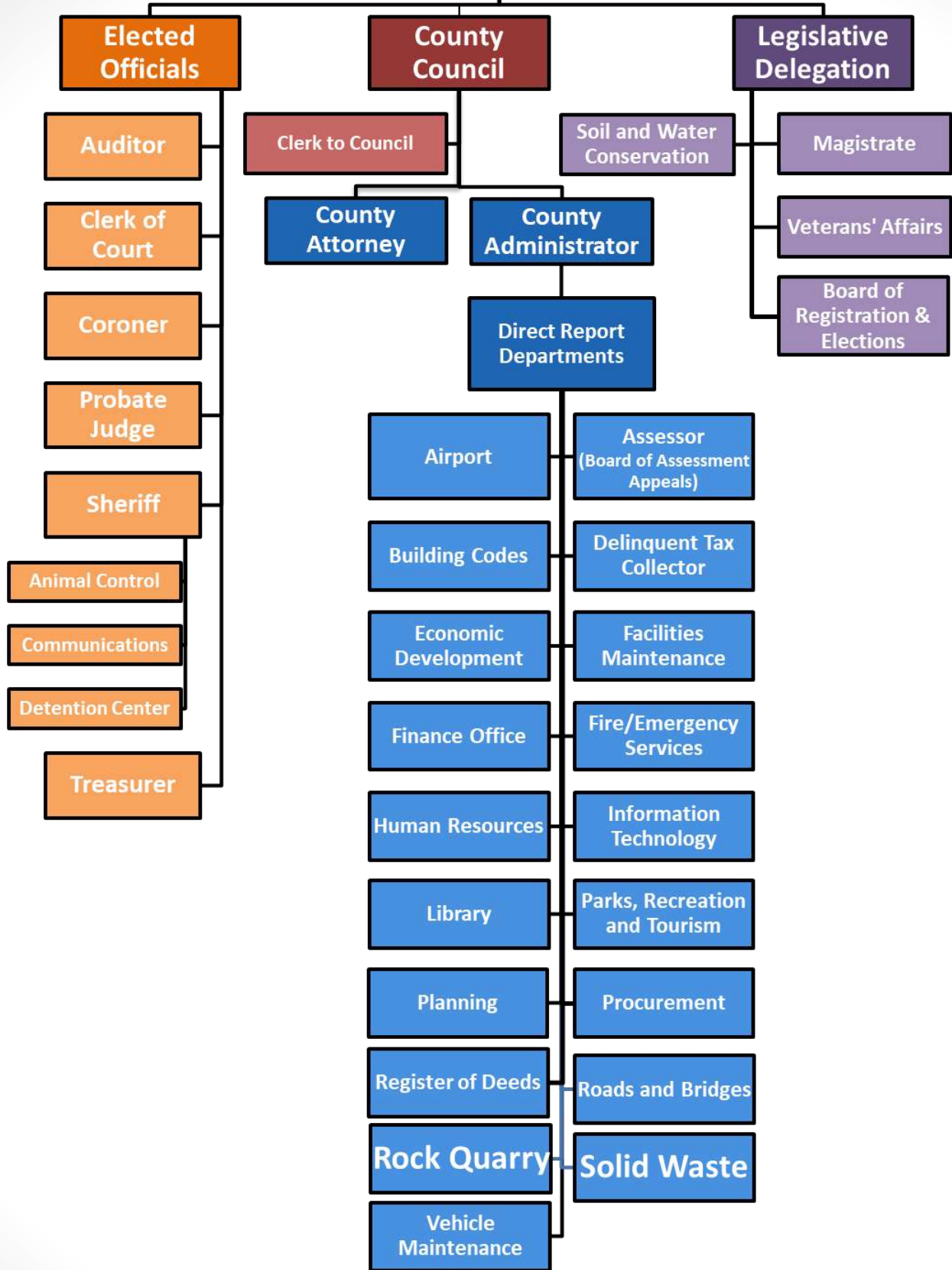
- Chauga River
- Chattooga River
- Whitewater River
- Little River
- Major Lakes:
 - Lake Jocassee
 - Lake Keowee
 - Lake Hartwell

- **Oconee County is home** to five (5) municipalities:
 - Town of Salem
 - City of Seneca
 - City of Walhalla (County Seat)
 - Town of West Union
 - City of Westminster

- **Oconee County adjoins 10 other counties in 3 states:** Anderson and Pickens in South Carolina; Jackson, Transylvania and Macon in North Carolina; and Rabun, Habersham, Stephens, Franklin and Hart in Georgia.



Citizens of Oconee County



Form of Government:

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

County Council:

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

District I	John Elliott, Chairman
District II	Matthew Durham
District III	Paul A. Cain, Esq.
District IV	Julian Davis III
District V	James Glenn Hart

Other County Elected Officials:

Clerk of Court	Lisa Burton
Coroner	Karl E. Addis
County Auditor	Christy Hubbard
County Treasurer	Greg Nowell
Probate Judge	Ashley M. Rice
Sheriff	Michael Crenshaw
Solicitor	David Wagner

Oconee County Legislative Delegation:

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

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

State Representative, South Carolina District #2
The Honorable William R. (Bill) Sandifer, III

United States Congressman:

South Carolina's 3rd Congressional District
The Honorable Jeff Duncan

United States Senators:

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

Oconee County Strategic Planning

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

The year 2021 brought with it many challenges. Oconee County Administration and staff demonstrated both grit and grace through historic, trying times, while maintaining excellence in public service to citizens we serve.

With direction and guidance from County Council, Administration and Oconee County staff has worked diligently over the last year to accomplish the strategic goals to meet the expectations of Council and our citizens.

The following summaries provide a reflection on what we, as TEAM OCONEE, have striven to do to address the strategic goals outlined, by you, our Council for our citizenry:

Tier I Strategic Initiatives

Tier I initiatives were identified by three or more Council members as priorities during the Strategic Planning Retreat. These projects receive primary staff commitment and funding consideration in the current fiscal year.

Public Safety: Emergency Services and the Oconee County Sheriff's Office continue to improve services to the citizens of Oconee County through training, equipment and program updates and community outreach.

Oconee County Emergency Services increased staff, including one member per shift to assist with increase call volume in the Corinth-Shiloh area and two part-time paramedics for the Community Medical Outreach Program.

By utilizing federal, state and local resources, Emergency Services also improved services to citizens by providing better safety and tactical equipment for staff and volunteers.

The Sheriff's Office started the accreditation process through the South Carolina Accreditation Program, a voluntary program focused on professional improvement and the commitment to professional law enforcement practices.

The Sheriff's Office continues to provide community outreach through established programs, including the 7th Annual OCSO Boys Camp, the 3rd Annual OCSO Girls Camp and the 8th Annual OCSO Citizens Academy.

Utica Revitalization: The revitalization of the Utica Community has been a Council initiative over the past few years. In 2021, Oconee County hosted the “2nd Annual Utica Mill Team Up to Clean Up” where volunteers, staff and elected officials participated in a wide-spread litter, household garbage and debris removal effort. The county also purchased several parcels within and around Utica to further clean up properties we were previously unable to manage.

Clemson University completed the Mill Hill Opportunity Zone proposal this year, and Council approved funding to the Blue Ridge Community Center for Clemson University’s Phase Two Mill Hill Opportunity Zone Proposal. The Blue Ridge Community Center is a non-profit organization in the heart of the Utica Mill Hill Opportunity Zone. The Center and Clemson University will work in tandem to complete data collection, inventory and analysis for the Opportunity Zone.

In April 2021, Oconee County demolished one of two structures at a site in Utica known as the Compound, as a first and significant step in the eradication of problem structures in the community. The Compound was a headache to law enforcement and a nuisance to the community for many years. This momentum to alleviate problem properties continues through code enforcement, and increased law enforcement in the area.

Expansion of County Parks: All three County parks have seen record improvements within the last year, including:

- a new boardwalk and decking at Chau Ram
- historic restoration of the Alexander Hill house at High Falls
- rebuilding the recreation building at South Cove
- second RV dump station at South Cove Park

Roads & Bridges chipped in, and teamed up with PRT to complete shoreline stabilization at South Cove, seal coating of parking lots and improving access at High Falls and Mullins Ford.

Camping reservations are up 95% in just five years.

County Council also recently approved capital funding targeted at site improvements for Lake Hartwell’s Seneca Creek Access Area. Construction is anticipated to be completed by the end of this year. Site improvements include a new 3-lane boat ramp with 2-courtesy docks, a fishing pier and a kayak launch.

Additionally, County Council approved the addition of the Friendship Boat Ramp and Recreation Area to an existing 10-year lease with the Army Corps of Engineer. Oconee County Parks, Recreation and Tourism (PRT) now manages 10 recreation areas on Lake Hartwell.

Tier II Strategic Initiatives

Tier II initiatives were identified by at least two Council members during the Strategic Planning Retreat. Staff will research and present the cost and implementation of each of these priorities throughout the 2021-2022 budget year.

Highway Safety / Traffic Alleviation: The Oconee County Sheriff's Office focused efforts on highway safety, resulting in over 1,600 vehicle stops.

County personnel continue to participate in regional planning initiatives to provide input on behalf of the County in planning for future state highway improvements.

Oconee Regional Airport Hangar Construction / Airport Improvements: Airport improvements are crucial to accommodate increased traffic and larger aircraft. The completion of the west apron expansion and relocation Mt. Nebo Church Road enabled safer aircraft operations and parking during peak times.

Increased airport operations necessitated several emergency asphalt repairs throughout the year. The airport applied for and received federal and state funding for runway rehabilitation design which is now underway.

The airport also completed improvements to the main entrance to the terminal.

Tier III Strategic Initiatives

Tier III initiatives were identified as a priority by one Council member and may be implemented incrementally over a period of years as funding and opportunity allows.

Greenway Development Plan: Oconee County, in partnership with the City of Clemson, Clemson University and the Town of Pendleton, applied for the American Rescue Plan Act Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Economic Development Administration Grant for the survey, design and permitting of a regional greenway trail system.

Alternative opportunities for greenway development throughout unincorporated areas of the County remain in rotation and research.

Bountyland Fire Substation: In November 2021, Oconee County purchased approximately 2 acres from Maranatha Baptist Church, located on Keowee School Road, as the site for the tenth and final emergency services substation. A groundbreaking is scheduled for early March.

FARM Center: Since 2019, the Foothills Agricultural Resource and Marketing (FARM) Center has been working to expand the footprint of the fairgrounds to enlarge educational and agricultural displays for major events, add an access road and expand

parking. In 2021, Oconee County approved the allocation of in-kind materials in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for the continuation of improvements. We continue to explore means to support the FARM Center's mission.

Wastewater Treatment Expansion: The County, in partnership with the OJRSA, is in the final stages of document completion in the Phase II Sewer South wastewater expansion project. This \$4.5 million grant will provide the backbone and be a vehicle for future expansions in southern Oconee County. This massive project is slated to go to bid later in 2022.

Last year, Oconee County also completed a Wastewater Basin Study for the geographic region near Exit 4 in Fair Play. This study is the first, and necessary step, for the development of design documents in expanding Phase II of Sewer South to the north.

County-wide sewer has been a matter of exceptional interest in the past year, as the OJRSA and its member cities, have many challenges both in the treatment facility and in the municipal lines leading there. The county remains a committed partner, in its capacity, to contribute to the improvements and expansion of wastewater treatment throughout the county.

Roadway Infrastructure: Oconee County's roadways have been, and remain a priority for Council and staff. Funding sources range from designated millage for road maintenance and bridge and culvert replacements to general government operational funding for departmental needs. Approximately 18 miles of roadway are slated for paving this year, as well as 77 miles of centerline striping.

Broadband Expansion: Oconee County and Upcountry Fiber, just last year, negotiated an agreement for the transfer and expansion of the County's former broadband network spanning throughout the county. Plans for terminal and service expansions demonstrate connectivity for the underserved areas of the county within the next few years.

Stormwater Management Personnel / Engineer: This position has been created in conjunction with both the Roads and Bridges and Planning divisions, and should be posted as a vacancy within the current fiscal year.

Alternative Solid Waste Opportunities: As discussed in the departmental overviews later in this report, Oconee County managed record-setting tonnages both in Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Construction and Demolition (C&D) materials. Recently, the Law Enforcement, Health, Safety and Welfare Committee of Council directed staff to begin taking steps for a Solid Waste Management Plan for future needs. While we strive to materialize alternatives for waste management, that has been difficult with the many challenges of 2021.

Services to Citizens

Oconee County provides a broad spectrum and scope of services to include:

- **Community & Citizen Services** – Oconee Regional Airport; Assessor; Auditor; Building Codes; Delinquent Tax Office; Legislative Delegation; four Oconee County Library Branches; Parks, Recreation and Tourism; Planning and Zoning; Register of Deeds; Rock Quarry; Voter Services through Registration and Elections; Treasurer’s Office; and Veterans Affairs
- **Judicial Services** – Clerk of Court; Solicitor; three Magistrate Courts; and Probate Court
- **Law Enforcement and Public Safety** – Oconee County Sheriff’s Office – Detention Center; Animal Control; Animal Shelter; Coroner; Emergency Services Division; and Rural Fire
- **Public Works and Facility Services** – Building and Facilities Maintenance; Roads and Bridges; Solid Waste; and Vehicle Maintenance
- **Administrative Services** – Economic Development; Finance; Human Resources; Information Technology; and Procurement

Oconee County’s success is due to EACH and EVERY department’s commitment, dedication and diligence.

2021 Annual Report

Staffing Challenges: Oconee County continues to realize the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic which prompted a state of emergency in March 2020. As Oconee County resumed normal operations, personnel continued to provide key services to the citizens despite staffing shortages, personnel changes and sickness.

Throughout the year, departments managed unprecedented staffing shortages due to both staff illness and unfilled positions. Despite the shortages, departments delivered time and again, without disruption of service.

Realizing the absences throughout the county, and the fact that some team members would have to incur time off without pay, the Administrator developed a Covid-19 “sick bank” for staff members who were out of work to ensure no team member had to go without pay. *Staff donated sick or vacation time to the bank from their own earned time.* Coupled with the increase costs of food and essentials, Oconee prioritized taking care of each other as much as possible. This bank consists of 100% voluntarily-donated hours from our OC family for our OC family. The response from staff donations was overwhelming, and had no increased financial impact to the county coffers.

For the fourth consecutive year, Council has approved wage increases for all County staff without increasing the cost of benefits. During the budget process coming up, Administration and staff will work with Council to establish a comprehensive step and scale salary schedule to provide economic certainty to staff and for equalized budgeting in the future. Our team has expressed their appreciation for Council’s continued delivery of salary increases to better align the County’s structure with the market.

As another means of providing appreciation to staff for their relentless efforts in continued operations throughout the pandemic, County Council directed Administration to present an ordinance to establish Premium Pay for Essential Workers under the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA). Premium Pay for Essential Workers as defined as an allowable expense under ARPA may be provided to eligible workers performing essential duties during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, County Council will consider the allocation of funds, not to exceed \$1,711,937.68 to the frontline and essential works employed by Oconee County. Those allocations are scheduled for distribution upon the receipt of federal ARPA monies.

Redistricting: According to the 2020 Census Benchmark Report, the population of Oconee County increased 5.84% from 74,273 to 78,607. As a result, the ideal district changed from 14,855 to 15,721. According to the 2020 Census, Districts 2, 3 and 4 fall under the ideal district goal. As a result, Oconee County has draft, discussed and held public hearings for Ordinance 2022-05 – An ordinance to adopt a redistricting plan for Oconee County.

Millage Reduction: The County Auditor, after receiving the appropriate information from the SC DOR and other Offices, will propose/recommend a millage that will cover

budgets previously adopted by County Council. Millage is determined based on Assessed Values for real estate, aircraft, boats, motors and documented vessels, business personal property, manufacturing, utilities, railroad, vehicles, manufacturing abatement and legal residential assessments. Oconee County approved the Auditor's recommendation to lower the millage rate from 227.0, to 226.0.

American Recovery Plan Act: Realizing the deteriorating condition of the county's 'invisible' infrastructure, Oconee County Council approved funding allocations for critical water and wastewater infrastructure improvements throughout the unincorporated and incorporated municipal service areas from the American Recovery Plan Act. These investments, coupled with the municipalities' ARPA funds, target failing critical infrastructure that improve or enhance industrial, commercial and residential needs.

The estimated ARPA funding amounts are:

- Town of Salem: \$2 million
- City of Seneca: \$3 million
- City of Walhalla: \$2.47 million
- City of Westminster: \$1.3 million

Law Enforcement and Public Safety

Oconee County Emergency Services: Oconee County Emergency Services applied for and received an Assistance to Firefighters Grant, in the amount of \$998,636.36, to replace the SCBA's for emergency personnel, as well as, spare cylinders and face pieces. Council recently approved the purchase of \$1.3 million SCBAs.

Oconee E-911: Emergency Communications processed 103,175 calls for service in 2021. The total amount of calls was 176,950, of which were 44,321 Emergency 911 calls; and 133,629 non-emergency calls. The 911 center receives calls for fire/rescue, EMS, four local police departments, and the Sheriff's Office.



44,321 Emergency
911 Calls
133,629 Non-
Emergency Calls
5,706 Hours on the
Phone
1,022 Total
Training Hours

Oconee County Animal Control / Oconee Humane Society: Animal Control took in 2,089 animals in 2021, of which, 935 were adopted. There were 696 transferred to no kill rescues, 281 animals returned to their owner, and 179 were euthanized. Animal Control made significant improvements over the past year with a focus on staff development and increasing the live release and return to owner rates.

Oconee County Sheriff's Office: Units within the Oconee County Sheriff's Office met or exceeded expectations based on previous years, including:

- The Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit made 300 drug related cases in 2021, with a value equaling \$421,640.16. Uniform Patrol made an additional 166 drug related cases taking \$139,000 in illegal drugs off the streets.
- The Victim Services Unit was assigned 2,061 cases and provides victim services to the cities of Westminster, Walhalla, West Union, and Salem.
- The SWAT team had 19 activations that included high risk drug warrants and assisting other agencies; a specialized proactive enforcement team conducted 1,676 vehicle stops which resulted in 1,004 citations, 59 drug cases and 28 fugitive arrests.
- Environmental Services received 436 litter complaints. The Unit made 32 citations for litter violations and issued 32 warning tickets. The Sheriff's Inmate work crew picked up 78,814 lbs. of litter along the County's roadways.
- The Marine Unit patrolled 2,366 miles on lakes in Oconee County, conducted 188 vessel inspections and issued 32 citations; the Criminal Investigations Unit was assigned 1,297 cases and have cleared 694 of those cases; the Forensic Evidence Unit processed 148 crime scenes and collected 1,140 items into evidence.

The Sheriff's Office re-established its Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program in elementary schools throughout the School District of Oconee County. An estimated 800 students went through the D.A.R.E program at a cost of \$10.00 per student. School Resource Officers also conducted 816 student conferences, 265 parent conferences and 401 home visits.

In 2021, Oconee County and the Oconee County Sheriff's Office established the Our Oconee Litter Cleanup Program to incentivize local organizations and residents to assist with litter removal efforts along roadways. As part of the program, eligible organizations may receive \$250 per mile cleaned (not to exceed 10 miles) in Oconee County. Organizations are required to take before and after photos of their assigned road, clean both sides of the road, and record the number of full bags picked up.

Oconee County Public Works

Roads and Bridges staff regularly and routinely provides general maintenance to 660 miles of roadways in Oconee County. In 2021, the department completed 3,129 work orders. Roads and Bridges also worked on various special projects this past year, including tornado debris removal from streambeds and waterways, as part of the County match for the \$4.3 million USDA Stream Restoration grant. Roads and Bridges also demolished the parking lot at the new Westminster Magistrate Office and will pave the new parking lot in 2022. And, work on Cherokee Lake Road to replace an existing bridge with a new 60' bridge has begun

Roads and Bridges and Solid Waste relocated the landfill tipping area to the northeast side of the landfill to allow more residential vehicles to safely unload municipal solid waste away from the larger commercial vehicles.

Oconee County Solid Waste Department saw a 94% increase in Municipal Solid Waste over the last five years, and managed almost triple the amount of C&D at the landfill.

Additionally, the landfill was permitted by DHEC for expansion over eighty-eight (88) acres; the annual tonnage limit was increased from 37,615 to 87,615 tons, and the life of the landfill increased to a max life of 75 years.

In 2020, Oconee County suspended the acceptance of plastics in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As domestic markets began accepting limited plastics based on manufacturing company needs, Oconee County Solid Waste was thrilled to resume the acceptance of specific plastics.

2020 – 2021 Tons Managed by Oconee County Solid Waste Department

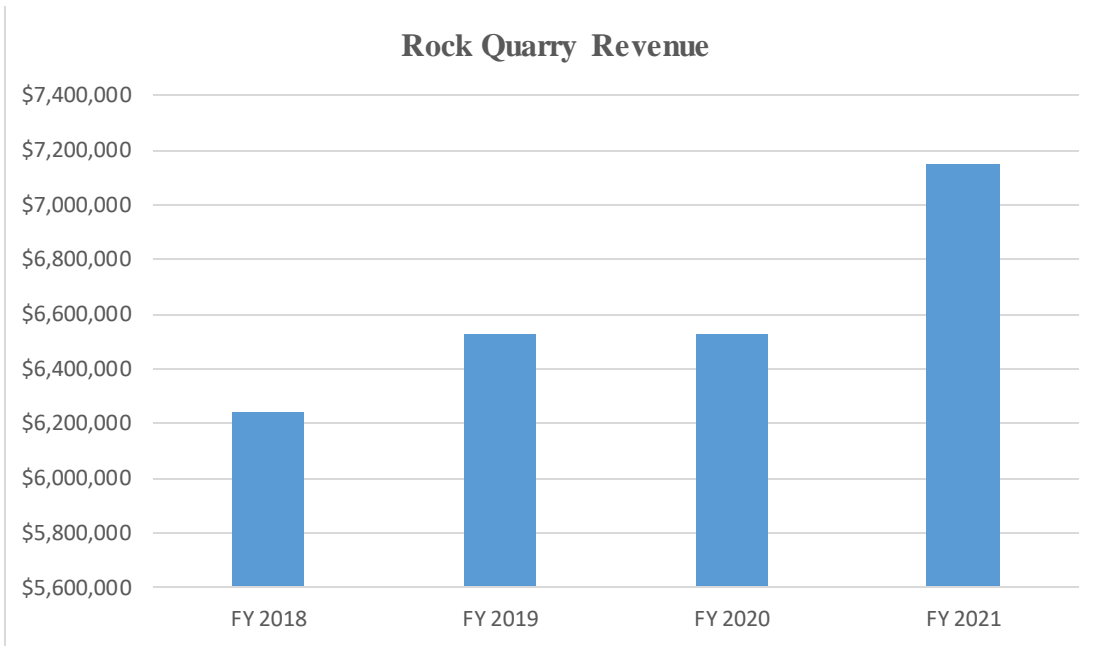
Location / Tons	2020	2021	% Increase
Transfer Station	48,957	54,914	12.17%
C&D	44,310	59,006	33.17%
Recyclables	4,318	4,329	0.25%
Yard Waste	11,803	3,046	-74.19%
Recycle Center MSW	17,030	17,757	2.90%
*C&D Recycled	16,467	22,512	36.71%
Total Tons Managed	125,855	143,807	14.26%

Oconee County Rock Quarry: Oconee County Rock Quarry, while not generally considered a division of “public works,” provided thousands of tons in materials to provide stabilization from the record-setting rainy season, as well as disaster management.

Rock Quarry personnel created a device to pull rip rap off of the crushing plant. The Quarry is now able to pull approximately 1,000 - 1,200 tons of Class A or B each day and keep up with demand. Due to the creation of said device, the Quarry no longer has

the need to rent a machine for the production of rip rap and has saved the County approximately \$40,000-\$80,000 over the last year.

In 2021, the Quarry continued breaking daily record sales and production. The tonnages produced and sold were conducted despite required maintenance and long lead times on parts. In FY 2021, those efforts were evident as the Quarry sold 611,473 tons of product, bringing in \$7,148,528 in revenue in sales.



Finance / Procurement / Delinquent Tax: For the thirteenth consecutive year, Oconee County received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). Oconee County is one of only eighteen SC counties to receive the award for the 2020 fiscal year. The receipt of this award is a testament to the commitment of the Finance staff to accuracy, Understanding the positive impact the short term rental revenue stream brings to the County, Finance and PRT staff continue their efforts on compliance related to the local accommodations tax (ATAX).

These funds assist with capital infrastructure and tourism related projects to reduce impact to the general fund, thus reflecting a decrease in the tax burden to citizens of Oconee County.

Local Accommodations Tax			
	Total Collections	Increase	Percentage
FY 2020	450,983.49	128,527.91	40%
FY 2021	795,784.33	344,800.84	76%

State Accommodation Tax (ATAX)			
	Total Collections	Increase	Percentage
FY 2020	325,701.64	30,268.11	10%
FY 2021	453,822.90	128,121.26	39%

Teamwork makes the dream work, to increase both efficiencies converting from one payroll firmware to another during the middle of a budget year, Finance and Human Resources worked together to implement this conversion seamlessly.

Procurement, continued its efforts to streamline the purchasing process to keep departments in compliance with policy and procedures. Procurement teamed up with Finance, Vehicle Maintenance, and individual departments to procure equipment and vehicles in the Capital Replacement Plan, as well as, purchasing equipment needed due to unforeseen circumstances. Under the Capital Replacement Plan, Procurement staff has purchased 21 vehicles and 2 pieces of equipment. In addition, Procurement has purchased 3 pieces of equipment, 1 Fire Apparatus and 5 vehicles for items budgeted outside the Capital Replacement Fund the (ex: 13 fund, 10 fund, Detention, Rock Quarry).

Procurement issued 9 formal solicitations and anticipates 6 more solicitations which will be completed and awarded this fiscal year. This is a considerable increase from 9 total solicitations issued in fiscal year 2020-2021.

Procurement managed county-wide upgrades with Xerox. More than 350 purchase orders have been issued as well as multiple solicitations over \$25,000.00; including the numerous RFPs/Bids that must be renewed each year.

On October 18, 2021, Delinquent Tax held its annual tax sale at the Walhalla Performing Arts Center. The sale had over two hundred and fifty registered bidders and yielded a total collection of \$2,634,925.00 from 332 properties.

Information Technology: The Information Technology team made system upgrades and found cost-saving alternatives for more efficient technological support. In 2021, the Information Technology team replaced the County's entire wireless network with new equipment and purchased new wired network equipment. The new equipment was cheaper, better suited for the County's needs and easier for the staff to manage on a day-to-day basis. The team also migrated the phone service from Windstream to Flowroute which will lower the phone service costs.

Due to the time consuming update process for virtual PCs, the Information Technology team reverted County virtual PCs back to physical desktop computers. The Information Technology team set-up and deployed over 80 PCs, many of which were updated machines previously taken out of service. The update will save future licensing costs and reduce the servers and storage needed for the next hardware updates.

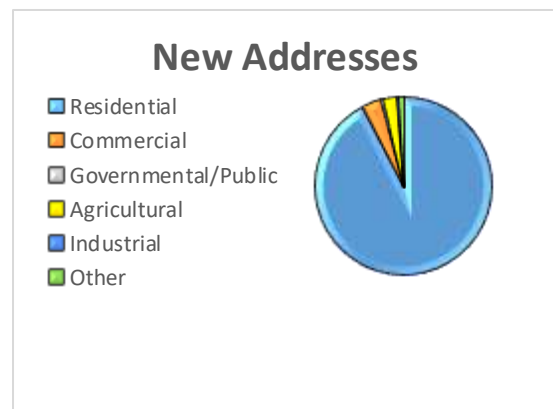
In 2021, the Information Technology team also welcomed an Assistant Director on board to assist with networking and phone projects.

Registration & Elections: Voter Registration and Elections implemented the new Electronic Pollbooks during the municipal elections held in November 2021. The Pollbooks accelerate the check-in process by allowing a voter's information, scanned from a South Carolina Driver's License or Identification Card, to be printed directly on the voter's ballot.

Growth and Development

Planning Department: The Planning Department interacted with thousands of citizens, future-citizens, developers, and business owners regarding land use, land planning, and land-use complaints. Applications by home-builders, developers, and owner-builder applicants did not show any sign of slowing down. Over 825 new lots were created and reviewed by the planning department. This does not take in to account parcels of more than five-acres that were created and exempt from review.

Building Codes: In fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, the Oconee County Building Codes Department received 3,643 permit applications, resulting in 2,657 permits issued. Building Codes collected \$1,624,394.70 in building permit fees during the fiscal year. Since July 1, 2021, Building Codes has already collect an additional \$1,097,329-50 in fees and issued 1,706 permits.



GIS: According to the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department, there were 1,072 new addresses assigned and 33 private roads added to the road network.

Judicial Services

Clerk of Court: The Oconee County Clerk of Court Office has implemented various upgrades for improved services to the public, including the installation of a Digital Court Reporting System in the Main Courtroom. The Clerk of Court Office implemented a new system for jurors to call the Jury Information Line prior to their scheduled report date for information regarding their upcoming service. This system allows jurors to be informed about case settlements or unexpected cancellations and has proven to be a cost saving measure for the County.

The Clerk of Court Office has also updated/revised the Court Emergency Action Plan and reviewed the plan with all staff members housed in the Courthouse.

Probate Court: Probate Court experienced staffing issues and changes in 2021. Despite the challenges, the case load for Probate Estates averaged 100 cases per month, the highest numbers in a ten-year period. Probate began charging the appropriate court fees and improved communication with the public to keep citizens informed about operations changes and pertinent information.

Westminster Magistrate: Ground was broken for the long-awaited new Westminster Magistrate Office in August 2021. The Westminster Magistrate Office is on track to be completed in early 2022, which is both on time, and on budget.

Summary

In closing, I would personally like to thank the Oconee County Council, elected officials and Oconee County employees for the job they do for this County, our citizens and our visitors.

The past two years have been extremely challenging, for everyone. Somehow, we've managed to get through what I hope is the worst of it relatively unscathed. We are a powerful force as a team. I've found that finding issues is the easy part. There will always be issues and problems in an organization of this size and scope. What continues to amaze me is that in spite of every difficult step, TEAM Oconee shows up, stands up, and works together for solutions.

Service is our only product, and I'm so proud that we're not afraid to raise the bar to strive for consistent and efficient service improvements.

To our Council, I am grateful for the insight and vision each of you has, and for the leadership you provide.

Amanda F. Brock
Administrator
Submitted on February 18, 2022

FY2021-2022 (Incomplete, unadjusted & unaudited data)

Description	Award	Expenditures	Revenue
Title IVD-Transaction Reimbursement (formerly Unit Costs) Enhance Child Support Enforcement	\$ 42,871.45	\$ -	\$ 42,871.45
FEMA Reimbursement - 2020 Tornado	\$ 536,040.82	\$ -	\$ 11,332.96
FEMA Reimbursement - 2020 Flooding Event #4479	\$ 332,419.94	\$ -	\$ 86,700.92
FEMA Reimbursement - COVID-19	\$ 22,173.25	\$ 6,874.82	\$ -
Title IVD-Filing Fees - Enhance Child Support Enforcement	\$ 113,288.63	\$ -	\$ 113,288.63
Title IVD-Service of Process Payments - Enhance Child Support Enforcement	\$ 3,184.50	\$ -	\$ 3,184.50
Airport Improvement Project AIP #25 - Mt Nebo Church Rd	\$ 1,086,721.00	\$ 368,260.67	\$ 386,723.06
Airport Improvement Project AIP #25 - Mt Nebo Church Rd	\$ 60,374.00	\$ 20,458.97	\$ 60,374.00
Airport Improvement Project AIP #26 - W Terminal Apron Prep	\$ 1,147,784.00	\$ 98,475.97	\$ 64,080.53
Airport Improvement Project AIP #26 - W Terminal Apron Prep	\$ 63,766.00	\$ 5,470.89	\$ 63,766.00
Airport Improvement Project AIP #27-Expand T Apron, P+L	\$ 1,225,565.00	\$ 781,518.53	\$ 1,051,203.32
Airport Improvement Project AIP #27-Expand T Apron, P+L	\$ 69,754.50	\$ 43,417.70	\$ 69,754.50
Airport Improvement Project AIP #28 - CARES ACT Grant (FAA 100%)	\$ 69,000.00	\$ 69,000.00	\$ 69,000.00
Airport Improvement Project AIP #30 - Runway Rehabilitation (Multi-Year)	\$ 277,903.00	\$ 132,526.75	\$ 132,526.75
SC Aeronautics Commission (SCAC) Grant - Emergency Repair of Asphalt	\$ 9,375.00	\$ 9,375.00	\$ -
SC Parks, Recreation & Tourism (PRT) Grant - Foothills Farmstead Grant	\$ 50,964.00	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 13,150.00
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program	\$ 4,280,265.00	\$ 4,740.64	\$ 1,309,155.48
Alcohol Enforcement Team (AET) Grant	\$ 700.00	\$ -	\$ 700.00
2020 SC Body-Worn Cameras Mandate Grant	\$ 42,688.32	\$ 42,688.32	\$ 42,688.32
Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY 20 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental 2020-VD-BX-1152 Coronavirus Preparedness Equipment and Supplies	\$ 41,705.00	\$ 4,165.26	\$ 4,165.25
Title IVD-Incentive Payments - Enhance Child Support Enforcement	\$ 4,039.31	\$ -	\$ 4,039.31
FFY21 Highway Safety Grant - Coordinated highway safety program	\$ 75,619.00	\$ 21,221.80	\$ 32,013.00
FFY2021 Law Enforcement Network (LEN) - Coordinated highway safety program	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 370.66	\$ 771.00
FY21 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program	\$ 13,382.00	\$ 13,382.00	\$ -
2020 Bulletproof Vest Partnership	\$ 28,360.00	\$ 6,677.90	\$ 2,717.31
Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY 20 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse 2020-AR-BX-0045 Oconee SC Addiction Recovery & Solutions (OARS) Initiative	\$ 585,693.00	\$ 14,112.12	\$ -

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY 20 The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration 2020-MO-BX-0045 Oconee County (SC) FY20 JMHCP	\$ 27,433.02	\$ 27,433.02	\$ 27,433.02
2021 Litter Prevention Grant	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 754.85	\$ -
FY22 Law Enforcement Network (LEN) Grant	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 289.86	\$ -
2021 DEA Officer Overtime - Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF)	\$ 18,649.00	\$ 3,889.29	\$ 3,536.00
FY22 Highway Safety Grant	\$ 75,619.00	\$ 23,963.88	\$ -
FY21/22 SCDPS SRO Grant	\$ 63,487.00	\$ 27,454.00	\$ 31,743.50
FY2020 Assistance for Firefighters Grant SCBAs, "Air Pack"	\$ 998,636.36	\$ -	\$ -
FY21-22 DEA Officer Agmt Revenue	\$ 3,396.09	\$ 3,395.09	\$ 1,516.16
2020 Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG) 20EMPG01	\$ 61,937.00	\$ 10,994.36	\$ 15,514.48
21 EMPG Grant	\$ 62,223.00	\$ 34,019.18	\$ 4,819.45
Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) IID-20-326	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Duke Energy - Chau Ram Path	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
FY21 SCDHEC Education Outreach Grant	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
FY21 SCDHEC General Recycling Grant	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 4,797.72	\$ -
FY22 SCDHEC Used Oil Grant	\$ 18,250.00	\$ 2,487.44	\$ -
National Forestry Title III	\$ 24,405.00	\$ 27,470.93	\$ 24,405.89
Duke Energy Fixed Nuclear Facility (FNF)	\$ 121,000.00	\$ 108,897.21	\$ 121,000.00
2019 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) - Project: 4394-0018 (Severe Storms and Flooding - Hurricane Irma)	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 7,500.06	\$ -
Coronavirus Relief Fund -Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Federal Through State		\$ 19,086.90	\$ -
Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund - American Rescue Plan	\$ 7,725,439.00	\$ 7,725,439.00	\$ 7,725,439.00
Total	\$ 19,475,111.19	\$ 9,694,360.79	\$ 11,539,613.79

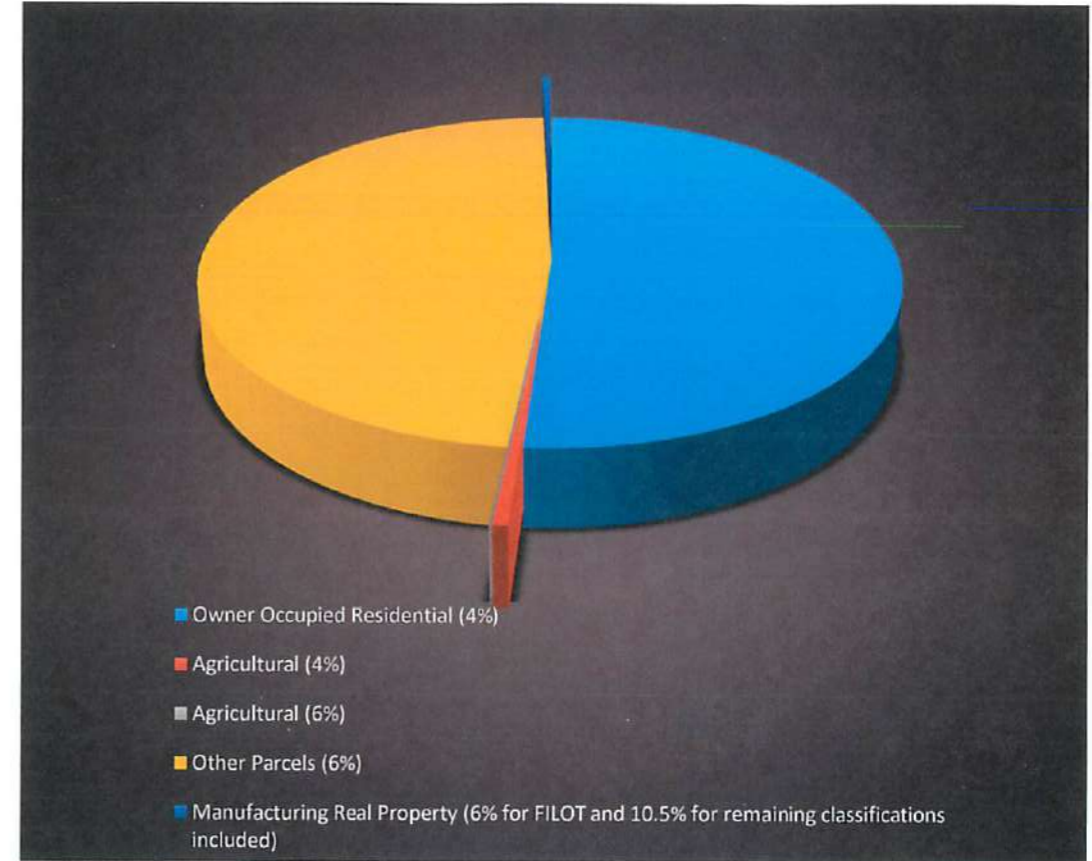
Oconee County Assessed, Market and % of County Portion of the Millage

Based on 2020 Tax Year
Based on 2021 Fiscal Year

Classification of Property	Assessed Value	Estimated Market Value	County Portion of Millage less County Bonds and TCTC	Estimate of County Dollars Based on LG Report Assessments	Percentage
Owner Occupied Residential (4%)	\$ 185,106,220	\$ 4,627,655,500	74.3 mills	\$ 13,753,392.15	28.054%
Agricultural (4%)	2,210,790	\$ 55,269,750	74.3 mills	\$ 164,261.70	0.335%
Agricultural (6%)	48,780	\$ 813,000	74.3 mills	\$ 3,624.35	0.007%
Other Parcels (6%)	173,579,560	\$ 2,892,992,667	74.3 mills	\$ 12,896,961.31	26.307%
Manufacturing Real Property (6% for FILOT and 10.5% for remaining classifications included)	1,523,720	\$ 14,511,619	74.3 mills	\$ 113,212.40	0.231%
Total Real Property	362,469,070	7,591,242,536		\$ 26,931,451.90	54.934%
Motor Vehicles (6%)	43,126,995	\$ 718,783,250	74.3 mills	\$ 3,204,335.73	6.536%
Watercraft and Motors (10.5%)	9,129,857	\$ 86,951,019	74.3 mills	\$ 678,348.38	1.384%
Aircraft (4%)	117,580	\$ 2,939,500	74.3 mills	\$ 8,736.19	0.018%
Other Personal Property (10.5%)		\$ -	74.3 mills	\$ -	0.000%
Fee-in-Lieu (FILOT) and Joint Industrial Park (6%)	23,572,180	\$ 392,869,667	74.3 mills	\$ 1,751,412.97	3.573%
Manufacturing Personal Property and Reimbursement (10.5%)	4,776,510	\$ 45,490,571	74.3 mills	\$ 354,894.69	0.724%
Utility Property (10.5%)	144,329,648	\$ 1,374,568,076	74.3 mills	\$ 10,723,692.85	21.874%
Railroad and Pipeline Property (9.5%)	893,807	\$ 9,408,495	74.3 mills	\$ 66,409.86	0.135%
Business Personal Property (10.5%)	7,697,730	\$ 73,311,714	74.3 mills	\$ 571,941.34	1.167%
Business Personal Property Lock-In (10.5%)	1,151,943	\$ 10,970,886	74.3 mills	\$ 85,589.36	0.175%
Motor Carrier Reimbursement Assessment (10.5%)	2,123,020	\$ 20,219,238	74.3 mills	\$ 157,740.39	0.322%
Total Personal Property	236,919,270	2,735,512,416		\$ 17,603,101.76	35.906%
Grand Total	\$ 599,388,340	\$ 10,326,754,952		\$ 44,534,553.66	90.841%
			Delq collections	\$1,839,932.26	3.753%
			Penalties	\$620,917.89	1.267%
			Homestead Dollars	\$1,521,709.65	3.104%
			MFGR	\$419,370.54	0.855%
			MPVE	\$87,250.10	0.178%
			\$ from other counties	\$1,101.68	0.002%
			Total Other \$	\$4,490,282.12	9.159%
			Total	\$49,024,835.78	100.000%

Provided by: Christy Hubbard - Oconee County Auditor

Property Classifications by Ownership Type



MILLAGE RATE TRENDS

Fiscal Year	Property Tax Rates						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Operating	57.6	60.4	60.3	62.5	63.9	63.9	63.9
Debt Service	6.0	3.2	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.0
Economic Development	2.2	2.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Parks, Recreation and Tourism	-	-	-	-	1.3	1.3	1.3
Bridges and Culverts	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Capital Equipment & Vehicles	-	-	-	-	2.0	2.0	2.0
Emergency Services Protection	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Road Maintenance	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Tri-County Tech Operations	2.1	2.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Total County Millage	73.9	73.9	73.9	75.6	80.3	80.3	79.3
Value of Mill	518,357	523,596	537,612	545,656	545,613	561,398	586,604

Assessed Property Value of Taxable Property				
Fiscal Year	Real Property	Personal Property	Other	Total Taxable Assessed Value
2015	320,742,833	40,299,075	164,301,126	525,343,034
2016	323,167,245	42,705,030	180,421,797	546,294,072
2017	333,937,375	42,504,784	183,478,946	559,921,105
2018	335,399,830	42,663,982	190,688,108	568,751,920
2019	342,029,234	44,396,985	190,205,574	576,631,793
2020	349,404,947	48,724,000	171,731,216	569,860,163





**OCONEE
ECONOMIC
ALLIANCE**

ANNUAL REPORT

**2022
EDITION**

2021 DATA

JANUARY 1, 2021 - DECEMBER 31, 2021

64 TOTAL PROJECT INQUIRIES

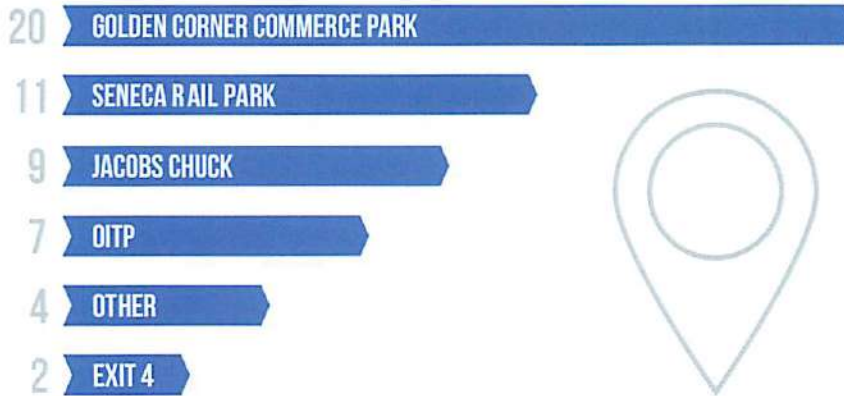


COMPARED TO 2020 **↑23%**

↑10%

↑25%

↑26%



SOURCE OF LEAD



20 EXISTING
INDUSTRY VISITS

45 CONSULTANT
INTERACTIONS

WEBSITE VISITS BY COUNTRY



📍 UNITED STATES

📍 BRAZIL

📍 CHINA

📍 INDIA



PICTURED: Governor Henry McMaster at Horton's Grand Opening with a gift from Horton President & CEO, Cordell Dietz.

2021 ANNOUNCEMENTS

\$51.5M TOTAL
INVESTMENT

82 TOTAL
JOBS



A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Investors, Allies and Partners:

I would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your continued support this year. Your support of our Economic Team goes well beyond your financial investment in the Oconee Economic Alliance. After a very uncertain 2020, it was good to see an improvement in the business environment in 2021. From an economic development perspective, 2021 was a great year.

We are so pleased that we were able to resume our in-person events this year. The covid pandemic created a shift in how some people like to gather. We have worked to respond to those needs by having socially distanced meetings and events. We were able to hold our annual Industry Appreciation golf tournament on November 18th at Cross Creek in Seneca. It was a beautiful day for golf and with the "Big Thursday" Clemson vs South Carolina theme, a great time was had by all. In addition to planning for the 2022 golf tournament, we are also working on some other smaller scale events to host both existing and prospective industry leaders.

We are pleased to present you with our annual report of activity. In 2021, we saw an increase in activity with a strong interest in our industrial sites developed by Oconee County. In 2021, we had 64 different companies take an interest in Oconee County which is a signal to us that our community and sites can continue to compete in the post pandemic economy. We are looking forward to hopefully turning these projects into formal announcements.

Looking forward into 2022, our project pipeline is healthy. Our dedicated OEA staff will continue their work to keep the pipeline full. Of note, we appreciate the efforts of our staff to visit our existing industry partners as our County's economic success is based upon our existing industry partners.

I would like to thank our dedicated Executive Committee for their leadership. Lastly, I would like to thank our County Administrator, Amanda Brock, as well as our County Council for their support of OEA.

We are blessed to either live, work or play in the Golden Corner. I appreciate everything you do to help Oconee County continue to prosper.

Best Regards,



C. Kyle Thomas
Chairman
Oconee Economic Alliance Board

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF OCONEE

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

IN RE: Oconee County 2022 Meetings

BEFORE ME the undersigned, a Notary Public for the State and County above named, This day personally came before me, Hal Welch, 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 01/08/2022 and the rate charged therefore is not in excess of the regular rates charged private individuals for similar insertions.



Hal Welch
General Manager

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
01/08/2022



Jessica Wells
Notary Public
State of South Carolina
My Commission Expires November 13, 2030



Jessica Lee Wells
NOTARY PUBLIC
State of South Carolina
My Commission Expires
November 13, 2030

ROOM FOR RENT

to Clemson Univ. student.
14 miles (20) minutes from campus, this semester. WIFI, fridge, microwave, washer, dryer, den, Dish TV, downstairs. I'm retired, I live upstairs, my greatroom and BR, and kitchen are there. I only come downstairs to wash cloths. Fully furnished. Very nice safe neighborhood. No lease required. Prefer female or grad student.
\$600 bucks.
864-710-1704.

REAL ESTATE SALES

HOUSES

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BATHROOM RENOVATIONS

Easy, One Day Updates!
We specialize in fast bathing. Grab bars, no slip flooring & seated showers.
Call for a free in-home consultation:
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DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance- NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details!
1-855-397-7030
www.dental50plus.com/60
#6258

DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS.

Your donation helps fund the search for missing children. Accepting Trucks, Motorcycles & RV's, too! Fast Free Pickup - Running or Not - 24 Hour Response - No Title Tax Donation - **Call (888) 515-3810**

**Classifieds
Work**

complex in the Seneca area. If you are looking for a great place to live, Springbrook is the place! We would love to show you around. Credit and background check required. Units designed for persons with disabilities subject to availability. Rental assistance available. Come visit us at **115 Dalton Rd. or call (864) 882-5932 or TDD# (800) 735-2905** for more info. Equal Housing Opportunity. Managed by Partnership Property Management, an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Apply TODAY!

WESTMINSTER EAST APTS:

NOW AVAILABLE!! Large 1BR & 2BR energy-efficient apartment homes, cable-ready, water included in rent. Credit and background check required. Section 8 welcome. Units designed for persons with disabilities and/or rental assistance subject to availability. Located at **100 Sunshine Circle in Westminster.**
Call **(864) 647-6093** or **TDD#: (800)735-2905** for more info. Equal Housing Opportunity. Managed by Partnership Property Management, an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Apply TODAY!

SALES & SERVICES

AUCTIONS

ADVERTISE YOUR AUCTION...
in 99 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Your 25-word classified will reach more than 2.1 million readers.

Call **Randall Savelly** at the S.C. Newspaper Network. 1-800-421-1014

REAL ESTATE SALES

BUSINESS PROPERTY

PUBLISHERS NOTICE
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- 16. October 17, 2022
- 17. November 7, 2022
- 18. November 21, 2022
- 19. December 5, 2022
- 20. December 19, 2022
- 21. January 16, 2023

The Oconee County Council will meet in 2022 at 6 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month with the following exceptions:
July & August meetings, which will be only on the third Tuesday of each of these months;
December meeting, which will be only the first Tuesday of the month.

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 18, 2022 in Council Chambers to establish short and long term goals.

Oconee County Council will also meet on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 in Council Chambers at which point they will establish their 2023 Council and Committee meeting schedules.

Oconee County Council will also hold a Budget workshop on Friday, March 18, 2022 in Council Chambers.

Additional Council meetings, workshops, and/or committee meetings may be added throughout the year as needed.

Oconee County Council Committees will meet in 2022 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 15, April 5, July 19, & September 20, 2022.

The Transportation Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: February 15, April 19 [4:00 p.m.], July 19, & September 20, 2022.

The Real Estate, Facilities, & Land Management Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: March 15, May 17, August 16, & October 18, 2022.

The Planning & Economic Development Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: March 15, May 17, August 16, & October 18, 2022.

The Budget, Finance, & Administration Committee at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates: February 18 [Strategic Planning Retreat] & March 18 [Budget Workshop] and 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: March 1, April 19, & May 3, 2022.

U-STOR-IT

Mini Warehouse
Inside • Outside • No Cameras
Fenced • Not Gated • Lighted
Old Clemson Hwy.
654-1000

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
Chairman
District I

Matthew Durham
District II

Paul A. Cain
Vice Chairman
District III

Julian Davis, III
Chairman Pro Tem
District IV

J. Glenn Hart
District V



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OCONEE CODE OF ORDINANCES

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.