



Your Tax Dollars at Work

A Financial Report to the Citizens of Putnam
County, Georgia for Fiscal Year 2021

October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021

ABOUT THIS REPORT

On behalf of Putnam County Board of Commissioners, we are pleased to present our seventh Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the year ended September 30, 2021. Like the U.S. Government and State of Georgia, Putnam County runs its budget on a “fiscal year,” from October 1 to September 30. The purpose of this report is to provide readers with an overview of the County, its different departments, and financial information. However, it does not provide information regarding Funds or Component Units.

As part of the county’s commitment to be transparent to its citizens, the report will also provide an overview of the county’s organizational structure, services offered to its citizens, and financial state. The information in this report is extracted from the County’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, which gives further detailed information.

Click the links provided to view Putnam County’s [2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report](#) and [2020 Popular Annual Financial Report](#).

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Financial Information

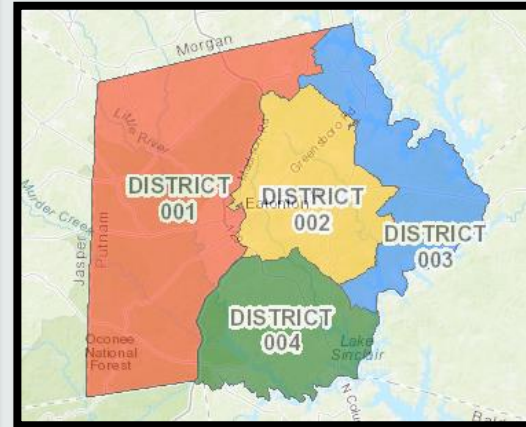
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Our County, Commissioners, and Districts



(Left to Right): Billy Webster, Chairman; Jeffrey Wooten, District 4 Commissioner; Daniel Brown, District 2 Commissioner; Bill Sharp, District 3 Commissioner; Gary McElhenney, District 1 Commissioner

The Board of Commissioners is a policy making body that oversees the executive functions of the county and assigns the day-to-day duties of the executive role to the county manager.



Bordered by Morgan, Greene, Hancock, Baldwin, Jones, and Jasper Counties, Putnam County is located in Central Georgia.



Our Mission and Purpose

“The mission of Putnam County government is to provide courteous, responsive, innovative and cost-effective services.”

Putnam County government exists to:

- P** – Properly administer the affairs of Putnam County
- U** – Understand we must maintain a high level of professionalism
- T** – Transparency will be paramount without exception
- N** – Nonpartisanship with the understanding that all voices must be heard
- A** – Actively promote public confidence in county government
- M** – Maintain a positive image





Paul Van Haute
County Manager

To the Greatest Citizens of the Greatest County in Georgia:

On behalf of the Putnam County Staff, I am pleased to present our Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2021. This report is designed to increase awareness throughout our county relative to the financial operations of Putnam County and provide you with information on how your tax dollars are managed.

The financial information within this report is derived, in large part, from Putnam County's independently audited set of financial statements that are prepared in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The information is part of the County's 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. We are proud to say that our efforts regarding the County's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report have earned Putnam County's Finance Department the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association for the past eight years. Putnam County received its first ever rating from the Moody's Investment Service and is rated Aa3.

I am very proud of all that has been accomplished in the past year. The Board of Commissioners and staff strive to provide the highest and best possible services at the least possible cost. There is a lot of positive news in Putnam County and the following are some of the highlights.

The Putnam Development Authority (PDA) is actively promoting the South Industrial Park's newly designated property as the county's first "Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development" (GRAD) site to prospective businesses. The PDA is working with several businesses expanding their existing operations. The PDA is actively involved with the movie industry, and we are looking forward to more projects coming into the county.

The voters recently approved the second Local Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST#2). These funds will provide additional road paving and improvements. The Board of Commissioners recently approved the TSPLOST#2 project list. The planning phase for the striping and/or repaving of approximately 100 miles of roads has started. The county will begin TSPLOST#2 in 2022, which is scheduled to be completed in 2027. The Georgia Department of Transportation will be widening Highway 441 from the Morgan County line to the Eatonton city limits.

There is much more happening in Putnam County, and we are looking forward to sharing those successes with you in the months and years to come. Your commissioners, staff, and I thank you for your continued trust and faith in us. We are proud to report to you that, as the economy continues to improve, so will Putnam County.

Sincerely,
Paul Van Haute,
County Manager

Putnam County has a rich history with several well-known connections. Our county is named after General Israel Putnam, a hero of the Revolutionary War. William H. Seward, a Secretary of State under President Abraham Lincoln, served as rector for Eatonton's first school known as Eatonton Academy.

Some of our other well-known connections are also pictured here. Maybe you've heard of them?



Vincent Hancock, three-time Olympic gold medalist, grew up in Putnam County.



Pulitzer Prize Winning Author and Women's Rights Activist, Alice Walker, was born in Putnam County.



Joel Chandler Harris, fiction writer and folklorist, was born in Putnam County.



Truett Cathy, founder and chairman emeritus of Chick-fil-A, was born in Putnam County.

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting

Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Putnam County Government for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2020. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. Putnam County Government has received a Popular Award for the last seven consecutive years (fiscal years ended 2015 – 2020). We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another Award.



Government Finance Officers Association

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting

Presented to

Putnam County Board of Commissioners

Georgia

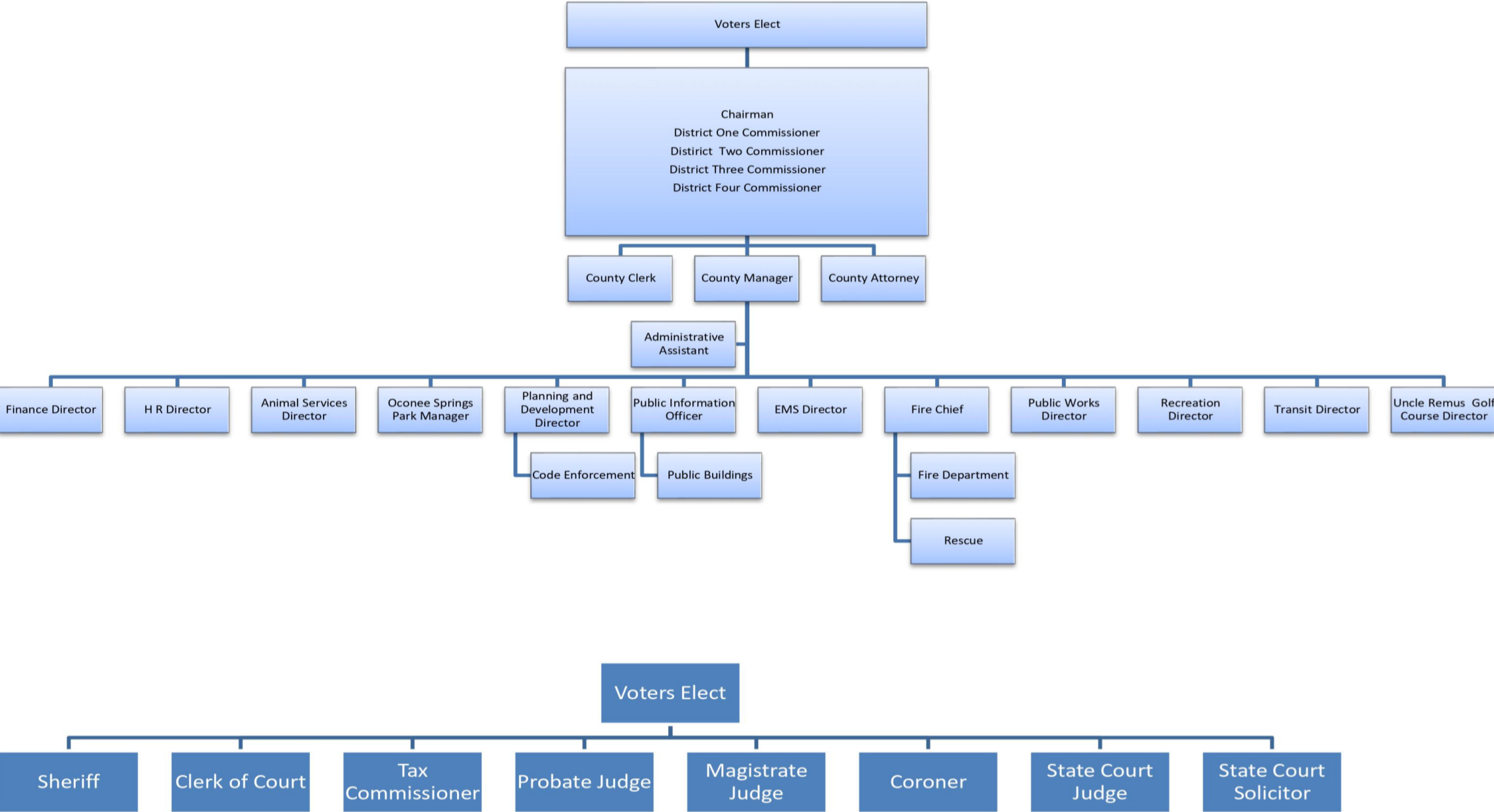
For its Annual Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended

September 30, 2020

Christopher P. Morrell

Executive Director/CEO

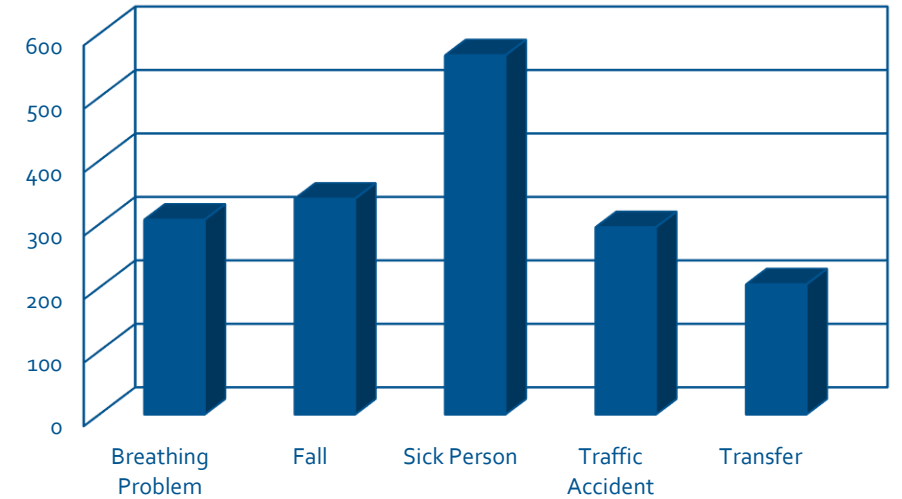
PUTNAM COUNTY GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Putnam County EMS



FY 2021 Types of Calls



In FY '21, Putnam County EMS continued to provide the highest quality emergency care to Putnam County's citizens. The team responded to a total of 2,920 calls in FY '21. The majority of these, represented by the graph above were as follows: 566 calls to assist sick persons (fever, body aches, general malaise), 340 falls, 307 calls for breathing issues, and 295 calls to provide care for traffic accident injuries. Putnam EMS responded to 205 calls for patient transfers to medical facilities.

Putnam County Fire Rescue – Always Ready, Proud to Serve



All of Putnam County’s fire staff receive regular training to maintain safe and effective skills to serve our community. Putnam Fire contracted with Vector Solutions to provide online fire and EMS training for career staff, as well as training record keeping for easy access and accountability. Each career staff member is assigned training monthly on this platform that requires a mixture of online and hands-on training with a goal of meeting ISO requirements of a minimum of 240 hours of fire training annually, as well as meeting recertification requirements for EMS certifications and other specialized certifications.

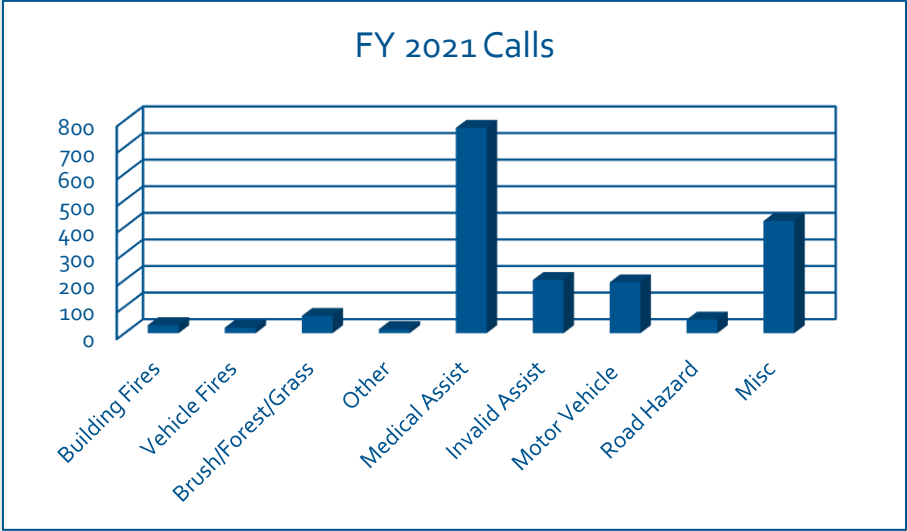
In FY '21, the following training events were held:

- Apparatus Operator Pumper
- Vehicle Extraction Technician Level I
- Volunteer fire training



6 budgeted positions were added to Putnam County Fire Department, ensuring full-time staff at the Rock Eagle and Union Chapel stations.

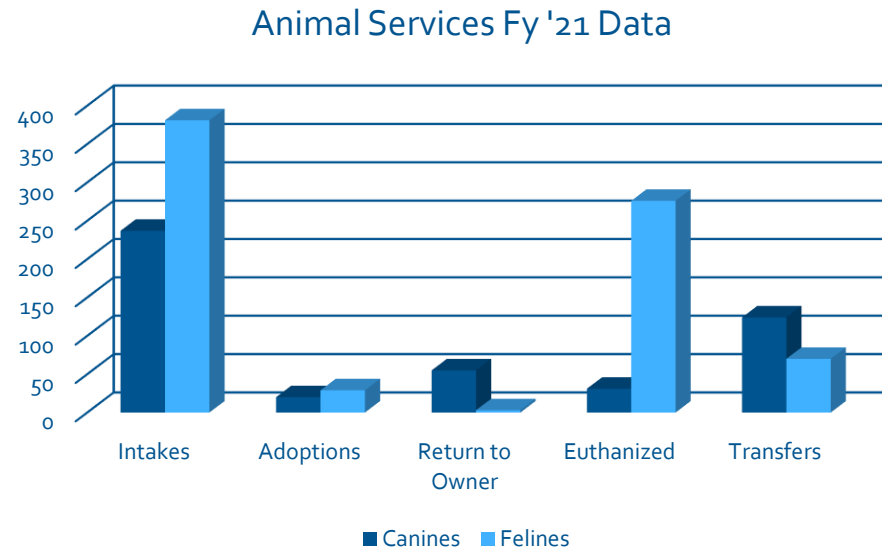
Pictured (right) is one of the two Pierce Saber Triple Combination Rescue Pumpers delivered to Putnam Fire during FY '21. These fire trucks were purchased with SPLOST funds.



In FY '21, Putnam County Fire Department responded to 1767 calls, with the majority of those being medical assist calls at 772, followed by miscellaneous assistance calls at 422.



Animal Services



Putnam County Animal Services took in a total of 618 dogs and cats in FY '21. Of those animals taken in, 20 dogs and 29 cats were adopted. 55 dogs and 3 cats were returned to their owners. A total of 307 animals were euthanized and 194 were transferred to shelters and other organizations throughout the state.

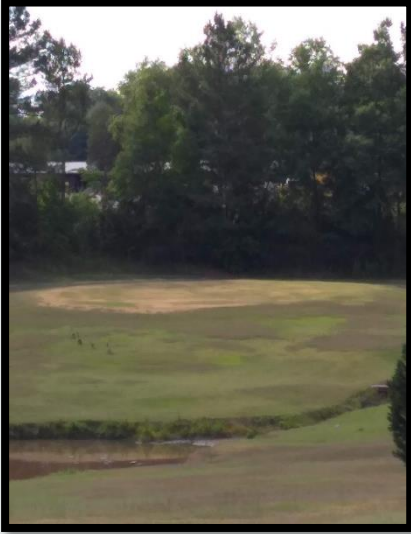


Oconee Springs Park

In FY '21, Oconee Springs Park continued to be a place for young and old alike to enjoy some fun and relaxation at the lake. A new reservation system, implemented in January of 2021, made it easier than ever for guests to reserve a spot for their RV, or book a reservation in one of the four fully-furnished cabins, with gorgeous front-porch views of Lake Sinclair. Guests arriving by boat or by car can spend the night, the weekend, or just spend the day having fun. Young and old alike enjoy the many activities Oconee Springs Park has to offer such as, playing on the Aquaglide inflatables, a leisurely cruise on a pedal boat, or just relaxing on the beach and enjoying the sun and sand.



Uncle Remus Golf Course



Hole 5 Before



Hole 5 After



Citizens enjoying a game of golf

After a brief closure in FY '21, Uncle Remus Golf Course re-opened with a new Superintendent, Michael Benton. With fresh paint at the clubhouse and some hard work on the greens, Michael and his staff have come a long way in their efforts to make the course a clean, well-maintained, fun, and welcoming place for Putnam County's citizens to play golf.



Clubhouse Before



Clubhouse After

Since reopening in August of 2021, more than 500 patrons have played over 2000 rounds of golf on the golf course and the driving range. Golf course staff continue to work hard to improve the playability of the course and the experience of all the customers served. Uncle Remus Golf Course is uniquely positioned to offer a great value to players of all skill levels and ages.

Putnam County Recreation



FY '21 saw an increase in participation in sports at the Recreation Department. Citizens of all ages came to play their sport of choice. Football, basketball, baseball, swimming, cheerleading, and pickleball are just some of the sports and activities Putnam County's citizens were able to enjoy.

In FY '21, the restrooms at the Poole Recreation center were renovated with new hardware and floors. The new design was chosen for durability and ease of cleaning. The restroom renovation was funded by SPLOST.



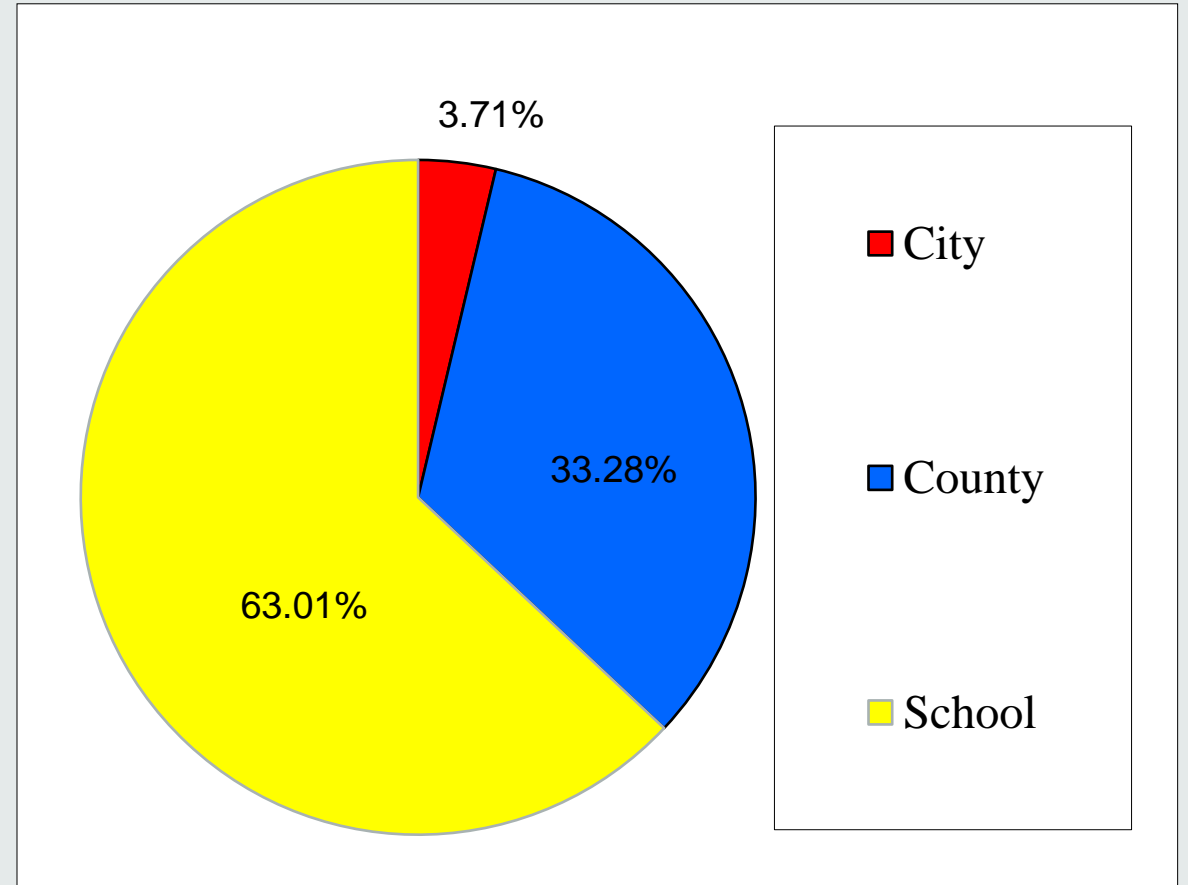
What is Putnam County doing with my money?

Putnam county government strives to be responsible and completely transparent with the taxes our citizens pay. The pie chart offers an overview of how the county uses your tax dollars.

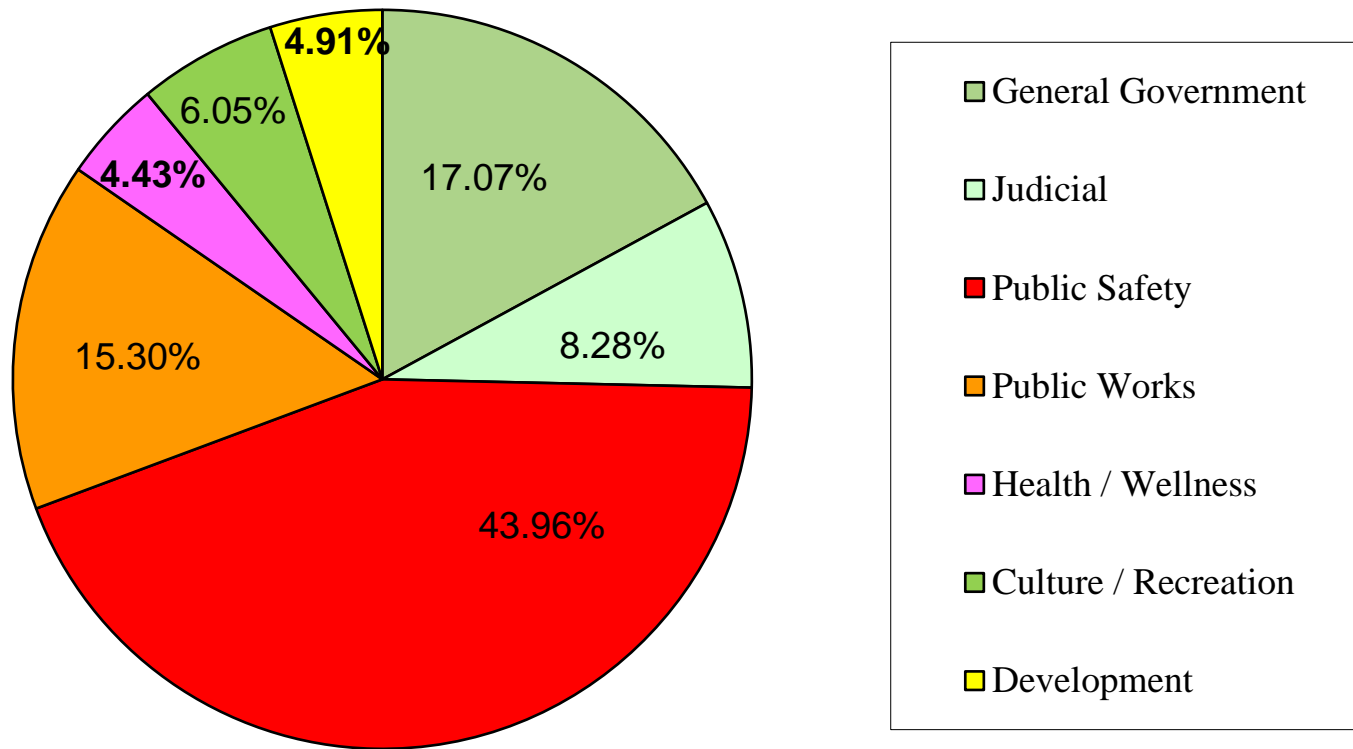
In FY 2021, about 63% of every dollar collected was used to support Putnam County schools.

Around 33% of your tax dollar supported Putnam County and its operations. (See next page for more information.)

Finally, just under 4% went to the city of Eatonton.



Making the most of your tax dollar...



This pie chart breaks down how the county used the 33.28% (referenced on page 16) of one of your tax dollars in FY 2021.

Almost 44% of it was used for Public Safety (Sheriff, Fire, EMS).

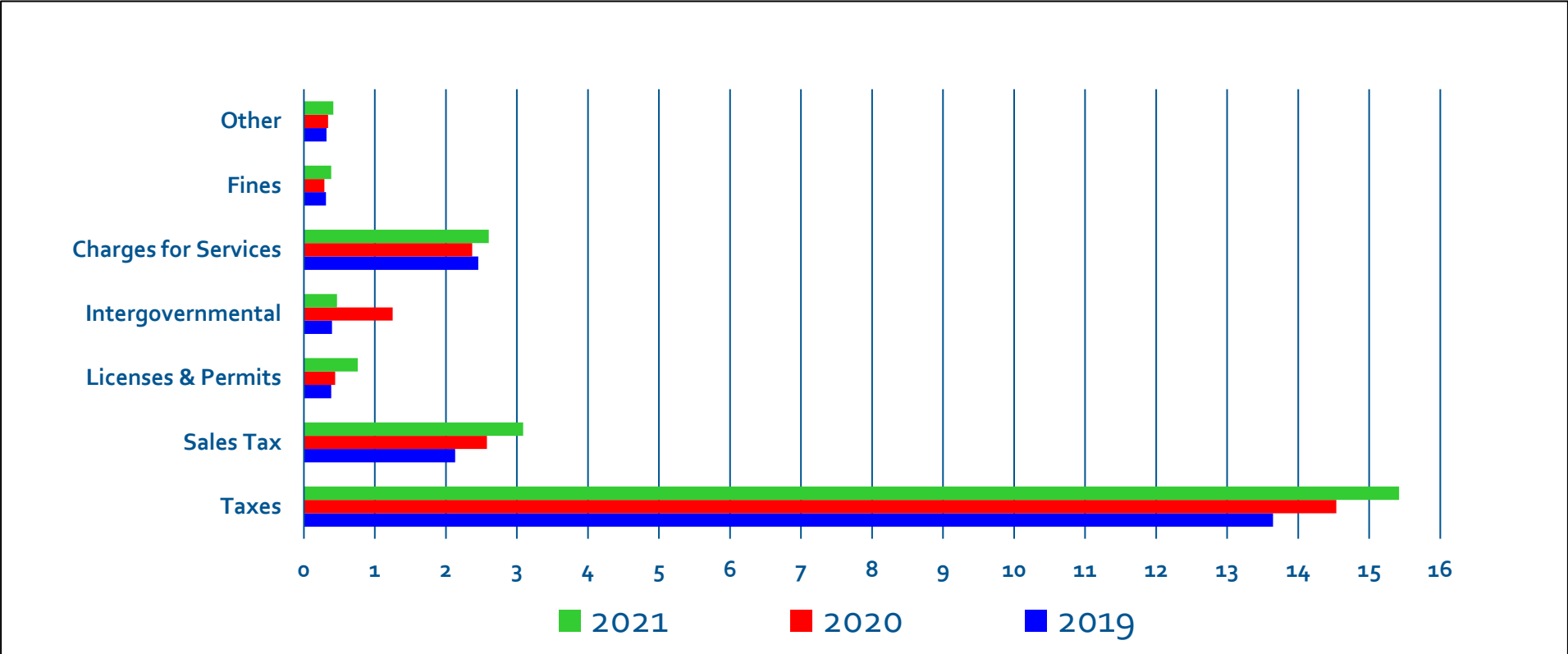
About 17% paid various government expenses.

The third largest portion, a little over 15%, of your dollar funded the County's Public Works for maintenance of roads and rights-of-way throughout Putnam County.

Almost 6% of your tax dollar supported Recreation and Culture.

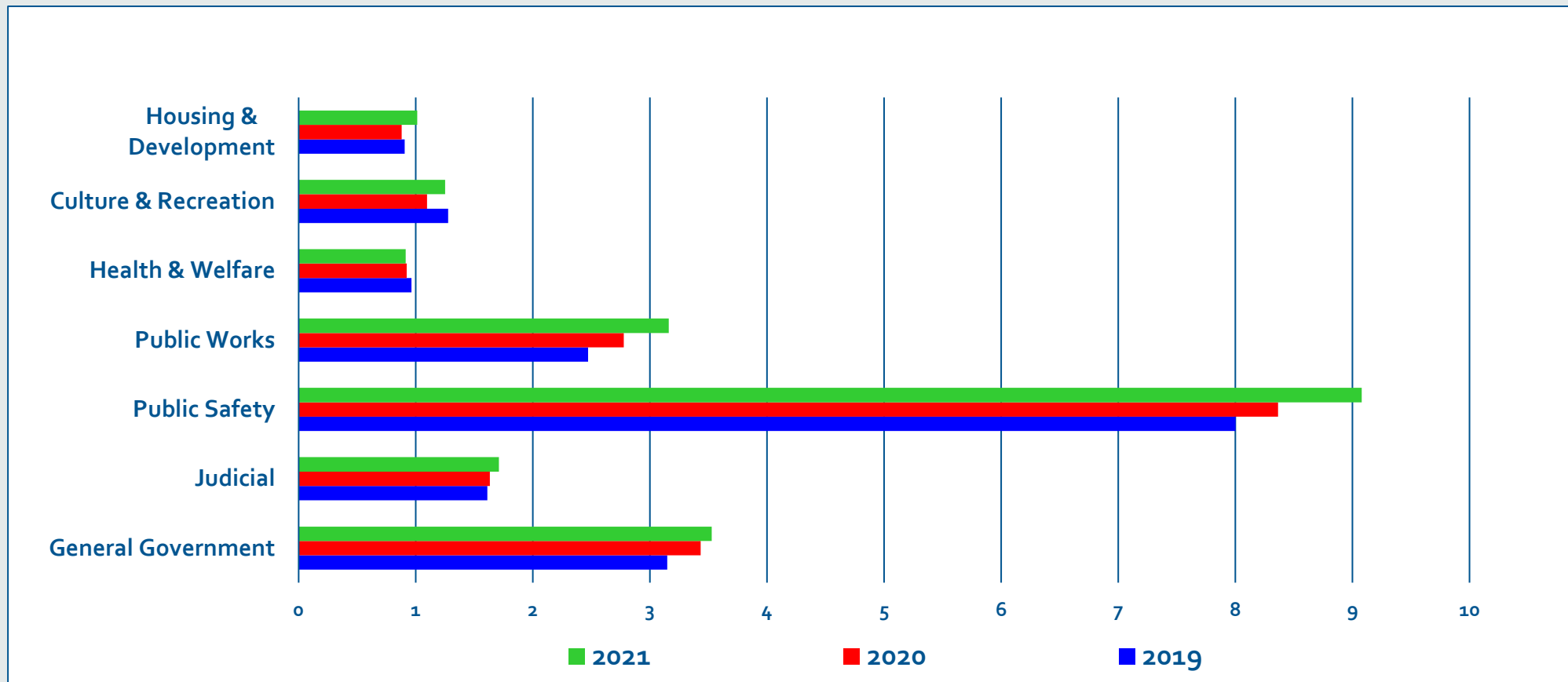
Revenue By Source 2019-2021

While tax dollars do comprise most of the revenue for Putnam County, as evidenced by the graph below, Putnam County has other sources of revenue. The graph provides a picture of Putnam County’s revenue sources for three fiscal years: 2019, 2020, and 2021. Revenues for Putnam County have steadily increased since FY 2019. Intergovernmental revenues increased significantly in 2020 due to the CARES grant received for Public Safety pay in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Expenditures by Function 2019-2021

This graph provides a historical view on how Putnam County spent taxpayers' money for fiscal year 2021 and two fiscal years prior. With the safety of its citizens its primary concern, Putnam County continues to make Public Safety a priority, as evidenced here, showing an increase in expenditures of over \$1 million between FY 19 and FY 21.



What was the county's net position compared to FY 2020?

Net position refers to the county's "bottom line" after all financial transactions have been reported. Therefore, a change in net position is the difference from one year to the next.

The table to the right provides a comparison for the changes in net position in governmental and business-type activities for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2021 and 2020.

Governmental and business-type activities increased the County's net position by \$4.8 million for the year ended September 30, 2021. As in years past, Putnam County continues to be in a sound position moving forward.

Putnam County's Net Position						
	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
Assets						
Current and Other Assets	\$22,267,911	\$15,770,160	\$1,205,434	\$1,187,899	\$23,473,345	\$16,958,059
Capital Assets	34,506,832	33,664,441	552,035	407,785	35,058,867	34,072,226
Total Assets	56,774,743	49,434,601	1,757,469	1,595,684	58,532,212	51,030,285
Deferred Outflows of Resources	472,249	2,442,738	-	-	472,249	2,442,738
Liabilities						
Other Liabilities	3,410,805	1,871,774	55,537	78,951	3,466,342	1,950,725
Long-Term Liabilities Outstanding	4,518,021	5,892,367	808,206	815,326	5,326,227	6,707,693
Total Liabilities	7,928,826	7,764,141	863,743	894,277	8,792,569	8,658,418
Deferred Inflows of Resources	1,502,401	2,007,603	-	-	1,502,401	2,007,603
Net Position						
Net Investment in Capital Assets	34,506,832	33,601,966	552,035	407,785	35,058,867	34,009,751
Restricted	9,878,125	8,452,800	-	-	9,878,125	8,452,800
Unrestricted	3,430,808	50,829	341,691	293,622	3,772,499	344,451
Total Net Position	\$47,815,765	\$42,105,595	\$ 893,726	\$ 701,407	\$ 48,709,491	\$42,807,002

How is the county using its assets?

The County's government-wide investment in capital assets as of September 30, 2021 is \$35 million. The schedule below summarizes capital assets used in both governmental and business-type activities at year-ends 2021 and 2020. Assets used in governmental activities comprise the bulk of Putnam County's capital assets. Currently, and for many prior years, Special Local Option Sales Tax proceeds have funded most of these acquisitions.

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
Land	\$ 1,302,357	\$ 1,149,790	\$ 116,395	\$ 116,395	\$ 1,418,752	\$ 1,266,185
Buildings and Improvements	8,817,963	8,585,992	221,590	121,776	9,039,553	8,707,768
Machinery and Equipment	2,830,304	2,141,588	25,025	59,318	2,855,329	2,200,906
Infrastructure	21,556,208	21,738,071	-	-	21,556,208	21,738,071
Construction in Progress	-	49,000	189,025	110,296	189,025	159,296
	\$ 34,506,832	\$ 33,664,441	\$ 552,035	\$ 407,785	\$ 35,058,867	\$ 34,072,226

Major capital asset activities in the current fiscal year included the following:

- \$1.9 million of infrastructure improvements primarily related to road resurfacing
- Purchase of public safety and public works vehicles of \$1.3 million
- Relocation of the Board of Elections and other improvements to the County administration building totaling \$884,106.

Glossary of Terms

- **Assets:** Items of ownership. Assets can include cash, stock, land, buildings, machinery, furniture, and other equipment. There are several categories of Assets:
- **Capital Assets:** Assets of a long-term character (beyond the current year) that are intended to continue to be held or used, such as land, buildings, vehicles, machinery, furniture, and other equipment.
- **Net Position:** The difference between (a) assets and deferred outflows of resources and (b) liabilities and deferred inflows of resources.
- **Restricted Assets:** Assets that may not be used for normal operating purposes because of the requirements of regulatory authorities, provisions in bond contracts, or other legal agreements, but do not have to be accounted for in a separate fund.
- **Unrestricted Assets:** Funds established to account for assets or resources that may be utilized at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners.
- **Expenditures:** Government purchases which can be financed by revenue and/or government borrowing, i.e. bonds, tax anticipation, notes, etc.
- **Fund Balance:** The portion of fund revenue over expenditures available for use.
- **General Fund:** A fund used to account for the ordinary operations of the County government that are financed from taxes and other general revenue.
- **Liabilities:** Future spending of revenue as a result of past transactions and other past events. Liabilities are reported on a balance sheet and are divided into two categories:
- **Current Liabilities:** These liabilities are reasonably expected to be liquidated within a year. They usually include payables such as wages, accounts, taxes, accounts payable, unearned revenue when adjusting entries, portions of long-term bonds to be paid this year, short-term obligations, and others.
- **Long-term Liabilities:** These liabilities are reasonably expected not to be liquidated within a year. They usually include long-term bonds, notes payable, long-term leases, pension obligations, and long-term product warranties. In these liabilities, the County has to pay after a fixed period of time, usually longer than a year.
- **Revenue:** Financial resources other than from interfund transfers and debt issue proceeds. Putnam County receives Revenue through property taxes, sales and other taxes, licenses and permits, grants, fines and forfeitures, charges for service, administration fees, investment income, and miscellaneous sources.