

Proposed 2008 SPLOST Projects

COUNTY PROJECTS

Bond Projects

Courthouse and County Administration property acquisition and demolition, construction of administrative building, and Courthouse security facilities *	\$12,500,000
Construction of multi-purpose recreation building *	5,000,000
Renovation of City Auditorium *	1,000,000

General Projects

Roads, streets, and drainage	11,093,188
Fire Equipment and facility improvements	4,000,000
Pursuit vehicles, ambulances, and public works equipment	2,000,000
Courthouse improvements acquisition by retirement of lease-purchase obligations	2,000,000

Development Authority Project:

Okefenokee Area Development Authority Spec Building./construction and infrastructure for economic development	2,000,000
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County Total

\$39,593,188

CITY PROJECTS

General Projects:

Roads and streets	\$5,381,812
Public buildings	3,600,000
Information technology	75,000
Water and sewer rehabilitation and expansion	2,000,000
Fire and special purpose vehicles	1,350,000
Property acquisition and demolition	600,000

DDA Project:

Downtown Waycross Development Authority construction and infrastructure for economic development	500,000
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City Total

\$13,506,812

TOTAL PROJECTS

\$53,100,000



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A Penny for Progress

February 5, 2008

It Makes Cents!



* These projects, though administered by Ware County, are of joint benefit to the City of Waycross and Ware County.

About SPLOST

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax

On February 5th, 2008, the citizens of Ware County will be asked to vote on a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) referendum. The SPLOST will be collected as one penny for every dollar of sales in Ware County. Utilization of SPLOST funds for capital projects and investments allows monies to be collected on sales, resulting in savings for taxpayers in Waycross and Ware County. While funds for capital projects and investments would otherwise be raised through taxes on property, SPLOST enables governments to collect funds from all citizens and visitors who utilize roads and services provided by Waycross and Ware County governments through a tax on sales, reducing the burden on property owners.

Intergovernmental Agreement

If approved by voters, the SPLOST will be collected for six years for an estimated \$53,100,000. Funds will be shared in accordance with an intergovernmental agreement approved by the governments of the City of Waycross and Ware County. In the agreement, each party agreed to the distribution of collected SPLOST revenues and to how the funds will be expended.

Under the agreement, the City of Waycross will receive \$13,506,812 for general projects, \$500,000 of which will be designated for the Downtown Waycross Development Authority. Ware County will receive \$21,093,188 for general projects, which includes over \$11,000,000 for roads, streets, and drainage, \$4,000,000 for fire equipment and facility improvements, \$2,000,000 for the purchase of pursuit vehicles, ambulances, and public works equipment, \$2,000,000 for retirement of lease-purchase obligations for previous courthouse improvements, and \$2,000,000 to the Okefenokee Area Development Authority for economic development. The remaining \$18,500,000 will be used on projects of mutual benefit to the City of Waycross and Ware County.



Projects of Mutual Benefit

Projects that jointly benefit the City of Waycross and Ware County include: \$12,500,000 for courthouse and county administration property acquisition and demolition, construction of an administrative building, and courthouse security facilities; \$5,000,000 for construction of a multi-purpose recreation building; \$1,000,000 for renovation of the City Auditorium.

Due to the deteriorating conditions of the courthouse annex and the need for more office space to house administrative and court functions, a new administrative building will be constructed and court-related offices in the annex will be moved into the current administrative offices located at the courthouse. Solving the problems of needed space and deteriorating buildings is only one benefit. The project will also address security measures mandated by the General Assembly that will cause a great inconvenience for those needing to visit the courthouse for activities unrelated to court, such as purchasing a car tag or paying property taxes. Moving administrative functions out of the courthouse into a new adjacent building will allow citizens of Waycross and Ware County continued and enhanced access to administrative services without the additional burden of greatly enhanced courthouse security. This move will also save taxpayers in the long-term by reducing the annual costs associated with securing the courthouse.

Following up on previous SPLOSTs that enabled the construction of the Trembling Earth Recreational Complex, a multi-purpose recreation building will be constructed and the City Auditorium will be renovated. The Trembling Earth Recreation Complex has already reaped huge rewards and a substantial return on investment for the taxpayers of Waycross and Ware County. It has also proven of value to members of surrounding communities, having played host to 23 tournaments including 8,476 players. Based on conservative estimates, the tournaments in 2007 generated approximately \$667,892 for local and area businesses and brought teams from around the state to Ware County. The multi-purpose recreation building will further enhance the attractiveness of the complex for regional and state tournaments, while providing new facilities for basketball, volleyball, meeting space, and community events.

Though listed under the Ware County General Projects list, the purchase of ambulances will also be of mutual benefit to residents of the City of Waycross and Ware County alike.



SPLOST Means Progress

If the SPLOST is approved, the City of Waycross and Ware County will have the much needed funds to improve roads and other infrastructure, purchase capital equipment such as fire trucks and ambulances, and to construct new community facilities that will benefit everyone. A large portion of those funds will come from visitors to our community, saving local taxpayers millions of dollars and ensuring that progress continues for next six years.