



**TCTC**

Tri-County Technical College

# Oconee County Council

February 23, 2024

# Vision and Mission

## Our Vision

Passionate people transforming lives and building strong communities one student at a time.

## Our Mission

Tri-County Technical College provides students an exceptional and affordable learning experience that improves their quality of life. The College advances economic development in the tri-county region by preparing a highly-skilled workforce.

# Who We Serve

- Recent high school graduates.
- High school dual enrollment students.
- Low-income students.
- First-generation college students.
- Minority students.
- English-language learners.
- Students with learning disabilities.
- Under-resourced students.
- And many others ...



*9,000 students served annually*



# Why TCTC Remains a Good Investment

## Population growth in the tri-county region remains strong, providing a steady flow of students to TCTC.

- The tri-county region is expected to grow by 8% over the next decade.
- The manufacturing sector is projected to grow by 6% over the same timeframe.

## More high school students are choosing to come to TCTC after graduation.

- TCTC enrolls the third most S.C. high school students one year after graduation—third only to USC and Clemson.
- TCTC fall 2023 enrollment grew by 2.7%.
- Over the past five years, our 30-39-year-old student population grew by almost 15%.

## TCTC students have better outcomes.

- TCTC has the highest graduation rate, success rate and transfer rate in the S.C. Technical College System.
- Pell recipients who transfer from TCTC to Clemson have the highest bachelor's degree completion rate in the nation.
- In 10 years of Technical Career Pathways, 894 students have participated and 804 have earned a credential.

## TCTC graduates remain in their community and thrive when they enter the workforce.

- TCTC is the best performing two-year college in S.C. for economic mobility after 10 years in the workforce.
- 71.6% of TCTC graduates are working in S.C. 10 years after graduation—second highest for all higher education in the state.
- 93% of TCTC graduates are placed in a job related to their field of study.



The background features a dark blue central area with wavy, layered borders in light blue and green at the top and bottom. A white curved shape is also visible at the top left.

# Other College News

# Oconee Campus

- 14 programs, including:
  - CNC Programming and Operations
  - Computer Technology
  - Mechatronics Technology (Year 1)
  - Manufacturing Management and Leadership
- Customized training
- Oconee County Adult Education ESL



# Plastic Injection Mold Program

- Seven-week program offered Thursday evenings at the Oconee Campus.
- Students learn the basics of the injection molding process, plus hands-on learning with an 180-ton injection machine donated by Engel Machinery.



# 2023 Instructional Program Award

Awarded by Community Colleges of the Appalachia for our plastic injection mold program.



# BASF Apprenticeship

- 12-month program at the Oconee Campus.
- Apprentices work full-time at BASF's Seneca facility while earning a Process Technology Certificate from TCTC.
- Fifth cohort started in January 2024.



# 10 Years of Technical Career Pathways

- 8 fully-funded pathways.
- 894 students enrolled.
- 802 credentials earned.
- 16,325 credit hours completed.
- **\$2.9 million** in tuition savings.





# Student Success Story



7th Sch  
417 34 56 78

Tap Drill S...

Job	Grade	Analysis	Program	Q14 Q03	Times And Counts
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

LUIS

JTEKT

EMERGENCY STOP  
HARNESS ADJ  
CYCLE START  
FEED HOLD

RESET  
DISPLAY  
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z





# Questions?



[gdehay@tctc.edu](mailto:gdehay@tctc.edu)



[tctc.edu](http://tctc.edu)



864-646-1773



**2023 ANNUAL REVIEW**  
OCONEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

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

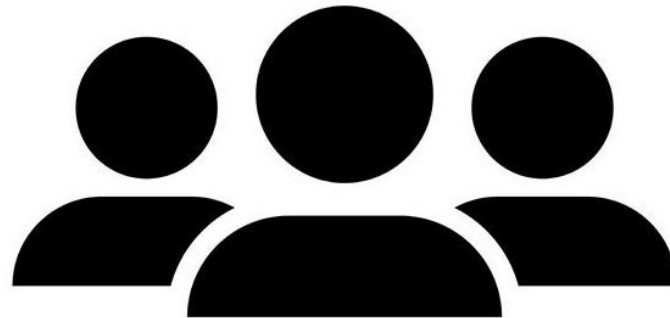
At the Strategic Planning Retreat, Council discusses their individual and collective strategic initiatives for the upcoming year – this combined vision provides Administration directives for both management and budgeting.

If we fail to plan, we must plan to fail.

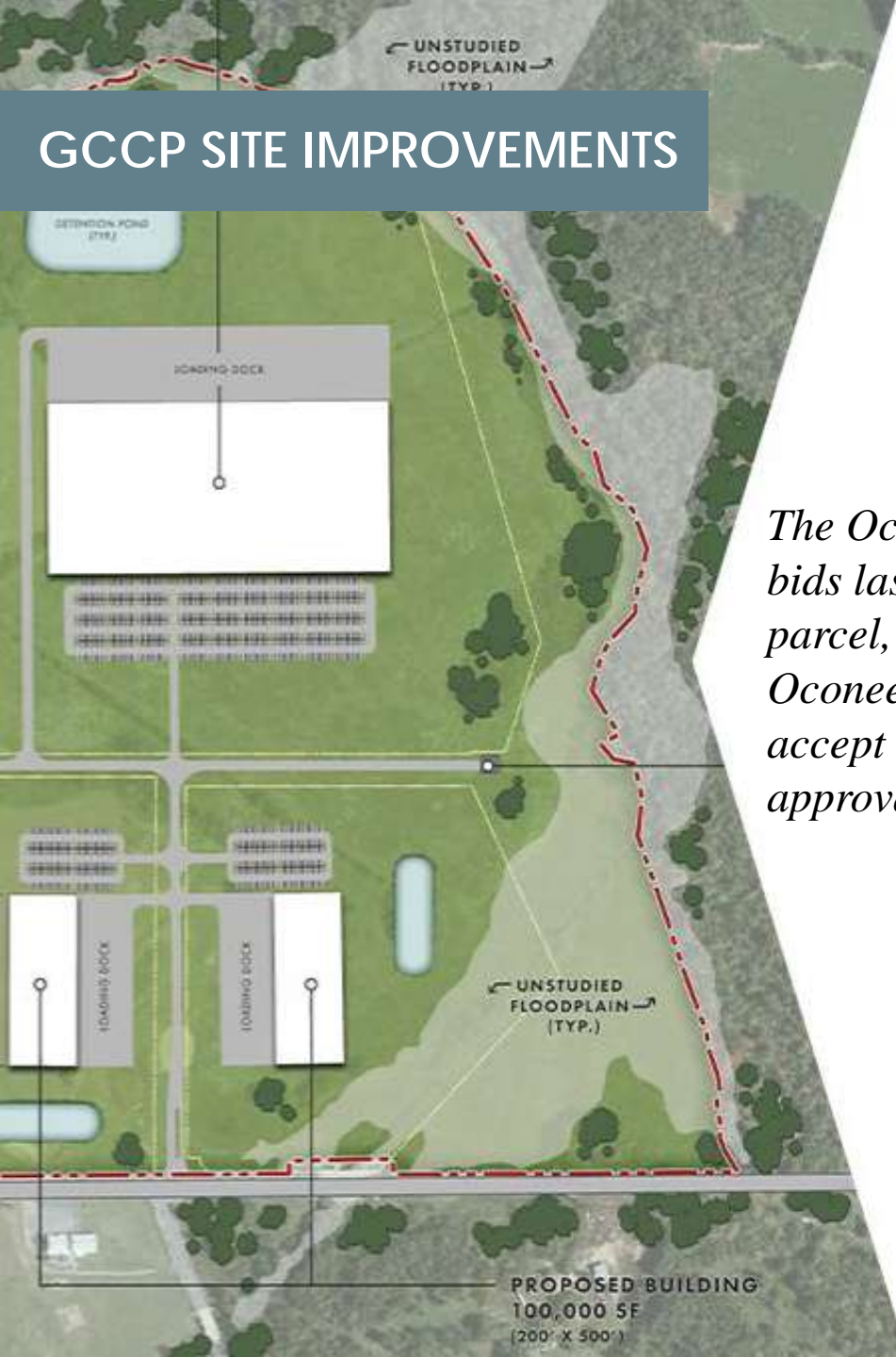


## TIER ONE PRIORITIES

Tier One initiatives were prioritized by three Council members during the Strategic Planning Retreat in 2023. These projects received primary staff commitment and Council funding consideration in the current fiscal year.



# GCCP SITE IMPROVEMENTS



*The Oconee County Procurement Office opened the bids last week for Phase I Mass Grading, a 62-acre parcel, at Golden Corner Commerce Park. Yesterday, Oconee County received the Recommendation Letter to accept Contractor Services. Council will consider approval on March 5th during the next council meeting.*



# ROADWAY INFRASTRUCTURE

*In 2023, the Oconee County Roads and Bridges Department accomplished the following in addition to completing 1,996 work orders:*

- *South Cove camp site refreshing and tree removal*
- *Stakey Mountain Road site distance improvement project*
- *Dr. Johns Road repair and creek bank stabilization*
- *Large patching projects on Leroy Road, Wander Road, Keowee Subdivision, Logans Way and Steve Nicks Road*
- *Fair Oak Intermediate parking lot construction*
- *Camp Road recycling close out (moved to Seneca C&D)*
- *Chau Ram County Park grading for equipment shed*
- *Station 21 Westminster patching and cleaning out detention ponds*
- *Heritage Fairgrounds grading shoulders and hydroseeding*
- *Nellie Road Paving*
- *Arlington Heights and Tabor Road culvert replacements*
- *Utica Mill Hill removing blighted properties*

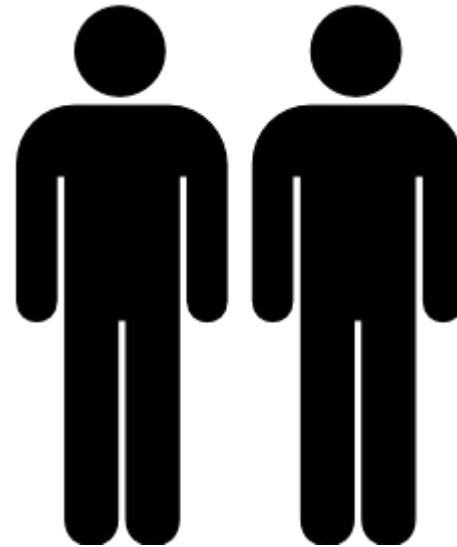
*The Oconee C-Fund Committee approved more than \$1.4 million in allocations for roadway improvements in Oconee County throughout the year.*

*2024 Paving Contract will be brought to Council in April for approval.*



## TIER TWO PRIORITIES

Tier Two priorities were identified by at least two Council members during the Strategic Planning Retreat.



## WAGE / EMPLOYEE SALARIES

*All county employees received a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in the FY2024 budget.*

*In addition to the COLA increases, key ‘boots on the ground’ departments realized significant increases in entry salaries, as well as significant adjustments in those departments that were identified to be under market in comparable salaries for like positions – the approved increase amount totaled \$445,804.*

*Sheriff’s Officer salaries also realized significant increases, totaling \$470,000, for across-the-board salary boosts both to address low entry salaries (which inhibited recruitment) and addressed compression within the upper ranks.*

*In addition to increasing ‘boots on the ground’ salaries, Council approved 14 new positions to assist already strained departments to increase service and decrease overburdening staff.*

*Council approved the Classification, Compensation and Time Use Study to Evergreen Solutions. The study is slated for completion this Spring.*





## COUNTY ANNEX FACILITY / SECURE VOTING

*Johnson Controls, Inc. presented the Oconee County Administrative Infrastructure Feasibility Report to the Real Estate Facilities and Land Management Committee on March 21, 2023.*

*This initiative was not approved by Council for funding in the FY 2023-2024 Budget.*



# AIRPORT HANGAR CONSTRUCTION



*KCEU is currently updating the Airport Layout Plan, which includes the 11.23 acres acquired in 2020. Hangar construction and other structure relocations are contingent on various items, including approval and available funding from local, state and federal agencies.*



## TIER THREE PRIORITIES

Tier Three initiatives were prioritized by only one member of County Council during the strategic planning meeting, and were briefly discussed throughout the retreat.



## TIER III STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- **Sewer Infrastructure Expansion to Exits 1, 2 & 4**
  - *Council approved the issuance of a \$25 million general obligation bond for historic investment in wastewater infrastructure along the I-85 corridor*
  - *Last month, Council approved the first expenditure for engineering modification, construction management and compliance, and permitting for sewer expansion from Golden Corner Commerce Park to Exit 4*
  - *The County is currently participating, as a stakeholder, in a grant-funded study to evaluate the current structure of the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority. Recommendations are anticipated this summer*
- **Fire Protection Priority / Municipal Contracts Updated**
  - *Executed Intergovernmental Agreements with the cities of Seneca, Walhalla and Westminster as well as the Town of Salem*
- **Continuation of Momentum in Utica Community**
  - *Demolished the Compound on Padgett Street and removed an astounding 63 tons of litter from the compound and surrounding areas*



## TIER III STRATEGIC INITIATIVES (cont.)



- **Litter Control and Enforcement Improvements**
  - *Received grant funding for equipment for bulk litter removal and tarps / bungees for a Tarp it or Ticket Campaign*
  - *Inmate litter crew picked up 77,820 pounds of litter across Oconee County*
  - *Non-profit organizations continue to participate in the OurOconee Program, removing litter along roadways throughout Oconee County completing:*
    - *71.5 miles of roadway litter pickups*
    - *708 bags / 7,805 pounds of litter*
    - *Qualifying organizations received \$17,875 in funding for their efforts*
- **Regulation of Junk Yards / Recycling Facilities / Increasing Buffers and Setbacks**
  - *Discussions regarding the Commercial Junkyard Ordinance are ongoing*



## TIER III STRATEGIC INITIATIVES (cont.)

- Support the Fair Oak Youth Center / Demolition of the Former Fair Play School
  - *Oconee County supports the Fair Oak Youth Center's participation in the SC BEST program*
  - *Oconee County does not own the former school so no other action was taken*
- Allocation of \$150,000 to the FARM Center
  - *Utilizing \$140,000 in C-Funds, Roads & Bridges completed the SC Heritage Fairgrounds access road paving project*
  - *Over \$4,000 in Rock Quarry products were provided to the FARM Center in 2023*
- Assist Prisma EMS Programming Throughout Oconee County / Corinth Shiloh
  - *Oconee County Emergency Services responders are housed at the Corinth-Shiloh fire station to increase community response in the district.*

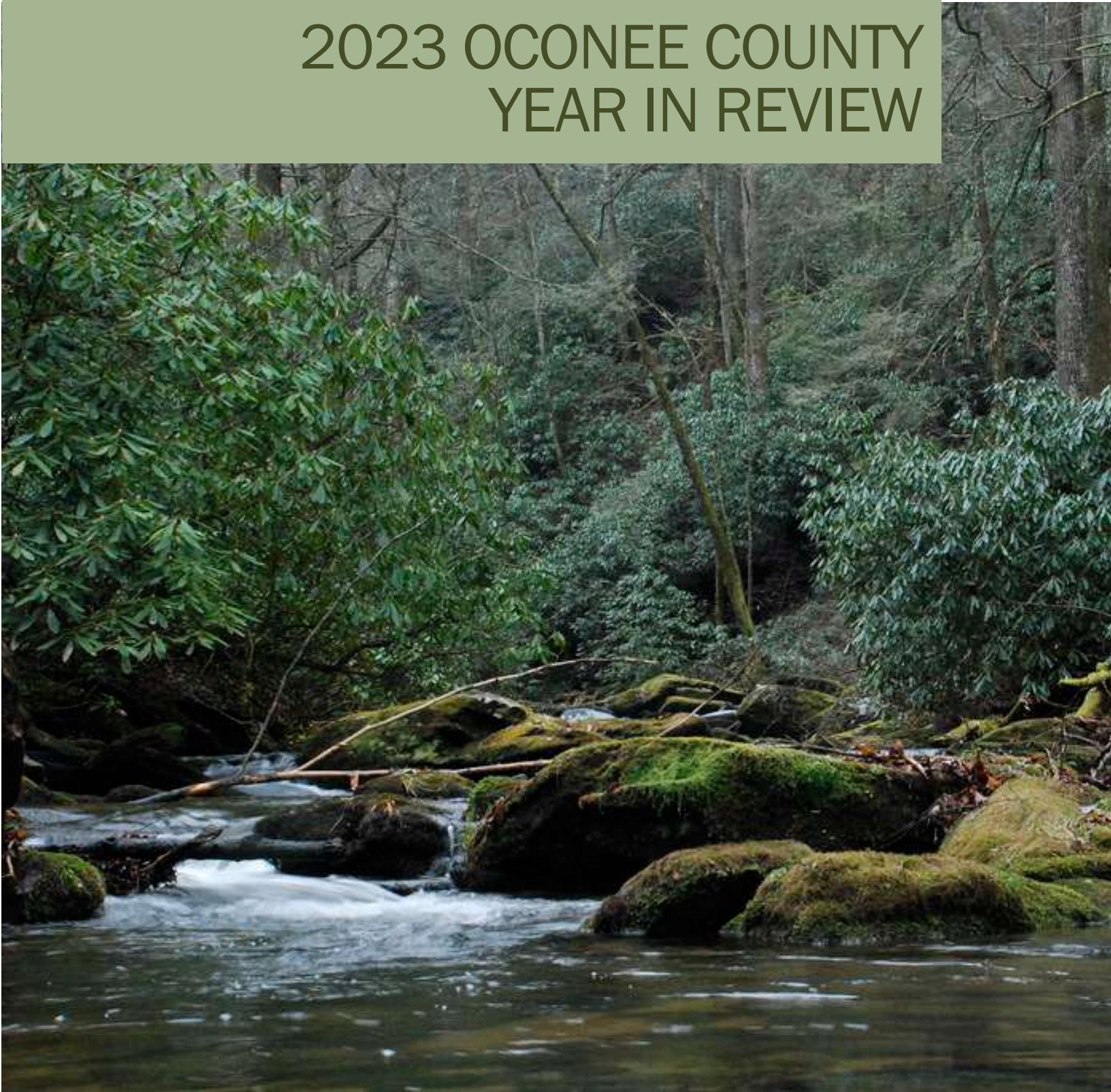


It is the mission of Oconee County to provide our current and future citizens and visitors quality services while protecting our communities, heritage, environment and natural resources in an ever-changing world.





# 2023 OCONEE COUNTY YEAR IN REVIEW





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

## Overview of Oconee County and Our Government

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

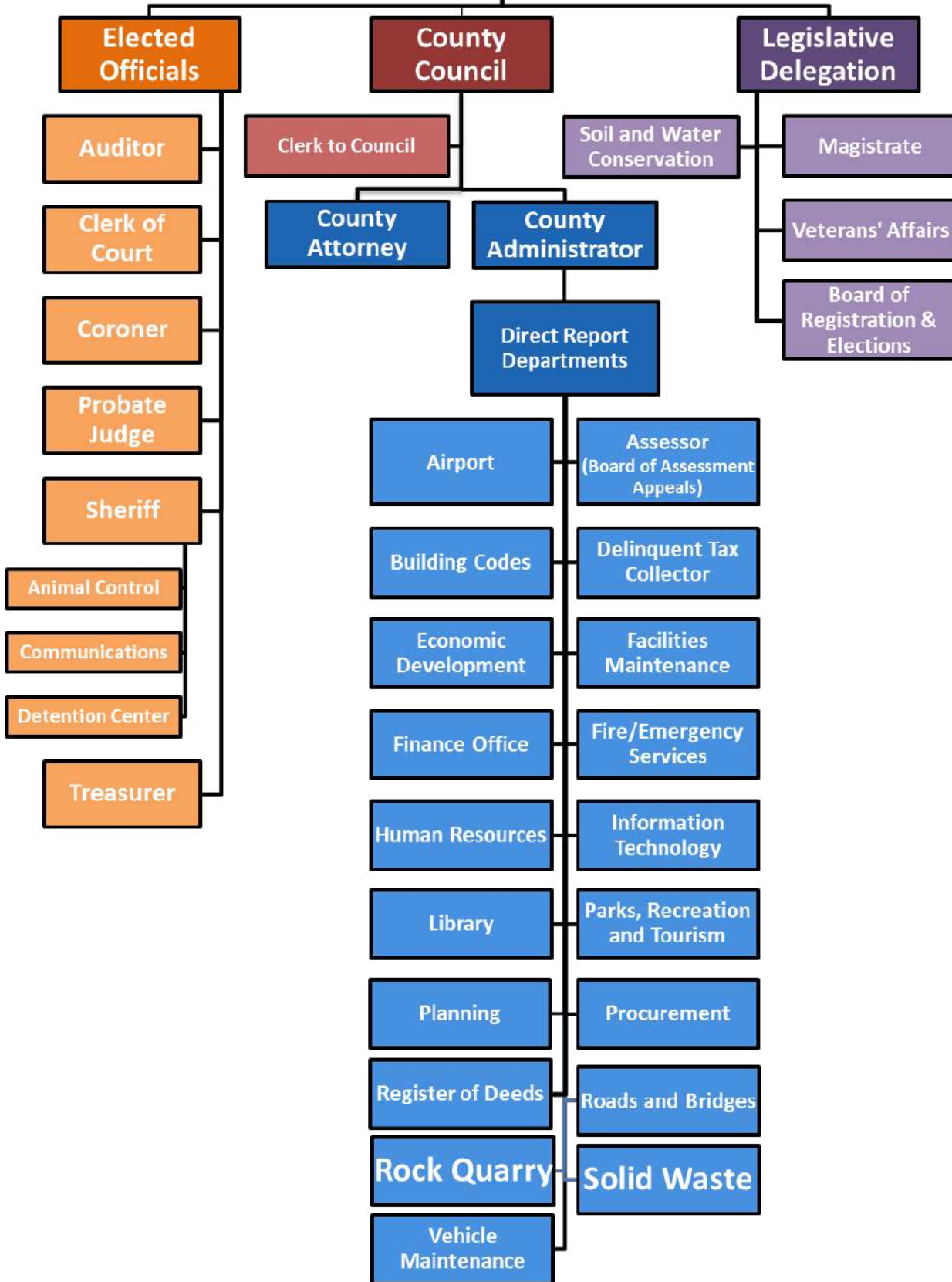


- **Called “The Golden Corner”**, Oconee County is located in an area known as the “Upstate of South Carolina.”
- **The land area** of Oconee County is 625.41 square miles.
- **The geography** plays host to significant environmental resources:
  - Sumter National Forest
  - Ellicott Rock Wilderness Area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

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



# Citizens of Oconee County



**Form of Government:**

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

**County Council:**

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

District I	John Elliott
District II	Matthew Durham, Chairman
District III	Don Mize
District IV	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	Danny Singleton
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 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District  
The Honorable Jeff Duncan

**United States Senators:**

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

## Oconee County Mission Statement

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

## Oconee County Vision Statement

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

## County Council Priorities

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

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

## Tier One Priorities

**In 2023, Tier One initiatives were prioritized by three Council members during the Strategic Planning Retreat. These projects received primary staff commitment and Council funding consideration in the current fiscal year.**

### Golden Corner Commerce Park Site Improvements:

- *Oconee County Procurement Office opened the bids last week for Phase I Mass Grading, a 62-acre parcel, at Golden Corner Commerce Park. Yesterday, Oconee County received the Recommendation Letter to accept Contractor Services. Council will consider approval on March 5 during the next council meeting.*

### Roadway Infrastructure / Safety:

- *In 2023, the Oconee County Roads and Bridges Department accomplished the following in addition to completing 1,996 work orders:*
  - *South Cove campsite refreshing and tree removal*
  - *Stakey Mountain Road site distance improvement project*
  - *Dr. Johns Road repair and creek bank stabilization*
  - *Large patching projects on Leroy Road, Wander Road, Keowee Subdivision, Logans Way and Steve Nicks Road*
  - *Fair Oak Intermediate parking lot construction*
  - *Camp Road recycling close out (moved to Seneca C&D)*
  - *Chau Ram County Park grading for equipment shed*
  - *Station 21 Westminster patching and cleaning out detention ponds*
  - *Heritage Fairgrounds grading shoulders and hydroseeding*
  - *Nellie Road Paving*
  - *Arlington Heights and Tabor Road culvert replacements*
  - *Utica Mill Hill - removed blighted properties*
- *While the County Roads and Bridges Department managed County-maintained roadways and rights of way, the Oconee County C-Fund Committee approved **\$1.4 million** for roadway improvements in Oconee County throughout the year.*

## Tier Two Priorities

Tier Two priorities were identified by at least two Council members during the Strategic Planning Retreat.

### Wages / Employee Salaries / Increase Starting Salary OCSO:

- All county employees received a three percent Cost of Living Adjustment in the FY2024 budget
- In addition to the COLA increases, key ‘boots on the ground’ departments realized significant increases in entry salaries, as well as significant adjustments in those departments that were identified to be under market in comparable salaries for like positions – the approved increase amount totaled \$445,804
- Sheriff’s Officer salaries also realized significant increases, totaling \$470,000, for across-the-board salary boosts both to address low entry salaries (which inhibited recruitment) and addressed compression within the upper ranks
- In addition to increasing ‘boots on the ground’ salaries, Council approved 14 new positions to assist already strained departments to increase service and decrease overburdening staff
- Oconee County Council also approved the Classification, Compensation and Time Use Study to Evergreen Solutions. The purpose of this study is for a detailed analysis and investigation to gather information about various aspects of compensation and time allocations. The study is slated for completion this Spring

### Oconee Regional Airport Hangar Construction:

- KCEU is in the process of updating the Airport Layout Plan, which includes 11.23 acres acquired in 2020. Hangar construction and other structure relocations are contingent on various items, including approval and available funding from local, state and federal agencies; roadway relocation; terminal facility improvements and possibly relocating the fuel farm

### County Annex Facility / Secure Early Voting:

- Funding for this initiative was not approved in the FY 2023-2024 Budget.

## Tier Three Priorities

Tier Three initiatives were identified by one member of County Council during the strategic planning meeting.

### Sewer Infrastructure Expansion to Exits 1, 2 and 4:

- Oconee County Council approved the issuance of a \$25million general obligation bond for historic investment in wastewater infrastructure along the I-85 corridor
- Last month, Council approved the first expenditure for engineering modification, construction management and compliance, and permitting for sewer expansion from Golden Corner Commerce Park to Exit 4
- The County is currently participating, as a stakeholder, in a grant-funded study to evaluate the current structure of the Oconee Joint Regional Sewer Authority. Recommendations are anticipated this summer

### Fire Protection Priority / Municipal Contracts Updated:

- Oconee County has executed Intergovernmental Agreements for Fire Protection and Other Emergency Response Services with the cities of Seneca, Walhalla and Westminster as well as the Town of Salem

### Continuation of Momentum in Utica Community:

- TEAM Oconee demolished the Compound on Padgett Street. This was an enormous undertaking by staff from Roads and Bridges, Solid Waste, Planning departments as well as the Sheriff’s Office
- An astounding 63 tons were removed from the compound and surrounding area during the clean up



**Litter Control and Enforcement Improvements:**

- *Oconee County received the Palmetto Pride Litter Enforcement Grant that provided equipment for bulk litter removal and tarps/bungies for a Tarp it or Ticket campaign*
- *In 2023, the inmate litter crew picked up 77,820 pounds of litter across Oconee County*
- *Non-profit organizations continue to participate in the OurOconee Program, removing litter along roadways throughout Oconee County completing:*
  - *71.5 miles of roadway litter pickups*
  - *708 bags / 7,805 pounds of litter*
  - *Qualifying organizations received \$17,875 in funding for their efforts*

**Regulation of Junkyards / Recycling Facilities / Increasing Buffers and Setbacks:**

- *Discussions regarding the Commercial Junkyard Ordinance are ongoing.*

**Support Fair Oak Youth Center / Demolition of the Former Fair Play School:**

- *Oconee County supports the Fair Oak Youth Center's participation in the South Carolina Brownfields Environmental Site Testing (SC BEST) program*
- *Oconee County does not own the former Fair Play school; thus, no other action was taken on this matter*

**Allocation of \$150,000 Grant to the FARM Center:**

- *In July 2023, Oconee County Roads & Bridges completed the SC Heritage Fairgrounds access road paving project, utilizing \$140,000 in C-Funds*
- *Oconee County also provided \$4,485.63 in Rock Quarry products to the FARM Center from September to December 2023*

**Assist Prisma EMS Programming Throughout Oconee County / Corinth-Shiloh:**

- *Oconee County Emergency Services responders are stationed at the Corinth-Shiloh fire station to increase community response in the district*

**Urban Planning Consultant / Sprawl Prevention:**

- *This initiative was not approved by Council for completion*

**Allocation of \$1,000,000 Grant to the City of Westminster:**

- *Funding was not approved by Council for this initiative*

**Assist the City of Westminster in its City Hall / Oconee Chamber of Commerce Location:**

- *This initiative was not approved by Council for completion*

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

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

**Assessor:** In 2023, the Assessor’s office focused on continuous improvement for efficiency, accuracy and customer service. Through the hard work of our team, and in spite of the significant growth building permits issued, the Assessor’s office completed the 2023 assessment work earlier than in previous years and reduced the number of changes made after tax notices were issued.

**Auditor:** The mission of the Auditor’s Office is to ensure that all citizens are treated equally and fairly in accordance with South Carolina Code of Law and Regulations. Our mission is to assist taxpayers in understanding personal property tax laws and receive all exemptions that they are allowed by law that are granted through our office.

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

**Building Codes:** The Building Codes department had busy, hectic, and accomplished fiscal year. Building Codes worked with IT, BluePrince, and Citizenserve to import old permits, dating from 1999 to 2014, into our new permitting software. Importing the old permits into the new software was necessary to save the County money as we were paying for the current permitting software, as well as a “read only” version of our old permitting software to be able to still have access to those permits.

- Permit totals: 3,703
- Inspection totals: 9,145 (increase of 1,114 from previous year)
- Permit fee totals: \$1,593,025
- New Home Valuation: \$166,575,765

**Clerk of Court:** The SC Judicial Department has a “365 Day Benchmark Rule” as to cases pending on all court dockets. The goal is for 80% of the cases on court dockets in South Carolina to be pending for 365 days or less. Oconee County and the 10th Judicial Circuit is successfully meeting this goal and our team continues to work diligently with our judges, as well as our other partners within the judicial community, to ensure we continue to do so.

Pursuant to the Internal Revenue Service Publication 1075, on a three-year cycle, the Internal Audit Division of the SC Department of Social Services is required to conduct an on-site safeguard inspection of the Clerk of Court in each county in the state. This is an in-depth inspection that reviews recordkeeping, secured storage, building and office security, access control, office policies and procedures, cybersecurity as well as other items. Our audit was scheduled for 2023 and conducted on May 09, 2023. Our office was found to be in compliance with no issues.

The focus on safety and security was a top priority for 2023. 3M Safety and Security Window Film was installed on all basement and first floor windows of the courthouse. The film was also installed on the second-floor windows facing Short Street. Bullet resistant glass was installed at the front security desk as an additional layer of protection

for our officers. Our Emergency Action Plan was updated and reviewed with all departments housed within the courthouse. We worked with Oconee County Sheriff Department's Lt. John Crum and our head of security, Sgt. Josh Sheriff to update several courthouse policies and procedures in preparation for their accreditation inspection.

**Coroner:** As Oconee County continues to grow in population, the Coroner Office is obviously seeing an increase in death cases, cremation permit requests, and burial-removal-transport permits. The coroner's office processed 897 deaths in calendar year 2023.

We recently hired a part-time Deputy Coroner and the facilities' interior walls were painted by facilities maintenance. In 2023, the office received our portable digital radiograph (x-ray) machine and a new service vehicle were purchased and placed into service. The x-ray machine has been very beneficial in our routine operations of determining cause of death.

**County Attorney:** In 2023, the Oconee County attorney assisted with various County objectives, highlights include the following: drafting and negotiating numerous economic development and property transfer agreements/matters; handling Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeal issues; resolving Code Enforcement issues; advising Sheriff's Office on Detention Center issues; and assisting with Risk Management program development.

Throughout the year, the Oconee County Attorney also:

- Provided in-house legal representation and advice in instances where litigation was either threatened or brought against the County
- Advised staff and elected officials on both legal and policy matters, as well as advised County officials on the application of various County ordinances and state and federal laws
- Drafted, reviewed, and approved all manner of legal documents, including contracts, deeds, leases, easements, pleadings, ordinances, resolutions, and policies and procedures
- Monitored the continual evolution of statutory, regulatory, and decisional law, ensuring the County remains compliant

**Delinquent Tax:** The Delinquent Tax Office's ultimate goal is the collection of delinquent taxes, not the acquisition or dispossession of property. The number of properties with delinquent taxes we receive each year varies due to numerous influences. A thriving economy can make the delinquent tax numbers rise, as delinquency can be overlooked during a property transition. A deteriorating economy can go both ways as citizens work harder to budget finances or cannot afford to pay. Our department researches, seeks out, and attempts to notify individuals and companies involved with each property.

Below are our department's measurable items for the last five years. Our ultimate goal is to collect all taxes resulting in no items available for sale. Our obtainable goal for this year is to lower the number of items canceled due to a deficiency in our process. To obtain this goal, we have revamped our title search process to include check items that we normally complete at the end of the tax sale process.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>TAX SALE ITEMS</b>	276	374	343	238	304
<b>TITLE SEARCHES</b>	1036	613	834	967	893
<b>TITLE UPDATES</b>	128	221	221	166	166
<b>REDEMPTIONS</b>	100	138	139	90	64
<b>CANCELED</b>	14	37	116	85	30
<b>DEEDS</b>	245	198	1	200	251
<b>PAYMENTS</b>	5595	6647	5591	5691	5534
<b>COLLECTED</b>	\$ 3,604,501.57	\$ 7,744,824.09	\$ 4,002,528.08	\$ 4,597,920.80	\$ 3,731,590.64

**Economic Development:** Oconee Economic Development reported an excellent 2023. Oconee County announced four projects, representing an anticipated \$85 million in capital investments and the creation of 267 new jobs. (*Annual Report provided.*)

**Emergency Services / Fire and Rescue:** Emergency Services saw an increase in call volume and responded to 11,520 calls in 2023. Emergency Services continues to partner with volunteer and paid departments to meet the growing needs of our citizens. Utilizing local partnerships and resources, as well as local, state and federal grants, Emergency Services has expanded services across all areas of the department with a focus on staffing, training, planning and community outreach.

- **Staffing:** With the help of the new pay scale implementation, Emergency services was able to fill two vacant Fire and Rescue positions and hire nine new staff members to man the Bountyland Fire Substation.
- **Training:** Emergency Services established a Dedicated Training Officer and restructured department training requirements to identify clear paths for advanced training and education. This training priority focuses on training from rookie firefighter to assistant chief. The new standards allowed Emergency Services the ability to hold its first engineer assessment, recognizing firefighters that have completed the established standards and excelled at the assessment. Emergency Services has also implemented life safety training, with the help of the Opioid Response Coordinator, to provide CPR and Narcan training throughout the County.
- **Grants:** Emergency Services obtained local, state and federal funding to support expanded services across the County, including but not limited to:
  - Assistance to Fire Fighter Grant (AFG) – for the purchase of on scene compressed air for safety during Structure Fires and Dive calls
  - V-Safe Grant – for the purchase of a back-up generator to Holly Springs Fire Station
  - Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant – for Radiological decontamination training and equipment
  - Upstate Healthcare Coalition – for the purchase of a Mass Casualty trailer
  - Hazard Mitigation Grant – for the purchase of a 80kw generator for County power outages
- **Planning:** Emergency Services updated the emergency planning zones around the county to include new subdivisions and different road accesses that have changed over the years. This update will aid citizens in time of evacuation and is approved by FEMA and the State Emergency Management Division for best practices. Emergency Services also worked the State and surrounding counties to upgrade its ability to alert the public in time of disaster, with the Integrated Public Alert Warning System (IPAWS). This system will notify residents directly to their phones and allow for early notifications and information to protect the public.
- **Community Outreach and Rescue:** In 2023, Emergency Services increased direct contact with citizens through the community outreach program and developed an online community resource guide to connect people to the resources they need. Community outreach personnel have continued to build partnerships with various agencies and helped coordinate support with the 395 special medical needs group. Using the High Utilization Group (HUG), Emergency Services was able to effect 26 different residences, helping with reduction in repeat calls and reducing the number of hospital visits.

**Facilities Maintenance:** In addition to completing maintenance and custodial work orders, Facilities Maintenance staff completed the following:

- Major renovations of Pine Street Offices: Probate Court; Administration; Human Resources; Finance; the Auditor’s Office and Procurement
- Paint Projects: Department of Social Services (DSS) hallways and exterior columns; and Pine Street hallways
- Appliance / Equipment Installation at the Bountyland Fire Substation
- Electrical / Plumbing / HVAC Installation at the South Cove Superintendent house
- Parking Lot Paved and Striped: DSS and Facilities Maintenance
- Carpet Removal and Installation: GIS, DJJ and DHHS
- Major Repairs After Storm Damage to the airport kitchen
- Construction / Installation of Equipment at the Seneca Creek Boat Ramp
- Heavy Equipment Installation: Lift at Vehicle Maintenance
- Repairs to Road & Bridges Department Sand Shed
- Renovations to Office at Facilities Maintenance

**Finance:** Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for **16 CONSECUTIVE YEARS.**

- Budget Process
  - FY 2023-2024, Ordinance 2023-01
  - FY 2023-2024, Ordinance 2023-16, Budget Amendment
- Audit Process
  - Processing all information for the year-end audit
  - SBITAs – GASB 96 – Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements - 70
- Finance staff have started reviewing new Accounting Software. The software will include Finance, Procurement, Grants and Treasurer.
- Implementation of new Budget Software - ClearGov
  - LAT Collections for Calendar Year 2023 - \$1,076,756
  - ATAX Collections for Calendar Year 2023 - \$575,901

**Human Resources:** In 2023, Human Resources onboarded 96 new staff members, 30 new volunteer firefighters and 36 new Voter Registration and Elections poll workers. The Department assisted with 84 promotions and processed 74 terminations.

**Information Technology:** In 2023, IT continued to update/replace equipment across departments while assisting with various specialized projects, including but not limited to:

- County-wide, the IT department worked diligently with departments to replace 78 computers (based on replacement schedule), over 250 outdated VoIP phones and all Xerox copiers. We also completed a switch refresh county-wide and switched security systems across county buildings to cellular
- Staff further segmented the network, separating clients and servers, configured client network to pass through the firewall for server access and configured the firewall to block any client access that isn’t specifically needed to operate
- Updated technology utilized at the airport office which included a rewiring of the entire building, cutover phones to VoIP and installation of a camera system for the office
- IT installed the network and cameras for the Bountyland Fire Substation
- Updated the South Cove County Park WiFi system, which included running fiber to the campground, outfitting bathhouses for IT equipment and installation of switches and access points. IT added wi-fi and a wireless bridge at the South Cove Recreation Building
- Assisted with the office relocation at High Falls County Park
- Reviewed, selected, tested and implemented eFax, trained departments and decommissioned old fax lines

- Secured guest network for wireless and initiated a guest wi-fi acceptance policy for the Oconee County Public Library
- Researched and tested systems for intercom and paging and conducted penetration testing for security vulnerabilities

**Library:** Oconee County Public Library focused on community outreach, youth programming and community service. The libraries saw a significant increase in visitors and program participants in 2023 compared to previous years.

- 147,661 people visited the libraries (an increase of 5,950 from the previous year)
- 2,356 new library cards issued
- Users checked out 174,317 items
- Almost 10,000 participants utilized 394 programs for youth and adults

Library staff engaged with the community in school visits to promote Summer Reading (which paid handsomely in higher participation numbers and the number who completed the reading challenge), at Rotary meetings, as workers in community cultural events, and as representatives on various other boards, committees and workgroups. A few examples include: Healthy Oconee Coalition; Oconee First Steps; Oconee History Museum Board; Oconee 250.

In 2023, the library's Summer Reading Program continued to prove successful with a large number of participants of various ages completing the reading challenge.

- 1,232 Program Participants
- 467 youth and adults completed the reading challenge of reading 500 minutes
- 12,866 minutes of reading logged by participants

Another big area for the library this past year and going forward is community service and involvement. The library was able to leverage a grant from the Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare at the University of South Carolina to hire a part time Community Resource Associate, or licensed social worker.

The Community Resource Associate has directly served patrons in need of housing and food assistance, job-seeking, and helping them to navigate other social services. She has also worked with numerous social service agencies to create new partnerships with the library, and has assisted with the creation of an emergency resource guide for Oconee County. Using part of the grant, the library was also able to hire a part time bi-lingual assistant to help with Spanish language translation for those in the Latino community who sought assistance.

**Magistrate's Court:** All Oconee County Magistrate Courts saw increased criminal, traffic and civil cases filed in 2023. This resulted in an overall increase of total revenue and the number of cases disposed throughout the calendar year. Two part-time Magistrate Judges conduct bond hearings in the morning and afternoon at the Oconee County Detention Center throughout the week. On weekends, the five Magistrate Judges rotate to conduct hearings. Information regarding Bond Court, from Bond Court hearings and issuing arrest/search warrants is not included as part of the reporting below.

Seneca – Total Revenue \$236,983.54, Retained by County \$101,282  
Criminal/Traffic Filed 2,454  
Civil Filed 632  
Criminal/Traffic & Civil Disposed 3,071

Westminster – Total Revenue \$66,461.87, Retained by County \$18,665  
Criminal/Traffic Filed 2,055  
Civil Filed 679  
Criminal/Traffic & Civil Disposed 2,646

Walhalla – Total Revenue \$609,323.72, Retained by County \$293,750  
 Criminal/Traffic Filed 6,109  
 Civil Filed 791  
 Criminal/Traffic & Civil Disposed 6,875

**Parks, Recreation and Tourism:** The ability to maintain park assets for public access is a result of dedicated funding, devoted staff and proper planning. A new point shelter has been completed and renovations are in progress on the recreation building at High Falls. A new boardwalk and design work for a new waterfall shelter is in progress at Chau Ram, and plans for new courtesy docks, court expansion, improved parking and enhanced beach area at South Cove are examples of the great work being done by staff. In addition, we installed a new courtesy dock at South Union and are working on new gateway signage for secondary roads leading into Oconee County. Future plans include revising the plans and identifying funding for the High Falls II campground project, completing shoreline stabilization at High Falls with the help of a Duke Energy Habitat Enhancement Program (HEP) grant and moving the basketball area at South Cove to a safer space away from the parking lot.

- **Capital Improvements**

- **Seneca Creek Park:** New construction to renovate Seneca Creek that includes new parking area with 49 boat parking spots and 20 single vehicle parking spots, two courtesy docks, fishing pier, kayak launch, restroom and picnic area. Area is lighted and will be tied into the Clemson University camera system soon.
- **High Falls Point Shelter:** Replaced outdated shelter with new shelter, arbor and outdoor kitchen area. Site is very popular and becoming a favorite for weddings.
- **High Falls Recreation Building:** Staff completed interior renovation of the Recreation Building. Exterior renovation ongoing.
- **South Cove Superintendent House:** 50-year-old residence currently under renovation.
- **South Union Courtesy Dock:** New dock installed to enhance the access area.
- **Short Term Rental Compliance-** Local ATAX revenues continue to rise due to our investment in host compliance software and the additions of three new lodging properties. Since implementing the software just four short years ago, local ATAX revenues have increased over 250% providing project funding dramatically decreasing the burden of the general fund budget for PRT project needs. Since implementation, over 450 short term rentals have moved from non-compliance to compliance.

**Planning / Zoning:** The Planning Department has interacted with thousands of citizens, future-citizens, developers, and business owners this year regarding land use, land planning, and land-use complaints. Staff are also responsible for Planning Commission, Agricultural Advisory Board, and Board of Zoning Appeals meetings.

- The Planning Department has completed the following reviews:
 

Plats:	650
Subdivisions:	28
Variances and Special Exemptions:	29
Vegetative Buffer:	49
- **Code Enforcement:** Rejoined the Planning and Zoning office in 2023 and also set records:
 

Cases Opened:	101	Cases Closed:	70
---------------	-----	---------------	----

**Probate Court:** Court staff have been, and continue, to work diligently to improve operations and services. Last year, an emphasis on ethics and helping the community with the probate process propelled the implementation of guidelines for uniformity and fairness for all. Court hearings have increased substantially and cases are scheduled without delay. Mental Health and drug and alcohol dependency is now a priority for Probate Court. We are having an increase in judicial admission and letters of non-compliance that requires court hearings.

**Procurement:** Procurement staff issues and cancels P-Cards as needed, sets purchasing limits, assists answering questions and keeping track of p-card violations. Violations consists of accidentally using the County P-card for a personal purchase or not obtaining an itemized receipt. Procurement also assists finance in reviewing and approving p-card transactions in works. As the number of transactions increase, the amount of the annual rebate also increases. We want to maximize the use of the P-card for all purchases less than \$2,500.

From January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, Procurement purchased the following items:

- 11 vehicles and 8 pieces of equipment from the Capital Equipment Replacement Plan
- 6 vehicles and 1 piece of equipment from the Emergency Services Fund
- 3 pieces of equipment and carpeting for DSS from the One-Time Capital Fund
- 1 vehicle, 2 Fire Trucks and 6 pieces of equipment from other funding sources

**Rock Quarry:** The Quarry is ‘rocking’ on pace for **another** record year in sales.

- The new haul road into the pit is completed. This increases production and safety for employees. The new pit entrance is closer to the crushing plant, thus cutting down on the time it takes a haul truck to travel from the crushing plant, to the pit to be loaded, and back to the crushing plant
- Our Inventory Control Specialist has created a new system for tracking and counting inventory. A barcode system has been implemented which allows for faster and more accurate cycle counts. We have also added new storage locations for storing large parts for the plant
- The Quarry has implemented a new system of diagnosing mobile equipment in-house. This allows for repairs to be made in a timely manner. We no longer have to call for a vendor to come out and diagnose each issue with the mobile equipment, which saves time as well as money
- Completed a pre-blast survey for all surrounding homes and businesses who wished to participate
- The Quarry upgraded our dust suppression system for the Jaw, including new pumps and water tank
- We have added 22 new monthly customers since July of 2023

**Veteran’s Affairs:** In 2023, Oconee County hosted the Second Annual Oconee Veterans Appreciation Day in October at our beautiful South Cove County Park. More than 1,000 Oconee County Veterans and family members enjoyed a special day by the lake. Over 30 public service agencies were on hand share their services for our veterans to help make their lives better and more fulfilled.

For the year 2023, the Oconee County Veterans Affairs Office filed a total of over 1,600 claims through the Department of Veterans Affairs Office. The following is a snapshot of the myriad of services we have been able to assist our great veterans with:

- 17 men and women were helped with temporary housing
- 6 more with permanent housing
- 22 veterans with gaining employment
- 22 veterans had doors to mental health counseling opened to them
- 97 new veterans were enrolled in the VA Health Primary Care in Greenville and Anderson
- 107 veterans were provided transportation to healthcare appointments
- 28 veteran families were provided food assistance
- 68 veterans were assisted with property tax and vehicle “free” license plates

The Oconee County Veterans Affairs Office fielded over 4,000 consultations throughout 2023.



**Voter Registration and Elections:** In 2023, Voter Registration and Elections successfully transitioned to an asset management system for voting equipment and conducted eight elections in Oconee County:

- General Elections for our five municipalities: Walhalla, West Union, Westminster, Salem, and Seneca
- Special Elections for three municipalities: Walhalla, West Union, and Seneca

In the upcoming year, Voter Registration and Elections will strive towards obtaining secure office/work/storage building and employing a third full-time permanent employee for Voter Registration and Elections.

## IN CLOSING

“It is the mission of Oconee County to provide our current and future citizens and visitors quality services while protecting our communities, heritage, environment and natural resources in an ever-changing world.” TEAM Oconee delivered on this mission, as exhibited by each department’s accomplishments throughout 2023, while managing historical staffing shortages, unprecedented growth and ever-increasing demands.

May 2024 bring us the same determination and dedication to our mission.

## Grants Summary

Grants by Department	Sum of Award
Administration	\$ 23,597,802.58
Airport	\$ 349,257.00
Economic Development	\$ 800,000.00
Emergency Services	\$ 7,882,566.09
Library	\$ 73,803.00
PRT	\$ 64,032.00
Sheriff	\$ 2,292,983.00
Solid Waste	\$ 77,502.00
Grand Total	\$ 35,137,945.67

C-Funds (Active)	\$ 1,482,180.00
Total	\$ 1,482,180.00

**FY2023-2024 (Incomplete, Unadjusted & Unaudited Data)**

Description	Department	Fund	5-digit Modifier (or Object)	Fed/State Local/ Foundation	Award	(Debit) Expenditures	(Credit) Revenue
SC Parks, Recreation & Tourism (PRT) STAR Grant	PRT	13	32233	State	35,524.26	\$ 35,524.26	\$ 35,524.26
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program	Emergency Services	13	90910	Federal	\$ 4,280,265.00	\$ 1,637,258.97	\$ 1,309,155.48
FFY2021 Law Enforcement Network (LEN) - Coordinated highway safety program	Sheriff	13	91153	Federal	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 770.66	\$ 771.00
Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY 20 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse 2020-AR-BX-0045 Oconee SC Addiction Recovery & Solutions (OARS) Initiative	Administration	13	91156	Federal	\$ 585,693.00	\$ 383,826.93	\$ 335,624.26
2019 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Project: 4394-0018 (Severe Storms and Flooding - Hurricane Irma)	Emergency Services	13	91179	Federal	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 27,298.88	\$ 23,395.93
2022 Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG) 22EMPG	Emergency Services	13	91191	Federal	\$ 69,204.00	\$ 69,251.07	\$ 69,204.00
FY23 Palmetto Pride Litter Enforcement Grant	Sheriff	13	91196	Other	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 2,456.70	\$ 3,250.00
Library Expanding Healthcare Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare Grant	Library	13	92072	Other	\$ 73,803.00	\$ 61,274.88	\$ 66,437.83
Coronavirus Relief Fund -Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Federal Through State	Administration	10	00190	Federal	\$ 280,433.75	\$ 280,433.75	\$ 280,433.75
FEMA Reimbursement - 2020 Tomado	Emergency Services	10	00191	Federal	\$ 536,040.82	\$ 77,634.25	\$ 45,331.86
FEMA Reimbursement - 2020 Flooding Event #4479	Emergency Services	10	00192	Federal	\$ 346,803.73	\$ 168,697.44	\$ 346,803.73
FEMA Reimbursement - COVID-19	Emergency Services	10	00193	Federal	\$ 22,173.25	\$ 19,837.12	\$ 22,173.25
Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund - American Rescue Plan	Administration	270	Entire fund 270	Federal	\$ 15,450,878.00	\$ 9,514,572.64	\$ 15,450,878.00
Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund	Administration	13	93703	Federal	\$ 280,797.83	\$ -	\$ 280,797.83
SCDHEC High Hazard Potential Dams Rehabilitation Grant (Chatooga Dam Club) Federal Through State	Emergency Services	13	90915	Federal	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 37,600.00	\$ 21,690.00
Hazard Mitigation - Public Education Awareness Award	Emergency Services	13	91197	State	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 11,903.88	\$ -
Opioid Recovery Funds - Guaranteed Political Subdivision Subfund	Emergency Services	13	91202	State	\$ 1,594,247.98	\$ 42,902.40	\$ 178,174.00
2022 Palmetto Pride Litter Crew Grant	PRT	13	91730	Other	\$ 15,800.00	\$ 12,408.32	\$ 12,408.32
Duke Energy Foundation Emergency Preparedness Grant	Sheriff	13	91209	Other	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
South Carolina Department of Aging - Pass-thru for Improved Senior Services	Administration	13	93601	State	\$ 7,000,000.00	\$ 6,500,000.00	\$ 7,000,000.00
FY22 Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG) Supplemental	Emergency Services	13	91214	Federal	\$ 22,500.00	\$ -	\$ -
2023 Local Emergency Management Performance Grant (LEMPG) 22EMPG	Emergency Services	13	91204	Federal	\$ 62,390.00	\$ 18,468.05	\$ 4,250.00
FY23 HMEP Grant	Emergency Services	13	91198	Federal	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
SC DLLR V-SAFE Grant	Emergency Services	13	91199	Other	\$ 13,350.00	\$ 12,350.00	\$ 13,350.00
FY23-24 SCDCPS SRO	Sheriff	13	91200	State	\$ 74,380.00	\$ 41,740.93	\$ 13,835.68
Airport Improvement Project AIP #35 - Taxiway Pavement	Airport	12	Obj. & Mod. 97116 (Federal)	Federal	\$ 330,875.00	\$ 14,716.80	\$ 150,000.00
Airport Improvement Project AIP #35 - Taxiway Pavement	Airport	12	Obj. & Mod. 97116 (State)	State	\$ 18,382.00	\$ 817.60	\$ 9,191.00
Hazard Mitigation - Generator Grant	Emergency Services	13	91213	State	\$ 256,554.00	\$ -	\$ -
FY 22 Assistance for Firefighters Grant	Emergency Services	13	91166	Federal	\$ 181,094.55	\$ -	\$ -
Upstate Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Project (HPP)	Emergency Services	13	91203	Other	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 2,293.44	\$ -
FFY2023 Law Enforcement Network (LEN) - Coordinated highway safety program	Sheriff	13	91212	Federal	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,160.18	\$ -
FY 24 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant - Courthouse Security	Sheriff	13	91216	Federal	\$ 131,013.00	\$ -	\$ 131,013.00
FY22 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program	Sheriff	13	91208	Federal	\$ 14,779.00	\$ 14,779.00	\$ 14,779.00

FY20 OJP Justice and Mental Health Collaboration (2020MOBX0045)	Sheriff	13	91157	Federal	\$ 561,687.00	\$ 278,057.78	\$ 251,892.83
High Falls Habitat Enhancement Program - Shoreline Habitat Enhancement Project	PRT	13	92234	Other	\$ 45,232.00	\$ -	\$ -
SC Department of Commerce - Borg Warner Pass-Thru	Economic Development	13	91920	State	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00
FY 24 HMEP Grant	Emergency Services	13	91218	Federal	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
FY23 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program	Sheriff	13	91217	Federal	\$ 17,874.00	\$ 16,641.47	\$ -
FY 2023 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Site-based Program	Sheriff	13	91211	Federal	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ -
SC250-SC American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission Grant- Oconee	PRT	13	92074	State	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 531.64	\$ 3,000.00
FY23-24 KOBA Grant	Solid Waste	13	97040	Other	\$ 1,273.00	\$ 1,147.33	\$ 1,273.00
EMS Grant in Aid	Emergency Services	13	94004	State	\$ 9,942.76	\$ 9,942.76	\$ 9,942.76
South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) CMOP Program	Emergency Services	13	91187	State	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 135,729.79	\$ 250,000.00
FY 23-24 SCDPS Approp Sheriff	Sheriff	13	91215	State	\$ 450,000.00	\$ 2,240.00	\$ 450,000.00
FY24 SCDHEC Solid Waste Grant	Solid Waste	13	96005	State	\$ 20,750.00	\$ -	\$ 20,750.00
FY24 SCDHEC Used Oil Grant	Solid Waste	13	96006	State	\$ 18,750.00	\$ 7,434.01	\$ 18,750.00
FY24 SCDHEC Waste Tire Grant	Solid Waste	13	96007	State	\$ 36,729.00	\$ 36,729.00	\$ 36,729.00
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$ 35,137,945.67</b>	<b>\$ 20,284,068.92</b>	<b>\$ 27,629,580.77</b>

## Millage Disbursement by Fund

	FY 2024 Budget	FY 2024 Amendment	Description
County Operations	60.9	48.8	<b>County General Operations</b> - reduction of funding to exclude specific expenses for specific functions not directly related to county government operations. 1 mill to Economic Development, 2 mills to Fire/Emergency Services Capital Vehicle and Equipment, 7.1 mills to Community Health & Human Services and 2 mills to General One Time Capital
Unincorporated Fire Levy	2.9	2.9	<b>Unincorporated Fire Levy</b> - No Change.
Tri-County Tech Oper.	3.0	3.0	<b>Tri-County Tech Operations</b> - No Change.
Road Maintenance	2.1	2.1	<b>Road Maintenance</b> - No Change.
<b>Community Health &amp; Human Services</b>	0.0	7.1	<b>Community Health &amp; Human Services - New Fund</b> - County and Community Health & Human Services - Includes Municipal Fire and Prisma Contracts . 7.1 mills from County Operations.
Economic Development	1.1	2.1	<b>Economic Development</b> - Additional mil for expansion, maintenance and future repairs of capital expansion. 1 mill from County Operations
Bridges/Culverts	1.0	1.0	<b>Bridges &amp; Culverts</b> - No Change.
Capital Veh & Equip	2.0	2.3	<b>Capital Vehicle/Equipment</b> - additional .30 mil as increasing costs. 0.3 mill from Parks, Rec & Tourism
Parks, Rec & Tourism	1.3	1.0	<b>Parks, Rec &amp; Tourism</b> - reduction of .30 mill. Moved to Capital Vehicle & Equipment Fund
<b>Fire/Emergency Services Capital Vehicle and Equipment</b>	0.0	2.0	<b>Fire/Emergency Services Capital Vehicle &amp; Equipment - New Fund</b> - encompasses capital Vehicles, Capital Equipment and Small Capital Equipment. 2 mills from County Operations.
<b>General One Time Capital</b>	0.0	2.0	<b>General One Time Capital - New Fund</b> - removal of one time capital from general fund as a stand alone fund. 2 mills from County Operations.
County Bonds	2.0	2.0	<b>County Bonds</b> - No Change.
<b>Total County</b>	<b>76.3</b>	<b>76.3</b>	

**0.0 No Change in number of Mills.**

**PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF OCONEE

OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL

IN RE: Meeting Schedule

**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 01/04/2024 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  
01/04/2024



---

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

# CLASSIFIED MARKETPLACE

864.973.6676



upstatetoday.com



**Call by 3 p.m.**  
Get your ad in the next day!

**864-973-6676**  
Ask for Terrica

Hours: 8 am – 5 pm  
Monday – Friday



**Anniversaries  
Birthdays  
Family Reunions  
Share the Joy!**

Call Terrica at  
864-973-6676  
for rates.



**YARD SALES:**  
2 Days - \$25.00  
10 Line Limit  
Each additional day:  
**\$5.00**

**Sell items under \$100  
FREE\***



\*Restrictions apply. Does not include picture.

**Call or Email Terrica To Place Your Ad Now!**  
864.973.6676 • tlyda@upstatetoday.com

**NOTICES**

**PUBLISHERS NOTICE**  
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any false or misleading advertising. We advise you to investigate on your own, and take any steps necessary to ascertain the validity of any advertising before exchanging money or entering into any contractual agreements. The Journal provides no guarantees and will not be held liable for any items or services advertised.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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 - Maximum Tax Donation -  
Call (888) 515-3810

**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.dental5oplus.com/60#6258

Portable oxygen concentrator may be covered by medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of inogen one. Free information kit! Call 833-230-8692

Applying for Social Security Disability or Appealing a Denied Claim? Call Bill Gordon & Assoc. Our case managers simplify the process & work hard to help with your case. Call 1-844-528-1156 FREE Consultation. Local Attorneys Nationwide Mail: 2420 N St NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. FL (TX/NM Bar.)

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-852-0368

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 is the last day to redeem winning tickets in the following South Carolina Education Lottery Instant Games: (1462) 50X

**WANTED EMPLOYMENT**

**Advertise Your Driver Jobs** in 99 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Your 25-word classified ad will reach more than 2.1 million readers! Call Randall Savely at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377

**PETS**

**Oconee Humane Society** offers low-cost spay/neuter vouchers to ALL Oconee County residents. Find out more at [oconeehumane.org](http://oconeehumane.org) or call 864-882-4719

**REPORT YOUR LOST PET** to Oconee County Animal Shelter 888-0221 or email info to: [ocas@netmids.com](mailto:ocas@netmids.com) You may include a photo. We will contact you if we find your pet.

**ADOPT A DOG! Save a Life!**  
Loyal, loving dogs & puppies \$85 adoption fee includes spay/neuter, vaccines, microchip. Take a wonderful companion home today!  
[oconeehumane.org](http://oconeehumane.org)  
Call 882-4719

**ADOPT A CAT! Save a Life!**  
Snuggly, purry cats & kittens \$75 adoption fee includes: spay/neuter, vaccines, microchip. Take a SWEET companion home today!

**U-STOR-IT Mini Warehouse**  
Inside • Outside • No Camera Fenced • Not Gated • Lighted Old Clemson Hwy.  
**654-1000**

[oconeehumane.org](http://oconeehumane.org)  
Call 882-4719

**MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE**

**ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER!**  
LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts.  
Call 1-855-875-2449

**Up to \$15,000 of GUARANTEED Life Insurance!**  
No medical exam or health questions. Cash to help pay funeral and other final expenses.  
Call Physicians Life Insurance Company 855-837-7719 or visit [www.Life5plus.info/scan](http://www.Life5plus.info/scan)

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + low monthly payment options. Request a FREE quote. Call now before the next power outage: 1-844-755-0366

**COMPUTER & ACCESSORIES**

For Sale hp envy 6000 wireless printer excellent condition \$35.00 call 864-973-8456

**MERCHANDISE UNDER \$100**

**For Sale!**  
Chimney Free Infrared Heater 1500 Watts  
Frame & Glowing Fire Effect Like New, Only Used Once  
\$45  
Call or text 864-364-7108

**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 Savely at the S.C. Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377

Real Estate Auction: Industrial Property on 2.57 AC with 3 Buildings. 26 Park Hill Drive Lugoff, SC. Online Bidding through Thurs. January 18th at 2PM www.TheLigonCompany.com, Call 803-366-3535. Randy Ligon, CAI, CES, BAS SCAL1716 SCRL17640 SC AFL4120

**ESTATE AUCTION** - Saturday, January 13, 9:30 A.M. 4715 Augusta Hwy., Brunson, SC. Selling Contents of Welding Shop and Home! Farm Tractors, Farm Implements, 2021 Tracker 0x400 UTV, Welding Equipment, Lots of Tools, Utility Trailers, Shop Equipment, Lawn Mowers, Dodge Van, Honda Motorcycle, River Boat, Nice Furniture, Antiques, Glassware, Sterling & Much More! Preview: Friday Jan. 12 10 A.M. - 6 P.M. Browse web: [www.cogburnauction.com](http://www.cogburnauction.com) 803-860-0712

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:**  
Pursuant to SC Self-Service Storage Facility Act and to satisfy Owner's lien Storage Sense located at 365 Keowee School Rd Seneca, SC 29672 864-885-0368 intends to sell the personal property described below. Everything sold is purchased AS-IS with money orders only. See and bid on all units 24/7 ending on December 29th, 2023, at 11:00 am@ [www.Lockerfox.com](http://www.Lockerfox.com) Storage Sense reserves the right to refuse any bid or rescind any purchase until the winning bidder takes possession of the property. TERMS listed on auction website. Brandon Vanblarcom Unit 0011 misc items; Michael Talley Unit 0305, Misc items; Julia Ford Unit 0447, misc items; Chalanda Goodine unit 0087 misc items.

**SERVICES**

FREE high speed internet for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & handling.

Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-855-851-8201

**DIRECTV OVER INTERNET** - Get your favorite live TV, sports and local channels. 99% signal reliability! CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo for 12 months. HBO Max and Premium Channels included for 3 mos (w/CHOICE Package or higher.) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-855-237-9741

**DIRECTV Sports Pack. 3 Months on Us!** Watch pro and college sports LIVE. Plus over 40 regional and specialty networks included. NFL, College Football, MLB, NBA, NHL, Golf and more. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-844-624-1107

Switch to DISH and get up to a \$300 gift card! Plus get the Multisport pack included for a limited time! Hurry, call for details: 1-877-542-0759

**APARTMENTS FURNISHED**

Best Deal in Town!  
1 Br. - \$595. • 2 Br. - \$715.  
Ask About Our Weekly Specials!  
•Furn/Power Pkgs.  
•On CAT Bus Route.  
Call (864)882-0636

**VACATION RESORT RENTAL**

**ADVERTISE YOUR VACATION PROPERTY FOR RENT OR SALE**  
To more than 2.1 million South Carolina newspaper readers. Your 25-word classified ad will appear in 99 S.C. newspapers for only \$375. Call Alanna Ritchie at the South Carolina Newspaper Network, 1-888-727-7377.

**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**

Notice of Self Storage Sale  
Please take notice Midgard Self Storage - Seneca Greenleaf located at 600 Shiloh Rd Seneca SC 29678 intends to hold a Auction of storage units in default of payment. The sale will occur as an Online Auction via [www.storageauctions.com](http://www.storageauctions.com) on 1/19/2024 at 1:00PM. This sale is pursuant to the assertion of lien for rental at the self-storage facility. Unless listed otherwise below, the contents consist of household goods and furnishings. Micah Justus unit #108; Tatem Tollison unit #314; Jasmine Hunter unit #A101; Hala Searcy unit #A205; Alexis Smith unit #F3; Amanda Rogers unit #F808; Davonna Alex-

**CLASSIFIEDS WORK!**

**BUSINESS FOR SALE**  
**OWNER RETIRING**  
**Tarps and Covering Systems for Dump Trucks Since 1998**  
**Well Established, High Demand Business Will Pay Commission of \$3,000**  
Call 843.729.3770 or 864.638.2668  
[bhild@bobhildent.com](mailto:bhild@bobhildent.com) • [www.bobhildent.com](http://www.bobhildent.com)

ander unit #O13; Yandel Vivanco unit #O16; Chris Martin unit #P29. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply.

The City of Walhalla's Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 22, 2024 at 5:30 PM to hear the following items: A request for a Special Exception to allow the placement of a manufactured home at Austin Drive (TMS# 500-06-02-018), zoned General Residential (GR). A request for a variance to allow a manufactured home with a different roof pitch than the permitted roof pitch to be placed at Austin Drive (TMS# 500-06-02-018), zoned General Residential (GR). The meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers located at 206 N. Church Street, Walhalla. Please contact the Community Development Department at 864-638-4343 for more information.

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION**  
Notice is hereby given that Yoshi intends to apply to the South Carolina Department of Revenue for a license/permit that will allow the sale and On Premises consumption of Beer & Wine at 1510 Blue Ridge Blvd., Ste. 108, Seneca, SC 29672. To object to the issuance of this permit/license, written protest must be postmarked no later than January 13, 2023. For a protest to be valid, it must be in writing, and should include the following information: (1) The name, address and telephone number of the person filing the protest; (2) The specific reasons why the application should be denied; (3) That the person protesting is willing to attend a hearing (if one is requested by the applicant); (4) That the person protesting resides in the same county where the proposed place of business is located or within five miles of the business; and, (5) The name of the applicant and the address of the premises to be licensed. Protests must be mailed to: S.C. Department of Revenue, ABL SECTION, P.O. Box 125, Columbia, SC 29214-0070.

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF OCONEE IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS SUMMONS, LIS PENDENS AND NOTICES**  
C/A NO. 2023-CP-37-00262  
Equity Trust Company FBO Robert W. Schumacher IRA, PLAINTIFF, vs. Any heirs-at-law or devisees of Mary Jo Moody deceased, their heirs, Personal Representatives, Administrators, Successors and Assigns, and all other persons or entities entitled to claim through them; Any heirs-at-law or devisees of Molly Ann Chastain, deceased, their heirs, Personal Representatives, Administrators, Successors and Assigns, and all other persons or entities entitled to claim through them; all unknown persons having or claiming any right, title, or interest in or to, or lien upon the real property described as 221 Thompson Avenue, Walhalla, SC 29691, their heirs and assigns; any persons who may be in the military service of the United States of America, being a class designated as John Doe, any unknown minors, incompetent or imprisoned person, or persons under a disability being a class designated as Richard Roe, was filed and recorded with the Clerk of Court for Oconee County on December 8, 2023. NOTICE OF ORDER APPOINTING ATTORNEY: YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an Order appointing Kelley Yarborough Woody, Esq., P.O. Box 6432,

Old Chapin Road, Lexington, S.C. 29072 or to otherwise appear and defend the action pursuant to applicable court rules within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service; except that the United States of America, if named, shall have sixty (60) days to answer after the service hereof, exclusive of such service; and if you fail to answer the Complaint or otherwise appear and defend within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiff in this action will apply to the Court for judgment by default against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. TO MINOR(S) OVER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE, AND/OR TO MINOR(S) UNDER FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND THE PERSON WITH WHOM THE MINOR(S) RESIDE(S), AND/OR TO PERSONS UNDER SOME LEGAL DISABILITY: YOU ARE FURTHER SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to apply for the appointment of a guardian ad litem within thirty (30) days after the service of this Summons and Notice upon you. If you fail to do so, application for such appointment will be made by the Plaintiff's attorney. LIS PENDENS: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an action has been commenced and is now pending in this Court upon Complaint of the above-named Plaintiff against the above-named Defendants to have the Court declare Plaintiff holds marketable, fee simple title to real property located in Oconee County, and any interest that may have been claimed by the above-named Defendants was extinguished by the tax sale conducted by the Delinquent Tax Collector of Oconee County. The real property which is the subject of this action is described as follows: All that certain piece, parcel, or lot of land lying and being situate in the State of South Carolina, County of Oconee, designated as Lots 8 and 9, as shown and more fully described on a plat thereof recorded in Plat Book J, Page 62, records of Oconee County, South Carolina. Tax Map Number: 500-17-02-002 Property Address: 221 Thompson Avenue, Walhalla, SC 29691

NOTICE OF FILING: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lis Pendens, Summons and Complaint in this action were filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court for Common Pleas for Oconee County, South Carolina on April 6, 2023. NOTICE OF ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM NISI: YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an Order appointing Kelley Yarborough Woody, Esq., P.O. Box 6432, Columbia, SC 29260, as Guardian ad Litem Nisi for unknown party defendants who may be minors, incompetent or imprisoned person, or persons under a disability being a class designated as Richard Roe, was filed and recorded with the Clerk of Court for Oconee County on December 8, 2023. NOTICE OF ORDER APPOINTING ATTORNEY: YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an Order appointing Kelley Yarborough Woody, Esq., P.O. Box 6432,

Columbia, SC 29260, as Attorney for unknown party defendants who may be in the Military Service of the United States of America who may be entitled to benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. §501 et seq, being a class designated as John Doe, was filed and recorded with the Clerk of Court for Oconee County on December 8, 2023.

MP Morris Law Firm, P.A. Michael P. Morris, SC Bar #73560, 336 Old Chapin Rd., Lexington, S.C. 29072. Phone: 803-851-1076 Fax: 803-851-1978. Attorney for Plaintiff

The Oconee County Council will meet in 2024 on the first and third Tuesday of each month with the following exceptions: June, July, August, and November 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 at 6 p.m.

Oconee County Council will also hold a Planning Retreat beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 23, 2024 to establish short- and long-term goals.

Oconee County Council will also meet on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 in Council Chambers at which point they will establish their 2025 Council and Committee meeting schedules.

Oconee County Council will also hold a Budget workshop on Friday, March 22, 2024 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 2024 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 20, May 21, July 16, & September 17, 2024.

The Transportation Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: February 20, May 21, July 16, & September 17, 2024.

The Real Estate, Facilities, & Land Management Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: March 19, June 18, August 20, & October 15, 2024.

The Planning & Economic Development Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: March 19, June 18, August 20, & October 15, 2024.

The Budget, Finance, & Administration Committee at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates: February 23 [Strategic Planning Retreat] & March 22 [Budget Workshop] and 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: March 5, April 16, & May 7, 2024.

**THE JOURNAL**

You deliver. We deliver.

**CARRIERS NEEDED**

The Journal has excellent opportunities to **EARN EXTRA MONEY!**

Deliver newspapers to homes in Oconee County and the Clemson area. Reliable transportation is a must.

We are also looking for subs part-time to deliver newspapers on down routes.

For more information please call the Circulation Department at (864) 882-2375, apply in person at 210 W. North 1st Street in Seneca or email [jwells@upstatetoday.com](mailto:jwells@upstatetoday.com).

# 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](mailto:jennifercadams@oconeesc.com)

John Elliott  
District I

Matthew Durham  
Chairman  
District II

Don Mize  
Vice Chairman  
District III

Julian Davis, III  
District IV

J. Glenn Hart  
Chairman Pro Tem  
District V



The Oconee County Council will meet in 2024 on the first and third Tuesday of each month with the following exceptions:

- June, July, August, and November 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 23, 2024 to establish short- and long-term goals.

Oconee County Council will also meet on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 in Council Chambers at which point they will establish their 2025 Council and Committee meeting schedules.

Oconee County Council will also hold a Budget workshop on Friday, March 22, 2024 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 2024 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 20, May 21, July 16, & September 17, 2024.

The Transportation Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: February 20, May 21, July 16, & September 17, 2024.

The Real Estate, Facilities, & Land Management Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: March 19, June 18, August 20, & October 15, 2024.

The Planning & Economic Development Committee at 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: March 19, June 18, August 20, & October 15, 2024.

The Budget, Finance, & Administration Committee at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates: February 23 [Strategic Planning Retreat] & March 22 [Budget Workshop] and 4:30 p.m. on the following dates: March 5, April 16, & May 7, 2024.



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)