



# City of Statham 2022

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ANNUAL REPORT

Presented December 20, 2022

City of Statham  
Finance Department  
327 Jefferson St.  
Statham, GA 30666

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**MAYOR**  
Joe Piper

**CITY CLERK**  
Ashya Fambrough



**CITY COUNCIL**  
Deborah Krause  
Lee Patterson  
Scott Penn  
Hattie Thrasher  
Gary Venable

December 20, 2022

TO: The Mayor and City Council of the City of Statham

FROM: April Stephens, City Accountant

The Year 2022 has been one of both great achievements and among a few challenges. The Mayor and Council and its staff have made fantastic strides and contributions to the Citizens of Statham, and have provided another year of dedication, hard work and diligence.

Among the year's achievements comes three newly elected city council members—all who have demonstrated commitment to their constituents, and a Mayor, coming into the third year of his term, who has gone above and beyond at establishing a city government of transparency, integrity, and honesty.

Within the city government includes departments such as the Police, Finance and Utilities—all of which achieved great milestones in 2022 and include:

- The Statham Police Department's full, 24/7 coverage.
- The Finance Department completing five financial audits in just two and a half years, coming into compliance with the Georgia Department of Audits and Department of Community Affairs.
- The Utilities Department initiating and completing several major projects including the stormwater project on Railroad Street, utility line repairs on 8<sup>th</sup> and Elizabeth Streets and replacing old or damaged residential water meters.

Just two years ago, Mayor Piper had a vision to brand the City as the gem that it is; to make it easier for businesses and citizens by providing a knowledgeable and friendly staff; to add festivals and events for the public; to solidify City finances; to strengthen relationships with our community, and to create an efficient local government. With the support of the Mayor and Council and commitment from employees, collectively we have been able to not only greet these visions but embrace them for this upcoming new year.

As with all achievements, challenges, too, arose this past year and we oftentimes found ourselves in uncharted waters. The year 2022 left us with multiple changes in staffing, working lots of

overtime to achieve the results expected from elected officials and the public, and setting aside budgeted items and projects due to the uncertainty of revenue. Cost of supplies has increased significantly; supply shortages; gas prices were the highest seen in years, loss or change of vendors, and fierce competition for filling vacant employment positions. We are proud, though, to say that we arrived at the end of this year in a better place than its beginning.

As my uncle always said, “with struggle comes progress,” and as 2022 ends, new and improved doors have once again opened—and your committed staff, from the laborer to the police chief, welcome the Year 2023. With your continued support and encouragement, and foresight into the future, the City of Statham can achieve all that it wants to.

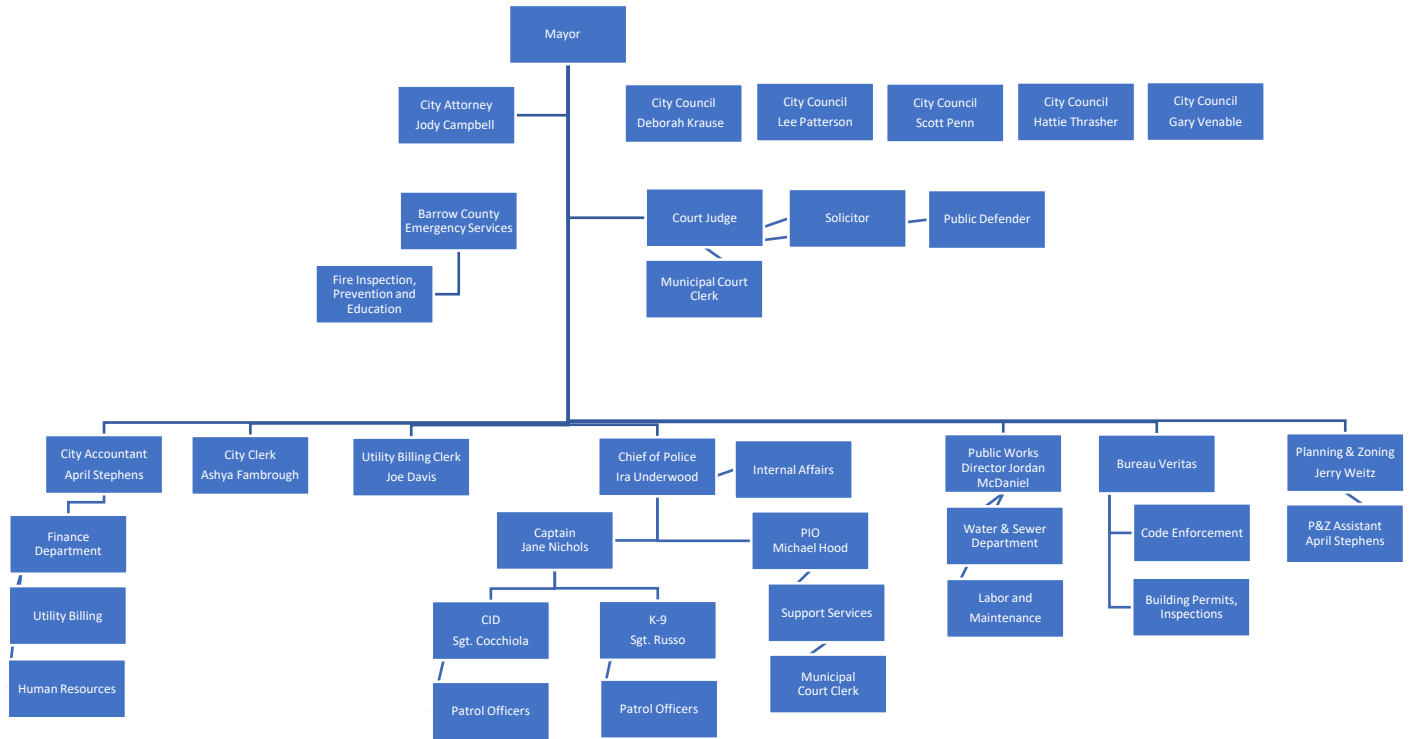
As you read through this Annual Report and have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Mayor Piper and I are available anytime, to any member of the public or any member of staff or elected official. Happy New Year, and we all look forward to working in partnership with you for a successful 2023!

Sincerely,



April Stephens  
City Accountant

# Organizational Chart - 2022



# City Staff

For the year 2022, multiple changes were made to City staff. Experience, education and training, and reduction in any potential conflicts of interest were all considerations for changes in positions and hires. Getting the right people in the right positions is key to the City moving along in the right direction.

City leadership made the following changes in 2022:

- Utility Billing Clerk – January 2022
- City Clerk – Hired April 2022; Appointed July 2022
- Police Captain – August 2022
- Sergeant K-9 Officer – September 2022
- Sergeant CID Officer – September 2022
- Municipal Court Clerk – October 2022
- Support Services Coordinator – October 2022
- Three (3) new patrol officer positions
- Eliminated the Maintenance Laborer position – September 2022

## **Education and Training**

It is the Mayor and City Council's goal to support and provide employees with the most up-to-date education and training tools necessary, not only for their own safety and knowledge, but to train other staff and to provide our citizens with the most qualified employees. Additionally, investing in education and training helps to eliminate the need for the City to depend on other agencies to perform certain services.

Education and Training by the Numbers:

- Police Department – 1,367 hours of training and education in 2022.
- City Clerk, Ashya Fambrough – 33 hours of training and education in 2022.
- City Accountant, April Stephens – 27.5 hours of training and education in 2022.

## Water Department

In October 2021, John Epps completed and passed his Water Distribution System Operator exam. He intends to begin classes for his Water Operator III license soon.

City Hall Staff

City Clerk Ashya Fambrough – Mandatory Clerk’s Training, Community & Media Relations 101, Community & Media Relations 102, Council & Staff Relations and Financial Oversight.

City Accountant April Stephens – Debt Administration, Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Governmental Budgeting and GCIC Security Awareness Training.



Left: Ashya Fambrough, City Clerk, appointed July 2022.



Left: Joe Davis, Utility Clerk, passes out candy to elementary school kids during their visit to City Hall.

Below: Mayor Piper takes questions from students from Statham Elementary during their tour of City Hall.



## Employee Retention

The need to keep employees connected and engaged is more important than ever before. By prioritizing employee development and equipping department heads to have better conversations about performance and growth, employees are more likely to stay with an organization. Additionally, employee compensation including benefits and incentives, is an important factor for determining retention and satisfaction. Increasing employee morale, positive social changes, and a supportive working environment coupled with showing value all decrease turnover.

The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 created an influx of unemployed persons, and after the dust settled and the economy opened back up, employers desperately needed new hires. This created heavy competition within the workforce and those looking for a new job could be very selective based on pay alone.

The City of Statham, through this time, was fortunate in that those employees committed to Statham stayed with Statham. We did see our share of those who found other employment for pay or benefits, however, we also retained new employees who have added a lot of benefit to our staffing with more experience, commitment and shared visions and goals for the City.

As of 12/14/2022, the City's employee retention, in terms of length of service, include the following tenures:

- <2 years: 14 employees
- 2 – 4 years: 6 employees
- 5 – 10 years: 1 employee
- >10 years: 2 employees

Employees like Bobby Howard, Sam Powell and Jordan McDaniel, with a combined experience in Statham of more than 42 years, are invaluable to the City's utility system history, knowledge of the City's public works, roads and streets, utility system needs, and the general layout of the City. Members of staff with longevity in Statham have proven time and again how much of an asset they are. We hope they, as well as all our current staff, continue to be part of our team; to help the City continue to grow and become more successful.





# Finance Department

## **Accounting Department**

After years of accounting and financial arrears, the City of Statham is finally able to say it is compliant with regulations set forth by the State of Georgia, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, and the City's own Charter. Significant improvements to the City's financial status have been made to include improving internal control, educating department heads of the importance of and adherence to budgeting, following the City's adopted financial policy, increased accountability, and performing necessary duties in accounts payable, auditing, budget monitoring, reconciliation and overall record keeping.

- FY23 Budget – approved timely
- FY23 Budget Report – completed and made available to elected officials and public
- FY21 Audit – completed
- Tax Year 2022 Millage Rate - approved timely
- Tax Year 2022 Report – completed and made available to elected officials and public
- Tax Year 2022 billing - completed two months earlier than in prior years
- Accounting and fund number correction and update – completed
- Trained staff on utility billing and revenue allocating

## **Completed and Filed the Following Required Annual Reports / Financial Documents 2022**

- 2022 Wage and Salary Survey
- FY21 Report of Local Government Finances (RLGF)
- 2022 Government Management Indicators (GOMI) Survey
- 2022 Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)
- 2022 Census of Governments Survey
- 2022 Biennial Retirement Survey
- TED Local Government Financial Documents: FY23 Budget, FY21 Audit
- Immigration and Reform Act for 2022
- Nonprofit and Local Government Collection System: FY21 Audit and Corrective Action Plan
- Monthly Building Permits Survey for U.S. Department of Commerce
- Monthly Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Reports
- Annual Workers Compensation Payroll Audit
- Municipal Revenue Services Audit for Insurance and Franchise Taxes
- Biennial GBI Non-Criminal Justice Agency Audit (first time since prior 2017 the City of Statham has received Compliant Status)
- EMMA Annual Reporting (all disclosures for the City's revenue bonds)

## **Audits**

- As of year-end 2022, City staff has completed all past due financial audits (2016-2021) and is now in compliant status according to the Department of Audits/Department of Community Affairs. The most recently completed audit, FY21, was accepted October 2022, and the FY22 audit has begun. The FY22 audit is due by December 31, 2022, and although it is not feasible the City will have it completed by that date, it is anticipated an extension will be asked from the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for its completion.

## **Bank Reconciliations**

All past years' bank reconciliations beginning with 2018 have been completed. To date, all bank reconciliations are completed each month.

## **Property Taxes**

Property taxes for tax year 2022 were delivered October 20, 2022—two months earlier than last year. The due date for 2022 property taxes is January 23, 2023. As of December 13, 2022, the balance for unpaid 2022 taxes are \$267,074, and the City has collected \$129,454.

Delinquent property taxes go as far back as 2010, and mobile home tax bills had not been delivered nor collected since 2014-2015. As of June 30, 2020, there was more than \$64,000 in unpaid city property taxes. As of December 13, 2022, that number has been reduced to \$41,574 and is broken down below by year.

In November 2022, staff sent delinquent tax notices to properties with unpaid taxes, to include penalties and interest for late payments. The Finance Department will continue their collection efforts of unpaid city property taxes.

2010 - \$3,100  
2011 - \$2,180  
2012 - \$2,553  
2013 - \$6,696  
2014 - \$4,657  
2015 - \$1,823  
2016 - \$1,580  
2017 - \$1,509  
2018 - \$2,803  
2019 - \$3,349  
2020 - \$4,419  
2021 - \$6,905  
2022 - \$267,074

[See Appendix 1 on page 10 for Unpaid Balance Report as of 12/13/2022](#)

## Grants

1. **2022 GMA Safety & Liability Grant** – Submitted grant application 7/21/22 for fiscal year 2022 reimbursable expenses. Completed required regional risk management training on 10/27/22. *Received acceptance and approval of application 10/28/22 in the amount of \$5,600.*
2. **DWSRF (Drinking Water Projects to Support Increased Population) Grant Program from the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) Grants Division** – Submitted grant application 9/8/22 for \$4,978,000. *As of 12/14/22, no results have been received.*
3. **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Supplemental Pre-Application Grant(s)** – Submitted two separate applications, both on 10/25/22 and both for \$5,508,093. *As of 12/14/22, no results have been received.*
4. **SLRF Infrastructure Grant(s)** – Submitted two separate applications on 10/21/22 for \$2,478,000 and \$1,400,000 respectively. *In February 2022, the City was notified it was not selected.*
5. **Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Grant** – Submitted application 11/9/21 for \$1,840,000. *In February 2022, the City was notified it was not selected.*
6. **Local Maintenance Infrastructure Grant (LMIG) for 2022** – Submitted 5/20/22 but was denied due to noncompliance of audits. Re-submitted 9/22/22 but again was denied due to noncompliance of audits. Had discussions with DOT and DOA representatives, and the closing for 2022 LMIG was September 30, 2022. City Council approved FY21 audit on 10/11/22; resubmitted 10/25/22 and 10/28/22. Hopeful to still receive 2022 LMIG funds, however, if it is too late, we will submit the City’s 2023 LMIG application. *In November 2022, the City was notified it was eligible to receive 2022 LMIG backpay as well as 2023 LMIG. The City received 2022 LMIG in the amount of \$40,589 on 11/09/22. The 2023 LMIG will be received sometime in the first quarter of the new year.*
7. **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds** – Received second tranche September 2022 in the amount of \$530,093.

# Appendix 1

**UNPAID BALANCE REPORT BY RECEIPT NUMBER**

Tax Years: All Tax Years  
 Balance: 0.00 to 999,999,999.99

The City of Statham  
 FY 2022-2023  
 Unpaid As Of 12/13/2022

	Tax Charge (\$)	Cost (\$)	Penalty (\$)	Interest (\$)	Payment (\$)	Total (\$)
Total for Tax Year 2010:	\$2,024.49	\$0.00	\$307.85	\$2,708.94	\$1,940.84	\$3,100.44
Total for Tax Year 2011:	\$1,594.40	\$0.00	\$242.91	\$1,613.23	\$1,270.94	\$2,179.60
Total for Tax Year 2012:	\$1,831.67	\$0.00	\$275.33	\$1,848.89	\$1,402.88	\$2,553.01
Total for Tax Year 2013:	\$3,604.75	\$0.00	\$541.51	\$3,224.07	\$674.42	\$6,695.91
Total for Tax Year 2014:	\$3,256.07	\$0.00	\$505.95	\$2,039.91	\$1,145.07	\$4,656.86
Total for Tax Year 2015:	\$4,786.89	\$0.00	\$571.49	\$1,614.21	\$5,149.10	\$1,823.49
Total for Tax Year 2016:	\$3,150.42	\$0.00	\$96.48	\$592.40	\$2,259.77	\$1,579.53
Total for Tax Year 2017:	\$3,289.23	\$0.00	\$113.86	\$426.68	\$2,320.80	\$1,508.97
Total for Tax Year 2018:	\$3,876.90	\$0.00	\$186.28	\$493.89	\$1,753.97	\$2,803.10
Total for Tax Year 2019:	\$6,408.25	\$0.00	\$549.03	\$326.80	\$3,934.89	\$3,349.19
Total for Tax Year 2020:	\$10,774.95	\$0.00	\$1,870.15	\$0.00	\$8,226.44	\$4,418.66
Total for Tax Year 2021:	\$10,295.03	\$0.00	\$807.59	\$0.00	\$4,197.72	\$6,904.90
Total for Tax Year 2022:	\$268,006.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$932.07	\$267,074.45
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$322,899.57</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$6,068.43</b>	<b>\$14,889.02</b>	<b>\$35,208.91</b>	<b>\$308,648.11</b>

# Police Department

Adhering to the principles and guidelines set forth by Chief Underwood, the Department has been fortified and has formed a unity between the Citizens of Statham and the Officers of the Statham Police Department. As Chief Underwood's mission statement states, "It is the mission of The Statham Police Department to provide police services in accordance with the law, while being sensitive to the needs of the public we serve. We are committed to fairness, compassion and excellence. We are also committed to community policing and partnerships through which we can address crime and public safety concerns."

In Chief Underwood's second and third full year (2021 and 2022), a lot of progress has been taking place including:

- Adding diversity and experience to the department.
- Increased number of POST Certified Officers to include woman officers.
- Hiring a female Captain bringing more than 30 years of experience.
- Hiring a PIO (Public Information Officer) with more than 20 years of military experience.
- Revamping the K-9 Unit.
- Adding speed detection devices and cameras at Statham Elementary and Bear Creek Middle School to help combat excessive speeding in school zones.
- Hiring a new court clerk who brings five years of jailer experience to the City.
- Hiring a new administrative support services member who brings more than 15 years of experience in 911 dispatch.
- Narcan training and kits for each officer to assist with any opioid overdose situations.
- AED basic training and kits – total of 5 units.
- Full-service department now offering notary services and background checks along with 24/7 coverage.
- Hiring community-oriented officers to promote stronger community-based policing.
- Accountability Forms available to the public for commendation, complaints, and other forms of officer responsibility.
- Maintaining an "open door policy" holding the Department responsible for transparency and answerability.
- Mandated ethics and professionalism training within the department; and
- Annual firearms and use-of-force training.

## **Community Outreach**

- Food Drive
- Spring Fling
- Shop with a Cop
- Fourth of July Holiday
- Sunflower Festival
- Halloween on Broad Street
- Boo on Broad 5K Race
- Statham Light-Up Night
- Adventure Bags
- Partnership with Peace Place



## **Upgrades and Advancements**

- Continuing towards achieving Risk-Reduction Certification.
- Upgraded LPRs (license plate readers) to assist in detecting stolen vehicles, missing, and wanted persons.
- Upgraded AXON system cameras for better coverage and quality, covering both inside and outside of patrol vehicles.
- Upgraded to an on-scene fingerprint identification system.
- Updated taser training and participation.
- Upgraded fleet.
- Conducting and maintaining inventory of evidence and equipment room.

## **Important Notations**

Chief Underwood is a board member for the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police and currently serves as a promotional assessment panel member for a neighboring Metro-Atlanta Agency. He is also a member of Statham Lions Club and frequently visits and serves breakfast to the Veterans on Wednesdays at the American Legion in Statham.

As the SPD continues to grow, upgrade, and make positive changes, the Chief strives to become a police department that holds their Agency Certification of the GACP. State certification status represents a significant professional achievement, and acknowledges the implementation of policies and procedures that are conceptually sound and operationally effective.



Pictured left: Chief Underwood speaks at the Georgia Association of Chiefs Conference in Savannah, July 2022.

## Police Department Statistics – 2022

In agency activity reporting, there has been a slight increase in incidents over the past couple of years, and an increase in the number of arrest cases, traffic stops and miscellaneous reports. The increases are largely due to having more officers on the road and an overall increase in presence. The decline in domestic violence and juvenile complaints, which is a positive attribute, proves the increase in officer staffing and their visibility deters criminal and mischievous activity.

Activity Type	2020	2021	2022 as of 12-14- 2020	% CHANGE <i>from 2021 to 2022</i>
INCIDENTS	347	367	383	+4.36
ACCIDENTS	62	72	62	-13.89
ARREST CASES TOTAL	144	219	273	+24.66
ARRESTS MALE	105	167	215	-28.74
ARRESTS FEMALE	57	84	80	-4.76
ARRESTS JUVENILE	1	0	0	0
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	39	22	8	-63.64
JUVENILE COMPLAINTS	3	8	5	-37.5
MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS	96	68	104	+52.94
TRAFFIC STOPS	1132	1049	1489	+41.94
CITATIONS ISSUED	616	598	836	+39.80
WARNINGS ISSUED	757	691	935	+35.31
REPORTS GENERATED	547	536	562	+4.85



# Public Works & Water Department

The City's Public Works Department comprises of the following divisions: Roads and Streets, Maintenance, Water and Sewer. The work performed in these departments is diverse, and overlaps between divisions daily, and is overseen by Interim Public Works Director, Jordan McDaniel.

Areas of focus include:

- Limb, leaf and debris cleanup
- City-wide building, parks and recreation maintenance and repair
- Vehicle and equipment maintenance and repair
- Water and sewer system maintenance and repair including breaks and leaks
- Sewer collection system
- Water supply testing and analyzing
- Minor road and sidewalk repair
- Right-of-way maintenance
- Litter and other debris pickup
- Community Center(s) maintenance and repair
- Parks, fencing and trails maintenance
- Minor tree and shrub maintenance
- Sign and post repair and replacement
- Stop bars/crosswalk maintenance

Key highpoints for 2022 include:

- Oversaw and inspected multiple job sites
- Oversaw installation of new water lines in subdivisions
- Oversaw inspections on existing water and sewer lines throughout the Service Area
- Conducted inspections of BMP (Best Management Practices) and service lines throughout new developments

## **Water Taps**

- Set and installed 75 new water taps throughout the City as of 12/14/2022. There are 57 additional water taps scheduled to be set as soon as the builder requests the installment.
- The water department has budgeted \$35,000 in FY23 for the purchase of new water meters.

## **Completed and Upcoming Projects – FY23**

- Stormwater drainage project on Railroad Street.
- Sewer main replacement project in alley between First and Second Streets.

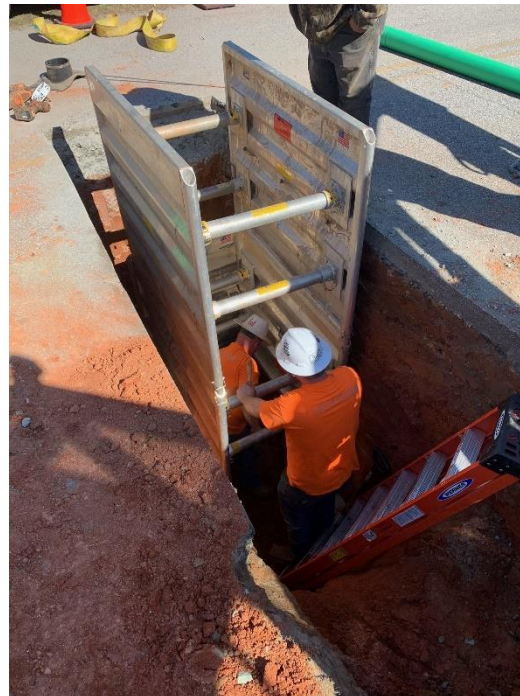


- Smoke Testing 2023 – this project will take place in the earlier part of the new year, weather permitting, and will be completed over a period of three days. The purpose of this project is to determine and find deficiencies within our sewer system such as cracks or holes where rainwater could enter and cause our expense to increase unnecessarily.



Pictured above: Storm drainage project on Railroad Street.

Pictures below: Installing new sewer line on Elizabeth Street utilizing shoring equipment.

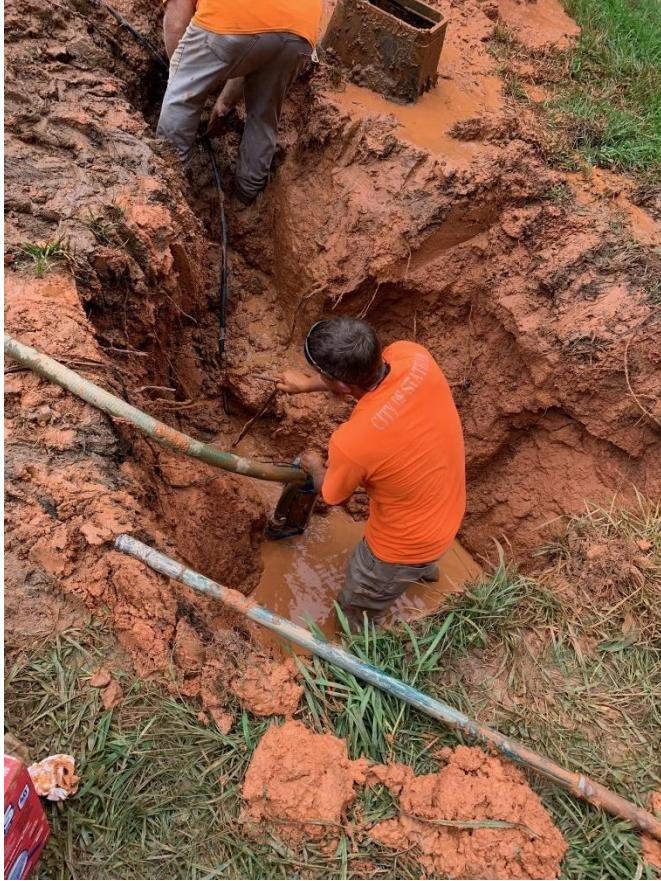




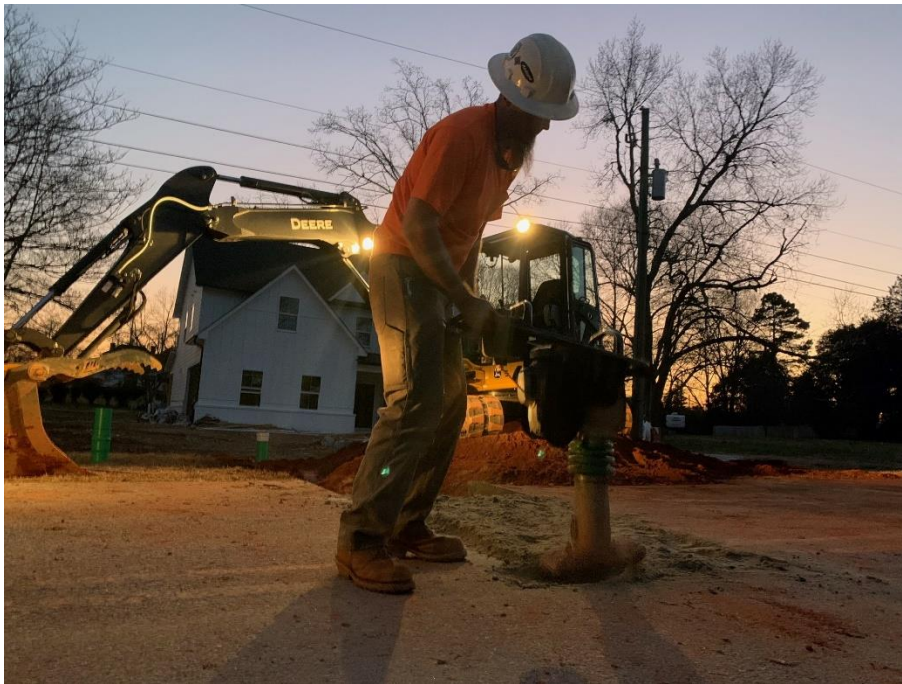
Left - Water line inspection in Springside Meadows Phase III. Inspections such as this are important because it ensures contractors are installing the correct materials, at the correct depth and in the accurate location in the utility corridor.



Left – Sewer line repair in an alley running parallel to Railroad Street. Due to tree roots clogging the line and deforming the pipes, this repair was needed to resolve the issue of blockage. Additionally, by adding a “T” and cleanout allows for more efficient maintenance in the future.



Left – Water line repair on 8th Street. This service line had to be replaced due to damage at the main and could not be repaired. Projects such as this can take anywhere from a few hours to a several days depending on the severity and location of the leak as well as other obstacles including traffic, other utilities, and accessibility of heavy equipment.



Left – After a water or sewer line repair is made, especially in a roadway, compaction is a critical component to the success of the overall project. In this image, Jordan McDaniel is using a compacting machine to place road base along the trench where the repair was made. After compacting, asphalt is laid and the road ready for use.

# City Hall – The Heart of the City

City Hall is more than a building. It is the heart of Statham’s local government, and a great deal of pride is placed within the walls of its structure from citizens and staff alike. Everything from bill payments, meetings, business licenses, building permitting, planning and zoning, economic development, community service and buildings, and utility services are all handled through the front doors of City Hall. Since Mayor Piper’s arrival in January 2020, his desire to create a space Statham citizens could be proud of was an important component to moving the City past the “old Statham” and into the “new Statham,” and has proven to be successful.

In 2021, City Hall’s rear interior was renovated to include a women’s restroom, whereas before the renovation, only a single restroom existed; a closet space and an enclosed meeting room that serves as the employee’s breakroom as well. The interior of City Hall was painted, and new lighting fixtures were added.

In 2022, a new front entrance door and rear entrance door were installed adding to the building’s overall aesthetics and having City Hall doors both ADA and fire and life safety code compliant.

Budgeted for FY23 includes renovations to the front of City Hall that will include a larger, more efficient and comfortable customer area. This renovation will provide new countertops, a longer and wider foyer which will provide enough room for more than 3-4 people at a time. The current layout proves to be a crowded and inefficient space with customers and staff bumping into one another, and less than desirable privacy for the customer. A small sitting area will be created for customers to be able to complete paperwork in a more private setting rather than holding clipboards and standing alongside the wall if another customer in at the window.

Additionally, the renovations will also relocate the entrances to staff offices for safety and for privacy purposes. The current layout does not provide any safeguards or privacy for City staff.

The approval of this renovation was tabled by City Council and is scheduled to be revisited after the first of the new year.



# Fees, Policies & Procedures

Fee schedules for planning, zoning, and permitting were updated in mid-2020, however, due to the significant and fast growth the City has been experiencing, the need for updating fee schedules has again arrived. Additionally, updating community center rental fees and policies is also needed due to the increase in expenses and updates, damages because of renting facilities and the overall improvement of their aesthetics offset by the demand of its rentals. Updating fee schedules is set for council approval after the new year.

In the Fall of 2022, council approved personnel policy changes to the following areas:

- Bereavement Policy
- PTO Policy
- Holiday Schedule and Policy

The Police Department has also implemented new policies in the following areas:

- Promotion Policy
- Purchasing Directive
- Public Information Officer (PIO)
- Attendance Directive

# Revenue Highlights (as of 12/14/2022)

The City should be at 50% around the end of the year, or halfway through the fiscal year, depending on the source of revenue, its due date, and means of distribution. Revenue collection is variable throughout the fiscal year. Payments such as franchise are received monthly, quarterly, or even annually. Property taxes are typically returned between December – January. Other forms of payments are received intermittently by the county or state, while others are monthly, quarterly or at the time of service.

General Fund (GF) Revenue – The GF has collected 38% of its budgeted revenue as of 12/14/2022, or \$1,011,519 of the budgeted \$2,663,190. There is \$820,295 in fund balance transfers included in the budget that have not been transferred to the GF as of 12/14/2022.

## Significant GF Revenue Notations:

- The General Fund is seeing an increase in fines collected via *Blue Line*, the speed detection and camera devices installed at Statham Elementary and Bear Creek Middle Schools. Whereas the fines decreased by more than half during summer months due to school not being in session, it has picked back up in the fall. The City budgeted \$30,000 in Blue Line fines revenue, and as of 12/14/2022, has collected \$67,834 or 226%. During FY23 budget amendments, this revenue line item will be adjusted accordingly. When the City first implemented Blue Line speed detection devices and cameras June 2022, it was unknown at that time the amount of revenue it could collect, therefore, budgeting modestly.
- Business license renewals is a little slower than typical. As of 12/14/2022, the City has received \$28,042 of the \$80,000 budgeted, or 35%. Renewal notices were mailed October 21, 2022 and are due on or before January 1 of each year. A 10% penalty is assessed after January 1.

Utility Fund (UF) Revenue – The UF has collected 72% of its budgeted revenue as of 12/14/2022, or \$1,780,827 of the budgeted \$2,476,790.

## Significant UF Revenue Notations:

- The Utility Fund has collected 22% more than the expected 50% halfway through the fiscal year and is due to *sewer tap* revenue. The City received \$247,500 in prepayment of sewer capacity that was not a budgeted source of revenue and has received \$617,400 (111%) in sewer taps thus far exceeding that line item's budget of \$558,000. The excess in sewer tap revenue is due to recent subdivision developments moving at a faster pace than originally anticipated. It is suspected that developers are moving swiftly with their build-outs due to the recent decline in the housing market. Budget amendments to sewer taps and capacity revenue will be required for FY23 to accommodate these changes.
- Utility deposits, water bills and sewer bills are all at or around 45% and will reach 52-53% after the December bills have been processed.

## **SPLOST**

In fall of 2021, the City signed a new 2023 SPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement which was anticipated to begin on or around October 2022 after the current SPLOST agreement (2018 SPLOST) raised \$56,600,000.

For budgeting purposes, the City budgeted all SPLOST funds to be received as part of SPLOST 2018 allocations, however, the \$56,600,000 in raised revenue was, in fact, achieved in September 2022 and all payments received beginning in October 2022 will be included as part of the new 2023 SPLOST agreement.

Due to the total revenue achievement, the City will need to include SPLOST 2018 and SPLOST 2023 in its FY23 budget amendments and split the budgeted revenue accordingly.

### 2018 SPLOST:

- Collected \$288,841 or 3 out of 12 payments for the fiscal year or 47% of the total budgeted \$615,000.

### 2023 SPLOST:

- During FY23 budget amendments, the City will correct SPLOST distributions between the 2018 and 2023 intergovernmental agreements:
  - SPLOST 2018 – proposed amended budget \$290,000
  - SPLOST 2018 – proposed amended budget \$325,000

## **Property Tax: *Property taxes are due January 23, 2023***

- Collected \$129,454 – 42%
- FY 23 Budget – \$310,000

## **TAVT (Title Ad Valorem Tax)**

- Collected \$30,121 – 32%
- FY 23 Budget – \$95,000

## **Franchise Fees: *Electric, natural gas, internet, telephone***

- Collected \$17,071 – 10%
- FY23 Budget – \$167,100

## **Franchise Fees: *Sanitation***

- Collected \$16,797 – 60%
- FY23 Budget – \$28,000

## **LOST (Local Option Sales Tax)**

- Collected \$297,446 – 48%
- FY23 Budget – \$620,000

**Insurance Premium Tax**

- Collected \$234,110 – 117%
- FY23 Budget – \$199,900

**Beer Tax**

- Collected \$25,360 – 53%
- FY23 Budget – \$48,000

**Court Fines**

- Collected \$65,012 – 57%
- FY23 Budget – \$115,000

**Technology Fines**

- Collected \$4,349 – 49%
- FY23 Budget – \$8,800

**New Construction Permits Residential & Commercial**

- Collected \$34,338 – 76%.
- FY23 Budget – \$45,000

**Community Center Rentals**

- Collected \$9,350 – 49%
- FY23 Budget - \$19,000



# Expenditure Highlights (as of 12/14/2022)

The City should be at 50% around the end of the year, or halfway through the fiscal year, depending on the type of expense, its due date, and any project date and its completion. Expenses are variable as some payments are made monthly, quarterly, periodically or at the time of service or project commencement. It is important to note that budgeted items are also expended at variable times throughout the fiscal year due to the variable flow of revenue, cost of products and supplies, availability of contractors, etc. A budget is a working budget that not all budgeted items can be expended right away because the revenue, which offsets the expenditures, is not received all at one time at the beginning of the new fiscal year.

General Fund (GF) Expenditures – The GF has expended 39% of its budgeted expenses as of 12/14/2022, or \$1,026,591 of the budgeted \$2,663,190.

Departmental Expenditures by Percentage of Budget:

- 110 Legislative – 33%
- 112 Legislative Committees – 59%
- 140 Elections – 0%
- 150 General Administration – 37%
- 151 Finance Administration – 38%
- 265 Municipal Court – 46%
- 320 Police Department – 41%
- 321 Police Administration – 37%
- 410 Public Works Administration – 37%
- 420 Roads & Streets – 42%
- 553 Community Centers – 32%
- 620 Parks – 4%
- 720 Inspections – 75%
- 740 Planning & Zoning – 4%
- 742 Code Enforcement – 19%
- 650 Library – 25%

Significant GF Expense Notations:

- Department 112 (Legislative Committees/City Council Committees)
  - Expended \$5,786 in unbudgeted expenditures in the Sunflower Festival and Holiday Committee line items. The expenses items were the cost of portable restrooms, staff overtime hours and general supplies for events including the Fourt of July, Sunflower Festival, Halloween on Broad and the Boo Run. These line items will be included in the FY23 budget amendments.

- Department 320 (Police Department)
  - Line item 100-320-5113: the department has experienced large quantities of overtime so far in FY23 and have exceed its budget at 108%. This line item will be included in FY23 budget amendments.
  - Line item 100-320-52225: due to several unforeseen police vehicle accidents, department’s budget for repairs and maintenance has been compromised. Although the line item is only at 40% for FY23, these additional repair expenses has created a negative balance for one new police vehicle to be fully upfitted. This line item will need to be included in FY23 budget amendments.
  
- Department 720 (Inspections)
  - Line item 100-720-52120: the department has experienced an influx of building permits and inspections so far in FY23. Although inspections were expected and budgeted, builders are moving faster than anticipated towards the completion of new residential structures. Whereas this line item is offset by building permits revenue (100-032-31000), it will be included in FY23 budget amendments as this line item is 75% as of 12/14/2022.

Utility Fund (UF) Expenditures – The UF has expended 34% of its budgeted expenses as of 12/14/2022, or \$672,387 of the budgeted \$1,996,092. There is \$270,205 in UF fund balance included in the budget, line item 520-442-54141 Well Development, that has not been expended as of 12/14/2022. If unused in FY23, it will remain in the fund balance for infrastructure as it is a restricted account and cannot be used for general expenses.

Departmental Expenditures by Percentage of Budget:

- 433 Sewer Collection – 104%
- 441 Water Administration – 9%
- 442 Water Supply – 31%
- 443 Water Treatment – 36%
- 444 Water Distribution – 39%

Significant UF Expense Notations:

- Department 433 (Sewer Collection)
  - Line item 520-433-54142: at 104% of budget, this is due to the unexpected sewer capacity revenue of \$247,000 and turnaround expense of \$247,500 for capacity reservation with Barrow County. This adjustment will be made in the FY23 budget amendments.

# Debt Highlights

## Series 2012 Bonds

In FY22, the City exhausted the balance of unused SPLOST 2012 revenue and is now utilizing SPLOST 2018. The City made the interest payment for 2022 of \$48,075 in September and will be making the principal payment of \$220,000 in May/June 2023.

## GEFA 2015

The principal and interest payment for the 2015 GEFA loan is paid by a funds transfer from the Utility Fund into the GEFA account and is automatically deducted each month. Budgeted for FY23 is \$25,885 in principal and \$1,955 in interest and is currently at 53% usage for the fiscal year.

## Lease-Purchase Agreements

- GMA Lease for the mini excavator – debt funds transferred from the GF (roads and street department’s budget).
- Ford Motor Lease for two (2) Police Interceptors – debt funds transferred from GF (police department’s budget).



Above – A new Police Ford Explorer Interceptor recently purchased.



Above – A picture of the recently purchased John Deere Mini Excavator. This piece of equipment is utilized frequently for utility repairs and maintenance as well as a variety of other public works projects.

# Library

The Statham Public Library is located at 1928 Railroad Street in Downtown Statham. The building is owned by the City of Statham and provides the space at no cost to the library system.

For FY23, the City allocated \$70,000 in “Payments to Agencies” in line item 140-650-57200 to the Piedmont Regional Library System (PRLS) on behalf of the Statham Public Library. Payments to the PRLS are paid on a quarterly basis in the amount of \$17,500 per quarter.

The Statham Library’s manager is Ms. Suzy Dukes. Each month, she provides a report to the Mayor and Council on upcoming events, monthly statistics, news, and other information. The library offers a variety of services include book checkouts, eLibrary, events, copying/printing, free wifi, scanning services, hotspot checkouts, laptops, and passport services.



# Capital Improvements

The City budgeted several capital improvements projects in FY23, however, due to the unpredictability of the recent LOST negotiations, the Mayor and Council have tabled these items and revisit them after the first of the new year. Staff has received an abundance of requests to rent these facilities, and to start recovering the loss of revenue from the inability to rent these spaces, improvements are needed. If approved to move forward, the City’s upcoming capital improvements list in FY23 include the following:

- City Hall improvements – to renovate and reconfigure the front of City Hall to include a larger customer area, counters and sitting area, and to move the entrance of staff offices for safety and privacy purposes.
- Hillman-Rainwater Community Center – to replace the roof.
- Robert Bridges Community Center – to replace the HVAC system.
- Public Works building – to expand the rear parking lot area and add fencing around perimeter.



Above: Robert Bridges Community Center



Above: Hillman Rainwater Community Center



Left: Public Works Building