

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FIRST REGULAR MEETING**

December 04, 2024

10:00 AM



Fulton County Government Center  
Assembly Hall  
141 Pryor Street SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



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## **MINUTES-RATIFIED**

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**This document has been ratified or approved by the Board of Commissioners, and is not binding on the County or any officer.**

**Ratification Date: January 8, 2025**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Robert L. Pitts

**10:01 a.m.**

**ROLL CALL:** Tonya R. Grier, Clerk to the Commission

Robert L. Pitts, Chairman (At-Large)

**PRESENT**

Bridget Thorne, Commissioner (District 1)

**PRESENT**

Bob Ellis, Commissioner (District 2)

**PRESENT**

Dana Barrett, Commissioner (District 3)

**PRESENT**

Natalie Hall, Commissioner (District 4)

**ABSENT**

Marvin S. Arrington, Jr., Commissioner (District 5)

**PRESENT**

Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Vice Chair (District 6)

**PRESENT**

**INVOCATION:** Reverend Clifton Dawkins, Jr., County Chaplain

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recite in unison

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

PLEASE SWITCH ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (CELL PHONES, PAGERS, PDAs, ETC.) TO THE SILENT POSITION DURING THIS MEETING TO AVOID INTERRUPTIONS.

IF YOU NEED REASONABLE MODIFICATIONS DUE TO A DISABILITY, INCLUDING COMMUNICATIONS IN AN ALTERNATE FORMAT PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK TO THE COMMISSION. FOR TDD/TTY OR GEORGIA RELAY SERVICE ACCESS DIAL 711.

**CONSENT AGENDA****24-0809 Board of Commissioners**

Adoption of the Consent Agenda - All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the First Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. **(ADOPTED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended by removing item #24-0817. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall, and Arrington

**24-0810 Board of Commissioners**

Proclamations for Spreading on the Minutes. **(SPREAD ON THE MINUTES UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

Proclamation recognizing "Ryan Cameron Appreciation Day." **(Hall)**  
November 15, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Pastor Kameshia Stokes Thomas Remembrance Day."  
**(Abdur-Rahman)**  
November 26, 2024

Proclamation recognizing "Small Business Saturday." **(Pitts)**  
November 30, 2024

**Open & Responsible Government****24-0811 Human Resources Management**

Request approval to process an outstanding invoice via purchase order - Human Resources Management, the amount of \$40,400.00 with ComplianceHR Master Agreement and Amendment with ComplianceHR for the subscription software application, Navigator OT to ensure the County is in compliance with FLSA standards. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0812 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of an Indemnification, Maintenance, and Land Use Agreement for Private Improvement (Indemnification Agreement) between Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, and JBGL Atlanta Development 2014, LLC, for the purpose of granting conditional approval to allow stormwater infrastructure to remain within a portion the County's existing sanitary sewer easement at 132 Brook Street and 51 Thompson Street, Alpharetta, Georgia 30009. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0813 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 1,281.18 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Tod R. Baker and Tashica Monea Baker, individuals, for the purpose of constructing the Bedrock Estates Project at 490 Clubfield Drive, Roswell, Georgia 30075. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0814 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Sewer Easement Dedication of 7,381.31 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from SV Ventures, LLC, for the purpose of constructing the Bedrock Estates Project at 420 Hardscrabble Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30075. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0815 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Water Vault Easement Dedication of 225 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from the City of John Creek, owner, for the purpose of constructing the Johns Creek Fire Station 63 Project at 9880 Brumbelow Road, Johns Creek, Georgia 30022. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0816 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a Water Vault Easement Dedication of 54 square feet to Fulton County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, from Palmer Family Investments, LLC, owner, for the purpose of constructing the Palmer Dodge Service Project at 11460 State Highway 9, Roswell, Georgia 30076. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0817 Purchasing and Contract Compliance**

Request approval of an ordinance to amend Chapter 102 (Administration), Article V (Purchases and Contracts), Division 8 (Nondiscrimination in Purchasing and Contracting), Section 102-441.2 (Sunset provision) of the Fulton County Code of Ordinances to amend the sunset provisions for the Non-Discrimination in Purchasing and Contract Policy; to continue the Non-Discrimination in Purchasing and Contract Policy; and for other purposes. Effective upon BOC approval. **(REMOVED)**

**24-0818 Finance**

Ratification of November 2024 Grants Activity Report. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

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**Health and Human Services****24-0819 Public Works**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Department of Public Works, 24ITB1302727A-KM, South Fulton Maintenance & Operations Center Demonstration in an amount not to exceed \$21,422.34 with Crabapple Turf Management, Inc. dba Crabapple LandscapEXPERTS (Alpharetta, GA), to provide landscape maintenance services. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0820 Public Works**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Public Works Department, 24ITBC1298468A-KM, Fire Hydrants and Parts in an amount not to exceed \$39,891.00 with Core and Main, LP (Athens, GA), to provide fire hydrants and parts. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**24-0821 Community Development**

Request approval to amend and restate the contract terms between Fulton County and Wellspring Living in the amount of \$500,000.00 in American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds for construction purposes. The original effective dates of the contract were May 17, 2023 through December 31, 2023. The first amendment extended the contract term until December 31, 2024. This second amendment will extend the contract term until September 30, 2026. This Agenda Item is 100% grant funded and funds will be disbursed during construction. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**Infrastructure and Economic Development****24-0822 Select Fulton**

Request approval of a Services Agreement between Fulton County, on behalf of Select Fulton - Workforce Development Division (WorkSource Fulton), and CareerRise Inc. to provide career and employment services in collaboration with the five metro Atlanta workforce development areas; not to exceed \$40,000.00. Service effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, with three (3) renewal options ending June 30, 2028. This contract is 100% grant funded. **(APPROVED UPON ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA)**

**FIRST REGULAR MEETING AGENDA****24-0823 Board of Commissioners**

Adoption of the First Regular Meeting Agenda. **(ADOPTED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Ellis, to adopt the First Regular Meeting Agenda as amended by amending item #24-0834 and removing item #24-0853 as requested by the County Manager. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall, and Arrington

**24-0824 Clerk to the Commission**

Ratification of Minutes. **(RATIFIED)**

First Regular Meeting Minutes, November 6, 2024

Second Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, November 20, 2024

A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to ratify the meeting minutes including documents submitted by Commissioner Thorne. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall, and Arrington

**24-0825 Board of Commissioners**

Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. **(NONE)**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS****24-0826 Board of Commissioners**

Public Comment - Citizens are allowed to voice County related opinions, concerns, requests, etc. during the Public Comment portion of the Commission meeting.

**Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County, including their employees, whether such persons are commenting in-person, via emails or via Zoom or other electronic media (i.e., phone call). Non-Fulton County citizens will only be heard after all in-person Fulton County citizens, representatives of business and organizations located within Fulton County, including their employees, have been heard and the time allotted for public comment has not expired, except as otherwise provided in this code section. County staff shall verify the residency of each public speaker prior to such person being heard by the board. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. Members of the public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The Public Comment portion of the meeting will not exceed sixty (60) minutes at the First Regular Meeting, nor will this portion exceed sixty (60) minutes at the Second Regular Meeting. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. For more information or to arrange a speaking date, contact the Clerk's Office.**

**(CONDUCTED)**

**9 Speakers: Chief Timothy Peek (Item #24-0827); Deputy Chief Assistant Solicitor Shelly Faulk (Item #24-0827); Solicitor General Keith Gammage (Item #24-0827); Javon Bostic (Justice); L.A. Pink (Corruption); Paul Hershey (Item #24-0827); W. Devin Franklin (Fulton County Jail/ Expansion); Perrin Bostic (Magistrate Court) and Michael Collins (Fulton County Jail)**

**3 Zoom Speakers: Lucia Frazier (Item #24-0827); Matt Rowenczak (Items #24-0827) and Ben Howard (Senior Services)**

**24-0827 Finance**

Public Hearing for the FY2025 Proposed Operating Budget. **(CONDUCTED)**

**7 SPEAKERS: Howard Simmons, Paul Hershey, Sheleph Harper, Maria Gaudio, Joyce Spaulding Hix, Anne - Louise Hatfield, and George Bates**

**24-0828****Public Works**

2024Z -0002 SFC, 4145 Fulton Industrial Boulevard (SR 70) **(APPROVED CONDITIONAL)**

2024VC-0001 SFC, 4145 Fulton Industrial Boulevard (SR 70) **(APPROVED CONDITIONAL)**

Public Works Dept. Recommendation: Approval Conditional

CZB Recommendation: Approval Conditional

CLUP: Consistent

Application by Vineet Singh/King Holdings, LLC seeks to change the zoning the M-2 (Heavy Industrial) of property located at 4145 Fulton Industrial Boulevard to C-2 (Commercial) to renovate the existing 2,016 square foot restaurant building for a fast-food restaurant with a drive through window on 0.73 acres at an overall density of 2,761.65 square feet per acre. In addition, the applicant is requesting a 2-part concurrent variance as follows:

Part 1. To delete the landscape strip along Fulton Industrial Boulevard (SR70). (Article 12N.4.A.1.a.)

Part 2. To allow the placement of a sign within the landscape strip at Fulton Industrial Boulevard (SR70). (Article 12N.4.A.1.a.)

CZB PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED: No public speakers

**PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED: NO SPEAKERS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis, and Hall

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RENEWAL ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****24-0829 Information Technology**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Fulton County Information Technology Department, 23RFP139160B-EC, Digital Multi-functional Devices and Support Services in an amount not to exceed \$1,241,546.50 with Standard Office Systems of Atlanta, Inc. (Duluth, GA) to provide maintenance, supplies, support services, and software and associated hardware for all multi-function devices countywide. This action exercises the first of four renewal options. Three renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

**(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**24-0830 Information Technology**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Information Technology, 23ITB140062B-PS, Countywide Structured Cabling and Physical Security in the total amount not to exceed \$6,975,000.00 with (A) GC&E Systems Group, Inc. (Norcross, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$4,528,095.00; and (B) NetPlanner Systems, Inc. (Peachtree Corners, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$2,446,905.00 to provide countywide structured cabling services. This action exercises the first of two renewal options. One renewal option remains. Effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Barrett, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis, and Arrington



**24-0831 Finance**

Request approval to renew an existing contract - Finance Department, 22RFP092722C-MH, Healthcare Benefits Consulting Services in an amount not to exceed \$340,000.00 with The Segal Company (Southeast), Inc. d/b/a Segal to provide professional healthcare benefit consulting services. This action exercises the second of two renewal options. No renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**Arts and Libraries****24-0832 Library**

Request approval to renew an existing contract in the amount of \$204,728.00 between the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension and the Fulton County Board of Commissioners to continue to provide research-based education in the areas of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family and Consumer Sciences, 4-H and Youth Development to Fulton County citizens. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**COUNTY MANAGER'S ITEMS****Open & Responsible Government****24-0833 Finance**

Discussion: FY2025 Proposed Operating Budget **(DISCUSSED)**

**24-0834 County Manager**

Presentation and Approval: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Update; reallocation of funds and contractual amendment recommendations; ~~to authorize the Chairman to execute contracts and related documents~~; to authorize the County Manager to execute contracts and related documents pursuant to 102-369; to authorize the County Attorney to approve contractual ~~agreements and related documents~~ as to form and to make any necessary modifications thereto prior to execution; and for other purposes. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Ellis, to approve as amended. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0835 Tax Assessor**

Request approval of an award without competition - Board of Assessors, Upgrade of (QPublic) with Spatialest, a wholly owned subsidiary of Schneider Geospatial (Indianapolis, IN), in an amount not to exceed \$63,640.00 for the installation of a appraisal toolset (AppraisalEst) which provides functionality for data cleansing, data analysis, valuation and ratio analysis including professional and implementation services. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**24-0836 External Affairs**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - External Affairs, 24RFP1320756A-BKJ, State Intergovernmental & Interagency Affairs Services in an amount not to exceed \$144,000.00 with Georgia Public Affairs, LLC (Atlanta, GA) to provide State Intergovernmental Affairs Services effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**24-0837 External Affairs**

Request approval of a recommended proposal - External Affairs, 24RFP1323200A-BKJ, Federal Intergovernmental & Interagency Affairs Services in an amount not to exceed \$132,000.00 with McGuireWoods Consulting LLC (Atlanta, GA) for Federal Intergovernmental Affairs Services effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, with two renewal options. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**24-0838 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of statewide contracts - Fulton County Library System, SWC#99999-001-SPD0000198-0006, SWC#99999-001-SPD0000198-0011, SWC#99999-001-SPD0000198-0012, SWC#99999-001-SPD0000198-0015, SWC#99999-001-SPD0000198-0028, SWC#99999-001-SPD0000198-0035, SWC#99999-001-SPD0000198-0046, SWC#99999-001-SPD0000198-0047, SWC#99999-001-SPD0000198-0050, SWC#99999-001-SPD0000198-0070 and SWC#99999-001-SPD0000198-0091; Purchase new Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FFE) for Library AFPLS CIP, Phase II in the total amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 with (A) Agati, Inc. (0028) (Chicago, IL) in an amount not to exceed \$52,836.85; (B) Daco Limited Partnership dba Dauphin Human Scale (0011) (Boonton, NJ) in an amount not to exceed \$2,264.00; (C) Exemplis Corporation dba Sit On It & Ideon (0012) (Cypress, CA) in an amount not to exceed \$23,504.81; (D) Friant and Associates (0006) (San Leandro, CA) in an amount not to exceed \$14,467.74 (E) HLF Furniture (0091) (Belleville, MI) in an amount not to exceed \$49,726.98; (F) IMF Solutions, LLC dba Invincible Office Furniture Solutions (0047) (Manitowac, WI) in an amount not to exceed \$23,584.19; (G) Leland International (0046) (Grand Rapid, MI) in an amount not to exceed \$9,796.50; (H) Smith System Manufacturing (0035) (Carrollton, TX) in an amount not to exceed \$2,874.75; (I) Spec Furniture Inc. (0050) (Toronto Ontario) in an amount not to exceed \$5,234.88; (J) Special-T, LLC (0070) (Alpharetta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$17,989.56; and (K) Ditto Sales, Inc. dba Versteel (0015) (Jasper, IN) in an amount not to exceed \$1,891.62, to provide and install new interior furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FFE) for the Peachtree Branch Library as part of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System Capital Improvement Program, Phase II. Effective upon BOC Approval through completion of project as determined by Fulton County. One-time procurement. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0839 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC #99999-001-SPD0000154-0001, Facility Maintenance Solution in the amount not to exceed \$388,622.76 with CGL Facility Management, LLC (Fayetteville, GA), to provide preventive and corrective maintenance services for the Fulton County Animal Services Facility located at 1251 Fulton Industrial Blvd NW, Atlanta, GA 30336. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through July 14, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**24-0840 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval of statewide contracts- Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, SWC#99999-001-SPD0000203-0001, and SWC#99999-001-SPD0000203-0003, New Tires and Retread Tubes in the total amount not to exceed \$110,000.00 with (A) Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC dba Southern Tire Mart (Atlanta, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$30,000.00; and (B) The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company dba NexTire Commercial, Inc. (Decatur, GA) in the amount not to exceed \$80,000.00, to provide tires, tubes, accessories and repair services for Fulton County fleet vehicles. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**24-0841 Real Estate and Asset Management**

Request approval to renew existing contracts - Department of Real Estate and Asset Management, 23ITB138741K-JAJ, Task Order Contract for Minor Construction in the total amount not to exceed \$6,000,000.00 with (A) Brad Construction Company II, LLC (Fayetteville, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00; (B) Hawk Construction Company, LLC (Ellenwood, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00; (C) Complete Contracting Partners, LLC (Powder Springs, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00; (D) Rubio and Sons Interior, Inc. (Hoschton, GA), in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00; and (E) Osprey Management, LLC (Marietta, GA) in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.00, to provide standby repair, alteration, modernization, maintenance, and rehabilitation construction services. This action exercises the first of three renewal options. Two renewal options remain. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**24-0842 Information Technology**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Fulton County Information Technology (FCIT), 98000-GTA Direct-CONTRACT-4666-COM, Telecommunication Services in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 with Comcast Business Communications, LLC., (Philadelphia, PA) to provide telecommunication services and products Countywide. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**24-0843 Information Technology**

Request approval of a statewide contract - Fulton County Information Technology (FCIT), SWC98000-MNS1-0000001102 GTA, Telecommunication Services in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.00 with AT&T Corporation, (Atlanta, GA) to provide telecommunication services and products Countywide. Effective dates: January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Pitts

**24-0844 Information Technology**

Request approval for Fulton County Information Technology to utilize cooperative purchasing, City of Atlanta Contract, SP-S/DAIM/2210-1230127, On-Call IT Services, in an amount not to exceed \$800,000.00 with uWork.com, Inc. d/b/a Covendis Technologies, Inc., (Atlanta, GA). Effective January 1, 2025 through August 11, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**Health and Human Services****24-0845 Community Development**

Request approval to close out an existing contract - Department Community Development, 22RFP026A-CJC, Housing Rehabilitation Program in the amount of \$14,525.46 for the final payment covering services rendered from January 2024 through December 2024. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Commissioner Ellis, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**24-0846 Public Works**

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Public Works, 16RFP071816K-DJ, Operation & Maintenance Services for Camp Creek Managed Assets in an amount not to exceed \$1,226,359.00 with Veolia North America - South, LLC (Atlanta, GA) to provide operation and maintenance services for the Camp Creek water reclamation facility and associated pump stations in South Fulton County. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**24-0847 Public Works**

Request approval to increase the spending authority - Department of Public Works, 19RFP090419K-DB, Operation & Maintenance Services for Wastewater Facilities & Pump Stations in the North Fulton Service Area in an amount not to exceed \$909,668.00 with Veolia Water North America-South, LLC (Boston, MA), to provide operation and maintenance services at wastewater facilities and pump stations in North Fulton. Effective upon BOC approval. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**24-0848 Public Works**

Request approval of a Contract Item Agreement Memorandum of Understanding (CIA-MOU) between Fulton County and the Georgia Department of Transportation for the relocation of water and sewer facilities associated with replacing the existing bridge on CS 1472 / Waters Road over Long Indian Creek in the City of Johns Creek. The project (P.I. No- 0016599) involves the relocation of 8-inch waterline Ductile Iron Pipe, 12-inch Steel Casing, 24 inch Sanitary Sewer Line, and other appurtenances at an estimated cost of \$572,388.00. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington



**24-0849 Public Works**

Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing - Department of Public Works, City of Alpharetta Contract 20-118, On-Call Storm Pipe Cleaning in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 with Southern Hydro Vac, Inc., (Powder Springs, GA), to provide soft dig services. Effective upon BOC approval through June 30, 2025. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0850 Public Works**

Request approval of a Contract Item Agreement Memorandum of Understanding (CIA-MOU) between Fulton County and the Georgia Department of Transportation for the relocation of water and sewer facilities associated with replacing the existing bridge on CS 34 / Freemanville Road over Cooper Sandy Creek in the City of Milton, Georgia. The project (P.I. No-0016582) involves the relocation of 12-inch waterline Ductile Iron Pipe, 18-inch Steel Casing, and other appurtenances at an estimated cost of \$248,588.00. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**24-0851 Public Works**

Request approval of a Contract Item Agreement Memorandum of Understanding (CIA-MOU) between Fulton County and the Georgia Department of Transportation for the relocation of water and sewer facilities associated with replacing the existing bridge on CS 1323/Hopewell Road at Chicken Creek Tributary in the City of Milton, Georgia. The project (P.I. No-0016580) involves the relocation of 12-inch waterline Ductile Iron Pipe, 18-inch Steel Casing, and other appurtenances at an estimated cost of \$307,288.00. **(APPROVED)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington



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**Justice and Safety****24-0805 Sheriff**

Request approval to allocate \$2,137,496.00 into the fiscal year 2024 budget for the Fulton County Sheriff's Office. This amount will be drawn from the previously approved funding specifically designated for the Sheriff's Office. The primary purpose of this allocation is to address and replenish the overtime expenses incurred over the past year. Additionally, these funds will be crucial for covering any unforeseen emergency overtime needs at the Jail, as well as facilitating payments related to the Public Safety Fair Labor Standards Act (PFLSA) for employees who have reached their maximum Compensatory Time. **(MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED ON 11/20/24) (APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrett and seconded by Commissioner Arrington, to approve. **(NO VOTE TAKEN)**

b. A substitute motion was made by Chairman Pitts and seconded by Commissioner Thorne, to authorize the County Manager and the Chief Financial Officer to use the \$2,137,496.00 in the Fulton County budget identified as non-agency funds: to pay any regular payroll and overtime payments to Sheriff's office staff for work done through December 31, 2024, that Fulton County is obligated by law to pay, and for which the remaining funds in the Sheriff's office 2024 budget are insufficient to cover. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Barrett, Arrington, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Ellis

**COMMISSIONERS' ACTION ITEMS****24-0611 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of an Ordinance amending Part 1, Subpart B, Chapter 101- General Provisions and County Governing Authority Article I, Sec. 101-68 - Decorum, of the Code of Laws of Fulton County, Georgia Relating to Rules of Decorum Governing Meetings of the Board of Commissioners; and for other purposes. **(Pitts) (HELD ON 9/18/24, 10/2/24, 10/16/24, 11/6/24, AND 11/20/24) (HELD)**

**24-0852 Board of Commissioners**

Request approval of a Resolution to remove the salary supplement cap as provided in Resolution No. 22-0261 authorizing salary supplements for State paid staff employed in the Superior Court of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit, and for other purposes. **(Abdur-Rahman) (APPROVED AS AMENDED)**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve as amended adding language to clarify the supplement is not to exceed a supplement amount that would equalize the individual State employee to the salary of their Fulton County counterpart. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**COUNTY MANAGER'S PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS****Justice and Safety****24-0853 Sheriff**

Discussion Item: Clarification on the Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Budget for the Fulton County Sheriff's Office. **(REMOVED)**

**COMMISSIONERS' PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS****24-0615 Board of Commissioners**

Discussion: Inmate Phone Contract & Jail Commissary Contract **(Pitts) (HELD ON 9/18/24, 10/2/24, 10/16/24, 11/6/24 AND 11/20/24) (DISCUSSED)**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION****24-0854 Board of Commissioners**

Executive (**CLOSED**) Sessions regarding litigation (**County Attorney**), real estate (**County Manager**), and personnel (**Pitts**). (**APPROVED**)

**PRESENT IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING LITIGATION, REAL ESTATE, CYBERSECURITY, AND PERSONNEL: Chairman Pitts, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, Commissioners: Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Arrington; County Manager Dick Anderson; County Attorney Y. Soo Jo; and Clerk to the Commission Tonya R. Grier. Commissioner Hall was absent.**

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Arrington and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to enter into Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Ellis, Barrett, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Thorne, and Arrington

b. A motion was made by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman and seconded by Commissioner Barrett, to approve the requests for representation in items #1, #2, #3, #4, and #5 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Thorne and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, to approve the contract for Information Technology Services for Cybersecurity contract in item #7 as discussed in Executive Session. The motion passed by the following vote:

**Yea:** Pitts, Thorne, Ellis, Barrett, and Abdur-Rahman

**Absent:** Hall

**Did Not Vote:** Arrington

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S  
FIRST REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 4, 2024  
10:00 A.M.

Alexander Solutions, LLC  
***"A Court Reporting Firm"***

(Whereupon, the meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the First Regular Meeting of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners month of December. Today is December 4th, 2024. It is 10:01 a.m. Madam Clerk, please, call the roll."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Chairman Robb Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Bridget Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Bob Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Dana Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioner Natalie Hall. Commissioner Marvin Arrington, Jr. Vice Chair Khadijah Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Present."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman, you have a quorum."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, Madam Clerk. Please rise for the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Thank you."

(Whereupon, the invocation was given by Reverend Dawkins followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.)

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam Clerk, continue please."

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 2, Consent Agenda, **24-0809:** Adoption of the Consent Agenda. All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the County Commission and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the First Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have one item to be removed on page 3."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Where is that?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Page 3."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Uh-huh. Which item?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0817, Purchasing and Contract Compliance: Request approval of an Ordinance to amend the Sunset provisions for the nondiscrimination and purchasing and contract compliance. This item has been requested to be moved to the December 18th, Second Regular Meeting."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Why is that? Is that the one that I was --"

**FELICIA STONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PC&C:** "Commissioner, the executive summary was not quite ready. We put it on in anticipation that it would be ready. It is not ready."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Oh, that's the one I had some questions about then. Okay. All right. So we'll take it up at the next meeting."

**FELICIA STONG-WHITAKER, DIRECTOR, PC&C:** "Yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. Anything else?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "That's all I have."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Commissioners, any items?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We'll entertain a motion to adopt as amended. So moved by Commissioner Ellis; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 4, First Regular Meeting Agenda, **24-0823**, Adoption of the First Regular Meeting Agenda: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have two amendments to today's First Regular Meeting Agenda. On page 7, item to be revised, 24-0834, Presentation/Approval of American Rescue Plan Act Update: Reallocation of funds and contractual amendments recommendations. This item was revised to amend requested action and to include Exhibits One and Two."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "To include what?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Exhibits One and Two."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And on page 11, item to be removed from today's agenda: 24-0853, Sheriff, Discussion item: Clarification on the fiscal year 2025 proposed budget for the Fulton County Sheriff's Office."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anything else?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "That's all I have."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to adopt as amended by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0824**, Ratification of minutes. First Regular Meeting Minutes, November 6th; Second Regular Meeting Post Agenda Minutes, November 20th, 2024."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to ratify by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Commissioner Dana Barrett. Commissioner Thorne, what do you --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I just want to take a point of personal privilege regarding these minutes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Which minutes?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "The November 6th minutes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "November 5th?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Fifth, I'm sorry. In the meeting, during our elections discussion, there was reference to a social media post that I posted. FYI: my post said from the elections department: FYI: why there are no watchers approved for ballot drop-off. Do not let them in the building. They can observe from the parking lot. You can't stop that, but they are not allowed to sit in the building. Have your security detail enforce it. My comment to that e-mail on social media was wow, why aren't they being transparent? It surprises me that no Fulton Board of Election's members are copied on this e-mail. Don't they supervise the elections? Well, in response to that, Commissioner Hall made some comments, and she said, yeah, people are talking about

officers sitting in front of their houses and all this. But Nadine, let me share with you a certain Commissioner posted about a friendship that I had with the DA and caused somebody to post on my page that I look great dangling from an oak tree with my legs dangling. How racist is that?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Is that in the minutes?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "That's in the minutes. And they had to get investigators from not only the DA's office, but the police department, the Department of the Sheriff's Office to track on social media this person or these people who do not like my relationship with the DA because of a certain Commissioner's posted on their Instagram page about my relationship with the DA. And so, they continued to use death threats against me and wanted to post --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Just a minute. Just a minute, Commissioner Thorne. This is in the minutes that we're about to approve."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes, it's in the minutes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And you're -- what is your point?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "My point is I was very disturbed by these comments. Immediately, I mean, I did post a picture of Commissioner Hall and Commissioner Barrett with Fani Willis, and I said, wow, simply shocked with all of this in the news, Commissioner Hall and Arrington want to add over 50 million to the budget, 9.7 million to the DA, Fani Willis' office. Taxpayer dollars that need to be accounted for."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Hold on. Hold on. Commissioner Ellis -- Vice Chair, Barrett, and Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Well --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Hold on. What's your --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I want to add that I've researched for the past month with the Sheriff's office with the Police Department if my post --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- Mr. Chair --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- just a minute."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Point of order? What is the --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Hold on a minute. I'm getting to that. Just a minute, Commissioner Barrett -- not Barrett. Commissioner Thorne. Vice Chair, what's your --"



**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Point of order."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "What is it?"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Point of order is, with all due respect, what point is she trying to make? Does she want it stricken from the minutes?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I think that's what she's --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- that's what I'm trying to -- well, it don't take a long time to get to that point."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Just a minute. Just a minute. Just a minute. What's your concerns?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I mean if the minutes are an accurate reflection of what happened at the meeting, then the minutes stand. If she has some other thing to say, then she can bring that up under another item; but the minutes are the minutes. And if that was what was said, then that's what happened and it should be reflected in the minutes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, not if they're incorrect."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "But that's what I'm saying. She's not saying they're incorrect."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'm going to ask her to get to that. What's your concern?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I was just going to ask, are you asking for something to be struck?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'm not asking for it to be struck. I'm just asking that the truth be provided and included with the meeting minutes before we ratify them permanently into the record because those allegations were completely false. I don't condone anyone using --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- point of order."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "This Body does not -- we don't ratify the minutes based on if someone feels they are truthful or not. We ratify the minutes of what was actually said. First of all, Commissioner, you know, with all due respect, I understand what you're saying. I'm just not sure to the point of what you're trying to do, because it

sounds like you're trying to say what happened didn't happen. That would be outside the -- that would be outside of what this Body handles, Chairman. We don't -- we don't - if I say in the minutes that I like Burger King and everybody said they saw me at McDonald's, that don't mean that that wasn't stated in the minutes. So what I'm trying to say is, with all due respect to my colleague, the point that she's trying to make, she can make her point that it's not true, but it would not be stricken based on her personal feelings about that. If I am not correct, please advise me."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, I don't think she's asking that -- I don't think she's asking -- she can speak for herself. What I hear is that there were incorrect or false erroneous statements made about her, and the minutes will reflect, as you stated, what was stated at the meeting. But then I would rule that she has a right to put on the record that it was not correct."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Yeah, she has that right."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And you have the right -- and let her speak and then you can vote against this if you choose to do so, but continue."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yeah, I just wanted -- you know, wanted to have reached out to Commissioner Hall, she has not responded to my requests. This happened, you know, 11 months ago. I think that one, right away; she would come to me and ask me to remove a post if it's real hurtful. So before we ratify the minutes and permanently record these allegations in our records, you know, I would just like to have these documents added."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Anything else?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "No, that's it. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion on the floor to approve and ratified by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Dana Barrett. Let's vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

**CLERK GRIER:** "24-08 --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- just a minute. Did you mean to vote, yes? Okay. All right. Vice Chair? No? Okay. All right, continue."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0825**, Presentation of Proclamations and Certificates. There are no proclamations today."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Two meetings in a row. Thank y'all."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 5, Public Hearings **24-0826**, Public Comment - Citizens wishing to participate in public comment will be allowed to appear in person or may choose to participate virtually via Zoom videoconferencing or by submitting their comments in writing on line by registering on the county website [www.fultoncountygga.gov](http://www.fultoncountygga.gov). Priority for public comment will be given to Fulton County citizens and those individuals representing businesses or organizations located within Fulton County. Speakers will be granted up to two minutes each. The public will not be allowed to yield or donate time to other speakers. The public comment portion of the meeting will not exceed 60 minutes. In the event the 60-minute time limit is reached prior to public comments being completed, public comment will be suspended and the business portion of the BOC meeting will commence. Public comment will resume at the end of the meeting. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we will start with speakers here in Assembly Hall. We have received nine speaker cards. Will the first five speakers please come forward: Chief Timothy Peek, Deputy Chief Assistant, Solicitor Shelly Faulk, Solicitor General Keith Gammage, Javon Bostic, and L.A. Pink."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And speakers, when you have 15 seconds, I'll say 15 seconds and that will be your clue to begin to conclude your remarks."

**CHIEF TIMOTHY PEEK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you. Good morning, Chairman Pitts and all County Commission, Mr. Anderson. Thank you all for the opportunity of us being here. My name is Chief Timothy Peek, and I serve as the chief investigator for the Fulton County Solicitor's Office. I'm a native of Atlanta, Georgia, born and raised right here in Fulton County. I attended Frederick Douglass High School, and I'm still a resident of Fulton County, and we'll plan to be there until the Lord calls me home. So I'm thankful to be here. Recently retired from the Atlanta Police Department after 30 plus years as Deputy Chief of Police and then retired and then joined this team of great solicitors, attorneys, and victim advocates throughout the office. What I wanted to come to you to appeal your support on a \$1.5 million enhancement that we have. Upon my arrival here at the solicitor's office, I was asked to conduct an assessment of the investigation division within the solicitor's office. And after conducting that very thorough assessment, one of the things that stood out was that they were very severely understaffed with a number of people that they needed to conduct proper investigations within the agency. Just to highlight a couple of things that we were looking at this year alone, which is not over yet, they've conducted over 47,000 investigations, 47,000 investigations conducted by about 27 individuals. That's a huge number and, quite frankly, unfortunately, those investigations tend to fall, or very well may not be as thorough as they want, because of the load that they're doing. So we had an ask of adding an additional ten investigators to help us out. Those 10 investigators really won't do justice, but it will certainly be better than where we are. As we look at it, those particular numbers right now currently, as we look, those ten investigators are handling

more than 400 cases a month. If we were to get the additional ten we could bring that number down to 300. And so what we want to do is ensure that we don't have situations to where we're having case dismissals, evidence overlooked in discovery --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you, sir."

**DEPUTY CHIEF ASST. SOLICITOR, SHELLY FAULK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the Board of Commissioners and thank you for your service. My name is Shelly Faulk. I've been a prosecutor for 21 years, and I've dedicated my career to serving my community; having prosecuted felonies and misdemeanors across the state of Georgia. I now serve for Deputy Chief Solicitor General in Fulton County at the pleasure of Solicitor General Keith Gammage, and I am also a Fulton County citizen. Our office is facing a crisis which affects some of our most vulnerable people in Fulton County, our victims of crime. Every day, our team gives 110 percent starting at 4:00 a.m. with my jail team, and often working late into the night, to ensure justice for our community members. Our attorneys handle nearly 300 cases a month. Almost ten times the ADA standard of 30 cases per month, recommended by the Bar Association. You've been informed already that our grant funding is drying up and that we're about to potentially lose four victim advocates. Prior to this critical grant funding, our office had five victim witness advocates. The victims of Crime Act, otherwise known as the VOCA Act, allowed our office to hire and retain four additional victim witness advocates. Without these advocates, we will be in violation of Marcy's Law and the crime victims' Bill of Rights. Approximately, one third of our jail cases that come through the solicitor general's office are related to family violence and intimate partner violence. In compliance with the law, our advocates provide life crisis intervention, services to victims of crime and their families, and provide as references to community partners for counseling and housing. The budget supplement of \$216,919 that we are asking the Board of Commissioners to pass, that 216,000 --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- all right, 15 seconds."

**DEPUTY CHIEF ASST. SOLICITOR, SHELLY FAULK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- is required to allow us to remain compliant with Georgia law and to further support and aid those victims of crime. Having been a victim of crime, I can tell you that the phone call is a lifeline. And the work of our victim advocates combined with our investigators is crucial to our ability to bring justice to those who would prey on our citizens. Thank you for your time and attention."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you."

**SOLICITOR GENERAL, KEITH GAMMAGE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Great morning, colleagues. I'll be brief. What is listed as enhancement requests are really fundamental and really foundational needs. Our citizens as we all know it as each of you all's values are concerned about public safety. Whether it's grandmothers who are afraid to go to the store in their neighborhood; whether it's victims suffering from domestic abuse;

we're spending right now, leaders, five to seven minutes investigating a human being's case. And you all could change that. And going into this budget season ahead of the DOJ, the horrendous results of the DOJ investigation of our jail, myself and I'm sure all the other leaders approached -- I certainly approached our ask from a very conservative perspective. Because I know our jail's in a crisis because I know we have these other demands. But I see my team members who can earn more money leaving prosecution, leaving public safety, but they want to remain and stay and are committed. And when I leave about 7:00 or 8:00 p.m. on most evenings, they're still there working. And they're talking about work/life balance. And so, we started with a conservative approach and said we really desperately need these investigators. Post certified law enforcement professionals make only about 64 grand a year on average. They're serving subpoenas. They're armed. They're doing dangerous work. Thank you, Chairman. "

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- 15 seconds."

**SOLICITOR GENERAL, KEITH GAMMAGE, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you, Chair. Ten additional investigators to help us deliver better justice, again it really is not even an enhancement. It's fundamental, and those victim advocates are critical. We need those. So thanks so much, and thank you all for your service. I'm very appreciative."

**JAVON BOSTIC, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is Javon Bostic. I'm a Fulton County resident. I'm calling on the complaint of a situation that happened at Woodrow Park where I was attacked. I was a victim and had got locked up by Atlanta Police for false -- false arrest, where the arrest has definitely put me in a situation where was homeless for three nights and couldn't even get in own my property, because it was locked up in the annex. And the officer who locked me up, told me they wasn't going to arrest me and then when they decided, they went and arrested me without even reading me Miranda rights. Basically, breaking my First Amendment and that the situation I feel like the officers today is not being properly trained to do the job. They're just hiring them and putting them in the position just to fill the position. That's it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you."

**L.A. PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "So the community has some questions. They are questioning why we have not received the tally of the votes for Charles Rambo and Sheriff Labut's race. We are seeing why Ike Arrington is going so hard for Sheriff Labut, as someone sent me a text message stating that Ike Arrington and Jackie Labut is god brothers and sisters -- we didn't know that. And that his father is her godfather, and then she goes down into the text and says that shit -- excuse my language, that's what she said. He supports Patrick more than he supports me. He beats his wife, and that's probably what they have in common, that beats his wife and cheats on her, and so that's why -- that's what they have in common. If you'd like the text, it's right here, it's from her. And so, this is the reason why he's going so hard to get money for Sheriff Labut. I don't know what the DOJ is doing, but apparently they're not doing their job because there is no way that sheriffs get taken down for more than what is on this man's hand,

and he is still in office. He is still being able to come down here and beg. I don't understand what Fani Willis on grey goose, getting loose, anybody can get at Jezebel is doing. We have a problem because here it is a man was found not guilty, stabbed; could've died, and didn't have -- didn't even have to come home, and the jail is still standing with the same out-of-control -- what his wife says --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- 15 seconds."

**L.A. PINK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- narcissist leadership. When are we going to wake up? Where is the investigation? Where is the removal? Kemp, where are you? We need help."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Next four speakers: Paul Hershey, W. Devon Franklin, Perrin Bostic, Michael Collins."

**PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Morning. Hope you had a good Thanksgiving. But as you can see right now, we've got a problem. And you sitting up there are the answers to the problem. Let's get something straight: Arrington has told you time and time again that you have no cognizant over the money to the Sheriff and the DA. He's wrong. I've already cleared that with the Commissioners school. You have a responsibility for every damn dollar that comes in here on taxes, and you need to control it. They're overfunded: right now, they're overfunded. He's asking for \$2 million and we've already proven that he's going to be \$10 million under budget. So what he's asking the 200 for? You've got judges walking in here and asking for money from -- and constituents says they've cleared X, Y, and Z. Well, what do they need extra money for if they're doing so good? You've got a DA that's out of control. Totally out of control. The money spent for that case that wasn't RICO that they decided that in the very beginning, and now we're going to go and spend the rest of the money on this other stuff. What do we do? Have Jack Smith of Fulton County with Fani Willis? Seriously, this stuff has got to stop. You people remind me of ants -- blue ants and red ants. And when you put them in a jar, they live together. And when you start shaking the jar, they start killing each other. And what they forget is the person that's shaking the jar is really the enemy, and that's your constituents, and you are failing them big time. There's \$81 million in your budget that I found as a common citizen that you could move --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- 15 seconds."

**PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- into other organizations. Arrington voting for anything with the sheriff's money should be -- it should be not allowed. It's a conflict of interest period. Nepotism in Fulton County is large and big. And Chairman, your --"

**W. DEVON FRANKLIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Devon Franklin; I am senior (indiscernible) and policy council at the Southern Center for Human Rights here in Atlanta, Georgia. As you all are aware, I'm also a former public defender from here in Fulton County for 12 years. I am here today to



speaking about the topic that I'm always here to speak about, the jail expansion; and most recently, the report findings from the DOJ report. I would like to say that, you know, when I left the Fulton County Public Defender's office in 2022, and I came over to the Southern Center to begin doing policy work. A large part of what I do is informed by my experiences here in Fulton County. Pushing for transparency, not just for elected officials and seeking to work with you all, but also for the public. It was I who first gave jail numbers at Atlanta City Council that eventually led to the jail population review that was put forth by that Body. We have put forth open records requests to Commissioners and different council persons seeking information that they have spoken about at public settings. We have done a great deal of things in that way. I spoke about jail numbers, spoke about the ineffectiveness of the jail lease. We talked about the jail deaths when the media wasn't covering it. These are things that we brought to the table that caused the conversations that you all are having today. We are the individuals that wrote the letter to DOJ, calling for the DOJ investigation. Now that the report findings of an issue, I know some of y'all are surprised about what the findings are. Not me. Not for a person who spent 12 years visiting clients inside that very building. In the wake of that report substantiating those community concerns beyond the brick-and-mortar concerns that many of you all rely on, our public policy director, Tiffany Roberts wrote you all a letter on November 20<sup>th</sup> --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- 15 seconds."

**W. DEVON FRANKLIN, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- seeking to make sure that you all include community in your public processes in the wake and finding of solutions to the DOJ report. We've not received a response to that, and the response that we have done is initiated our own public process, the people's process. So I'm here to tell the community to go to [SCHR.org](https://www.schr.org)/people's process to learn about --"

**PERRIN BOSTIC, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. My name is Perrin Bostic, and I have the pleasure of serving Fulton County residents as the court administrator of the Magistrate Court of Fulton County. I rise today to urge the Board of Commissioners to address a critical issue of underfunding and understaffing that is severely impacting the busiest Magistrate Court in the state of Georgia; and most importantly, residents of Fulton County. Since 2015, the Magistrate Court has closed over 646,000 cases, including more than 52,000 cases this year alone. We currently have only three dedicated court staff members running multiple court rooms simultaneously. We hear roughly 125 cases a day after previously hearing 400 cases a day when fully staffed. This does not reflect our high standards of excellence, nor does it allow the Magistrate Court to ensure justice is served in a timely manner. The impact is not just on the court, it's on every Fulton County resident waiting for their day in court. Every case that is delayed and every person, business, leader, landlord-tenant whose rights are being affected by our strained resources. Today, we again ask for two actions from the Board of Commissioners ahead of finalizing the proposed 2025 budget. Restore the 780,000 that was transferred from our budget and approve an additional 711,000 that we will use to hire critical staff members. The Board's immediate action is

essential to our -- and can continue and complete operational success. Without its funding, cases will remain delayed, backlogs will grow, and residents will be denied timely access to justice. Thank you for your time today. I'm hopeful and willing to work with our Board of Commissioners to help restore the Magistrate's Court's ability to operate optimally. Thank you."

**MICHAEL COLLINS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Hi, my name is Michael Collins and I'm with Color of Change. I'm here to talk about the DOJ report into Fulton County Jail. You cannot read the 105-page report, as I hope all of you have done, and conclude the solution to the problem we have is a new facility and that's part of the discussion with AC/DC the commission is having, but this was previously had with the two billion-dollar jail. A new facility is not going to fix staffing issues, most staffing issues. It's not going to fix the culture that we have at Fulton County Jail, and it's certainly not going to fix the Sheriff. I just want to highlight some key points from the report. As I mentioned, there's an emphasis on the low staffing. They also say -- DOJ also says leadership at the County and Sheriff's office were aware but failed to take adequate action around the jail. Violence occurs as a direct result of understaffing. Before the blitz, which started this summer, I believe, there was no concerted effort to remedy poor conditions in the jail, and there are negligent investigations into incidents of excessive force; and one particularly disturbing incident involved an officer tazing a person who was handcuffed and then receiving a one-day suspension. These problems are not going to be solved with a new facility. Until you can address the staffing issues of culture, of violence and corruption, the Sheriff himself and the trust that the community has lost in both the Commission and the jail as well as the Sheriff, then we are going to repeat this cycle of death and destruction. So I encourage you all to fulfill --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- fifteen seconds."

**MICHAEL COLLINS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- solutions. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, we have three speakers on Zoom."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Good morning, Commissioners. The first person to speak is Lucia Frazier."

**LUCIA FRAZIER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. This is Lucia Frazier, Fulton County resident. I want to comment on the 2025 budget. I see in general, as I do every year, this culture of excessive padding on each item in the general fund. I think our goal needs to be, this year we need to just change it for New Year's is to be equal to or less than last year's budget. And I have a couple of examples like elections. In 2023, the actual spend was 8 million, and so that should be what 2025 is set to. 2024 would be different because it's a bigger election year. On the item, economic development, in 2023, 800K was spent. In 2024, is 850 so far. So in 2025, your target shows 1.5 million, that's almost double. So I think that needs to be corrected



and just made equal to what was in 2023. I feel like there's just no trust. I know I don't have trusts in how these departments are using my money just because of the examples I've seen of corruption on the past few years. So I feel like we need to pull back and put a strain on the departments and just to see what's real and what isn't. And I think you need to ask the department heads to make a presentation of cost reductions. Ideas that they can do that can show us how they can save money so we can all understand what's actually real and what isn't. Thank you very much."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Matt Rowenzcak."

**MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning, Commissioners. When looking at the proposed 2025 budget, I see an increase from the general fund from 917 million to 947, so it's \$30 million increase. Despite the proposed millage rate being flat, which we appreciate, I'm assuming this is still going to be a tax increase on most Fulton County taxpayers. So I'd like to ask the question -- or I'd like to have that question answered during the discussion. We need to be clear and transparent about that. If it is a tax increase on most, then my question would be why? Costs have not gone down for folks and, again, when we talk about affordable housing, especially for seniors and those living on fixed incomes; they are getting pushed out of their homes. This is not a fairytale. It is happening. You can't see the full magnitude of it because they're selling their homes. This should be a priority for this Board, and you should do it by cutting the waste and inefficiency in the budget. As I look at the budget, I see proposed numbers for departments that are more than a hundred percent of what they've actually spent in previous years; that's double. Residents are being forced out of their homes, and some departments seem to be completely tone deaf to this and have very little regard to whose money they want to spend. County Manager and CFO, my question to you would be, do you all do an initial screening of the variance between what's proposed and what's being spent previously? It doesn't look like it. Let's take the infamous elections department. They're proposing almost \$21 million --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- 15 seconds."

**MATT ROWENZCAK, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- in a comparable year they spent eight. That's a hundred and fifty-eight percent increase. How's that even possible? And how is this making it to the proposed budget?"

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The next person to speak is Ben Howard."

**BEN HOWARD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Greetings, Commissioners and staff; and a special greeting, fellow citizens. Ben Howard, Senior Advocate and Public Policy Analyst. In this season of thankfulness, we give thanks for the clarification of quote round-trip unquote, which came out last month during the discussion on senior citizens transportation. Promoting of the cutback from 16 trips per month to eight trips per month, told us that only a few seniors took more than eight trips per month, so eight

trips to be the monthly limit. They say mathematics is a science, but faulty math was exposed when it became clear that eight trips per month is, in reality, only four round trips per month. The math got even fuzzier when one realizes that providing four trips a month covers only 48 weeks while each year has 52 weeks, four more. Shame. For years we have been told here's what we're giving you for senior transportation, make those funds fit the need. Henceforth, let's find the funds to fit the actual need. Stay tuned."

**RICO DOLLAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "The last person to speak is DeShawn Harris. DeShawn Harris. And with that said, that concludes our Zoom public comment."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. Continue, Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0827**, Finance: Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Operating Budget."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. This is public hearing -- this is advertised? All right. We have a sign up for it?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes, sir. Mr. Chairman, we have seven speakers. Will the first seven speakers, please come forward: Howard Simmons, Paul Hershey, Sheleph Harper, Maria Gaudio, Joyce Spaulding Hix, and Ann-Louise Hatfield, and George Bates."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Go ahead, sir."

**HOWARD SIMMONS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Thank you. I thank the honorable Board of Commissioners for allow me to speak this morning. My name is Howard Simmons, a lifelong resident of Fulton County. I've had the privilege of serving on the Board of Equalization for the past four years. I'd like to bring to the Board's attention certain "say it" points. Number one, Fulton County Board of Equalization was the only board in Metro Atlanta to operate full time throughout the entire pandemic, both virtual and in person. Number two, the caseload of Fulton County in the past year; we heard more than 42,000 tax appeals from the Fulton County taxpayers. Those 42,000 represented a revenue stream to Fulton County of over \$7.2 billion. The last increase for the Board of Equalization was in '19 -- excuse me, 2018, we're getting back a little bit further, 2018. We are asking today on behalf of the board, that our compensation be raised to an adequate level of \$200 per day. I would also like to point out to the Board that Fulton County's Board of Equalization members are paid at the lowest per diem rate --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- 15 seconds."

**HOWARD SIMMONS, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- of any of the Metro Atlanta counties. This is a hard-working board, and we thank you for your consideration."

**PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "I'll be very quick this morning. The first thing that I think that you guys need to do is you need to take the DAs office, the Sheriff's department, and the Board of Election and do a zero-based budget. Period. If you do that -- if you do that, you're going to find money. You're going to find anywhere from 41 million up. And if you don't know what a zero-based budget is, I know the CFO does. People are walking in here asking for money with no reason. I'd like \$150,000 so I can go to Sundance and do a reality show on Fulton County's government. That's basically what people do here. It's not a joke. Why is the general manager -- the County Manager, not asking for a zero-based budget out of those departments when we spend \$700,000 on a lover? We've got money going out the door from the DA, and Dana Barrett states that she knows about budgeting and her company doesn't pay twice the overtime. You're a joke. Seriously. There's \$81 million -- a common person found in the budget, that's in excess. So where's the money going? It's not a joke anymore. People are getting tired of it. Look at the last election. Things are changing in Fulton County. You as County Commissioners need to wake up because if you don't, you're not going to be sitting up there much longer. And I'm talking about everybody in Fulton County is upset from South Fulton up."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Fifteen seconds."

**PAUL HERSHEY, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "And I'm familiar with South Fulton. So I mean, it's really, really serious now. You really need to start doing this. Look at the budget, and don't at the end of the year when you approve the budget, go around the world and asking everybody to raise their level and say, well I want --"

**SHELEPH HARPER, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. I'd like to talk on behalf of the Board of Equalization that during the time in the pandemic, we had worked throughout the pandemic day in and day out. Very hard and very stressful what we was trying to do. We never complained, never got a raise or anything. Even never said thank you for your service of what you have done during the pandemic. We as seniors was here up until 4:30, 5 o'clock every evening trying to do our duties and stuff to make sure that Fulton County continue to be on the top of the list. And those figures that was given to you all, we all research those figures and, yes, we do feel that we should have that raise. We should not be behind Gwinnett County, DeKalb County, Clayton County. We shouldn't be behind them. We should set the bar that they should be up under us, and we are asking for \$200 a day. We hope you find it in your heart that you can give it to us. Thank you so much."

**MARIA GAUDIO, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. Maria Gaudio Fulton County. I'm in agreement with Paul Hershey. The three most egregious groups, the Sheriff's office, the DA's office, and the Board of Elections are the most egregious. And they need to be professionally audited before any budget can be considered. Specifically, the Board of Elections asking for nearly a hundred and sixty percent increase, when the election was poorly run; we still don't have a specific numbers on many races, for

example, the Sheriff. That department should be handed over to the state. Given the \$40 million that they used last year, to the state to run it, is going to be done much more efficiently, and they'll probably bring you \$30 million and change. Our property values went up substantially last year as did the millage rate. In many cases, people's values went up a hundred or more percent; no wonder people are having to sell their homes and move out, especially homes that have been occupied by families for two and three generations, and they can't afford a one hundred percent increase in their property values and then increase the millage rate. So even though you're proposing to keep the millage rate the same this year, what about increasing the property values again? Is that going to happen too? Nobody's safe. Thank you."

**JOYCE SPAULDING HIX, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning to the Board and others who are present. My name is Joyce Spaulding Hix, and I am here representing the Fulton County Board of Equalization urging the Board to consider an increase of our stipend to \$200. The board has not received an increase for over six years. Fulton County has twice as many hearings per day as other surrounding counties. Fulton is the largest county with over 100 -- with over one million residents. And counties that are much smaller than our county is received the same or a higher stipend. Cobb County has nearly 800,000 residents and received a 100,000 -- a \$100 stipend per day. DeKalb has nearly 800,000 residents and they too -- and they receive a stipend of \$125 per day for only half a day. And Lowndes County, Valdosta, Georgia, with just 125,000 residents, receive a stipend of \$100 per day. The importance of the Board of Equalization's work cannot be underscored. We assist in helping Fulton County to pay their bills and to compensate their employees. Speaking on behalf of the Board of Equalization --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- 15 seconds."

**JOYCE SPAULDING HIX, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "-- members, we are ask that you consider adequate compensation of \$200 per day. Thank you for your time."

**ANN-LOUISE HATFIELD, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. I'm Ann-Louise Hatfield. I'm a little intimidated by speaking to all. Normally, I'm summoned to Washington to speak to Congressional Hearings in my advocacy for all people. My husband and I came here in 1967; came as a bride and as a teacher at Pace Academy. Half of my family has been extensive advocates. In fact, we just laughed that it's a part of my DNA for generations since 1654. My husband always said that I was on loan to the community as a 24-hour advocate and a community organizer. I've been a member of the Board of Equalization since the early 2000s. I'm not really sure about the year. However, I have found that the grand jury selected, approved members to be highly educated and aware of all aspects of life. Most members arrive at the office between 7:15 and 8 o'clock in the morning; we have our first cases at 9:00. And often are leaving after 4:00 and/or 5 o'clock. Members receive a stipend of a hundred dollars a day, that's about \$12 an hour for an eight-hour day. Our acknowledge and experience and educated decisions greatly affect the lifestyle of those who own property in Fulton

County, and thus the budget of Fulton County is affected by our work. I thank you for listening to me, and I hope that you will find some funding to increase the salary of my fellow -- it's not a salary because we don't get any benefits. We are -- I've forgotten what the term is, but we are -- what?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We got it. Thank you, ma'am. Thank you."

**GEORGE BATES, PUBLIC SPEAKER:** "Good morning. My name is George Bates, and I'm a member of the Board of Equalization. I'm here speaking on behalf of a stipend increase for the Board of Equalization. The function we performed is a critical and valuable function for Fulton County. It is our responsibility to listen to information presented by about the value of a parcel of land or building that is debated on by both the appraisers who assign the values of the property and the taxpayers who argue their case. It is extremely important that we are attentive, that are trained, we have continuing education to keep us abreast of all the laws that are required. So the function we perform is a very critical function for Fulton County. And like you, we are public servants, and I think if you ask would it be appropriate that you would go for six or seven years without any kind of stipend increase or any compensation increase, you would say that's probably not appropriate; and that's what we feel that it should be appropriate that we are compensated for the critical function that we perform in the Board of Equalization. Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "No further speakers."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. That concludes the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2025 Operating Budget. Continue, Madam Clerk."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0828**, Public Works, Zoning Cases 2024Z-002, 2024VC-001, 4145 Fulton Industrial Boulevard."

**RANDY BECK, PUBLIC WORKS:** "Good morning. I'm Randy Beck with the Department of Public Works Planning and Zoning. Petitions 2024Z-002 and 2024VC-001, at 4145 Fulton Industrial Boulevard is a request to rezone from M2 to C2 to renovate and reopen the existing 2016 square-foot fast food restaurant building. The applicant is also requesting a two-part concurrent variance. Part one is to delete the landscape strip along Fulton Industrial Boulevard and part two is to allow a sign in a landscape strip. The recommendation of staff and the community zoning board is approval conditional of both the zoning and the variance requests, both parts of the variance request."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anyone from the public here to speak on this issue? Anyone from the public?"

**PUBLIC:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Recommendation is to approve conditionally, correct? All right, Commissioners. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Mr. Beck, help me to understand deleting the landscape buffer and putting a sign in the landscape buffer at the same time. How do those two coexist?"

**RANDY BECK, PUBLIC WORKS:** "They -- they really don't, but the applicant wanted the location of the sign to be in what is a required landscape strip, but they were also asking for that landscape strip to be removed. So in case that didn't get approved, they wanted to be able to put the sign in the landscape strip. And as staff's recommendation is conditional, we did not agree to the removal of the landscape strip; we just agreed to modification of it so that it could work with the existing parking pattern there. So therefore, they will be essentially a 15-foot landscape strip along Fulton Industrial Boulevard that does have parking intruding on it and they will need that variance to put the sign at the corner of the property where the existing sign stands now."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay. So I guess I misunderstood the recommendation. I thought the recommendation was conditional?"

**RANDY BECK, PUBLIC WORKS:** "It is conditional. There is condition in zoning that stipulates how they are to rework the 15-foot landscape strip along the frontage of Fulton Industrial Boulevard."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "All right. So I just want to make sure we're not -- the recommendation is not to delete the landscape buffer?"

**RANDY BECK, PUBLIC WORKS:** "That is correct."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay? Other questions or comments?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Let's vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

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**RANDY BECK, PUBLIC WORKS:** "Thank you."



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you."

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 6, County Manager Renewal Items under Open and Responsible Government, **24-0829**, Information Technology: Request approval to renew an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$1,241,546 to provide maintenance supply, support services, and software and associated hardware."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0830**: Request approval to renew existing contracts in the total amount not to exceed \$6,975,000 to provide countywide structured cabling services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne; it's seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; four yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0831**, Finance: Request approval to renew an existing contract in an amount not to exceed \$340,000 to provide professional healthcare benefit consulting services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Arts and Libraries, **24-0832**: Library: Request approval to renew an existing contract in an amount of \$204,728 to provide research-based education in the areas of agriculture and natural resources."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne. It is seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Barrett, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had a quick question. I don't know who to really direct since Dr. Roshell is not here, so I'll just direct it to you,"

Mr. County Manager. Feel free to move it along to whoever could answer. But is there some kind of report on these programs, how many people we serve, that kind of thing? I was noticing that these are -- well, it is a library request. The services take place in other locations that they don't really take place at the library. I think one library or two, but some of the other locations are just other locations around the county, and I was just curious how many we serve, you know, what sort of the outcome of this money."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, ma'am. I don't have it today, so I'll have to get that, and we'll certainly get it to you and everyone else."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. I'm happy to support it, of course. I just think it would be nice to know what some of the programs we do support, in general. Some updates and reports on that."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Yes, ma'am."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Do you want to wait until you receive the information? Is this time sensitive?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I don't believe it to be."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay then."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Substitute motion to hold; is there a second? All right, you want to hold it or not?"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "(inaudible) I mean I'm happy to support it. It's fine. I just would just like to know -- you know, it's for the kids, so I'm happy to support it, but I would just like to know going forward what we're spending our money on."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion on the floor is to approve by Commissioner Thorne; and seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And let's make sure we get that information. It was a very relevant question."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANGER:** "Yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We never asked any questions about this -- well, it's approved."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "24-0833, Finance: Discussion, Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Operating Budget."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Madam CFO."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman, as I shared at the last meeting, this is a discussion item. We do not have a presentation, so this is really an opportunity for the Board to ask any additional questions that you may have, share any additional feedback as we move through the remainder of the process. Since we did hold our one legally required public hearing, we are now prepared and set up to be able to adopt the budget in January."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Do you want to summarize what you and your department have presented so far?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Well, at the last meeting, we presented the 2025 Proposed Budget for all appropriated funds. For the general fund, that included a proposed expenditure budget of \$973.7 million, 449.2 of that was for Justice and Public Safety, 189.9 was for Open and Responsible Government, 146.5 was Health and Human Services, a hundred and forty-seven was for Infrastructure and Economic Development, and 41.1 was in our Arts and Libraries focused area. From an assumption's perspective in the '25 proposed budget, we are assuming a flat millage rate of 8.87. We're assuming we will have at least three percent billable growth in the digest either from new construction or reassessment on existing properties, and that we would continue to experience a 96 percent collection rate. In addition to that, we've anticipated and appropriated our local option sales tax at the new increased rate for 2025, which was 7.15 percent. We have included the ARPA interest revenue as a one-time source available to help us balance the 2025 budget, as well as the additional funds that we expect to receive starting in 2025 for the closure of the Atlantic Station Tax Allocation District. And then the general fund budget allows for a minimum -- our minimal fund balance of 16.67 percent of the expenditure budget. So that's the summary, Mr. Chairman, for the general fund."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes. We have some public comments, so I just thought that would be great if you can clarify for the public. Everybody knows I'm into elections, and we're having to spend an additional \$15 million. And I just wanted to be clarified that in normal when you compare it to a normal municipal year, we're just running the city elections, city council, mayor, that type of thing. But this coming year will be abnormal because we have to run a statewide race, and we have to fund it out of the general fund. So I don't know if you want to speak to that more as to justify why we're having to spend more money this year compared to 2023."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** Thank you, Commissioner Thorne. I noted that myself during the public comment section that the comparison may not be an apples-to-apples comparison, looking back to 2023. 2025 would have normally been a municipal election year, so we would have expected to see that election budget decreased somewhat, but because the state decided to hold the public service commission election in 2025, that is a statewide election. As a result, we are planning for four normal countywide election cycles next year and have programed that at the same level as what we programmed a special election, considering it like a special election cycle. So that is why there is a higher amount in the 2025 election's budget when it's normally a municipal election year. It's because we do have the statewide race that is going that will require us to hold countywide elections."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "But we do expect it to be a low turnout."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "A lower turnout, yes."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "A lower turnout then say 2024 or 2022."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "We will hold those election's cycles and we will also, because we are having to hold a countywide election, any municipality that has an election will be able to tag in, if you will, to the elections that we -- we are holding. But, yes, even with that there is still a lower turnout expected as compared to a statewide gubernatorial race or a statewide presidential race like we had this year."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Great. I hope we accommodate for that. Another comment was made about Economic Development, Select Fulton how theirs has doubled. I think, because we move Fulton Films last year, is to why you can't compare last year to this year in your budget."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "So I just wanted to get that clarification out there and that's pretty -- oh, and we had the Board of Equalization come up and speak. Can we get some numbers some time as to those expenses, if we were to raise their stipend? They seem to present --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- yes, ma'am. I believe that there is an unfunded request in the justice tranche under the Clerk of Superior/ Magistrate Court for this particular item. The request covered, if I recall correctly, the inclusion of the higher per diem rate, as well as expanding the number of boards that would run in 2025, and that amount I believe came to 760 -- 769, thank you, Sabrina -- \$769,000."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Okay, great. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Yes. I just wanted to say that I fully support the increase for the Board of Equalization members. I think we should definitely take that up to two hundred. As it relate to Fulton Films, the amount that is currently in the budget, I guess, for the last few years, we've done 500,000. I think there's only 250 in there, and then with the move, there's additional staff that was created. I think maybe one or two staff positions were moved over where there's additional staff, so the impact for next year's budget is virtually a reduction in the amount. So I would like to see us increase that amount so that we can have minimum, do the 500,000. I know the other Commissioners have requested -- requested sponsorship of festivals and other things. In my mind, we probably should be increasing it, but at a bare minimum, we should -- it should be at least 500,000 plus whatever the salary costs are that were a result of the move over. Certainly, I have no issue with other Commissioners and the festivals that they want to sponsor, but to the extent that we reduce the budget by making the move and adding additional staff; and also adding additional events, it seems that it would make sense that there be a corresponding increase in that amount. And I'll leave it there for now."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. The Board of Equalization meets how often during the year? Is there anybody here that can answer that?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Madam Vice Chair, I'm sorry. I'm unable to tell you precisely."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "But they don't meet the whole year. No. I guess what I was wanting to do, Chairman, if you didn't mind indulging me, for the public, because I'm beginning to get texts. The \$200 per diem is not a daily rate for the entire year. They have a set amount of days I think that they -- and feel free to correct me; but I think they have a set amount of days that they actually meet. I don't know what those days are."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I would say, yes. They don't meet every single person -- every single member of the BOE isn't necessarily here every single day."

**COMMISSIONER ADBUR-RAHMAN:** "Exactly."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "They schedule their hearing boards based on the needs, so when our appeals number are higher, they may have to schedule more hearing boards, which may mean they meet more frequently. But they do meet often and they do meet during the period of time that they have to receive the

hearings -- I mean to receive the appeals that are sent over from the Board of Assessors and to hear and resolve those. I'm happy to reach out to the Clerk's office to ask for an average number of days that each member --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "-- yeah, if we can get for the listening public, Madam CFO. If we can get a average and also I would like -- because I get a lot of these calls, we've had a really big increase over the last 24 months. I know myself that on the average of what people were appealing versus what they appeal now. And so, I also want the listening public to know, Chairman, that that hasn't really been a big increase in people appealing. So they have to listen to all of those appeals. And so, I just want to make sure that the listening public hears all of that information, they don't hear the 200-dollar, you know."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, ma'am."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "So if I could have that information by the next meeting, that would be wonderful."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, ma'am. We'll supply that."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Dana Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have an e-mail from the Clerk of Court, and it does have some of those numbers in it. So if we can just get copies of that out, I think, to everybody that will be super helpful. On another note, I just want to talk briefly about the attrition factor for the vacant positions and just get some more information and some more details on that. I understand -- you know, it's mentioned several times in the budget book on page ten, on page 31, and then on page 33, it gets more into the actual numbers in the way it's calculated. So it says there's ten million-dollar decrease in the overall budget based on this attrition factor that you're applying to vacant positions. So I have a couple questions: one, it mentions that it applies to any department that has vacancies. So I'm just wondering if we can get a department-by-department breakdown in terms of how this is impacting the various departments, how many positions, et cetera. And then also, I'm curious because I don't think it's mentioned in the budget book, what date are you using for the snapshot of the vacant positions?"

**SABRINNA MCTIER, BUDGET MANAGER:** "The date was November the 11th."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And that's across the board for everybody?"

**SABRINNA MCTIER, BUDGET MANAGER:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And so is it possible that people will be hired between November 11th and when the budget is voted -- or by the end of the year and all that?"

**SABRINNA MCTIER, BUDGET MANAGER:** "It is."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "And is taken into consideration in the rate that you developed?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Well -- I mean, in the sense that when they hire those individuals, we will come back and look in January, and if we need to make any adjustments, we will; but, if the positions have vacated since that date, then those positions are a hundred percent funded, and so it sort of washes out --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I'm sorry. Explain that one more time?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "So as of November 11th, if a person leaves after November 11th, then going into the '25 budget, that position is not impacted by the reduction that was already applied from attrition perspective. So those positions do carryover at their full funded value as of 2024. And so, it may washout a little bit that if a person -- if one of positions that the attrition factor is applied to is filled between November 11th of this year and the end of this year and people vacate positions, and the funding perspective of that may wash out as we move into '25. So we will take a look at that in January, and if we see anything that is egregious, we may make an adjustment. I don't believe we have had to make many adjustments as a result of positions being filled after the attrition cutoff date."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "So it may wash out but it may not. I get that it may wash out across the entire county, but by department by department, in particular, in a smaller department, for example, they may have some position filled and not want to leave and then that might leave them in a short essentially."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes".

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. So are going to be adjusting for those --"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "-- we look for those situations where we may need to step in and fill a gap; yes, ma'am."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. And you'll be able to give us an update in the first January meeting on any changes that need to be made before we approve?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I think we can, yeah. I don't want to commit to anything that they're not comfortable with."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Fair. That's fair. And then on the -- along those same lines, what about people in the pipeline to be hired? So perhaps they're not hired between now and the end of the year, but the plan is to hire them January 1. So the position is vacant now or, you know, during January, I think maybe I'll say. So it's vacant now, it's being reduced by what, 30 percent, that the salary, but there are people in the pipe. Is the pipe being taken into consideration; the pipeline of new hires?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "I don't know that we are able to take all of that into consideration when we -- when we, you know, pick the as of date. Again, when get into January if there is a department that has, you know, a substantial issue, we will look at it, but it all depends on whether we have resources to apply towards that or not, because we still expect that during the course of the year there will be vacancies that will occur that can be used to offset that. So it really comes down to during the course of 2025, the department managing their hiring processes in a way that allows them to stay within the resources that they do have available in their budget."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. Just for some clarity's sake for the public and anybody paying attention to this particular part of the budgeting: The way I understand it is, you take a certain number of positions that are vacant now and you say we're only going to fund them at 70 percent for the year. So basically 30 percent -- that 30-percent reduction, if you then hired everybody midway through March of those vacancies on, everything would be perfect, right? If you hire somebody before mid-March, then you have to do some additional calculations, correct, to figure out how far out you need to push other hires, yes?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Okay. And is there some sort of simple algorithm that the departments can use to determine exactly what that is, that date? So if I hire somebody, you know, February 1, is it very strict -- because I'm assuming these positions are all at different rates of salary, and so it's a fairly complicated algorithm, I would think, correct?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "They are going to be positions across the classification plan at different rates of pay. We will work with each department that is looking to fill their positions to help them understand at what point in time in the year they will be able to fill positions. If they fill a position on day one, on the first working day of January that had that 30 percent attrition factor on it, then they -- and they fill it at the hundred percent value, then they may have to wait longer to fill another position in order to balance that out and stay within the available resource. So the budget team and human resources as well will work with departments and helping them through that process. Is there an algorithm? No, because each department is going to be slightly, you know, slightly different. Can we prepare a worksheet that they could use that would help them? Sure. We could do that, but there isn't like an algorithm that's built into anything that would help them."



**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I'm asking, I think predominately because I do recall sort of -- and I can't tell you exactly when it was, but I recall getting some questions over the course of last year where departments were struggling to figure out when they could hire and when couldn't they, and they've already hired this person, but they have this one in the pipe, and it just felt like it was overly complicated. And so, you know, while I appreciate the idea that positions are vacant and we don't need to budget them at max, it feels like it's very complicated that it ends up having can, not always, but can be complicated, and I'm just wondering, I guess, if there's a way to simplify that and I don't know that there is, but I have concerns that it's not being fully communicated in particular to -- I mean obviously for your departments that under you, Mr. County Manager, directly. I think it's a different story, because you all have direct contact all the time; but I'm hearing from more of the other elected's in the justice side, and et cetera. So anyway just some clarification and maybe there's some way to make that a little bit more clear for the various departments. Moving on, in the tranches, there are \$129 million, I believe, of unmet budget requests. And sort of apropos of the requests from the BOE, the Board of Equalization request that we got for, you know, an increase, which I am also in support of, as well as the Solicitor General's office as an example, one of the things that was mentioned in public comment today was that, I think like 218 some thousand dollars was mandatory for them to remain in compliance with the law. Multiple of these requests in the tranches are requests that have been made year over year. So I believe the Solicitor General has asked for investigators multiple years and has not been granted those. I know the Public Defender, I mean, almost line by line, asked for the exact same staff addition last here as this year. And so, I guess my question is, at what point do we acknowledge that these requests are not just some extra nice to have but actually are mandatory, at least to some extent. Maybe not every single position, but some increase in those staffing requirements are necessarily for them to meet the core requirements of their offices and to be able to perform their duties at a reasonable level. Because it does sound like the number of cases and things like that are increasing. The PD, as an example, the Public Defender doesn't have a choice as to how many cases -- how many people ask for a public defender, right? So if he needs more staff, at what point does that become a requirement versus just sort of extra ask? And how do we balance that?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "While our -- excuse me. Our approach has been to address being able to maintain the current level of services. And for agencies where, you know, they really don't control the volume of cases, the timing of cases, or activities, it is difficult sometimes to say we need to do this now or we need to plan for this now because there will be more coming in the future. So we asked the departments to identify those things that are necessary to help them just continue to serve the same number and do the same level of work that they're doing currently, and then anything beyond that, we look at it as either an expansion like doing more of the same thing, or something that is an entirely new like a completely, you know, new program or new activity that we haven't been doing. The reason we, you know, we include them in the document for you all to see is so that you can see what the

departments are asking for. If we had the additional resources, we may have taken some of these items and move them forward out of the program expansion bucket so that we could fund, you know, what we consider to be an enhancement request. You know, the agencies may consider them to be unmet, you know, unmet needs. So I think that, you know, at some point in time to your point, Commissioner Barrett, we probably need to have a conversation about how we intend to address specifically the requests that have come out of the justice system. I don't know if that will come through legislation -- legislative activities that may take place or, you know, by some other means. But as long as we continue -- you know, we continue to have some constraint with the resources that we have available, we will probably never be able to meet everything that they ask for. And so, we try to make sure that we fund at least what it takes for them to continue to provide the same level of service that we are currently providing."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Well, I hear you, but with all due respect, I don't know if it's the same level of service if, you know, if they at one point, just for the sake of argument I'll just do easy numbers. They -- you know, years ago, they had four people that took care of a hundred cases, and then they had four people that took care of 200 cases, and then four people that took care of 300, 400, 500 cases. So it's not really the same level of service. They're only taking care of a hundred cases. You know, there's people getting backlogged. There's people who aren't getting the same quality, the same timing, the same all that; there's not enough people to serve them. So it's not really the same level of service. It's the same number of people doing as much work as they possibly can, but they can't keep up, and they're coming here every year telling us they can't keep up. And so, the level of service sounds like everything's good and fine, but it isn't really. And I think there's a little bit of a misnomer there. But I would also ask because we are in these budget constraints, that we've decided as a Board, you know, do we -- we sort of take the base budget as gospel. And I understand that we're not going to do zero base budgeting, but it does seem to me that we should be applying the same questions and logic of this rules-based criteria to the base budget as well. And what I mean, I guess, is that, you know, how often are we reviewing all the programs and services and staffing levels that have been in the base budget all along and saying maybe this program isn't as important as addressing the public defender, not to keep using that example, but you know, we're spending money on things because we always have, and that transfers year-over-year; but are those things the right priority as when some of these other departments are having more and more caseloads, and we're not addressing that, I guess is my question."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Well, I mean, the Manager may want to weigh in on this, but we were very intentional this year when we spoke with departments to, you know, encourage them to evaluate their existing budget first for some of these things that they were bring forward as, you know, statutory or regulatory compliance related, anything that fell into the rules bucket. You know, it was what can't you fit within your current budget and prioritize. So prioritize your budget based on the things that are, you know, you as the department head see them and how you would



prioritize them, so we have encouraged them to do that. We did not sit down with them and go line by line with them through their budget, which we could certainly do that. That will be a very long and arduous task to go through with each and every department, but we certainly could do that. But we did, as part of this process, encourage each department to look first within the resources that they have knowing that we have underruns every year, both in the personnel and the operating side, that they can look to and see, okay, well, I have this money. You know, I didn't use it this year. Oh, look, I may not have even used it last year. Maybe, I should put those towards providing this new thing or being able to serve one more client in this particular program, whatever the ask was. So we do ask the departments every year to do their own prioritization. I don't know if the Manager wants to tag in on that or not, but we have not sat with them and done a line-by-line review."

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "I think the CFO stated it well, but I think it's a fair question, fair point. It would be helpful, obviously, if we were to undertake -- even if it's not zero-based. If it's major shifts in resource allocation, major shifts, not at the -- at the margin, it's probably being done because everybody wants to do something new. We have more or less capped budgets. So to do something new, they have to reprioritize themselves; but if you were to say only do -- the major one is only the mandated services versus none mandated. And that's been looked at in years previous, and that's a very draconian step because you're zeroing out the major programs that are very impactful and popular with citizens. So we would need, I think, strategic directions to undertake that sort of review, and that would yield the most. The second thing to think about and I referenced these numbers, I think, last time we were together. If you look at what we've spent in 2024, projected to spend in 2024 versus now the budget for 2025, it is a nine percent increase. So if you just, again, at the enterprise level and I think you have a fair point. Obviously, when you get down to an individual department and then even within a department, because some of what you're hearing, take the BOE, is a function inside of a very significant department, right? So they're not necessarily reprioritizing across that entire department to fund that, although they could. They could stop doing something else. I don't know what that something else might be, but they could certainly do that."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I think we're sort of -- I'm sorry to interrupt you, sir --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "-- well, I'm just finishing with in that there is, you know, nine percent 974 million-dollar budget versus 894 in actual expenditures, there's 84 million dollars to allocate, if we chose to do it in that way. I've done that many times, where, you spent this, this year -- I'm not talking about in government, but in enterprise, you spent this this year that is your budget for next year. Now, let's talk about giving the revenue picture of what we might do that's new. We don't do that."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah. I think the thing that is missing for me and what you both explaining is, any sort of cross-departmental evaluation. In other words, you're talking about -- you know, we're talking about the Board of Equalization that comes

under the Clerk's budget, and you're saying well, the Clerk could find some way to prioritize. But maybe the clerk can't, maybe the Clerk -- and I don't know. I haven't studied the rest of her specific budget, but is there another department where something is perhaps less of a priority and, again, I don't know, where something could come out of that and move to this. Do you see what I'm saying? So if you're just asking people within their own departments --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "-- yes."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "-- to prioritize, but you're not asking people -- you know, we're not doing any prioritization of everything then --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "-- right, but I totally agree, but the BOE now is at the top of the heap, because seven people came down here."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah and that might not be the best example, to be fair. I'm not saying it is. I'm just saying --"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "-- and I'm not saying -- by the way, when I first heard it, it sounds logical to me that there's been no stipend increase. It's been years in the making. I can also say I'm on two state authorities; I've been a \$150 stipend since I've been on there. So, you know, it's always a matter of perspective, right? And I thank you again, but you could start with, you've made a policy statement in terms of revenue expectations and millage rate for a good reason. Now, you know, if you follow that with we want you as a staff to prioritize these functions over these functions. If you gave us that direction, then we can take additional action, I think more aggressively, to reallocate resource from one to the other."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Yeah, I just think to some extent, and I'm not prepared to -- I'm certainly not prepared to make those types of recommendations at this moment or would anyone agree with me probably if I did. But I think, you know, from the public perspective and the kinds of questions I get from the public are, you know, you're spending money on sort of light and fluffy things, and then you have, you know, the obvious people dying in the jail. So, you know, those are the type of questions about the budget that I hear, and they're not extensive and they're not detailed. They're just high-level questions from the public who looks at this at a very high level. So, you know, I don't have a specific recommendation or ask here but, just, you know, I think the ask is, you know, how can we start to look across departments, because there are things that we may have done for years that were made perfect sense, but aren't really that important anymore. Maybe there is a mandate, but it was a mandate that was done at this level and can be undone. So there are probably some things that could be -- and you may be right, Mr. County Manager, but they're all in the margins. But I don't know. And if there's enough things in the margins, to fund some positions, you know, is that still meaningful, right? All right, last but not least, I think I said this in prior years, but looking at nonagency, the nonagency number is 237.5 million, I believe, in total. That's

one quarter of the general fund budget approximately. It seems like a large amount to be sort of in this, you know, undefined space that is up until last year we didn't even have any breakdown of what was in nonagency. Now we have that sort of high-level five items. I don't -- I feel like it's not transparent to the public what that is and what it's for. In particular, now that we have that additional little breakdown of the five areas, the pension, et cetera that are there, there's still \$72.3 million in other, which is also not available to the public, and I did ask for a report; and, Sabrinna, thank you for providing all the additional information. I -- you know, it's really helpful, but, you know, it's still -- that's 30 percent of nonagency, 7.5 percent of the general fund budget, that 72.3 million, that the public has no eye on. There's no way to see what is in that amount. It just feels high to me. It feels like a lot of the things that I looked at in the nonagency report could be put into a, you know, air quotes, agency. Something that is more visible to the public. Some accounting line item could be added or these things to be sort of divvied out to where they actually go. I mean, some of them are salaries; some of them are, you know, cell phone charges, this and that. It just strikes me that there's a lot in there that the public doesn't have visibility to until we get to open checkbook, and then they can see it all. They can see what we spend it on, but while we're in the budgeting phase, there's no visibility into that for the public. So I would love to see some of that be moved out into areas in the budget where they were more visible. And that is all I have."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah. I do think, you know, kind of when you look at a lot of the folks who have come out and suggested they need a lot more money and more positions, it's kind of interesting if you look at, number one, you know, kind of what the ramp up in our budgetary spend has been over the course of the past four or five years. I think you said it was up, Mr. Manager, with 60 percent over a five-year period of time or something like that?"

**DICK ANDERSON, COUNTY MANAGER:** "Well, since the time that I was appointed ten years ago, it's up 55 percent, yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "But the -- you know, for example, you know, one of the groups that came and asked for -- made a plea for more funding today, they're projected -- they spent 11.4 in 2023. They're projected to spend 11.368 in 2024. And their 2025 budget is 13.2 million. Another group, you know, and it wasn't here, but we hear similar things from spent 24.6 in 2023, and it's projected to spend 23.9 in 2024. And has a proposed budget of 27.5 in 2025. So my point being is, you know, I don't know what kind of -- in any sort of world where folks who have historically been running at a particular number and they're constantly underwriting their budgets that you're going to juice their budgets by 25, 30, 40 percent, and add more positions when they can't hire for what the positions that they've been given. So I do think the way that we have it set up and the way that it's structured, it's sound and it's correct. And when you got to go back in and look at, you know, some of the pleas, you know, they come into question

when you look in terms of what the actual spending has been. And, you know, there are some of these groups where we don't have -- or some of these entities are functional entities which we don't have any operational control over. And, you know, it's their obligation to go and reprioritize and make a decision around it. I mean, I can look at them individually and I could look at things and say hey, there's certain things in here. I think this is fluff, it should go. I'm not the one to make that decision. If you choose to run your operation this way and other people are having to do a lot more work than other people within your functional area, then that's your problem, not mine. It hurts the citizens, but it's your choice, right? And to that end, I mean, like one of these areas, I mean, look, I'm not sure moving all the way up to 200 or whatever on the BOE thing, you know, is the right number or not. I think there were some others that were more like 180 or whatever kind of thing, or 150. You know, but that's somewhat neither here nor there, in terms of their stipend piece, but you know, look, if this is what you want to move forward with, you think this is what you need to do, I mean, and it falls under your functional area, you're projected to spend 20.55 million this year, and you got a budget of 23.5 for 2025 and you spend 21.5 in 2023. Okay, you can make the recommendation to move it up, but find the funding within there to make adjustments to get there. And that's what I'm supportive of. And so, I'd like to see, particularly in this BOE thing, I'd like to see something come back to us from the Clerk and potentially from the Tax Assessors, because they do have this -- there are somewhat symbiotic in terms of this BOE thing because; yes, we have a larger number of appeals that crop up, and it's been a while since we've had this discussion. You know, we've got to go back four or five years to when we were sort of coming out of the one tax who-ha and we had a lot of appeals. I don't have the impression that our assessors have made a concerted effort to seek to resolve many of these things before they get to the appeal stage, or when they get to them to be able to solve them so they don't have to go to the BOE. And I think there are opportunities like that where we could have less activity at the BOE, potentially more efficiency within the Tax Assessor's office and the Clerk's office to be able to fund, you know, this additional ask. You know, and so, I'm supportive of, you know, some sort of a stipend increase for the BOE members, but I think it needs to come with it within the construct of what the budgetary pieces are for the Tax Assessor and the Clerk today. And so, you know, those components and stuff -- I mean, look, you know, this is what you're given; this is what you're being directed to do, to go and seek to make your operations more efficient. You know, we can have debates, and we can kind of sit down here and talk about this stuff individually, you know, or, you know, you can be reflective upon it and decide the changes you want to make on your own."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. County Manager and CFO, have you ever had anyone come down here and say, wow, we've got enough money, we don't need anymore. Has anybody ever came and said that? I'm just asking because, and the reason I'm asking -- well, Chairman, you're an exception to the rule; but, this is what I'm saying, okay. And I've said this and I'm going to say it again and I'm going to say it again. Coming out of COVID and doing things a little bit differently, we

are going to have to, as a county, departmental wise, look at a re-prioritizing the budget, unless you all have a printing press. And I think it's a disservice when you say, well, if we have more money, we wouldn't have the deaths in the jail. Well, depending who you're talking to and depending on what camera is rolling, and depending on if there's a microphone, it may be a budgetary issue or it may be an operational issue. At the end of the day, all of us are stewards of taxpayer dollars, which means we have to ask the department, can you reprioritize what you need to do, because the money is not there to fund everything, County Manager. The money is not there. What I do in my office and nobody else has to do that, but I try to set the expectations accordingly. Why do you need it, and if you don't get it, what will happen? Simple question. Very simple question. What I don't want to do, or what I don't want to see done, Madam CFO, is me getting in your lane because that's what you're paid to do. Now that doesn't mean that somebody can't come to me and say, listen, they said no to this, but I'm coming to you to say this is what I need. That's not what I'm saying. What I'm saying is I think it's very unfair to give a perspective that County Manager, y'all doing something wrong in the budgeting process, because in the budgeting process, for us to maintain what we need to maintain, we have to have a budget and the budget has to be in compliance with what we have. We cannot spend more money than what we have. And so, I just want to be crystal clear on where I stand and more crystal clear on what's operational and what is budgetary. Because you may want 2.7 gazillion dollars for your department; but operational wise, you're not running your department operational to its best efficiency. And so what I would ask, and I've said this last year, I've said it six months ago, and I probably said it three or four months ago. The reality is that we are going to have to internally, each department, look at where we can cut, if feasible. I don't think that's unreasonable, given where we are. If we don't have the money, we don't have it. If there is a need and it's a need that's going to justify, I am all for justifying the need. What I'm not for is justifying the need with no accountability. And so, I would ask as the Vice Chair sitting here to all departments, is to look at what the need is, submit it, show what will happen if you don't get it, and let's respect the process. I don't know why all of a sudden individuals, Chairman, think the process should be different. The process is you go through a process, you submit the need, the need is said, we can or can't do it. Those that feel like they really need it, they come to the Commissioners and see if they can count to four. So if the process has changed, let me know, but I think we do a disservice to the taxpaying citizens of Fulton County to make them think that we are withholding something or we're not doing something incorrectly, County Manager, CFO. I don't agree with saying that where it's a disservice, the algorithm is off -- I don't agree with that, because you're sending a message that individuals have decided well, they're just not going to fund. I don't believe that. And County Manager, you know yourself, I'll ask you questions. Why didn't we fund this? Can we fund this? So I think we need an overall respect of the budgeting process. I would ask that, and in closing, Chairman, I would also say, in 2025, we are going to have to make sure that we have looked at where we will need to cut. I think that is imperative that that is said to the departments, because I think it's an unfair assumption to make the departments think that there is a printing press down here and it's not, County Manager. And at the end of day, this is not a red or blue thing. It's not anything other than the reality of what I spend in 2025, and



my household cannot exceed what I spent in 2024; same school of thought. Now, the caveat to that is, I know it would be certain areas that may be detrimental; I understand that, but let's respect the process. That's all asking, County Manager, that's all I'm asking, CFO. I don't want to get in you all's lane, but I also want to respect the budgeting process."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Well stated, Madam Vice Chair. Anybody else?"

**COMMISSIONERS:** (No response.)

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Thank you. Madam CFO."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 7, **24-0834**, Presentation and Approval: American Rescue Plan Act update; reallocation of funds and contractual amendment recommendations."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "This was revised. Are you going to speak to this?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, Mr. Chairman. The item that's before you is in response to the request that we received at the last Board meeting to bring back all of the details around our ARPA spend and the planned actions that we will need to ask the Board to take in order for us to ensure that all of our resources are fully obligated by the end of this year. The slide that is before you now represents the amendments and contractual items that we will be asking the Board to approve, but I'd actually like to go to the next slide and walk you through the schedule and then come back to that final recommendation. The slide that is presented now, this is as of December 3rd, and it is the update on our ARPA spend, and if you'll just look down this screen, you'll see in the difference column we're showing you an amount that is associated with each project that is either not encumbered, meaning it's not obligated, or already expended. That is the ultimate amount that we are going to ask the Board to take some action and approve the reallocation request and the additional contractual obligations. If we can go to the next slide, please, this slide, the summary of all of those lines above; if you look in the middle of the screen, you'll see where it says ARPA interest, revenue received. If you look slightly to the right of that, you'll see the totals that we're talking about. So our 206.7 million dollar budget, we have 39.5 of that currently encumbered. We've expended 160 million, leaving us with a 7.1 million-dollar difference that we need to take some action on today to reallocate and get the resources appropriated. The column in the bottom right, that is laying out for you the reallocation plan, so we had 7,160,000 that remains for us to take an action on. We expect that we will have an additional 1.3 million in ORCA expenses that will post remaining payroll expenses and such; that will post through the end of December, so we've taken that out of that amount. We would like to increase the amount that we have

set aside for the developmental disabilities training center, 1.3 million. We want to go ahead and put that into the contract for that project as an owner's contingency. We want to allocate a hundred thousand – well that we expect that they'll be a hundred thousand that will be spent out of Fulton Fresh by the end of this year. And then we have 670,000 for the tiny homes project. So we have -- that's a total of \$3.4 million that are part of our total original projects with expected spend or change orders by December 31st. That leaves 3.75 for reallocation. We want to reallocate that amount as follows: we want to put 250,000 into the tiny homes project to assist with the road widening that's necessary for that project as well as increase the management fees for that project by 250,000. In the infrastructure modernization project, we want to set aside 1.2 million for the systems furniture that will be needed in the areas of the facility that we will be remaking and modernizing. We have a cybersecurity betterment project, the details of which the CIO will cover with you in executive session that we wish to fund out of this amount. And then we want to move an additional 400,000 to Fulton Fresh to continue their food delivery programs in food deserts within the county. When we do all of that, it actually shows that we would have over allocated by \$100,000. And that is because in that Fulton Fresh allocation, we have included a \$100,000 that we received under the treasury travel revenue program, and those monies can be used for any purpose, and we would like to allocate those towards the Fulton Fresh program. So if we go back to the first slide -- that slide. This would be all the -- list out all of the action items that we are asking you to approve in order for us to fully complete all of the contractual requirements and meet the contractual requirements for those items that I just covered as part of the finalization and/or reallocation of the ARPA funds. The first item here would be an increase to the program management and construction services contract for the affordable cottage home project with Micro Life Institute for a total of \$1.1 million. We would need to increase the contract with the Winter Johnson Group for design/build services for the renovation and refurbishment of the government center of 1,250,000. Item number three, we would need to increase the contract with Hogan Construction Group by 1.6 million. This would allow us to add in the remaining funds that we have set aside for that project to that contract, and it would cover the FF&E furniture, fixture equipment, and technology needs for the new DD center. And then the fourth item is a cybersecurity betterment project 1,725,669.43. Again, the details of which will be discussed in executive session. And then lastly, to allow us to enter into an agreement with the 501C3 for the Fulton County Cooperative Extension for the Fulton Fresh program \$390,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Thank you, ma'am. All right. We have a motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Commissioner Ellis. Commissioner Ellis, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Just real quick question. So upon taking this action, then all funds will be fully encumbered and no further action will be required for us to be taking it to at the next Board meeting, for example. This would give you the approvals necessary to move forward and have the funds be fully encumbered?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Yes, sir. The only area that we may have funds remaining from will be that ORCA line, and our intent there would be to use the County Manager's contracting authority to enter into any other contract on an emergency basis that we would need to do to ensure that those funds are encumbered by the end of the year, if there are any that remain out of that personnel bucket."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve is on the floor. Let's vote. It's 12:03, let's vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Continue, please."

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**CLERK GRIER:** **"24-0835"**, Tax Assessor: Request approval of an award without competition in an amount not to exceed \$63,640 for the installation of appraisal toolset."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "If someone could just speak to why this is without competition, please, for the benefit of the public. I don't see Ms. Strong-Whitaker over there."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Let's go, gentlemen, it's not complicated."

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Arrington, this was -- Q-Public is the state contract provider for the website services, so that's why it's without competition, because it was state contract."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I don't see anybody from Tax Assessor's office here, and I know this is a small amount, relatively speaking, but a big part of their operations are driven off of technology. Do you know how -- is this something that they are getting a hold of and/or implementing that will have some sort of benefit for 2025?"

**SHARON WHITMORE, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:** "Commissioner Ellis, I want to say, yes, that it will. But I would need to just sort of get back to that."



**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I know, yeah. I won't have you answer on that. Okay, maybe if we can make that request of them in terms of how they -- how and when they intend to implement this and will it benefit 2025, and if so, how?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion on the floor is to adopt. Let's vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0836**, External Affairs: Request approval of a recommended proposal in an amount not to exceed \$144,000 to provide state intergovernmental affairs services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Is there a second? Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner Thorne, you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "Yes. I've been a Commissioner two years now, and I have not met this group, so I'm hoping in the future that I will be able to meet with them and work with them: at least be familiar with them. I think it's important. I don't know, Commissioner Barrett, if you've had the opportunity to meet with them or not."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner -- not commissioner -- what's her name?"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Jessica Corbitt."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Not Jessica. Ms. Corbitt-Dominguez, would you address that -- we need to address that issue, please."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Ms. Corbitt."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you. Yes, sir. Thank you, Commissioner Thorne. I know you and I discussed this and I have -- we have a kickoff meeting tentatively scheduled, of course pending Board approval today, and certainly plan to address that. I want to be clear that absolutely that you can and should be able to engage with them, and we'll make that clear on their end as well. I think you may have been at some events where they were present, but we'll make a point of making sure you're very familiar with them. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Thorne, just to answer your question, I think I've only also met them sort of at an event to say hello, and I had a similar conversation with Ms. Corbitt as you did, I believe, about sort of more reporting and engagement on what they're doing and, you know, working more directly -- yeah, et cetera. And I asked the same thing for the next one as well, for the federal level so."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you. And we have -- I also want to mention that I've discussed this with my staff as well, and we have several ideas and we'll be bringing forward for you. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion on the floor is to adopt. Let's vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** **"24-0837"** Request approval of a recommended proposal in an amount not to exceed \$132,000 for federal intergovernmental affairs services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Commissioner Thorne followed by Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I just wanted to comment that your office, when I was a new Commissioner in February, Fran organized a meeting with this group in DC for NACo, when I was there at NACo. So I am encouraged that you did reach out and make an effort to introduce me to them."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "Thank you. And we will certainly look for some additional opportunities to engage with them as well. Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I don't want to put you on too much notice. Well, I'll just make it just sort of my own objective -- I mean, my own opinion here. I do see sort of visibly and sort of tangibly of seeing the benefit we've had from the group we work with on the state level, and, you know the previous side we voted on in support of the work they've done, and we've seen some clear sort of tangible benefits from that. I sort of fail to see the benefit we're getting from our federal lobbyists, and have been somewhat underwhelmed by that. I mean, you, I guess, you want to kind of give me your thoughts in terms of our engagement of them?"

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "I would. So Commissioner Ellis, I think that this kind of speaks to what Commissioner Barrett and Commissioner

Thorne are speaking to; and I think -- again, I've had this conversation with my team about how we need to do a better job of creating more visibility in to this activity. So in looking at the work we've done with our federal lobbyists who integrate very closely with our grant writers. With the state team, it's a lot more about legislation; with the federal group, it's more about funding. And so, between -- between earmarks, some of which have been approved. Over the last three years we've had a successful earmark in the federal budget. We have two that are in the FY25 budget that are still alive. And then they were very critical in helping us get about \$6 million in competitive funding for the airport. So we have followed very strongly that having -- having the federal team, especially integrating with our grant writers, has been very helpful to securing -- I think I added up about \$13 million in federal funding."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. I'm glad you brought that up. I'd forgotten about the airport piece, so, you know, I stand corrected, you know, some of the tangible points. I think, you know, that's a good reminder for us, you know, kind of just -- we probably see more -- visibly see legislative stuff that we kind of talk about at length kind of stuff but, you know, the stuff, maybe on the grant stuff. You know, their engagement, we may not necessarily have as much visibility and demand. So thank you."

**JESSICA CORBITT, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:** "That's something we'll work to improve as we go forward. Thank you for that feedback. That's been very helpful."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion is to adopt. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Next item."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 8, **24-0838**, Real Estate and Asset Management: Request approval of statewide contracts in a total amount not to exceed \$250,000 to provide and install new interior furniture fixtures and equipment for the Peachtree Branch Library."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to adopt by Commissioner Barrett; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0839**: Request approval of a statewide contract in an amount not to exceed \$388,622.76 to provide preventative, corrective maintenance services for Fulton County Animal Services Facility."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to adopt by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0840**: Request approval of statewide contracts in the total amount not to exceed \$110,000 to provide tires, tubes, accessories and repair services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to adopt by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "The vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 9, **24-0841**: Request approval to renew existing contract in the total amount not to exceed \$6 million to provide standby repair, alteration, maintenance, and rehabilitation construction services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to adopt by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Cast your vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. The motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0842**: Information Technology: Request approval of a statewide contract in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 to provide telecommunication services and products countywide."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0843**: Request approval of a statewide contract in an amount not to exceed \$3 million to provide telecommunication services and products countywide."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0844**: Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing for on-call IT services in an amount not to exceed \$800,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Favorable motion by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Under Health and Human Services, **24-0845**, Community Development: Request approval to close out an existing contract for housing rehabilitation program in the amount of \$14,525.46."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Ellis -- strike that, by Commissioner Ellis."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 10, **24-0846**, Public Works: Request approval to increase the spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$1,226,359 to provide operation and maintenance services for the Camp Creek water reclamation facility."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman; seconded by Commissioner Thorne. Commissioner Ellis you have the floor."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Just a quick question. So this is a -- is this more of a volume, increase in volume driven thing?"

**DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS:** "No."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Or an extension of the period of time?"

**DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS:** "David Clark, Director of Public Works. Commissioner, this is more of a maintenance-driven item. The equipment out at Camp Creek is about 25 years old now, and it's failing at a faster rate than we were anticipating. So they actually had to do more replacement of existing parts this year than we normally budgeted for."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. All right. So it's a maintenance thing. And it's similar for the next item?"

**DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS:** "The next item is, under their contract they were given a higher fixed fee component once the Big Creek facility moved to 32 million gallons a day. And so, when we set up the PO at the end of the year, we didn't know when that was going to happen so we just assumed 24 for the entire year and this goes back for seven months when they operated as a 32 million-gallon facility."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. So 0846 is a maintenance and 0847 is a volume?"

**DAVID CLARK, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Got it, thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion is to adopt. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0847**: Request approval to increase spending authority in an amount not to exceed \$909,668 to provide operation maintenance services at wastewater facilities and pump stations in North Fulton."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to adopt by Commissioner Ellis; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. The motion passes; six yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0848**: Request approval of a Contract Item Agreement/MOU for the relocation of water and sewer facilities at an estimated cost of \$572,388."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0849**: Request approval to utilize cooperative purchasing in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 to provide soft dig services."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; it's seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0850**: Request approval of a Contract Item Agreement/MOU for the relocation of water and sewer facilities replacing the existing bridge at Greenville Road at an estimated cost of \$248,588."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0851**: Request approval of a Contract Item Agreement/MOU replacing existing -- for the relocation of water and sewer facilities replacing the existing bridge at Hopewell Road at an estimated cost of \$307,288."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

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**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We'll entertain a motion to recess for lunch, executive session items of real estate, litigation, and personnel. Motion to approve by Commissioner Arrington; seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; four yeas, zero nay."

(Whereupon, they break for Executive Session.)

**Resumed Regular Session at 2:21 p.m.**

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Without objection, we will resume the regular order of business. Madam Clerk -- strike that -- Madam County Attorney, items from Executive Session."



**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a motion to approve the request for representation in items 1 through 5 of the Executive Session agenda?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We have a motion to approve by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Is there a motion to approve the contract for Information Technology Services Cyber Security Contract in item 7 of the Executive Session agenda?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "We have a motion to approve by Commissioner Thorne, seconded by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman. Please vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "No further action items from Executive Session."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Let's continue."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 11 under Justice and Safety, **24-0805**, Sheriff, Request approval to allocate \$2,137,496 into the Fiscal Year 2024 budget for the Fulton County Sheriff's Office."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Anything? They're not here? Okay, I don't see anybody from the Sheriff's Office. But let me --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Hold it for a second until --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I think -- is he coming? It doesn't really matter. Let me just say this --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Mr. Chair, why don't we complete the rest of the agenda and see they're going to show up."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, we can do that."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** Without objection, we will hold to see if he shows up. Because I'm just, I'm tired of talking about this matter. And under Commissioners' items -- I'm sorry, Madam Clerk, I'm doing your job. Sorry."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Commissioners' Action Items, **24-0611**, Request approval of an ordinance amending the Code of Laws of Fulton County, relating to Rules of Decorum, Governing Meetings of the Board of Commissioners, and for other purposes, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. We've held this for too long for it to still be on the agenda. Commissioner Thorne, Commissioner Barrett, you two were charged with working together on this. And I guess you're close, but where are we?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "We have a -- Commissioner Barrett made some changes, which I fully agreed with, that she added to my first stab at it. So we do have something together as of this morning. But I don't think any of you have had time to really look it over, read it over. But if you want to vote on it, we can vote on it now, if, you know, whatever your wishes be."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, I'm comfortable with whatever y'all will come up. I just want to get it done. But it's up to -- if you guys want the Board to have a chance to look at it, we take it up at the next meeting, whatever your pleasure is."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chairman, I think it is best interest of transparency that we have an opportunity to look at it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And take it up at the next meeting."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'll take that as a motion to hold. Without objection, we'll hold it until the next meeting. And come hell or high water, we will vote this up or down at the next meeting. Thank you. Continue, ma'am."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "**24-0852**, Request approval of a resolution to remove the salary supplement cap, as provided in resolution number 22-0261, authorizing salary supplements for state paid staff employed by the Superior Court of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit and for other purposes, sponsored by Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I just wanted to give the -- because -- because some of the -- my colleagues did have a few questions. I did want to make sure that my colleagues knew that this is, it's no money attached to this. This is to remove the cap. And my understanding having the conversation about this is that we have maybe a little less than \$30,000 in your own budget -- well, I'll let you speak to it. I'll let you -- you can speak to it much better than I can. And please identify who you are. I'm sorry."

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "Good Afternoon, my name is David Summerlin. I'm the Court Administrator for the Superior Court. And just a little bit of context and background about this request. We're the Fifth Judicial Administrative District. There's 10 Judicial Administrative Districts in the state of Georgia, we're the Fifth. Each district gets three positions allocated that are state positions. Those positions are typically the District Court Administrator, a Law Clerk, and a Secretary. So we have three of those positions. Locally here, we have the District Court Administrator position designated as a Deputy Court Administrator --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Excuse me. What are the three positions again?"

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "Court Administrator, Law Clerk, and Secretary. And so in this jurisdiction we use -- I have three Deputy Court Administrators. Two of those deputies are funded by the county, solely by the county. One position is funded through the state, and it's also county supplemented, as is our Attorney position, which is a Law Clerk Staff Attorney position, and we have a Secretary position that does not receive a supplement. So we have three positions from the state of Georgia. This request would be to allow the supplements. Because the county has been so progressive over the last five or six years in terms of salary and compensation, most recently the Segal study, that it would allow us the flexibility to be able to adjust that supplement so that those state employees make very close to and in alignment with their county counterpart positions."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You said those state employees, you mean these three, the three positions that you just --"

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "Yes, that is correct."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Court Administrator, Law Clerk, and the Secretary?"

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "That's correct."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And it's \$30,000, did I hear you say that?"

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "Okay, so currently, the cap is currently set at 50,000, and that's a local resolution here. The state law does not limit a supplement that can be paid by the county. So the impact, the financial impact for us, for example if this resolution was approved in 2025, and if we identify the funding, working with the County Manager and budget team, it would -- the physical impact would be less than \$10,000 for 2025 to adjust state's employee salaries in alignment with their county counterparts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So could you give me what -- what is it now, and what would it be with the adjustment?"

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "So currently, for example, the Court --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- the Court Administrators currently, I want --"

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "Court Administrators current supplement is 50,000, it's set at the maximum of the current BOC approved resolution, the preexisted resolution. That salary, that supplement would go to about \$56,000, from 50 to \$56,000 to align with the other Court Administrators. Our Staff Attorney, the state salary is about 55,000. We currently pay that Attorney a supplement of about 32,000. But we need to go ahead and increase that position as well up to the -- with this approval."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Up from 32 to what?"

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "It would be approximately 32 up to about 55,000."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** All right. And the Secretary?

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "Currently, there is no supplement. That position, as funded by the state, is closely aligned currently with folks that are in the same or similar position."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So for the Court Administrator, we're going from 50 to 56, that's 6,000, right?"

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "Yes, sir."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And then from the -- for the Law Clerk, 32 to 55?"

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "Yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "32, 42, 52, that'll be 23, correct? Is that right?"

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "Up to 23,000, yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And that leaves 1,000."

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "Yeah."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "And 1,000 for the Secretary?"

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "There would be -- at this time, there will be no adjustment, because they're already closely aligned their counterparts that are county funded."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "So Chairman, I just threw that \$30,000 out there. But it's less, I should have said less than 30,000. But I knew it wasn't over 30,000, so he's got the exact numbers. I would -- I -- that was me, that wasn't him."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "That was me just rounding it off."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "But that doesn't bother me for now, but what's troubling, I mean, that amount. But what's -- not troubling, there would be no cap going forward, all right. That's a problem. Now, how do we address that concern? The cap now is 50? Should the cap be 60 or 200, what?"

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "It could be set at 60,000, and that would buy us some time until there's a COLA, until there's other changes --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah, well -- "

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "-- county level that would --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- anything is better than the, no cap."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "So Chairman, are you saying that you'll --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I'm not saying anything. I'm just saying --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "No, I'm asking so -- for my understanding, you're thinking that it should -- we should -- we should keep the cap, just raise it, is that what you're saying?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I think there should be a cap --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Because I'm open -- are you all? I'm open to that if my -- if that's the concern my colleagues, I guess I'll need to hear from everybody else. But I don't --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah, I'm done, that's --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Okay, all right. Are you all open --"

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "We'd be open to that as a solution --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "As a solution, okay."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, my sentiments are the same as the Chairman's. I'm not comfortable with something with no cap. You know, I guess, furthermore, I guess, it's sort of hard to square up a little bit when the state's got a \$60 trillion surplus, and we don't have that kind of surplus. And we just, based upon a budgetary, you know, discussions we were having, it seems that we should be more appropriately going to the state saying, you know, your piece needs to be adjusted up versus us adjusting our cap. I mean, personally, I mean, it seems like --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Makes sense."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- that that should be going along with our legislative package and that kind of thing. I know they bumped up a bunch of Judges and all that sort of stuff over the past few years, but did this not give raise before?"

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "Not that I'm aware of. I will say that the state positions that are assigned Judicial Districts, the Ten Judicial Administrative Districts, they're all funded at the same level. So whether you're in a South Central Georgia, whether you're in Atlanta Metro, or whether you're in the mountains, it's the same rate for each position."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, but remember, we're supplementing at 50 grand. I mean, I doubt all those other places are, you know, supplementing another 50 grand on top of it. So there's probably some disparity between what the -- what those folk's aggregated pay is. So if the underlying, you know -- is there not an escalator with if state employees get increases, the state supplement goes up?"

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "They can go up --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Or the state -- it's not a supplement, it's their --"

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "Their salary."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I mean, it's their salary, right? The state employees --"

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "They have COLAs just like we do. They may not align with our COLAs, they may do a bonus that may not align with our bonuses. But in those cases in that example, for example if the state were to issue a COLA next year, it would be upon us to reduce that supplement, so that we're maintaining alignment with our state and county-funded positions."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. I mean, I'll hear everybody about else out, but I'm not supportive with no cap."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I'm willing to take a friendly amendment on that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, let's hear from everybody. Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "It seems like the cap was put on in April of 2022, which was before my time here. Just, can anybody explain why you passed a resolution putting the cap on at 50,000?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I don't remember, to be honest with you."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "And with that being said, is there anything to write it -- write in if we keep -- if we raise the cap to 60,000, can we also write in to have also take in account if there's any COLAs that that cap, the COLA could exceed the cap? So then you're not constantly coming back, oh, we need 5,000 more next year, or 7,000 more next year. So I don't know if that's possible to be written in to have automatic adjustments if COLAs are paid any given year."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "If I may, Chairman. The other option you may have is to, instead of having a set number for a cap, it could be a not-to-exceed number, not to exceed the amount that would equalize them their counterpart who is a county employee."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I think that's fair."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Mr. Summerville, do -- you good with that?"



**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "We could work with that. Thank you so much."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Barrett."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "I was going to say before that, that I -- I don't actually think a cap is necessary, because the budget is the cap. So they have to have it within their budget in order to pay the difference. And so I think the way you put it together, Vice Chair, along with Mr. Summerlin, is appropriate. Because the cap is, we just say no to that budgetary increase if they decide to go rogue and double somebody's salary. So -- but I think it's fine, just sort of add language that says, to -- so that they are equal to their, you know, and not above their -- their peers on the county payroll, so."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. So what language did we end up with? What?"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "(Off-mic comments.)"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "What you just said, County Attorney."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "I think the resolution as it's currently written does indicate that the purpose of this resolution is to equalize them with their counterparts, who are purely county employees. But perhaps we could, in the finalization of the resolution, should it pass today, add language that makes it clear in the: Now, therefore be it resolved, that is not to exceed a supplement amount that would equalize the individual employee, state employee, to the salary made by their county counterpart."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Chairman and Commissioner Ellis, are you all okay with that? Because I am, as a friend -- as amended."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah, I guess, I could live with that. Just not that no-cap stuff, just wasn't going to fly."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I understand. I understand. It's 20 -- getting ready to go into 2025, no cap."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Your no cap might mean something different from my no cap. Okay, so we good with that, Commissioner Ellis? Okay, good. Okay, so --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. The motion on the floor then is to approve as amended. The amended -- the amendment as stated by the County Attorney. Did you capture that, Madam Clerk?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Yes, I did."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. All right, let's vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

**DAVID SUMMERLIN, COURT ADMINISTRATOR:** "Thank you very much."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 12, **24-0615**, Discussion, Inmate Phone Contract and Jail Commissary Contract, sponsored by Chairman Pitts."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. This is just a discussion item. And the FCC ruled -- passed a new rule that will become effective January 1, 2025, that sets a cap on voice calls from voice, and there's another item that I can't remember -- word rather that they - no, not commissary, dealing with voice and visual, maybe, calls."

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "On video."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Video. Video from the jail --"

**COMMISSIONER BARRETT:** "The Sheriff's --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- at 6 cents per minute, right? Currently, they -- we're charging, our inmates are being charged at 16 cents a minute. And to the Sheriff's credit, he had already planned to reduce the cost for the inmates from that 16 cents, as I understand it in talking with him, down to the 6 cents. And I applaud him for that, because that will be consistent with the -- with the FC -- new FCC regulation, which will go into effect come January 1, 2025. So that will take care of the phone contract portion of this. The commissary part, I'm still reviewing that, and I'll be talking with the Sheriff about that as well. But that's -- this was a discussion item only. Commissioner Arrington."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Mr. Chair, point of order. I'm a little confused how -- and maybe this one isn't one of them, but I'm confused how these other items that -- and I guess this is one of them. I thought we had a rule that it could only be held three times, and then it has to come off. So I don't understand why we don't just take these off and then bring them back when they're ready. And I don't understand how, you know, the ruler is it can only be held three times. This one is one, two, three, four, five, today would be a sixth time. The previous one, 24-0611, is one, two, three, four, five times when our rule says it can only come back three times. So I would ask that you make a ruling that these items don't come back until -- unless and until it's time, or

you know, they not be -- if we -- that they not come back unless and until they are ready to be acted upon. But they should not be automatically put on our next agenda."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. On 0615, we're done with that one. And the reason that that was held was waiting for the Sheriff to -- the Sheriff is going to provide me with the - with some information, which he did between the last meeting and this one, which is what I just referenced. On the commissary, I'm still doing some work on that one, so that, we can remove this one going forward, to Commissioner Arrington's point. What was the other one?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "0611, decorum."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. That one was being held due to the fact that Commissioners Thorne and Barrett were assigned the task of revising it, updating it, and they had had trouble getting together. And they're ready today, but they have a final version that's ready today, but the Vice Chair made a -- made a motion to hold it so that the Board would have a chance to review it. And then the idea is would approve, vote it up or -- not necessarily approve, vote it up or down at the next meeting."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "I guess -- as a new item --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "But to your point, you can take --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "It's a new item."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yeah, we can take it off and bring it in as a new item at the next meeting. That's fine. Resolution, all right. Yeah, y'all just have it ready, because we're going to vote it up or vote it down at the next meeting."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "I don't have a problem that."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay, all right. Next item."

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**CLERK GRIER:** "Mr. Chairman, that was the last item unless we're going back to the Sheriff's item."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. So sound the --"

**CLERK GRIER:** "On page 11, **24-0805**, Sheriff request approval to allocate \$2,137,496 into the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget for the Fulton County Sheriff's Office."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "First, before we get to that, now, did I explain the telephone situation at the jail consistent with what the Sheriff and I talked about, that the FCC ruling becomes effective January 1, '25. Prior to that, the Sheriff had already agreed that internally, that he was going to reduce it from the 16 cents to The 6 cents per minute. That's what I understood."

**AMELIA JOINER, CHIEF COUNSEL, SHERIFF:** "Good afternoon, Chairman."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "That's not correct?"

**AMELIA JOINER, CHIEF COUNSEL, SHERIFF:** "No, sir. I'm sorry, the FCC is requiring -- that new order requires that it be reduced from 16 cents to 6 cents for large jails and persons."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I thought that the -- I thought the Sheriff had said to me that he was already going to do that, even before the FCC ruled."

**AMELIA JOINER, CHIEF COUNSEL, SHERIFF:** "I think he was referring to the commissary, with respect to the commissary which is not governed by the FCC rule. The commissary, the Sheriff has already caused a reduction of at least 10 percent on the commissary items --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, let me --"

**AMELIA JOINER, CHIEF COUNSEL, SHERIFF:** "-- with respect to --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- say that -- but then, okay, I misspoke --"

**AMELIA JOINER, CHIEF COUNSEL, SHERIFF:** "Yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- then, but on the telephone, the -- what is it called? The vocal? Is it vocal and video?"

**AMELIA JOINER, CHIEF COUNSEL, SHERIFF:** "Yes, so --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** FCC will require, come January 1 that the cost be reduced from 16 cents a minute to 6 cents a minute --"

**AMELIA JOINER, CHIEF COUNSEL, SHERIFF:** "Yes, sir, and --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "-- and we're going to implement that."

**AMELIA JOINER, CHIEF COUNSEL, SHERIFF:** "Yes, sir. Now, with respect the inmate telephone contract, the prior provider charged anywhere between 18 cents and

21 cents per minute. Sheriff -- the new contract executed by Sheriff Labat early this year, reduced that 18 to 21 cents to 16 cents. The FCC since that time, has decided that that rate should drop from 16 cents to 6 cents. So that is a governmental decision."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Well, we will comply with that --"

**AMELIA JOINER, CHIEF COUNSEL, SHERIFF:** "Absolutely, we'll always comply with the law, yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** Okay. I wasn't suggesting that you didn't comply with the law, but we are going to comply with the law."

**AMELIA JOINER, CHIEF COUNSEL, SHERIFF:** "Absolutely, absolutely --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, okay."

**AMELIA JOINER, CHIEF COUNSEL, SHERIFF:** "-- should that become the law, given the change in administration, Presidential administration, absolutely, we'll comply."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Okay. Now, on the issue that's before us, the 0805."

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "Yes, sir. Michael Shoates, Chief of Staff, Sheriff's Office. You had questions?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No, I didn't know whether you had any comments that you wanted to make about it, anything new."

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "Well, we've provided through our last few meetings, the information that we were able. And so we're available for any questions."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. Let's hear from the Board, because I'm -- this has been before us for too long. And we're put in the position, backed into a corner, I guess again, where we have no choice but to -- because our employees, they have worked, and they deserve to be paid. And it's not the Board's fault that they worked and didn't get paid. But it -- just a minute, let me finish. That's why I asked if you had any comments, these are my comments. Now, I'll be quiet and listen. Go ahead."

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "Okay. Well, I wanted to -- that, your comment about them not getting paid, they have been paid. All employees have been paid for all hours worked. What this request does, the county will automatically -- the county payroll system will automatically pay them. They'll -- this request solidifies that line item budget, the salary accounts, which right now are affected by overtime that

was stopped in October, as well as compensatory -- compensatory time that employees are currently earning right now. The county is required by law to pay that. If they are over the maximum amount, which is 240 for professional civilians, 480 for sworn personnel. We have approximately 200 people that are near the max or are already over the max. And those that are already over the max, they are being paid right now. But what that's doing is putting our account in a deficit. And so we -- this is paying for that comp time that they have to earn, by law, because of the -- because of the work that they are doing. So they are currently getting paid. This also is paying for bust-out checks from employees that have departed from the county. In the past 30 days, we've had 30 people resign from the agency for various reasons. But it's always an uptick when it comes -- when overtime is either canceled or terminated. And so since that time, our resignation rate has increased dramatically. What that causes is for us to have to pay them out their vacation, their comp, and their holiday time. Just as an example, on this past Wednesday, on payday, one employee who resigned, just one employee, his was bust-out check was \$66,000. Of course, we don't budget for vacation, comp time, and holiday. So that \$66,000 is being paid out of our salary accounts, which is putting our salary account in jeopardy. And so what this to put \$2.1 million does, it solidifies our accounts so that we can continue to be financially responsible. Because right now, these, the impacts of people's resignations, the impacts of people who are working comp time, that is not something that we have discretion over."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. I hear your words, and I heard them for the last three or four meetings. I'm going to offer a substitute here to resolve this issue for the 2024 budget. And I don't want to hear a word about overtime in 2025, assuming my substitute passes. Because whatever that we approve for the 2025, in fact, what I'm going to recommend to the Board is that we, let's say your budget for 2025 is \$150 million or \$160 million, whatever it happens to be, I'm going to ask that the CFO give you a check for \$160 million, and you can spend it any way you want to spend it. And you won't have to come back to us. Because it's your position that as a constitutional officer, you can spend that money any way you want to. So from that, my perspective, there's no sense in having a line item budget for you, just give you one line item, officer -- what's is the Sheriff's Office, Office of the Sheriff -- I always get it wrong. And you'll get \$160 million check, and y'all can spend it any way you want to spend it. But that'll be with respect to the 2025 budget, because every other meeting, you come back, there's a different request. That's why I affectionately refer to the Sheriff as the \$5 million man, because he gets, you know -- and that's okay. But here's the -- we're being put in a position, but having no choice but to pay for the -- these obligations, in this case, payroll and overtime payments that will continue through the end of the year. I'm

going to support it today, but for different reasons. I think you've said several times that you've had X number of employees to resign because of this. I don't buy that. I think they're other reasons. But as I understand it, based upon the wage and hour laws, the county is obligated to pay employees hours worked, including overtime. I think we can agree upon that statement. I hope we can. They've worked, they put the time in. They've benefited the county, and we have to pay them. And it's also my understanding, if we do not do this, y'all will run out of money by the end of the -- out end of the year. So again, we have no choice but to take care of our employees who have worked. And I further understand that certain employees in the Sheriff's Office have reached or will soon reach the maximum number of overtime hours. And I think you spoke to that, for which the county can pay in compensatory time. And that the salary savings from the vacancies in '24 lead to a problem. And I don't want to go in all that detail. But in order to cover the payroll and overtime for county employees in the Sheriff's Office through the end of the year, I'll make the following motion, colleagues. It's a substitute motion to authorize the County Manager and the CFO to use the \$2,137,496. That number is not in dispute, is it?"

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "No."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. In the Fulton County budget identified at this point in time as non-agency funds and that's not in dispute, correct?"

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "No."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. To pay any regular payroll and overtime payments to the Sheriff's Office staff for work done through December 31st, 2024 that Fulton County is obligated to pay by law and from which, the remaining fund that's in the Sheriff's Office 2024 budget are insufficient to cover. So this would satisfy what you've been concerned about. And it would clear this up for the end of 2024. And my previous comments about 2025 will have to stand on its own, about you getting -- if I have my way, you'll get a check for \$150 million, whatever it is, and you'll can spend it any way you want. But this will take care of the 2,137,496. That's my motion, I have a second by --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Point of order, Mr. Chair. How is that any different than the motion that was already on the floor? How is it a substitute? The motion was already on the floor for the exact same thing."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I didn't interpret it that way."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "That's fine, but just tell me how it's different."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "I didn't interpret it that way."



**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "How is it different?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Well, I will -- I will --"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "What page is it on, 6?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Thorne, will you remove your second? I'll remove my motion, because I won't support, so let it go. Because if they're other comments that were made that were not consistent with what I -- "

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Well, I just asked a question, sir, how was it different?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You said it's the same."

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Commissioner."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "You said it's -- would you remove your second?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "How --"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Commissioner."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "How is it different?"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "Commissioner Arrington, if I may respond, the item as it's written on agenda, appears to be asking for an allocation that money transferred into the Sheriff's budget --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** That's the piece --

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "-- and I believe the wording of the Chairman's motion allows that funding to be utilized for the stated purpose, but it would not be transferred into the Sheriff's budget, rather it would be charged against --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Okay, thank you, that --"

**Y. SOO JO, COUNTY ATTORNEY:** "-- to pay for --"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- that's a very simple answer to a very simple question, thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "It tells me how it's different."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "So, let me -- we can remove it. I won't support it as is."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "No, sir. She just told us how it was different. All I asked you to do was to say how it was different to describe how it was a substitute. The County Attorney just did that, so now, there -- now, I understand how it is and why it is a substitute motion."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "It was in black and white. I assumed that we could all understand what's written here. I don't have to break everything down."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Sir, I have -- we ask questions all the time. I have the ability to ask a question. I brought a point of order and I asked you a simple question, how is this different --"

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "And the point of order has been satisfied."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- and instead of answering that question --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No, let him talk."

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "-- and instead of answering the question, you say you want to withdraw it. Good Lord, have mercy. So you won't answer a question, you'd rather withdraw it, not pay the people overtime because you don't want to answer how it's different? Good Lord, have mercy."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Anything else?"

**COMMISSIONER ARRINGTON, JR.:** "Perhaps."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Ellis."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "So your motion is still before us?"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "All right, thank you. So --"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "The simple motion that was before us, it's still there."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "All right. I'm -- I just had two or three -- two or three questions. I had sent you all a request for information, some handful of questions on it. There was a response was provided sort of later yesterday, with a lot of that detail in there. There's some pieces of it that, maybe not all the detail was there. But I want to -- I just wanted to verify two things based upon my reading of what was shared with us. It

looked like if I read it correct, and I just want to verify this, that there were -- y'all had identified funding to pay the outstanding invoices on other matters that were -- is that correct?"

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "Yes, we're -- that is in progress. We're working with County Finance --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "-- to finalize that."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. So that should be resolved. That's the way I read that."

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "Yes, yes. It has not been completely resolved yet, we're -- but it has been initiated. We have --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "We have already initiated that."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. Within the construct of the --"

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "Correct."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- existing budget? Okay, thank you for that. And then secondly, there was a question about who the Chief Jailer, or whether there was a Chief Jailer and whether the person was an employee or contractor. As I read your response or read the response, I interpreted it to be that the Chief Jailer themselves, well, that's pretty clear, is an individual named, Mr. Jarett Gorlin, that's correct?"

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "That's correct."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "And it's -- it wasn't quite clear to me, but as I read it, that he's not a county employee, but he's a contractor?"

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "He's a contractor."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "He's a contractor. So the Chief Jailer is a contractor."

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "But he also is a member of our Viper Reserves. So he -- he was already affiliated with our Reserve Unit."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "But in terms of status, he's a contractor, not a county employee?"

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "Correct."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. And in terms of compensation, if I read this correct, the compensation is \$1 every six months?"

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "Yes."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. So we have a Chief Jailer who is a contractor, who's paid a dollar every six months, that's --"

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "For the past six months."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay, all right. And then I had some questions around part of what my ask was is trying to understand kind of the makeup of, I believe, the roughly about 902 employees within this Sheriff's Department in terms of what function they play and that sort of stuff and what units they were assigned to. It didn't look like you got down to that -- what was provided had gotten down to that sort of -- the component level of which I was asking about. But the -- in 2020 -- '24 -- what it did look like was in 2020 -- '24, there were 902 in -- they're currently about 902 people, you know, working within Sheriff's Department. And then in 2022, compared to 2022, there were 798; is that it -- those numbers sound correct?"

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "Off the top of my head, I believe so. But is Mr. Hermon here?"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Mr. Hermon, does that sound correct?"

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "Is that -- I believe that's --"

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM:** "Good morning, Commissioners."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah."

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM:** "If we're looking at the same report, Commissioner, my Excel spreadsheet says in 2022 there was 842. And in 2024, your number of 902 is correct."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "842?"

**KENNETH HERMON, CHIEF HRO, HRM:** "Yes, sir."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay, all right. I'll have to go back and look at that through the spreadsheet mix. I guess I was showing 798, in terms of that total. But and then in

terms of the -- at the, you know, all right, so my numbers were showing roughly about 104 difference, and this is showing difference of around 60 --"

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "Commissioner, if I may."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah."

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "That number has already changed. The change is daily --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Well, I know the numbers change daily. But as of that point in time --"

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "Yes, because for instance --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "-- you've said --"

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "-- we had five resignations yesterday --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, I understand they go up and down, but as of that point in time it was, that number was that. But the, you know where I'm getting at is this, in terms of the -- well, there weren't specific units that were noted within this. There was a column that said the primary location of the individual, and in 2022, it appeared to me that the principal location for -- of Fulton County Jail, at that point in time in 2022, Mr. Hermon, you could look at this, was 530. And then the principal location of Fulton County Jail in 2024 was 535 associated to that code."

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "So those codes are general. They're generally in the system, because most of our staff don't have offices or cubicles. So for instance, our Transport Unit --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, I --"

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "-- who work primarily at the jail --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Right."

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "-- transporting inmates to and from all day long, they are -- they show in the Law Enforcement Division, but they actually work their primary job at the jail."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Yeah, they --"

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "So there's -- I'm sorry, go ahead."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Right, right. But they're only like -- the part I was looking at had, like, five locations within it, and principally it had either people worked at the Fulton County Jail, Fulton County Jail as principal location, which I realized that that encompasses other things, and I think court, and then there were a couple of other categories that were relatively small, with like one or two people in them. And I was -- so that -- that FCJ code, while their overall numbers have gone up about 60, that code had only gone up five."

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "So as I mentioned, those codes are -- they're simply codes assigned in the system for --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay."

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "-- HR purposes."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Right."

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "However, that does not -- it's not an accurate reflection of where the people work."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. So that goes to my original ask for some sort of transparency about what people are doing, so that they're sort of an organizational chart that we understand what people's principles -- roles are, and that was a large part of what that my ask was. And I think some of the asks that we've had going back, you know, over in excess of a year that we're still looking for some information on. So my interpretation of looking at this would be that we've made gains in hiring, but in terms of where we're deploying people, we're not necessarily deploy them in terms of work at the jail, okay? So I'm just telling you in terms of what I look at and what I see, that's what I'm interpreting without some better clarity around what specific units these people are principally working at and what they're assigned to."

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "So the -- I'm not sure if it was March, I think I believe it was March, we provided an org chart. Because we were requested to provide an org chart showing --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I saw --"

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "-- all our staff. That org chart had all of the organization numbers. We then provided with that a list of all the employees and where they were assigned. So that satisfied that request, because it

specifically shows where everybody is. That has changed, of course, as the organization develops and as people move around. But all of that information was provided."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Okay. We'll just agree to disagree. In terms of what's provided to me, I don't -- this does not provide me transparency into that. So I -- you did provide me with a lot of the information asked for. I appreciate that. It's not quite down to really what I was getting at. So I guess we could have further conversation around that. I think the Chairman has something before us that will be supported. But we can - - we can have sort of a continued conversation on that."

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "So we would -- we definitely would be happy to, and we requested that. And that's why we constantly asked for meetings to clarify so that we can provide --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Right."

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "-- the information. And I understand the, you know, the point of making the information available in public --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "Right."

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "-- but to clarify it and to make sure that we're on the same page prior to, we constantly asked for meetings. And we've asked for several out of specifically --"

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I realize --"

**MICHAEL SHOATES, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHERIFF:** "-- about this."

**COMMISSIONER ELLIS:** "I realize you specifically asked for information. But we've also -- I just want to be very clear with you, right. I am a big believer in transparency of public fund -- public spending, and that we've got insight into that. And when there are - - I make specific asks around stuff, I want to get it to information that's -- that will ultimately be consumable and understood by the public. And I thought it was clear in that ask. We can have, continue to have follow-up conversations on it. I don't like meetings which potentially skirt Open Meetings laws. I'm very careful about that, concerned about that. So just -- just understand that, that's where my perspective, where I'm coming from. So, you know, these are -- these are asks that I in turn -- that I interpret to be very, relatively simple and straightforward asks that we should be able to provide, you know, to the public in terms of, you know, data, financial data, personnel data, et cetera, just like I would expect from our own staff. So just leave it at that."



**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Sheriff."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "I'll be really quick. And I appreciate the drill down in terms of where -- what assignments look like. But it's also important to note, in consultation with the Law Department, some of these assignments are sensitive in nature. And so that's why we ask for the one-on-one meetings. And so we will certainly provide that information if you are available, and we appreciate it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Vice Chair Abdur-Rahman."

**VICE CHAIR ABDUR-RAHMAN:** "Thank you, Chairman. First of all, Sheriff, let me say, I'm glad to see that you walked in, because I feel like this is an issue that was worthy of your presence being here. So thank you for being here. Chairman, with all due respect, nobody has painted me in a corner. I don't even want to put that out there for the Fulton County taxpaying citizens. I understand what you meant by it, but we got to do better, Sheriff. And the reason I say that, I understand you're a constitutional officer, and I understand what comes with that. But also understand in accountability and when questions are being asked that there are answers or expected answers. And these are not questions that I just go lay down just decide to ask. There is an issue, a perceived issue, whether it is warranted or not, with constituents who have reached out to me especially in my Council District 10, when there is a -- a stop, and it is two APD officers there and sometime two or three Sheriff's there. I do get the calls. And so when I ask, how can we have that kind of coverage out in the street when we need coverage at the jail, I would hope and pray that you would not take that as some type infringement upon your constitutional duties. Now, at the end of the day, I don't think anybody on this Board does not want to work with you, in my opinion and appreciation. But I, Chairman, I would be remiss if I didn't say that there is an air of, of all these votes up here, if I don't vote a certain way, I've got to get an answer right now in front of the colleagues. That's disrespectful. I will never be bullied or be made to feel some kind of way because I may have a disagreement with you, Sheriff. My answer has went from no to abstain to support today. And at the end of the day, we are stewards of taxpayer dollars. And you and none of my colleagues have a right to get offended or take it personal if I asked the question. You may not agree, because I'm quite sure there are things that I do or say that you don't agree with. But we can agree that both of us have a genuine interest and concern for the safety and the transparency of the constituents and of the individuals that are housed in the jail. And so I just want to say, Chairman, I am going to go ahead and give you a favorable vote on the one that you have put forward. But I want to go on the record, I'm not going to be bullied, I'm not going to be made to feel like I have to do something because someone's a constitutional officer. In my appreciation, the constitutional officer has a higher degree of accountability. And I'm

not saying that our Sheriff does or doesn't. I'm telling you what my appreciation is, sir. And so the Sheriff, I appreciate you being here today. But I want you to understand, moving forward, and I'm going to say both of us, need to do a better job of what we need to do for the citizens of Fulton County, both. I'm not going to say you and not going to put me in that mix. But we got to do better. We have got to do better because it does a disservice to the employees. It does a disservice for individuals to go around and make people think that the individuals down here don't support law enforcement, when that could be the furthest thing from it. So Chairman, I'm -- I must, with all due respect, I know what you prefaced this with, but I don't feel backed in a corner, because I'm going to have my say. And I will let the vote stand, but moving forward, Sheriff, thank you for showing up. We must do a better job for the taxpaying citizens of Fulton County."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right. Other comments? Sheriff, anything?"

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "I'll be really quick. First of all, thank you, Madam Vice Chair, I appreciate that. It's important to note, and because I get -- I live in your district, I get the same calls. It's important to note that our district, right, where I live and you represent, represent over 6,000 wanted people. And so where we are able to even provide a force multiplier or get those individuals off the streets of our district and the county specifically, we are focused on that. Again, there's an opportunity for us to provide additional support, and so I appreciate it. I appreciate the opportunity. Again, we have set up these meetings as you -- as you mentioned a couple meetings ago, with respect to some of the State Senate recommendations. And we will continue to do that every Tuesday, if you are available, whatever day is available, as we met with Commissioner Thorne on yesterday based on her schedule. So that, it's not set in stone. So we certainly look forward to those conversations, and I appreciate it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Commissioner Thorne."

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "I'll just be really brief. You know, I do appreciate you reaching out, conversation, conversation is always good. You never have too much of that. So I do appreciate that. I hope that will be an ongoing thing. I do have some concerns with the Chief Jailer, but that's irrelevant to this agenda item. So maybe at a future date, we can discuss that in a meeting. I do support going ahead and paying this amount now, hoping moving forward, it won't happen again at the end of next year. And just want to say I hope you don't have to come down here next in two more weeks so that you can enjoy your holidays."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "I appreciate it, thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Other comments? Thank you, Sheriff."

**PAT LABAT, FC SHERIFF:** "Thank you."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "All right, let's vote."

**CLERK GRIER:** "And the vote is open. And the motion passes; five yeas, zero nays."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Madam Clerk."

**CLERK GRIER:** "No further items."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Wasn't there an item from the -- I thought there was an item held off --"

**CLERK GRIER:** "Consent, it was moved to the next meeting, yes."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Okay. That's it?"

**CLERK GRIER:** "That's it."

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "No, just remember that, Ms. Corbitt, what time is the Legislative Reception? What? All right. Colleagues and Mr. Manager and your staff, the Legislative Reception is, begins at 6:00 o'clock until 8:00 o'clock. I expect to see everybody there to say, hello to our --"

**COMMISSIONER THORNE:** "(Off-mic comments.)"

**CHAIRMAN PITTS:** "Sure. All right. No other matters to come before us today, we are adjourned."

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.**