



Your Tax Dollars at Work

A Financial Report to the Citizens of
Putnam County, Georgia
for Fiscal Year 2025

October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

ABOUT THIS REPORT

On behalf of Putnam County Board of Commissioners, we are pleased to present our eleventh Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the year ended September 30, 2025. 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.

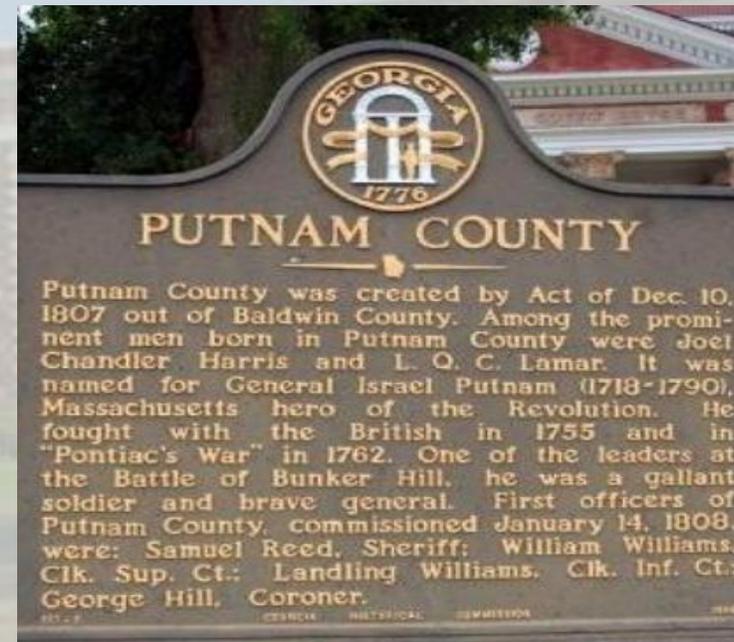
Click the links provided to view Putnam County’s [2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report](#) and [2023 Popular Annual Financial Report](#) .

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Our County, Commissioners, and Districts



Bill Sharp
Chairman



Tommy McElhenney
Vice Chairman &
District 1



Richard Garrett
District 2

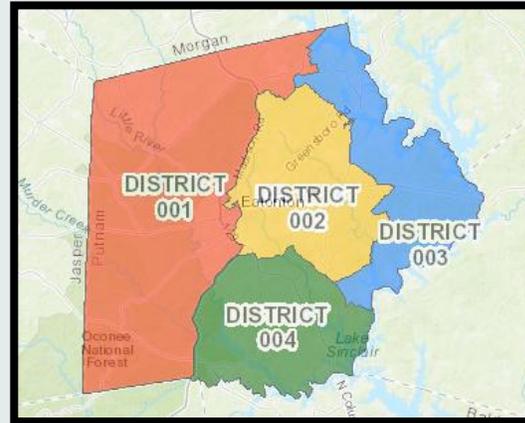


Stephen Hersey
District 3



Jeff Wooten
District 4

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 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



To the Greatest Citizens of the Greatest County in Georgia:

On behalf of the dedicated staff of Putnam County, I am pleased to present our Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025. This report is designed to enhance transparency and increase awareness of the County's financial operations, providing a clear and accessible overview of how your tax dollars are managed.

The financial information presented in this report is derived primarily from the County's independently audited financial statements, prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). These statements are included in the County's 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). We are proud to share that our Finance Department has earned the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for the past eleven consecutive years—an accomplishment that reflects our ongoing commitment to the highest standards of financial reporting and accountability.

I am extremely proud of what has been accomplished over the past year. The Board of Commissioners and County staff remain committed to delivering the highest quality services in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible. There is much positive news to share in Putnam County, including several notable highlights.

The County experienced exceptionally strong financial performance this year. Moody's Investors Service reaffirmed Putnam County's strong financial position by issuing an Aa2 bond rating. We also saw continued growth in both residential and commercial development, reflected in increased building permit activity and higher Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) collections—both encouraging indicators of a healthy and expanding local economy.

Thanks to voter approval of TSPLOST #2, the County is nearing completion of approximately 93 miles of road paving and guardrail improvements, significantly enhancing transportation infrastructure and public safety throughout the community.

There is even more progress underway across Putnam County, and we look forward to sharing continued successes with you in the months and years ahead. Your Commissioners, County staff, and I sincerely thank you for your continued trust and confidence. As our economy strengthens, so too will Putnam County.

Sincerely,
Paul Van Haute
County Manager



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?



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.



Vincent Hancock, three-time Olympic gold medalist, grew up 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, 2024. 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 ten consecutive years (fiscal years ended 2015 – 2024). 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
Georgia**

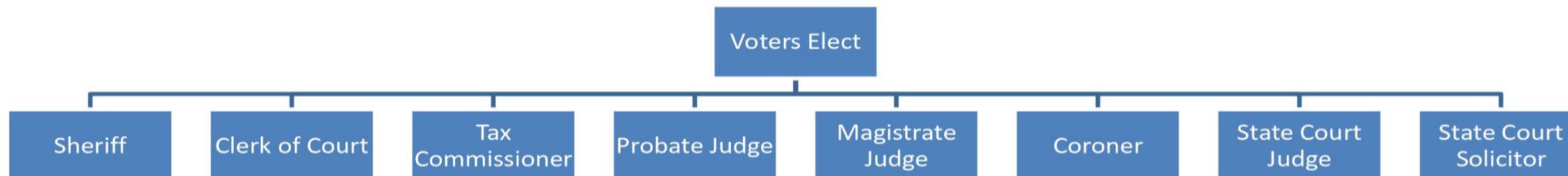
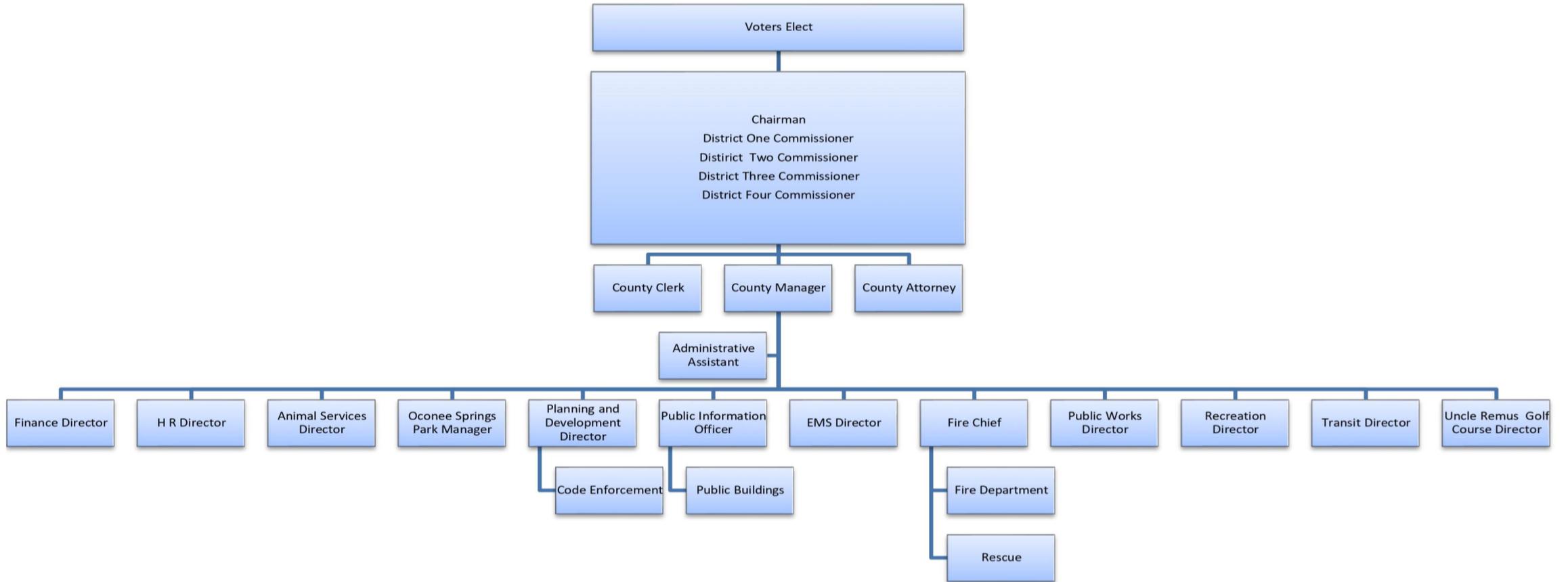
For its Annual Financial Report
For the Fiscal Year Ended

September 30, 2024

Christopher P. Morill

Executive Director/CEO

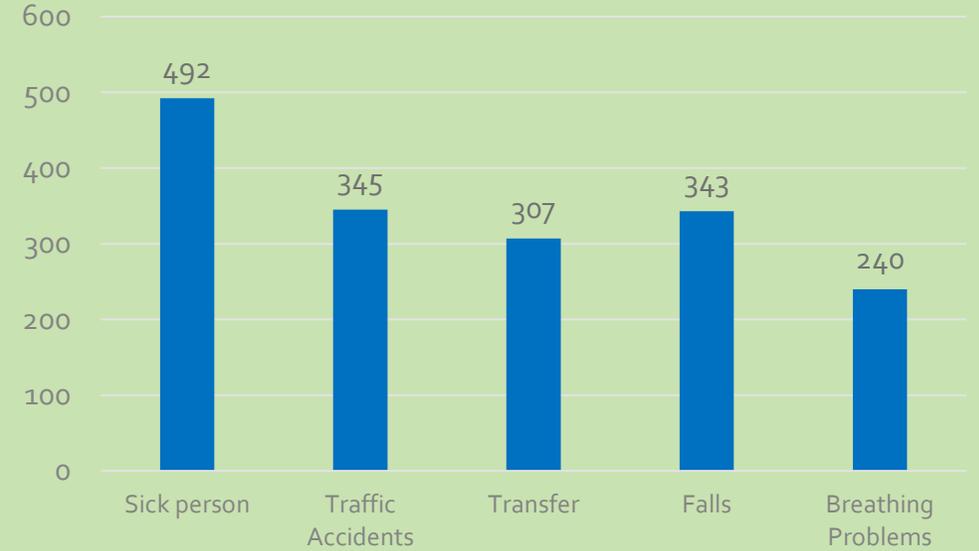
PUTNAM COUNTY GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Putnam County EMS

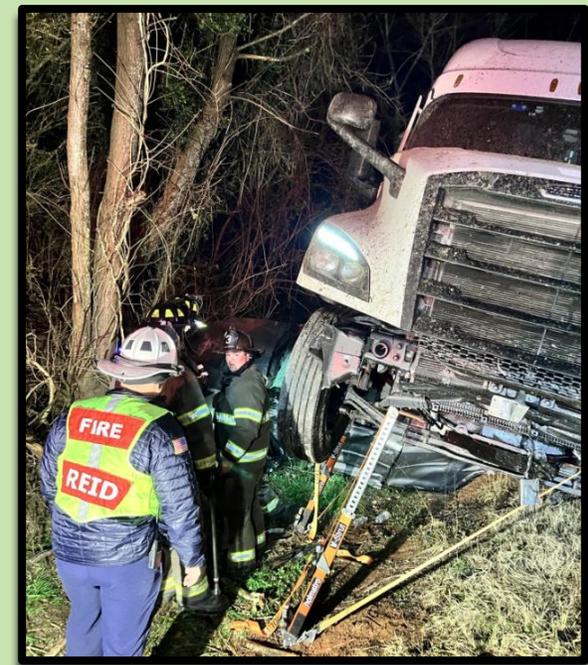


Putnam EMS FY '25 Data

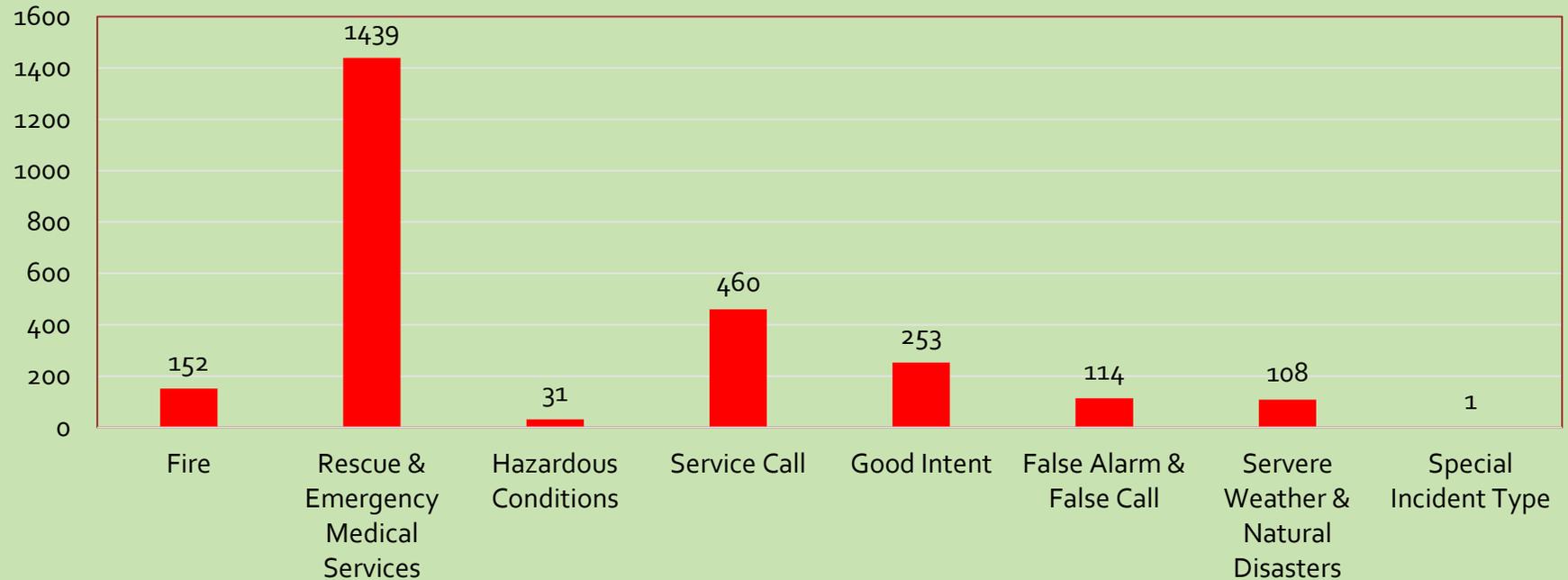


In FY '25, Putnam County EMS continued to provide the highest quality emergency care to Putnam County's citizens. The team responded to a total of 1,727 calls in FY '25, which is 1,357 less calls than last year. The majority of these, represented by the graph above were as follows: 492 calls to assist sick persons (fever, body aches, general malaise), 343 falls, 240 calls for breathing issues, and 345 calls to provide care for traffic accident injuries. Putnam EMS responded to 307 calls for patient transfers to medical facilities.

Putnam County Fire Rescue

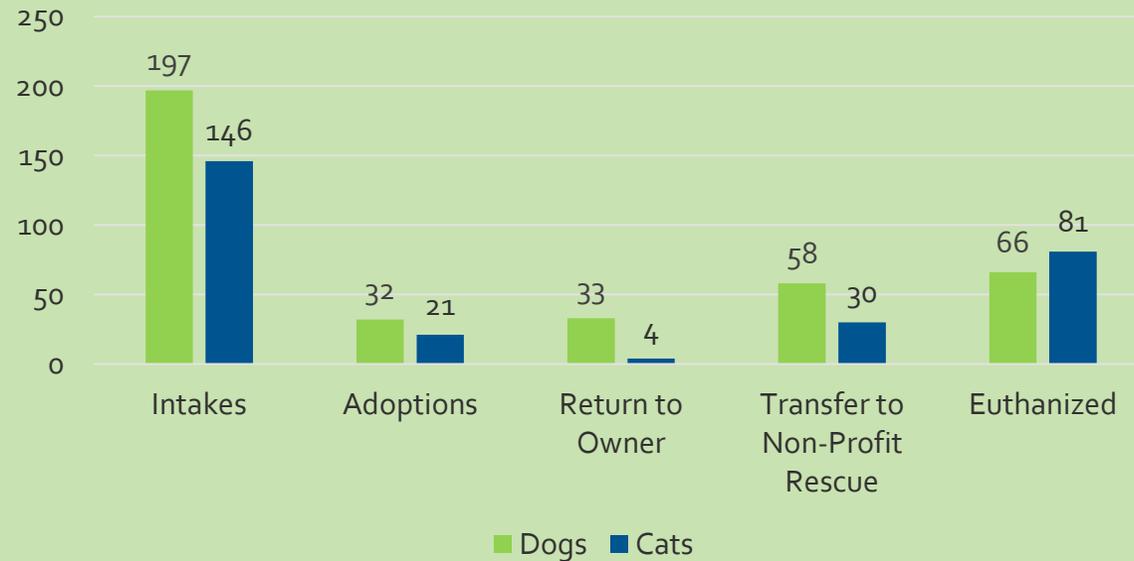


In FY '25, Putnam Fire-Rescue responded to a total of 2,558 calls, which is 57 more calls than the previous year. The chart on the right provides data for those calls. 1,439 calls were to provide Rescue & Emergency Medical Services. 152 calls were for Fires, 460 calls were service calls, 253 calls were classified as good intent, and 114 calls were false alarm or false calls.



Animal Services

For FY '25, Putnam County Animal Services took in a total of 343 animals, consisting of 197 dogs and 146 cats. Of those intakes, 32 dogs and 21 cats found their forever homes. If animals are not adopted, Putnam County Animal Services works hard to transfer the animals to non-profit rescues. In FY '25, a total of 58 dogs and 30 cats were transferred to rescue.



Uncle Remus Golf Course

In FY '25, Uncle Remus Golf Course continued its strong trajectory of growth, community engagement, and player satisfaction. More than 4,600 golfers played 16,692 rounds, extending the steady five-year rise in total players and rounds. With 73% of players under the age of 60, URGC is cultivating a vibrant and expanding base of younger golfers who are choosing to play in Putnam County. URGC also strengthened its role as a county gathering place. Three charity tournaments brought together over 200 golfers and raised more than \$20,000 for local causes. The Putnam Leadership Class of 2024 hosted its second community Easter Egg Hunt at the course, welcoming more than 100 families. The Georgia State Golf Association returned for the third consecutive year to host its junior tour event, drawing young competitors from across the Southeast. In addition, the Elks of Eatonton continued their tradition of offering a free youth golf clinic during the summer, introducing children to the fundamentals of the game. Uncle Remus Golf Course remains committed to its mission of enhancing the quality of life in Putnam County by providing a welcoming space where residents can come together, develop relationships, and create memories through the game of golf.



Putnam County Recreation

The Recreation Department has been busy creating opportunities for Putnam residents of all ages to become more active. By providing pickleball tournaments, church softball leagues, and recreational sporting events, we have witnessed many champions this year. Specifically, we want to congratulate the 2025 GRPA Class C 14U Fastpitch Champs, Girls Lake Area Soccer, Girls Lake Area Soccer Champs, Lake Area Football Champs ages 11-12 and 7-8.



What was the county's net position compared to FY 2024?

Putnam County's Net Position

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 at the right provides a comparison for the changes in net position in governmental and business-type activities for the fiscal years ended September 30, 2025, and 2024.

At the end of FY '25, the County's net position in governmental activities increased by \$5.5 million, or 6.9%, primarily due to increased charges for services, sales tax collections and grant revenues during FY '25. Net position in business-type activities increased \$78,024. The County's overall net position increased \$4.6 million from the prior year.

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Revenues						
Program Revenues						
Charges for Services	\$ 5,703,216	\$ 5,381,218	\$ 525,931	\$ 549,771	\$ 6,229,147	\$ 5,930,989
Operating Grants and Contributions	472,459	979,487	-	-	472,459	979,487
Capital Grants and Contributions	2,733,718	2,193,570	-	-	2,733,718	2,193,570
General Revenues						
Taxes	37,019,752	34,279,665	-	-	37,019,752	34,279,665
Other	991,722	972,000	66,577	71,203	1,058,299	1,043,203
Total Revenues	46,920,867	43,805,940	592,508	620,974	47,513,375	44,426,914
Expenses						
General Government	9,249,244	8,624,326	-	-	9,249,244	8,624,326
Judicial	2,322,797	2,058,226	-	-	2,322,797	2,058,226
Public Safety	15,127,023	13,067,006	-	-	15,127,023	13,067,006
Public Works	8,174,373	7,648,416	-	-	8,174,373	7,648,416
Health and Welfare	1,594,938	1,547,401	-	-	1,594,938	1,547,401
Culture and Recreation	2,344,345	2,188,286	-	-	2,344,345	2,188,286
Housing and Development	2,914,177	2,278,022	-	-	2,914,177	2,278,022
Interest on Long-Term Debt	635,167	507,874	-	-	635,167	507,874
Oconee Springs Park	-	-	514,082	616,647	514,082	616,647
Solid Waste	-	-	70,402	501,790	70,402	501,790
Total Expenses	42,362,064	37,919,557	584,484	1,118,437	42,946,548	39,037,994
Change in Net Position Before Transfers	4,558,803	5,886,383	8,024	(497,463)	4,566,827	5,388,920
Transfers	(70,000)	(422,480)	70,000	422,480	-	-
Increase (Decrease) in Net Position	4,488,803	5,463,903	78,024	(74,983)	4,566,827	5,388,920
Net Position, Beginning	64,994,596	59,530,693	892,569	967,552	65,887,165	60,498,245
Net Position, Ending	\$ 69,483,399	\$ 64,994,596	\$ 970,593	\$ 892,569	\$ 70,453,992	\$ 65,887,165

How is the county using its assets?

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Land	\$ 1,313,363	\$ 1,301,357	\$ 116,395	\$ 116,395	\$ 1,429,758	\$ 1,417,752
Buildings and Improvements	13,886,226	14,898,887	273,506	227,943	14,159,732	15,126,830
Machinery and Equipment	6,584,554	7,141,753	12,030	20,309	6,596,584	7,162,062
Infrastructure	33,727,594	21,231,823	-	-	33,727,594	21,231,823
Intangible Right-to-Use Lease Assets	301,959	273,539	-	-	301,959	273,539
	\$ 55,813,696	\$ 44,847,359	\$ 401,931	\$ 364,647	\$ 56,215,627	\$ 45,212,006

The County's government-wide investment in capital assets, as of September 30, 2025, is \$56.2 million. The schedule below summarizes capital assets used in both governmental and business-type activities at fiscal year-ends 2025 and 2024.

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

- \$14.9 million in infrastructure improvements primarily related to road resurfacing
- Purchase of various new vehicles at a cost approximating \$1 million

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.