

The HCPOA general email inbox received the email below in regards to the questions that we have shared with you. These were received today (Aug 6th) via email at 11:07am from the ap@hancockcountyga.gov email address that is assigned to Kizzie Sibert.

Please note, we did not clean this up as I did not want to change anything on how it was received.

Thank you for your questions and concerns about the budget proposal. Below you can find the answers to the questions that you submitted. Some of the questions I can't answer, therefore I will notate the department by that (number)particular question. Due to the short notice of the requested information, if there are any additional questions, please email them to me and I will answer them after the budget hearing.

1. **Refer Sheriff /EMS
2. The budget for Department of Family and Children Services is \$4,000. This is the amount that is allocated every year for reimbursement for child welfare expenditures. The employees are funded by the state, not the county.
3. The Coroner collected \$2300 in donations towards the vehicle, the county supplemented the remaining balance.
4. This amount includes all 3 fire stations. Sparta/Hancock Fire Station 1, Station 2, and Station 5.
5. This amount is allocated for events, such as concerts, food truck, and other special activities.
6. This amount is calculated by state law to be .10 per forest acre of privately owned forestland. These funds is Hancock County's yearly portion for Wildlife Suppression.
7. These allocated funds help the library remain open for the citizens of Hancock County, yearly support.
8. Health Dept – support to continue services, Development Authority – salary for director, office supplies, HYOC – Electricity, water, cleaning supplies, employee to man functions

9. Communities in Schools – funds support program to help youth in the community remain in school
10. 531799 Varies by department – 531800 – Bond Payment, 531801 – Fund Balance, Revaluation allocation
11. Not sure when the cameras will be installed or if funds will be collected in FY25.
12. This budget includes LMIG and LRA road projects.
13. The Millage rate will decrease by .07.
14. Received some of last year taxes(FY24)in FY25.
15. Structure repair to the building. This will be grant funded.
16. Park Grant Admin fees(Cranston Engineering), Team Electrical (payments that were not paid in FY24)
17. These funds are allocated for the accountants and auditors services.
18. Answered in question #10.
19. Lawsuit payout in FY24, Health Dept. Renovations, Bond payment, FY23 bank loan payoff
20. Row Bridge Project (2 Bridge repairs)
21. 12k of this amount are from FY24 invoices.
22. Custodial staff is allocated under Gen Govt. salaries
24. Broad Street Bldg completion, Health Dept repair (14K reimb.) water leak repair
25. **EMS
26. **Sheriff, Transit
27. **Sheriff
28. Flock Cameras, Radar
29. Ranch's Inc, Tri Services, Southern Asphalt, Road repair contractors
30. 20K for land rental is allocated in Gen Admin.
31. Board of Election & Registration - office that holds elections
32. **B.O.E.R

33. Budget Officer – Kizzie Sibert

34. see below requirements

35. see below requirements

Requirements for budget adoption and advertising in Georgia local governments

Georgia law outlines specific requirements for local governments (cities and counties) when adopting and advertising their budgets, as summarized below.

Budget adoption

- **Public availability:** A copy of the proposed budget must be placed in a public location convenient to residents and made available to the media on the day it is submitted to the governing authority for consideration.
- **Public Hearing:**
 - A public hearing must be conducted at least one week prior to the meeting where the budget ordinance or resolution is considered for adoption.
 - Residents must be given the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed budget at this hearing.
- **Balanced budget:** Local governments are required to adopt an annual balanced budget for the general fund, each special revenue fund, and each debt service fund. A budget is balanced when estimated revenues and appropriated fund balances equal appropriations.
- **Budget ordinance or resolution:** The budget must be finally adopted by ordinance or resolution at a public meeting, which can contain dollar amounts differing from the proposed budget.
- **Amendments:** Any amendments to the budget must be adopted by ordinance or resolution to ensure accountability, disclosure, and public knowledge of budget changes.

Budget advertising

- **Notice of availability:** A statement advising residents of the budget's availability must be published in a newspaper of general circulation during the week the proposed budget is submitted to the governing authority.

- **Prominent display:** This notice, whether a prominently displayed advertisement or news article, cannot be placed in the section of the newspaper reserved for legal notices.
- **Notice of public hearing:** Notice of the time and place of the public hearing must be published in a newspaper of general circulation at least one week before the hearing. This notice may be combined with the statement advising of the budget's availability.
- **Notice of adoption meeting:** Notice of the meeting where the budget ordinance or resolution is to be adopted must be advertised at least one week prior to the meeting.

Note: These requirements are based on Georgia statutes, primarily O.C.G.A. §§ 36-81-5 and 36-81-6, and are subject to change. It is recommended to consult with legal counsel for specific guidance on your local government's budget process.

Thanks in advance,

Kizzie Sibert, County Clerk/Finance Director

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