

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

**BLAKE ELSBERRY, COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
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## **BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The basic financial statements include integrated sets of financial statements as required by the GASB. The sets of statements include:

Government – Wide Financial Statements

Statement of Net Position

Statement of Activities

Fund Financial Statements

Governmental Funds

Proprietary (Enterprise) Funds

Fiduciary Fund Financial Statements

Custodial Funds

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

**CHRYSAN THOMAS**  
Certified Public Accountant  
Professional Corporation  
**Member**  
**American Institute of**  
**Certified Public Accountants**  
Trion, Georgia

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Commissioner  
Chattooga County, Georgia

**Report on the Financial Statements**

***Opinions***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Chattooga County, Georgia, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, based on our audit and the report of other auditors, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Chattooga County, Georgia as of December 31, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position, and, where applicable, cash flows thereof and the budgetary comparison for the General Fund and ARPA Fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We did not audit the financial statements of the component unit, Chattooga County Health Department, which represent 3.2 percent, 1 percent, and 3.9 percent, respectively, of the assets, net position, and revenues of the County as of December 31, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position, and where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended. Those statements were audited by other auditors whose report has been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for Chattooga County Health Department, is based solely on the reports of the other auditors.

***Basis for Opinions***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Chattooga County, Georgia, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

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

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

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

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

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

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

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

### ***Required Supplementary Information***

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

### ***Supplementary Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Chattooga County, Georgia's basic financial statements. The combining and individual fund nonmajor fund financial statements, and the schedules of special purpose local option sales tax expenditures, as required by the Official Code of Georgia 48-8-121, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and were derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America by us and other auditors. In our opinion, based on our audit and the report of the other auditors, the combining and individual non-major fund financial statements, the schedules of special purpose local option sales expenditures are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

### ***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 15, 2026 on our consideration of Chattooga County, Georgia's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Chattooga County, Georgia's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

  
CHRYSAN THOMAS  
Certified Public Accountant

Trion, Georgia  
May 15, 2026

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**  
December 31, 2024

	<u>Primary Government</u>			<u>Component Unit</u>
	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	<u>Business-Type Activities</u>	<u>Total</u>	
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash and Cash Investments	\$ 7,805,111	\$ 348,013	\$ 8,153,124	\$ 700,697
Receivables (Net of Allowance for Doubtful Accounts)				
Ad Valorem Taxes	1,484,189	-	1,484,189	-
Other Taxes	211,173	-	211,173	-
Accounts	-	218,264	218,264	1,163
Due from Other Governments	390,449	-	390,449	42,536
Internal Balances	534,246	(534,246)	-	-
Inventories	-	53,702	53,702	8,212
Prepaid Items	7,716	5,500	13,216	58
Restricted Assets				
Cash and Cash Investments	-	28,119	28,119	-
Capital Assets:				
Construction in Process	-	98,120	98,120	-
Right to use leased assets, Net of amortization	-	-	-	4,455
Land	489,812	56,899	546,711	-
Buildings	5,350,856	145,810	5,496,666	-
Equipment	7,002,665	915,843	7,918,508	-
Infrastructure	50,341,455	22,512,354	72,853,809	-
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(55,272,102)</u>	<u>(8,191,234)</u>	<u>(63,463,336)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Assets	<u>18,345,570</u>	<u>15,657,144</u>	<u>34,002,714</u>	<u>757,121</u>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>325,781</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accounts Payable	658,536	36,473	695,009	708
Due to Other Governments	280,930	-	280,930	-
Deposits	-	11,280	11,280	-
Current Portion of Long-term Debt	40,543	236,733	277,276	7,963
Non-Current Liabilities				
Financed Purchase	136,931	-	136,931	-
Notes payable	-	-	-	2,666
Bonds Payable	-	6,807,242	6,807,242	-
Net pension liability	-	-	-	883,265
Net other post-employment benefits	-	-	-	(119,761)
Compensated absences	151,973	9,641	161,614	55,143
Total Liabilities	<u>1,268,913</u>	<u>7,101,369</u>	<u>8,370,282</u>	<u>829,984</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,326</u>
<b>Net Position</b>				
Net investment in Capital Assets	7,735,212	8,493,817	16,229,029	4,455
Restricted for				
Capital projects	900,638	-	900,638	-
Special Programs	888,589	-	888,589	-
Unrestricted	<u>7,552,218</u>	<u>61,958</u>	<u>7,614,176</u>	<u>198,137</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 17,076,657</u>	<u>\$ 8,555,775</u>	<u>\$ 25,632,432</u>	<u>\$ 202,592</u>

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues		
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions
Governmental Activities				
General Government	\$ 3,498,105	\$ 283,030	\$ 1,713,493	\$ 508,153
Public Safety	7,351,294	676,270	394,607	-
Public Works	6,417,678	22,357	2,036,472	342,366
Court System	1,874,423	694,475	-	-
Cultural and Recreational	835,126	128,476	-	-
Sanitation	1,254,299	679,462	-	-
Health and Welfare	419,857	-	-	-
Interest Expense	13,079	-	-	-
Total Governmental Activities	<u>21,663,861</u>	<u>2,484,070</u>	<u>4,144,572</u>	<u>850,519</u>
Business-Type Activities				
Water and Sewer District	1,749,538	1,539,989	-	-
Total Business-Type Activities	<u>1,749,538</u>	<u>1,539,989</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Government	<u>\$ 23,413,399</u>	<u>\$ 4,024,059</u>	<u>\$ 4,144,572</u>	<u>\$ 850,519</u>
Component Unit				
Health and Welfare	<u>\$ 899,483</u>	<u>\$ 257,097</u>	<u>\$ 461,304</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

General Revenues:  
  Ad Valorem Tax  
  Sales Tax  
  Investment earnings  
  Gain from sale of assets  
Transfers  
  Total General Revenues and Transfers

Change in Net Position

Net Position at Beginning of Year  
Net Position at End of Year

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

**Net (Expenses) Revenue and Changes in Net Position**

Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total	Component Unit
\$ (993,429)	\$ -	\$ (993,429)	
(6,280,417)	-	(6,280,417)	
(4,016,483)	-	(4,016,483)	
(1,179,948)	-	(1,179,948)	
(706,650)	-	(706,650)	
(574,837)	-	(574,837)	
(419,857)	-	(419,857)	
(13,079)	-	(13,079)	
(14,184,700)	-	(14,184,700)	
-	(209,549)	(209,549)	
-	(209,549)	(209,549)	
\$ (14,184,700)	\$ (209,549)	\$ (14,394,249)	
			\$ (181,082)
\$ 10,132,154	\$ -	\$ 10,132,154	\$ -
3,443,368	-	3,443,368	156,932
51,791	14,568	66,359	17,045
-	9,300	9,300	-
(77,745)	77,745	-	-
13,549,568	101,613	13,651,181	173,977
(635,132)	(107,936)	(743,068)	(7,105)
17,711,789	8,663,711	26,375,500	209,697
\$ 17,076,657	\$ 8,555,775	\$ 25,632,432	\$ 202,592

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
December 31, 2024

	<u>General</u>	<u>American Rescue Plan Fund</u>	<u>Capital Project Sales Tax Fund</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<b>Assets</b>					
Cash and Cash Investments	\$ 4,956,105	\$ -	\$ 1,960,271	\$ 888,735	\$ 7,805,111
Receivables (net where applicable of allowance for doubtful accounts)					
Ad Valorem Taxes	1,484,189	-	-	-	1,484,189
Other	163,626	-	-	47,547	211,173
Due from other funds	1,620,252	-	-	-	1,620,252
Due from other governments	22,743	-	367,085	621	390,449
Prepaid expenses	-	-	-	7,716	7,716
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>\$ 8,246,915</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,327,356</u>	<u>\$ 944,619</u>	<u>\$ 11,518,890</u>
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>					
Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	\$ 542,724	\$ -	\$ 59,782	\$ 56,030	\$ 658,536
Due to other funds	-	-	1,086,006	-	1,086,006
Due to other governments	-	-	280,930	-	280,930
Unearned Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Deferred Inflows of Resources					
Unavailable revenues	756,970	-	-	-	756,970
<b>Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<u>1,299,694</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,426,718</u>	<u>56,030</u>	<u>2,782,442</u>
<b>Fund Balances</b>					
Restricted for:					
Construction and capital outlay	-	-	900,638	-	900,638
Judicial	-	-	-	39,100	39,100
Public Safety	-	-	-	762,892	762,892
Culture and Recreation	-	-	-	86,597	86,597
Special Projects	-	-	-	-	-
Unassigned	6,947,221	-	-	-	6,947,221
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<u>6,947,221</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>900,638</u>	<u>888,589</u>	<u>8,736,448</u>
<b>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balances</b>	<u>\$ 8,246,915</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,327,356</u>	<u>\$ 944,619</u>	<u>\$ 11,518,890</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**BALANCE SHEET TO STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**  
**December 31, 2024**

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<b>Total Governmental Fund Balances</b>		\$ 8,736,448
Amounts Reported for Governmental Activities in the Statement of Net Position are Different Because:		
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and therefore are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet.		7,912,686
Unavailable revenue from taxes not collected within 60 days after the end of the fiscal year.		756,970
Long term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, they are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet.		
Due within one year	\$ (40,543)	
Due after one year	(136,931)	
Compensated Absences	<u>(151,973)</u>	
		<u>(329,447)</u>
<b>Net Position of Governmental Activities</b>		<b>\$ <u>17,076,657</u></b>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES**  
**AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES**  
**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	General Fund	American Rescue Plan Fund	Capital Project Sales Tax Funds	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Revenues</b>					
Taxes					
Ad Valorem	\$ 11,239,211	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,239,211
Sales Taxes	-	-	3,443,368	-	3,443,368
Charges for Services	817,581	-	-	728,848	1,546,429
Licenses and Permits	4,625	-	-	-	4,625
Investment Income	-	42,099	8,153	9,692	59,944
Fines and Forfeitures	610,960	-	-	83,515	694,475
Miscellaneous	861,928	245	22,357	-	884,530
Intergovernmental	627,560	1,174,340	2,378,838	160,211	4,340,949
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>14,161,865</b>	<b>1,216,684</b>	<b>5,852,716</b>	<b>982,266</b>	<b>22,213,531</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
<b>Current</b>					
General Government	2,553,719	798,842	-	-	3,352,561
Public Safety	5,854,650	80,190	-	1,137,360	7,072,200
Public Works	324,942	12,675	4,296,045	-	4,633,662
Sanitation	1,192,466	-	-	-	1,192,466
Cultural and Recreational	731,928	-	-	103,198	835,126
Court System	1,863,356	-	-	10,627	1,873,983
Health and Welfare	408,980	-	-	-	408,980
<b>Debt Service</b>					
Principal	-	-	38,226	-	38,226
Interest	-	-	13,079	-	13,079
Intergovernmental payments	-	-	1,566,736	-	1,566,736
<b>Capital Outlay</b>	<b>58,485</b>	<b>173,439</b>	<b>558,066</b>	<b>37,092</b>	<b>827,082</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>12,988,526</b>	<b>1,065,146</b>	<b>6,472,152</b>	<b>1,288,277</b>	<b>21,814,101</b>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	1,173,339	151,538	(619,436)	(306,011)	399,430
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>					
Sale of assets	-	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from financed purchases	-	-	215,700	-	215,700
Transfers (Out)/In	(61,749)	(414,578)	-	476,327	-
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<b>(61,749)</b>	<b>(414,578)</b>	<b>215,700</b>	<b>476,327</b>	<b>215,700</b>
Net Changes in Fund Balance	1,111,590	(263,040)	(403,736)	170,316	615,130
<b>Fund Balances - Beginning</b>	<b>5,835,631</b>	<b>263,040</b>	<b>1,304,374</b>	<b>718,273</b>	<b>8,121,318</b>
<b>Fund Balances - End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 6,947,221</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 900,638</b>	<b>\$ 888,589</b>	<b>\$ 8,736,448</b>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND**  
**CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO**  
**THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

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<b>Net Changes in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>615,130</b>
Amounts Reported for Governmental Activities in the Statement of Activities are Different Because:		
Governmental funds report capital outlay as expenditures. However, in the Government-Wide Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Position, the cost of those assets is allocated over their useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount of capital recorded in the current period net of disposals.		822,480
Depreciation expense on capital assets is reported in the government-wide statement of activities and changes in net position, but they do not require the use of current financial resources. Therefore, depreciation expense is not reported as an expenditure in governmental funds.		(636,234)
The issuance of long-term debt (e.g. bonds) provides current resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net position. Also, governmental funds report the effect of issuance cost, premiums, discounts, and similar items when debt is first issued, whereas the amounts are deferred and amortized in the statement of activities. This amount is the net of these differences in the treatment of long-term debt and related items.		(177,474)
Governmental funds do not report changes in long-term liabilities, while governmental activities report such liabilities and the changes in them:		
Compensated Absences		(151,973)
Some revenues will not be collected for several months after the County's fiscal year end, they are not considered "available" revenues in the governmental funds.		(1,107,061)
<b>Changes In Net Position of Governmental Activities</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>(635,132)</u></b>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**GENERAL FUND**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND**  
**CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance With Final Budget Positive (Negative)</u>
<b>Revenues</b>				
Taxes	\$ 9,813,586	\$ 9,813,586	\$ 11,239,211	\$ 1,425,625
Intergovernmental	312,930	312,930	627,560	314,630
Charges for Services	771,250	771,250	817,581	46,331
Licenses and Permits	13,000	13,000	4,625	(8,375)
Fines and Forfeitures	574,000	574,000	610,960	36,960
Miscellaneous	119,750	119,750	861,928	742,178
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>11,604,516</u>	<u>11,604,516</u>	<u>14,161,865</u>	<u>2,557,349</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
General Government	1,974,779	1,974,779	2,553,719	(578,940)
Public Safety	4,996,930	4,996,930	5,913,135	(916,205)
Health and Welfare	394,524	394,524	408,980	(14,456)
Sanitation	1,029,300	1,029,300	1,192,466	(163,166)
Culture and Recreation	561,860	561,860	731,928	(170,068)
Court System	1,925,589	1,925,589	1,863,356	62,233
Public Works	243,950	243,950	324,942	(80,992)
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>11,126,932</u>	<u>11,126,932</u>	<u>12,988,526</u>	<u>(1,861,594)</u>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures</b>	<u>477,584</u>	<u>477,584</u>	<u>1,173,339</u>	<u>695,755</u>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>				
Transfers In	-	-	(61,749)	(61,749)
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(61,749)</u>	<u>(61,749)</u>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Sources over Expenditures and Other Uses</b>	<u>\$ 477,584</u>	<u>\$ 477,584</u>	<u>1,111,590</u>	<u>\$ 634,006</u>
<b>Fund Balances - Beginning</b>			<u>5,835,631</u>	
<b>Fund Balances - End of Year</b>			<u>\$ 6,947,221</u>	

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND**  
**CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL**  
**SPECIAL REVENUE FUND - AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUND**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Positive (Negative)</u>
<b>Revenues</b>				
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,174,340	\$ 1,174,340
Investment Income	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>42,344</u>	<u>(7,656)</u>
Total Revenues	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>1,216,684</u>	<u>1,166,684</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
General Government	-	-	798,842	(798,842)
Public Safety	-	-	175,085	(175,085)
Public Works	-	-	91,219	(91,219)
Capital Outlay	<u>120,000</u>	<u>120,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>120,000</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>120,000</u>	<u>120,000</u>	<u>1,065,146</u>	<u>(945,146)</u>
Excess of Revenues				
Over Expenditures	<u>(70,000)</u>	<u>(70,000)</u>	<u>151,538</u>	<u>221,538</u>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>				
Transfers - Out	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(414,578)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(414,578)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	<u>\$ (70,000)</u>	<u>\$ (70,000)</u>	<u>(263,040)</u>	<u>\$ 221,538</u>
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year			<u>263,040</u>	
Fund Balance - End of Year			<u>\$ -</u>	

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**PROPRIETARY FUND**  
**December 31, 2024**

	<b>Water Fund</b>
<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash and Cash Investments	\$ 348,013
Receivables (Net Where Applicable of Allowance for Doubtful Accounts)	
Accounts	218,264
Inventories	53,702
Prepaid Expenses	5,500
Total Current Assets	625,479
Current Assets - Restricted	
Cash and Cash Investments	28,119
<b>Noncurrent Assets</b>	
Capital Assets	
Construction in Process	98,120
Land	56,899
Buildings	145,810
Equipment	915,843
Infrastructure	22,512,354
Accumulated Depreciation	(8,191,234)
Total Capital Assets Net of Accumulated Depreciation	15,537,792
Total Noncurrent Assets	15,537,792
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 16,191,390</b>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
**PROPRIETARY FUND**  
**December 31, 2024**

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	<u>Water Fund</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$ 36,473
Deposits	11,280
Due to general fund	534,246
Bonds and notes payable	<u>236,733</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>818,732</u>
<b>Noncurrent Liabilities</b>	
Bonds and notes payable	6,807,242
Compensated Absences	<u>9,641</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>7,635,615</u>
<b>Fund Equity</b>	
Net investment in capital assets	8,493,817
Unrestricted	<u>61,958</u>
Total Fund Equity	<u>8,555,775</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Equity</b>	<u>\$ 16,191,390</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND  
CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION  
PROPRIETARY FUND  
Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	<b>Water Fund</b>
<b>Operating Revenues</b>	
Charges for Services	\$ 1,539,989
Total Operating Revenues	1,539,989
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Personal Services	413,519
Supplies	595,324
Contractual Services	40,157
Depreciation	457,460
Total Operating Expenses	1,506,460
Operating Income (Loss)	33,529
<b>Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)</b>	
Investment Income	14,568
Interest Expense	(243,078)
Sale of Assets	9,300
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	(219,210)
<b>Income (Loss) before other revenues</b>	(185,681)
Capital Contributions	77,745
Transfers in	-
Total Other Revenues	77,745
Change in Net Position	(107,936)
<b>Net Position - Beginning of Year</b>	8,663,711
<b>Net Position - End of Year</b>	\$ 8,555,775

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**PROPRIETARY FUND**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	<b>Water Fund</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>	
Cash received from customers	\$ 1,520,154
Cash payments to suppliers for goods and services	(621,248)
Cash payments to employees for services	(403,878)
<b>Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities</b>	<b>495,028</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Noncapital Financing Activities</b>	
Loan from (payment to) general fund	79,263
<b>Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities</b>	
Reduction of Bond Debt Principal - Net	(231,413)
Interest Paid on Bonds and Notes	(243,078)
Grant and Donation revenue	9,300
<b>Net Cash Provided (Used) by Capital and Related Financing Activities</b>	<b>(465,191)</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>	
Interest on Cash and Cash Investments	14,568
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Investments</b>	123,668
<b>Cash and Cash Investments - Beginning of Year</b>	<b>252,464</b>
<b>Cash and Cash Investments - End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 376,132</b>

Non-cash capital contributions were received from the following:

Capital Project Sales Tax Funds - construction costs	\$ 77,745
Total non-cash capital contributions	<b>\$ 77,745</b>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**PROPRIETARY FUNDS**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	<b>Water Fund</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Income (Loss) from operations to net cash provided (used) by operating activities</b>	
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ 33,529
Depreciation	457,460
Change in operating assets and liabilities:	
(Increase) Decrease in Accounts Receivable	(11,225)
Increase (Decrease) in Accounts Payable	19,142
(Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Expense	-
(Increase) Decrease in Inventory	(4,909)
(Increase) Decrease in Compensated Absences	9,641
(Increase) Decrease in Deposits	(8,610)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	\$ 495,028
 <b>Reconciliation of Total Cash and Cash Investments:</b>	
Current Assets - Cash and Cash Investments	\$ 348,013
Restricted Assets - Cash and Cash Investments	28,119
Total Cash and Cash Investments	\$ 376,132

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION**  
**CUSTODIAL FUNDS**  
**December 31, 2024**

	<b>CUSTODIAL FUNDS</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 363,522
Receivables	
Taxes	1,547,012
Total Assets	1,910,534
 <b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Accounts Payable	122,223
Due to Other Governments	1,646,525
Total Liabilities	1,768,748
 <b>NET POSITION</b>	
Restricted for	
Individuals and other governments	141,786
Total Net Position	\$ 141,786

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION**  
**CUSTODIAL FUNDS**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2024**

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**Additions**

Taxes Collected for other governments	\$ 12,450,403
Court fees collected for individuals	197,348
Court fees collected for other agencies	247,638
Court fees collected for other funds	<u>9,361,058</u>

**Total Additions** 22,256,447

**Deductions**

Payments of taxes to other governments	12,450,403
Payments to individuals	150,610
Payments of court fees to other agencies	248,772
Payments of court fees to other funds	<u>9,368,158</u>

**Total Deductions** 22,217,943

Change in Net Position 38,504

**Net Position - Beginning of Year** 103,282

**Net Position - End of Year** \$ 141,786

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024**

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**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**A. General Statement**

The accounting and reporting policies of Chattooga County, Georgia relating to the funds included in the accompanying basic financial statements conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America applicable to state and local governments. Generally accepted accounting principles for local governments include those principles prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants in the publication entitled Audits of State and Local Governmental Units and by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (when applicable). As allowed in Section P80 of GASB's Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards, the County has elected not to apply Financial Accounting Standards Board Statements and Interpretations, Accounting Principles Board Opinions, and Accounting Research Bulletins of the Committee of Accounting Procedure issued after November 30, 1989. During 2003, the County implemented the new financial reporting requirements of GASB Statement Nos. 33 and 34, with the exception of the area dealing with infrastructure assets of the Governmental Activities Fund, which was implemented in the 2005 year. The more significant accounting policies of the County are described below.

**B. Financial Reporting Entity**

Chattooga County, Georgia (the primary government) operates under a Single Commissioner form of government and provides the following services: public safety, highway and streets, sanitation, health and social services, culture-recreation, and general administrative services.

The County's basic financial statements include the accounts of all County operations. The criteria for including organizations as component units within the County's reporting entity, as set forth in section 2100 of GASB's Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards, include whether:

- the organization is legally separate (can sue and be sued in their own name)
- the County holds the corporate powers of the organization
- the County appoints a voting majority of the organization's board
- the County is able to impose its will on the organization
- the organization has the potential to impose a financial benefit/burden on the County
- there is fiscal dependency by the organization on the County

Based on the aforementioned criteria the Industrial Development Authority, Hospital Authority, Board of Education, Library, and Department of Family and Children's Services did not meet the criteria for inclusion in these financial statements. The State of Georgia has concluded that the Department of Health should be included as a discretely presented component unit of the primary government.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024**

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1. **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - continued**

**C. Basis of Presentation**

**Government-wide Financial Statements**

The government-wide financial statements (the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on all of the activities of the County. The effect of interfund activity, within the governmental and business-type activities columns has been removed from these statements. Governmental activities, which normally are supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from business-type activities, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support. The fiduciary funds of the government are not included in the government-wide financial statement.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given program are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific program. Indirect expenses are allocated to functions on a usage basis. Program revenues include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given program and 2) operating or capital grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as general revenues.

**Fund Financial Statements**

The County segregates transactions related to certain functions or activities in separate funds in order to aid financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. Separate statements are presented for governmental and proprietary activities. These statements present each major fund as a separate column on the fund financial statements; all non-major funds are aggregated and presented in a single column.

Governmental funds are those funds through which most governmental functions typically are financed. The measurement focus of governmental funds is on the sources, uses, and balance of current financial resources. The County has presented the following major governmental funds:

**General Fund -**

General Fund is the main operating fund of the County. The fund is used to account for all financial resources not accounted for in other funds. All general tax revenues and other receipts that are not restricted by law or contractual agreement to some other fund are accounted for in this fund. General operating expenditures, fixed charges, and capital improvement costs that are not paid through other funds are paid from the General Fund.

**American Rescue Plan Fund –**

The American Rescue Plan Fund is used to account for the County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

**Capital Projects Fund - Sales Tax**

The Sales Tax Fund is used to account for funds received and expended for the construction and renovation of roads and bridges and special projects financed through Special Purpose Sales Tax revenue.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024**

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**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies – continued**

Proprietary Funds are accounted for using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. The accounting objectives are determinations of net income financial position and cash flow. All assets and liabilities are included on the Statement of Net Position. The County has presented the following major proprietary fund

**Water Fund -**

The Water Fund is used to account for the provision of water services to the residents of the County. Activities of the fund include administration, operations, and maintenance of the water system and billing and collection activities. The fund also accounts for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, long-term debt principal and interest for water debt. All costs are financed through charges to utility customers with rates reviewed and adjusted, if necessary, to ensure integrity of the funds.

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from non-operating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. Operating expenses for the proprietary funds include the cost of personal and contractual services, supplies, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.

**Fiduciary Fund (Not included in Government-wide statements) -**

Fiduciary funds are used to account for assets held by the County in a trustee capacity or as an agent for individuals, private organizations, and other governmental units.

**Custodial Funds-**

Custodial funds account for assets held by the County in a purely custodial capacity. Since these funds are custodial in nature (i.e., assets equal liabilities), they do not involve the measurement of results of operations. The custodial funds are as follows:

**Tax Commissioner** - Collects and remits taxes collected for other governments and the County. The portion collected for the County is included in the County's General Fund.

**Clerk of Court** - Collects and remits fines and forfeitures authorized by the Courts for other governments, individuals, entities, and the County. The portion collected for the County is included in the County's General Fund.

**Probate Court** - Collects charges for various licenses and death certificates issued to the citizens of the County and remits them to other government agencies and the County. The portion collected for the County is included in the County's General Fund.

**Magistrate Court** - Collects fines and forfeitures authorized by the Court and remits them to other governments, individuals, entities, and the County. The portion collected for the County is included in the County's General Fund.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - continued**

**Fund Financial Statements – continued**

**Major and Non-major Funds**

The funds are further classified as major or non-major as follows:

<b>Major Funds</b> (See above for descriptions)	<u>Description</u>
<u>Fund</u>	
Capital Projects Fund - Sales Tax	
American Rescue Plan Fund	
Proprietary Fund - Water	
 <b>Non-major Funds:</b>	
Special Revenue Funds	Used for accounting for revenues and expenditures of contracts and special projects.

**D. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting**

Measurement focus refers to what is being measured; basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurement made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

**Measurement Focus**

The government-wide statements and fund financial statements for proprietary funds are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. The economic resources measurement focus means all assets and liabilities (whether current or non-current) are included on the statement of net position and the operating statements present increases (revenues) and decreases (expenses) in net total position. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned, including unbilled water and sewer services, which are accrued. Expenses are recognized at the time the liability is incurred.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual; i.e. when they become both measurable and available. "Measurable" means the amount of the transaction can be determined and "available" means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. The County considers property taxes as available if they are collected within 60 days after year-end. A one-year availability period is used for recognition of all other Governmental Fund revenues. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred.

Custodial funds are not involved in the measurement of results of operations; therefore, measurement focus is not applicable to them.

The revenues susceptible to accrual are property taxes, franchise fees, licenses, charges for service, interest income, and intergovernmental revenues. Sales taxes collected and held by the state at year-end on behalf of the government are also recognized as revenue. All other governmental fund revenues are recognized when received.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024**

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1. **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - continued**

**D. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting – continued**

**Basis of Accounting**

In the government-wide Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities, both governmental and business-like activities are presented using the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred or economic asset used. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from exchange and exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place.

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds are presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when “measurable and available.” Measurable means knowing or being able to reasonably estimate the amount. Available means collectible within the current period or within sixty days after year-end. Expenditures (including capital outlay) are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for general obligation bond principal and interest which are reported when due.

All proprietary funds and custodial funds utilize the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred or economic asset used.

Proprietary fund types utilize the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred. Unbilled water funds utility service receivables are accrued at year-end by prorating actual subsequent billings.

The government reports deferred revenue on its combined balance sheet. Deferred revenues arise when potential revenue does not meet both the “measurable” and “available” criteria for recognition in the current period. Deferred revenues also arise when the government receives resources before it has a legal claim to them, as when grant monies are received prior to the incurrence of qualifying expenditures. In subsequent periods, when both revenue recognition criteria are met, or when the government has a legal claim to the resources, the liability for deferred revenue is removed from the combined balance sheet and revenue is recognized.

The **discretely presented component unit (County Health Department)** uses the accrual basis of accounting for government-wide financial statements. At the fund reporting level, governmental funds use the modified accrual basis of accounting. The account group records acquisition cost of all capital assets owned by the Health Department as of the reporting period. Differences in the accrual and the modified accrual basis of accounting arise in the recognition of revenue, the recording of deferred revenue, and in the presentation of expenses versus expenditures. The fiscal year used by the component unit ends June 30. The fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 is included in these financial statements. Copies of the audited financial statements can be obtained at 60 Farrar Drive, Summerville, Georgia, 30747.

**E. Budgetary Control**

The County follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

- a. Prior to October 1, the department heads submit to the County Commissioner a proposed operating budget for the year commencing the following January 1. The operating budget identifies the proposed expenditures for each department.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

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**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - continued**

- b. After receipt of the department operating budgets, the Commissioner develops the County's budget. The County's budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them.
- c. The budget is published in the local newspaper two weeks prior to a public hearing.
- d. Public hearing is conducted to obtain taxpayer comments.
- e. The budget is formally adopted after the public hearing.

The legal level of control (the level at which expenditures may not legally exceed appropriations) for each legally adopted annual operating budget is at the department level.

Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year for the General Fund, Capital Projects Funds, and Special Revenue Funds. Formal budgets are also adopted for the Water District. Budgets for the General, Capital Projects, and Special Revenue Funds are adopted on the modified accrual (or GAAP) basis.

Budgeted amounts are as originally adopted, or as amended, by the Commissioner. Individual amendments were not material in relation to the original appropriations, which were amended. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year-end.

The County does not employ encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders, contracts, and other commitments for the expenditure of monies are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation.

There were no material supplementary appropriations made during the year.

The actual results of operations as compared with the budget are presented in the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances - Budget (GAAP Basis).

Expenditures exceeded budget appropriations in the following General Fund Departments:

General Government	\$ 578,940
Public Safety	916,205
Health & Welfare	14,456
Sanitation	163,166
Culture & Recreation	170,068
Public Works	80,992

**F. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents, as authorized by statutes, include amounts in demand deposits as well as short-term investments with a maturity date within three months of the date acquired by the County, stated at cost. The County has no custodial or foreign risk policy other than the requirement that deposits should be in federally insured depositories.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

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**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies– continued**

**G. Inventory**

Enterprise Fund inventory consists of supplies and is stated at the lower of cost or market using the FIFO (first-in, first-out) method.

**H. Prepaid Items**

Prepaid balances are for payments made by the County in the current year to provide services occurring in the subsequent fiscal year, and the reserve for prepaid items has been recorded to signify that a portion of fund balance is not available for other subsequent expenditures.

**I. Interfund Receivables and Payables**

Any residual balances outstanding between the governmental activities and business-type activities are reported in the governmental-wide financial statements as “internal balances.”

**J. Transactions Between Funds**

Legally authorized transfers are treated as interfund transfers and are included in the results of operations of Governmental Funds as follows:

<u>FUNDS</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
General Fund to E-911 Emergency	\$ 484,327	(For Operations)
Juvenile Services to General Fund	\$ 8,000	(For Operations)
ARPA Fund to General Fund	\$ 414,578	

Transfers from the American Rescue Plan Fund were to reimburse the general fund for general operating expenses.

**K. Capital Assets**

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment, and infrastructure assets, are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities columns in the government-wide financial statements and in the fund financial statements for proprietary funds. All capital assets are valued at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual historical is not available. Donated assets are valued at their fair market value on the date donated. Repairs and maintenance are recorded as expenses. Renewals and betterments are capitalized. Interest has not been capitalized during the construction period on property, plant and equipment. See Note 1-N for the deferral method of reporting infrastructure assets (roads, bridges, etc.) for the governmental activities fund.

Assets capitalized, not including infrastructure assets, have an original cost of \$1,000 or more and over three years of useful life. Infrastructure assets capitalized have an original cost of \$5,000 or more. Depreciation has been calculated on each class of depreciable property using the straight-line method. Estimated useful lives are as follows:

Buildings and Improvements	20 - 50 Years
Water and Sewer System	30 - 50 Years
Infrastructure	20 - 40 Years
Machinery and Equipment	5 - 10 Years

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024**

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**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - continued**

**L. Accumulated Unpaid Vacation, Sick Pay, and Other Employee Benefit Amounts**

National Council on Governmental Accounting Statement 4, "Accounting and Financial Reporting Principles for claims and Judgments and Compensated Absences," concludes that vacation and sick pay costs (and other employee benefit amounts) should be accrued. All material amounts of employee benefits including compensated absences have been paid during the year negating any requirement for accruals.

**M. Fund Equity**

At the governmental fund financial reporting level, fund equity is classified as "fund balance." Fund equity for all other reporting is classified as "net position."

Fund Balance - Generally, fund balance represents the difference between the current assets and current liabilities. Amounts are classified as non-spendable, restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned. The non-spendable fund balance includes amounts that are not available to fund expenditures such as inventories and prepaid amounts. The restricted fund balance category includes amounts that can be spent only for the specific purposes stipulated by constitution, external resource provider, or through enabling legislation. The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the government's highest level of decision-making authority (the Commissioner). Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the government for specific purposes, but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the general fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the government's general fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other funds, the unassigned classification should be used only to report a deficit balance resulting from overspending for specific purpose for which amounts have been restricted, committed, or assigned.

Net Position - Net position represents the difference between assets and deferred outflows of resources and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition construction or improvements of those assets and adding back unspent proceeds. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on the use either through the enabling legislations adopted by the County or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. The remaining balance of net position is reported as unrestricted.

The County applies restricted resources first when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available. In governmental funds, the County's policy is to first apply the expenditure toward restricted fund balance and then to other, less-restrictive classifications – committed and then assigned fund balances before using unassigned fund balances.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources - In addition to assets, the Statement of Financial Position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until then. The County does not have any items that qualify for reporting in this category.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024**

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**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - continued**

**M. Fund Equity – continued**

In addition to liabilities, the Statement of Financial Position will sometimes report a separate section of deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The County reports one of these items. Unavailable revenue is reported only in the governmental funds balance sheet. The governmental funds report unavailable revenues from property taxes. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period that the amounts become available.

**N. Implementation of New Accounting Principles**

The County elected to utilize the infrastructure transition option in the implementation of GASB Statement No. 34 (GASB 34), "Basis Financial Statements – Management's Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Governments" and in fiscal year 2003 began capitalizing major infrastructure networks completed during the year. The County implemented infrastructure assets already in place at January 1, 2003 in 2005. In the absence of actual cost information, the County used a weighted average age calculation for estimating the historical cost of these infrastructure networks.

**2. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Deposits consist of cash and short-term certificates of deposit and money market accounts. The county's policy and state statutes require all deposits be collateralized by depository insurance, obligations of the U.S. government, or bonds of public authorities, counties, or municipalities. As of December 31, 2024, all of the County's deposits were insured or collateralized. The County has no foreign risk or interest rate risk policies.

**3. Property Tax**

Property taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property 30 days after the due date. Property taxes are billed on or about October 20 of each year and are payable in sixty days. The property taxes for 2024 were levied on August 29, 2024, billed on September 6, 2024 with a due date of December 3, 2024. Liens can be attached on January 4, 2025.

The County bills and collects its own taxes and collects various taxes for the Chattooga County Board of Education, the City of Summerville, Town of Trion, City of Menlo, Town of Lyerly, and the State of Georgia. Collection of the taxes for the County and the other government agencies is the responsibility of the Tax Commissioner's office, which is accounted for in the Custodial Fund. County property tax revenues are recognized when levied to the extent that they result in current receivables in accordance with Interpretation #3 issued by the National Council on Government Accounting. Current receivables include those property tax receivables expected to be collected within sixty days after year-end.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

**3. Property Tax - continued**

The following is a summary of the estimated amount of property, and utility taxes for all governments collectible at December 31, 2024:

<u>TAX YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL UNCOLLECTED</u>	<u>RESERVE FOR UNCOLLECTIBLE</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COLLECTIBLE</u>
2024	\$ 1,331,723	\$ 21,376	\$ 1,310,347
2023	152,372	3,096	149,276
2022	17,936	844	17,092
2021	6,239	1,103	5,136
2020	3,569	1,580	1,989
2019	2,877	2,529	348
2018	73	73	-
2017	59	59	-
2016	370	370	-
2015	<u>1,065</u>	<u>1,065</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,516,283</u>	<u>\$ 32,095</u>	<u>\$ 1,484,188</u>

**4. Restricted Assets**

Restricted assets represent monies and other assets, which are restricted for use by legal or contractual requirements, amounts used in prior years for operating expenditures out of customer deposits, and amounts, deposited into the reserve account from unrestricted assets as required by the bond ordinances (Note 8).

Restricted assets were composed of the following at December 31, 2024:

Proprietary Funds:

Cash:

Renewal and Extension \$ 28,119

**5. Contingent Liabilities and Landfill Closure**

Legal proceedings and possible claims are pending or may be asserted in the future against the County. The County's insurance carrier is defending the proceedings where coverage is afforded. At this time, neither the County nor the County's legal counsel can estimate the outcome of the cases. However, they consider the likelihood of negative consequences to be minimal.

The County closed its only sanitation landfill in 1992 and the closure was completed in 1999. After closure, the site is required by state law to be monitored for a minimum of 25 years at an expected cost of \$25,000 per year. The estimated balance for future costs is \$500,000 over 20 years. The estimated remaining cost of closure and yearly cost of landfill monitoring is based on current effective rates. Future closure and monitoring costs are to be paid from revenues derived from the 1% special local option sales tax. The actual cost of closure and future monitoring is subject to change due to changes in inflation, technology, or applicable landfill laws and regulations. The County presently contracts with an independent company to transport its waste to another site operated by another municipality.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

**6. Capital Assets**

Capital assets acquired prior to January 1, 1986 are shown at the fair market value as determined by the County Tax Assessors. Assets acquired after January 1, 1986 are recorded at cost.

**A summary of changes in Capital Assets is as follows:**

**Governmental Activities:**

	<u>Balance January 1</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Transfers and Retirements</u>	<u>Balance December 31</u>
Capital Assets not being Depreciated:				
Land	\$ 489,812	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 489,812
Total	<u>489,812</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>489,812</u>
Capital Assets being Depreciated:				
Buildings	5,330,456	20,400	-	5,350,856
Equipment	6,205,505	806,682	9,521	7,002,666
Infrastructure	<u>50,341,455</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,341,455</u>
Total	<u>61,877,416</u>	<u>827,082</u>	<u>9,521</u>	<u>62,694,977</u>
Less Accumulated Depreciation:				
Buildings	2,661,716	137,403	-	2,661,716
Equipment	4,677,714	388,082	4,919	5,060,877
Infrastructure	<u>47,301,356</u>	<u>110,749</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,412,105</u>
Total	<u>54,640,786</u>	<u>636,234</u>	<u>4,919</u>	<u>55,272,101</u>
Total Capital Assets being Depreciated, Net	<u>7,236,630</u>	<u>190,848</u>	<u>4,602</u>	<u>7,422,876</u>
Total Governmental Activities, Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 7,726,442</u>	<u>\$ 190,848</u>	<u>\$ 4,602</u>	<u>\$ 7,912,688</u>

**Business-type Activities:**

	<u>Balance January 1</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Retirements</u>	<u>Balance December 31</u>
Capital Assets not being Depreciated:				
Land	\$ 56,899	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 56,899
Construction in process	<u>20,375</u>	<u>77,745</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>98,120</u>
Total	<u>77,274</u>	<u>77,745</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>155,019</u>
Capital Assets being Depreciated:				
Buildings	145,810	-	-	145,810
Equipment	940,328	-	24,485	915,843
Infrastructure	<u>22,512,354</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,512,354</u>
Total	<u>23,598,492</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,485</u>	<u>23,574,007</u>
Less Accumulated Depreciation:				
Buildings	112,609	3,194	-	115,803
Equipment	896,107	11,510	24,485	883,132
Infrastructure	<u>6,749,542</u>	<u>442,755</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,192,297</u>
Total	<u>7,758,258</u>	<u>457,459</u>	<u>24,485</u>	<u>8,191,232</u>
Total Capital Assets being Depreciated, Net	<u>15,840,234</u>	<u>(457,459)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,382,775</u>
Total Business-type Activities Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 15,917,508</u>	<u>\$ (379,714)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 15,537,794</u>

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

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**6. Capital Assets - continued**

Depreciation for the year by functions was as follows:

General Government	\$	109,198	
Public Safety		182,384	
Roads and Bridges		277,501	
Sanitation		56,274	
Health and Welfare		<u>10,877</u>	
Total Government Activities			\$ 636,234
Total Business-Type Activities – Water			<u>457,459</u>
Total Depreciation			<u>\$ 1,093,693</u>

**7. Long Term Debt**

During 2008, the Water District received a loan from the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) for \$573,300 to finance the construction of a water expansion project in the Cloudland and the Gore/Subligna area. The loan is payable over 20 years at \$2,388.75 monthly at zero interest beginning November 2009.

On October 15, 2009, the County issued Chattooga County, Georgia Water System Revenue Bond, Series 2008B. The principal face amount is \$4,921,000, with monthly payments of \$21,554 including interest at 4.375% with the first payment due November 2010. This bond was issued for the purpose of refinancing the costs of the additions, extensions, and improvements to the existing water system of the County in the Gore/Subligna area. The bond was purchased by Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture. This bond is secured by the revenues derived from operations of the water system.

In September 2011, the Water District received another GEFA loan in the amount of \$1,303,258 to help fund the construction of additional water lines to the Cloudland area. Construction was completed in 2013. Monthly payments began January 2015 of \$5,430 with zero percent interest.

During 2011, the Water District began construction on Phase 2 of the water expansion project in the east and south areas of the County. The county received a USDA loan in the amount of \$2,801,000 to assist with this project. Interim financing was provided by United Community Bank at 3.9% and repaid in March 2012. Water System Revenue Bonds Series 2011B were issued on March 22, 2012 in the amount of \$2,801,000 at 3.25% with repayment commencing April 2013 at an amount of \$10,588 per month for 40 years.

**Financed Purchase**

On September 22, 2024, the County signed a lease purchase agreement in the principal amount of \$215,700 to finance a John Deere excavator for public works. The lease is payable in five annual installments with the first payments being \$51,305 thereafter including interest at 5.9%.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

**7. Long Term Debt– continued**

The following is the purchased financing amortization schedule:

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	2025	\$ 40,543	\$ 10,762	\$ 51,305	
	2026	43,001	8,304	51,305	
	2027	45,607	5,698	51,305	
	2028	<u>48,323</u>	<u>2,932</u>	<u>51,255</u>	
	Total	\$ <u>177,474</u>	\$ <u>27,696</u>	\$ <u>205,170</u>	

  

	<u>Balance 12/31/2023</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Balance 12/31/2024</u>	<u>Due Within One Year</u>
Governmental Activities:					
Financed Purchase	\$ -	\$ 215,700	\$ 38,226	\$ 177,474	\$ 40,543
Total Governmental Activities	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 215,700</u>	<u>\$ 38,226</u>	<u>\$ 177,474</u>	<u>\$ 40,543</u>
Business-Type Activities:					
Revenue Bonds Series 2008B	\$ 4,089,813	\$ -	\$ 84,437	\$ 4,005,376	\$ 88,140
GEFA Loan 2008	181,545	-	28,665	152,880	28,665
GEFA Loan 2011	684,211	-	65,163	619,048	65,163
Revenue Bonds Series 2011B	<u>2,319,819</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,148</u>	<u>2,266,671</u>	<u>54,765</u>
Total Business-Type Activities	<u>\$ 7,275,388</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 231,413</u>	<u>\$ 7,043,975</u>	<u>\$ 236,733</u>

The series 2008B requires a reserve account with monthly deposits beginning November 2010 of \$2,155 to be made until the fund reaches an equivalent of 10% of the annual payments. As of December 31, 2024, this fund had been established at \$28,119.

The annual requirements to amortize the long-term debt as of December 31, 2024, including interest payments, are as follows:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>REVENUE BONDS</u>		<u>GEFA LOANS AND NOTE</u>	
	<u>PRINCIPAL</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>	<u>PRINCIPAL</u>	<u>INTEREST</u>
2025	\$ 142,905	\$ 243,079	\$ 93,828	\$ -
2026	148,437	237,759	93,828	-
2027	154,188	232,228	93,828	-
2028	160,169	226,476	93,828	-
2029	166,388	220,495	93,828	-
2030-2034	934,284	1,004,066	302,788	-
2035-2039	1,131,649	814,309	-	-
2040-2044	1,372,014	583,252	-	-
2045-2049	1,664,985	301,673	-	-
2050-2052	<u>397,028</u>	<u>32,149</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 6,272,040</u>	<u>\$ 3,895,486</u>	<u>\$ 771,928</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

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**8. Tax Anticipation Note**

The County issued a tax anticipation note in January in advance of property tax collections, depositing the proceeds in its general fund for operations. This note bears interest at 3%. Total payments of principal and interest were \$533,258. Short-term debt activity for the year ended December 31, 2024 was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Issued	Repayments	Ending Balance
Tax anticipation notes	\$ -	\$ 520,000	\$ 520,000	\$ -

**9. Risk Management/Self-Insurance Fund**

The County is exposed to various risks of loss related to tort; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The County purchases insurance coverage from GIRMA to cover its risk of loss for all areas except workers' compensation claims. For workers' compensation coverage, the County participates in the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia Group Self-Insurance Workers' Compensation Fund, and for other general insurance, the County participates in the Interlock Risk Management Agency risk pool, public entity risk pools currently operating as a common risk management and insurance program for member local governments.

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

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

Payments are made into these funds based on actuarial estimates needed to pay prior and current year claims. Insurance premiums are assessed the County to cover liabilities and property damages. There were no unpaid claims at the end of the current year, which would require accrual on the balance sheet. Also, settlement amounts have not exceeded coverage's in any of the last three years for either fund.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

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**10. Joint Venture**

Under Georgia law, the County, in conjunction with other cities and counties in the Northwest area, is Member of the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (NWGRC). Membership in NWGRC is required by the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCGA) Section 50-8-34, which provides for the organizational structure of the NWGRC. Membership in the NWGRC includes the chief elected official of each county and municipality of the area. OCGA Section 50-8-39.1 provides that the member governments are liable for obligations of the NWGRC. During the year, the County paid \$25,222 in dues to the NWGRC. The financial requirements of the County related to the NWGRC are limited to the amount of its annual dues. Separate financial statements may be obtained from the NWGRC, Jackson Hill, Rome, GA 30161.

**11. Interfund Receivable/Payables**

Interfund balances at December 31, 2024, consisted of the following amounts for reimbursable expenses. These remaining balances resulted from the time lag between the dates that (1) interfund goods or services are provided or reimbursable expenditures occur, (2) transactions are recorded in the accounting period, and (3) payments between funds are made. The county expects to repay all interfund balances within one year.

<u>Due to</u>	<u>Due From</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund	Water Fund	\$ 534,246
General Fund	Capital Projects	\$ 1,086,006

**12. Retirement Benefits**

The following pension and retirement plans are in effect but are not under the direct control of the County:

Probate Judges' Retirement Fund of Georgia - The Probate Judge is covered under a Pension plan which requires that certain sums from marriage licenses and fines or bond forfeitures be remitted to the pension plan before the payment of any costs or other claims.

Clerk of Superior Court Retirement Fund - The Clerk of Superior Court is covered under a pension plan which requires that certain sums from fees and fines or bond forfeitures be remitted to the pension plan before the payment of any costs or other claims.

Sheriff's Retirement Fund/Peace Officer's Annuity and Benefit Fund - The Sheriff and sheriff deputies are covered under separate pension plans which require that certain sums from fines or bond forfeitures be remitted by the Probate Judge or Clerk of Superior Court to the pension plans before the payment of any costs or other claims.

GASB Statement No. 68 valuation reports and schedules can be found on their respective web sites.

The county also offers its employees a deferred compensation plan created in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 457(b) plan administered by MassMutual Financial Group. The plan, which is available to all full-time County employees, permits them to defer a portion of their salary until future years. If participants elect to contribute to the plan, the County will make a matching contribution of up to 3% in a 401(a) plan. The deferred compensation is not available to employees until termination, retirement, death, or unforeseeable emergency. Participants are

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024**

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**12. Retirement Benefits – continued**

100% vested in the plan. The 457(b) plan was effective beginning in 2018. The county contributed 3% in the 401(a) plan in 2024 in the amount of \$104,064.

All amounts of compensation deferred under the plan, all property and rights purchased with those amounts, and all income attributable to those amounts, property, and rights (until paid or made available to the employee or other beneficiary) are solely the property and rights of the employees.

The County has only minor administrative involvement and does not perform any investing for the plan. Due to the face the County's role in management of the plan assets is basically limited to transmitting amounts withheld from payroll to an outside party responsible for administering the plan, the County does not report the assets of the Plan in the County's financial statements.

**13. Post Employment Benefits**

On January 1, 2014, the county adopted a resolution to provide health insurance benefits for certain employees upon their retirement. The benefit applies to any employee, including elected officials, who retire with 35 years of service. The retiree can continue their health insurance benefits with the county continuing the employer portion of the benefit until the retiree becomes eligible for Medicare. Currently there are no employees receiving this benefit.

**14. Tax Abatements**

In calendar year 2017, the county adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 77, Tax Abatement Disclosures. This statement requires state and local governments to disclose tax abatement agreements entered by other governments that reduce the reporting government's tax revenues. The following information should be disclosed: (1) brief descriptive information, such as the tax being abated, the authority under which tax abatements are provided, eligibility criteria, the mechanism by which taxes are abated, provisions for recapturing abated taxes, and the types of commitments made by tax abatement recipients; (2) the gross dollar amount of taxes abated during the period; and (3) commitments made by a government, other than to abate taxes, as part of a tax abatement agreement.

Chattooga County, through the Development Authority of Chattooga County, allows for taxable revenue bond financing, pursuant to the Georgia Development Authorities law, under Title 36 Chapter 62 of the Official Code of Georgia, in order to promote the creation of jobs and stimulate development activity within Chattooga County. The taxable revenue bond financings result in the reduction of ad valorem (real and/or personal property) taxes.

The county offers a reduction in property taxes through the structure of these financing arrangements. Specifically, the Development Authority of Chattooga County, may enter into agreements with private individuals or entities in order to incentivize these businesses to build, relocate, expand, or renovate in Chattooga County. The agreements involve a bond issuance and sale-leaseback transaction, whereby the Development Authority takes title to property and leases it back to the company. The Business or individual is responsible for making ad valorem tax payments on its leasehold interest. The rental payments for the leasehold offset the debt service on the bonds over a fixed 10-year term, so that at the end of the incentive period the bonds are fully retired and the company regains title of the property through an option to purchase.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2024**

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**14. Tax Abatements– continued**

The Development Authority considers the fiscal impacts of a proposed project and weighs such benefits against the costs of reduced revenue impacts when considering whether to enter a taxable revenue bond deal with an individual or entity. Generally eligible projects involve a commitment of significant capital investment and/or the creation of net new jobs to the County, which propose a favorable return on investment for the County. There are no additional commitments other than to provide favorable tax treatment. There are provisions for recapturing some portion of the value of these incentives in the event capital investment and job creation numbers are not met during the incentive period; however, the Development Authority can immediately return title to a company for a non-performing project, which cancels the incentive going forward. There are no amounts receivable from other governments.

For the 2024 calendar year, Chattooga County abated property taxes that were levied on August 29, 2024 and due December 3, 2024 totaling \$1,133,659 from one manufacturing company of which \$566,690 was for the Chattooga County Board of Education.

# Combining Financial Statements

## Non-Major Governmental Funds

CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA  
 COMBINING BALANCE SHEET  
 NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
 December 31, 2024

	Special Revenue			
	Drug Confiscation	Jail Improvement	Date	E-911
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash and Cash Investments	\$ 134,641	\$ 259,537	\$ 57,895	\$ 157,473
Accounts Receivable - Other	-	-	-	46,165
Prepaid expenses	-	-	-	7,716
Due from other funds	-	-	-	-
Due from other governments	-	326	295	-
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 259,863</b>	<b>\$ 58,190</b>	<b>\$ 211,354</b>
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>				
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,897
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,897</b>
<b>Fund Balances</b>				
Restricted for:				
Public Safety	134,641	259,863	58,190	177,457
Culture and Recreation	-	-	-	-
Judicial	-	-	-	-
	<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>259,863</b>	<b>58,190</b>	<b>177,457</b>
	<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$ 259,863</b>	<b>\$ 58,190</b>	<b>\$ 211,354</b>

CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA  
 COMBINING BALANCE SHEET  
 NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
 December 31, 2024

Special Revenue

<u>Housing Prisoners</u>	<u>Law Library</u>	<u>Agricultural Fair</u>	<u>Multiple Grants</u>	<u>Juvenile Services</u>	<u>Total Other Governmental Funds</u>
\$ 151,316	\$ 39,100	\$ 86,597	\$ -	\$ 2,176	\$ 888,735
-	-	-	1,382	-	47,547
-	-	-	-	-	7,716
-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>621</u>
<u>\$ 151,316</u>	<u>\$ 39,100</u>	<u>\$ 86,597</u>	<u>\$ 1,382</u>	<u>\$ 2,176</u>	<u>\$ 944,619</u>
\$ 22,133	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 56,030
<u>22,133</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>56,030</u>
129,183	-	-	1,382	2,176	762,892
-	-	86,597	-	-	86,597
<u>-</u>	<u>39,100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,100</u>
<u>129,183</u>	<u>39,100</u>	<u>86,597</u>	<u>1,382</u>	<u>2,176</u>	<u>888,589</u>
<u>\$ 151,316</u>	<u>\$ 39,100</u>	<u>\$ 86,597</u>	<u>\$ 1,382</u>	<u>\$ 2,176</u>	<u>\$ 944,619</u>

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE**  
**NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	<u>Special Revenue</u>			
	<u>Drug Confiscation</u>	<u>Jail Improvement</u>	<u>Date Fund</u>	<u>E-911</u>
<b>Revenues</b>				
Investment Income	\$ 155	\$ 249	\$ -	\$ -
Fines and Forfeiture	-	38,089	26,955	-
Intergovernmental Revenue	7,373	-	-	-
Charge for Services	-	-	-	576,854
Total Revenues	<u>7,528</u>	<u>38,338</u>	<u>26,955</u>	<u>576,854</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Current				
Public Safety	55,130	25,910	12,727	927,847
Culture and Recreation	-	-	-	-
Courts	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	<u>55,130</u>	<u>25,910</u>	<u>12,727</u>	<u>927,847</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	<u>(47,602)</u>	<u>12,428</u>	<u>14,228</u>	<u>(350,993)</u>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>				
Transfers In	-	-	-	484,327
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>484,327</u>
Net Changes in Fund Balance	(47,602)	12,428	14,228	133,334
Fund Balances - Beginning of Year	<u>182,243</u>	<u>247,435</u>	<u>43,962</u>	<u>44,123</u>
Fund Balances - End of Year	<u>\$ 134,641</u>	<u>\$ 259,863</u>	<u>\$ 58,190</u>	<u>\$ 177,457</u>

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE**  
**NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

**Special Revenue**

<u>Housing Prisoners</u>	<u>Law Library</u>	<u>Agricultural Fair</u>	<u>Multiple Grants</u>	<u>Juvenile Services</u>	<u>Total Other Governmental Funds</u>
\$ 5,206	\$ 771	\$ 2,825	\$ -	\$ 486	\$ 9,692
-	18,369	-	-	102	83,515
-	-	-	152,838	-	160,211
<u>23,518</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>128,476</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>728,848</u>
<u>28,724</u>	<u>19,140</u>	<u>131,301</u>	<u>152,838</u>	<u>588</u>	<u>982,266</u>
-	-	-	152,838	-	1,174,452
-	-	103,198	-	-	103,198
<u>-</u>	<u>10,627</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,627</u>
<u>-</u>	<u>10,627</u>	<u>103,198</u>	<u>152,838</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,288,277</u>
<u>28,724</u>	<u>8,513</u>	<u>28,103</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>588</u>	<u>(306,011)</u>
-	-	-	-	-	484,327
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,000)</u>	<u>(8,000)</u>
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,000)</u>	<u>476,327</u>
28,724	8,513	28,103	-	(7,412)	170,316
<u>100,459</u>	<u>30,587</u>	<u>58,494</u>	<u>1,382</u>	<u>9,588</u>	<u>718,273</u>
<u>\$ 129,183</u>	<u>\$ 39,100</u>	<u>\$ 86,597</u>	<u>\$ 1,382</u>	<u>\$ 2,176</u>	<u>\$ 888,589</u>

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and  
Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual

Special Revenue Funds

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND**  
**CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL**  
**SPECIAL REVENUE FUND - DRUG CONFISCATION ACCOUNT**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Positive (Negative)</u>
<b>Revenues</b>				
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,373	\$ 7,373
Miscellaneous	-	-	155	155
Total Revenues	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,528</u>	<u>7,528</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Public Safety - Sheriff				
Crime Prevention	3,500	3,500	55,130	(51,630)
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	<u>3,500</u>	<u>3,500</u>	<u>55,130</u>	<u>(51,630)</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	<u>\$ (3,500)</u>	<u>\$ (3,500)</u>	(47,602)	<u>\$ (44,102)</u>
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year			<u>182,243</u>	
Fund Balance - End of Year			<u>\$ 134,641</u>	

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND**  
**CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL**  
**SPECIAL REVENUE FUND - JAIL IMPROVEMENT FUND**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Positive (Negative)</u>
<b>Revenues</b>				
Interest income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 249	\$ 249
Fines and Forfeitures	-	-	38,089	38,089
Total Revenues	-	-	38,338	38,338
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Public Safety - Sheriff Jail Maintenance	22,000	22,000	25,910	(3,910)
Total Expenditures	22,000	22,000	25,910	(3,910)
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (22,000)	\$ (22,000)	12,428	\$ 34,428
<b>Fund Balance - Beginning of Year</b>			247,435	
<b>Fund Balance - End of Year</b>			\$ 259,863	

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND**  
**CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL**  
**SPECIAL REVENUE FUND - DATE FUND**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Positive (Negative)</u>
<b>Revenues</b>				
Fines and Forfeitures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,955	\$ 26,955
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,955</u>	<u>26,955</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Public Safety - Sheriff Crime Prevention	<u>20,500</u>	<u>20,500</u>	<u>12,727</u>	<u>7,773</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>20,500</u>	<u>20,500</u>	<u>12,727</u>	<u>7,773</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	<u>\$ (20,500)</u>	<u>\$ (20,500)</u>	14,228	<u>\$ 34,728</u>
<b>Fund Balance - Beginning of Year</b>			<u>43,962</u>	
<b>Fund Balance - End of Year</b>			<u>\$ 58,190</u>	

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND**  
**CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL**  
**SPECIAL REVENUE FUND - E911 EMERGENCY FUND**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Positive (Negative)</u>
<b>Revenues</b>				
Miscellaneous				
911 Fees	\$ 390,000	\$ 390,000	\$ 576,854	\$ 186,854
Total Revenues	<u>390,000</u>	<u>390,000</u>	<u>576,854</u>	<u>186,854</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Public Safety - E911				
Salaries	469,000	469,000	538,705	(69,705)
Benefits	181,600	181,600	209,774	(28,174)
Insurance	2,400	2,400	2,883	(483)
Supplies	4,500	4,500	9,825	(5,325)
Maintenance - Buildings & Equipment	26,300	26,300	35,884	(9,584)
Telephone	40,000	40,000	44,619	(4,619)
Training and Travel	1,200	1,200	1,389	(189)
Computer Expense	30,000	30,000	29,397	603
Utilities	17,400	17,400	25,604	(8,204)
Uniform and Laundry	500	500	222	278
Capital Outlay	6,500	6,500	29,545	(23,045)
Total Expenditures	<u>779,400</u>	<u>779,400</u>	<u>927,847</u>	<u>(148,447)</u>
Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures	<u>(389,400)</u>	<u>(389,400)</u>	<u>(350,993)</u>	<u>38,407</u>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>				
Transfers - In	-	-	484,327	484,327
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>484,327</u>	<u>484,327</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	<u>\$ (389,400)</u>	<u>\$ (389,400)</u>	133,334	<u>\$ 522,734</u>
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year			<u>44,123</u>	
Fund Balance - End of Year			<u>\$ 177,457</u>	

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND**  
**CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL**  
**SPECIAL REVENUE FUND - LAW LIBRARY**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Positive (Negative)</u>
<b>Revenues</b>				
Fines and forfeitures	\$ 18,300	\$ 18,300	\$ 18,369	\$ 69
Investment earnings	<u>550</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>771</u>	<u>221</u>
Total Revenues	<u>18,850</u>	<u>18,850</u>	<u>19,140</u>	<u>290</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Court System	<u>18,850</u>	<u>18,850</u>	<u>10,627</u>	<u>8,223</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>18,850</u>	<u>18,850</u>	<u>10,627</u>	<u>8,223</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	8,513	<u>\$ 8,513</u>
<b>Fund Balance - Beginning of Year</b>			<u>30,587</u>	
<b>Fund Balance - End of Year</b>			<u>\$ 39,100</u>	

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND**  
**CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL**  
**SPECIAL REVENUE FUND - MULTIPLE GRANTS FUND**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Positive (Negative)</u>
<b>Revenues</b>				
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 152,838	\$ 152,838
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>152,838</u>	<u>152,838</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Public Safety - Sheriff				
Crime Prevention	100,000	100,000	152,838	(52,838)
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	<u>100,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>152,838</u>	<u>(52,838)</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	<u>\$ (100,000)</u>	<u>\$ (100,000)</u>	-	<u>\$ 100,000</u>
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year			<u>1,382</u>	
Fund Balance - End of Year			<u>\$ 1,382</u>	

Supplementary Individual Fund  
Financial Schedules

General Fund

The supplementary schedules are included to provide management additional information for financial analysis.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET**  
**GENERAL FUND**  
**December 31, 2024**  
**(with comparative totals for 2023)**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 4,956,105	\$ 2,513,926
Accounts Receivable	163,626	128,848
Due from other funds	1,620,252	682,068
Due from other governments	22,743	779,718
Taxes Receivable	1,484,189	4,026,804
 Total Assets	 \$ 8,246,915	 \$ 8,131,364
 <b>Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 542,724	\$ 410,314
Due to other funds	-	21,392
Deferred Inflows of Resources		
Unavailable Revenues	756,970	1,864,027
 Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources	 1,299,694	 2,295,733
 <b>Fund Balance</b>		
Unassigned	6,947,221	5,835,631
 Total Fund Balance	 6,947,221	 5,835,631
 <b>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balances</b>	 \$ 8,246,915	 \$ 8,131,364

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND**  
**CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL**  
**GENERAL FUND**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**  
**(with comparative totals for 2023)**

	<u>2024</u>			<b>Variance Positive (Negative)</b>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>		<u>Actual</u>
<b>Revenues</b>					
Taxes	\$ 9,813,586	\$ 9,813,586	\$ 11,239,211	\$ 1,425,625	\$ 8,519,621
Licenses and Permits	13,000	13,000	4,625	(8,375)	22,870
Fines and Forfeitures	574,000	574,000	610,960	36,960	559,960
Intergovernmental	312,930	312,930	627,560	314,630	1,415,202
Charges for Services	771,250	771,250	817,581	46,331	796,943
Miscellaneous	119,750	119,750	861,928	742,178	199,544
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>11,604,516</u>	<u>11,604,516</u>	<u>14,161,865</u>	<u>2,557,349</u>	<u>11,514,140</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Current					
General Government	1,974,779	1,974,779	2,553,719	(578,940)	3,130,383
Public Safety	4,996,930	4,996,930	5,913,135	(916,205)	5,124,947
Court System	1,925,589	1,925,589	1,863,356	62,233	1,717,439
Roads and Bridges	243,950	243,950	324,942	(80,992)	244,053
Health and Welfare	394,524	394,524	408,980	(14,456)	352,804
Culture and Recreation	561,860	561,860	731,928	(170,068)	633,129
Sanitation	1,029,300	1,029,300	1,192,466	(163,166)	1,330,940
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>11,126,932</u>	<u>11,126,932</u>	<u>12,988,526</u>	<u>(1,861,594)</u>	<u>12,533,695</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	<u>477,584</u>	<u>477,584</u>	<u>1,173,339</u>	<u>695,755</u>	<u>(1,019,555)</u>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>					
Sale of assets	-	-	-	-	48,001
Transfers In (Out)	-	-	(61,749)	(61,749)	1,398,503
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(61,749)</u>	<u>(61,749)</u>	<u>1,446,504</u>
<b>Net Change in Fund Balance</b>	<u>\$ 477,584</u>	<u>\$ 477,584</u>	<u>1,111,590</u>	<u>\$ 634,006</u>	<u>426,949</u>
<b>Fund Balances - Beginning</b>			<u>5,835,631</u>		<u>5,408,682</u>
<b>Fund Balanced - End of Year</b>			<u>\$ 6,947,221</u>		<u>\$ 5,835,631</u>

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENTS**  
**BUDGET AND ACTUAL**  
**GENERAL FUND**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**  
(with comparative totals for 2023)

	2024			Variance Positive (Negative)	2023
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual		Actual
<b>General Government</b>					
Commissioner's Office	\$ 431,019	\$ 431,019	\$ 565,044	\$ (134,025)	\$ 603,222
General Expenses	183,300	183,300	584,186	(400,886)	1,170,786
Buildings and Grounds	228,105	228,105	234,285	(6,180)	316,886
Registrar	102,008	102,008	102,489	(481)	77,920
Code Enforcement	72,031	72,031	78,837	(6,806)	72,763
Tax Assessors	494,651	494,651	479,964	14,687	440,723
Tax Commissioner	463,665	463,665	508,914	(45,249)	448,083
<b>Total General Government</b>	<b>1,974,779</b>	<b>1,974,779</b>	<b>2,553,719</b>	<b>(578,940)</b>	<b>3,130,383</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>					
Sheriff					
General	2,450,929	2,450,929	2,610,280	(159,351)	2,409,443
Jail	2,009,857	2,009,857	2,591,561	(581,704)	2,108,696
Malt Beverage Services	7,200	7,200	15,263	(8,063)	23,489
Community Oriented Police	159,669	159,669	211,257	(51,588)	157,405
<b>Total Sheriff</b>	<b>4,627,655</b>	<b>4,627,655</b>	<b>5,428,361</b>	<b>(800,706)</b>	<b>4,699,033</b>
Animal Control	153,005	153,005	176,299	(23,294)	185,651
Fire Departments	148,900	148,900	199,954	(51,054)	154,047
Civil Defense	8,500	8,500	6,230	2,270	8,146
Coroner	58,870	58,870	70,952	(12,082)	65,517
Local Emergency Planning	-	-	31,339	(31,339)	12,553
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>4,996,930</b>	<b>4,996,930</b>	<b>5,913,135</b>	<b>(916,205)</b>	<b>5,124,947</b>
<b>Courts</b>					
Clerk of Courts	402,863	402,863	385,778	17,085	356,141
Probate Court	420,178	420,178	407,115	13,063	270,302
Magistrate Court	232,940	232,940	243,799	(10,859)	233,417
Juvenile Court	140,000	140,000	159,003	(19,003)	156,785
Superior Court	80,830	80,830	93,484	(12,654)	83,023
State Court	230,790	230,790	243,119	(12,329)	230,989
Court Reporter and Public Defender	141,076	141,076	139,942	1,134	130,425
District Attorney	271,212	271,212	185,766	85,446	250,957
Probation Office	5,700	5,700	5,350	350	5,400
<b>Total Courts</b>	<b>1,925,589</b>	<b>1,925,589</b>	<b>1,863,356</b>	<b>62,233</b>	<b>1,717,439</b>
<b>Roads and Bridges (Work Camp)</b>	<b>243,950</b>	<b>243,950</b>	<b>324,942</b>	<b>(80,992)</b>	<b>244,053</b>
<b>Health and Welfare</b>					
Board of Health	158,032	158,032	199,812	(41,780)	120,332
Public Welfare	99,320	99,320	74,490	24,830	99,320
County Agent	115,672	115,672	122,083	(6,411)	118,062
Crisis Centers	21,100	21,100	12,270	8,830	14,890
Indigent Care	400	400	325	75	200
<b>Total Health and Welfare</b>	<b>394,524</b>	<b>394,524</b>	<b>408,980</b>	<b>(14,456)</b>	<b>352,804</b>
<b>Culture and Recreation</b>					
Public Library	84,000	84,000	82,046	1,954	81,656
Public Transportation	142,050	142,050	190,473	(48,423)	176,524
Senior, Civic and other buildings	42,950	42,950	66,953	(24,003)	71,874
Economic Development	106,560	106,560	108,864	(2,304)	103,227
Boys and Girls Club	-	-	25,323	(25,323)	18,485
Agricultural Center	12,300	12,300	28,269	(15,969)	26,363
Recreation	174,000	174,000	230,000	(56,000)	155,000
<b>Total Culture and Recreation</b>	<b>561,860</b>	<b>561,860</b>	<b>731,928</b>	<b>(170,068)</b>	<b>633,129</b>
<b>Sanitation</b>					
Solid Waste and Water Project	1,029,300	1,029,300	1,192,466	(163,166)	1,330,940
<b>Total Sanitation</b>	<b>1,029,300</b>	<b>1,029,300</b>	<b>1,192,466</b>	<b>(163,166)</b>	<b>1,330,940</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 11,126,932</b>	<b>\$ 11,126,932</b>	<b>\$ 12,988,526</b>	<b>\$ (1,861,594)</b>	<b>\$ 12,533,695</b>

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES BY ACCOUNTS**  
**GENERAL FUND**

**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

(with comparative totals for 2023)

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
General Government -		
Commissioner's Office -		
Salaries - Commissioner	\$ 96,160	\$ 94,060
Salaries - Others	177,294	217,713
Benefits	83,966	80,153
Dues	8,585	6,837
Insurance	106,629	88,285
Office Expense	78,262	88,045
Telephone	5,951	4,259
Training and Travel	8,197	9,476
Capital Outlay	-	14,394
Total Commissioner's Office	565,044	603,222
General Expenses -		
Professional Services	550,928	1,127,456
Interest Expense	33,258	43,330
Total General Expenses	584,186	1,170,786
Building and Grounds -		
Salaries	112,246	106,731
Benefits	27,990	25,881
Insurance	955	1,156
Supplies	6,893	6,005
Maintenance	24,034	117,832
Utilities	62,167	59,281
Capital Outlay	-	-
Total Buildings and Grounds	234,285	316,886
Registrar -		
Salaries	67,416	44,502
Benefits	15,169	12,358
Insurance	597	721
Office Expense	10,115	8,081
Telephone	3,037	3,297
Training and Travel	1,080	5,324
Utilities	5,075	3,637
Capital Outlay	-	-
Total Registrar	102,489	77,920
Subtotal Carried Forward	1,486,004	2,168,814

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES BY ACCOUNTS**  
**GENERAL FUND**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**  
**(with comparative totals for 2023)**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Subtotal Brought Forward	<u>\$ 1,486,004</u>	<u>\$ 2,168,814</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES - continued</b>		
General Government - continued		
Code Enforcement -		
Salaries	43,581	42,619
Benefits	23,736	21,206
Insurance	6,913	4,082
Office Expense	3,960	3,620
Telephone	647	1,236
Capital Outlay	-	-
Total Code Enforcement	<u>78,837</u>	<u>72,763</u>
Tax Assessors -		
Salaries - Arbitrators	12,450	12,375
Salaries - Other	250,805	250,711
Benefits	102,460	100,611
Dues	4,181	3,679
Insurance	9,216	7,432
Legal	20,174	9,139
Office Expense	47,688	38,795
Telephone	6,558	5,827
Training and Travel	5,575	5,758
Penalty	14,500	-
Capital Outlay	6,357	6,396
Total Tax Assessors	<u>479,964</u>	<u>440,723</u>
Tax Commissioner -		
Salaries - Tax Commissioner	70,865	68,865
Salaries - Others	198,382	164,462
Benefits	132,760	122,365
Auditors and Attorneys	23,269	24,217
Insurance	835	1,011
Office Expense	62,189	51,677
Telephone	7,766	7,795
Training and Travel	4,247	4,340
Capital Outlay	8,601	3,351
Total Tax Commissioner	<u>508,914</u>	<u>448,083</u>
<b>Total General Government</b>	<u><b>2,553,719</b></u>	<u><b>3,130,383</b></u>

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES BY ACCOUNTS**  
**GENERAL FUND**

**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

**(with comparative totals for 2023)**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES - continued</b>		
Public Safety -		
Sheriff - General		
Salaries - Sheriff	\$ 92,743	\$ 91,054
Salaries - Others	1,499,349	1,371,153
Benefits	464,611	435,730
Auditors and Attorneys	3,163	3,112
Dues	1,885	2,193
Insurance	179,325	144,666
Supplies	50,526	37,254
Repairs and maintenance	30,971	7,501
Telephone	14,975	12,280
Training and Travel	5,506	270
Capital Outlay	34,237	89,447
Vehicle Expense	206,814	187,886
Utilities	16,621	16,005
Uniforms	9,554	10,892
Total Sheriff - General	2,610,280	2,409,443
Community Oriented Police -	211,257	157,405
Malt Beverage Services -	15,263	23,489
Jail -		
Salaries	667,987	590,535
Benefits	176,031	160,739
Insurance	17,077	20,651
Supplies	65,516	52,254
Buildings and Grounds	46,115	86,077
Telephone	1,827	2,014
Training and Travel	1,231	1,061
Meals and Housing	1,360,093	970,514
Medical	252,995	222,772
Uniforms and Laundry	1,542	1,064
Capital Outlay	1,147	1,015
Total Jail	2,591,561	2,108,696
Total Sheriff	5,428,361	4,699,033
Animal Control -	176,299	185,651
Fire -	199,954	154,047
Civil Defense -	6,230	8,146
Subtotal Carried Forward	5,810,844	5,046,877

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES BY ACCOUNTS**  
**GENERAL FUND**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

(with comparative totals for 2023)

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Subtotal Brought Forward	\$ 5,810,844	\$ 5,046,877
<b>EXPENDITURES - continued</b>		
Public Safety - continued		
Coroner -		
Salaries	29,624	26,649
Benefits	16,888	19,249
Training	825	2,306
Inquest expense	14,636	12,011
Supplies	8,979	5,302
Total Coroner	70,952	65,517
Local Emergency Planning	31,339	12,553
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>5,913,135</b>	<b>5,124,947</b>
Courts -		
Clerk of Courts -		
Salaries - Clerk	85,385	83,563
Salaries - Others	133,376	138,811
Salaries - Arbitrators	35,393	23,650
Benefits	78,985	62,641
Auditors and Attorneys	4,170	3,300
Insurance	955	1,156
Office Expense	36,632	33,015
Telephone	3,847	2,082
Training and Travel	5,498	5,786
Capital Outlay	1,537	2,137
Total Clerk of Courts	385,778	356,141
Probate Court -		
Salaries - Judge	86,428	84,367
Salaries - Others	99,891	97,960
Benefits	68,936	62,037
Auditors and Attorneys	4,565	1,500
Insurance	597	831
Office Expense	23,583	11,708
Telephone	7,225	2,736
Training and Travel	5,969	7,348
Election Expense	31,974	-
Poll Workers	74,575	-
Capital Outlay	3,372	1,815
Total Probate Court	407,115	270,302
Subtotal Carried Forward	792,893	626,443

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES BY ACCOUNTS**  
**GENERAL FUND**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

(with comparative totals for 2023)

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Subtotal Brought Forward	\$ 792,893	\$ 626,443
<b>EXPENDITURES - continued</b>		
Courts - continued		
Juvenile Court -		
Salaries	50,788	50,400
Benefits	3,856	3,856
Office Expense	1,510	953
Court Appointed Attorneys	91,072	90,226
Witness Fees	1,513	3,367
Court Reporters	10,264	7,983
Total Juvenile Court	159,003	156,785
Magistrate's Office -		
Salaries	174,121	167,643
Benefits	56,462	51,376
Auditors and Attorneys	2,221	1,500
Supplies	5,149	6,268
Insurance	477	576
Telephone	2,733	1,533
Training and Travel	1,185	2,420
Capital Outlay	1,451	2,101
Total Magistrate's Office	243,799	233,417
Superior Court -		
Salaries	10,880	10,426
Office Expense	1,710	2,759
Telephone	2,960	2,959
Court Reporters	15,722	13,253
Jurors	55,750	44,800
Witness Fees	262	1,926
Bailiffs and Administrators	6,200	6,900
Total Superior Court	93,484	83,023
Subtotal Carried Forward	1,289,179	1,099,668

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES BY ACCOUNTS**  
**GENERAL FUND**

**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

**(with comparative totals for 2023)**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Subtotal Brought Forward	<u>\$ 1,289,179</u>	<u>\$ 1,099,668</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES - continued</b>		
Courts - continued		
State Court -		
Salaries	149,664	156,730
Benefits	64,969	59,523
Insurance	358	435
Office Expense	3,273	2,855
Employee training	2,689	1,965
Telephone	491	565
Attorneys	11,125	4,940
Court Reporters	4,200	3,600
Jury Script	6,350	376
Capital Outlay	-	-
Total State Court	<u>243,119</u>	<u>230,989</u>
District Attorney -		
Prorate Expenses	185,029	249,714
Office Expense	737	1,243
Capital Outlay	-	-
Total District Attorney	<u>185,766</u>	<u>250,957</u>
Probation Office -		
	<u>5,350</u>	<u>5,400</u>
Court Reporter and Public Defender -		
Salaries	17,296	17,164
Benefits	2,476	3,105
Attorney Fees	120,170	110,156
Total Court Reporter and Public Defender	<u>139,942</u>	<u>130,425</u>
<b>Total Courts</b>	<b><u>1,863,356</u></b>	<b><u>1,717,439</u></b>
Roads and Bridges-		
Salaries	87,494	102,485
Benefits	36,333	32,426
Gas, Oil, and Tires	34,798	10,716
Maintenance	94,891	25,224
Insurance	15,568	23,429
Supplies	29,533	27,222
Utilities	15,039	12,310
Telephone	7,254	6,542
Uniforms	4,032	3,699
Capital Outlay	-	-
<b>Total Roads and Bridges</b>	<b><u>324,942</u></b>	<b><u>244,053</u></b>

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES BY ACCOUNTS**  
**GENERAL FUND**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

(with comparative totals for 2023)

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES - continued</b>		
Health and Welfare -		
Board of Health	\$ 199,812	\$ 120,332
Public Welfare	74,490	99,320
County Agent	122,083	118,062
Child Advocacy Center	3,772	4,193
Family Crisis Center	4,336	5,662
Other Agencies	4,162	5,035
Hospital and Medical Care	325	200
<b>Total Health and Welfare</b>	<b>408,980</b>	<b>352,804</b>
Culture and Recreation -		
Public Library	82,046	81,656
Public Transportation	190,473	176,524
Civic, Senior, and Multi-purpose Centers	66,953	71,874
Economic Development	108,864	103,227
Boys and Girls Club	25,323	18,485
Agricultural Center	28,269	26,363
Recreation	230,000	155,000
<b>Total Culture and Recreation</b>	<b>731,928</b>	<b>633,129</b>
Sanitation -		
Solid Waste	625,981	629,681
Salaries	327,641	319,718
Benefits	103,453	84,104
Insurance	11,092	16,309
Supplies	9,778	10,102
Gas, Oil, and Repairs	87,199	123,847
Landfill Maintenance	10,530	18,400
Utilities	10,114	8,073
Professional services	6,678	253
Debt service	-	84,723
Capital Outlay	-	35,730
<b>Total Sanitation</b>	<b>1,192,466</b>	<b>1,330,940</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 12,988,526</b>	<b>\$ 12,533,695</b>

Capital Projects Fund

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND**  
**CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL**  
**CAPITAL PROJECT - SALES TAX FUND**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance With Final Budget Positive (Negative)
<b>Revenues</b>				
<b>Intergovernmental</b>				
State Government -				
Special Project Local				
Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)	\$ 3,368,540	\$ 3,368,540	\$ 3,443,368	\$ 74,828
Interest Income	-	-	8,153	8,153
Intergovernmental	624,936	624,936	2,378,838	1,753,902
Miscellaneous Income	10,000	10,000	22,357	12,357
<b>Total Revenues</b>	4,003,476	4,003,476	5,852,716	1,849,240
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Roads and Bridges				
Personnel	313,600	313,600	488,593	(174,993)
Benefits	114,000	114,000	130,937	(16,937)
Insurance	71,000	71,000	85,244	(14,244)
Professional fees	7,000	7,000	5,000	2,000
Capital Expenditures	1,127,500	1,127,500	3,724,335	(2,596,835)
Materials	280,460	280,460	286,364	(5,904)
Maintenance	34,000	34,000	184,943	(150,943)
Total Roads and Bridges	1,947,560	1,947,560	4,905,416	(2,957,856)
Intergovernmental Payments				
Municipal Contracts	1,606,000	1,606,000	1,566,736	39,264
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>				
Proceeds from Financed Purchases	-	-	215,700	215,700
Total Other Financing Sources(Uses)	-	-	215,700	215,700
<b>Net Change in Fund Balance</b>	\$ 449,916	\$ 449,916	(403,736)	\$ (853,652)
<b>Fund Balances - Beginning</b>			1,304,374	
<b>Fund Balances - Ending</b>			\$ 900,638	

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

Proprietary Fund

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION**  
**WATER REVENUE FUND**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**  
**(with comparative totals for 2023)**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Investments	\$ 348,013	\$ 225,458
Accounts Receivable	218,264	207,039
Inventory	53,702	48,793
Prepaid Expenses	5,500	5,500
Total Current Assets	625,479	486,790
Current Assets - Restricted		
Cash and Cash Investments	28,119	27,006
Total Current Restricted Assets	28,119	27,006
Noncurrent Assets		
Capital Assets		
Construction in Process	98,120	20,375
Land	56,899	56,899
Buildings	145,810	145,810
Infrastructure	22,512,354	22,512,354
Equipment	915,843	940,328
Accumulated Depreciation	(8,191,234)	(7,758,258)
Total Capital Assets, Net of Depreciation	15,537,792	15,917,508
Total Noncurrent Assets	15,537,792	15,917,508
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 16,191,390</b>	<b>\$ 16,431,304</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 36,473	\$ 17,331
Deposits	11,280	19,890
Due to general fund	534,246	454,984
Bonds and Notes Payable	236,733	231,413
Total Current Liabilities	818,732	723,618
Noncurrent Liabilities		
Compensated Absences	9,641	-
Notes and Bonds Payable	6,807,242	7,043,975
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	6,816,883	7,043,975
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>7,635,615</b>	<b>7,767,593</b>
<b>Net Position</b>		
Net investment in capital assets	8,493,817	8,642,120
Unrestricted	61,958	21,591
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 8,555,775</b>	<b>\$ 8,663,711</b>

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES**  
**AND CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION**  
**WATER REVENUE FUND**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**  
**(with comparative totals for 2023)**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Operating Revenues</b>		
Charges for Services	\$ 1,539,989	\$ 1,361,895
Total Operating Revenues	<u>1,539,989</u>	<u>1,361,895</u>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Personal Services	413,519	361,982
Supplies and Materials	595,324	499,319
Contractual Services	40,157	34,599
Depreciation	457,460	460,060
Total Operating Expenses	<u>1,506,460</u>	<u>1,355,960</u>
Income (Loss) from Operations	<u>33,529</u>	<u>5,935</u>
<b>Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)</b>		
Interest Earned	14,568	7,167
Interest Expense	(243,078)	(248,195)
Grant and Donation Revenue	9,300	-
Total Nonoperating Revenue (Expenses)	<u>(219,210)</u>	<u>(241,028)</u>
<b>Income (Loss) before other revenues</b>	(185,681)	(235,093)
Capital Contributions	77,745	47,250
Transfers in	-	79,088
Total Other Revenues	<u>77,745</u>	<u>126,338</u>
Change in Net Position	(107,936)	(108,755)
<b>Net Position - Beginning of Year</b>	<u>8,663,711</u>	<u>8,772,466</u>
<b>Net Position - End of Year</b>	<u>\$ 8,555,775</u>	<u>\$ 8,663,711</u>

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
**WATER REVENUE FUND**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**  
**(with comparative totals for 2023)**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>		
Cash received from customers	\$ 1,520,154	\$ 1,329,215
Cash payments to supplies for goods and services	(621,248)	(496,704)
Cash payments to employees for services	<u>(403,878)</u>	<u>(361,982)</u>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	<u>495,028</u>	<u>470,529</u>
<b>Cash Flows from Noncapital Financing Activities</b>		
Loan from (payment to) general fund	<u>79,263</u>	<u>79,087</u>
<b>Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities</b>		
Acquisition and construction of capital assets	-	-
Reduction of Bond Debt Principal - Net	(231,413)	(226,298)
Interest Paid on Bonds and Notes	(243,078)	(248,195)
Grant and Donation Revenue	<u>9,300</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Capital and Related Financing Activities	<u>(465,191)</u>	<u>(474,493)</u>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>		
Interest on Cash and Cash Investments	<u>14,568</u>	<u>7,167</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Investments	123,668	82,290
<b>Cash and Cash Investments - January 1</b>	<u>252,464</u>	<u>170,174</u>
<b>Cash and Cash Investments - December 31</b>	<u>\$ 376,132</u>	<u>\$ 252,464</u>
Non-cash capital contributions were received from the following:		
Capital Project Sales Tax Funds -	<u>\$ 77,745</u>	
Total non-cash capital contributions	<u>\$ 77,745</u>	

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
**WATER REVENUE FUND**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**  
**(with comparative totals for 2023)**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Reconciliation of Income (Loss) from operations to net cash provided (used) by operating activities		
Income (Loss) from operations	\$ 33,529	\$ 5,935
Adjustments to reconcile income (loss) from operations to net cash provided (used) by operating activities		
Depreciation	457,460	460,060
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase) Decrease in Accounts Receivable	(11,225)	(26,105)
Increase (Decrease) in Accounts Payable	19,142	9,328
(Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Expense	-	4,532
(Increase) Decrease in Inventory	(4,909)	23,354
Increase (Decrease) in Compensated Absences	9,641	-
Increase (Decrease) in Deposits	<u>(8,610)</u>	<u>(6,575)</u>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	<u>\$ 495,028</u>	<u>\$ 470,529</u>
Reconciliation of Total Cash and Cash Investments		
Current Assets - Cash and Cash Investments	\$ 348,013	\$ 225,458
Restricted Assets - Cash and Cash Investments	<u>28,119</u>	<u>27,006</u>
Total Cash and Cash Investments	<u>\$ 376,132</u>	<u>\$ 252,464</u>

## Custodial Funds

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**COMBINING STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION**  
**CUSTODIAL FUNDS**  
**December 31, 2024**

	<u>Custodial Funds</u>				
	<u>Tax Commissioner</u>	<u>Clerk of Courts</u>	<u>Probate Judge</u>	<u>Magistrate Court</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Assets</b>					
Cash	\$ 221,736	\$ 96,919	\$ 26,805	\$ 18,062	\$ 363,522
Taxes Receivable (Net of Allowance for Uncollectible)	<u>1,547,012</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,547,012</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,768,748</u>	<u>\$ 96,919</u>	<u>\$ 26,805</u>	<u>\$ 18,062</u>	<u>\$ 1,910,534</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Accounts Payable	\$ 122,223	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 122,223
Due to Other Governments	<u>1,646,525</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,646,525</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>1,768,748</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,768,748</u>
<b>Net Position</b>					
Restricted for Individuals and other government	<u>-</u>	<u>96,919</u>	<u>26,805</u>	<u>18,062</u>	<u>141,786</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 96,919</u>	<u>\$ 26,805</u>	<u>\$ 18,062</u>	<u>\$ 141,786</u>

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**COMBINING STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION**  
**CUSTODIAL FUNDS**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	<u>Tax Commissioner</u>	<u>Clerk of Courts</u>	<u>Probate Judge</u>	<u>Magistrate Judge</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Additions</b>					
Taxes Collected for other governments	\$ 12,450,403	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,450,403
Court fees collected for individuals	-	116,032	34,950	46,366	197,348
Court fees collected for other agencies	-	207,626	22,869	17,143	247,638
Court fees collected for other funds	<u>8,336,173</u>	<u>883,132</u>	<u>77,166</u>	<u>64,587</u>	<u>9,361,058</u>
<b>Total Additions</b>	<u>20,786,576</u>	<u>1,206,790</u>	<u>134,985</u>	<u>128,096</u>	<u>22,256,447</u>
<b>Deductions</b>					
Payments of taxes to other governments	12,450,403	-	-	-	12,450,403
Payments to individuals	-	100,385	7,500	42,725	150,610
Payments of court fees to other agencies	-	213,397	14,991	20,384	248,772
Payments of court fees to other funds	<u>8,336,173</u>	<u>883,132</u>	<u>86,656</u>	<u>62,197</u>	<u>9,368,158</u>
<b>Total Deductions</b>	<u>20,786,576</u>	<u>1,196,914</u>	<u>109,147</u>	<u>125,306</u>	<u>22,217,943</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>-</u>	<u>9,876</u>	<u>25,838</u>	<u>2,790</u>	<u>38,504</u>
<b>Net Position - Beginning of Year</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>87,043</u>	<u>967</u>	<u>15,272</u>	<u>103,282</u>
<b>Net Position - End of Year</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 96,919</u>	<u>\$ 26,805</u>	<u>\$ 18,062</u>	<u>\$ 141,786</u>

Compliance

**CHRYSAN THOMAS**  
Certified Public Accountant  
Professional Corporation  
**Member**  
**American Institute of**  
**Certified Public Accountants**  
Trion, Georgia

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL  
REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED  
ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

To the Honorable Commissioner  
Chattooga County, Georgia

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Chattooga County, Georgia, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024 and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Chattooga County, Georgia's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated May 15, 2026. Our report includes a reference to other auditors who audited the financial statements of the component unit, Chattooga County Health Department, as described in our report on Chattooga County, Georgia's financial statements. This report does not include the results of the other auditors' testing of internal control over financial reporting or compliance and other matter that are reported on separately by those auditors.

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Chattooga County, Georgia's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Chattooga County, Georgia's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Chattooga County, Georgia's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses and significant deficiencies.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as items 24-01, 24-02 and 24-03 to be material weaknesses.

A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as items 24-04 and 24-05.

### **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Chattooga County, Georgia's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as item 24-06.

### **Chattooga County, Georgia's Response to Findings**

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

### **Purpose of this Report**

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

  
CHRYSAN THOMAS  
Certified Public Accountant

Trion, Georgia  
May 15, 2026

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES**  
**YEAR ENDED December 31, 2024**

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**Financial Statement Findings**

FS24-01 **Criteria:** An effective internal control system requires ongoing monitoring and review procedures. This includes established policies for reviewing accounting activity, performing timely reconciliations, and ensuring oversight is conducted by qualified personnel with appropriate knowledge and experience.

**Condition:** The County lacks sufficient personnel to perform adequate monitoring and review of accounting functions. Several general ledger accounts were not reconciled or properly supported by underlying documentation to ensure accuracy. Bank reconciliations were not prepared or completed on a timely basis and were not consistently reconciled to the general ledger. In addition, certain financial transactions were not recorded in the general ledger in a timely manner, and some bank accounts were not reflected in the general ledger at all. Transfers between funds had not been balanced and required additional time to correct.

**Cause:** Adequate staffing and oversight within the accounting function are not in place. Formal policies and procedures for monitoring, reviewing, and reconciling accounting records have not been fully established or consistently enforced, resulting in insufficient managerial oversight.

**Effect:** The absence of effective monitoring, reconciliation, and review procedures increases the risk of material misstatement in the County's financial statements. Without routine daily, monthly, or annual review procedures, errors and omissions in accounting records may go undetected, impacting the accuracy and reliability of financial reporting.

**Recommendation:** We recommend that management implement formal internal control procedures to strengthen oversight of accounting functions. This should include assigning qualified personnel responsible for monitoring and review activities, ensuring all accounts are reconciled at least monthly, and requiring timely posting of transactions to the general ledger. In addition, regular supervisory reviews should be performed to verify that accounting records are accurate, complete, and properly supported.

**Response:** Management agrees with the finding and has taken corrective action. New accounting personnel have been hired, and procedures have been implemented to improve reconciliation, reporting, review, and monitoring processes. Management has communicated that these procedures are required to be followed consistently by all accounting staff. Policies and procedures implemented will safeguard assets while ensuring accurate and reliable financial reporting and compliance with state and federal laws.

FS24-02 **Criteria:** An effective internal control structure requires that policies and procedures governing projects, procurement, and contract administration be properly established, documented, and monitored to ensure compliance with applicable laws, grant requirements, and bid specifications.

**Condition:** During our testing, we identified inadequate supporting documentation, insufficient project oversight, and noncompliance with procurement and contract requirements related to a broadband internet project funded with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Specifically, supporting documentation was not maintained or made available for invoices paid related to engineering, legal, payroll, materials, and marketing costs charged to the

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES**  
**YEAR ENDED December 31, 2024**

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County. Additionally, sales tax totaling \$29,607 was paid to the vendor despite governmental entities being exempt from sales tax.

Engineering drawings were not included in the project files. Further, documentation required under the bid specifications was not maintained, including:

- A bid bond or certified check equal to 5% of the bid amount,
- Performance and payment bonds following contract award, and
- Retainage of 10% during the project payment period.

In addition, no supporting documentation was provided for amounts paid in excess of the original bid amount of \$274,000. Total payments of \$333,265 lacked sufficient evidence demonstrating services performed, project completion status, or deliverables received. No documentation was available to support operational performance of the project, including evidence of subscribers or customers utilizing the broadband services.

**Cause:** The prior administration did not adequately follow established procurement and project monitoring procedures designed to safeguard County assets and reduce the risk of improper or potentially fraudulent expenditures.

The matter was communicated to the current administration, which subsequently consulted with the County Attorney. A civil action was filed against the vendor and resulted in a judgment in favor of the County for the amount paid; however, no funds have been recovered as of the date of this report.

**Effect:** As a result of the deficiencies noted, financial statement expenditures may be overstated, unsupported, or unallowable under federal grant requirements. Additionally, the County may be subject to repayment of ARPA funds to the federal government if expenditures are determined to be noncompliant.

**Recommendation:** We recommend the County strengthen oversight and monitoring procedures for all projects and grant-funded activities. Supporting documentation should be maintained for all expenditures, procurement requirements should be strictly followed, and project compliance reviews should be performed throughout the duration of the project to ensure accountability and protection of County resources.

**Response:** Management agrees with the finding. The County has implemented additional oversight procedures and will strengthen monitoring and documentation requirements for all future projects and grant-funded activities.

FS24-03

**Criteria:** Effective internal controls require procurement policies and procedures to be consistently followed to ensure expenditures are properly documented, competitively procured, accurately recorded, and made in the best financial interest of the County. Procurement and project records should contain sufficient supporting documentation to demonstrate compliance with bid requirements, contract approval procedures, grant guidelines, vendor qualification requirements, and ethical standards. In addition, grant-funded projects should be adequately monitored to ensure accountability, transparency, and proper stewardship of public funds.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES**  
**YEAR ENDED December 31, 2024**

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**Condition:** During our review of expenditures and projects funded through Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG), Local Road Assistance (LRA), American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds, we identified multiple deficiencies related to procurement practices, project oversight, vendor documentation, and record retention.

For LMIG and LRA paving projects, the County did not maintain sufficient accounting records to adequately support expenditures paid under the projects. In addition, there was insufficient monitoring, review, and oversight of project activity and related payments. Testing identified payments exceeding approved bid amounts by approximately \$105,312 on LMIG projects and \$76,718 on LRA projects. Supporting documentation explaining, approving, or authorizing the overages was not maintained within project files. During the audit process, newly hired County employees were required to contact vendors directly to obtain supporting documentation for paving materials and related expenditures because complete records were not maintained within County files.

During our review of ARPA- and SPLOST-funded expenditures, we noted the County prepaid for painting services to a vendor for which no proof of insurance was maintained within County records. Documentation supporting vendor qualifications and compliance with procurement requirements could not be located for audit review.

During our review of sealed bids for the purchase of a 2020 Polaris Ranger using ARPA funds, we noted the County received bids totaling \$15,000 and \$4,390. The County selected the higher-priced bid for purchase. The awarded vendor was identified as a related party. Documentation supporting the rationale for selecting the higher bid over the substantially lower bid was not maintained within the procurement files. The only documentation provided was an unsigned typed statement indicating the commissioner approved the award based on the "pristine condition" of the Polaris Ranger.

Additionally, during our review of project expenditures, we noted the commissioner submitted three separate invoices to the accounts payable clerk for payment. Individually, each invoice was below the County's sealed bid threshold of \$10,000. Initially, the invoices were processed and paid with a single check; however, the commissioner subsequently instructed the accounts payable clerk to void the original check and issue separate checks for each invoice. No sealed bids, contracts, or other procurement documentation supporting the project could be located for audit review. The current administration also expressed concerns regarding whether work associated with the payment had been performed.

**Cause:** The prior administration did not adequately follow established procurement, documentation, vendor verification, and project monitoring procedures designed to ensure compliance with purchasing requirements, transparency, accountability, and protection of County assets.

**Effect:** As a result, the County may have incurred unsupported, unnecessary, or improper expenditures and increased its exposure to noncompliance with state and federal procurement requirements. Inadequate oversight and insufficient documentation also increase the risk of inaccurate financial reporting, misuse of public funds, circumvention of bid requirements, preferential treatment, conflicts of interest, unsupported payments, and potential fraudulent activity.

**Recommendation:** We recommend the County strengthen procurement oversight and project monitoring procedures for all purchasing activities and grant-funded projects. Supporting documentation, including contracts, bid records, vendor evaluations, proof of

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES**  
**YEAR ENDED December 31, 2024**

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insurance, business licenses, delivery documentation, approvals, and evidence of services performed, should be maintained in centralized procurement files and reviewed periodically for compliance with County purchasing policies, grant requirements, and sound accounting practices.

Management should also implement procedures to:

- Ensure competitive procurement requirements are consistently followed,
- Prevent the circumvention of sealed bid thresholds,
- Require independent review and approval of vendor selection decisions,
- Verify vendor qualifications and insurance coverage prior to payment,
- Monitor project expenditures against approved contracts and bid amounts, and
- Require disclosure and review of potential conflicts of interest related to procurement activities.

**Response:** Management agrees with the finding. Additional oversight procedures have been implemented to strengthen procurement practices, improve documentation retention, enhance project monitoring, and ensure compliance with County purchasing policies, grant requirements, and ethical standards. We are implementing an approved qualified vendor list for local services and supplies. We will require adequate insurance coverage for bidding contractors to meet state standards.

24-04

**Criteria:** Segregation of employee's duties is a common practice in an effective internal control structure. Policies should be in place requiring the segregation of certain duties, timely reconciliations, reviews, and monitoring. Regarding segregation of duties, critical duties can be categorized in four types of functions: 1) authorization; 2) custody; 3) record keeping; and 4) reconciliation. In a perfect system, no one person should handle more than one type of function.

When duties cannot be separated, compensating controls should be in place. Compensating controls is an internal control that is intended to reduce the risk of an existing or potential control weakness.

**Condition:** The County does not maintain adequate segregation of duties within its accounting and financial operations. As a result, multiple incompatible functions are performed by the same individuals in certain areas of the financial reporting and transaction processing cycle.

**Cause:** The limited number of County employees assigned to accounting and financial functions has resulted in overlapping responsibilities. Staffing constraints have prevented full separation of duties among authorization, custody, recording, and reconciliation functions.

**Effect:** The lack of adequate segregation of duties increases the risk of errors, fraud, or misappropriation of funds going undetected. In addition, the absence of sufficient independent review and monitoring increases the likelihood that misstatements in financial records may not be identified or corrected in a timely manner.

**Recommendation:** We recommend procedures be implemented which would provide for improved internal controls in the above areas. Compensating controls should be developed to provide oversight over the accounting records.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES**  
**YEAR ENDED December 31, 2024**

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**Response:** Management agrees with the finding. Procedures have been implemented to improve internal controls within the accounting system, including efforts to better separate employee duties where possible. Due to the size of the government and limited staffing, full segregation of duties is not feasible; therefore, compensating controls and additional review processes have been implemented to provide oversight over accounting activities.

FS24-05 **Criteria:** Management and personnel responsible for accounting and financial reporting should possess adequate training, experience, and technical knowledge to properly maintain financial records and provide timely and accurate financial information. Ongoing training is an important component of an effective internal control environment.

**Condition:** A new Deputy Clerk was hired in May 2023 and received limited training during 2023. No formal or structured training was provided during 2024. During the audit process, there were recurring delays in obtaining accurate and complete financial information due to limited understanding of County accounting processes and operations.

**Cause:** There was a lack of training provided for the new deputy clerk.

**Effect:** Insufficient training increases the risk of inaccurate financial reporting, incomplete accounting records, and delays in providing timely audit documentation. This condition also contributed to inefficiencies in responding to audit requests and may impact the reliability of financial data used for decision-making.

**Recommendation:** The County should provide comprehensive training on the County's policies, operations and accounting functions as well as evaluating the cost effectiveness of further staff training to improve operations. We recommend additional training be provided for current employees and training for any new employees.

**Response:** Management agrees with the finding. A new Clerk and Deputy Clerk with greater accounting knowledge of accounting processes have been hired. We have also provided adequate extra training from Harris Systems and ACCG to strengthen knowledge and add expertise to job functions.

FS24-06 **Criteria:** The State of Georgia statute 36-81-3 requires local governments adopt and operate under a balanced budget. Effective financial management also require budgets to be monitored throughout the year and amended as necessary to reflect changes in operations, expenditures, and funding needs.

**Condition:** During our review of the County's budgetary compliance we noted several departments incurred expenditures in excess of their approved budget appropriations, and no amended budgets had been adopted to address changes in departmental operations and expenditure needs.

**Cause:** No amended budgets were adopted during the year to adapt to changing governmental needs and to maintain compliance with approved appropriations and changing governmental needs.

**Effect:** As a result, the County went through the year operating without budgets being used as a financial management and control tool. This resulted in several departments exceeding their appropriations.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES**  
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**Recommendation:** We recommend the County strengthen budget monitoring procedures and review departmental expenditures periodically throughout the year to ensure compliance with approved appropriations. Budget amendments should be prepared and formally adopted as necessary to address operational changes and maintain compliance with state law.

**Response:** Management agrees with the finding. Required budgets have been prepared for the current year, and additional procedures have been implemented to monitor expenditures and adopt budget amendments as necessary. There are monthly internal budget meetings along with quarterly department updates.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SCHEDULE OF PROJECTS CONSTRUCTED WITH**  
**SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX PROCEEDS**  
**December 31, 2024**

<b>Contracts 2020 - 2025</b>	<b>Original Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Prior Years</b>	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Current Non-SPLOST Expenditures on SPLOST Projects</b>
<b>Roads and Bridges Projects</b>					
County	\$ 4,708,800	\$ 6,408,652	\$ 2,485,971	\$ 8,894,623	\$ 2,401,195
<b>Buildings</b>					
County	1,569,600	214,391	18,250	232,641	-
<b>Water System Improvements</b>					
County	1,569,600	304,982	-	304,982	-
Summerville	3,960,000	3,528,346	946,930	4,475,276	-
Trion	1,512,000	1,347,187	361,554	1,708,741	-
Lyerly	540,000	481,288	129,126	610,414	-
Menlo	540,000	477,994	129,126	607,120	-
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$ 14,400,000</u>	<u>\$12,762,840</u>	<u>\$ 4,070,957</u>	<u>\$ 16,833,797</u>	<u>\$ 2,401,195</u>

Note: Chattooga County, Georgia imposed a special purpose 1% local option sales and use tax with the proceeds limited to funding expenditures for specified water system improvements, building improvements, and roads and bridges projects. This is effective for a six year period from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2025.