Habersham County Year In Review

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

HABERSHAM COUNTY
GEORGIA | Est. 1818

To the Citizens of Habersham County,

We are pleased to provide you with the Year In Review Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

The purpose of this report is to provide you with useful information, updates on governmental projects and departments, and a brief financial overview. Detailed financial information can be found in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report available on the Habersham County website (Document Center - Habersham County). To stay up-to-date on current happenings, sign up for the county newsletter by visiting the Habersham County website (Subscribe to Our Mailing List! - Habersham County).

We hope you find this information useful.

Thank you,

The Habersham County Board of Commissioners

BY THE NUMBERS

Quick Facts & Statistics

$6.6 Million
FY25 Grant Funds

408 Full-Time
118 Part-Time
Employees

34,339
Registered Voters

1,365
Participants in Youth Athletics

4,365
Fire Calls Answered

140,279
Gallons of Fuel Sold at Airport

59,000
Meals Provided by Senior Center

8,998
EMS Calls Answered

2,580
Road Dept Work Orders Completed

546,397
E911 Calls Received

17.59
Miles of Road Resurfaced

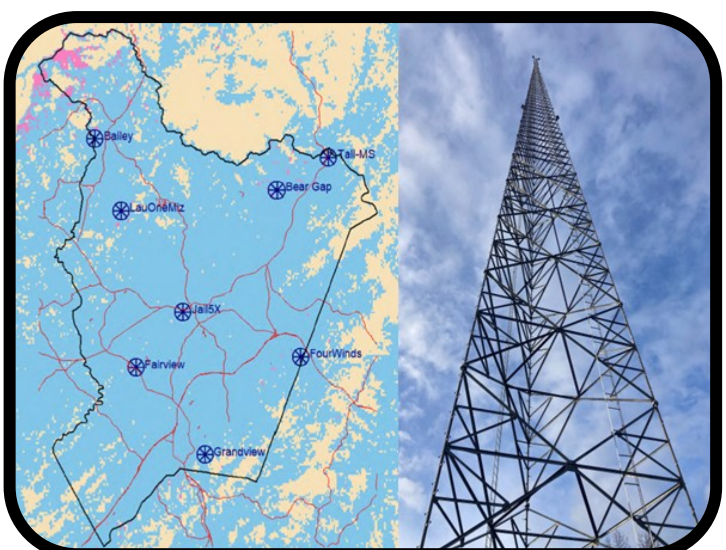
30,387
Tons Dumped at Landfill

PROJECT UPDATES

SPLOST Projects

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new Habersham County Animal Care and Control Facility was held on April 17, 2025. Construction has begun, with an estimated completion in Fall 2026. The new facility will be able to accommodate approximately twice as many animals as the current shelter, which was built in the late 90s.

Habersham County recently purchased three new fire trucks (two Pumper Trucks and a Ladder Truck). The lease-purchases will be paid using SPLOST collections over the next five to ten years. This purchase replaced trucks that were an average of twenty-five years old.



The new Emergency Radio System is approximately 90% complete, with an expected completion in early 2026. This system will replace the current outdated system, increasing coverage area by approximately 15% and improving communication between first responders.

PROJECT UPDATES

Other Projects

With all lots sold in Phase 1 of the Airport Business Park and only two lots remaining in Phase 2, the Habersham County Development Authority now begins the process of planning for the county's next Industrial Park. This endeavor will take careful planning to ensure a balance of location, accessibility, and 'smart growth'. The announcement of the closure of Lee Arrendale State Prison may be a perfectly timed opportunity.

The Fairgrounds, Recreation, and Aquatic Center underwent several renovations this year including: replacement of the fairgrounds sign, replacement of the scoreboards on the baseball fields and in the basketball gyms, replacement of the bleachers in the basketball gyms, resurfacing of the pool deck, re-roofing over the natatorium, remodeling of the outdoor restrooms, and creation of a family bathroom in the aquatic center.

The Recycling program underwent a major overhaul this year to extend hours, upgrade facilities, and accept new materials. With two sites in addition to the Landfill location, the Recycling program accepts papers, plastics, metals, electronics, and clothing at no charge. These materials are then sold to pay for the program. Keeping recyclable materials out of the Landfill saves space and extends the life of the Landfill.

DEPT UPDATES

Changes in Leadership

Habersham County Sheriff Robin Krockum took office on January 1, 2025. Krockum has a thirty year career in law enforcement and most recently served as Chief of Police in the City of Demorest. He succeeds Sheriff Joey Terrell, who did not seek re-election after serving as Sheriff for sixteen years. Krockum's main goals for the coming years include working to find solutions for substance abuse related offenses, prioritizing school safety, and addressing the need for a new jail.

Tim Sims was appointed County Manager at the April 2025 Board of Commissioners meeting. Sims joined the County as Chief Financial Officer in January 2021 and had been serving as Interim County Manager since December 2024. His goals for the coming years include a renewed focus on customer service within County departments, strengthening relationships with Habersham's municipalities and other community partners, and finding ways to balance economic development while preserving what makes Habersham County special.

DEPT UPDATES

Hurricane Helene made landfall in Florida on September 26, 2024 as a Category 4 Hurricane. Although it quickly lost strength as it moved inland, it still slammed Habersham County with significant impact in the early morning hours of September 27th. High winds and heavy rains left a path of destruction for county employees to handle. Crews dealt with hundreds of fallen trees, significant flooding impacting roadways, and power outages across the county.

Habersham County Animal Care and Control used a portion of the donation from a private estate to purchase a mobile veterinary clinic equipped with a surgical facility for spaying and neutering. Every animal must be sterilized before adoption from the shelter. This currently involves transporting to the Athens or Atlanta areas and paying a private practice veterinarian to perform these surgeries. This purchase will allow those surgeries to be performed onsite.

SPLOST UPDATE

Collections on SPLOST VII began in April 2021 and will run through March 2027. The original projection for collections over six years was $47,110,939. Collections through June 2025 total $41,470,214. If collections continue at this rate for the remaining 21 months, collections could total more than $58.5 million.

	Original Budget	**Expenditures 6/30/25**	**Remaining**
Countywide Tier II Project			
Hospital Debt	5,000,000	5,000,016	(16)
Sheriff Projects			
Vehicles & Equipment	775,000	1,067,082	(292,082)
Fire/EMS Projects			
Fire Vehicles & Equip	1,100,000	1,548,015	(448,015)
Emergency Services Headquarters	4,000,000	919,796	3,080,204
EMS Vehicles & Equip	1,200,000	1,286,529	(86,529)
	6,300,000	3,754,340	2,545,660
E911 Projects			
Radio System	7,200,000	6,741,092	458,908
Animal Control Projects			
Animal Shelter Building	1,750,000	366,559	1,383,441
Road Improvement Projects			
Road Construction & Maintenance	6,560,000	4,760,643	1,799,357
Bridge Replacement & Maintenance	3,200,000	19,897	3,180,103
Equipment	1,500,000	1,297,645	202,355
	11,260,000	6,078,185	5,181,815
Solid Waste / Landfill Projects			
Equipment	1,215,000	807,936	407,064
Municipal Allocations			
Disbursements to Municipalities	13,610,939	11,779,874	1,831,065
TOTAL	47,110,939	35,595,084	11,515,855

SPLOST VIII was approved by voters in November 2025.

Collections will begin in April 2027.

FINANCIALS

All Funds

	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Actual
General Funds			
General Fund	39,171,485	41,467,141	41,149,152
Special Revenue Funds			
Jail Fund	165,000	165,000	70,000
Inmate Welfare	45,000	45,000	43,465
Juvenile Offenders	6,500	7,050	7,050
Law Library	24,698	39,398	53,546
Opioid Settlement	-	75,370	75,370
EMS	5,122,045	5,122,045	4,558,766
E911	2,477,760	2,737,760	2,140,470
SARP Grant	50,000	50,000	254,316
ARPA	2,000,000	405,794	543,046
Senior Center	852,562	852,562	694,634
Hotel/Motel Tax	288,000	288,000	258,395
Fitness Center	74,640	74,640	44,332
Accountability Courts	1,204,398	1,574,398	1,466,127
Capital Funds			
SPLOST VII	19,316,127	19,316,127	15,253,580
CIP	1,697,951	1,697,951	1,708,611
Debt Service Funds			
Hospital	3,274,466	3,403,996	3,172,238
Enterprise Funds			
Landfill	2,789,712	2,789,712	3,688,916
Transit	176,897	176,897	199,330
Airport	5,727,955	5,727,955	3,402,468
Total	84,465,196	86,016,796	79,231,468

*Component Unit (Development Authority) not included

General Funds: The main operating fund of the County. Captures all activity not required to be accounted for in other Funds.

Special Revenue Funds: Funds used to account for activity related to specific revenue sources (grants, taxes, etc) that are legally restricted to a specific purpose.

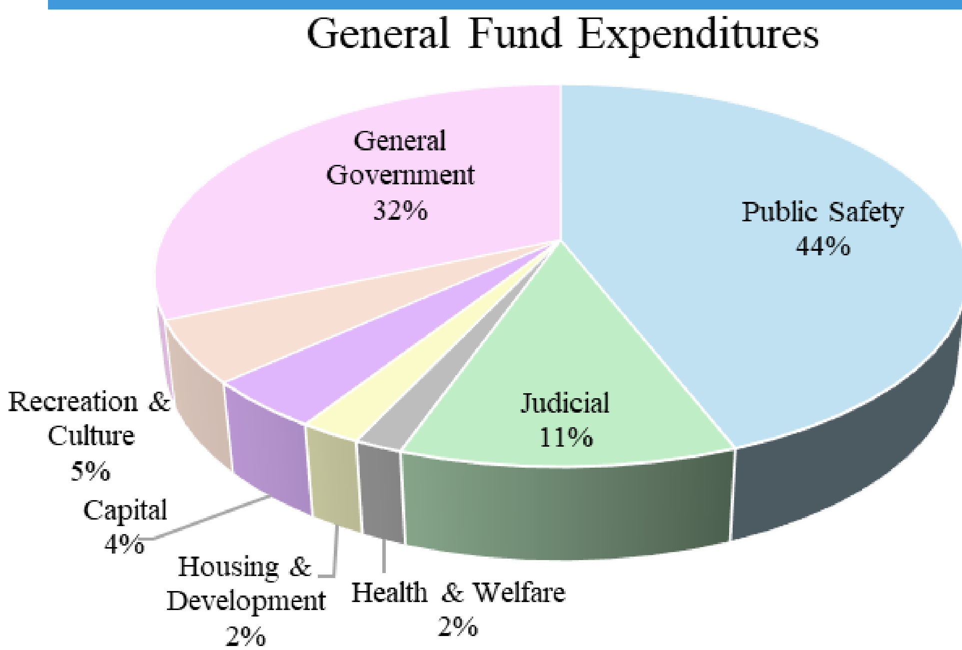
Capital Funds: Funds used to account for financial resources set aside for the acquisition or construction of major capital assets.

Hospital Debt Fund: Used to account for the accumulation of resources and payment of long-term debt related to the Hospital Bonds.

Enterprise Funds: Funds established to account for any activity for which a fee is charged to external users for goods and services.

FINANCIALS

General Fund



	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Actual
Revenues			
Property Taxes	22,165,414	22,451,556	22,451,556
Insurance Premium Tax	2,885,000	2,842,769	2,842,769
Other Taxes	4,582,900	5,014,875	4,878,256
Intergovernmental / Grants	2,874,965	2,537,159	2,572,343
Fines, Fees, & Forfeitures	1,617,265	1,428,350	1,402,165
Charges for Services	1,414,650	3,093,506	3,127,063
Miscellaneous	1,365,110	1,726,400	1,696,033
Fund Balance	1,286,181	892,526	1,203,972
Fund Transfers	980,000	1,480,000	974,996
	39,171,485	41,467,141	41,149,152
Expenditures			
General Government	13,090,900	13,096,548	13,001,439
Judicial	4,823,816	4,625,107	4,622,417
Public Safety	15,935,388	18,181,325	18,156,632
Recreation & Culture	2,067,211	2,850,839	2,149,147
Housing & Development	979,084	846,801	850,187
Health & Welfare	577,135	168,570	671,381
Transfer to CIP	1,697,951	1,697,951	1,697,950
	39,171,485	41,467,141	41,149,152

FINANCIALS

Special Revenue Funds

EMS	
Ambulance Charges	2,553,383
Property Taxes	2,379,514
Other	34,895
Total Revenue	4,967,792
Expenditures	4,558,766
Net (Added to Fund Balance)	409,026

E911	
Phone Fees	864,343
Other	54,021
Total Revenue	918,364
Expenditures	2,140,470
Net (Transfer from General Fund)	(1,222,106)

Fund	Funding Type
Jail Fund	Fines, Fees, & Forfeitures
Inmate Welfare	Fines, Fees, & Forfeitures
Juvenile Offenders	Fines, Fees, & Forfeitures
Law Library	Fines, Fees, & Forfeitures
Opioid Settlement	Other
EMS	Charges for Services, Property Taxes
E911	Charges for Services, Intergovernmental, Property Taxes
SARP Grant	Grant
ARPA	Grant
Senior Center	Grant, Charges for Services, Property Taxes
Hotel/Motel	Other Taxes (non-property)
Fitness Center	Charges for Services
Accountability Courts	Grant; Fines, Fees, & Forfeitures

FINANCIALS

Enterprise Funds

Only the Transit Fund is supplemented by property taxes. The Landfill and Airport funds are self-sustaining.

Landfill	
Operating Revenue (Charges for Services)	1,586,636
Operating Expenses	1,849,415
Net (Use of Fund Balance)	(262,779)

Transit	
Charges for Services	19,359
Grants	72,116
Transfer from General Funds	114,811
Total Operating Revenue	206,286
Operating Expenses	199,330
Net	6,956

Airport	
Operating Revenue (Charges for Services)	918,978
Operating Expenses	1,048,406
Net (Use of Fund Balance)	(129,428)