



Odie Donald, II MBA
Administrator

NEWS RELEASE

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City of Augusta Administrator presents proposed FY2022 Budget to the Augusta Commission

AUGUSTA, GA (Oct. 19, 2021) – City of Augusta Administrator Odie Donald, II, presented his recommended FY2022 proposed budget during the Augusta Commission meeting held on Oct. 19, 2021.

The Administrator's FY22 budget covers six strategic priorities, including infrastructure, quality of life, public safety, governance and finance, economic development, and external relationships. The plan also includes data collected from Augusta citizens through feedback from public budget forums and an online survey that offered the community's perspective and concerns.

The Administrator's proposal brings forward a recommendation in the amount of \$999.6 million, a 8.64% increase over the 2021 amended budget of \$920 million. The General Fund budget is \$177.6 million, which is a 5.44% increase over the current year budget of \$168 million.

The increase in the proposed budget includes a planned use of funds of \$39 million from SPLOST 8 and \$41 million in American Rescue Plan Act Funds to begin implementation of the Augusta Rescue Plan and administer capital projects.

"Despite the unexpected and ever-changing environment of providing service delivery in the midst of a global pandemic, Augusta has remained focused on our mission to provide cost-effective, high-quality government services to the citizens of Augusta," Donald said. "While there has been much to overcome in 2021, Augusta boasts a variety of service innovations that lay the foundation of mitigating the impacts of the pandemic, resolving long standing issues in service delivery and setting a course to successfully navigate the new normal in a post-pandemic world all without a residential property tax increase."

Additional expenditure highlights in the proposed FY22 proposed budget include:

- Implementation of a \$3.2 million retention plan for the Richmond County Sheriff's Office
- A planned construction of Fire Station 3 on Gordon Hwy at \$5 million with existing SPLOST 7 funds
- \$600,000 investment in body cameras for Augusta's Marshal's Office funded by the ARPA
- Light Up Augusta initiative funded at \$6 million via the ARPA/ARP



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- \$3 million for new water meters funded via the ARPA
- \$5 million in road resurfacing in SPLOST 8 for FY22, coupled with \$1.5 million to implement Pothole Palooza via SPLOST 7
- Provides \$1 million for the maintenance and revitalization of parks/public spaces via the ARPA
- Provides \$1 million to blight/affordable housing leveraging the ARPA with additional funding provided through SPLOST 8
- A \$6 million investment in emergency rental assistance and relief for landlords
- A \$750,000 investment in the CVB to market and promote Augusta as a global destination.

A public hearing for the proposed FY22 budget will be held prior to the next Augusta Commission meeting at 1:30pm on Nov. 2. The FY22 budget is set to be adopted by the Augusta Commission on Nov. 19 and then implemented on Jan. 1, 2022.

View more information about the City of Augusta's proposed budget, visit <https://www.augustaga.gov/2951/FY2022-Budget>

Media interested in covering this topic should contact City of Augusta's Public Information Manager Danielle Harris at 706-564-3460 or email dharris@augustaga.gov.

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