

Budget Highlights

- Florida Retirement System (FRS): FRS is the largest retirement system in the country and is the primary retirement plan for the employees of state, county government, school boards, state colleges, and state Universities. Gadsden County Government provides the funding for its employees and the Constitutional Officer's employees. A bill was passed that will substantially expand the retirement benefits for FRS participants. The financial impact of the FRS legislation that will require increased funding from the County is \$411,000, which is a 13% increase over last year.
- Continued support for the Sheriff's budget, including continued funding for the pay plan for sworn officers to achieve and maintain recruitment and retention efforts.
- Development and implementation of the increase to the Emergency Medical Service.
- Due to increase in inflation, there has been an increase in operating expenses such as supplies, postage, insurance, etc.
- Impact of one-time transfer of fund balance from debt service library fund to the general fund.
- There is a local government half cent sales tax that was previously being used to pay for debt service library. The debt service has been paid off and therefore the Board will need to determine how the funds will be used going forward. In the FY 2024 tentative budget, the estimated \$2,029,003 proceeds from the half cent sales tax have been budgeted as a reserve for the following services:
 - Elderly Affairs: \$507,251
 - Summer Youth Program: \$507,251
 - Community Center: \$507,251
 - Parks & Recreation: \$507,251
- Love where you live campaign, includes the following: advertising, signage, and multimedia. In addition, it includes community cleaning campaign spearheaded through public works. It also includes mobilization and equipment. It also includes enforcement personnel, hearing, postage, and magistrate.
 - For FY 2023-24, an additional \$160,000 were allocated to fund this campaign.

- Economic Development is necessary to retain and expand the economic vitality of Gadsden County and implement proactive business development and activities to encourage new investments, businesses, and jobs to Gadsden County and its citizens. The budget for Economic Development includes: