

**AT A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN
COUNTY, FLORIDA ON JULY 1, 2024 AT 4:00 P.M., THE
FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ:**

Present: Ronterious Green, Chair, District 5
Alonzetta Simpkins, Vice-Chair, District 2
Eric Hinson, District 1
Kimblin NeSmith, District 3
Brenda Holt, District 4
Edward J. Dixon, County Administrator
Clayton Knowles, County Attorney
Marcella Blocker, Deputy Clerk
Adriana Quijada, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Green called the workshop to order at 4 p.m. Chair Green led into invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (3-minutes Limit)

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners welcomes and encourages public participation at all meetings of the Board. Citizens are free to speak for up to three (3) minutes on non-agenda items. Public comments and participation are also encouraged for items on the agenda. Additionally, if you are unable to attend a meeting in person, comments from the Public can also be submitted via email to CitizensToBeHeard@gadsdencountyfl.gov until noon on the date of the meeting. Comments submitted after the deadline, but prior to the meeting, will be added to the official record, but the County cannot guarantee that Commissioners and staff will have adequate time to review comments prior to the meeting. Citizens are further encouraged to participate on the County's website at www.gadsdencountyfl.gov.

Chair Green read aloud the above statement.

General Business

1. Department Presentations

- County Administration / Commissioners (Edward J. Dixon)

Mr. Dixon appeared before the Board and stated this will be the second portion of the presentation regarding the budget. He stated Ms. Burgess will appear and lead the meeting.

Ms. Burgess appeared before the Board. She stated this was the third official budget workshop for fiscal year 24-25. They have different departments presenting information.

Ms. Burgess stated they have two other workshops scheduled for August. They have two public hearings in September so they can set the millage rate and adopt the budget.

Ms. Burgess stated the Board has held 16 BOCC Meetings and 20 workshops/special meetings. For fiscal year 2024, they were focused on community engagement, strategic development, and service improvement.

• **Animal Control (Allan Meeks)**

Allan Meeks appeared to provide a presentation on Animal Control. He stated Animal Control was led by 3 Officers.

The Animal Control Department undertakes the crucial task of:

- Feeding
- Cleaning
- Fulfilling citizens' daily requests

The mission of Gadsden County Animal Control is to improve animal and human well-being education, prevention, and humane animal care and control services for the citizens and animals of the 516 square miles of Gadsden County.

Department Goals/Achievements	FY23	FY24
50 percent live outcome with transferring to outside rescue groups	X	
Investigated 23 Bite reports	X	
Investigated 14 Bite reports		X
Receiving 5000 plus calls annually		X
Staff received factory training on crematory.		X
The goal is to maintain or improve a 50 percent live outcome.		X

Mr. Meeks stated they wanted to work on bringing their operating procedures in, they currently do not have any for 2025. They also need to look at updating ordinances.

Mr. Meeks stated Animal control has 3 requests for enhancements. One of them is additional staffing and they also need kennel technicians. He asked for \$100,000 to update the kennels and an additional \$10,000 for Humane Society assistance. They were also looking to add enterprise trucks.

Ms. Burgess stated once they receive estimates, then they can go into the requests by departments. Commissioner Hinson stated it should show everything, they could not spend what they did not have. Chair Green stated all they could do right now was listen to the presentations.

Commissioner Hinson asked what they needed infrastructure wise. Mr. Meeks stated they need to be more accessible to the public. He stated they should consider raising fees.

Commissioner Hinson asked about adoption. Mr. Meeks stated they do not have an adoption policy in place.

• **Extension (Robbie Jones)**

Mr. Jones appeared and gave a presentation on Extension services. These educational endeavors are carried out by a team of joint-funded UF/IFAS and FAMU Agents and Program Assistant, Staff, and an expanding volunteer base.

Mr. Jones went through a recap for fiscal year 2024:

1. Relaunched the Gadsden County Extension Office Greenhouse, which is used as an educational space for adult and youth residents, and also held the first annual plant sale.
2. Expanded the Gadsden 4-H youth programming to encompass in-school programming. This was facilitated through FAMU Extension to hire a full-time 4-H and Gardening Education Program Assistant.
3. The Extension Team has secured \$34,500 in grant funding, \$54,678 in-kind donations, and 2,040 hours of volunteer service towards furthering and expanding our program work.
4. In 2023, we reached 6,285 residents through group learning programming, including webinars, field days, workshops, 4-H programming, Master Gardener programming, and other meetings.
5. Gadsden County Extension produced 116 educational materials including factsheets, articles for internal publications, newsletters and trade journals, presentations, and other creative works that support programming within the county.
6. Started the “Let’s Walk Florida” healthy lifestyle and exercise program for the Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Program.

Mr. Jones went through the FY 25 outlook:

1. Increase programming for Gadsden County residents, with a goal to reach 8,500 residents serviced through group learning programs.
2. Increase collaboration with Gadsden County Government Departments, Community Organizations, and Non-Profits. Example: Working with the new Parks and Recreation Director on park landscape beautification plans.
3. Advancement of Agents within their University Faculty promotion processes, and professional development for Agents and Staff to continue growing and advancing our work with Gadsden County residents.
4. Continue and grow the Extension Greenhouse plant sale and spring event, as well as increase the number of farmers markets at the Gadsden Extension Office.
5. Strengthen and grow our Emerging Farmers initiative to help these farmers with

sustainability of their farming operations.

6. Increase training opportunities based on community needs (i.e. pesticide applicator continuing education classes, produce safety training for local farmers, preparatory workshops for residents needing agriculture and food operator licensing from FDACS, etc.)

Mr. Jones stated they have a goal to reach 8,500 residents.

Department Goals/Achievements	FY23	Was Met	FY24	Was Met
Complete hiring for a fully staffed Extension Department	X	X		
Increase Fleet Capacity for Extension	X	X		
Rebuild the Extension Greenhouse	X	X		
Continue to build out and develop educational programs through the Extension Greenhouse			X	X
Increase 4-H enrollment by 25%	X	X (60.5%)	X	X*
Initiate in-school 4-H educational enrichments programs			X	X

Chair Green stated a lot of people are not aware of the programs offered.

• Information Technology (Kembrew Jackson)

Kembrew Jackson appeared to provide a presentation on I.T.

The mission of the Gadsden County's Office of Information and Technology is to provide reliable and effective technology and telecommunications solutions and services to county agencies to enable them to fulfill their missions in serving the citizens of Gadsden County.

The IT department recognizes the critical role technology plays in our organization's success. Our strategic priorities align with enhancing operational efficiency, safeguarding sensitive data, and ensuring seamless digital experiences for all employees.

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1. Software Licenses: We prioritize investing in software licenses to maintain compliance, access critical tools, and enable productivity. These licenses cover essential applications such as Microsoft Office Suite, project management software, and specialized industry solutions. By ensuring proper licensing, we enhance collaboration, streamline workflows, and mitigate legal risks.
2. Subscription Services: Our commitment extends beyond one-time purchases. We allocate resources for subscription-based services, including cloud platforms (e.g., Microsoft 365,

AWS, Google Workspace), collaboration tools (e.g., Zoom, Teams), and customer relationship management (CRM) systems. These subscriptions empower our teams to adapt swiftly to changing business needs.

Cybersecurity Investments

3. **Threat Prevention:** Cyber threats evolve daily. We allocate funds for robust antivirus software, intrusion detection systems, and firewalls. These defenses safeguard our network, endpoints, and data from malicious actors.
4. **Employee Training:** Our cybersecurity budget includes training programs to educate staff about phishing, social engineering, and safe online practices. Well-informed employees are our first line of defense

Information Technology FY24 Recap:

1. Provided all employees with email addresses for communication.
2. Provide technology support for all County departments.
3. Implemented and updated AV technology.

Information Technology FY25 Outlook:

1. Reduce physical infrastructure and utilize Cloud Services
2. Transition communication services to increase productivity.
3. Empower employees to be able to recognize and avoid threats

Goals/Achievements:

1. Support all Departments Technology Requirements
2. Upgrading and Maintenance of Commission Chamber Technologies
3. Ensure compliance and technology standards
4. Manage Microsoft Licensing and necessary subscriptions

Mr. Jackson stated their request mainly revolves around licensing. They do also have some hardware requests.

Commissioner Simpkins asked if his department was picking up the total cost for the Granicus agreement. She noticed the \$85,000 increase for Granicus maintenance. Mr. Jackson stated each department has a portion to pay but it was primarily coming from the I.T. budget.

• **Library (Lakysa Perkins)**

Ms. Perkins appeared to discuss library services.

Ms. Perkins went through the FY 24 recap:

- Continuing Education/Professional Development:
- CPR training (Staff and Patrons)

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
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- Sunshine State Library Leadership Institute
- Panhandle Library Access Network Board Member
- American Library Association Conference

Community Partnerships

- Farm Share
- North Florida Legal Services
- Bradwell Mortuary
- Envision Credit Union
- Toys for Tots
- North Florida Legal Services
- Relay for Life
- Career Source Capital Region
- Mu Bookly Sigma C.A.R.E.S

Programming for all Ages

- Family Bingo
- Storybook Carnival
- Library Luau
- Senior Painting
- Cricut Classes
- STEM Program

Ms. Perkins went through their Library goals/ achievements:

<u>DEPARTMENT GOALS/ACHIEVEMENTS</u>	<u>FY 22</u>	<u>FY23</u>
Number of library visits	40,088	45,625
Number of library programs held	221	610
Number of library program attendees	1,668	7,252
Number of total computers (PCs and Chromebooks)	70	100
Number of circulated materials	7,847	21,923

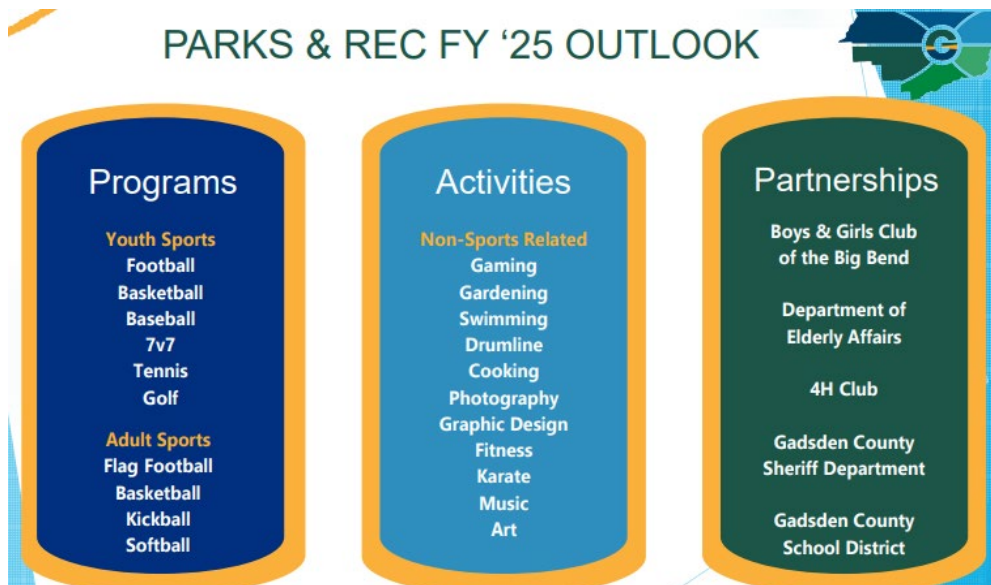
Their fiscal year outlook goals were to expand a hot spot in Chromebook programs and to strength existing programs. Ms. Perkins stated they were asking for increases in their budget. Mr. Dixon stated because of the governor’s DEI program, they were going to be seeing a significant decrease in the amount of money they could use to operate.

Commissioner NeSmith stated he was online.

- **Parks & Recreation (Shawanna Moye)**

Ms. Moye appeared to provide a presentation on Parks & Recreation.

Ms. Moye went through the FY 24 recap:



PARKS & REC DEPARTMENT GOALS

- Hire additional Staff to effectively operate the Parks and Recreation Department
- Complete Extreme Makeover for all county parks including adding security cameras and wi-fi
- Create Master Plan for Fantana Trail Park and Pat Thomas Park
- Attend Parks and Recreation Conferences to network and receive ideas from departments in various cities and states
- Assist with the process and development of the Community Center
- Implement and enhance recreational programs and activities for the youth, adults, and Senior Citizens of Gadsden County
- Create events for the youth, adults, and Senior Citizens of Gadsden County

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the Parks and Rec Advisory board and Ms. Moyer stated she received an email from the advisory board today. Commissioner Simpkins asked for the plan on makeover of the parks. She also wanted to make sure she was included in conversations regarding the Fontana Trail Park.

Chair Green returned at 5:15 p.m.

• Planning & Zoning (Ellen Andrews)

Ms. Andrews appeared. The Planning Division is responsible for the administration and implementation of the County's Comprehensive Plan, the Land Development Code, and the Stormwater Policies and Procedures Manual.

Ms. Andrews went through the FY24 Recap:

- The number of residential development order applications and site plan applications for nonresidential uses have been steady for the past two years
- The Planning Division met with applicants both informally and through preapplication meetings to discuss development projects both small and large and assist them in understanding and applying the County's land development regulations to their projects.
- The Planning Division assisted other County departments in the preparation of grant submittals and other grant related documentation and applied for three planning grants for a Recreation Master Plan, a Public Safety Master Plan for EMS and Fire Station Future Needs and Locations, and funding to assist the county with Evaluation and Appraisal Letter and Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

Ms. Andrews went through the FY25 Outlook:

- The Planning Division anticipates a slight increase in the number of residential development order applications and site plan applications for nonresidential uses in the next fiscal year based on pre-application meetings and other contact with potential applicants.
- The Planning Division will continue to work with other County departments to improve the development process for homeowners and businesses.
- The Planning Division will work proactively with our state and regional partners and other departments within the County to identify and apply for additional funding sources for planning-related activities.

Department Goals/Achievements	FY 22-23 (10/1/2022 – 9/30/23)	FY 23-24 (10/1/2023 – 6/24/2024)
Residential Development Orders	145	108
Immediate Family Exception Splits	6	4
Lot Splits	10	14
Minor Subdivisions	4	4 (in progress)
De Minimus Site Plan Reviews	6	2
Minor Site Plan (Class I) Reviews	1	1
Major Site Plan (Class II) Reviews	2	4
Final Site Plan Reviews	8	2

Commissioner Hinson stepped out at 5:18 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson returned at 5:24 p.m.

• **SHIP/Housing (Sonya Burns)**

Ms. Burns appeared on behalf of the Housing Department. She stated the Gadsden County Housing program is also known as the SHIP program. The main source of funding for SHIP is the Florida Housing Finance Corporation which provides local governments and incentive to create partnerships that produce and preserve affordable housing and multi-family housing. The program was designed to serve very low, low, and moderate-income families. For FY24, Gadsden County received \$441,000 and that was due to unused COVID funds.

Commissioner Simpkins stepped out at 5:29 p.m.

Housing/SHIP FY24 Recap of completed projects:

1. Emergency Repairs – 18 @ \$20,000 ea. with SHIP assistance
2. Down Payment & Closing Cost Assistance – 3 @ \$10,000 ea. (2 currently awaiting closing dates with Smith Thomas Shaw & Colon P.A.
3. Rehabilitation – 5 @ at minimum of \$80,000 ea. (2 currently under construction)
4. Homeownership Counseling/Education Classes – 63 Attendees with next class beginning July 31st with 13 registered applicants

Commissioner Simpkins returned at 5:32 p.m.

Ms. Burns mentioned the CDBG program. She stated this program will be commencing around the second week of August. All applicants have been selected and approve by the Affordable Housing Committee.

Ms. Burns stated for fiscal year 2025, she is asking for additional funds. She stated they would like a new vehicle, a truck rather than a car. She is also asking for additional funding for more professional growth training and supervisory training. She sated she has been working on launching the tiny homes initiative.

Chair Green asked if they were maximizing their grant opportunities. Ms. Burns stated yes, she was currently working with Ms. Sheree Keeler on two grant opportunities right now.

Commissioner Hinson asked how many grants have they received in the last two years that Ms. Burns wrote. Ms. Burns stated only the Community Development Block Grant for \$750,000. Commissioner Hinson stated Ms. Burns was the most important person in Gadsden County because she deals with housing and he thanked her for her service. Commissioner Hinson asked if Ms. Burns does a walk-through of homes once completed. Ms. Burns stated yes, she does her final inspection.

Commissioner Holt mentioned an issue with rehab due to the grant only covering certain things. She asked about housing education. Some may not know what to do to upkeep their house. Ms. Burns stated that was one of the things that she was going to mention to the County Administrator. They used to have a home maintenance class. Chair Green stated they do need to add more money into this budget.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned Rebuild Florida and thought that was a great idea.

• **Probation (Temeka Rollins)**

Ms. Rollins appeared and provided an overview of Probation. Probation is an alternative sanction imposed by the court in lieu of and/or sometimes combined with incarceration.

The Gadsden County Probation Division provides community-based supervision for clients who have been sentenced by the County and/or Circuit Court to County probation. It is the responsibility of the Probation Officers to assist the clients and provide support in their rehabilitation efforts and to direct them towards successfully completing their probation.

Ms. Rollins stated their mission was to promote public safety through community-based supervision, while inspiring positive change.

Benefits of Probation:

- Taxpayer: Reduces the need for public assistance to families of offenders who may otherwise be imprisoned.
- Victim: Assists in the collection of restitution for crime victims.
- Community: Protects the public and performs community service projects.
- Offender: Presents an opportunity to be a law-abiding and productive citizen

The Probation Division staff is responsible for providing the following services to probationers and the Courts:

- Manages a caseload of misdemeanor, traffic and some felony offenders
- Monitors client's compliance with court conditions
- Assists clients court ordered to perform work program days or community service hours and monitors their compliance
- Prepares and maintains required documentation for case files and documents all counseling sessions

Services and Programs they currently offer:

- The Gadsden County Probation Division offers the Gadsden County Work Program and Vehicle Impoundment services, and referral services for various other court-ordered conditions.
- The Gadsden County Work Program is an alternative to jail and has helped reduce the jail population while allowing defendants to remain in the home and be gainfully employed

Probation Revenue FY23 & FY24		
Sources	FY 2023	FY 2024
Probation Fees/ Community Service Buyout	\$ 42,772	\$ 19,948
Community Service Fees	\$ 920	\$ 240
Vehicle Impoundment Fees	\$ 670	\$ 600
	\$ 44,362	\$ 20,788

Probation Achievements & FY 2025 Outlook:

A) During Fiscal Year 2022-2023, the Gadsden County Probation Division:

- Terminated 301 Probation Cases.
- Monitored an average of 60 current cases per month.
- Verified 179 cases/ clients completed Community Service.
- Verified 7 clients completed the Gadsden County Work Program.

To date (FY 2023/24), the Gadsden County Probation Division:

- Terminated 147 Probation Cases.
- Monitored an average of 50 current cases per month.
- Verified 46 cases/ clients completed Community Service

Ms. Rollins appointed as board member for FL Board of Comm. Corrections

Chair Green stated they were doing an awesome job and he was very happy to hear about the decrease in cases.

Commissioner Holt asked about referrals for the drug program. Ms. Rollins stated not as many. Commissioner Holt asked about local rehab drug programs in the region. She also asked to be provided with stats for repeat offenders.

• **Public Information Office (Leslie Steele)**

Ms. Steele went through an overview of the Public Information Office. The Public Information Office provides information about county government and services to residents and the media. Public Information promotes Gadsden County's brand and image while informing the community through website development, media releases, media relations, e-news and print publications, and social media oversight.

Under administrative direction from the County Administrator, the Public Information Office develops, organizes, and manages a comprehensive public information program for the County; informs and engages the community and other stakeholders regarding activities, services, and objectives of the County by developing and disseminating information through earned media, broadcast media outlets both radio and tv, social media platforms Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and gadsdencountyfl.gov.

The Public Information Office advises and assists county leaders and other department management staff on related public information and community relations activities and responds to requests for information from news media and public records.

The Public Information Office also ensures that the County's policies, direction, and position are accurately communicated to the legislature, governments, and general public.

Public Information Office FY24 Recap:

- The Gadsden County Public Information office has successfully managed and earned media coverage for County events including: the County's Bicentennial yearlong celebration, Black History Month Celebration, EMS Week, Public Works Weeks, Commissioner led events, Amnesty Day, School Resource Fair, Economic Development workshops, Summer Youth Jobs Program, Elderly Affairs events and weekly activities, Gadsden County Holiday Experience, Mental Health Awareness Month, ribbon cutting, groundbreaking, building renaming and bridge naming ceremonies.
- Increased Public Awareness through the many facets of the Love Where You Live Campaign, which will conclude its final advertising and community awareness campaign on September 30, 2024
- County Departments at Work includes, but is not limited to, brand improvement, hosting more community events, and participation with media outlets.
- Managed and successfully oversaw more than 200 public records requests. The Public Information Office receives at least five record requests daily.
- Launched the County's new website. All county meetings can now be viewed on the website.
- Emergency Management response and information distribution for storm-related activities were successful.
- RFQ will be advertised on the County LED message board before the end of the fiscal year.
- The Public Information Office works with elected officials and County lobbyists to secure funding for countywide projects.

Public Information Office FY25 Outlook:

- Gadsden County Working for You Campaign
- Being more visual in the community
- Meeting our Citizens at their Doorsteps

• **Veterans (Michael Jackson)**

Mr. Jackson appeared.

Gadsden County's Veteran Services Office is responsible for filing Veterans Administration benefit claims for Veterans and their dependents.

The Veteran Services Office is consistent in producing over \$2 Million per year in benefit claims.

- There are 1,430,000 Veterans in the State of Florida:
- 1,265,000 male veterans
- 168,000 female veterans.
- Florida has the third largest Veteran population in the nation, behind Texas with 1,534,000 Veterans and California with 1,487,000 Veterans.
- Gadsden County: FY 2023
- 3,100 Veterans
- 2,797 Male Veterans
- 303 Female Veterans
-

Services provided by the veteran services office:

- Filing claims for disabilities due to military services (SC)
- VA Pensions
- Burial Benefits
- Home Loans Certificates
- Educational Benefits
- Discharge Documents (DD 214)
- Hospitalization
- Compensation

Veterans Services FY24 Recap:

- Recertification by FDVA
- Events: 1st Annual Women Veterans Day Celebration
- Veterans Day Veterans Services FY25 Outlook:
- Veterans Emergency Funding
- Purchase wheelchair accessible van
- Veterans outreach programs/events

Chair Green stepped out at 6:43 p.m.

Commissioner Hinson mentioning putting a wrap around the veteran's van that includes their phone number so veterans could know who to contact. He also asked to put on the next agenda item to purchase a wheelchair accessible van.

Commissioner Hinson stated he would like to propose \$25,000 for the veteran's budget.

2. Enterprise Vehicle Leases Analysis (Charles Hayes)

Mr. Hayes appeared to provide an update on the fleet upgrade analysis.

Chair Green returned at 7:01 p.m.

All equity from leased vehicles will be either returned to the county or rolled into the next lease cycle, ensuring continuous value and maximizing the county's investment. The vehicles slated for salvage or trade-in are estimated to have a value of \$130,000. This approach provides financial flexibility for future purchases.

Several vehicles slated for sale are less than five years old but have experienced issues such as needing new transmissions or electrical wiring problems. The goal is to maximize each vehicle's value before depreciation reduces it to less than \$1,000. Notably, most new vehicles depreciate by \$2,000 once titled.

Enterprise is providing quotes on new vehicles to the county at prices below market value. Once the lease is up, these vehicles will be sold at Blue Book value, potentially yielding a funding surplus. For example, the Elder Affairs Department (Senior Citizens) vans experience over 50,000 miles per year and currently need new engines or transmissions, with two out of service. Elder Affairs is borrowing vans from Public Works and the Veterans Service Office.

Another example is the Ford Taurus, a vehicle less than five years old, which has been experiencing electrical issues that cause it not to start. The Fleet Manager has indicated that diagnosing and fixing these problems could be very costly, as confirmed by the local Ford dealership.

Mr. Hayes stated last year, the county purchased 4 new vehicles totaling \$160,000. The City of Chattahoochee's participation in a similar program allowed them to avoid significant lease payments due to the equity in their fleet. While it would be ideal to provide a vehicle for all staff members, this is not fiscally possible now. Each department receiving a vehicle has been tasked with showing a line item in their respective budgets. Past budgets have shown that all vehicles were maintained within the transportation repair and maintenance budget.

The cost savings from upgrading the fleet will be realized over the life of the lease as the fleet operates more efficiently and effectively. By upgrading vehicles before their mileage becomes too high, the county maintains the program's attractiveness and cost effectiveness. The savings from this approach will be spread over the life of the lease, gradually impacting overall costs and operational efficiency. This strategy ensures a more efficient fleet with fewer costly repairs and minimal downtime, ultimately saving both time and money.

They anticipate using regular funding that would have been used to purchase new vehicles and achieving a 30-40% savings in maintenance and repair costs from both Department and Transportation Funds to cover the cost of the new fleet program.

Commissioner Simpkins stated when they agreed to go with the enterprise, she felt like they wrote a blank check and they were not knowing what exactly they were spending. Just for June, they spent \$21,748. She stated they have to take into consideration that some of these vehicles were purchased through grants. She asked if the grants allowed them to lease vehicles. The numbers were not making sense to her. She needed an additional breakdown and she was not seeing where this was saving them money.

Commissioner Hinson asked how it affects the county employees in the fleet department. Mr. Hayes stated they would still need that staff because there were other vehicles.

Commissioner Hinson mentioned the Havana Senior Services van and asked when they were getting that van. Mr. Hayes stated they need to order the vehicle; it could be 4-6 weeks for vans.

Commissioner Simpkins asked about the list of total amounts of vehicles on the lease and the costs. Mr. Dixon stated he will get that information to them. He stated they were spending 300k a year repairing raggedy vehicles.

Chair Green stepped out at 7:27 p.m.

Commissioner NeSmith stated they need the various revenue sources that are available to local government. The county's budget is underfunded.

Commissioner Holt stated she would like to request a copy of investments and interest paid on moneys deposited in banking institutions. She stated they could look at investments and see what interests they do have. She also stated would like for the attorney to look into the possibility of them looking at some investments for the county.

Commissioner Holt stated they did not address economic development in this workshop. The departments need to look at how what they are doing affects their ability to recruit businesses. She also stated to include fencing in the budget. They need to look at no parking signs because they were running into problems.

Commissioner Hinson stated he did not think they need to be advertising for the attorney position. They need to worry about how they can balance the budget first. Commissioner Simpkins stated she did not know it was being advertised.

Commissioner Holt stepped out at 7:33 p.m.

Commissioner Simpkins mentioned the FACTS website showing a special grant of \$50,000 to help eligible communities develop a designation request proposal. It is the Florida Children's Initiative Planning Grant.

Motion to Adjourn

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD, VICE-CHAIR SIMPKINS
DECLARED THE WORKSHOP ADJOURNED AT 7:35 PM.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

**Ronterious Green, Chair
Board of County Commissioners**

ATTEST:

NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk