Lumpkin County, Georgia

Budget Overview

FY 2016

January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016

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Message from the Chairman

Dear Lumpkin County Citizens,

This is my third budget season as Chairman, and I, along with the Commissioners I serve with, believe there are many reasons for us to take pride in the accomplishments of our County. We strive each year to temper rising costs while providing value for our taxpayers in the services that are required and requested by the citizens. This year was a difficult budget year as we were faced with finding ways to fund needed capital items along with meeting Federal mandates regarding the ADA law. Even in these tough economic times, we are able to arrive at a balanced budget that provides for the needs of our government.

We are slowly beginning to see new businesses consider Lumpkin County and are excited with the news that new businesses are relocating to our area.

Our County's financial position has remained strong, which allows the County to move forward with projects and keeps debt service at a manageable level. I want to thank our County Manager Stan Kelley, the Finance Department, and the Budget Committee for their hard work and patience throughout the budget process. I also wish to thank the Elected Officials and Department Directors that have worked so hard the past few years to operate with reduced funding while still providing the same, or enhanced levels of service to our community.

We are committed to running a streamlined government that does not skimp on service. We believe this careful approach has served our community well and will continue to meet the needs of our taxpayers in future years.

We present this budget overview to provide you with details and information related to Lumpkin County's 2016 budget.

Respectfully,

Chris Dockery, Chairman
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners

Executive Summary

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The FY 2015 tax rate is 10.662 mills for unincorporated areas, 0.310 for the special unincorporated reservoir tax district, 0.171 for the special unincorporated planning tax district, and 12.566 mills for incorporated areas.
- The 2015 total tax levies increased by 14.81%, or $1,125,550 over 2014.
- The FY 2016 total annual budget is $23,688,169, an increase of $680,357 or 2.96% from FY 2015.
- The FY 2016 adopted General Fund budget is $18,818,813 and represents a increase of $1,138,139 or 6.44%.

PERSONNEL

- General Fund salaries and benefits have increased by $839,841, or 7.38%, primarily due to funding the 3% COLA and health insurance premiums increase, which is $229,352, or 14.14%, greater than 2015. Additionally, the following positions were added or upgraded:
    - ◊ Animal Shelter: Upgraded one part-time position to full-time
    - ◊ Sheriff's Department: Added a previously frozen full-time position
    - ◊ Planning: Added a previously frozen full-time position

OTHER INFORMATION

- Unassigned Fund Balance at the end of 2015 is projected to be $5,266,091, or 29.78%, of the budgeted General Fund Expenditures for 2015. The 2016 budget was balanced without the use of fund balance, and fund balance is projected to be $5,266,091, or 29.49%, of the General Fund Expenditures at December 31, 2016.
- Total Debt Service for the General Fund is $119,040.
- Total Debt Service for the 2002 SPLOST Fund is $628,180.
- Total Debt Service for the Reservoir Fund is $206,163.
- Total Debt Service for the 2014 SPLOST Fund is $789,328.
- On March 6, 2012, Lumpkin County citizens approved the continuation of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). The 2014 SPLOST collections began in April of 2014 and will continue until March of 2020. Projects that will be funded during 2016 from the 2014 SPLOST will be determined in late 2015.

2015 Accomplishments

- The Road Department treated roads for two major winter weather events and removed over 4,000 cubic yards of debris caused by the ice storm.
- Parks & Recreation replaced the HVAC system at the Community Center.
- Emergency Services completed Fire Station #10 at Lumpkin County-Wimpys Airport
- Human Resources presented the Wellness Fair which provided health and wellness testing, flu shots, and access to wellness vendors.
- Parks & Recreation improved Legion Pool by renovating the pool deck and replacing tiles. Also, the entrance gate was moved and made ADA compliant.
- Emergency Services purchased a new ambulance and extrication tools to better serve Lumpkin County citizens.
- The Road Department completed visibility and widening improvements at the Auraria Road/Blackburn Road intersection.
- Parks & Recreation staff built a new handicap accessible pavilion near the multi-purpose field at Yahoola Creek Park.
- Lumpkin County Extension oversaw the Master Gardener volunteer program, which volunteered over 1,000 hours to community projects.
- The Road Department purchased a new broom tractor, motor grader, and various other tractors/mowers.
- Parks & Recreation completed various field improvements, such as renovating the Field 3 infield, installing new lighting on Field 5, and replacing the foul ball netting at the softball complex.
- G.I.S. purchased a new scanning capable plotter, which is used to print graphical plots.

2015 Accomplishments

- The Road Department resurfaced the following County roads using the Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) funds:

ROAD	MILES	FUNDING SOURCE
Copper Mines Rd	1.87	LMIG
Auraria Rd	3.95	LMIG
Barnes Mill Rd	1.15	County
Esborn Rd	0.82	County
Rock Acres Rd	0.20	County
Tate Creek Tr	0.41	County
Jack Walker Rd	0.60	County
Sunset Trail	0.12	County
Sam Martin Rd	0.54	County
Leonard Crow Rd	0.31	County
Hickory Springs Dr	0.10	County
Long Branch Crossing	0.48	County
Ransom Free Rd	0.28	County
Dry Hollow Rd	1.13	County
Bearslide Hollow	0.72	LMIG
Miller Calhoun Rd	0.50	LMIG
Frogtown Rd	1.85	LMIG
Auraria Rd	2.45	LMIG
Mechanicsville Rd	0.85	County
Cavenders Creek Rd	1.10	County
Iberian Rd	1.04	County
Siloam Church Rd	3.00	County
Seven Mile Hill Rd	2.34	LMIG

Future Projects

SPLOST - On March 6, 2012, Lumpkin County citizens approved the continuation of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). Collections of the 2014 SPLOST began in April 2014 and will continue until April 2020. The estimated collections are $18.9 million. As established in an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Dahlonega, the County will receive 84.13% of SPLOST collections, and the City will receive 15.87% of SPLOST collections. Some future projects of SPLOST are as follows:

- Administration facility improvements, such as energy upgrades, HVAC, interior upgrades, and Infrastructure improvements
- New transport vehicle for the Animal Shelter
- Historical records imaging for the Clerk of Courts
- Purchase land for a technology park through the Development Authority
- Polling place enhancements, including improved parking areas
- Ambulances, fire engines, operating vehicles, generators, turnout gear, SCBAs, thermal image cameras, and radio infrastructure for Emergency Services
- Resurface 15 miles of road each year for 6 years
- Build a fueling station for County fleet, resulting in budget savings due to buying bulk fuel
- Purchase a dump truck, service truck, and small trucks for Public Works
- Senior Center renovations
- Purchase 12 vehicles over 6 years for the Sheriff's Department
- Improve recreation facilities and purchase needed equipment and vehicles
- Invest in improved lines and ground tank for the Water & Sewer Authority

Understanding Sales Taxes

The tax rate on retail sales in Lumpkin County is $0.07 for every $1.00 of sales, similar to most of Georgia counties. The $0.07 sales tax is divided as follows:

$0.04 State of Georgia

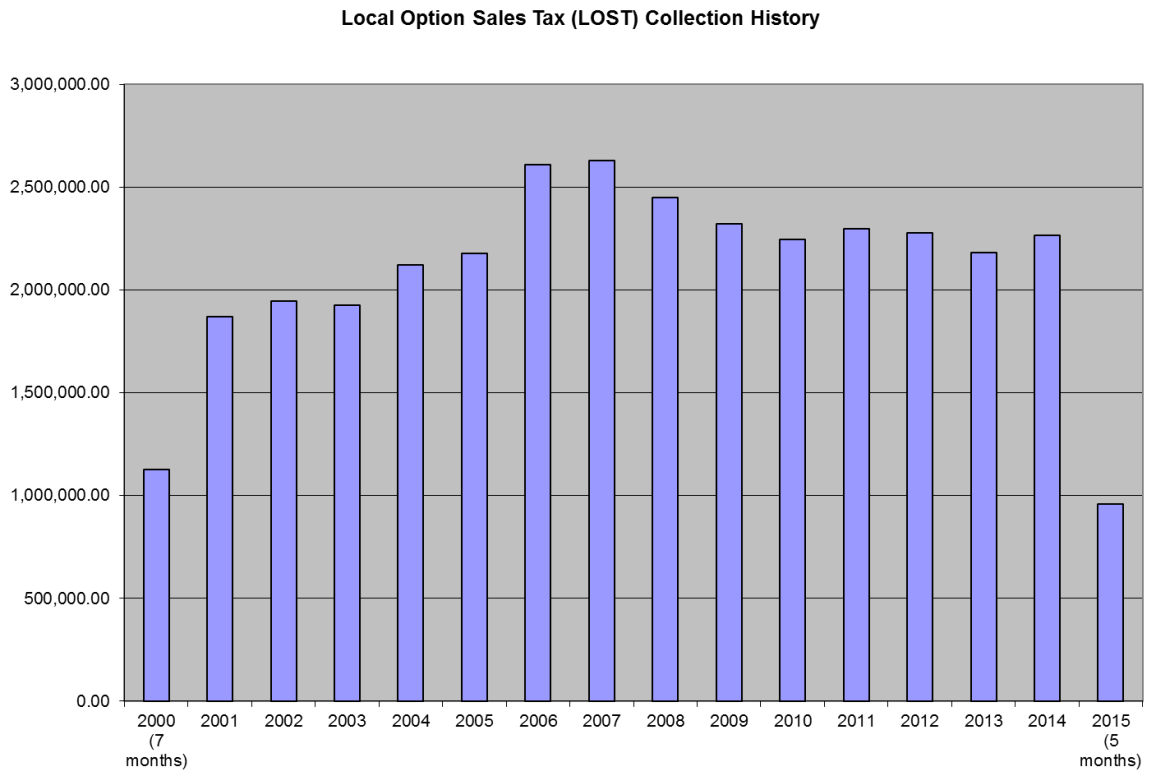
$0.01 LOST (Local Option Sales Tax) Lumpkin County General Fund

$0.01 SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) Projects

$0.01 SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) Education

$0.07 Total Sales Tax

The LOST tax is the only sales tax revenue that goes into the Lumpkin County General Fund to fund ongoing operating expenses. The SPLOST revenues are accounted for separately and can only be used for capital projects approved by a voter referendum. The ESPLOST revenues go to the Lumpkin County School System and can only be used for school system capital projects approved by a voter referendum.



Fund Summaries

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

GENERAL FUND

The General Fund of Lumpkin County accounts for all transactions not accounted for in other funds. As the County's major operating fund, the General Fund accounts for ordinary operating expenditures financed primarily by property taxes and charges for services.

FUND	2014 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	2016 REQUESTED	2016 BUDGET
GENERAL FUND	17,928,689	17,680,674	18,867,165	18,818,813
	17,928,689	17,680,674	18,867,165	18,818,813

DEBT SERVICE FUND

The Debt Service Fund accounts for the 2002 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) money, including earned interest, which is reserved for retiring the Lumpkin County Public Building Authority Issue, Series 2001.

FUND	2014 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	2016 REQUESTED	2016 BUDGET
DEBT SERVICE FUND	1,537,470	623,543	625,180	625,180
	1,537,470	623,543	625,180	625,180

Fund Summaries

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

The Capital Projects Funds are used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of specifically planned projects (other than those financed by enterprise funds).

FUND	2014 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	2016 REQUESTED	2016 BUDGET
CAPITAL PROJECTS	681,807	741,378	201,650	201,650
SPLOST	2,527,413	2,900,000	789,328	789,328
PUBLIC ROADS	393,177	335,000	393,000	393,000
CDBG*	1,243	0	0	0
	3,603,640	3,976,378	1,383,978	1,383,978

*Community Development Block Grant

Fund Summaries

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally or donor restricted to expenditures for specified purposes.

FUND	2014 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	2016 REQUESTED	2016 BUDGET
DRUG COURT	329	0	0	0
DRUG REHABILITATION	69,700	34,600	40,000	40,000
JUVENILE SERVICES	0	1,750	0	0
LAW LIBRARY	38,269	30,000	25,000	25,000
SPECIAL PROGRAMS	65,030	18,500	30,000	30,000
PUBLIC DEFENDER	346,923	366,898	366,865	366,865
CONFISCATED ASSETS	3,270	5,000	5,000	5,000
EMERGENCY 911	695,353	672,804	687,654	687,654
TECHNOLOGY FEE	14,281	18,000	15,500	15,500
MULTIPLE GRANT	724,618	355,114	416,416	416,416
RESERVOIR CONSTRUCTION	205,162	205,163	205,163	205,163
HOTEL/MOTEL TAX	132,109	126,000	130,270	130,270
PLANNING	218,315	228,972	241,350	270,318
	2,513,359	2,062,801	2,163,218	2,192,186

Fund Summaries

PROPRIETARY FUNDS

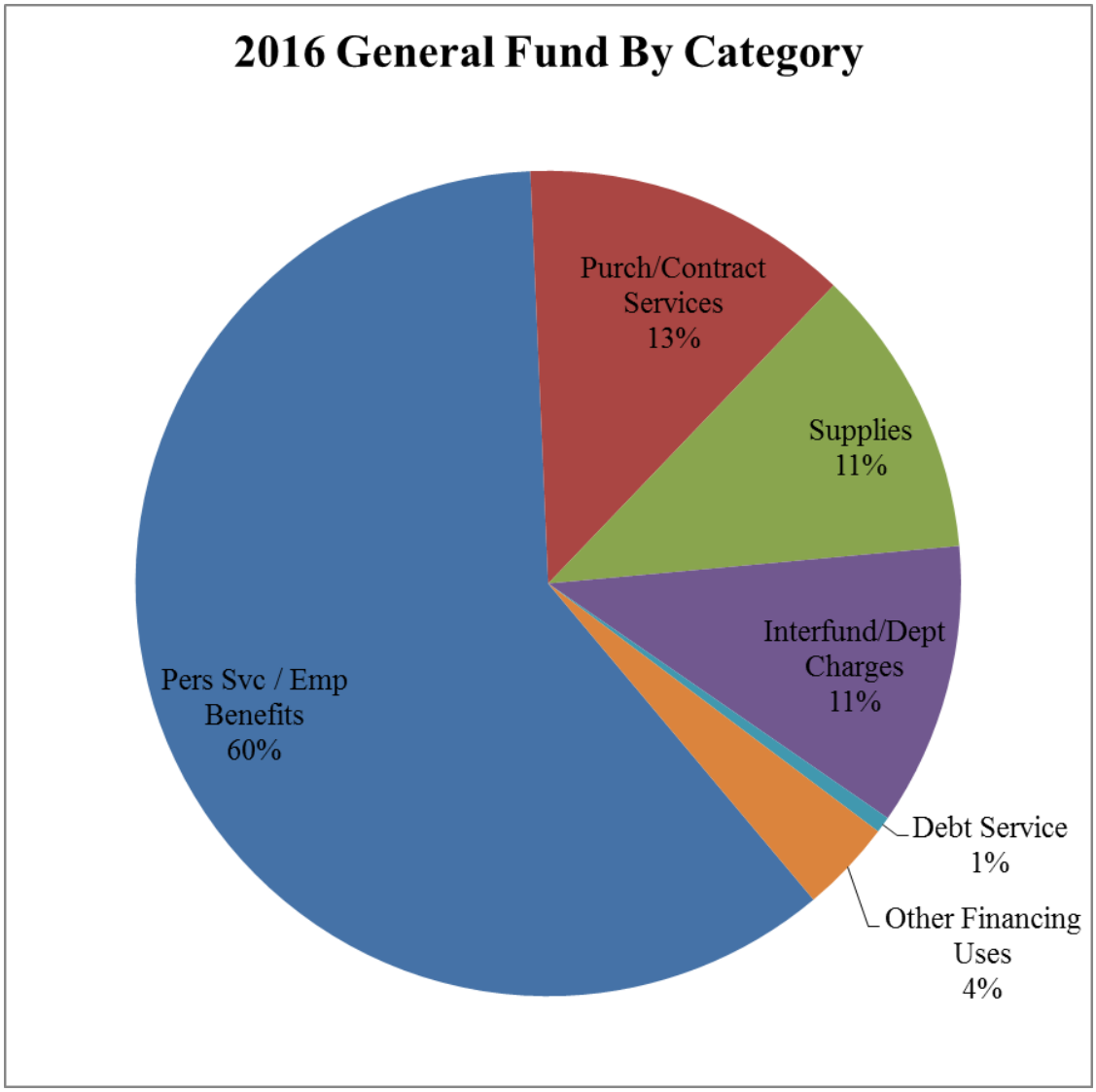
ENTERPRISE FUND

The Enterprise Fund accounts for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises - where the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public are being financed or recovered primarily through user charges on a continuing basis.

FUND	2014 ACTUAL	2015 BUDGET	2016 REQUESTED	2016 BUDGET
LANDFILL/RECYCLING	101,378	102,147	124,270	105,809
	101,378	102,147	124,270	105,809

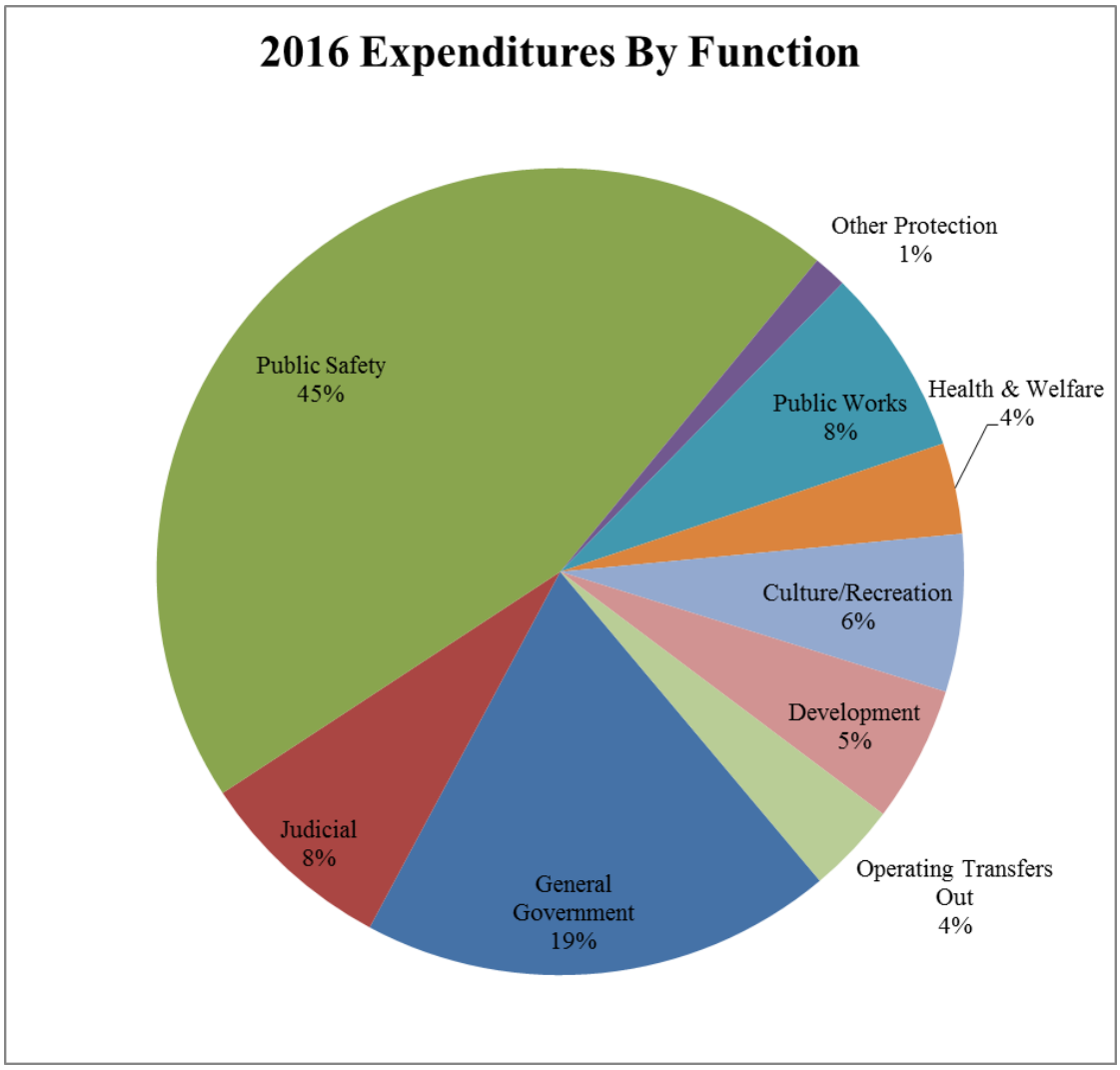
Expenditures by Category

	2016 Budget	2015 Budget	% Change
Pers Svc / Emp Benefits	11,370,314	10,545,959	7.82%
Purch/Contract Services	2,416,834	2,410,184	0.28%
Supplies	2,144,533	2,184,912	-1.85%
Interfund/Dept Charges	2,084,419	1,278,090	63.09%
Debt Service	119,040	119,040	0.00%
Other Financing Uses	683,673	1,142,489	-40.16%
	$ 18,818,813	**$ 17,680,674**	**6.44%**



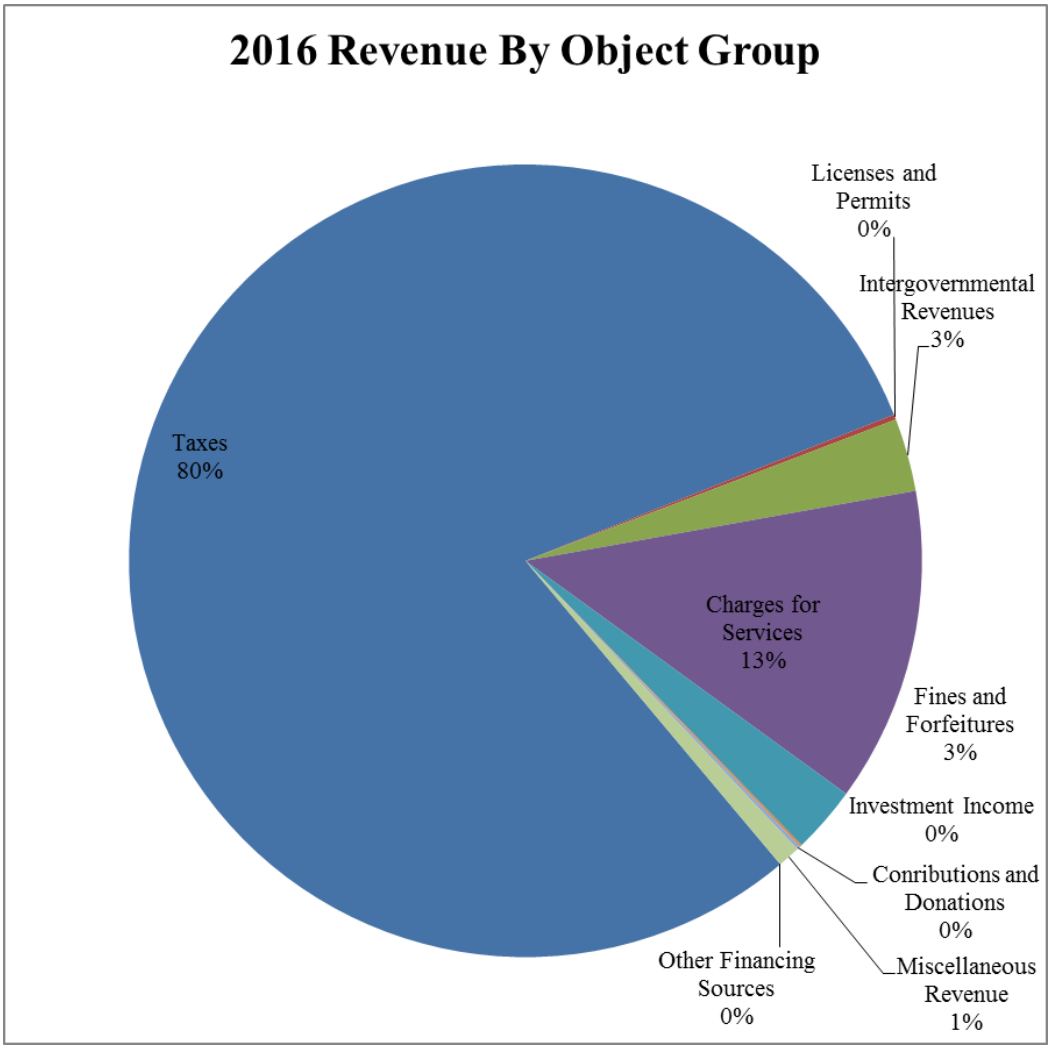
Expenditures by Function

	2016 Budget	2015 Budget	% Change
General Government	3,563,363	3,396,618	4.91%
Judicial	1,493,507	1,638,290	-8.84%
Public Safety	8,509,215	7,907,350	7.61%
Other Protection	251,923	236,105	6.70%
Public Works	1,418,758	1,381,455	2.70%
Health & Welfare	685,405	661,947	3.54%
Culture/Recreation	1,187,910	1,103,506	7.65%
Development	1,025,059	212,914	381.44%
Operating Transfers Out	683,673	1,142,489	-40.16%
	$ 18,818,813	**$ 17,680,674**	**6.44%**



2015 Revenues by Object Group

Object Group	2016 Budget	2015 Budget	% Change
Taxes	15,072,705	12,890,948	16.92%
Licenses and Permits	40,000	40,000	0.00%
Intergovernmental Revenues	560,275	543,393	3.11%
Charges for Services	2,414,946	2,886,155	-16.33%
Fines and Forfeitures	514,300	498,925	3.08%
Investment Income	16,029	22,085	-27.42%
Contributions and Donations from Private Sources	28,000	27,000	3.70%
Miscellaneous Revenue	172,558	151,100	14.20%
Other Financing Sources	-	621,068	-100.00%
	$ 18,818,813	**$ 17,680,674**	**6.44%**



Revenue Sources

Lumpkin County's operations are funded through a variety of revenue sources, all of which are applied toward funding government operations including, but not limited to, Law Enforcement, Fire Protections, and Parks & Recreation. Over the last five years, Lumpkin County has maintained consistent levels of services in spite of a tax revenue decline.

Total Budget

Lumpkin County's total budgeted revenue for FY 2016 is $23,688,169, which represents a 2.96% increase compared to the FY 2015 budget. Approximately 64% of the total budget is funded by taxes. Taxes include sales, property, and other taxes, all of which are discussed in detail below. The County's second largest revenue source is Charges for Services at 10% of the total budget.

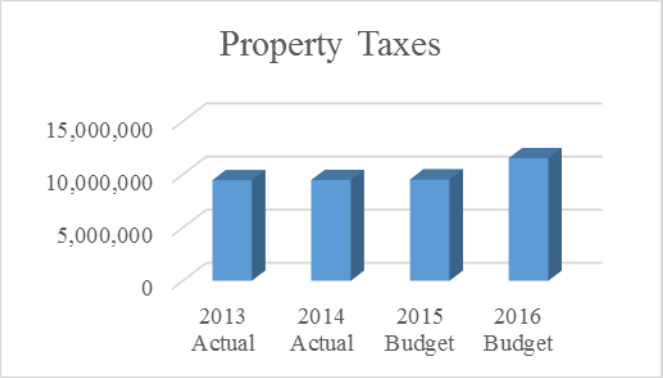
General Fund

Revenue projections for the General Fund for FY 2016 total $18,818,813, which represents a 6.44% increase compared to the FY 2015 budget. The largest General Fund revenue source is taxes at 80% of the General Fund budget. Charges for services is the second largest General Fund revenue source at 12.8%. At 3%, Intergovernmental Revenues is the third largest revenue source of the General Fund.

Taxes

Property Tax

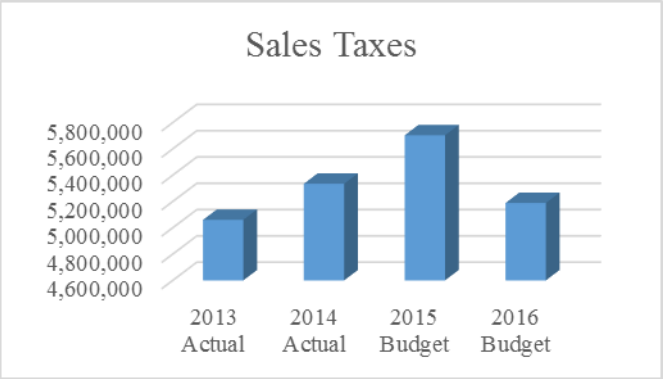
Lumpkin County's largest revenue source is property tax, which includes real and personal property. Property tax revenues are 47.88% of the total budget. For the FY 2016 budget, property tax revenues increased by $2,005,612, or 21.48%, compared to the FY 2015 budget. This increase is largely attributed to the millage rate increase for 2015 property taxes that was adopted by the Board of Commissioners.



Revenue Sources

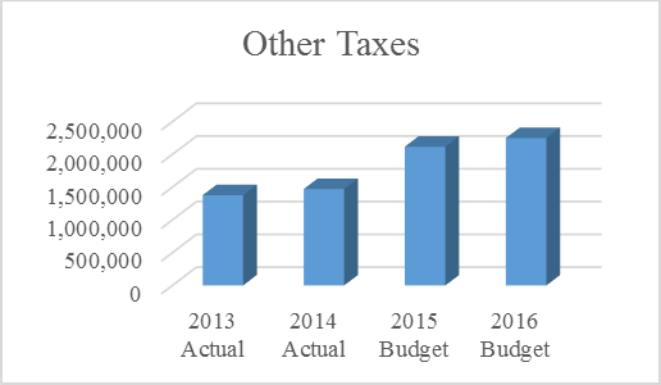
Sales Tax

Sales taxes, which include both Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) and Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST), are the second largest revenue source for Lumpkin County. LOST and SPLOST revenues are expected to decrease by $516,386, or 11.31%, compared to the FY 2015 budget.



Other Taxes

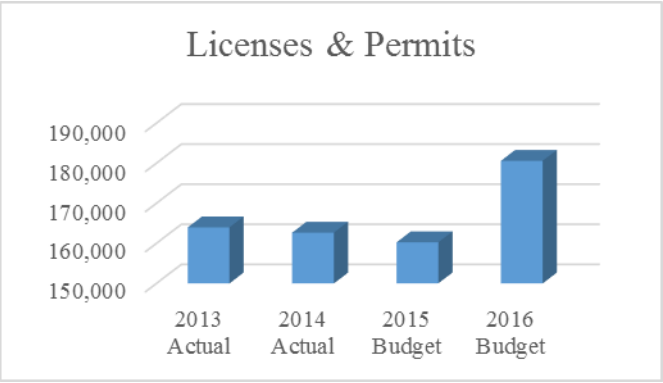
The other taxes category includes Hotel/Motel Tax, Franchise Fee, Beer & Wine Excise Tax, Energy Excise Tax, Insurance Premium Tax, and Real Estate Transfer Tax. For the FY 2016 budget, other taxes are expected to increase by $92,531, or 6.73%, to $1,467,761.



Revenue Sources

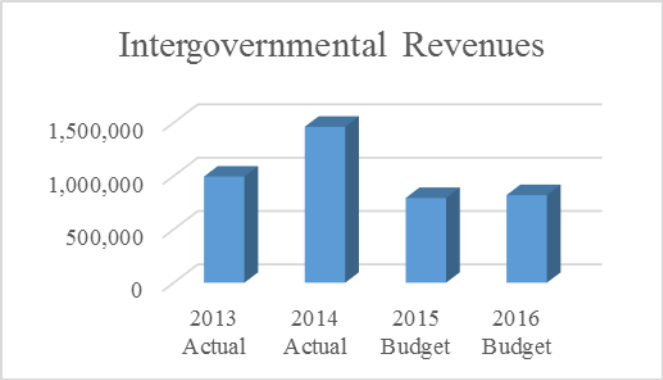
Licenses and Permits

Licenses and permit revenue is received from businesses who carry beer and wine licenses. The FY 2016 budget for this revenue source is $40,000, which remains the consistent with the FY 2015 budget.



Intergovernmental Revenues

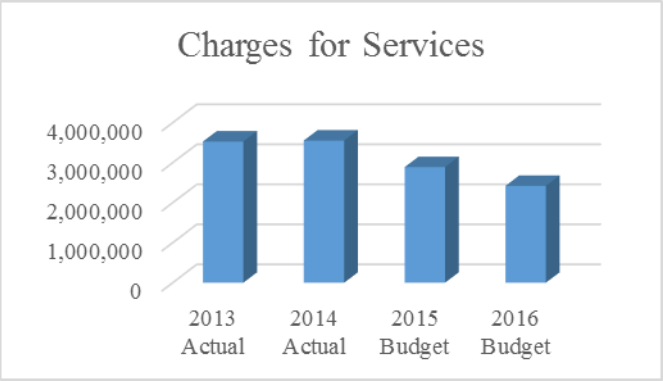
Intergovernmental revenues are revenues received from other governmental entities and normally take the form of grants. Grant funds are used to fund important programs and projects for governmental services and operations. For the FY 2016 budget, intergovernmental revenues comprise 3.47% of the total budget. There is an increase of $27,050, or 3.41%, in the FY 2016 budget over FY 2015.



Revenue Sources

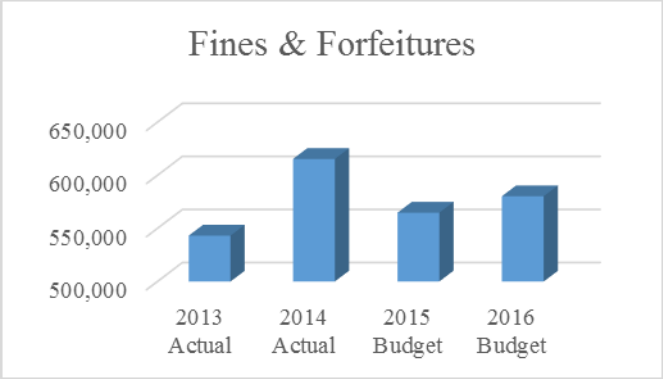
Charges for Services

Charges for services include, but are not limited to, recreation participation fees; property tax collection fees; and commission, emergency services transport, and airport fees. In FY 2016, this revenue source is expected to decrease by $471,209, or 16.33%, over the FY 2015 budget.



Fines and Forfeitures

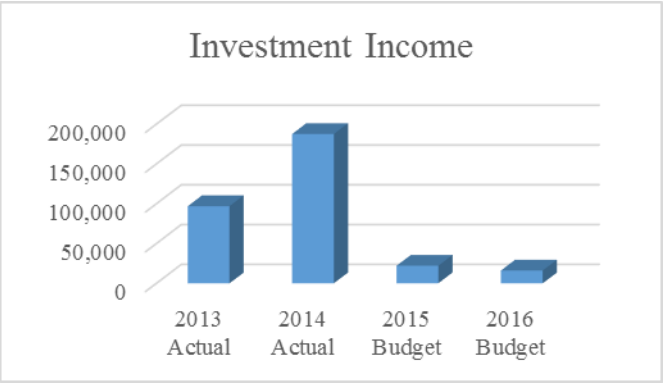
The fines and forfeitures category represents revenue generated through the court system. This revenue source funds 2.45% of the total budget. For FY 2016, there is an increase of $15,525, or 2.75%, over FY 2015.



Revenue Sources

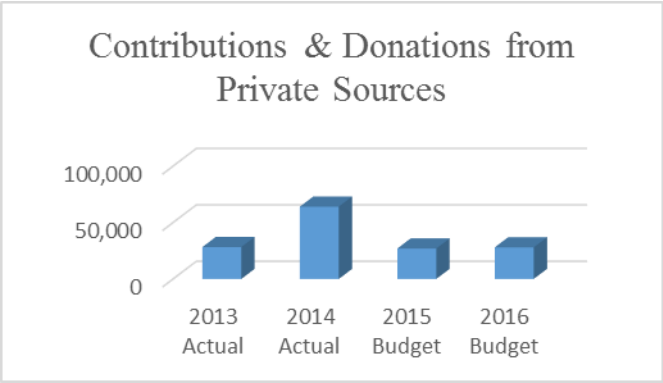
Investment Income

Investment Income represents income from interest and other investments. For FY 2016, there is a decrease of $6,056, or 27.42%.



Contributions and Donations from Private Sources

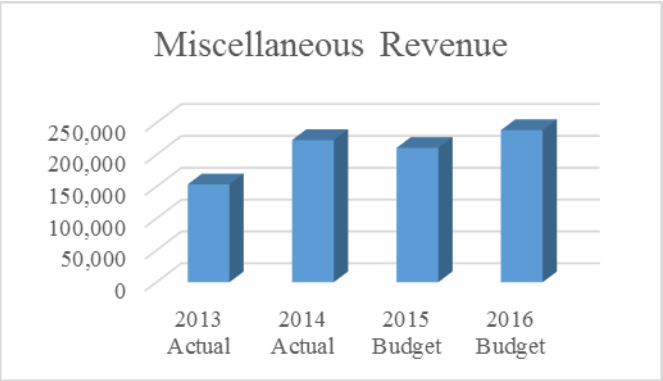
Contributions and Donations from Private Sources include funds given to the Animal Shelter, Sheriff's Department, Emergency Services, Parks & Recreations, and the Senior Center. For FY 2016, there is an increase if $1,000, or 3.70%, increase over FY 2015.



Revenue Sources

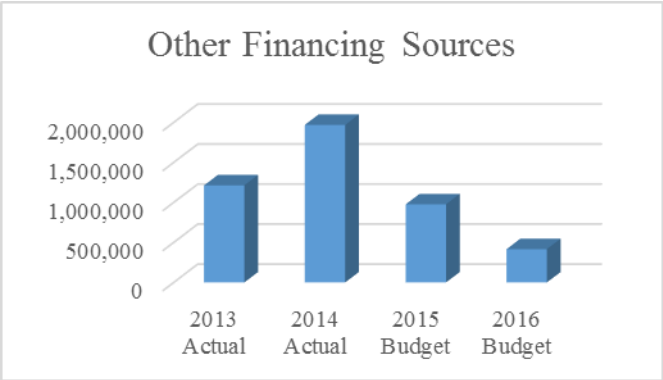
Miscellaneous Revenue

Miscellaneous Revenue includes revenue not included in any other revenue source. For FY 2016, miscellaneous revenues are expected to increase by $21,458, or 14.2%, over FY 2015.



Other Financing Sources

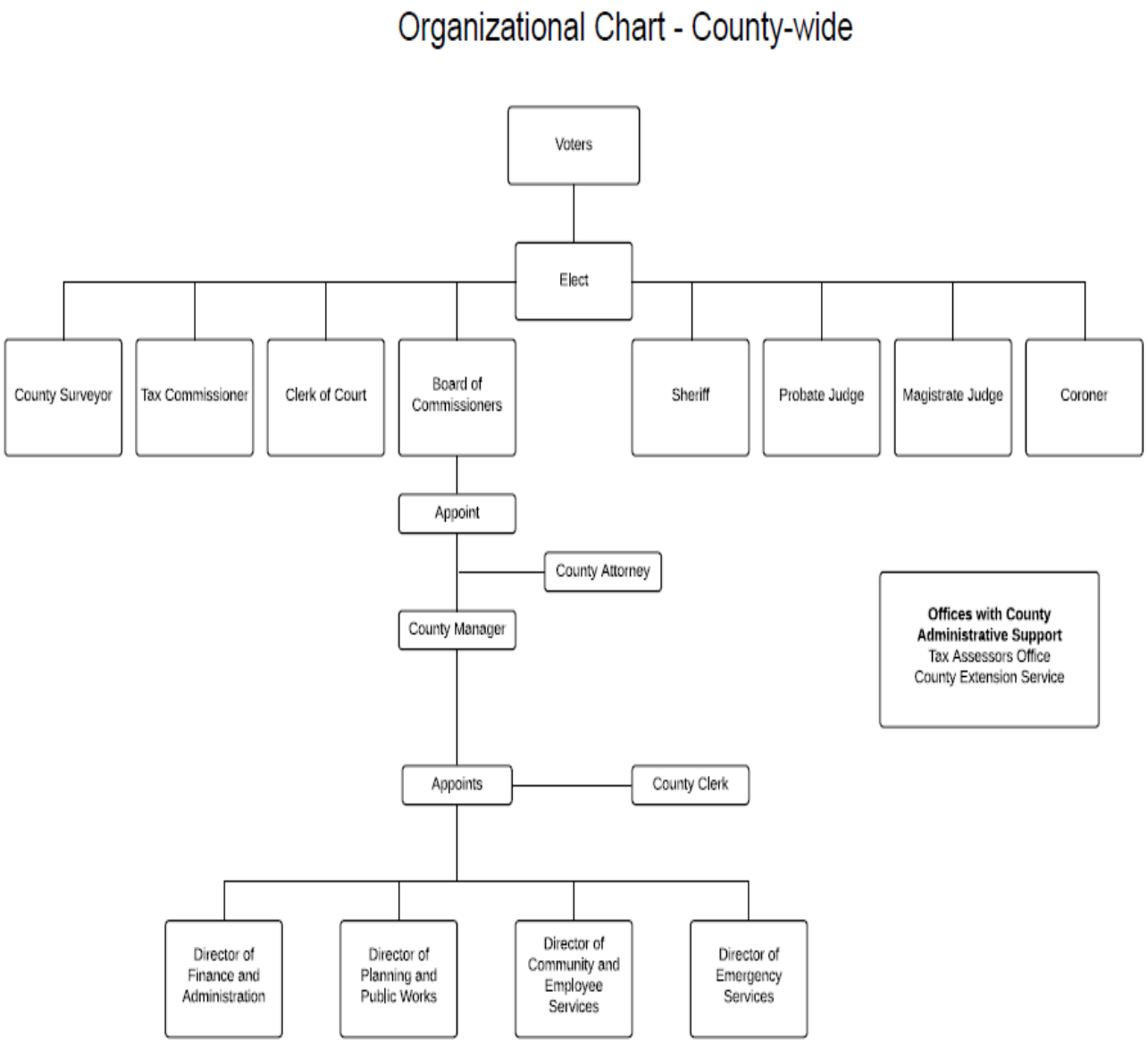
Other financing sources include use of fund balance and transfers as well as grant funds. For FY 2016, this revenue source is $416,416, or approximately 2% of the total budget. The total of other financing sources for FY 2016 will be from grant funds.



Revenue Sources

Revenue Source	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Budget	2016 Budget
Property Taxes	9,470,157	9,482,027	9,540,510	11,546,122
Sales Taxes	5,060,860	5,335,219	5,703,914	5,189,165
Other Taxes	1,378,629	1,472,532	2,117,752	2,249,894
Licenses & Permits	163,996	162,677	160,250	180,600
Intergovernmental Revenues	994,831	1,461,799	794,139	821,189
Charges for Services	3,530,032	3,553,769	2,890,405	2,421,696
Fines & Forfeitures	543,237	615,440	564,775	580,300
Investment Income	96,869	187,608	22,085	16,029
Contributions & Donations from Private Sources	28,283	64,065	27,000	28,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	153,437	223,061	210,800	238,758
Other Financing Sources	1,212,979	1,968,949	976,182	416,416
	22,633,310	24,527,146	23,007,812	23,688,169

Organizational Chart



Fund Structure

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

General Fund

Debt Service Fund

Capital Projects Funds
- -Capital Projects
- -SPLOST
- -Local Roads
- -Community Development Block Grant

Special Revenue Funds
- -Drug Court
- -Drug Rehabilitation
- -Juvenile Services
- -Law Library
- -Special Programs
- -Public Defender
- -Confiscated Assets
- -Emergency 911
- -Technology Fee
- -Multiple Grant
- -Reservoir Construction
- -Planning
- -Hotel/Motel Tax

PROPRIETARY FUNDS

Enterprise Funds
- -Hospital Authority
- -Landfill/Recycling

Position Summary

DEPARTMENTS	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Board of Commissioners	5	5	5
County Administration	3	3	3
Board of Elections	2	2	2
Financial Administration	5	6	6
Human Resources	3	3	3
Tax Commissioner	6	6	6
Tax Assessor	7	7	7
Public Buildings	5	5	5
Superior Court	8	8	8
Magistrate Court	3	3	3
Probate Court	3	3	3
Clerk of Courts	11	11	11
Enotah Circuit	2	2	0*
Sheriff - Officers	59	59	60
Sheriff - Civilians	10	10	10
Fire Department - Officers	36	36	36
Fire Department - Civilians	1	1	1
E911 Communications	11	11	11
Public Works	16	16	16
Fleet Maintenance	4	4	4
Animal Shelter	3	3	3
Transfer Station	1	1	1
Senior Center/Transit	7	7	7
Parks & Recreation	7.5	7.5	7.5
Extension Service	4	4	4
Planning / G.I.S.	5	5	6
TOTAL APPROVED POSITIONS	**227.5**	**228.5**	**228.5**

The FY 2016 budget includes the addition of two previously frozen full time positions, one in the Sheriff's Department and one in Planning, as well as an upgrade of a part time position to full time at the Animal Shelter.

*These positions transferred to White County due to a newly appointed Juvenile Judge.