

AUBURN

Easy to love, HARD TO LEAVE.

Popular Annual Financial Report

Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2024



Table of Contents City Manager's Message

City Manager's Message	2
City Council	3
Ward Map	4
Organization Chart	C
Contacts	6
Where the Money Comes from	7
Where the Money Goes	8
General Fund	Ş
National Recognition	10
Local Economy	1
By the Numbers	12
Strategic Plans and Accomplishments	13
2024 Capital Construction Projects	15
Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan	16
Assets and Liabilities	17
Long-Term Debt	18
Enterprise Funds	19
Component Units	20
Fiscal Year Budgeting	2
GFOA Awards	22



I am pleased to present the City of Auburn's Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024. The financial data presented in the PAFR is derived from the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (annual report) and is consistent with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The PAFR is designed to present an easy-to-read financial summary showing the sources of the City's revenues and explaining how these revenues are spent.

The City's mission is to provide economical delivery of quality services created and designed in response to the needs of its citizens rather than by habit or tradition, and we hope that this stewardship is reflected in this report. The City of Auburn takes pride in its continued commitment to operating a fiscally sound local government while providing quality public services at a level commensurate with the demands of the residents as well as investing in the City's future.

It is my hope that this PAFR provides you with a better understanding of the City of Auburn's financial position, as well as demonstrates what makes Auburn a great place to live, work, and raise children. In addition to a summary of financial information, this report includes information about the City of Auburn's organizational structure, strategic goals, community profile, and capital projects.

Each year, the City publishes a six-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that aligns with the City's strategic plans and visions of our City Council. Major priorities of the CIP include: flow and management of traffic, City infrastructure, and recreation as shown on page 16. In fiscal year 2024, the City completed 25 major capital projects as outlined on page 15 of this report.

This document is not a replacement for the annual report and is intended for readers who would like to view the City's financial information in an overview format. The PAFR primarily focuses on the General Fund while excluding the City's discretely presented component units. For those interested in additional financial detail, a copy of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report can be found online at auburnal.gov/finance/city-information/acfr.

We are proud to serve the Auburn community and are committed to maintaining a high standard of fiscal health. Thank you for taking the time to read this year's report. I invite you to share any questions or comments you may have by emailing me at mmcgowen@auburnal.gov.

Sincerely,

Megan McGowen Crouch, City Manager

City Council Ward Map



Ron Anders, Jr. Mayor randers@auburnal.gov



Beth Witten
Ward 3 & Mayor Pro Tem
bwitten@auburnal.gov



Bob Parsons Ward 6 bparsons@auburnal.gov



Connie Fitch Taylor Ward 1 ctaylor@auburnal.gov



Tyler Adams Ward 4 tadams@auburnal.gov



Max Coblentz
Ward 7
mcoblentz@auburnal.gov



Kelley Griswold Ward 2 kgriswold@auburnal.gov

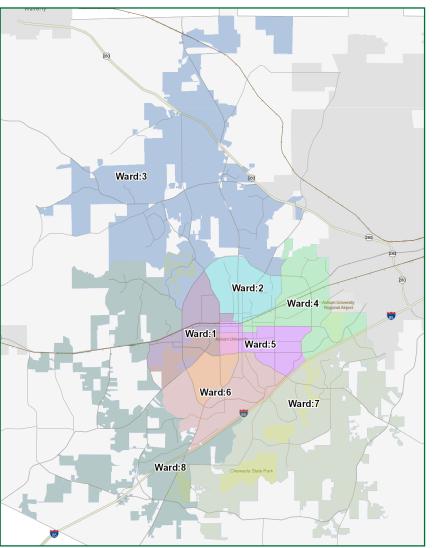


Sonny Moreman Ward 5 smoreman@auburnal.gov



Tommy Dawson
Ward 8
tdawson@auburnal.gov

The Auburn City Council typically meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at 6:00p.m. The full meeting schedule and location can be found at <u>auburnal.gov/boards-and-commissions/meeting-schedule/</u>. All City Council meetings are recorded and can be watched on the City Council's website at <u>auburnal.gov/agenda</u>.



VISION STATEMENT:

Auburn, Alabama is committed to being an attractive, environmentally conscious community that is progressive, responsive, and hospitable.

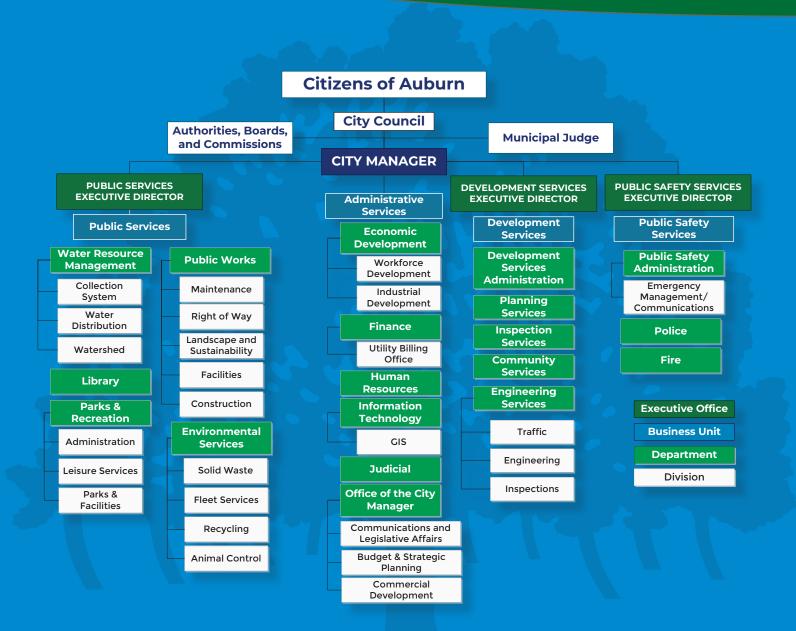
This community desires for all citizens:

- safe and attractive neighborhoods with adequate housing
 - quality educational opportunities
- diverse cultural and recreational opportunities
- $\cdot \ \text{vibrant economic opportunities} \\$
- · active involvement of all citizens





Organization Chart Contacts



Auburn was incorporated by the state legislature in 1839. Auburn first employed a city manager in the 1940s and has done so continuously since 1958. Following the passage of the Council-Manager Act of 1982, Auburn citizens officially voted in 1983 to become a council-manager government, effective in 1986.

Council-manager government combines the strong political leadership of elected officials with the strong managerial experience of an appointed manager or administrator. It recognizes the critical role of elected officials as policymakers, who focus on mapping out a collective vision for the community and establishing the policies that govern it. It also recognizes the need for a highly qualified city manager who is exclusively devoted to the delivery of services to residents.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Environmental Services 334-501-3090

After Hours: 334-501-3100 webenvirsvc@auburnal.gov

CEMETERIES

Parks and Recreation 334-501-2930 webparksrec@auburnal.gov

GARBAGE, TRASH, & RECYCLING

Environmental Services 334-501-3080

webenvirsvc@auburnal.gov

PUBLIC SAFETY

Emergency: 911

Non-emergency: 334-501-3100 Anonymous Tip: 334-246-1391 webpubsfty@auburnal.gov

RIGHT OF WAY ISSUES

Public Works 334-501-3000

webpw@auburnal.gov

WATER SERVICE

Water Resource Management 334-501-3050

After Hours: 334-501-3100 webwtrswr@auburnal.gov

ATHLETICS & RECREATION

Parks and Recreation 334-501-2930

webparksrec@auburnal.gov

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Inspection Services 334-501-3170

webcodes@auburnal.gov

LIBRARY EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Auburn Public Library 334-501-3190

libraryevents@auburnal.gov

RECORDS REQUEST

auburnal.gov/public-records-request/

334-501-7267

recordrequest@auburnal.gov

STREET LIGHT OUTAGE

Alabama Power 1-800-245-2244

customerservice2.southerncompany. com/Outages/Report/Location

BUSINESS LICENSES

Finance, Revenue Office

334-501-7239 revenue@auburnal.gov

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Community Services

334-501-7280

communityservices@auburnal.gov

MUNICIPAL COURT

Municipal Court 334-501-3180

webjudicial@auburnal.gov

RENT A PARKS & REC FACILITY

Parks and Recreation auburnal.myrec.com

334-501-2930

webparksrec@auburnal.gov

UTILITY BILLING

Finance, Utility Billing Office

334-501-3050

serviceorders@auburnal.gov

TRAFFIC CALMING OR SIDEWALK REQUEST

Engineering Services

334-501-7390

webengineering@auburnal.gov



Request City services and report non-emergency concerns directly to City staff and track its progress from beginning to resolution. Download the app on your mobile device or create an account online, and start letting us know how we can help!



AUBURN PUBLIC SAFETY APP

Access items of public interest directly from Police, Fire, Communications, and Emergency Management departments. By downloading the app on your mobile device, users can submit tips, receive push notifications, read the latest news, view crime statistics, and more!



eNotifier keeps you up to date on City new, information, events, and services. To subscribe, simply fill out the information requested in the subscription form. www.auburnal.gov/enotifier



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@CityofAuburnAL



nextdoor.com/agency/city-of-auburn-al/

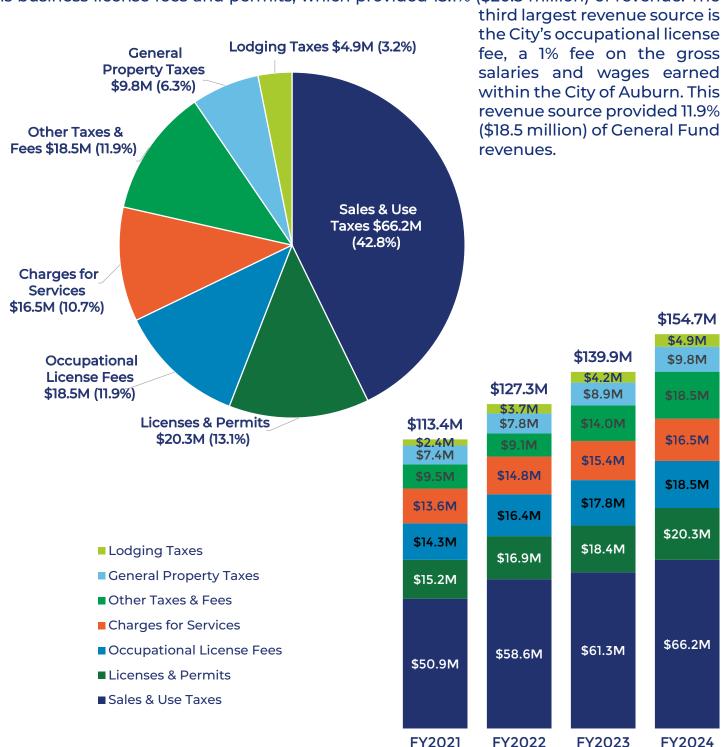


@CityofAuburnAL

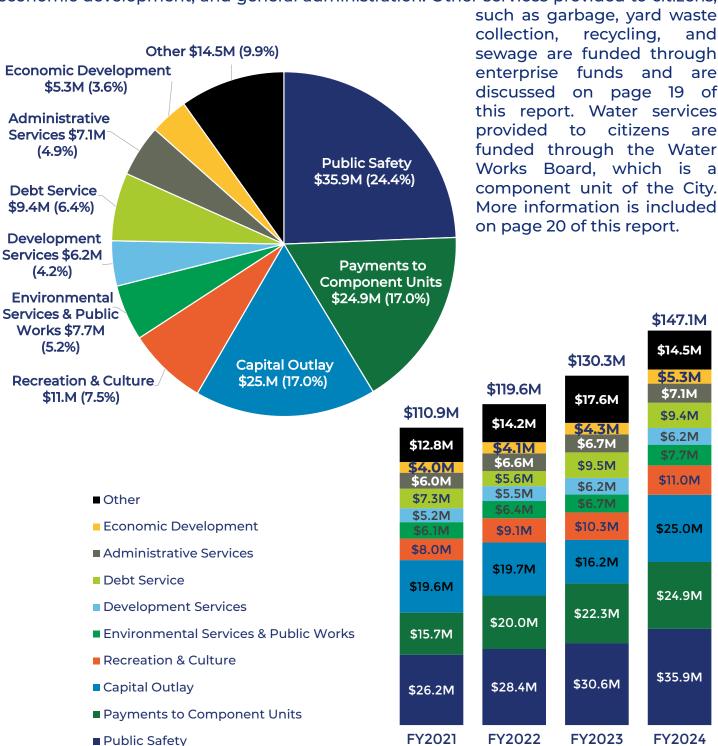
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Where the Money Where the Money Comes from Goes

The City of Auburn has multiple revenue sources to support operations, capital projects, and capital outlays. Sales and use taxes are the largest revenue source in the City's General Fund, providing 42.8% (\$66.2 million) of revenue. The total sales tax rate for purchases made within the City of Auburn is 9%, which includes 4% appropriated to the State, 4% to the City of Auburn, and 1% to Lee County. The second largest revenue source for the General Fund is business license fees and permits, which provided 13.1% (\$20.3 million) of revenue. The



The General Fund finances the regular day-to-day operations of the City; therefore, it is the primary focus of this section. General Fund revenues support the following services to the Citizens of Auburn: police, fire and 911 operations; parks and facility maintenance; recreation programs; library services and programs; infrastructure and right of way maintenance; planning services; engineering services; inspection services; animal control; traffic control; economic development; and general administration. Other services provided to citizens,



General Fund National Recognition

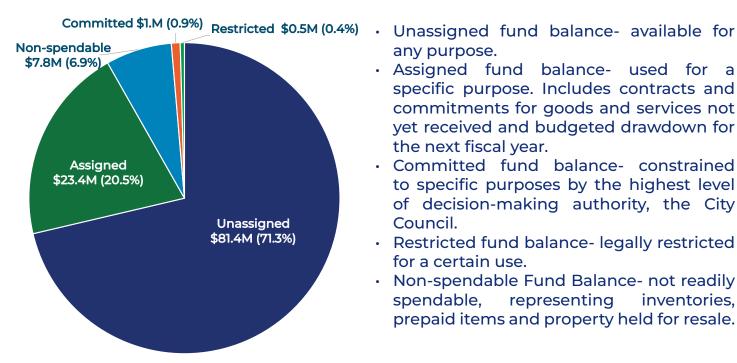
PER CAPITA SPENDING

The per capita amount in the chart represents the amount spent on each type of service per resident based on a projected population of 82,030.

	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
Public Safety	\$360	\$345	\$361	\$382	\$437
Payments to Component Units	218	206	254	278	304
Capital Outlay	164	257	251	202	305
Recreation & Culture	118	105	116	128	134
Environmental Services & Public Works	85	81	81	83	94
Development Services	78	68	71	77	76
Debt Service	101	96	71	119	115
Administrative Services	87	78	85	84	87
Economic Development	54	52	53	54	64
Other	164	168	180	220	177
Total	\$1,429	\$1,456	\$1,523	\$1,628	\$1,793

FUND BALANCE

In the simplest terms, fund balance is the difference between what the City owns (assets) and what the City owes (liabilities). However, in governmental fund financial statements, there are no physical assets (land, infrastructure, facilities, etc.) nor any principal debt outstanding presented. The fund financial statements represent a current resources focus, including current assets such as cash, investments, and receivables, offset by current liabilities, such as accounts payable, claims, and unearned revenue.



- any purpose.
- Assigned fund balance- used for a specific purpose. Includes contracts and commitments for goods and services not yet received and budgeted drawdown for the next fiscal year.
- Committed fund balance- constrained to specific purposes by the highest level of decision-making authority, the City Council.
- Restricted fund balance- legally restricted for a certain use.
- Non-spendable Fund Balance- not readily spendable, representing inventories, prepaid items and property held for resale.



2023: "7th Best Place to live & 4th Best Public Schools in Alabama."

2023: "#5 Best Cities in the South"





2023: "#3 Top Small Metro for Industrial Growth

2023: "10th Most Charming College for Small Towns in the South"

Southern Living



2024: "6th Best Place to live, 4th Best Public Schools, & 8th Best Town to raise a Family in Alabama."

2024: "14th Best-Performing Small City in the U.S."





Moody's Investors Service have affirmed the City of Auburn's bond ratings of AA+ and Aa2, respectively"

2024: "#23 Most Dynamic Metropolitan the U.S.



10



MILKEN INSTITUTE 2025: "10th Best-Performing Small City in the U.S."

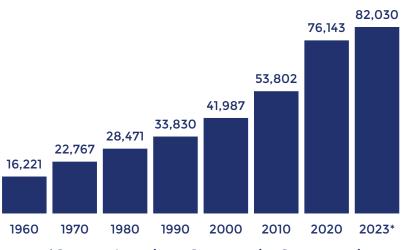


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Local Economy By the Numbers

STATISTICS

Population 82,030
7th largest City in Alabama
Founded in 1836
Square Miles 64.22
Median Age 24.6



*Census American Community Survey estimate

ECONOMY

2.8% Unemployment Rate

\$135,349 Mean family income

9% SALES TAX

4% to State of Alabama1% to Lee County4% to City of Auburn

EDUCATION

97.1% High School Graduate or Higher 63.8% Bachelor's Degree or Higher 28.4% Graduate or Professional Degree

34,145 Auburn University Students27,907 Undergraduate6,238 Graduate and Professional

14 City Schools

9,400 Enrolled in City Schools

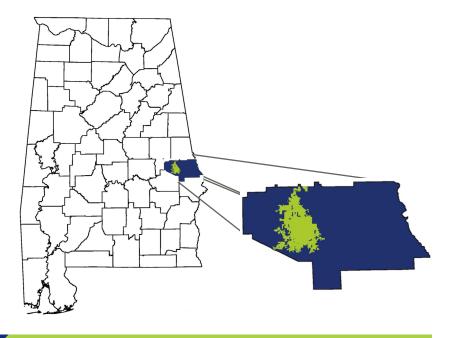
PRINCIPAL EMPLOYERS

- 1. Auburn University
- 2. Auburn City Schools
- 3. City of Auburn & Auburn Water Works Board
- 4. Briggs and Stratton
- 5. Aptar CSP Technologies, Inc.

- 6. Wal-Mart
- 7. East Alabama Health
- 8. Publix
- 9. Donghee America
- 10. Shinhwa Auto USA

LOCATION

Auburn to Montgomery
50 miles - 50 minutes
Auburn to Atlanta
105 miles - 1.5 hours
Auburn to Birmingham
120 miles - 2 hours



PARKS AND RECREATION

14 City Parks2,500+ City events and programs

for list of events and programs <u>auburnal.gov/calendars</u>

PUBLIC SAFETY

6 Fire Stations

1 Police Station

Police Substation

1 Training Center

PUBLIC WORKS MAINTAINED

747 lane miles of street191 miles of sidewalk

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

17,804 tons of garbage collected10,966 tons of yard waste2,729 tons of recycling

SEWER

350 miles of sanitary sewer lines

3.3 billion gallons of wastewater treated annually

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Strategic Plans and Accomplishments





PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURAL MASTER PLAN

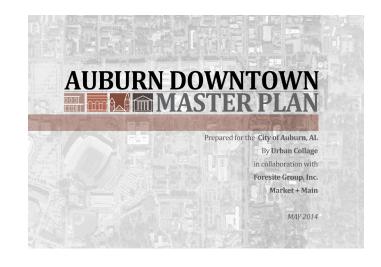
The purpose of the Auburn Parks, Recreation and Cultural Master Plan (PRCMP) is to provide a comprehensive look at the City of Auburn parks and recreation and public library system. This comprehensive plan will help focus upgrades to the quality of the City's parks, recreation, arts and cultural programming, library, greenspace, greenways, trails, facilities, landscape, and natural features. Since its adoption in 2018, more than \$50 million has been spent on projects within the plan, with another \$30+ million budgeted during FY25.



NW AUBURN NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

The Northwest Auburn Neighborhood Plan is a roadmap for the future of northwest Auburn developed by and for its residents. The plan provides a guide to enhance northwest Auburn's attractiveness, walkability and vitality while maintaining the unique heritage and character of the neighborhood. From 2004 to 2022, the City of Auburn has invested more than \$25 million in this plan, with another \$16+ million budgeted in FY25.





DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN

Auburn's Downtown Master Plan aims to expand the current urban core southward and westward and to develop a unified vision that serves all Auburn residents.





COMP PLAN 2030

CompPlan 2030 is the City of Auburn's plan for future growth and development providing recommendations for the future based on public input, analysis of existing and future conditions, and the best practices of planning. CompPlan 2030 focuses on how we use the land, now and in the future; how land use and the built environment affect the natural world, and vice-versa; schools, parks, and other facilities that form the civic foundation of the City; and the many forms of transportation that link everything together.

RENEW OPELIKA ROAD PLAN

The purpose of the Renew Opelika Road Plan is to revitalize and redevelop one of the City's most important corridors. The Opelika Road Corridor extends from Gay Street on the west to the City limits on the east, and was identified as a key corridor in need of redevelopment. Approximately \$7.6 million has been spent on infrastructure, with more budgeted for further improvement phases. The next phase is planned to include the intersection of Opelika Road and Dean Road.

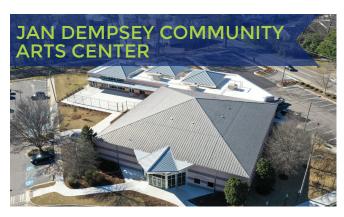
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2024 Capital Construction Projects

Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan

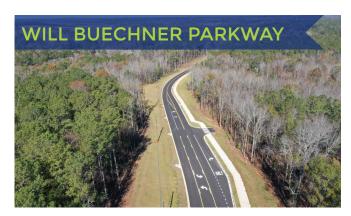
25 COMPLETED PROJECTS

- **7** Water System Improvements
- **7** Traffic/Transportation & Parking Improvements
- **5** Sewer System Improvements
- **4** New Facilities, Renovations, or Improvements
- 2 Sidewalk, Streetlights, & Streetscapes



The Jan Dempsey Community Arts Center received an expansion of approximately 8,000 square-feet in studio, classroom, and gallery space for dance classes as well as the Dean Road Ceramics Studio. Improvements to the existing building included renovating restrooms, doorways, kitchen, dressing room, and main entrance. A new sidewalk was constructed along the front of the facility. Additional parking was constructed along East Drake Avenue.

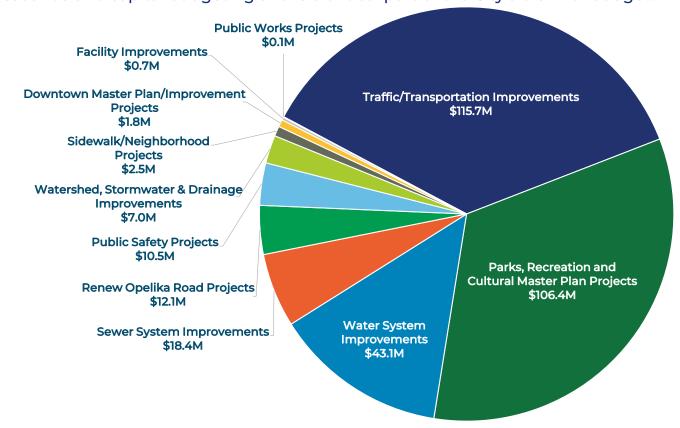
Will Buechner Parkway is a new roadway that connects Martin Luther King Drive (AL Hwy 14) to Richland Road. Will Buechner Parkway is a part of the City's Major Street Plan and enhances vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian connectivity to residential neighborhoods, public schools and future parks through the Parkway and associated multi-use path.





The City's Environmental Services and Public Works departments relocated to Wire Road to enhance mobilization, operation and the efficiency of delivery of public services within a growing community. The new campus includes facilities for current and future equipment as well as materials storage for Public Works, Traffic Engineering and Environmental Services, which includes garbage, trash, recycling, animal control and fleet services.

The City's multiple strategic plans guide the development of the Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which outlines major capital investments over the next six planning years. All projects are carefully reviewed and approved by the City Council and are funded based on prioritization. The CIP guides the City's decisions regarding debt issuance and capital budgeting and is a critical part of the City's biennial budget.



FUNDING BY PROJECT TYPE (DATA IN THOUSANDS)

-							
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	TOTAL
Traffic/Transportation Improvements	\$14,341	\$25,991	\$24,290	\$15,022	\$14,765	\$21,265	\$115,674
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Master Plan Projects	32,840	41,701	25,750	550	5,550	50	106,442
Water System Improvements	12,700	8,980	6,500	5,775	2,550	6,630	43,135
Sewer System Improvements	10,980	4,310	755	755	755	855	18,410
Renew Opelika Road Projects	74	1,000	3,000	5,556	-	2,500	12,130
Public Safety Projects	1,515	5,000	-	-	-	4,000	10,515
Watershed, Stormwater & Drainage Improvements	1,047	2,741	1,300	200	450	1,241	6,978
Sidewalk/Neighborhood Projects	735	125	481	716	297	125	2,478
Downtown Master Plan/Improvement Projects	1,213	300	300	-	-		1,813
Facility Improvements	200	100	100	100	100	100	700
Public Works Projects	65	15	15	15	15	15	140
TOTAL	\$75,709	\$90,263	\$62,491	\$28,689	\$24,482	\$36,781	\$318,413

A NOTE ON FUNDING SOURCES: projects that appear on the Six-Year Capital Improvement plan are paid for through a variety of funding sources, including: General Fund, current and planned borrowings, other city funds, grant funds, development agreement funds, sewer funds, and funds managed by the Water Works Board of the City of Auburn.

16

Assets and Liabilities Long-Term Debt

Net Position is the difference between what the City of Auburn owns (assets) and what the city owes (liabilities) from a government-wide perspective. Governmental activities include the General Fund and all other governmental funds including special revenue funds, debt service funds, and capital project funds. Business-type activities include the Sewer and Solid Waste Management Funds, which account for all revenue earned from and costs related to the provision of sewer service and solid waste and recycling service. A positive net position reflects strong financial health and solvency.

		G	overnmental	В	usiness Type		
			Activities		Activities		Total
Assets	Current & Other Assets	\$	198,291	\$	22,755	\$	221,046
Assets	Capital Assets		420,470		85,581		506,051
What we own	Total Assets	\$	618,761	\$	108,336	\$	727,097
	Deferred Outflows of Resources		24,857		3,318		28,175
		G	overnmental	В	usiness Type		
			Activities		Activities		Total
Liabilities	Current Liabilities	-	Activities 36,023	\$	Activities 3,827	\$	Total 39,850
Liabilities	Current Liabilities Long-Term Debt & Other Liabilities	-		\$		\$	
Liabilities What we owe		-	36,023	\$ \$	3,827	\$ \$	39,850
_	Long-Term Debt & Other Liabilities	\$	36,023 340,180	Ċ	3,827 21,925		39,850 362,106
_	Long-Term Debt & Other Liabilities	\$ \$	36,023 340,180	Ċ	3,827 21,925		39,850 362,106

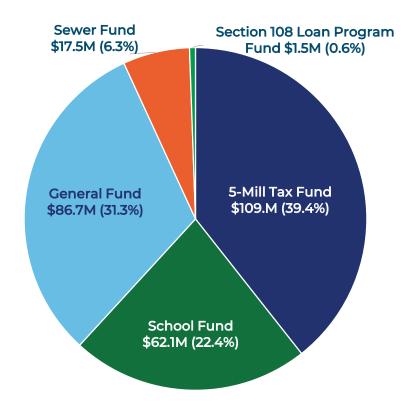
*The City of Auburn issues debt (repaid with legally dedicated ad valorem taxes) for the benefit of Auburn City Schools. However, the City does not have title to the assets associated with the issued debt, therefore the land and buildings are not listed with the Capital Assets above.

Deferred outflows and inflows represent consumption and acquisition of items applicable to a future reporting period. The balances are primarily related to the City's pension and other post-employment benefits. Details regarding these activities can be found in the Notes to the Financial Statements of the annual report.

Auburn's annual report contains audited financial information in greater detail. For further information, please contact the Finance Department at (334) 501-7220 or visit <u>auburnal.gov/finance/city-information/acfr</u>



The City of Auburn maintains excellent credit ratings of AA+ from Standard & Poor's and Aa2 from Moody's rating agencies. Bond ratings represent the creditworthiness of the City and measure the City's ability to meet financial commitments. The double A rating is reserved for organizations characterized by competent management, stable economies, and manageable debt levels. Strong bond ratings allow the City of Auburn to receive lower interest rates on its bond issues. General obligation bonds, warrants, and notes payable outstanding totaled \$276.8 million on September 30, 2024. The City issues and manages debt for Auburn City Schools and for projects that result from partnerships with Auburn University or component units of the City, as well as City Sewer and General Funds. General obligation debt is usually payable from the City's general revenues of the General Fund. However, the schools and sewer debt is intended to be repaid from respective funds or dedicated sources.



State statutes limit the amount of general obligation debt (exclusive of education and utility borrowings) the City may issue to 20% of the total assessed value of all taxable property within the City's corporate limits. The City's current debt limit is \$348.1 million. The amount of debt outstanding applicable to this limit is \$86.7 million.

Enterprise Funds Component Units

Enterprise or proprietary funds are used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises, where the intent of the governing body is that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing specified goods and services to the general public be financed or recovered primarily through user charges. The City of Auburn has two enterprise funds, Sewer Fund and Solid Waste Management Fund.



FY24 ENDING NET POSITION: \$84.6 MILLION

FY24 ENDING NET POSITION: \$1.2 MILLION

SEWER auburnal.gov/water-resource-management/sewer/

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT auburnal.gov/garbage-and-recycling/





Component units include organizations that are financially accountable to the City and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationships with the primary government are such that their exclusion could cause the City's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. All component units are legally separate from the City. Currently there are six discretely presented component units of the City of Auburn.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

auburnschools.org

WATER WORKS BOARD

<u>auburnal.gov/boards-and-commissions/independent-authorities/water-works-board</u>

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

<u>auburnal.gov/boards-and-commissions/independent-authorities/industrial-development-board</u>

PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

<u>auburnal.gov/boards-and-commissions/advisory/public-park-and-recreation-board</u>

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

<u>auburnal.gov/boards-and-commissions/planning-and-development/commercial-development-authority</u>

DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

<u>auburnal.gov/boards-and-commissions/planning-and-development/auburn-downtown-redevelopment-authority/</u>



Fiscal Year Budgeting

GFOA Awards

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

At the direction of the City Manager, the Budget and Strategic Planning group is responsible for working with the City's Management Team in developing the budget and all associated publications. It is the goal of the City of Auburn that the budget be driven by the results of the Citizen Survey and the strategic plans set forth and adopted by the City Council.

BIENNIAL BUDGETING

The City of Auburn has operated under a biennial (two-year) budget cycle since the summer of 2000. Normally, fiscal year 2025 would be the first year of a biennial budget for FY2025-FY2026. In election years, that schedule means the outgoing Council adopts a budget in effect for half of the next Council's term. To better connect each Council with the budgets they adopt, a one-year budget was adopted for fiscal year 2025. This allows future Councils to be more directly involved with the budgets they preside over. The fiscal year for the City runs from October 1 each year through and including September 30.

LOOKING FORWARD

This report focuses on the financial information from fiscal year 2024, which was the second year of the FY2023-FY2024 Biennial Budget. Below is the General Fund budget overview for the FY2025 Budget, which was approved by the City Council on September 3, 2024.

> For detailed budget information and full budget documents, please visit auburnal.gov/budget

	FY2025
	Budget
Beginning Fund Balance	\$92,273
Revenues	147,843
Other Financing Sources	1,361
Total Revenues & OFS	149,204
Total Available Resources	241,477
Expenditures	134,264
Other Financing Uses	28,480
Total Expenditures & OFU	162,744
Ending Fund Balance	\$78,733

Data in thousands

The City of Auburn has received the Triple Crown from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR) Award, and the Distinguished **Budget Presentation Award.**



Government Finance Officers Association

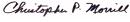
Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

City of Auburn Alabama

For its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report For the Fiscal Year Ended

September 30, 2023



Executive Director/CEO



Government Finance Officers Association

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting

Presented to

City of Auburn Alabama

For its Annual Financial Report For the Fiscal Year Ended

September 30, 2023

Christopher P. Morrill Executive Director/CEO



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Distinguished **Budget Presentation** Award

PRESENTED TO

City of Auburn Alabama

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

October 01, 2024

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting awards governments who go beyond the minimum requirements of GAAP to prepare an annual financial report that is easily readable and efficiently organized.

The Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award recognizes governments for producing a PAFR easily understandable to the general public and other interested parties without a background in public finance.

The Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program was received for high quality budget documents that reflect both the guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting and the GFOA's best practices on budgeting.



The GFOA Triple Crown recognizes governments who have received all three awards.

"Guburn is easy to love for me because of the spirit of the poeple that live here."



"There's just something in the air. It's the energy. It's the warmth."

"Here in Auburn, there's a home for everyone."



"Cuburn is easy to love for me because of its education system, because of its outstanding leadership."