



# Long Term Financial Forecasting

## **LONG-TERM FINANCIAL FORECASTING**

Long-term financial planning involves projecting revenues, expenses, and key factors that have a financial impact on the organization. Understanding long-term trends and potential risk factors that may impact overall financial sustainability allows the community to proactively address these issues.

Long-term financial planning:

- Creates a long-term outlook into other planning processes like budgeting, capital planning, and revenue forecasting.
- Help to diagnose potential risks and causes of fiscal distress.
- Stimulates “big picture thinking”
- Provides a tool for evaluating long-term compliance with financial policies.
- Allows for pre-emptive action to mitigate forecasted financial distress.
- Defines parameters for decision-making.
- Communicates long-term financial position to residents and other stakeholders, including rating agencies and bond investors.

## **WHAT IS A LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN?**

A long-term financial plan serves as a "road map" for the County's financial goals and the strategies to achieve them. The following sections include discussions and explanations of revenue, historical expense, and economic impacts. The forecasts are prepared after State Revenues are published. Revenues illustrate the sources of the County's funding, what controls these revenues, and future projections based on past and current collections as well as economic factors. Expenses demonstrate the costs related to personal services, operating and capital over time.

## **WHO BENEFITS FROM HAVING A LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN?**

- Citizens: Effective financial stewardship enhances the community's quality of life, making it a more desirable place to live.
- Commission: Long-term financial plans guide Commission members and provide a consistent framework for Commission decisions, ensuring quality control.
- Businesses: Long-term financial plans provide certainty for business decisions, making the community a more attractive location for businesses.
- Management, Department Heads, and Staff: Financial planning sets priorities and direction from the elected Commission

## DEVELOPING THE FINANCIAL PLAN

### ELEMENTS

**Time Horizon:** Preliminary financial forecasts include an overview of the prior- year performance; expectations for the current year; and revenue estimates for the budget year. A further 3–5-year forecast projection will be developed.

**Frequency:** OMB works with each County department to develop expense requests and revenue estimates. OMB also works with departments to identify repurpose opportunities and provide advice based on the County's overall revenue and expense outlook. OMB monitors financial performance and economic conditions underlying the financial forecast. Forecasts are reviewed annually during the budget process as well as monitored due to economic conditions impacting revenue collections.

**Scope:** The General Fund, MSTU-Law Enforcement, MSBU Fire Solid Waste, Stormwater, One Cent Surtax and Gas Tax Fund.

**Content:** Development will include analysis of the financial environment, revenue and expenditure forecasts, debt position and affordability analysis, strategies for achieving and maintaining financial balance and plan monitoring mechanisms.

Our financial model is always changing as we study and adjust our assumptions. It is a tool that shows how our decisions and trends can impact our finances.

### BUDGET PRINCIPLES

We have a set of budget principles to guide us when we make our budget and financial plans:

- Funding ongoing operating expenditures with ongoing revenue sources.
- Using one-time revenues for one-time expenditures (capital projects, for example).
- Maintaining sufficient reserve balances to address unforeseen events.
- Using a conservative approach to revenue estimation to avoid budget shortfalls during the fiscal year.
- Preparing equipment replacement and building maintenance schedules (and providing appropriate funding for these schedules).
- Budgeting Estimated Ending Fund Balances at a minimum of 10% of projected revenue.
- Budgeting Estimated Reserve Balances at a level not less than 5% of the General Fund operating revenues and not greater than 10% of the total budget of the General Fund.

## MOBILIZATION PHASE

- Alignment of Resources
- Preliminary Analysis
- Identification of Service Policies and Priorities
- Validation and Promulgation of Financial Policies
- Definition of Purpose and Scope of Planning

## ANALYSIS PHASE

- Information Gathering
- Trend Projection
- Analysis

## DECISION PHASE

- Decide How to Use the Information Provided
- Participative Process
- Review with Stakeholders
- Process for Executing the Plan

## EXECUTION PHASE

- Strategies Become Operational Through:
- The Budget
- Performance Measures
- Action Plans
- Monitoring

Alachua County Commission meets throughout the fiscal year to discuss future projects and needs of the community. The County holds Special Budget Meetings for which staff prepares documentation as to the County's long-term needs and the County's current and future funding sources.

All County agenda items reference the fiscal impact related to the item being presented to the Board. Quarterly a revenue/expenditure financial report is provided to the Board and citizens on the meeting agenda. The County's financial position is continually reviewed and discussed which ensures all are informed as to the County's financial resources and health as these long-term plans are implemented. Throughout the year at Commission meetings projects and needs are discussed as information becomes available and as the County works toward their goals and objectives.

Readers can find more in-depth information regarding the County's long-term financial planning in the following budget sections:

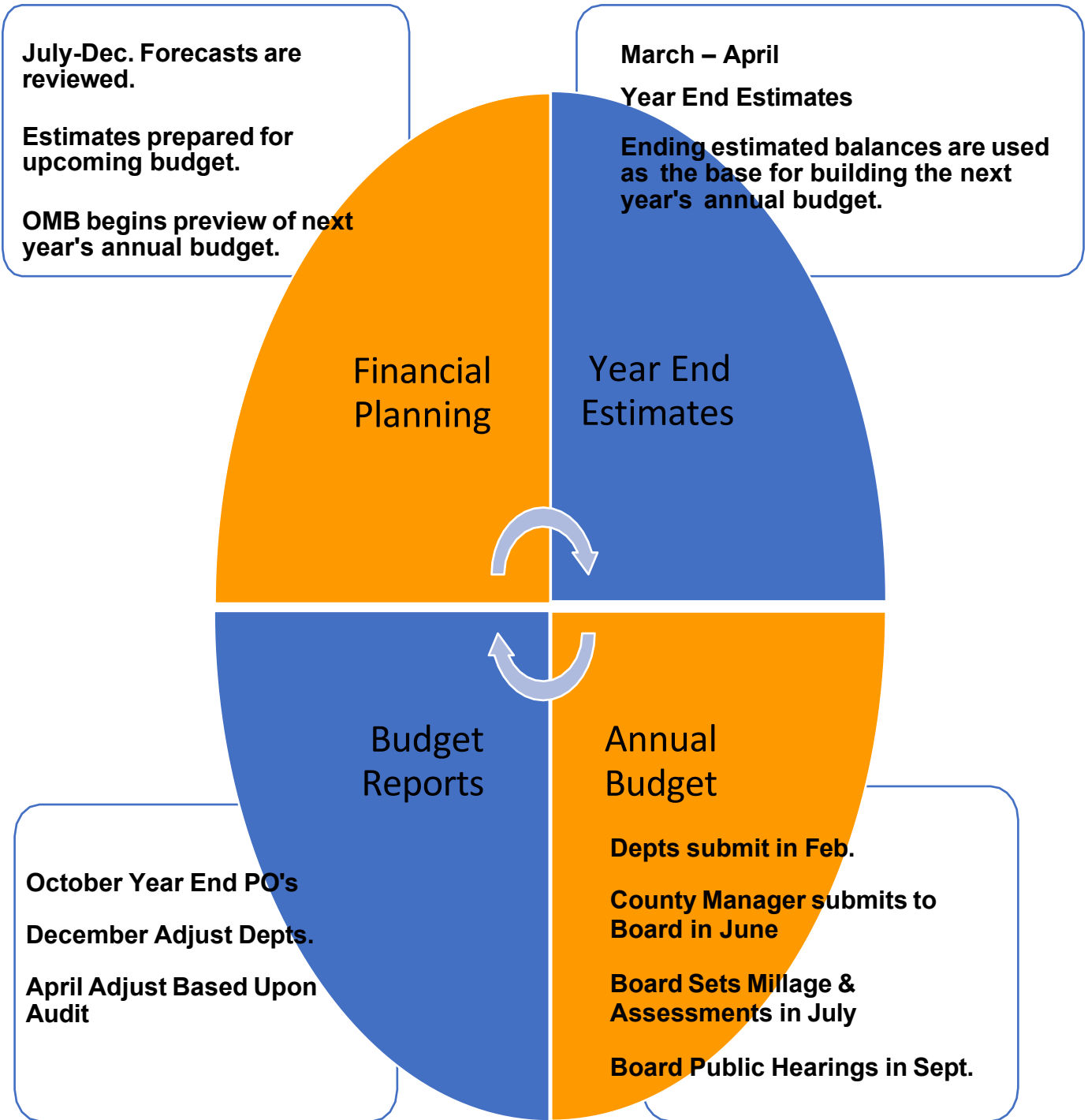
- Budget Overview and Policies
- Overview of Funds
- Fund Balance History (Fund Balance is where the County saves dollars for future projects)
- Strategic and Long-Term Planning
- Debt Information
- Capital Information

While the primary focus of a County's budget is to address the needs for the upcoming fiscal year, a broader range of economic factors must also be considered. These factors are crucial not only for determining the annual budget but also for planning future budgets, including allocating reserves or savings for future projects and purchases.

It is imperative that historical analysis be completed to determine what fiscal needs and impacts have changed and why. It is imperative to look forward to what dollars the County will need in the future to address infrastructure and operational needs.

It is crucial to consider external impacts and trends that will affect the County's budgets. Analysis is needed to determine:

- What external factors will impact the County financially?
- Whether these factors can be adjusted for or controlled by the County.
- How will the County need to adjust or change to compensate for both negative and positive external impacts?



## **COUNTY REVENUES**

Revenue estimates for the budget come from multiple sources:

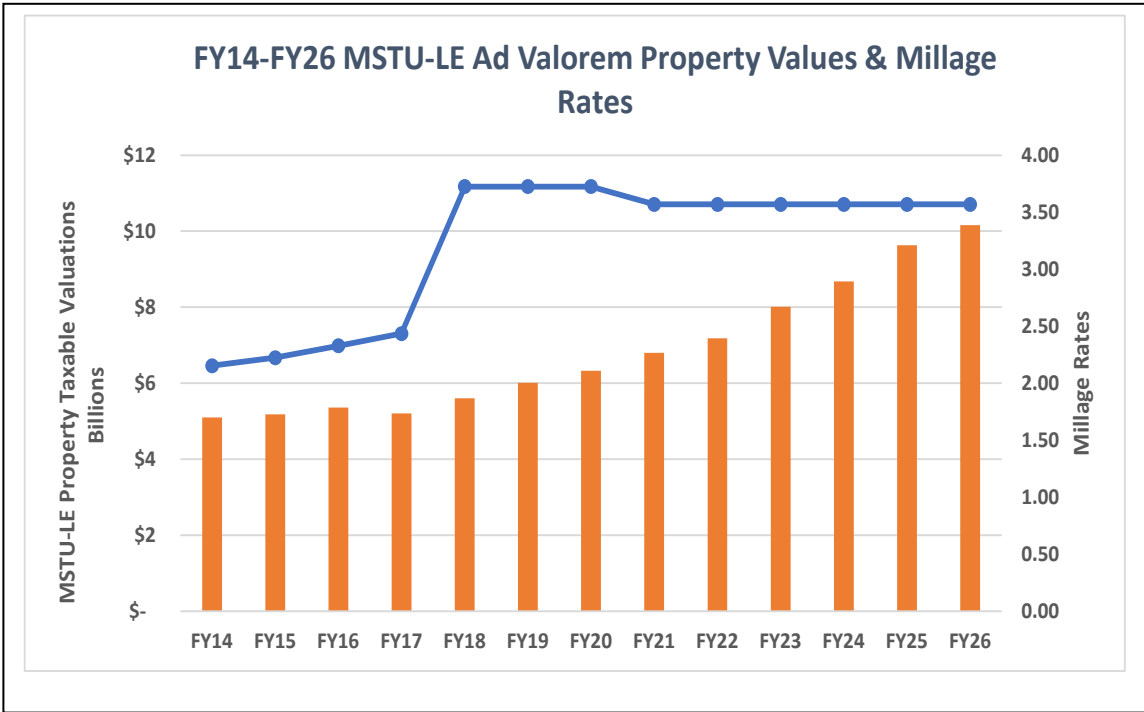
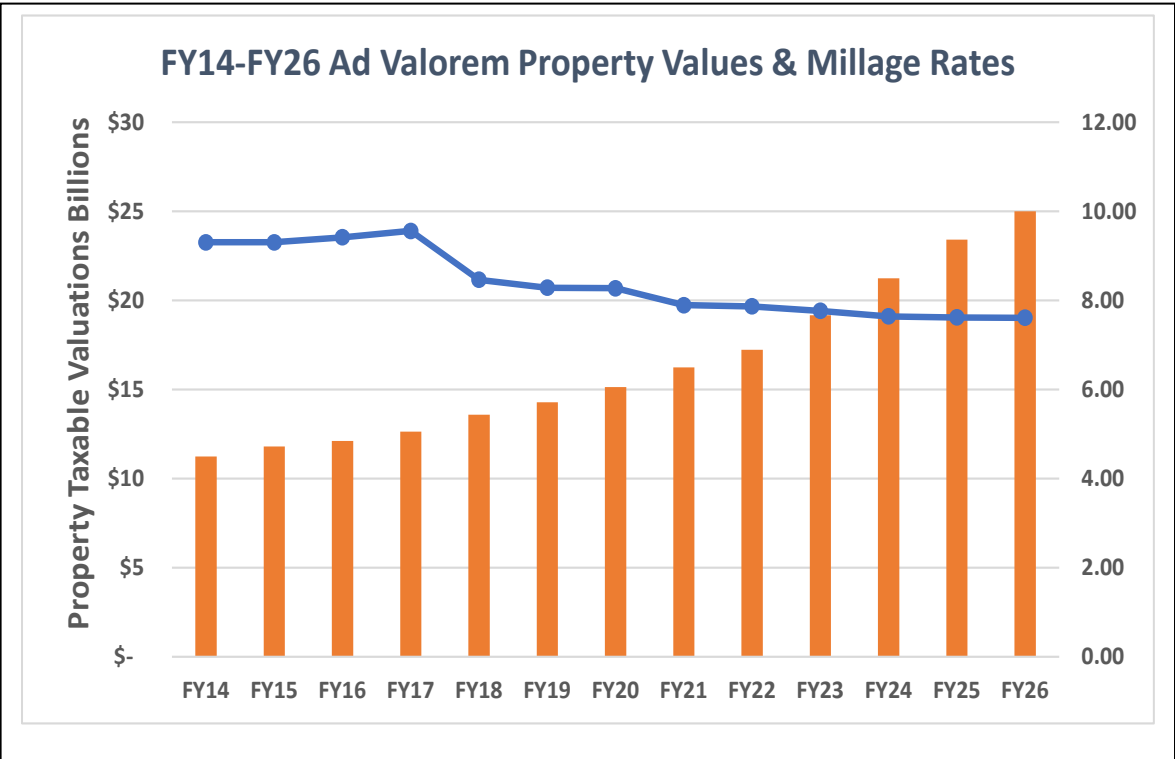
- Operating departments, agencies, and Constitutional Officers provide estimates for program-related fees, grants, licenses, permits, and fines based on past trends and current conditions.
- The Florida Department of Revenue provides estimates for the Local Government Half-Cent Sales Tax, state-collected gasoline taxes, and the State Revenue Sharing program.
- Ad valorem tax revenue, a major source, is estimated using taxable property values provided by the Property Appraiser by July 1st each year, along with the applicable millage rates.

Alachua County funds its operations and capital projects through various revenue sources, including taxes, special assessments, fees, intergovernmental funding, and service charges. Key factors affecting these revenues are changes in taxable property values and millage rates, county population, service demands, real disposable income, and inflation. These "drivers" can directly or indirectly impact revenues. Therefore, the budget process includes forecasting and trend analysis to predict future revenue changes. To create the long-term financial plan, we start by reviewing County revenues and their historical changes.

## **AD VALOREM TAXES**

Taxes obtained are affected by population, restrictions for use, distribution factors and other things outside the County's control and most often controlled by the State. While the County controls the millage rate that creates the property taxes obtained, there is still a cap (10 mil/\$1,000 of value) to how much the County can obtain in property taxes.

Other jurisdictions within the county also have the authority to levy property taxes. These entities include cities, the St. John's River Water Management District, the Suwannee River Water Management District, the Alachua County Library District, the Children's Trust, and the Alachua County School District. All these tax levies are itemized on a consolidated tax bill sent to individual taxpayers.





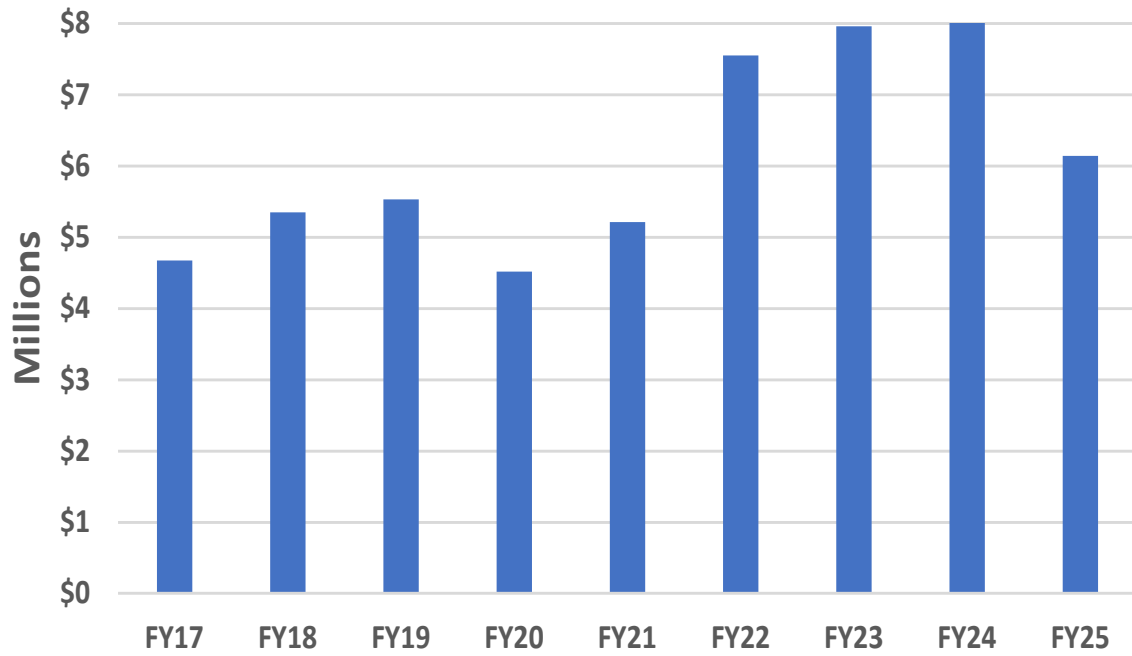
		Total Millage if Suwannee	Total Millage if St Johns
<b>2024 Millage Rates</b>			
County	7.6180		
MSTU-Law	3.5678		
Library	1.0000		
Children's Trust	0.4500		
Suwannee Water Mgt.	0.2936		
St Johns Water Mgt.	0.1793		
School Discretionary	3.2480		
School Required Local	3.0130		
Alachua	5.9500	21.5726	
Archer (includes MSTU Law)	5.5479	24.7383	
Gainesville	6.4297	22.0523	21.9380
Hawthorne (includes MSTU Law)	6.4322		25.5083
High Springs	6.7400	22.3626	
Lacrosse	6.5410	22.1636	
Micanopy	5.2000		20.7083
Newberry	5.9000	21.5226	
Waldo (includes MSTU Law)	6.4000	25.5904	25.4761
Unincorporated		19.1904	19.0761

## OTHER TAXES

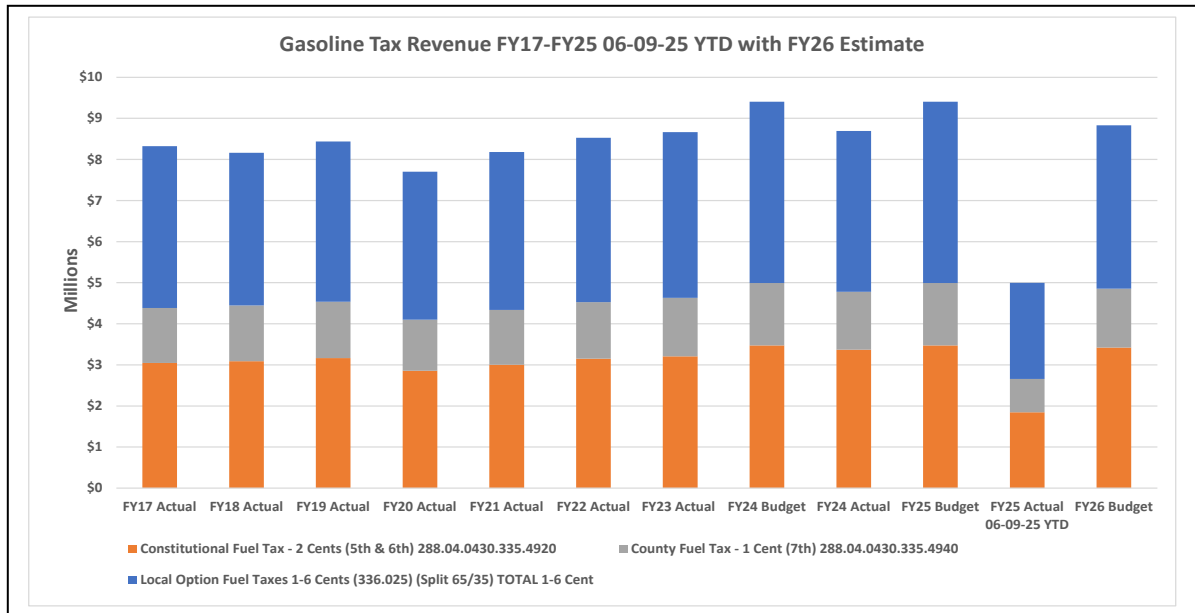
The Other Taxes category includes receipts from non-ad valorem sources such as certain types of locally imposed gasoline and sales taxes, and tourist development taxes.

**Local Option Tourist Development Tax** – This tax is imposed primarily on tourist-related resorts and facilities and provides funding for tourist enhancement activities. Changes in this revenue are largely dependent on fluctuations in the hotel occupancy rate, which in turn depends on the performance of the state economy in general. A 1st and 2nd cent tax has been imposed and is used to fund capital projects and marketing. A 3rd cent tax funds the Tourism Grant Program. A 4th and 6th cent Tourist Development Tax was imposed during FY10; this revenue is used to fund operations of the Alachua County Visitors and Convention Bureau, known as Visit Gainesville, Alachua County, FL.

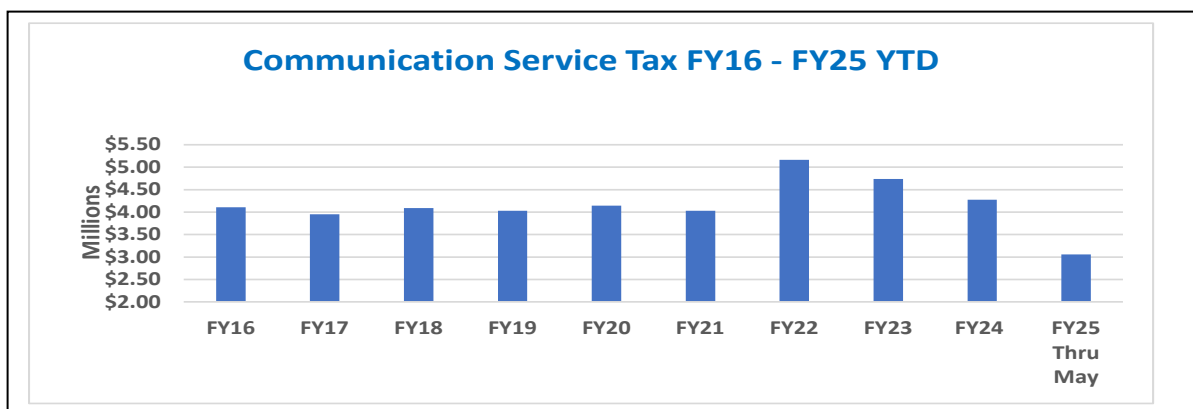
## Tourist Development Tax FY17-FY25 thru May 2025



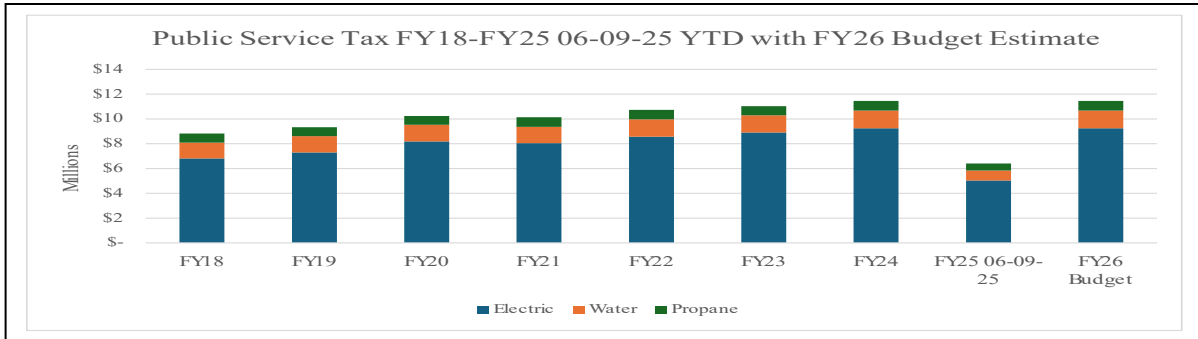
**Fuel Taxes** – This revenue category includes the Voted (9th Cent) Gasoline Tax and two Local Option taxes: the 1-6 cent Local Option Fuel Tax and the 1-5 cent Local Option Fuel Tax. The County Commission approved the 1-5 cent Local Option Fuel Tax in 2007, and it took effect on January 1, 2008, along with a two-cent constitutional tax and a one-cent county tax. Fuel taxes collected within Alachua County are distributed among the County and its nine municipalities. Fuel taxes are an important source of funds for road network improvement, maintenance, and road resurfacing. It is important to note that this tax is per gallon of gasoline and is not based upon the price of the fuel. Increases in fuel prices do not increase the revenue to the County.



**Communications Services Tax** – In 2001, Florida established the Communications Services Tax, which consolidated several state and local taxes into a single tax with two components: the Florida communications services tax and the local communications services tax. Alachua County currently has a rate of 6.90% for this tax, which is applied only in the unincorporated areas. Each of the nine municipalities levy their own communications services tax. This tax is likely to be affected by rapid changes in the communications industry, complicating revenue forecasting.



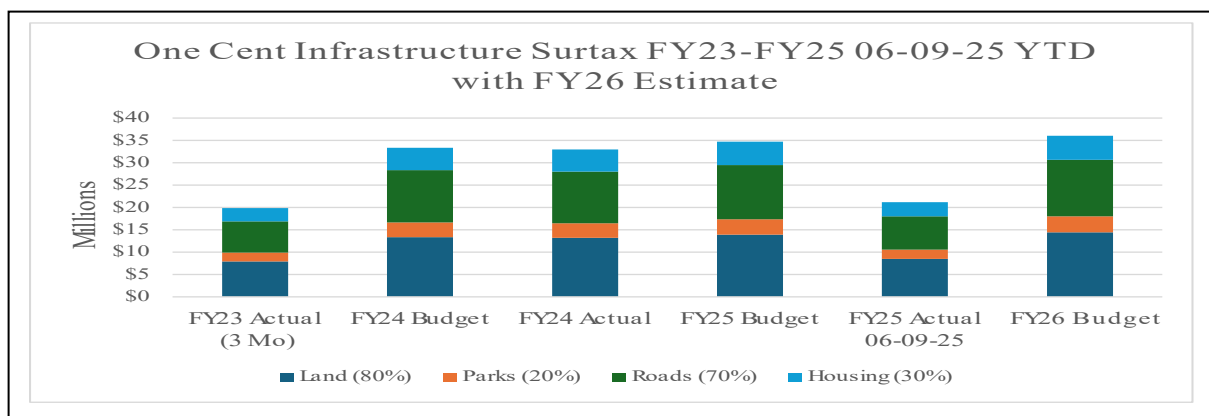
**Public Service Tax** – The public service tax is a 10% surcharge on consumption of utilities including electric, water, diesel, and propane.



**Wild Spaces Public Places - 0.5% Infrastructure Surtax** – In November 2016, Alachua County voters approved a 0.5 percent local government infrastructure surtax, to be effective for eight years, from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2024. The total is split among the municipalities within the county and Alachua County received 57% of the total. This infrastructure tax ended December 31, 2022, and the County will spend the remainder of unspent funds that have been collected to that date split 90% for land conservation and 10% for parks and recreational locations.

**1.0% Infrastructure Surtax** – On November 8, 2022, Alachua County voters approved a 1.0 percent local government infrastructure surtax, to be effective for ten years, from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2032. The total is split among the municipalities within the county and Alachua County receives 57% of the total.

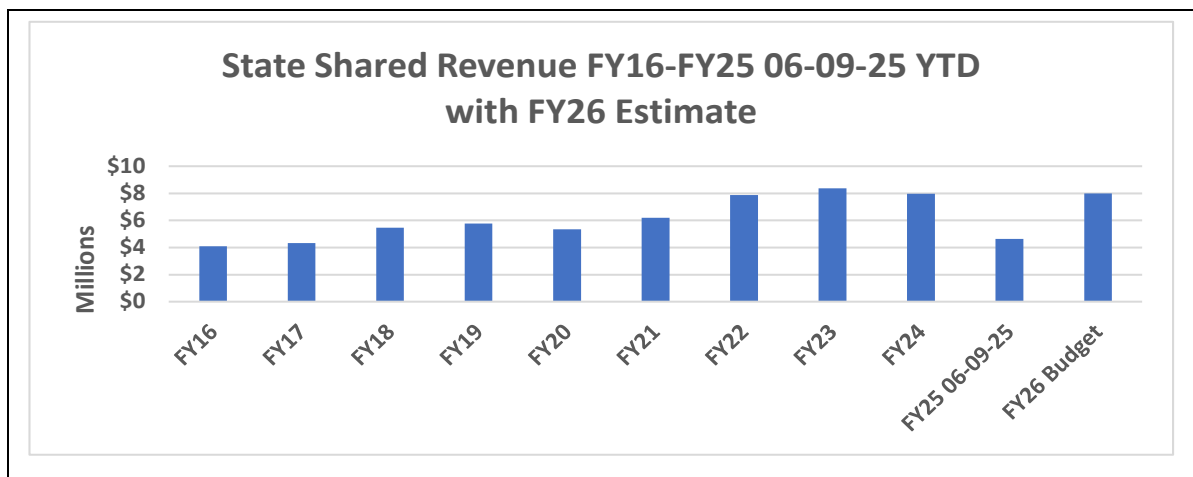
One half of revenues from this surtax is to be used to acquire and improve conservation lands, and create, improve, and maintain parks and recreational facilities. This portion is split 80% for land conservation and 20% for parks and recreational locations. The other half of revenues is to be used for other infrastructure, including repaving, repairing roads and acquiring or building affordable housing. This portion is split by 70% for roads and 30% work force housing.



## INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES

**Grants** – Major grants received by the county include funding for Foster Grandparents, Victims of Crime Advocacy (VOCA), anti-drug and mental health programs, environmental issues, and housing grants for community development and housing rental.

**State-Shared Revenues** – The County Revenue Sharing and Local Government Half-Cent Sales Tax Programs are important sources of funding for the County.

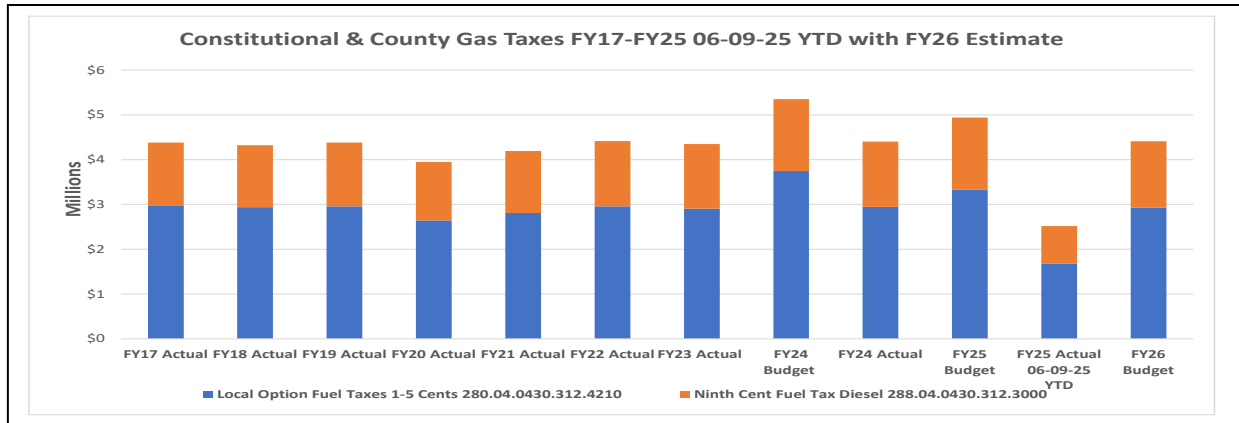


**County Revenue Sharing Program** created through The Florida Revenue Sharing Act of 1972 was an attempt to ensure a minimum level of revenue parity across units of local government. This program is funded by net cigarette tax and sales and use tax collections.

**Local Government Half-Cent Sales Tax Program** was authorized in 1982, this program generates the largest amount of revenue for local governments among the state-shared revenue sources. It distributes a portion of state sales tax revenue, and a portion of communications services tax revenue. This program's primary purpose is to provide relief from ad valorem and utility taxes in addition to providing revenues for local programs.

**The Constitutional Fuel Tax** is a 2-cent levy shared with counties only. Eighty percent of the revenue can be used for debt service, if any, to be managed by the State Board of Administration. Any remainder of the 80 percent portion is then distributed to the County. The other 20 percent is given to the County for the acquisition, construction, and maintenance of roads. This revenue will remain a continuous source of income.

**The County (1 Cent) Fuel Tax** is considered a State-Shared Revenue since its distribution is based on a State-set formula – not based solely on total collections within the county of collection. This revenue, along with other gasoline taxes and road network impact fees, is used to finance road network improvements and maintenance.



**The Documentary Stamp Tax** is levied at the rate of \$.70 per \$100 (or portion thereof) on documents that transfer interest in Florida real property, such as warranty deeds and quit claim deeds. This tax is paid to the Clerk of Court when the document is recorded. The Clerk of Court sends the money to the Department of Revenue which then distributes the funds according to law. Portions of the documentary stamp tax are transferred into the Local Government Housing Trust Fund for distribution to eligible county and municipal governments to fund the implementation of local housing assistance plans.

### CHARGES FOR SERVICES

Charges for Services comprise receipts from such services as ambulance transports, pet adoptions, parking fees at Poe Springs Park, internal service charges, fees for housing federal prisoners, and municipal, commercial and franchise solid waste disposal fees. In preparing the County's annual budget, the departments whose operations are supported by these fees provide the estimates of anticipated revenue. Departments rely upon past trends and their accumulated expert knowledge to construct these estimates.

**Enhanced 911 Fee** is a fee paid by landline telephone subscribers within Alachua County to fund the 911 emergency service programs. The monthly rate is 40 cents per access line. There is a similar fee imposed by the State of Florida on cellular telephone subscribers to fund the electronic 911 system. Part of this levy is shared with the Counties.

### MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES

Miscellaneous Revenues account for interest, special assessments, impact fees, rental income, sale of surplus equipment, property and land, and contributions and donations. The County does not currently budget for unrealized changes in the value of its investments, but they are reflected in its financial statements, and they impact future years' budgets through changes in the fund balance brought forward.

**Fines and Forfeitures** consist mainly of court and local ordinance violation fines.

**Interest Earnings** are revenues earned from the County's investments. The majority of the County's investments are with the State Board of Administration. All interest earned is remitted to the County.

**Impact Fees** on new construction were implemented to finance capital facilities needed to maintain service levels in areas of growth, including roads, parks, and fire.

## FIRE PROTECTION ASSESSMENT

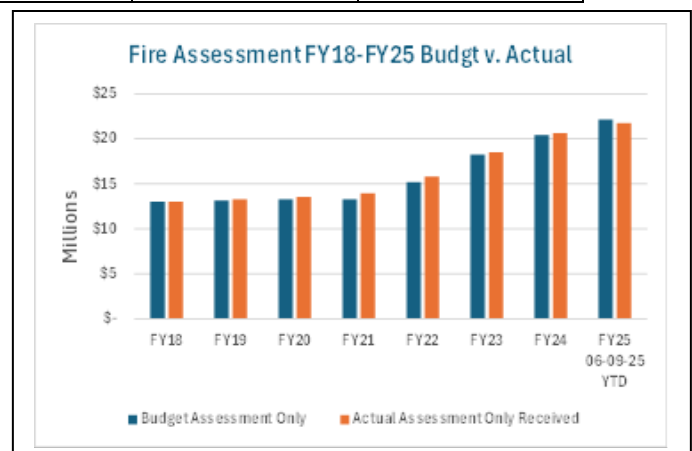
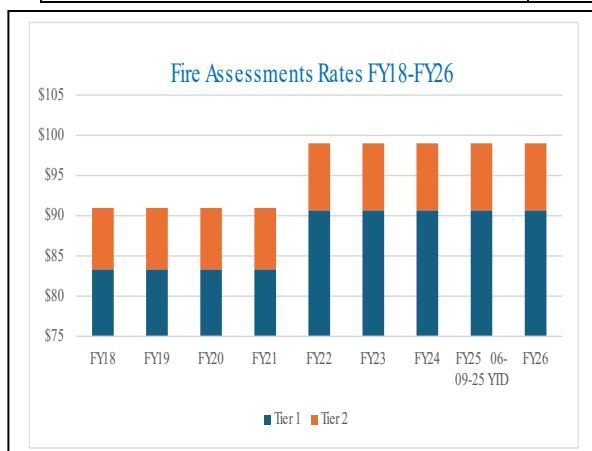
The fire assessment in Alachua County is a non-ad valorem fee imposed on property owners to fund fire protection services. This assessment is designed to cover the costs associated with fire prevention, fire suppression, emergency response, and related services provided by the county.

**Tier 1** – Based on the simple availability of Fire Protection service which is available equally to all parcels of all types within the County by virtue of the continued state of fire protection readiness provided and maintained by the County. This tier is equal for all parcels.

**Tier 2** – In order for the assessment to be fairly and reasonably apportioned among the properties that receive the special benefit, Tier 2 is based on the level of improvement related to each parcel. Thus, the higher the level of improvement, the higher the Tier 2 Assessment that would be charged. This tier is based on Equivalent Benefit Units (EBUs). Each EBU is representative of each \$5,000 of structure value. For example, a structure with a value of \$15,000 would equate to 3 EBUs.

Exemptions include government, agricultural, faith based, and charitable properties.

Fire Assessment	Unit Type	FY25 Assessment (Per Unit)	FY26 Proposed Assessment (Per Unit)
<b>Tier 1 - Response Readiness</b>	<b>Per Parcel</b>	<b>\$90.69</b>	<b>\$132.47</b>
<b>Tier 2 - Structure Loss Protection</b>	<b>Per EBU</b>	<b>\$8.31</b>	<b>\$7.28</b>



## **STORMWATER ASSESSMENT**

The Florida Legislature mandates that local governments, including the County, develop compatible storm water management programs aligned with state and local regulations. The County's storm water management system includes inlets, conduits, manholes, channels, ditches, drainage easements, retention and detention basins, infiltration facilities, and natural waterways. These elements benefit properties by managing storm water collection, storage, treatment, and conveyance. Costs for operating, maintaining, repairing, and improving the system should be allocated based on the benefits received, services provided, or burdens imposed. Poor storm water management adversely affects public health, safety, and welfare due to poor water quality and flooding.

Benefitted Property gains from the operation of the storm water management system through:

- Storm water management services and facilities for safe detention, retention, conveyance, or treatment of discharged storm water.
- Stabilized or increased property values.
- Increased safety and better property access.
- Improved property appearance.
- Enhanced adaptability for current or future higher uses.
- Alleviation of storm water runoff burdens.
- Promotion of environmentally responsible use and enjoyment of natural resources.
- Storm water charges equitably fund capital improvements and service costs by allocating expenses based on the storm water burden generated by each property's physical characteristics and use.

Stormwater Assessments shall be collected pursuant to the Uniform Assessment Collection Act, and the County shall comply with all applicable provisions thereof.

## **STORMWATER EXEMPTIONS**

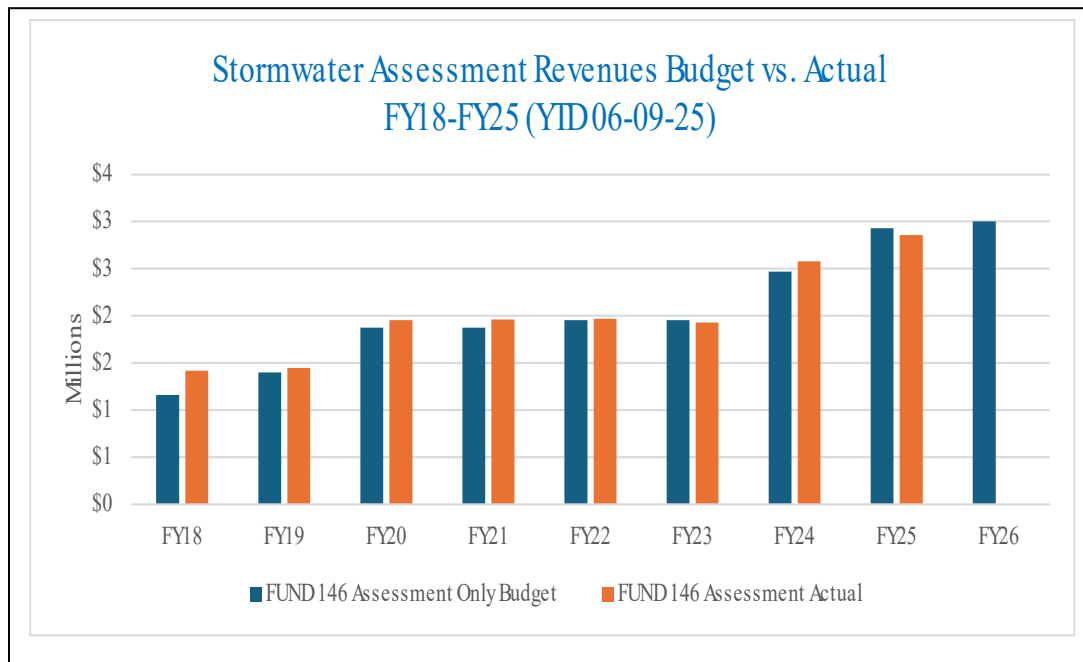
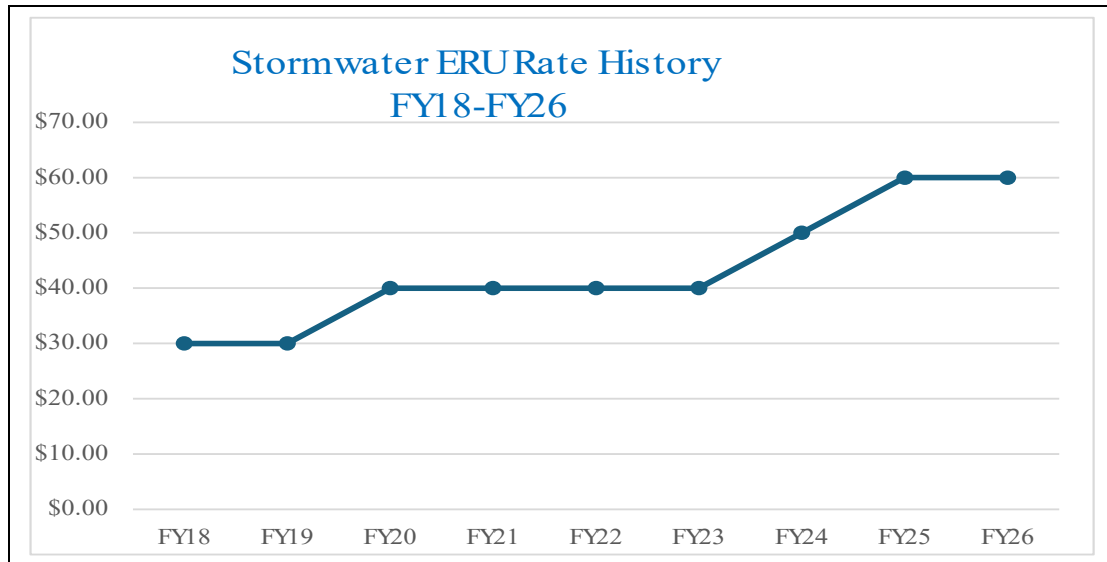
Florida law provides specific exemptions to reduce the value of property subject to taxation exemptions.

Hardship Exemption – To qualify for a hardship exemption for residential property, the owner must meet the following criteria:

- Occupy the property and have a homestead exemption per Chapter 196, Florida Statutes.
- For the 12 months prior to the application, the combined income of all occupants must be below the Income Exemption Standard, or the owner must have received AFDC, Supplemental Security Income, or services from the Office of Social Services within the past year.
- Intend to maintain the property as their permanent residence for the entire Fiscal Year for which the exemption is sought.
- Entities also exempt include charitable, religious non-profit organizations, burial grounds, or Disabled Veterans.



STORMWATER ASSESSMENT	Unit Type	FY25 Assessment (Per Unit)	FY26 Propose Assessment (Per Unit)
Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU)	ERU	\$60.00	\$60.00



## **SOLID WASTE ASSESSMENT**

The Solid Waste Assessment is a non-ad valorem fee imposed by the County on residential property to fund solid waste management, including collection and disposal services, and to generate necessary revenue.

Solid waste cost includes:

- The annual funding required for solid waste management, recycling, and disposal services.
- The estimated costs for collecting the assessment, including Tax Collector and Property Appraiser fees, and discounts for early payment.
- This regulation serves a public purpose by promoting the health, safety, and welfare of Alachua County residents.

## **SOLID WASTE EXEMPTIONS**

Florida law provides specific exemptions to reduce the value of property subject to taxation exemptions. The Solid Waste Assessment exemptions include those of the property taxation exemptions, as well as:

[Hardship Exemption](#) – To qualify for a hardship exemption for Residential Property, the owner must meet the following criteria:

- Occupy the property and have a homestead exemption per Chapter 196, Florida Statutes.
- For the 12 months prior to the application, the combined income of all occupants must be below the Income Exemption Standard, or the owner must have received AFDC, Supplemental Security Income, or services from the Office of Social Services.
- Intend to maintain the property as their permanent residence for the entire Fiscal Year for which the exemption is sought.

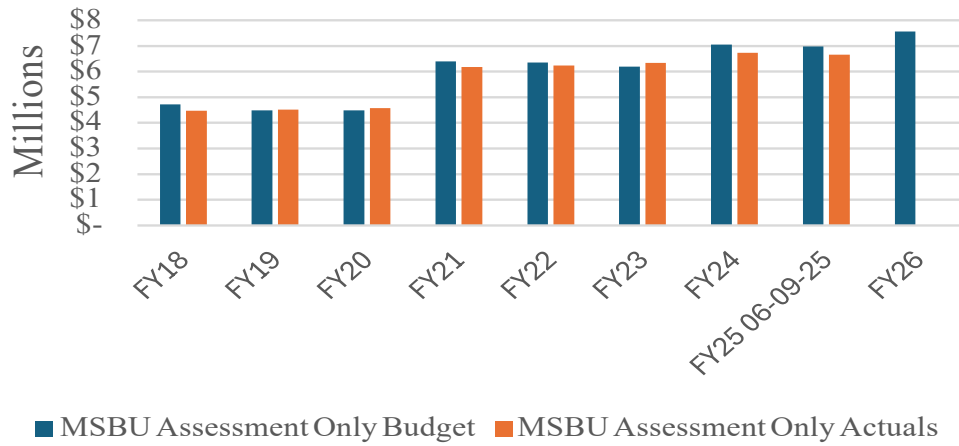
[Exemption for Inaccessibility](#)- Residential property in the Mandatory Area, which is inaccessible to a contractor, may apply for a partial exemption from the Solid Waste Assessment.

## **SOLID WASTE RESIDENTIAL ASSESSMENTS**

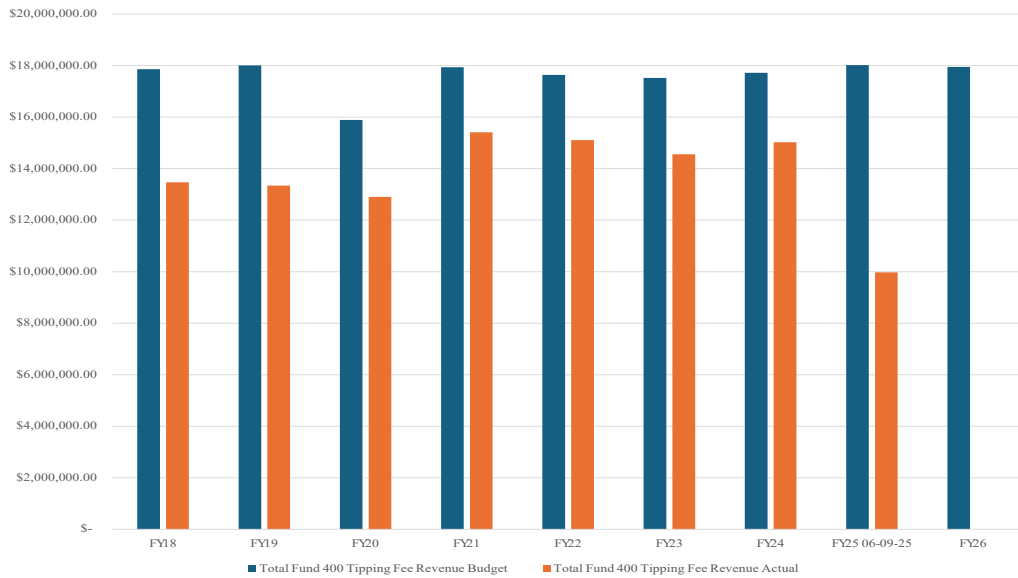
Non-ad valorem assessments, which appear on the ad valorem tax bill, fund residential solid waste collection and disposal, providing a stable revenue source. These assessments began in the mid-1980s, requiring all County residents to pay for refuse disposal. The fee varies based on residency in an incorporated town, the "mandatory collection urban area," or rural areas. Additionally, a management assessment is charged. Most residents are charged based on the quantity of refuse, and franchise haulers must purchase a franchise license. All users of the transfer station pay a tipping fee.

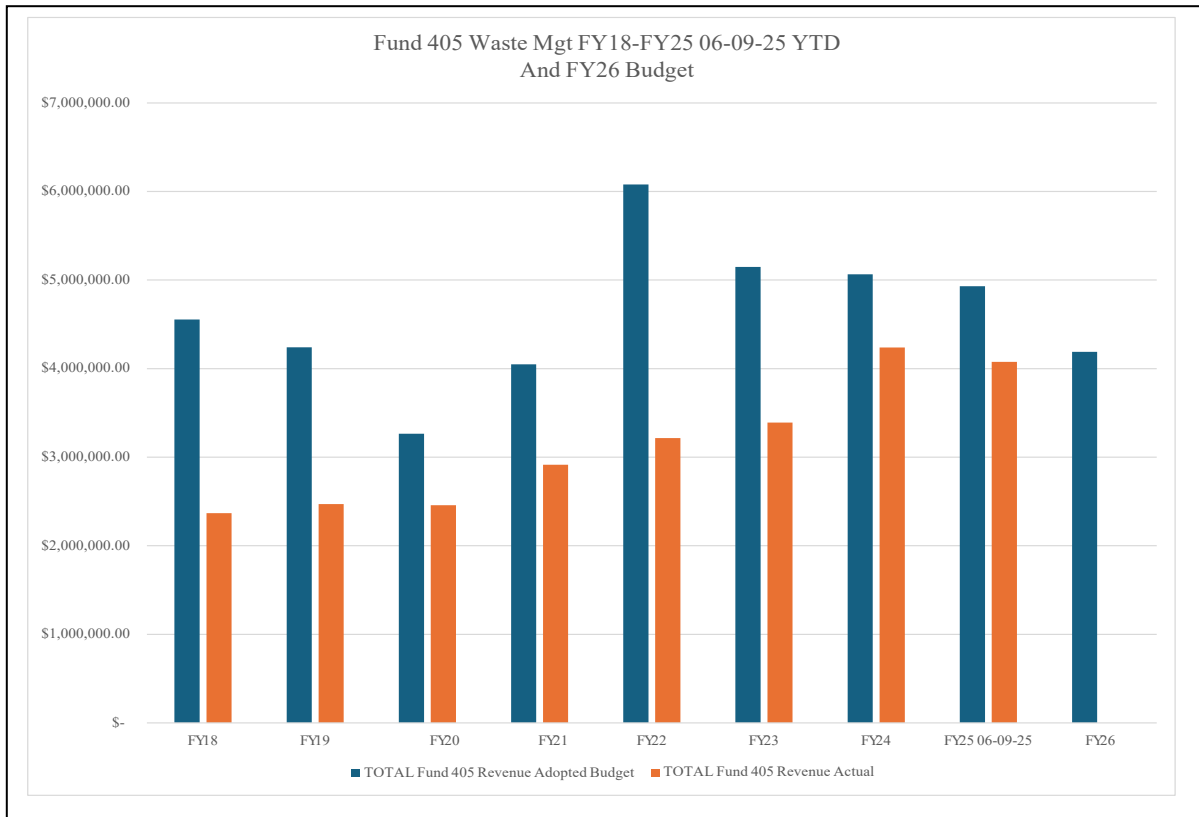
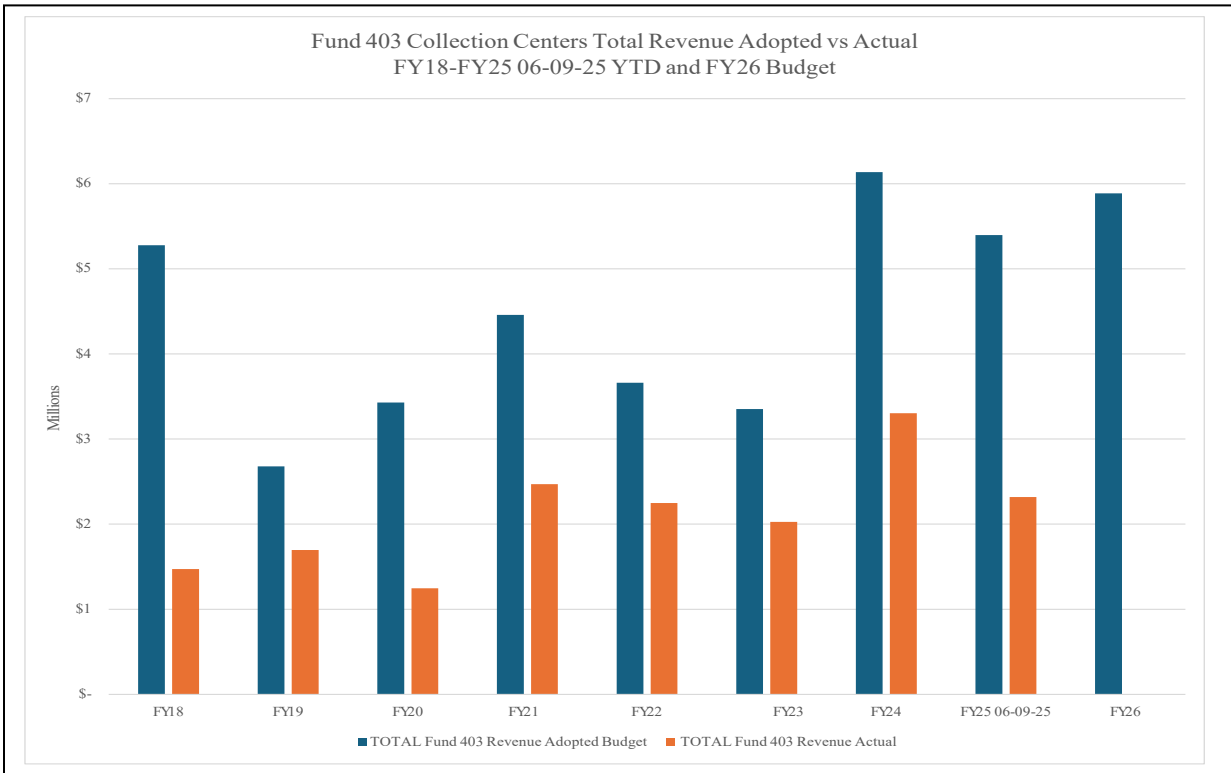
Universal Collection Assessment			
	Code	FY25 Rates	FY26 Proposed Rates
Residential Mandatory Collection Area			
appx. 20 gal cart	0120	\$203.89	\$203.89
35 gal cart	0135	\$227.08	\$227.08
64 gal cart	0164	\$276.86	\$276.86
96 gal cart	0196	\$330.00	\$330.00
Multi-Family Residential			
appx. 20 gal cart	0220	\$203.89	\$203.89
35 gal cart	0235	\$227.08	\$227.08
64 gal cart	0264	\$276.86	\$276.86
96 gal cart	0296	\$330.00	\$330.00
Condo - Residential			
appx. 20 gal cart	0320	\$203.89	\$203.89
35 gal cart	0335	\$227.08	\$227.08
64 gal cart	0364	\$276.86	\$276.86
96 gal cart	0396	\$330.00	\$330.00
Rural Collection Assessment			
	Code	FY25 Rates	FY26 Proposed Rates
Rural Collection Area	501	\$132.01	\$132.01
Solid Waste Management Assessment			
	Code	FY25 Rates	FY26 Proposed Rates
Residential			
Residential (Mandatory and Municipal)	710	\$25.27	\$25.27
Commercially Collected Residential	720	\$25.27	\$25.27
Non-Mandatory Residential	730	\$15.81	\$15.81
Commercial			
0-4.9 tons	801	\$23.61	\$23.61
5-9.9 tons	802	\$71.78	\$71.78
10-19.9 tons	803	\$144.05	\$144.05
20-29.9 tons	804	\$240.40	\$240.40
30-39.9 tons	805	\$336.76	\$336.76
40-49.9 tons	806	\$433.11	\$433.11
50-74.9 tons	807	\$601.73	\$601.73
75-99.9 tons	808	\$842.61	\$842.61
100-149.9 tons	809	\$1,203.94	\$1,203.94
150-199.9 tons	810	\$1,685.71	\$1,685.71
200-499.9 tons	811	\$3,371.90	\$3,371.90
500-999.9 tons	812	\$7,226.05	\$7,226.05
1000-1899.9 tons	813	\$13,970.82	\$13,970.82
1900 < tons	814	\$21,197.84	\$21,197.84

### Fund 148 MSBU Assessment Only Fund Refuse Collection Revenues FY18-FY25 YTD



### Fund 400 Tipping Fee FY18-FY25 06-09-25 YTD with FY26 Budget





## ECONOMIC CONDITIONS TO CONSIDER

Items	Impact	Strategy
<b>Property Values</b>		
Increase in property values over the past three years has been an average of 9.11%	Increased property values have provided the County the ability to reduce millage rates	Monitoring of home sales throughout the year to determine stability of property values as well as concern for plateau
<b>Property Values</b>		
Concern that housing market will slow or plateau	Lower property values affect baseline to calculate millage rates.	Monitor trends and evaluate service levels to determine impacts
<b>Property Values</b>		
<b>Foreclosures</b>	Increased foreclosures can result in lower property values	Monitor foreclosure and home value rates
<b>State Revenue Sharing</b>	Consistent – return to pre-pandemic levels but cautious due to rising food and fuel prices	Monitor monthly trends to watch for mix of purchasing goods and services, savings, and inflation levels
<b>Gas Tax Revenues</b>	Increased gas price does not directly increase gas tax revenue	Monitor monthly revenues taking into account seasonal adjustments for trend analysis
<b>Supply Chain</b>	Impacts on project timelines, vendor hesitancy to commit due to fluctuating labor and materials costs	Review of vehicle and technology assets will occur to determine supply chain delay impacts as well as future project related cost updates
<b>Energy Costs</b>	Rising cost of Gasoline and Diesel	Quarterly review of gasoline and diesel pricing to monitor the impact on County operational expenses
<b>Employment</b>	Multiple impacts, Job Recruitment & Retention, Remote Work, Hybrids, Work-Life Balance	Monitor employment industry changes and unemployment rates

## LONG-TERM FINANCIAL FORECASTING OVERVIEW

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) uses multi-year financial models for Alachua County's primary funds to forecast long-term financial impacts and trends. These primary funds, representing about 79% of the County's total budget, include:

- General Fund
- Other Special Revenue Fund
- Capital Projects

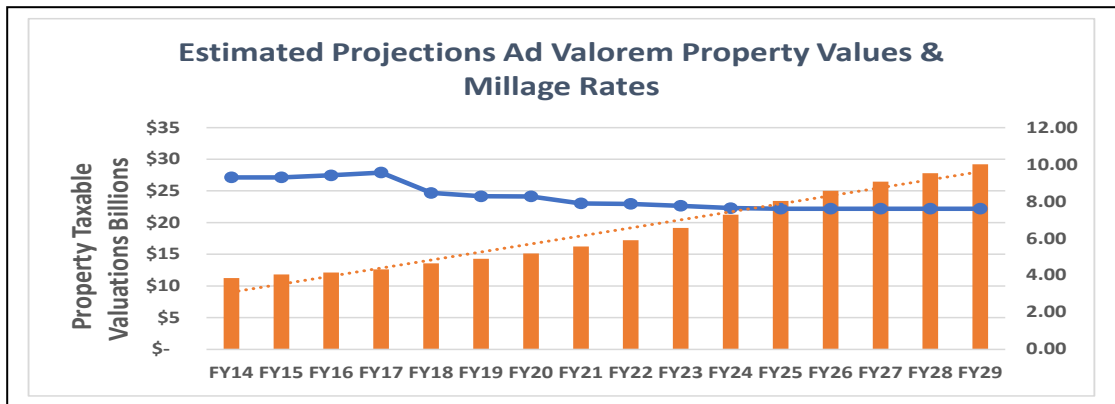
Taking a multi-year perspective helps the County better understand future financial opportunities and challenges. These financial models are dynamic, allowing OMB to adjust assumptions as conditions evolve. They serve as analytical tools for examining potential policy impacts and trends. To ensure robust forecasting, the County uses the following budget principles:

- Recurring operating costs should be covered by recurring revenue.
- One-time revenue should fund one-time expenses like capital projects.
- Reserve balances should be maintained for unforeseen events.
- Conservative revenue estimations help avoid budget shortfalls.
- Planned future growth and maintenance schedules should be funded accordingly.

***Disclaimer: The long-range projections provided herein are intended solely as a planning tool. They are based on information, assumptions, and conditions available at the time of publication and are subject to change. These projections do not represent official direction, policy, or commitment by the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and should not be interpreted as such.***

## GENERAL FUND

The primary revenue source for the General Fund is property tax, influenced by the millage rate and property values. Over the past eight years, the millage rate has steadily decreased, while property value growth has continued to support infrastructure and operational needs. Current forecasts assume that the millage rate will remain at 7.6100, with property tax revenue increasing due to rising assessed property values and new construction. In the last five years, taxable assessed values in Alachua County have grown by an average of 9.04%. However, FY26 demonstrates a return to single digit growth (6.85% increase over FY25 10.17% increase and a gradual economic slowdown is anticipated.

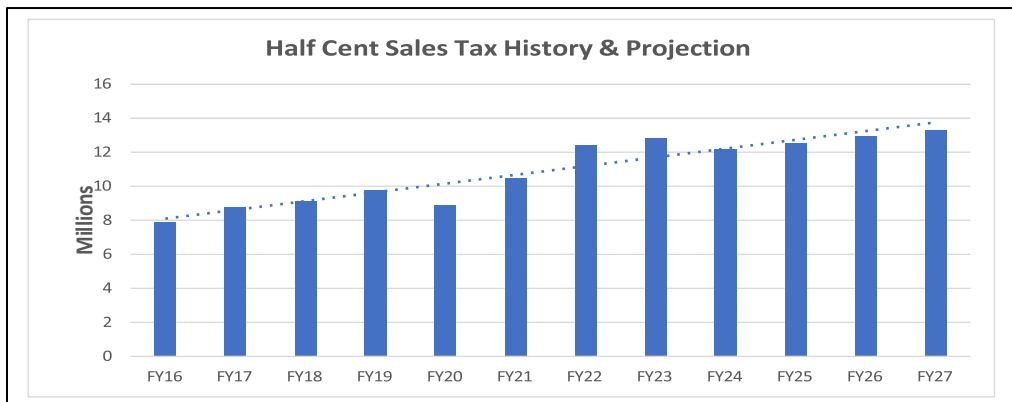


### SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

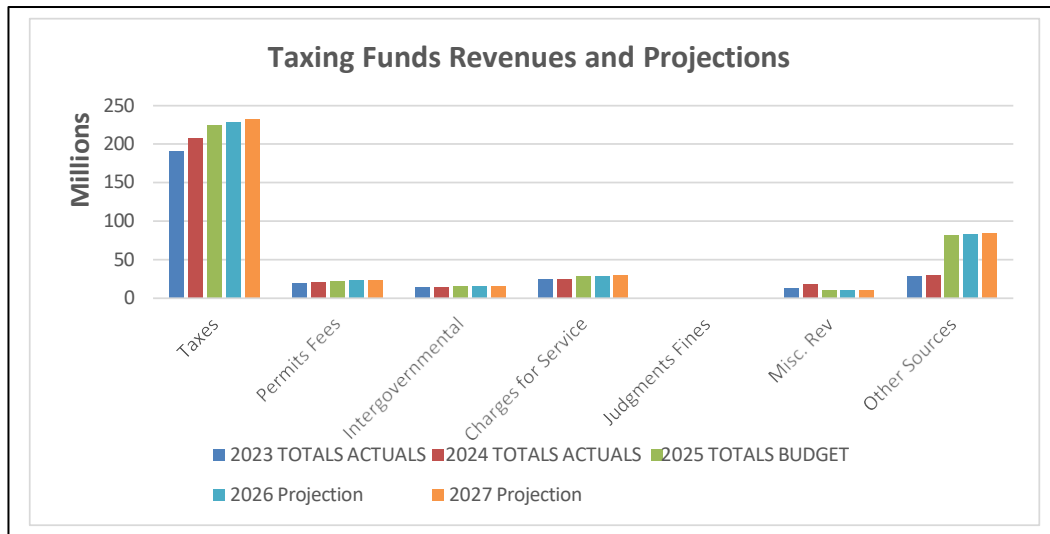
Population growth also impacts revenue, with slower growth expected to taper to a 2.65% increase by FY 2026 before stabilizing to an estimated 5.39% increase by FY 2030. (Information provided by Projections of Florida Population by County, 2025–2050, with Estimates for 2023 Florida Bureau of Economic Research <https://bebr.ufl.edu/population/>).

The half-cent sales tax is the largest source of state-shared revenue for local governments. Revenue in this area has recovered to pre-pandemic levels, with a 3% increase projected for FY25, driven by tourism and other economic factors.

Charges for services, franchise taxes, and internal interdepartmental charges follow simple projections based on historical patterns, assuming a stable mix of revenues.







## CAPITAL PROJECTS

Alachua County's Capital Program focuses on infrastructure and community growth, including transportation, public safety, parks and recreation, and stormwater management. Project prioritization aligns with community needs, economic impact, and sustainability goals. Rising construction costs—driven by inflation, labor shortages, and material price volatility—make early project planning critical. Strategies to manage these costs include:

- **Early Planning and Forecasting:** Market analysis and predictive analytics will help anticipate cost escalations, with flexible timelines and contingency funds allowing adjustments for economic fluctuations.
- **Strategic Sourcing and Partnerships:** Partnerships with reliable suppliers and diversified sourcing reduce cost volatility, supply bottlenecks, and overall financial exposure.
- **Enhanced Contingency Planning:** Allocating additional contingency funds and flexible financing arrangements will help absorb unexpected costs and capitalize on bulk purchasing opportunities.
- **Continuous Monitoring and Adjustment:** Real-time project monitoring allows early detection of cost increases and responsive financial adjustments to keep projects on track.

***Please see the Capital Planning and Budgeting Section of the book for the 5-year cost estimates.***

### THREE-YEAR PROJECTIONS\*

*This Section will further update after State Revenue Estimates Post*

Three-Year Projections focus on major funds which incorporate yearly revenue and expense assumptions based primarily on historic trends, economic conditions, and population estimates. This section will outline assumptions included in projections of each major funding source. The projections shown for each fund represent 100% of anticipated revenue and expense.

#### **Projection Assumptions:**

**Salary:** A 4.00% salary increase is proposed as of October 1, 2026 and a 2.00% annual increase projected thereafter.

**Health Insurance:** A 2.00% increase is budgeted in FY 26, and a 3.00% annual increase is projected thereafter.

**Employee Benefits:** A 2.00% annual increase is projected thereafter.

**Interest Revenue:** Interest revenue is budgeted at 3.50% for FY26 and FY27.

**Operating Costs:** Increase 2% per year along with **Capital Increase** 2% per year

### GENERAL GOVERNMENT

**General Fund** covers numerous Board of County Commissioners divisions and the Elected Officials. The primary sources of revenue are taxes, including Property Tax, Sales Tax, Communications Services Tax, and Public Service Tax. Most of the revenue sources in this fund may be utilized for any County function.

Property Tax revenue projections are based on a 10.17% property value increase in FY 24/25, a 9.0% increase in FY 25/26, and a 9.50% in FY26/27. Other taxes reflect a moderate increase of 3.00%.

Other Revenue reflects expected increases and decreases in revenue for other charges for services and fine collections, as well as transfers in from other funds.

Board of County Commissioners expenditures reflect a 2.00% increase for the Board's goals for needed capital expenditures and grant sharing costs, based on historical actuals.

Fund Balance represents the sum of forecasted revenue and expenditures. The unassigned plus assigned fund balance for the MSTU Law Enforcement and MSBU Fire Funds, at each fiscal year end, shall not be less than 5% of the following year's projected operating revenue and the unassigned plus assigned fund balance of the General Fund shall be 10%.

In any fiscal year where the County is unable to maintain the minimum fund balance as required in this section; the County shall reestablish the minimum amount over a period not to exceed 3 years. During the re-establishment period, the County shall not appropriate any amounts of such fund balance for the purpose of balancing the budget until the minimum is reached.

Strategic Planning has been identified by the Board of County Commissioners and implemented through the individual divisions within the General Fund; more detailed information may be found in the program budgets and in the strategic performance section of the book.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX**

Revenue is from the five-cent tourism tax on hotels and motels, also known as the “Bed Tax.” Tourism taxes are restricted by Florida Statute and must be used to promote tourism in Alachua County.

### **Tourism Tax Revenue**

Alachua County’s Tourist Development Tax (TDT), or “bed tax,” is a 5% levy on short-term lodging revenue, collected by hosts and used to promote tourism through funding local events, cultural programs, and nature-based attractions. Grants support county nonprofits and agencies, requiring recipients to allocate at least 35% of funds for external marketing to attract visitors.

In March 2025, Alachua County hosted the World Masters Athletics Indoor Championships at the Alachua County Sports and Events Center—the first time this prestigious event was held in the U.S., drawing athletes and spectators worldwide. This event was a part of the county’s broader tourism strategy, which bolstered the local economy by over \$738 million last year, creating jobs, generating \$8.2 million in TDT revenue, and funding community improvements.

Tourism is central to Alachua County’s economy, supporting thousands of jobs and funding vital infrastructure.

### **Major Expense Impacts**

Dedicated reserves are being maintained for Tourist Development Tax debt, covering both the Equestrian Center and the Sports Event Center. Notably, the Sports Event Center has a balloon payment of \$16,947,295 due in 2036.

## Strategic Planning

Alachua County's tourism strategy centers on offering unique, culturally rich, community-focused experiences to attract diverse visitors. Utilizing the Tourist Development Tax, the county funds local arts, culture, and nature-based initiatives that highlight its unique character.

A key program, the Nature and Culture Destination Enhancement Grant, supports events within the county that showcase natural landscapes, arts, and historical attractions while promoting sustainable tourism. By prioritizing projects with cultural and environmental value, this grant aligns with the county's goals of economic growth, environmental stewardship, and community-centered tourism, fostering long-term sustainability and meaningful partnerships.

Tourist Development Taxes	Adopted Budget FY25	Projection FY26	Projection FY27
004 Tourist Development - Sports/Bid Pool	\$ 1,019,100	\$ 1,039,482	\$ 1,060,272
005 Tourist Development - Grants	\$ 770,000	\$ 785,400	\$ 801,108
006 Tourist Development - Destination Enhancement	\$ 2,290,000	\$ 2,335,800	\$ 2,382,516
150 Tourist Development - 4th & 6th Cent Tax	\$ 8,350,000	\$ 8,517,000	\$ 8,687,340
168 Tourist Development Tax Fund	\$ 973,124	\$ 992,586	\$ 1,012,438
299 2021 TDT Revenue Bonds - Sports Complex	\$ 5,700,000	\$ 5,814,000	\$ 5,930,280
299 2021 TDT Revenue Bonds - Sports Complex Non-Departmental	\$ 5,097,832	\$ 5,199,789	\$ 5,303,784
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 24,200,056</b>	<b>\$ 24,684,057</b>	<b>\$ 25,177,738</b>
004 Tourist Development - Sports/Bid Pool	\$ 1,019,100	\$ 1,039,482	\$ 1,060,272
005 Tourist Development - Grants	\$ 770,000	\$ 785,400	\$ 801,108
006 Tourist Development - Destination Enhancement	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,326,000	\$ 1,352,520
006 Tourist Development - Destination Enhancement Reserves	\$ 990,000	\$ 1,009,800	\$ 1,029,996
150 Tourist Development - 4th & 6th Cent Tax	\$ 6,377,961	\$ 6,505,520	\$ 6,635,631
150 Tourist Development - 4th & 6th Cent Tax Reserves	\$ 1,972,039	\$ 2,011,480	\$ 2,051,709
168 Tourist Development Tax Fund	\$ 973,124	\$ 992,586	\$ 1,012,438
299 2021 TDT Revenue Bonds - Sports Complex	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
299 2021 TDT Revenue Bonds - Sports Complex Non-Departmental	\$ 10,797,832	\$ 11,013,789	\$ 11,234,064
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 24,200,056</b>	<b>\$ 24,684,057</b>	<b>\$ 25,177,738</b>

## GROWTH MANAGEMENT – BUILDING

Alachua County's Building Division, under the Growth Management Department, generates revenue primarily through building permits, contractor licenses, plan reviews, and inspections, with funds restricted by Florida Statute for enforcing the Florida Building Code. The division ensures all construction meets state and local standards, handling permits, inspections, and code compliance.

Using the Citizenserve digital platform, contractors and residents can apply for permits, schedule inspections, and monitor applications online. Permit fees vary by project type and scope, starting at \$100 for residential and \$200 for commercial projects needing Fire Marshal review. For new construction, fees are based on project value or a per-thousand-dollar rate, with potential discounts for homesteads under \$50,000 and for projects using private providers for reviews and inspections.

## Major Revenues

The Alachua County Building Division generates revenue primarily through fees associated with building permits, inspections, plan reviews, and other services related to construction and development. These fees are typically charged to individuals, contractors, or developers seeking to build, renovate, or expand structures within the county.

## Major Expense Impacts

Material shortages and high supply costs are expected to remain challenging in FY 25/26. Due to rising mortgage rates, new construction permits may stabilize. Various factors, such as impacts of inflation and rising consumer costs including food costs, could negatively affect the housing industry. However, if mortgage rates and home prices start to decrease, the County could experience renewed demand for development. New legislation may increase the demand on permit delivery turnaround, resulting in the need for additional staff and further automation of the permitting system.

## Strategic Planning

The Alachua County Building Division is prioritizing innovative technologies to streamline the permitting process, focusing on enhancing customer experience with advanced digital tools. A key objective is to simplify public access to permitting services.

The county's GIS services provide valuable tools and datasets for public access across property information, zoning, and environmental resources. Key offerings include:

- **Map Genius:** An interactive tool for residents to view parcel details, zoning, flood zones, and utility information.
- **Interactive GIS Maps:** An online portal with frequently updated parcel data, accessible via the Property Appraiser's Office.
- **Public GIS Datasets:** Available through ArcGIS, these datasets cover school zones, water districts, and land use, aiding residents and planners. In FY25, the county will establish a unified GIS team to drive technology enhancements, improve user experience, and streamline access to geographic data, supporting better-informed decisions in development and land use.

Building Division	Adopted Budget FY25	Projection FY26	Projection FY27
32 - Permits, Fees & Spec Assessment	\$ 2,137,000	\$ 2,179,740	\$ 2,223,335
34 - Charges for Services	\$ 7,200	\$ 7,344	\$ 7,491
36 - Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ 105,400	\$ 107,508	\$ 109,658
38 - Other Sources	\$ 2,002,031	\$ 2,042,072	\$ 2,082,913
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 4,251,631</b>	<b>\$ 4,336,664</b>	<b>\$ 4,423,397</b>
10 - Personal Services	\$ 2,434,800	\$ 2,483,496	\$ 2,533,166
20 - Operating Expenditures	\$ 464,998	\$ 474,298	\$ 483,784
30 - Capital Outlay	\$ 100,000	\$ 102,000	\$ 104,040
60 - Other Uses - Reserves	\$ 1,251,833	\$ 1,276,870	\$ 1,302,407
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 4,251,631</b>	<b>\$ 4,336,664</b>	<b>\$ 4,423,397</b>

## TRANSPORTATION – ROADS

Alachua County, FL, has launched a series of road projects funded by local surtaxes, federal grants, and state support as part of a 10-year plan to improve its 700-mile road network. With over \$242 million allocated, efforts focus on both major and minor roads to enhance safety and accessibility.

Key projects include the \$4.7 million widening of County Road 241 near Archer to improve traffic flow with wider lanes and shoulders, and the \$1.4 million Southwest 20th Avenue Complete Streets upgrade, which will add separated bike lanes, wider sidewalks, and safer pedestrian crossings. An interactive map allows residents to track progress on these initiatives, which prioritize long-term safety and accessibility across all transportation modes.

### Major Revenues

**Transportation Trust Fund** Revenue is composed of various gas taxes and is restricted by statute for building and maintaining roads.

**Gas Tax** County gas tax revenue projections remain constant with slight increases for the next three years. Gas taxes will be monitored each year should a trend begin to emerge.

**Infrastructure Surtax** The Alachua County infrastructure surtax for roads, is a sales tax specifically intended to fund local infrastructure improvements, including road repairs, maintenance, and enhancements. Approved by voters, this surtax aims to improve the quality of public infrastructure by addressing the county's backlog of roadway issues, such as potholes, road resurfacing needs, and other essential maintenance. 70% of ½ penny is allocated to road projects.

## **Major Expense Impacts**

Due to inflation, the costs for design, right-of-way, and construction are increasing at an accelerated rate.

## **Strategic Plan**

Alachua County's transportation strategy promotes a sustainable, multimodal system to reduce car dependency, environmental impact, and accommodate growth. Key initiatives include mixed-use developments that encourage walking and cycling, as well as "Urban Transportation Mobility Districts" which support compact, transit-friendly areas with express bus services and dedicated bike lanes.

The county also emphasizes Transit-Oriented Developments (TODs) and Traditional Neighborhood Developments (TNDs) within the Urban Cluster, providing residents with convenient access to essential services by transit, walking, or cycling. This Mobility Plan aligns with long-term goals for sustainability, balancing transportation needs with infrastructure to curb sprawl.

Transportation	Adopted Budget FY25	Projection FY26	Projection FY27
001 General Fund	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,600	\$ 31,212
008 MSTU Unincorporated	\$ 155,730	\$ 158,845	\$ 162,021
134 Resilient Florida Grant Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
142 50% of 1 cent Surtax Other Uses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
142 50% of 1 cent Surtax Other Uses Revenues	\$ 12,132,459	\$ 12,375,108	\$ 12,622,610
142 50% of 1 cent Surtax Other Uses Fund Balance	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 7,140,000	\$ 7,282,800
146 Stormwater Management	\$ 1,464,476	\$ 1,493,766	\$ 1,523,641
149 Gas Tax Uses	\$ 14,795,653	\$ 15,091,566	\$ 15,393,397
149 Gas Tax Uses Communication Service Tax	\$ 936,953	\$ 955,692	\$ 974,806
149 Gas Tax Uses Candlewood Special Assessment	\$ 3,524	\$ 3,594	\$ 3,666
240 Safe Streets/Roads for All Grant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
280 Gas Tax Revenue Bond Series 2008	\$ 3,336,204	\$ 3,402,928	\$ 3,470,987
280 Gas Tax Revenue Bond Series 2008 Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 3,181,097	\$ 3,244,719	\$ 3,309,613
301 Capital Project - Public Works	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
311 NW 210 Ave Area SAD	\$ 500	\$ 510	\$ 520
314 SW 8th Ave-Debt Issue	\$ 300,000	\$ 306,000	\$ 312,120
329 FDOT Grant Fund	\$ 15,427,045	\$ 15,735,586	\$ 16,050,298
336 Impact Fee-NW Trans District	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,530,000	\$ 1,560,600
337 Impact Fee-SW Trans District	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,530,000	\$ 1,560,600
338 Impact Fee-East Trans District	\$ 800,000	\$ 816,000	\$ 832,320
341 Transportation Trust Fund	\$ 6,627,108	\$ 6,759,650	\$ 6,894,843
350 5-Cent Local Option Gas Tax	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
350 5-Cent Local Option Gas Tax Transfer in from Debt Service Fund 280	\$ 2,637,914	\$ 2,690,672	\$ 2,744,486
350 5-Cent Local Option Gas Tax Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,020,000	\$ 1,040,400
354 Multi-Modal Transp Mit NW Dist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
354 Multi-Modal Transp Mit NW Dist Fund Balance	\$ 700,000	\$ 714,000	\$ 728,280
355 Multi-Modal Transp Mit SW Dist	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,060,000	\$ 3,121,200
356 Multi-Modal Transp Mit East Dist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 76,528,663</b>	<b>\$ 78,059,236</b>	<b>\$ 79,620,421</b>
Interfund Revenues 001, 008	\$ 9,553,486	\$ 9,744,556	\$ 9,936,447
001 General Fund	\$ 6,657,108	\$ 6,790,250	\$ 6,926,055
008 MSTU Unincorporated	\$ 3,082,108	\$ 3,143,750	\$ 3,206,625
134 Resilient Florida Grant Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
142 50% of 1 cent Surtax Other Uses	\$ 19,132,459	\$ 19,515,108	\$ 19,905,410
146 Stormwater Management	\$ 1,562,900	\$ 1,493,766	\$ 1,523,641
146 Stormwater Management Adjustment	\$ (98,424)	\$ -	\$ -
149 Gas Tax Uses	\$ 14,730,589	\$ 15,025,201	\$ 15,325,705
149 Gas Tax Uses - Reserves	\$ 879,584	\$ 897,176	\$ 915,119
149 Gas Tax Uses - Non-Departmental	\$ 125,957	\$ 128,476	\$ 131,046
240 Safe Streets/Roads for All Grant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
280 Gas Tax Revenue Bond Series 2008	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
280 Gas Tax Revenue Bond Series 2008 Debt Service	\$ 1,879,387	\$ 1,916,975	\$ 1,955,314
280 Gas Tax Revenue Bond Series 2008 Transfer Out Capital Fund 350	\$ 2,637,914	\$ 2,690,672	\$ 2,744,486
280 Gas Tax Revenue Bond Series 2008 Reserves	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,040,000	\$ 2,080,800
301 Capital Project - Public Works	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
311 NW 210 Ave Area SAD	\$ 500	\$ 510	\$ 520
314 SW 8th Ave-Debt Issue	\$ 300,000	\$ 306,000	\$ 312,120
329 FDOT Grant Fund	\$ 15,427,045	\$ 15,735,586	\$ 16,050,298
336 Impact Fee-NW Trans District	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,530,000	\$ 1,560,600
337 Impact Fee-SW Trans District	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,530,000	\$ 1,560,600
338 Impact Fee-East Trans District	\$ 800,000	\$ 816,000	\$ 832,320
341 Transportation Trust Fund	\$ 6,627,108	\$ 6,759,650	\$ 6,894,843
350 5-Cent Local Option Gas Tax	\$ 3,637,914	\$ 3,710,672	\$ 3,784,886
354 Multi-Modal Transp Mit NW Dist	\$ 700,000	\$ 714,000	\$ 728,280
355 Multi-Modal Transp Mit SW Dist	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,060,000	\$ 3,121,200
356 Multi-Modal Transp Mit East Dist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 86,082,149</b>	<b>\$ 87,803,792</b>	<b>\$ 89,559,868</b>



## **SOLID WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY**

Alachua County's Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Department manages waste disposal, recycling, and hazardous waste, supported by fees set by the Board of County Commissioners. The Leveda Brown Environmental Park and Transfer Station processes residential and commercial waste, which is then transported to the New River Regional Landfill.

The county operates a dual-stream recycling system—separating paper/cardboard from plastics, glass, and metals—offering curbside pickup and Rural Collection Centers for residents without curbside access. Additionally, the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center safely disposes of items like chemicals, electronics, and automotive fluids, with a fee-based option for small businesses.

Focused on sustainability, the department promotes waste reduction through education, facility tours, and community awareness initiatives, including a collection reminders program to help residents manage pickup schedules.

### **Major Revenues**

**Assessment Revenue** The FY24/25 annual assessment did not change. The department is beginning development of its 5-year plan and will incorporate rates to cover the plan's estimated costs.

**Tipping Fees** Tipping fees increased from \$57.00 per ton to \$65.00 per ton.

### **Major Expense Impacts**

Staff is working to establish a Rural Collection Center in western Alachua County, and developing a Hazardous Waste Collection Facility and completion of the Eco Loop—an industrial park focused on recycling and sustainable waste management site offering strategic access to major roads, airports, and Florida ports, enhancing logistical efficiency and regional economic growth.

### **Strategic Planning**

Alachua County's solid waste strategy focuses on sustainability, efficiency, and environmental protection to ensure clean, cost-effective services. The county aims to maintain a waste capacity of 0.8 tons per person annually to support growth, with the Leveda Brown Environmental Park as the central facility.

Stringent compliance measures include groundwater monitoring and rapid pollution response at landfill sites. Privately operated landfills must follow strict safety and reporting standards. Incineration is generally prohibited, except for specific vegetative

waste, reflecting the county's commitment to non-polluting disposal methods. This approach balances community growth with environmental stewardship and high public service standards.

Solid Waste	Adopted Budget FY25	Projection FY26	Projection FY27
400 Solid Waste System	\$ 18,015,897	\$ 18,376,215	\$ 18,743,739
403 Collection Centers	\$ 5,396,268	\$ 5,504,193	\$ 5,614,277
405 Waste Management Assessment	\$ 4,930,709	\$ 5,029,323	\$ 5,129,910
406 Landfill Closure/postclosure	\$ 134,563	\$ 137,254	\$ 139,999
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 28,477,437</b>	<b>\$ 29,046,986</b>	<b>\$ 29,627,925</b>
400 Solid Waste System	\$ 18,015,897	\$ 18,376,215	\$ 18,743,739
403 Collection Centers	\$ 5,396,268	\$ 5,504,193	\$ 5,614,277
405 Waste Management Assessment	\$ 4,930,709	\$ 5,029,323	\$ 5,129,910
406 Landfill Closure/Post Closure	\$ 134,563	\$ 137,254	\$ 139,999
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 28,477,437</b>	<b>\$ 29,046,986</b>	<b>\$ 29,627,925</b>

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND LAND CONSERVATION

Alachua County's Environmental Protection Division (EPD) preserves natural resources through land conservation, water quality management, and environmental protection. The division acquires and manages conservation lands, improves stormwater systems, enforces environmental codes, and leads pollution prevention efforts, including hazardous materials and petroleum cleanup. Under the Alachua County Forever Program, the county acquires ecologically important lands for conservation and recreation.

EPD also promotes community engagement through volunteer opportunities in tree planting and habitat restoration, supporting the county's climate resilience strategy. Climate initiatives, like the 2024 Climate Vulnerability Assessment, address risks from extreme heat and flooding, especially in low-income areas, by expanding tree canopies, mitigating urban heat islands, and promoting energy conservation and waste reduction. These efforts strengthen resilience to climate change and enhance sustainable living conditions for residents.

### Major Revenues

Environmental Protection receives its revenues from the General Fund, grants and stormwater assessment. Alachua County's surtax for land conservation is part of the "Wild Spaces & Public Places" program, a ten-year, one-cent sales tax that funds land preservation, parks, roads, and affordable housing. Approved by voters in 2022, this surtax dedicates 80% of a half a penny specifically for acquiring and preserving conservation lands.

## Major Expense Impacts

Both environmental protection and land conservation face substantial expenses across several key areas:

- **Compliance and Regulation:** Adhering to environmental laws involves costs for monitoring, reporting, and system upgrades to meet evolving standards.
- **Water Quality and Stormwater Management:** Costs include pollutant monitoring, wastewater treatment, stormwater control, and ecosystem impact mitigation, along with necessary infrastructure projects.
- **Wildlife Conservation and Habitat Restoration:** Funding supports habitat restoration, species protection, and conservation land acquisition, especially costly on large tracts.
- **Air Quality Monitoring and Control:** Expenses arise from tracking pollutants, data collection, and programs to reduce emissions.
- **Climate Adaptation and Resilience:** Measures for flood control, fire prevention, and erosion control often require costly infrastructure upgrades and preventive installations.

## Strategic Planning

Alachua County's environmental protection strategy centers on preserving natural resources, enhancing sustainability, and addressing key challenges such as water quality, waste management, and habitat conservation. Land Conservation and Biodiversity: The County works to preserve green spaces and protect ecosystems through strategic land acquisition and management programs. Water Quality and Conservation: To safeguard water sources, particularly the aquifer and surface waters, the County enforces stormwater regulations, pollution prevention, and promotes water conservation practices. Climate Adaptation and Resilience: Recognizing the impacts of rising temperatures, increased storms, and sea-level rise, the County emphasizes climate adaptation through disaster preparedness and resilient infrastructure planning.

Environmental Protection & Land	Adopted Budget FY25	Projection FY26	Projection FY27
001 General Fund	\$ 138,200	\$ 140,964	\$ 143,783
008 MSTU Unincorporated	\$ 75,000	\$ 76,500	\$ 78,030
021 Wild Spaces PP 1/2 Cent Sales Tax Beginning Fund Balance	\$ 12,355,774	\$ 12,602,889	\$ 12,854,947
087 Npdes Stormwater Cleanup	\$ 247,900	\$ 252,858	\$ 257,915
116 Fdep Ambient Groundwater	\$ 35,823	\$ 36,539	\$ 37,270
125 Fdep Tank Inspection Contract	\$ 1,077,051	\$ 1,098,592	\$ 1,120,564
140 50% of 1 cent Surtax WSPP	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 7,140,000	\$ 7,282,800
140 50% of 1 cent Surtax WSPP	\$ 13,865,668	\$ 14,142,981	\$ 14,425,841
146 Stormwater Management	\$ 2,119,118	\$ 2,161,500	\$ 2,204,730
167 Donation Fund	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,500	\$ 26,010
178 Hazardous Materials Code Environmental Protection	\$ 479,738	\$ 489,333	\$ 499,119
201 Fdep Petro Clean-up GC888	\$ 1,329,280	\$ 1,355,866	\$ 1,382,983
258 Landscape/Irrigation Cost Share Grants	\$ 210,000	\$ 214,200	\$ 218,484
260 Water Conservation Grant Fund	\$ 1,738,925	\$ 1,773,704	\$ 1,809,178
261 Land Conservation	\$ 2,258,770	\$ 2,303,945	\$ 2,350,024
264 Tree Mitigation	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,122,000	\$ 1,144,440
405 Waste Management Assessment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 44,056,247</b>	<b>\$ 44,937,372</b>	<b>\$ 45,836,119</b>
<b>Interfund Revenues 001, 008, 405</b>	<b>\$ 4,156,978</b>	<b>\$ 4,240,118</b>	<b>\$ 4,324,920</b>
001 General Fund	\$ 3,326,041	\$ 3,392,562	\$ 3,460,413
008 MSTU Unincorporated	\$ 659,114	\$ 672,296	\$ 685,742
021 Wild Spaces PP 1/2 Cent Sales Tax	\$ 9,328,114	\$ 9,514,676	\$ 9,704,970
021 Wild Spaces PP 1/2 Cent Sales Tax Reserves	\$ 3,027,660	\$ 3,088,213	\$ 3,149,977
087 Npdes Stormwater Cleanup	\$ 247,900	\$ 252,858	\$ 257,915
116 Fdep Ambient Groundwater	\$ 35,823	\$ 36,539	\$ 37,270
125 Fdep Tank Inspection Contract	\$ 914,871	\$ 933,168	\$ 951,832
125 Fdep Tank Inspection Contract Reserves	\$ 162,180	\$ 165,424	\$ 168,732
140 50% of 1 cent Surtax WSPP	\$ 20,865,668	\$ 21,282,981	\$ 21,708,641
146 Stormwater Management	\$ 1,947,210	\$ 1,986,154	\$ 2,025,877
146 Stormwater Management	\$ 171,908	\$ 175,346	\$ 178,853
167 Donation Fund	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,500	\$ 26,010
178 Hazardous Materials Code Environmental Protection	\$ 479,738	\$ 489,333	\$ 499,119
201 Fdep Petro Clean-up GC888	\$ 1,329,280	\$ 1,355,866	\$ 1,382,983
258 Landscape/Irrigation Cost Share Grants	\$ 210,000	\$ 214,200	\$ 218,484
260 Water Conservation Grant Fund	\$ 1,738,925	\$ 1,773,704	\$ 1,809,178
261 Land Conservation	\$ 2,258,770	\$ 2,303,945	\$ 2,350,024
264 Tree Mitigation	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,122,000	\$ 1,144,440
405 Waste Management Assessment	\$ 385,023	\$ 392,723	\$ 400,578
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 48,213,225</b>	<b>\$ 49,177,490</b>	<b>\$ 50,161,039</b>

## PUBLIC SAFETY

**Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services:** Alachua County Fire Rescue (ACFR), provides essential emergency services, including fire suppression, EMS, and rescue operations. Operating 24/7, ACFR achieved accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services in 2022, demonstrating its commitment to high-quality patient care. In October 2023, ACFR expanded its services to the Town of Micanopy, enhancing fire and rescue coverage. The department also offers community training and participates in local initiatives, reflecting its dedication to public safety.

Alachua County Emergency Management (ACEM) prepares for and coordinates disaster response and recovery efforts, including hurricanes and floods. ACEM provides disaster preparedness education, conducts training exercises, and develops emergency plans. During emergencies, the division manages shelters, disseminates evacuation information, and works with utility companies to restore services. ACEM also maintains a damage reporting portal to support federal recovery assistance, ensuring the community receives essential aid after disasters.

## Major Revenues

Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services are funded through the General Fund and various grants. The primary revenue for the Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) Fire Fund is non-ad valorem special assessments levied upon real estate parcels containing any building or structure in the unincorporated areas of Alachua County, as well as some cities that contract with the County. Use of these funds are restricted by Florida Statute and Board resolution. The current fee structure which has remained unchanged at \$90.69 for Tier 1 and \$8.31 for Tier 2.

## Major Expense Impacts

Overall, the major expense impacts for fire services in Alachua County are primarily related to infrastructure improvements, personnel costs, and the rising demand for emergency services, particularly as the population grows and the community experiences increasing emergency call volumes.

The expense impacts for Alachua County's emergency operations, particularly for disaster and hurricane preparedness, are significant and multi-faceted. These include costs associated with personnel, equipment, training, public communication, sheltering, and recovery efforts.

## Strategic Planning

One significant project is the Fire/EMS Services Master Plan, which evaluates the county's fire departments and recommends improvements to their organizational structure, facilities, and staffing levels. The plan outlines a vision for the next 20 years, including adding new fire stations, relocating others, and increasing staffing to meet growing service demands driven by population growth projections.

**The Alachua County Sheriff's Office (ACSO)** is dedicated to public safety and community engagement through several key divisions:

- **Patrol Operations:** Uniformed patrols handle general law enforcement, traffic enforcement, and emergency response, with specialized units like K-9 and Aviation enhancing capabilities.
- **Support Services:** Focuses on administrative tasks and jail management, ensuring efficient allocation of resources.
- **Victim Services:** The Victim Advocate Unit provides crisis intervention, emotional support, and legal assistance to crime victims, promoting recovery with dignity.
- **Community Programs:** ACSO offers outreach initiatives, including youth education, self-defense classes, senior crime prevention, and internships for aspiring law enforcement professionals.
- **Public Information Office:** Manages communication with the public and media, providing updates on incidents, crime trends, and events.

The ACSO promotes transparency and encourages community involvement in safety programs to enhance public safety.

## **Major Revenues**

The Law Enforcement Municipal Taxing Unit (MSTU-LE) Fund is a non-ad valorem special assessment levied on real estate parcels containing any building or structure in the unincorporated areas of Alachua County, as well as in some cities that contract with the county. The use of these funds is governed by Florida Statute and specific Board resolutions.

## **Major Expense Impacts**

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) faces several major expense impacts, largely tied to staffing, salaries, and operational needs. A significant ongoing issue is the struggle to attract and retain deputies which is experienced nationwide. The Board of County Commissioners has tasked a review of the Law Enforcement Municipal Taxing Unit millage rate for discussion in the FY26 budget.

**NOTE: Public Safety Projections not calculated as Fire 5-year plan is under review and MSTU-Law Enforcement Assessment is being reviewed for FY26 budget.**

## **COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES AND HOUSING**

Alachua County's Community Support Services (CSS) offers programs focused on improving resident well-being, particularly in poverty, health, and community revitalization. Key initiatives include:

- Crisis Center: Providing 24/7 crisis intervention and counseling, handling approximately 45,000 calls annually, including mobile responses.
- Community Stabilization Program: Revitalizing neighborhoods through partnerships to address poverty and health issues.
- Community Self-Sufficiency Program: Helping individuals break the poverty cycle with job referrals, GED preparation, and social services.
- Housing Programs: Assisting residents with stable housing, including support for veterans and domestic violence victims, and providing home repair assistance.

CSS also runs several housing programs for low- to moderate-income residents, such as:

- Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program: Offering funding for home repairs to eligible homeowners.
- State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP): Allocating funding for housing preservation and code compliance.

- Down Payment Assistance: Helping first-time homebuyers with down payments, based on income levels.

## **Major Revenue Impacts**

Community Support Services is funded through various grants and the County's General Fund.

Housing programs are a combination of General Fund, State and Local Grant funding. Dedicated funding includes the Alachua County Trust Fund and 30% of ½ cent Infrastructure Surtax.

The Alachua County Trust Fund is designed to support the development of affordable housing and to address homelessness within the county. Established by the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, the fund is aimed at creating and preserving affordable housing options for low- to moderate-income residents.

Key features of the Alachua County Trust Fund include:

**Funding Mechanism:** The trust fund provides financial resources for various housing initiatives, including new construction, rehabilitation of existing units, and rental assistance programs. It is often used to leverage additional funding from state and federal sources.

**Affordable Housing Projects:** The fund supports projects that increase the availability of affordable housing, particularly for families and individuals facing economic challenges. This includes partnerships with non-profit organizations and private developers to create housing solutions that meet community needs.

## **Major Expense Impacts**

Community Support Services impacts are associated with the expansion of services and increasing demand for support across multiple departments. As the county's population grows and its needs become more complex, the demand for efficient support services—including housing assistance, medical examiner services, and community support initiatives—will likely escalate. This expansion could require additional resources such as personnel, which has been a challenge to fill vacant positions, and expanding or initiating new services, such as outreach programs or community partnerships, can lead to higher costs, including staffing, supplies, and logistical support.

## **Strategic Plan**

Alachua County's Community Support Services is committed to building a healthier, more resilient community by ensuring residents have access to essential resources. The county has taken significant steps to address affordable housing and homelessness through key initiatives:

In 2024, the county acquired the Sunrise Apartments for \$2.5 million to prevent displacement and ensure affordable housing for low-income residents. Plans include repairs to improve living conditions while maintaining affordability for current tenants.

Rehabilitation of Budget Inn and Scottish Inn: The county plans to convert these properties into transitional housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, offering stable living conditions and support services.

These efforts reflect Alachua County's dedication to enhancing housing stability and addressing homelessness in the community.



Community Support Services	Adopted Budget FY25	Projection FY26	Projection FY27
001 General Fund	\$ 900	\$ 918	\$ 936
008 MSTU Unincorporated	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
010 Choices	\$ 811,901	\$ 828,139	\$ 844,702
017 FCASV TFGR Grant Fund	\$ 103,719	\$ 105,793	\$ 107,909
018 VOCA Grant Fund	\$ 339,043	\$ 345,824	\$ 352,740
019 Foster Grandparents Grant Fund	\$ 169,401	\$ 172,789	\$ 176,245
023 Crisis Center - 988 Grant Fund	\$ 481,924	\$ 491,562	\$ 501,394
031 Choices Influenza Vaccine Trust	\$ 631,432	\$ 644,061	\$ 656,942
047 Opioid Abatement Settlement Fund	\$ 679,910	\$ 693,508	\$ 707,378
052 Revenue Recovery - ARPA	\$ 3,344,764	\$ 3,411,659	\$ 3,479,892
057 Sugarfoot Preservation Special Assessment	\$ 104,739	\$ 106,834	\$ 108,970
142 50% of 1 cent Surtax Other Uses Fund Balance	\$ 6,100,000	\$ 6,222,000	\$ 6,346,440
142 50% of 1 cent Surtax Other Uses Annual Revenue	\$ 5,199,626	\$ 5,303,619	\$ 5,409,691
142 50% of 1 cent Surtax Other Uses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
167 Donation Fund	\$ 101,410	\$ 103,438	\$ 105,507
202 CDBG - CV (coronavirus response)	\$ 3,773,189	\$ 3,848,653	\$ 3,925,626
203 CDBG Neighborhood Stabilization	\$ 336,982	\$ 343,722	\$ 350,596
205 Alachua County Apartments	\$ 19,115	\$ 19,497	\$ 19,887
206 Affordable Housing Trust Fund Fund Balance	\$ 1,773,026	\$ 1,808,487	\$ 1,844,656
206 Affordable Housing Trust Fund	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,020,000	\$ 1,040,400
207 CDBG FY11 Neighborhood Stabilization	\$ 79,254	\$ 80,839	\$ 82,456
221 Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse	\$ 21,582	\$ 22,014	\$ 22,454
242 Local Housing Assistance - SHIP	\$ 3,250,734	\$ 3,315,749	\$ 3,382,064
263 GPD-Violence Against Women	\$ 80,689	\$ 82,303	\$ 83,949
265 Metamorphosis Grant Fund	\$ 791,132	\$ 806,955	\$ 823,094
275 Crisis Mobile Resp Team Grant	\$ 165,123	\$ 168,425	\$ 171,794
295 2020A Capital Improv Rev-Med Examiner	\$ 407,086	\$ 415,228	\$ 423,532
850 Alachua County Housing Finance Authority	\$ 671,085	\$ 684,507	\$ 698,197
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 30,437,766</b>	<b>\$ 31,046,521</b>	<b>\$ 31,667,452</b>
<b>Interfund Revenues 001, 008</b>	<b>\$ 20,733,384</b>	<b>\$ 21,148,052</b>	<b>\$ 21,571,013</b>
001 General Fund	\$ 20,544,184	\$ 20,955,068	\$ 21,374,169
008 MSTU Unincorporated	\$ 190,100	\$ 193,902	\$ 197,780
010 Choices	\$ 757,590	\$ 772,742	\$ 788,197
010 Choices Reserves	\$ 54,311	\$ 55,397	\$ 56,505
017 FCASV TFGR Grant Fund	\$ 103,719	\$ 105,793	\$ 107,909
018 VOCA Grant Fund	\$ 339,043	\$ 345,824	\$ 352,740
019 Foster Grandparents Grant Fund	\$ 169,401	\$ 172,789	\$ 176,245
023 Crisis Center - 988 Grant Fund	\$ 481,924	\$ 491,562	\$ 501,394
031 Choices Influenza Vaccine Trust	\$ 100,000	\$ 102,000	\$ 104,040
031 Choices Influenza Vaccine Trust Reserves	\$ 531,432	\$ 542,061	\$ 552,902
047 Opioid Abatement Settlement Fund	\$ 679,910	\$ 693,508	\$ 707,378
052 Revenue Recovery - ARPA	\$ 3,344,764	\$ 3,411,659	\$ 3,479,892
057 Sugarfoot Preservation Special Assessment	\$ 104,739	\$ 106,834	\$ 108,970
142 50% of 1 cent Surtax Other Uses	\$ 11,299,626	\$ 11,525,619	\$ 11,756,131
167 Donation Fund	\$ 101,410	\$ 103,438	\$ 105,507
202 CDBG - CV (coronavirus response)	\$ 3,773,189	\$ 3,848,653	\$ 3,925,626
203 CDBG Neighborhood Stabilization	\$ 336,982	\$ 343,722	\$ 350,596
205 Alachua County Apartments	\$ 19,115	\$ 19,497	\$ 19,887
206 Affordable Housing Trust Fund	\$ 2,773,026	\$ 2,828,487	\$ 2,885,056
207 CDBG FY11 Neighborhood Stabilization	\$ 79,254	\$ 80,839	\$ 82,456
221 Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse	\$ 21,582	\$ 22,014	\$ 22,454
242 Local Housing Assistance - SHIP	\$ 3,250,734	\$ 3,315,749	\$ 3,382,064
263 GPD-Violence Against Women	\$ 80,689	\$ 82,303	\$ 83,949
265 Metamorphosis Grant Fund	\$ 760,132	\$ 775,335	\$ 790,841
265 Metamorphosis Grant Fund Utilities	\$ 31,000	\$ 31,620	\$ 32,252
275 Crisis Mobile Resp Team Grant	\$ 165,123	\$ 168,425	\$ 171,794
295 2020A Capital Improv Rev-Med Examiner	\$ 407,086	\$ 415,228	\$ 423,532
850 Alachua County Housing Finance Authority	\$ 671,085	\$ 684,507	\$ 698,197
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 51,171,150</b>	<b>\$ 52,194,573</b>	<b>\$ 53,238,464</b>

### **Future Challenges and Considerations**

Alachua County's financial model is designed to remain flexible in response to changing economic conditions. Key priorities for the future include:

- **Rising Operational Costs and Inflation:** The County will manage inflation-driven cost increases by adjusting pricing and focusing on operational efficiencies.
- **Supply Chain Management:** To mitigate ongoing global logistics challenges, the County will strengthen supplier relationships, diversify sourcing, and improve inventory management.
- **Strategic Investments and Financial Planning:** Investments in technology and a strengthened cash reserve will enhance resilience against inflation and supply chain disruptions.

This proactive, adaptable approach will ensure the County's financial stability and sustainable growth while delivering value to stakeholders.