

**DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION AGENDA – THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021  
DAWSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER ASSEMBLY ROOM  
25 JUSTICE WAY, DAWSONVILLE, GEORGIA 30534  
4:00 PM**

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**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Presentation of Request to Accept an Underage Drinking Prevention Stipend Awarded to Family Connection by the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration- Family Connection Coordinator Rebecca Bliss
  
2. Presentation of Application for Parade and Assembly - *KARE for Kids Annual Mountain Moonshine Festival Use of County Facilities for Parking* - Planning & Development Director Jameson Kinley
  
3. Presentation of Animal Control Ordinance Update- Planning & Development Director Jameson Kinley
  
4. Presentation of Broadband Ready Community Ordinance- County Attorney Angela Davis
  
5. County Manager Report
  
6. County Attorney Report

***\*A Voting Session meeting will immediately follow the Work Session meeting.***

*Those with disabilities who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting, should contact the ADA Coordinator at 706-344-3666, extension 44514. The county will make reasonable accommodations for those persons.*



## DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA FORM

Department: Family Connection

Work Session: 06.17.21

Prepared By: Rebecca Bliss

Voting Session: 07.01.21

Presenter: Rebecca Bliss, Coordinator

Public Hearing: Yes  No

Agenda Item Title: Presentation for Acceptance of Communities Talk to Prevent Underage Drinking Prevention stipend awarded to Dawson County Family Connection by the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

**Background Information:**

Dawson County Family Connection will be losing a large portion of our funding (DBHDD/ASAPP Grant) to implement an underage drinking prevention strategy in Dawson County on September 31, 2021.

**Current Information:**

Underage drinking prevention has been a strategy of Family Connection for 10 years and believed to be a beneficial addition to this community. After notification from DBHDD regarding the discontinuation of funding for this strategy, Family Connection began pursuing alternate funding to sustain implementation of prevention programs. The SAMHSA stipend will be used to purchase Red Ribbon\* Week banners, sandwich boards and other supplies for each of the county's seven schools. (\*Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco and other drug and violence prevention awareness campaign observed annually in October in the United States.)

Budget Information: Applicable:  Not Applicable:  Budgeted: Yes  No

Fund	Dept.	Acct No.	Budget	Balance	Requested	Remaining
207	7680	523400	\$750.00			

Recommendation/Motion: Acceptance of SAMHSA funds designated for Family Connection's implementation of an underage drinking prevention strategy in the Dawson County community.

Department Head Authorization: *Rebecca Bliss*

Date: 06/09/2021

Finance Dept. Authorization: Vickie Neikirk

Date: 6/9/21

County Manager Authorization: David Headley

Date: 6-09-2021

County Attorney Authorization:       

Date:       

**Comments/Attachments:**

- Invitation to apply for stipend from SAMHSA
- Notice of receipt of application from SAMHSA
- Notice of intent to award from SAMHSA



*Communities Talk: Planning Stipends and Resources Available for 2021!*

Planning stipends are now available for *Communities Talk*, a biannual activity SAMHSA sponsors to mobilize communities to prevent underage drinking!

SAMHSA provides a limited number of \$750 planning stipends on a first-come, first-served basis to community- and state-based organizations interested in promoting underage drinking prevention. Click here to request an invitation to register, and then copy and paste this message into the body of the email: "I'd like to request a \$750 planning stipend to participate in *Communities Talk*. Please send me a unique URL to begin my registration."

**About *Communities Talk to Prevent Underage Drinking***

Approximately every two years, SAMHSA distributes planning stipends to community-based organizations, institutions of higher education, and statewide or state-based organizations to plan activities that educate youth, families, and communities about the potentially harmful consequences of underage and problem drinking among individuals 12 to 25 years old.

Prevention is working! Help continue the downward trend in underage drinking by planning to organize or attend an activity in your area.

**Rebecca Bliss**

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**From:** Ivy Smith  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 1:11 PM  
**To:** Rebecca Bliss  
**Subject:** FW: Complete Your Communities Talk Registration

Sounds like we will be receiving it!

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**From:** info@stopalcoholabuse.net <info@stopalcoholabuse.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 18, 2021 12:56 PM  
**To:** Ivy Smith <ismith@dawsonfamilyconnection.org>  
**Subject:** Complete Your Communities Talk Registration

Dear Ivy Smith,

Thank you for registering to participate in the 2021 *Communities Talk to Prevent Underage Drinking* initiative. Please store your *Communities Talk* username and password somewhere safe so you can easily log in to the site at any time.

We have received your organization's registration. We will begin processing your check after we verify your W-9 form is completed and correct.

Once your W-9 form is verified, you will receive an e-mail confirming your stipend will be mailed within 21 days. Please cash your check within 30 days of receipt.

**Your remaining steps include:**

1. Complete your [Activity Details](#). Once you've entered your activity details, your activity will display on the [Find an Activity map](#).

Please read the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) or contact us at [info@stopalcoholabuse.net](mailto:info@stopalcoholabuse.net) if you have questions.

We also encourage you to sign up for the [StopAlcoholAbuse.gov What's New email newsletter](#) for monthly updates on substance use prevention news and resources.

[www.stopalcoholabuse.gov/communitiestalk](http://www.stopalcoholabuse.gov/communitiestalk)

Join the online conversation! Use #CommunitiesTalk on social media.

CBO# 29226

**Rebecca Bliss**

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**From:** Ivy Smith  
**Sent:** Monday, June 7, 2021 8:43 AM  
**To:** Rebecca Bliss  
**Cc:** Jill Alexander  
**Subject:** FW: SAMHSA Communities Talk Stipend

We will be receiving a stipend in the mail in the next month.

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**From:** info@stopalcoholabuse.net <info@stopalcoholabuse.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 7, 2021 8:42 AM  
**To:** Ivy Smith <ismith@dawsonfamilyconnection.org>  
**Subject:** SAMHSA Communities Talk Stipend

6/7/2021

Dear Ivy Smith,

Your organization's 2021 *Communities Talk to Prevent Underage Drinking* planning stipend check in the amount of \$750 has been processed and mailed. If you do not receive your check within the next 21 days, please contact us at [info@stopalcoholabuse.net](mailto:info@stopalcoholabuse.net) be sure to include your CBO# listed at the bottom of this email.

Please cash your check within 30 days of receipt. Your check will be void after 120 days.

We appreciate your participation.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)  
*Communities Talk to Prevent Underage Drinking*

<https://www.stopalcoholabuse.gov/communitiestalk/>

Join the online conversation! Use #CommunitiesTalk on social media.

CBO# 29226



# DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA FORM

Department: Planning & Development

Work Session: 6/17/2021

Prepared By: Harmony Gee

Voting Session: 7/1/2021

Presenter: Jameson Kinley

Public Hearing: Yes  No

Agenda Item Title: Presentation of Parade & Assembly Permit for Kare for Kids Annual Mountain Moonshine Festival Use of County Facilities for Parking

**Background Information:**

The Kare for Kids organization will host the Annual Mountain Moonshine Festival within the city limits but request access to county facilities for parking at the courthouse, Health Department and Library locations.

**Current Information:**

The festival will be held this year October 22-24, 2020.

Budget Information: Applicable:  Not Applicable:  Budgeted: Yes  No

Fund	Dept.	Acct No.	Budget	Balance	Requested	Remaining

Recommendation/Motion: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Head Authorization: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Finance Dept. Authorization: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

County Manager Authorization: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

County Attorney Authorization: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments/Attachments:**



**Dawson County  
Planning & Development**  
25 Justice Way, Suite 2322  
Dawsonville, GA 30534  
(706) 344-3500

**Permit for  
Parades, Public Assemblies,  
Demonstrations, and Rallies  
In Public Places**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant answers all questions on pages 1-4; attach separate sheet(s) if necessary.**

**Application must be received a minimum of 30 days prior to event and must be complete and legible.**

PARADE    RALLY    PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION    PUBLIC ASSEMBLY    ROAD CLOSING    OTHER

- Name of Event: Annual Mountain Mourning Festival
- Location of Event: City Hall / GA Racing Hall TMP # \_\_\_\_\_
- Date(s) of Event: Oct 22-24, 2021 of time \_\_\_\_\_  
Time of Event: Start: 8 a.m./p.m. End: 7 a.m.(p.m.)

4. Provide information listed below for the main contact person responsible for the organization of this event:

Name: <u>Tiffany Buchan</u>	Title: <u>Director</u>
Organization: <u>KARE for Kids</u>	Telephone #: [REDACTED]
Email Address: [REDACTED]	Cell Phone #: _____
Address: [REDACTED]	City: <u>Dawsonville</u> State: <u>GA</u> Zip Code: <u>30534</u>

5. Provide information listed below for any key personnel involved in coordinating this event. Also, provide information listed below on each officer of the club, organization, corporation or partnership requesting this event. Attach a separate sheet if necessary.

Name: <u>Rhonda Evans</u>	Title: <u>President</u>
Organization: <u>KARE</u>	Telephone #: [REDACTED]
Address: _____	City: <u>Dawsonville</u> State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Name: <u>Angela Harbin</u>	Title: <u>V. President</u>
Organization: <u>KARE</u>	Telephone #: [REDACTED]
Address: _____	City: <u>Dawsonville</u> State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Name: <u>Tom French</u>	Title: <u>Board Member</u>
Organization: <u>KARE</u>	Telephone #: [REDACTED]
Address: _____	City: <u>Dawsonville</u> State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Name: _____	Title: _____
Organization: _____	Telephone #: _____
Address: _____	City: <u>7</u> State: _____ Zip Code: _____

- 6. Expected number of participants: 60,000
- 7. Physical description of materials to be distributed: N/A
- 8. How do participants expect to interact with public? N/A
- 9. Route of event: (attach a detailed map of the route) \_\_\_\_\_

map attached

9.a. Number and type of units in parade: 18-20 Race cars

9.b. Size of the parade: \_\_\_\_\_

- 10. Will any part of this Event take place within the City Limits of Dawsonville? yes - All of it

If YES, do you have a permit for the event from the City? \_\_\_\_\_ Date Issued: \_\_\_\_\_ \* Attach Copy

- 11. Do you anticipate any unusual problems concerning either police protection or traffic congestion as a consequence of the event? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  If YES, please explain in detail: \_\_\_\_\_

- 12. List all prior parades or public assemblies, demonstrations or rallies in a public place within Dawson County for which you obtained a permit: (Also include dates – attach separate sheet, if necessary). \_\_\_\_\_

53rd Annual moonshine Festival Oct 2020

**Details:** Please outline what your event will involve: (number of people / life safety issues / vendors / cooking / tents / rides / handicap parking / egress) – attach separate sheet if necessary.

All within City 60,000+ 300+ vendors w/ tents  
Food vendors, Bounce house, handicap parking @  
BoE

**Route or Lay Out:** (attach a detailed site plan)

Attached is the city festival outline -  
we are asking for the use of the  
Court house lower lot for vendor parking  
Oct 22-24th, 2021  
Health Dept & Library for public parking  
Oct 23-24, 2021

*Meeting June 7th*



What participation, if any, do you expect from Dawson County Emergency Services? W/A

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What participation, if any, do you expect from the Dawson County Sheriff Department? Assisting w/ traffic control

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**Insurance Requirements:**

In compliance with Ordinance Section VII (C), an applicant for a permit shall obtain liability insurance from an insurer licensed in the State of Georgia for the parade, public assembly, demonstration or rally in a public place, if one or more of the following criteria exists:

1. The use, participation, exhibition, or showing of live animals;
2. The use, participation, exhibition, or showing of automobiles of any size or description, motorcycles, tractors, bicycles, or similar conveyances;
3. The use of a stage, platform, bleachers, or grandstands that will be erected for the event;
4. The use of inflatable apparatus used for jumping, bouncing, or similar activities;
5. The use of roller coasters, bungee jumping, or similar activities; or
6. Vendors or concessions.

Does your parade, non-spontaneous private assembly, demonstration, or rally in a public place meet any of the criteria above?  Yes  No If yes, which one(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Any applicant required to provide insurance shall provide Dawson County with a copy of the Certificate of Insurance from an insurer authorized and licensed by the State of Georgia. Dawson County shall be added as an additional named insured for the event on the Certificate of Insurance by the carrier. The minimum policy limits shall be **\$1,000,000.00 per incident** and **\$2,000,000.00 aggregate** for the entire event. All costs for insurance and naming Dawson County as an additional named insured shall be borne solely by the applicant. Such insurance shall protect Dawson County from any and all claims for damages to property and/or bodily injury or death.

Is the Certificate of Liability Insurance attached?  Yes  No  Not applicable to this event

Additional information/comments about liability insurance: \_\_\_\_\_

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Additional information/comments about this application: \_\_\_\_\_

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**APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE FOR THE PERMIT APPLICATION; RELEASE & WAIVER OF LIABILITY;  
AND AGREEMENT FOR FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.**

**APPLICATION:**

OATH: I hereby swear and affirm that the information provided with this application for parade, public assembly, demonstration, or rally is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. In addition, I agree to abide by all regulations of the ordinance and to advise all participants of the conditions of the permit.

**RELEASE & WAIVER OF LIABILITY:**

The permit holder shall indemnify and hold Dawson County harmless from any claim, demand, or cause of action that may arise from activities associated with the event. I acknowledge that I understand this Release, and I hereby agree for myself and on behalf of the Applicant to indemnify and hold harmless Dawson County, Georgia and its agents, officers, and employees, individually and jointly, from and against any claim for injury (including, but not limited to, personal injury and property damage), loss, inconvenience, or damage suffered or sustained by any individual, including but not limited to, business owners, patrons, participants of the parade, public assembly, demonstration, or rally, and spectators participating in and/or occurring during the event, unless the claim for injury is caused by intentional misconduct of an individual, agent, officer, or employee of Dawson County.

**AGREEMENT FOR FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:**

The undersigned agrees to be solely responsible for cleaning affected areas littered during the activity, providing sufficient parking and storage areas for motor vehicles, providing temporary toilet facilities, and providing other similar special and extraordinary items deemed necessary for the permitted activity by Dawson County to keep the area of the event safe and sanitary. However, Dawson County shall not require individuals, organizations, or groups of persons to provide personnel for normal governmental functions such as traffic control, police protection, or other activities or expenses associated with the maintenance of public order. If additional requirements are placed upon an applicant and if such requirements are not met, then Dawson County may revoke the issued permit and/or deny any subsequent permit requested by the applicant. Dawson County shall be entitled to recover from the applicant any sum expended by Dawson County for extraordinary expenses not provided by the applicant. The additional expense may include, but not be limited to, Dawson County utilizing off-duty personnel or providing equipment or resources from other areas of the county to supplement equipment or resources already present.

Tiffany Buchanan  
Applicant's Printed Name

Sworn to and subscribed before me  
this 27 day of May 2021.

Tiffany Buchanan  
Applicant's Signature

[Signature]  
Notary Public, State of Georgia

My Commission Expires: July 8, 2023



**Note to Applicant: Once your permit is processed, Planning & Development will notify you of the meeting dates for the Board of Commissioner's work session and voting session. You are required to attend both meetings.**



Dawson County  
Planning & Development  
25 Justice Way, Suite 2322  
(706) 344-3500

Permit for  
Parades, Public Assemblies,  
Demonstrations, and Rallies  
in Public Places  
**(EMERGENCY SERVICES)**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES: Please complete this sheet and return it to Dawson County Planning and Development. (Please attach additional sheet, if necessary.)**

Name of Event: 2021 Moonshine Festival / Date(s) of Event: 10/22 - 10/24

Any anticipated problems with proposed route? NO

Any anticipated problems with the designated location for participants to assemble? NO

How many personnel will be required for this event? 0

Estimated cost for personnel: 0

Number and type of vehicles required: 0

Type of procedures or equipment needed for the health and safety needs of the participants and the viewing public: N/A

Estimated cost for equipment: 0

Additional comments/concerns: NONE

Emergency Services: APPROVED:  YES  NO (Please also sign off on page 8 of application.)

By: J. Bailey Date: 6/8/21



**Dawson County  
Planning & Development**  
25 Justice Way, Suite 2322  
Dawsonville, GA 30534  
(706) 344-3500

**Permit for  
Parades, Public Assemblies,  
Demonstrations, and Rallies  
In Public Places**  
**(SHERIFF DEPARTMENT)**

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT: Please complete this sheet and return it to Dawson County Planning and Development. (Please attach additional sheet, if necessary.)**

Name of Event: 54th Mowdown Festival Date(s) of Event: Oct. 22-24, 2021

Any anticipated problems with proposed route? N/A

Any anticipated problems with the designated location for participants to assemble? None

How many officers will be required for this event? \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated cost for officers: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of vehicles required: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of procedures and equipment needed for the health and safety needs of the participants and the viewing public: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated cost for equipment: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments/concerns/recommendations: Permit only requests use of County parking lots during Mowdown Festival. City permit regarding this event covers officers & vehicles required.

Sheriff Department: APPROVED:  YES  NO (Please also sign off on page 8 of application.)

By: [Signature] Date: 6-8-2021



**Dawson County  
Planning & Development**  
25 Justice Way, Suite 2322  
Dawsonville, GA 30534  
(706) 344-3500

**Permit for  
Parades, Public Assemblies,  
Demonstrations, and Rallies  
In Public Places**  
*(Marshal / Public Works / Environmental  
Health / Parks & Recreation)*

**PLEASE PROVIDE COMMENTS AND APPROVALS BELOW (Attach additional sheet if necessary)  
(Please also sign off on page 8 of the application.)**

**MARSHAL:** \_\_\_\_\_  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**APPROVED:**  YES  NO **By:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PUBLIC WORKS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
No comments  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**APPROVED:**  YES  NO **By:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** \_\_\_\_\_  
No comments N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**APPROVED:**  YES  NO **By:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARKS & RECREATION:** \_\_\_\_\_  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**APPROVED:**  YES  NO **By:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Dawson County  
 Planning & Development**  
 25 Justice Way, Suite 2322  
 Dawsonville, GA 30534  
 (706) 344-3500

**Permit for  
 Parades, Public Assemblies,  
 Demonstrations, and Rallies  
 in Public Places**  
**(APPROVALS)**

**Office Use Only:**

If applicable to the event, the following departments have reviewed and approved this event:

Department	Printed Name	Signature for Approval	Date
Sheriff Dept.			
Emergency Services			
Marshal's Office			
Public Works Dept.	DENISE FARR	<i>Denise Farr</i>	6-8-2021
Environmental Health			
Parks and Recreation			
State Park Office			
Georgia Dept. of Transportation			

**Dawson County Board of Commissioners:**

Work Session Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Session Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved:

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Billy Thurmond, Chairman  
 Dawson County Board of Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Kristen Cloud, County Clerk

cc: (as applicable)

Applicant  
 County Attorney  
 Sheriff Dept.  
 Emergency Services

Marshal Dept.  
 Environmental Health  
 Public Works  
 Parks and Recreation

GA DOT (Brent Cook)  
 GA State Parks

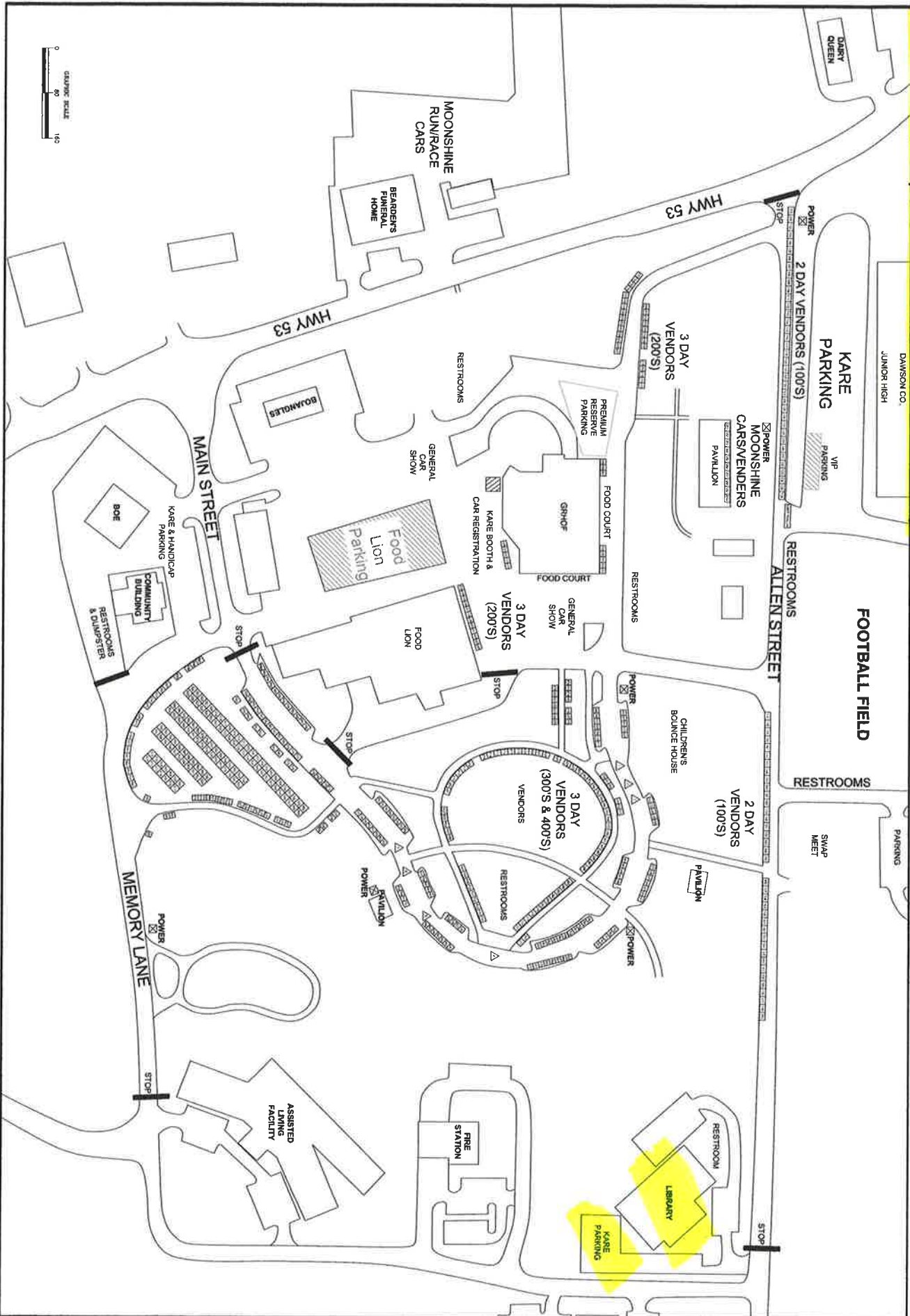
PERMIT # \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ISSUED: \_\_\_\_\_





**Event House - lower level - Vendor Parking**  
**Herpin Dept - Public Parking**



**MILL CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL**  
 4055 Highway 53 East  
 Dawsonville, GA 30534  
 Phone: 706-579-1697  
 Fax: 706-265-4916

**K.A.R.E. for Kids**  
**MOUNTAIN SHINE FESTIVAL**  
 DAWSONVILLE  
 DAWSON COUNTY

16

JOB NUMBER	DATE
5-8-21	

EVENT MAP			
DESIGN	DRAWN	CHECKED	DATE
KAB	KAB	KAB	

DATE	BY	REVISION

**DWG # 1**





## DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA FORM

Department: Planning & Development

Work Session: 6/17/2021

Prepared By: Robbie Irvin

Voting Session: 7/1/2021

Presenter: Jameson Kinley

Public Hearing: Yes  No

Agenda Item Title: Presentation of Animal Control Ordinance Update

**Background Information:**

The Dawson County Animal Control Ordinance was last updated in January 2018.

**Current Information:**

The attached revision provides updates, including a revised Dangerous Dog definition, updates to the Vicious Animal definition, insertion of a section on animal neglect, updated penalties and various other minor revisions to ensure compliance with state law.

Budget Information: Applicable:  Not Applicable:  Budgeted: Yes  No

Fund	Dept.	Acct No.	Budget	Balance	Requested	Remaining

Recommendation/Motion: \_\_\_\_\_

Department Head Authorization: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Finance Dept. Authorization: Vickie Neikirk

Date: 6/10/21

County Manager Authorization: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

County Attorney Authorization: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments/Attachments:**

2021 Animal Control Ordinance

Ordinance Number \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 10 OF THE DAWSON COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING ANIMALS; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the State of Georgia, approved by the voters of the State in November of 1982, and effective July 1, 1983, provides in Article IX, Section II, Paragraph I thereof, that the governing authority of the county may adopt clearly reasonable ordinances, resolutions and regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, O.C.G.A. §36-1-20 authorizes counties to enact ordinances for protecting and preserving the public health, safety, and welfare of the population of the unincorporated areas of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing authority of Dawson County, to wit, the Board of Commissioners, desires to exercise its authority in adopting this Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-80-19(c), ordinances and amendments shall be printed in substantially the same style as the code currently in effect in Dawson County and such ordinances and amendments shall be suitable in form for incorporation therein; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners now finds that it is in the public interest to update and amend the existing Chapter 10 of the Dawson County Code of Ordinances to adopt the amendment attached hereto as Exhibit A.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Dawson County, Georgia, and it is hereby enacted pursuant to the authority of same as follows:

**1. Ordinance Amendments**

Chapter 10 of the Dawson County Code of Ordinances is hereby modified as provided in Exhibit A, attached hereto and by this reference incorporated herein.

**2. Severability**

It is the express intent of the Dawson County Board of Commissioners that this Ordinance be consistent with both federal and State law. If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Ordinance which may be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared severable.

**3. Effective Date**

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage.

SO ORDAINED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of ~~June~~May, 2021.

**DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Billy Thurmond, Chairman

Attest:

[COUNTY SEAL]

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kristen Cloud, County Clerk

Vote: Yes: \_\_\_\_\_  
No: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Public Meetings:

## Exhibit A

### Chapter 10 - ANIMALS

#### Footnotes:

~~---(1)---~~

~~**Editor's note**—An ordinance adopted January 18, 2018, set out provisions intended for use as Chapter 14. For purposes of clarity, and at the editor's discretion, these provisions have been included as amending chapter 10 in its entirety to read as herein set out. Former chapter 10, §§ 10-1, 10-2, 10-23—10-34, 10-59—10-67, 10-93—10-103, 10-125—10-133, pertained to similar subject matter. See Code Comparative Table for complete derivation.~~

~~**State Law reference**—Animals generally, O.C.G.A. § 4-3-1 et seq.~~

#### ARTICLE I. - IN GENERAL

Sec. 10-1. - Definitions ~~(also found at beginning of Article IA, Article II, Article III, Article IV).~~

The following words, ~~term~~terms, and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*Abandoned animal* means any domesticated animal that has been placed upon public property or within a public building or upon or within the private property of another without the express permission of the owner, custodian or tenant of the private property and is unattended or uncared for. Any domesticated animal shall also be considered abandoned, when it has been unattended and without proper food and water for a period in excess of 36 hours, regardless of where the animal may be found or kept.

*Adequate food* means a sufficient quantity of non-contaminated and nutritionally healthy sustenance that is appropriate to the species, breed, size, ~~age~~age, and health of the animal, or at the direction of a licensed veterinarian, which is sufficient to prevent starvation, malnutrition, or risk to the animal's health. Garbage, spoiled, rancid or contaminated food is not adequate food.

*Adequate shelter* means a protective covering for a dog that is of adequate size and provides adequate protection to maintain the dog in a state of good health, and that prevents pain, suffering, or significant risk to the animal's health. It should also be clean, dry, and compatible with current weather conditions, in addition to the breed of the dog. The structure should be of sufficient size to allow the dog to stand, turn around, lie down, and go in and out of the structure comfortably.

*Adequate space* means sufficient space for adequate exercise suitable to the age, size, ~~species~~species, and breed of animals.

*Adequate water* means clear, drinkable water with adequate supply. Examples of inadequate water include, but are not limited to, snow, ice, and rancid/contaminated water.

*Animal at large* means any animal not under restraint or voice control and off the property of its owner. If an animal has no known owner or keeper, then it shall be considered "at large" when on any public or private property.

*Animal control officer* means a person employed by the Dawson County Marshal's Office or any other employee of Dawson County duly authorized to pick up, restrain, or impound animals, and who is responsible for discharging such other duties or functions pertaining to animals as may be prescribed by this or any other ordinance, by state law, or by the lawful order of a county official authorized to supervise and direct animal control officers.

*Animal control center* means those facilities designated by the board of commissioners for the housing and care of animals pursuant to this article.

*Animal control department* carries the same meaning as the Animal Control Officer.

*Animal shelter* means the facility designated by the Board of Commissioners of the county for the detention of animals.

*Animal under restraint* means any animal secured by a leash or lead held by a competent person, temporally tethered not as a primary form of restraint, or enclosed by way of fence or other enclosure including an activated invisible fence, or under the control of a responsible and competent person and obedient to that person's commands, and the person being present with the animal; or an animal confined within a vehicle, parked, in motion, or in a crate or cage or otherwise secured in a pickup.

*Appropriate authority* means Dawson County, the ~~animal control department of~~ Dawson County Sheriff's Office, the Dawson County Marshal's Office, the State of Georgia, any city, any county, or any state or subdivision thereof.

*Attack* means any biting or attempted biting or other action by an animal that places a person in danger of imminent bodily harm. An attack also means the actual biting of another animal or actual biting of a person.

*Board* means Dawson County Board of Health, State of Georgia.

*Cat* means any age feline of the domesticated type.

*Certificate* shall mean a certificate of vaccination on a form furnished or approved by the Georgia Department of ~~Public Health~~Human Resources.

*Companion animal* means a domesticated animal kept for pleasure rather than utility. Pets include but are not limited to birds, cats, dogs, hamsters, horses, mice, reptiles, domesticated wild animals, exotic animals and other animals associated with man's environment.

*Cruelty* means causing the death or unjustifiable pain or suffering to an animal by an act, an omission, or neglect.

*Dangerous dog* means any dog that, according to the records of an appropriate authority:

- ~~(1) Inflicts a severe injury on a human being or domestic animal without provocation; or~~
- ~~(2) Bites, attacks or endangers the safety of humans or domestic animals without provocation after the dog has been classified as a potentially dangerous dog and after the owner has been notified of such classification.~~

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~~(3) A dog that inflicts an injury upon a person when the dog is being used by a law enforcement officer to carry out the law enforcement officer's official duties shall not be a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog within the meaning of this article. A dog shall not be a dangerous dog or a potentially dangerous dog within the meaning of this article if the injury inflicted by the dog was sustained by a person who, at the time, was committing willful trespass or other tort or was tormenting, abusing, or assaulting the dog, or had in the past been observed or reported to have tormented, abused, or assaulted the dog, or was committing or attempting to commit a crime.~~

Commented [R1]: Why are we deleting this?

~~(1) Causes a substantial puncture of a person's skin by teeth without causing serious injury; provided, however, that a nip, scratch, or abrasion shall not be sufficient to classify a dog as dangerous under this subparagraph;~~

~~(2) Aggressively attacks in a manner that causes a person to reasonably believe that the dog posed an imminent threat of serious injury to such person or another person although no such injury occurs; provided, however, that the acts of barking, growling, or showing of teeth by a dog shall not be sufficient to classify a dog as dangerous under this subparagraph; or~~

~~(3) While off the owner's property, kills a pet animal; provided, however, that this subparagraph shall not apply where the death of such pet animal is caused by a dog that is working or training as a hunting dog, herding dog, or predator control dog.~~

~~(4) A dog that inflicts an injury upon a person when the dog is being used by a law enforcement officer to carry out the law enforcement officer's official duties shall not be a dangerous dog within the meaning of this article. A dog shall not be a dangerous dog within the meaning of this article if the injury inflicted by the dog was sustained by a person who, at the time, was committing willful trespass or other tort or was tormenting, abusing, or assaulting the dog, or had in the past been observed or reported to have tormented, abused, or assaulted the dog, or was committing or attempting to commit a crime.~~

~~Dangerous ~~dog control~~ dogs and vicious dogs ordinance~~ means article IV of this chapter.

~~Department~~ means the Department of ~~Public~~human Healthresources, State of Georgia.

~~Dog~~ shall mean a dog, of either sex, vaccinated or not vaccinated against rabies.

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~~Domesticated animals~~ ~~means~~mean animals that are accustomed to living in or about the habitation of men, including, but not limited to: cats, cows, dogs, fowl, horses, swine, domesticated wild animals and/or exotic animals. (This definition only applies to those animals mentioned herein and is only applicable to this chapter and in no way affects the meaning or application of a definition of the described animal, as may be found in any other city ordinance.)

~~Feral animal~~ means an animal that has escaped from a domestic or captive status and is more or less living as a wild animal or is born of a feral animal.

~~Governing authority~~ means the governing body or official in which the legislative powers of a local government are vested.

*Guard dog* means any dog which has been trained to attack persons or other animals independently or upon oral command and any dog which, while not so trained, is reasonably expected to perform as a guardian of the property upon and within which he is located.

*Health department* means the Dawson County Health Department or in the absence of a functioning health department, the Dawson County ~~Health Board~~ Board of Health.

*Local government* means the City of Dawsonville and Dawson County.

*Owner* means any natural person or any legal entity owning, keeping, harboring, possessing, or having custody or control, or acting as caretaker or custodian of any domesticated animal, having a right of property in an animal, or any person who permits an animal to remain on his premises, within the City of Dawsonville or Dawson County.

*Person* shall mean any individual, firm, corporation, partnership, municipality, county, society, or association.

~~*Potentially dangerous dog* means any dog that without provocation bites a human being or domestic animal.~~

*Proper enclosure* means an enclosure for keeping a dangerous dog or ~~potentially dangerous~~ vicious dog, while on the owner's property, securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen, fence or structure suitable to prevent the entry of younger children and designed to prevent the dog from escaping. Any such pen or structure shall have secure sides and a secure top, and if the dog is enclosed within a fence all sides of the fence shall be of sufficient height and the bottom of the fence shall be constructed or secured in such a manner as to prevent the dog's escape either from over or from under the fence. Any such enclosure shall also provide protection from the elements for the dog.

*Public nuisance* means any animal which:

- (1) ~~\_\_\_~~ Is found at large in violation of section 10-4. Is found at large in violation of section 10-5 and section 10-6 as set out below;
- (2) ~~\_\_\_~~ Is vicious, and for the purpose of this section, an animal shall be considered vicious if it attacks without provocation any human being or other domesticated animal or animals;
- (3) ~~\_\_\_~~ Produces, because of quantity, ~~manner~~ manner, or method in which the animals are domesticated or maintained, unsanitary conditions in the county;
- (4) ~~\_\_\_~~ Attacks passersby's or passing vehicles; or
- (5) ~~\_\_\_~~ Is harmful or hostile to the public health, ~~welfare~~ welfare, or safety according to the rules and regulations promulgated by the county health department, whose rules and regulations are incorporated in and made a part of this article as if fully set out.

*Rabies control fee* shall mean that surcharge (fee) authorized by the State Health Code and levied by the county of residence at the time of rabies immunization of a pet animal in a private or public clinic. This fee is to be collected by the veterinarian and forwarded to the treasurer of the county of the animal owner's residence. The "rabies control fee" is not to be confused with any fees associated with licensing or registering pet animals, or the fee that shall be charged by the veterinarian for performing the vaccination.

*Rabies vaccination tag* shall mean a tag furnished or approved by the Georgia Department of ~~Public Health~~Human Resources and which tag shall be worn by the vaccinated dog at all times.

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*Records of an appropriate authority* means records of any state, county or municipal law enforcement agency, records of any county or municipal animal control agency, records of any county board of health, records of any federal, ~~state~~state, or local court, or records of an animal control officer as provided for in this division.

~~Severe~~Serious *injury* means any physical injury that creates a substantial risk of death; results in death, broken or dislocated bones ~~or~~, lacerations requiring multiple sutures, or ~~cosmetic~~disfiguring avulsions; requires plastic surgery; or ~~a physical injury that~~admission to a hospital; or results in ~~death~~, protracted impairment of health, including transmission of an infection or contagious disease, or impairment of the function of any bodily organ.

*Vaccinate, inoculate* shall mean the injection of a specified dose of anti-rabies vaccine by a veterinarian into the proper site of an animal, such vaccine having the U.S. Department of Agriculture Veterinary Biologics Control Section license number approval stamped on the label of the container and having been approved by the Georgia Department of ~~Public Health~~Human Resources.

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*Vaccine* means an injectable material containing killed or attenuated rabies virus, licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Biologics Section, and approved by the Georgia Department of ~~Public Health~~Human Resources. Vaccine used for the purpose of this rule shall be stored at the temperature prescribed on the purchase label. Outdated vaccine shall not be used.

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*Veterinarian* shall mean any person who holds a degree of ~~doctor of veterinary medicine~~Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM).

~~Vicious animal~~ means ~~any animal which constitutes a physical threat to human beings or other animals by virtue of one or more attacks of such severity as to cause property damage or physical injury. An animal shall also be considered vicious if it makes an unprovoked attack on other animals or on human beings or on physical property.~~

~~(a) The term "vicious animal" means:~~

Vicious dog means a dog that inflicts serious injury on a person or causes serious injury to a person resulting from reasonable attempts to escape from the dog's attack.

Vicious animal means:

- (1) — Any animal that attacks, ~~bites~~bites, or injures humans or other animals without provocation;
- (2) — Which, because of temperament, ~~conditioning~~conditioning, or training, has a known propensity to attack, bite or injure other living creatures without provocation.
- (3) — An animal which has on one or more occasions caused injury to other living creatures without provocation; or
- (4) — Any animal which constitutes a physical threat to human beings or domesticated animals by one or more attacks without provocation of severity to cause



physical injury. The definition of "vicious animal" contained in this subsection shall be supplementary to the definitions contained in article IV.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-2. - Interpretation of chapter; conflicting provisions.

- (a) — Where there is a conflict between this chapter and another county or municipal ordinance, this chapter shall apply.
- (b) — Where there is a conflict among chapters or sections within this chapter, the chapter or section which is more restrictive and stricter shall apply.
- (c) — Definitions in one article of this chapter may be used to define terms in other parts of this chapter unless it is clear from the context that the definition does not apply.
- (d) — This chapter shall apply to the participating municipalities, notwithstanding the use of the word "county" instead of "city."

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

#### ARTICLE IA. - DOMESTIC ANIMAL CONTROL

Sec. 10-3. - Running at large prohibited.

- (a) — It shall be unlawful for the owner of any animal, or anyone having an animal [any domestic fowl or livestock] in his possession and custody, to allow it to run at large unattended on or about the streets and highways of the unincorporated and incorporated limits of the county, or on the property of another person or of the person in possession of such property, except for dogs being used in hunting in accordance with state game and fish department laws, ~~rules~~rules, and regulations.
- (b) — Any such animal at large may be impounded by the animal control officer or an authorized representative thereof.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-4. - Duty to keep animal under restraint—While on property; no tethering of dogs as primary means of restraint.

- (a) — It shall be the duty of every owner of any animal to ensure that it is confined with a primary means of restraint by way of a fence or other enclosure including an activated invisible fence or in some other physical manner, under the control of a competent person so that it cannot wander off the real property limits of the owner, it being the intent of this article that all animals be prevented from leaving, while unattended, the real property limits of their owners.

- (b) — The above requirement notwithstanding, it shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog to utilize a tether, chain, cable, rope, or cord as the primary method of restraining a dog, it being the intent of this section that tethering a dog shall be used only as a temporary restraint mechanism. The prohibition in this subparagraph shall have no application if the dog is in a park or recreational area where the rules of said park or recreational area require the tethering or physical restraint of dogs.
- (c) — In addition, all male and female dogs and cats that have not been spayed or neutered must be securely confined in such a way as in conformance with these regulations that they not only cannot get out to run loose, but also cannot be reached by other dogs or cats.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-5. - Duty to keep animal under restraint—While off property.

- (a) — It shall be the duty of the owner of any animal or anyone having an animal in his possession to keep the animal under control at all times while the animal is off the real property limits of the owner, ~~possessor~~possessor, or custodian. For the purposes of this section, an animal is deemed under control when it is confined within a vehicle, whether parked or in motion; is secured by a leash or other device held by a competent person; or is properly confined within an enclosure with permission of the owner of the property where the enclosure is located. An animal may be under voice control only if the owner is present and if the animal is responsive to the owner.
- (b) — No person shall tie, ~~stake~~stake, or fasten any animal within any right-of-way, street, alley, ~~sidewalk~~sidewalk, or other public place or in such manner that the animal has access to any portion of any right-of-way, street, alley, ~~sidewalk~~sidewalk, or other public place.
- (c) — Every female dog in heat shall be confined in a building or other enclosure in such manner that such female dog cannot come into contact with another animal except for planned breeding.
- (d) — Every animal shall be restrained and controlled so as to prevent it from harassing passersby, chasing vehicles, or attacking persons or other animals.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-6. - Abandonment of animals.

- (a) — It shall be unlawful for a person to abandon any domestic animal owned by him. No person shall put out or abandon any dog, ~~eat~~cat, or other domestic animal on public or private property. It shall be unlawful for anyone to knowingly abandon any domesticated animal within the county. Each person who does abandon, knowingly or willingly permits such abandonment, or aids in the abandonment of any domesticated animal shall be in violation of the law and shall be punished as provided in this article.
- (b) — Each offense shall be punished with a fine of the maximum amount allowable by law.

- (c) — If the owner, possessor or custodian of an animal is not known, and the animal is upon the public streets, alleys, sidewalks, school grounds or other public places or premises, or property of another, without the property owner's permission, as prohibited by this section, any law enforcement officer or agent or employee duly authorized by the county shall be authorized to immediately take possession of such animal and impound it in accordance with the rules and regulations provided by law or by ordinance of the county for the detention, control and disposition of animals.
- (d) — The impoundment of an animal shall be accomplished without a breach of the peace. Once impounded, an animal shall be kept for a period of time as outlined in this article, and, thereafter, if the animal is not claimed by anyone after a reasonable effort has been made to locate the owner, possessor or custodian of the animal as provided in this article, the animal may be disposed of in a humane fashion or in accordance with the rules and regulations of the state.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-7. - Cruelty to animals; fighting animals.

No person shall, by act, ~~omission~~omission, or neglect, cause unjustifiable physical pain, suffering or death to any animal. This section shall not apply to the killing of animals raised for the purpose of providing food, nor does it apply to any person who shall hunt wild animals in compliance with the game and fish laws of the State of Georgia. Furthermore, this section shall not apply to the killing or injuring of animals for humane purposes or in the furtherance of medical or scientific research or in the necessary defense of one's person or personal property.

- (a) — ~~Whoever willfully or maliciously kills abuses, maims~~maims, or disfigures any animal or willfully or maliciously administers poison to an animal or exposes any poisonous substance with intent that the substance shall be taken and swallowed by an animal shall be in violation of this article.
- (b) — ~~Whoever overloads, overdrives, tortures, torments~~torments, or deprives an animal of its necessary sustenance or shelter or beats, mutilates or kills any animal or causes such acts to be done, or carries in or upon a vehicle or otherwise any animal in a cruel or inhumane manner, shall be deemed in violation of this article.

~~(c) — Whoever confines an animal and fails to supply sufficient quantities of wholesome food and water, or keeps any animal in any enclosure without wholesome exercise and change of air, or abandons any animal to die, shall be deemed in violation of this article.~~

~~(d) — No person shall:~~

~~(c) No person shall:~~

- (1) — ~~Own, possess, keep~~keep, or train any animal with the intent that such animal shall be engaged in an exhibition of fighting.

- (2) —        Build, make, ~~maintain~~maintain, or keep a pit on premises owned by him or occupied by him, or allow a pit to be built, made, ~~maintained~~maintained, or kept on such premises, for the purpose of an exhibition of animal fighting.
- (3) —        In any manner encourage, instigate, ~~promote~~promote, or assist in an exhibition of animal fighting.
- (4) —        Charge admission ~~to~~to be an assistant, ~~umpire~~umpire, or participant at or be present as a spectator to any exhibition of animal fighting.
- (e) —        Any animal control officer shall impound any animal found to be treated in a cruel manner.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-8. — Neglect of animals.

- (a) It shall be unlawful to endanger an animal's health by failing to provide or arrange to provide the animal with adequate food or adequate water if the animal is dependent upon a person for the provision of food or water, or by restraining an animal in inhumane conditions or in a manner that endangers the animal's life or health.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any owner or possessor of any animal to fail to provide adequate water, adequate food, adequate space, adequate shelter, sanitary conditions, or necessary veterinary care in the case of an injury or illness that endangers the life or health of an animal.

Sec. 10-9. - Animals creating nuisance.

- (a) — The owner of any animal which habitually barks, whines, ~~howls~~howls, or causes other objectionable noise, or which is at large or chases or runs after persons or vehicles, or which destroys or damages any property of another person, or which causes serious annoyance to a neighboring resident and interferes with reasonable use and enjoyment of his property, or which is otherwise offensive so as to create a nuisance, shall be deemed to be committing an act in violation of this section.
- (b) — Any person that knowingly keeps, owns harbors, has custody or control of, or acts as custodian of an animal constituting a nuisance shall be guilty of an unlawful act and shall be punished as provided in this chapter.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-~~9~~10. - Enforcement.

- (a) — Responsibility. The primary responsibility for the enforcement of this article shall be vested in the animal control officer. He may, in the exercise of his authority as the animal control officer for the county, delegate the enforcement responsibilities of this section to such county employees under his direct supervision as he may select. By joint agreement of the

participating municipalities with the county board of commissioners, enforcement of this chapter shall be by the county board of commissioners.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-~~1011~~. - Commercial guard/security dogs.

- (a) — It shall be the duty of all persons who keep, ~~use~~use, or maintain any guard/security dog to have signs conspicuously posted on the premises where the guard/security dog is located to warn of the presence of the dog. This warning shall consist of a warning sign placed at each entrance and exit to the premises and in a position to be legible from the sidewalk or ground level adjacent to the sign (eye level). If the premises are not enclosed by a wall or fence, a sign shall be placed at every entrance and exit to each structure on the premises in which a guard/security dog is located. Each sign shall measure at least ten inches by 14 inches and shall contain block lettering stating "Warning, Guard Dog on Duty." In addition, for dogs rented or leased, the sign shall set forth the name, ~~address~~address, and phone number of the responsible person to be notified during any hour of the day or night.
- (b) — It shall be the duty of all persons who keep, ~~use~~use, or maintain a guard/security dog to ensure the dog is vaccinated against rabies and licensed as required by state and county laws and ordinances. The dog also must have the current vaccination tag affixed to a collar worn by the dog at all times as required by state and county laws and ordinances.
- (c) — It shall be the duty of any person who sells, leases, and/or rents any guard/security dog to be used within the county to notify the County Animal Control of the location and number of guard/security dogs in use, kept, or maintained at a particular location. The animal control office shall maintain a record of the location, number of guard/security dogs, and current rabies vaccination and licensure of all guard/security dogs utilized within the county. The person who sells, leases, and/or rents a guard/security dog to be used in the county shall furnish the following information to the county animal control office:
- (1) —      Name, ~~address~~address, and telephone number of the location where a guard dog is located.
  - (2) —      Name, breed, sex, current license tag information of each guard dog at any location in the county    or the city.
- (d) — It shall be unlawful to transport any guard/security dog in an open bed truck, and the vehicle transporting guard dogs shall be identified as to the business owner. It shall be unlawful to transport any guard dog in the county or the city except under the following conditions:
- (1) —      Each dog shall be placed in separate holding bins.
  - (2) —      Each holding bin shall be enclosed and measure 48 inches long by 18 inches wide by 30 inches high.
  - (3) —      Each holding bin will be adequately ventilated.
- (e) — No guard/security dog shall be chained, ~~tethered~~tethered, or otherwise tied to any inanimate object such as a tree, ~~post~~post, or building, outside of its own enclosure.

(f) — A guard/security dog shall be confined by the owner/custodian/harbinger within a building or secure enclosure out of which it cannot climb, dig, ~~jump~~, or otherwise escape of its own volition.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-~~412~~. - Vicious animals—Precautions to be taken by owners.

(a) Vicious animal.

(1) — The words "vicious animal" shall mean any animal which attacks, bites or injures humans, other animal without provocation; or which, because of temperament, ~~conditioning~~, or training, has a known propensity to attack, bite or injure other living creatures without provocation; or any animal which constitutes a physical threat to human beings or domesticated animals by one or more attacks without provocation of such severity to cause physical injury.

(2) — Exception: An animal is not considered vicious if it attacks, bites or menaces:

- a. Anyone attacking the owner;
- b. Unlawful trespassers on the property of the owner;
- c. Any person or animal that has tormented or abused it;
- d. If it is defending its young or other animal.

(b) — No person owning or having custody or control of any dog or other animal known to be vicious shall permit it to run ~~at large, or~~ permit it to run loose on or within the premises of such person in such a manner as to endanger the life or limb of any person lawfully entering such premises.

(c) — For owners of vicious animals who maintain their animal out-of-doors, a portion of their property shall be fenced with a perimeter or area fence. Within this perimeter fence the vicious animal must be humanely confined inside a house, building, ~~pen~~, or kennel of adequate size. The pen or kennel shall not share common fencing with the area or perimeter fence. The kennel or pen must have secure sides, with a secure top attached to all sides, and the sides must be securely set into the ground or onto a concrete pad or securely attached to a wire bottom, out of which it cannot climb, dig, ~~jump~~, or otherwise escape on its own volition. The gate must be securely locked.

(d) — A warning sign (e.g., BEWARE OF ~~DOG~~VICIOUS ANIMAL) shall be conspicuously posted denoting a vicious animal is on the premises and if said vicious animal is kept in a secure enclosure such signs will be posted on all four sides of said enclosure. It is the intention of this article to make all persons who have legitimate business at the place where a vicious animal is kept to be fully warned that such vicious animal is present.

(e) — No vicious animal shall be chained, ~~tethered~~, or otherwise tied to any inanimate object such as a tree, ~~post~~, or building, outside of its own enclosure.

- (f) ~~Whenever outside of its enclosure, but on the owner's property, a vicious animal must be attended by the owner and restrained by a secure collar and leash of not more than six feet in length and of sufficient strength to prevent escape.~~
- (g) ~~It shall be unlawful for any person to cause, permit, accompany or be responsible for any vicious animal on the streets or in any other public place, at any time, unless, in addition to the other requirements of this article, such animal is humanely and securely muzzled and in charge of a competent person to effectively prevent it from biting any person or other animal.~~
- (h) ~~The owner of any vicious animal which is not confined in a building or secure enclosure, or any person who shall release, either willfully or through a failure to exercise due care or control, or take such animal out of such building or secure enclosure in a manner which is likely to cause injury to another person or damage to the property of another person, shall be in violation of this article, and such animal shall be permanently confined or humanely destroyed.~~
- (i) ~~Nothing in        The provisions of this article section shall prevent separate enforcement concerning apply to all animals, with the exception of dogs. Article IV, pertaining to dangerous dogs and potentially vicious dogs, shall govern the classification of dogs as dangerous dogs under this or vicious dogs as defined in that article-~~

Sec. 10-13. (Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))

~~Sec. 10-12-- Penalties for violation (of vicious animal)-.~~

- ~~(a) Any person who violates any provision of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of up to \$1,000.00 and/or imprisonment in jail for a period not to exceed 60 days or both.~~
- ~~(b) Any vicious animal shall be deemed to be a nuisance and may be abated as a nuisance upon the conviction thereafter of its owner in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia.~~

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

(a) Unless otherwise specified in this chapter, any person violating this chapter may be deemed guilty of violating a county ordinance and may be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00, by imprisonment in the county jail for a period of time not to exceed 60 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment, or up to the limits of any penalty provided by state law for the ordinance. Each act or omission in violation of this chapter shall constitute a separate offense. Each day that such violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense. In addition to any other penalties allowed by law, the court, as part of the sentence, may prohibit the offender from owning, possessing, or having on the offender's premises in the county any animal during the term of the sentence, may order for the animal to be removed from the county or humanely euthanized, and may order restitution.

~~(b) Sec. 10-13-- Applicability of article.~~

~~This article shall apply to all animals, except article IV, pertaining to dangerous dogs and potentially dangerous dogs, shall apply to the animals defined in that division.~~

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

~~10-14. - Penalty for violation of article.~~

~~(a) - Unless otherwise provided, any violation of this article shall be punished as for a misdemeanor under the laws of this state. Each and every violation and each days continuing violation shall be treated as a separate offense.~~

~~(b) - Unless otherwise provided, any person violating the terms of this article or rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to this article shall be punished by fines and/or imprisonment in the county jail as set forth by the magistrate court judge pursuant to law.~~

~~(b)~~ - Unless otherwise provided, the county shall have jurisdiction of all cases arising from violation of this article.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Secs. 10-~~15~~14—10-37. - Reserved.

## ARTICLE II. - ANIMAL CONTROL; IMPOUNDMENT

Sec. 10-38. - Powers and duties of animal control officer.

The animal control officer shall be primarily responsible, with support from the county health department, for the enforcement of this article, and his duties shall include but not be limited to the following:

- (1) — \_\_\_ Cooperation with the county board of health in the enforcement of rabies control regulations and of animal control directives.
- (2) — \_\_\_ Cooperation with the county Humane Society, through the board of commissioners, in the promotion of animal control and welfare.
- (3) — \_\_\_ Taking up and impounding animals that are in violation of this article, using any and all means available which are humane in nature.
- (4) — \_\_\_ Keeping a record of the number, description and disposition of all animals impounded or otherwise taken into custody, showing in detail in the case of each animal a general description by sex, ~~breed~~breed, and approximate age, together with any identification tag, vaccination tag or other marking and the date of receipt.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-39. - Interference with animal control officer.



It shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take any animal from any vehicle used to transport such animal, or to take or attempt to take any animal from the animal control impounding areas. It shall also be unlawful for any person to remove or attempt to remove any animal from any trap set by the animal control division or to disturb, molest or damage any trap set by the animal control officer.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-40. - Notice to owners of impounded animals; redemption by owner.

- (a) — Any animal seized or impounded under any provision of this article shall be detained in the animal control shelter or any other such facility that the county may so designate.
- (b) — Upon receipt of any impounded animal wearing a tag, the animal control officer or designated animal shelter shall immediately make diligent efforts to ascertain the identity of the animal's owner and shall, within 24 hours of receipt, telephone the owner to give notice of the impoundment. If the animal control officer is unsuccessful in reaching the owner by telephone, he shall send notice of the impoundment to the owner by certified mail or by personal service.
- (c) — The owner of the impounded animal may after receiving such notice, regain possession of the animal upon payment of all applicable fees specified in this section. Such redemption shall not affect any criminal liability of the owner, which may exist with respect to any violation of this article, and shall not preclude proceedings against the owner for the purpose of pursuing sanctions under this article.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-41. - Commencement of period of impoundment.

All periods of impoundment specified in this article shall be deemed to commence at 12:01 a.m. of the day following the date of confinement.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-42. - Fees and requirements for violations and impounds.

- (a) — The fees with respect to services performed, in connection with the enforcement of this article shall be set by the board of commissioners from time to time. A copy of such fee schedule shall be posted at the headquarters of the animal control officer. Such fees may be changed at any time and from time to time as determined by the board of commissioners.
- (b) — The fees established and collected under this article are not penalties, but are imposed for the sole purpose of defraying expenses borne by the county for animal control and welfare under this article. Such fees are subject to change at any time. Such fees shall include but not be limited to the following:

- (1) An impounding fee.
  - (2) A boarding fee on a per-day basis.
  - (3) A rabies inoculation fee if needed.
- (c) — In no event shall any animal be redeemed by its lawful possessor, ~~owner~~owner, or custodian unless those fees established for boarding the animal, as provided for in section 10-40 are paid.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-43. - Consequences of impounded and not claimed.

If for any reason an animal is impounded and not claimed by the owner after proper notification is made the animal shall be considered abandoned and the following subsections shall apply:

- (a) — \_\_\_ If the animal is not claimed by the owner within three days of the receipt of the certified letter giving notice of impoundment or if the letter is returned by the post office or if within ten days of impoundment the owner cannot be located, the animal shall be deemed abandoned and the animal control shelter may at their discretion adopt said animal or dispose of said animal in accordance with state law.
- (b) — \_\_\_ The owner shall have conclusively presumed to give his consent to the adoption of the impounded animal or to give his consent to the disposal of the animal in a humane fashion in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 4-11-5.1. All rights of ownership in said animal will immediately cease and the owner shall have no further claims to such animal.
- (c) — \_\_\_ In the event an animal is impounded, and through its appearance seems to have been abandoned or is stray, said animal will be kept for a period of three days before it will be considered for adoption or destroyed. The appearance of being abandoned or stray would include, but not be limited to the following: no collar, tag, brand, or other identifiable marks, an appearance of being malnourished, excessively dirty or mange like fur coat, or any other condition that would lead the animal control officer to conclude that said animal is a stray.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-44. - Authority to destroy injured or diseased animals.

Any dog, cat or other domestic animal injured upon the public right-of-way is subject to destruction by a competent licensed veterinary authority or an animal control officer certified to administer euthanasia on lower class animals, in that person's discretion, depending upon the extent of injury to or disease of such animal, or, in the alternative, if such animal is not claimed by the owner thereof within a reasonable time, in the interest of humane treatment.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-45. - Fees.

Where not otherwise specified, fees and costs referred to in this chapter shall be established from time to time by the board of commissioners and posted publicly at the county animal shelter. Any such moneys received in connection with the enforcement of this chapter shall be paid to Dawson County.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-46. - County board of health; enforcement of division; animal control officer.

- (a) — *Enforcement generally.* Enforcement of this division shall be by the county board of commissioners. All fines, fees, ~~penalties~~penalties, or other funds received in connection with the enforcement of this division shall be paid to Dawson County.
- (b) — *Hearings.* Hearings concerning dangerous or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dogs shall be carried out by the county board of health as set forth by O.C.G.A. § 31-5-2.
- (c) — *Animal control officer.* A person employed by the Dawson County Marshal's Office or any other employee of Dawson County duly authorized to pick up, restrain, or impound animals, and who is responsible for discharging such other duties or functions pertaining to animals as may be prescribed by this or any other ordinance, by state law, or by the lawful order of a county official authorized to supervise and direct animal control officers.
- (d) — *Powers and duties of the county board of health.* The county board of health is designated to conduct hearings and determine matters as required in this article.
- (e) — *Appeals from decisions of the county board of health.* Appeals from decisions of the county board of health shall be on the record and to the superior court for the county. It is the responsibility of the county board of health to certify the public record to the superior court.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Secs. 10-47—10-59. - Reserved.

### ARTICLE III. - RABIES CONTROL

Sec. 10-60. - Definitions.

Definitions as used in article III are as follows:

*Board* means Dawson County Board of Health, State of Georgia.

*Certificate* shall mean a certificate of vaccination on a form furnished or approved by the Georgia Department of ~~Public Health~~Human Resources.

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*Department* means the ~~Department of Public Health~~department of human resources, State of Georgia.

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*Director* means the chief executive of the county board as defined in O.C.G.A. § 31-3-11 or in his absence, subject to approval of the board, a member of said board appointed by the chairman for the purposes enumerated herein.

*Dog* shall mean a dog, of either sex, vaccinated or not vaccinated against rabies.

*Health department* means the Dawson County Health Department or in the absence of a functioning health department, the Dawson County Board of Health.

*Owner* shall mean any person having a right of property in a dog, or any person who permits a dog to remain on his premises.

*Person* shall mean any individual, firm, corporation, partnership, municipality, county, society, or association.

*Rabies control fee* shall mean that surcharge (fee) authorized by the State Health Code and levied by the county of residence at the time of rabies immunization of a pet animal in a private or public clinic. This fee is to be collected by the veterinarian and forwarded to the treasurer of the county of the animal owner's residence. The "rabies control fee" is not to be confused with any fees associated with licensing or registering pet animals, or the fee that shall be charged by the veterinarian for performing the vaccination.

*Rabies vaccination tag* shall mean a tag furnished or approved by the Georgia Department of ~~Public Health~~Human Resources and which tag shall be worn by the vaccinated dog.

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*Vaccinate, inoculate* shall mean the injection of a specified dose of anti-rabies vaccine by a veterinarian into the proper site of an animal, such vaccine having the U.S. Department of Agriculture Veterinary Biologics Control Section license number approval stamped on the label of the container and having been approved by the Georgia Department of ~~Public Health~~Human Resources.

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*Vaccine* means an injectable material containing killed or attenuated rabies virus, licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Biologics Section, and approved by the Georgia Department of ~~Public Health~~Human Resources. Vaccine used for the purpose of this rule shall be stored at the temperature prescribed on the purchase label. Outdated vaccine shall not be used.

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*Veterinarian* shall mean any person who holds a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM).

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-61. - Legal authority.

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Dawson County Board of Health under O.C.G.A. § 31-3-2 et seq., the Dawson County Board of Health and the Board of Commissioners of Dawson County adopt the following rules and regulations for the control of rabies within the County of

Dawson, and the Board of Commissioners of Dawson County hereby enacts the following rules and regulations as an ordinance of Dawson County.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-62. - Purpose.

To prescribe rules for the prevention and control of rabies within Dawson County by providing for the vaccination, tagging, certification of dogs, the confinement of dogs and other animals, to designate Dawson County's rabies control officer, collection of rabies control fees, and for other purposes.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-63. - Rabies control officer.

- (a) — The rabies control officer shall be the animal control officer or the Dawson County Health Department.
- (b) — Duties of the rabies control officer will include:
  - (1) — Investigate and maintain a record of animal bites in Dawson County.
  - (2) — Provide for proper confinement of an animal involved in a bite; or if the animal is dead or killed, preparation and submission of the head for laboratory examination.
  - (3) — Enforce proper disposition of animals exposed to known rabid animals.
  - (4) — Provide stray animal pickup service.
  - (5) — Assist in rabies immunization clinics.
  - (6) — The duties as stated in the rabies control regulations.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-64. - State rabies vaccination tag; Dawson County license tag required for dogs.

- (a) — Every dog or cat three months of age or older shall be vaccinated against rabies. Dogs and cats will be revaccinated one year later. When dogs or cats one year of age or older are vaccinated with vaccines accepted by the state, ~~county~~ or department for providing a three-year duration of immunity, boosters will be required every three years.
- (b) — At the time a dog or cat is vaccinated for rabies a Dawson County license form will be filled out by the veterinarian. This form will contain the name of the owner, address, breed, sex and color of each animal and any other descriptive data. The rabies tag will also serve as the Dawson County license tag. The veterinarian will issue each cat or dog owner a copy of the Dawson County License for their dog or cat.

- (c) — The license will be initially issued when the animal is vaccinated against rabies and renewed when the animal is revaccinated for rabies or receives a booster shot annually thereof.
- (d) — Each license under this code section shall not be transferable from one animal to another or from one owner to another. It shall be unlawful for any person to attach a license/vaccination tag to an animal fur which it was not issued.
- (e) — In the event that the owner of an animal receives veterinarian care from an office outside of Dawson County, the owner may supply the required information directly to the animal control officer at the Dawson County Sheriff's Office and obtain their Dawson County License, during normal business hours. In the event that an owner does obtain the license at the sheriff's office, proof that the animal has been vaccinated against rabies must be shown prior to the license being issued.
- (f) — The cost of the license if purchased at a veterinarian's office shall be \$1.00 above the cost of the rabies vaccination. If the license is obtained at the Dawson County Marshal's Office, it will be issued at no charge. Each veterinarian's office shall receive \$1.00 from each license sold to defray cost to the veterinarian for providing such service to the county. The cost of the license shall be waived for persons who have seeing-eye dogs or hearing-ear dogs or any other animal used to assist a handicapped person. Any animal used by a law enforcement agency is also exempt from the cost of the license as is any other animal utilized by a governmental agency.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-65 - Dogs to wear collar, Dawson County identification tag and state vaccination tag; exceptions.

- (a) — The wearing of a vaccination/license tag is not required for show dogs where the wearing of such tag could damage the coat, and except dogs when boarded in kennels or veterinary clinics, or in an area zoned for agricultural purposes where the owner or custodian of the dog in question is using the dog for hunting purposes, and has on his/her person a valid hunting license. In the latter case, the owner, custodian or harbinger shall have the tag or vaccination certificate in his/her possession where it may be shown upon demand by any duly constituted authority.
- (b) — Any dog being shipped or transported through the county or city, or any dog entering the county or city for the purpose of a temporary stay, when such stay does not exceed 15 days, shall be exempt from the licensing provisions of this article; ~~however~~ ~~however~~, such dogs are subject to the restraint provisions of this article.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-66. - Clinics.

- (a) — If deemed necessary by the board, the rabies control officer along with the animal control officer may operate or cause to be operated within Dawson County, a county-sponsored clinic for the vaccination of dogs against rabies.
- (b) — Vaccinations will be performed by a veterinarian or under his direct supervision. Payment of services shall be derived from vaccination fees.
- (c) — The vaccination fee for such clinics, including the administering and cost of the vaccine, the issuance of certificates and tags, and other necessary expense shall be predetermined by the county board of health at least 15 days in advance of the first clinic appearing on the schedule. Such notice shall include the schedule of each clinic including the day, the hour, the place, and the vaccination fee.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-67. - Reporting.

- (a) — The owner or custodian of any animal having signs suggestive of rabies shall confine the animal and immediately notify the animal control officer or the Dawson County Health Department reporting any information regarding any persons bitten or attacked by said animal.
- (b) — The animal control officer shall report all known cases of rabies in Dawson County to the department.
- (c) — The animal control officer shall report accumulated data relating to rabies in Dawson County to the department when, in his opinion, rabies is prevalent or likely to become prevalent to the extent that quarantine procedures are indicated.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-68. - Report of animal bites or attacks; confinement of biting animals.

- (a) — Any person having information that an animal has attacked or bitten a person shall immediately report such to the Dawson County Sheriff's Office or the County Board of Health. Failure to do so constitutes a violation of this article.
- (b) — If an animal has bitten a person, such animal shall be immediately confined at a facility so designated by the animal control officer or the county health department. The confinement will commence on the date of the bite and said animal will be segregated in isolation, if available, for a period of ten days. The animal control officer may allow a vaccinated female which is nursing offspring to remain confined on the premises of the owner provided that the animal control officer is permitted daily inspections of the animal during the ten-day period.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-69. - Confinement of dogs or other animals.

- (a) — The rabies control officer will maintain enforcement of all regulations pertaining to confinement of dogs or other animals.
- (b) — The owner of any dog or other animal as defined in this article shall confine or cause to be confined such dog or animal as herein prescribed:
  - (1) — A dog or other animal, whether vaccinated or not, which has bitten a person (or other animal) shall be confined for a period of ten days following the date of the bite.
  - (2) — A dog or other animal, whether vaccinated or not, having signs suggestive of rabies shall be confined in isolation until its death or until its freedom from suspicion of having rabies is established and its release is authorized by the director.
  - (3) — A dog or other animal not vaccinated and bitten by a known or suspected rabid animal shall be immediately destroyed or if the owner is unwilling to destroy the exposed animal, strict isolation of the animal in an approved kennel for six months shall be enforced. One month prior to release, the dog shall be vaccinated according to prescribed methods.
  - (4) — Any dog or other animal, the rabies vaccination of which is current as evidenced by the certificate of vaccination and which is bitten by a known or suspected rabid animal, may be revaccinated, confined in an approved manner for ~~60~~45 days, and then released if no signs of rabies are evident.
  - (5) — Every dog, whether vaccinated or not, shall be kept in a quarantined area confined at the owner's or custodian's premises during the entire quarantine period, unless other provisions suitable to the board are made.
  - (6) — Any dog less than three months old may be confined to the owner's premises or kept on a leash; provided, such permission is granted by the rabies control office.
  - ~~(7) — Any dog brought into Dawson County for a permanent stay from outside the county shall be confined or on leash until vaccinated as provided for by this chapter, when the owner of such dog produces evidence satisfactory to the director that such dog has been vaccinated in a manner and by procedures comparable to the requirements of this article, then a certificate of vaccination and a vaccination tag may be issued for the current vaccination year.~~
  - ~~(8) — Any dog brought into Dawson County on temporary stay not exceeding 14 days shall be confined or on a leash at all times; unless the owner or custodian of such dog submits evidence to the director that such dog has been vaccinated in a manner and by procedures comparable to the requirements of this article.~~

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~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-70. - Confinement area facility.

The area or facility to which any dog or animal is confined in compliance with the provisions of this article shall be subject to the approval of the animal control officer or county board of health. The confinement area or facility may include either a pound, a kennel, an animal hospital, or other place, which provides:



- (1) ~~\_\_\_~~ Construction and management which will keep the animal dry and clean and prevent its escape.
- (2) ~~\_\_\_~~ A method and procedure for the identification of the animal and the recording of the date of its admission to the area or facility.
- (3) ~~\_\_\_~~ Assurance that the animal will have sate and adequate water and food.
- (4) ~~\_\_\_~~ Adequate space for the animal's exercise.
- (5) ~~\_\_\_~~ Protection against excessive heat and cold.
- (6) ~~\_\_\_~~ Space, cages, pens, and other necessary equipment to isolate the animal for its protection against ~~injury and infectious disease.~~

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Secs. 10-71—10-99. - Reserved.

ARTICLE IV. - DANGEROUS ~~ANIMALS~~DOGS AND ~~POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS~~VICIOUS DOGS

Sec. 10-100. - Definitions.

*Appropriate authority* means Dawson County, the animal control department of Dawson County, the State of Georgia, any city, any county, or any state or subdivision thereof.

*Dangerous dog* means any dog that, ~~according to the records of an appropriate authority,~~

- (1) ~~Inflicts~~ Causes a severe injury on ~~substantial puncture of a human being~~ person's skin by teeth without ~~provocation;~~ causing serious injury; ~~provided, however, that a nip, scratch, or~~
- (2) ~~Bites, attacks, or endangers the safety of humans without provocation after the dog has been classified~~ abrasion shall not be sufficient to classify a dog as a potentially dangerous dog and after the owner has been notified of such classification ~~under this subparagraph;~~
- (3) ~~But a dog that inflicts an injury upon a person when the dog is being used by a law enforcement officer to carry out the law enforcement officer's official duties shall not be a dangerous dog or potentially dangerous dog within the meaning of this article. A dog shall not be a dangerous dog or a potentially dangerous dog within the meaning of this article if the injury inflicted by the dog was sustained by a person who, at the time, was committing willful trespass or other tort or was tormenting, abusing, or assaulting the dog, or had in the past been observed or reported to have tormented, abused, or assaulted the dog, or was committing or attempting to commit a crime.~~
- (2) Aggressively attacks in a manner that causes a person to reasonably believe that the dog posed an imminent threat of serious injury to such person or another person although no such injury occurs; ~~provided, however, that the acts of barking, growling, or showing of~~

teeth by a dog shall not be sufficient to classify a dog as dangerous under this subparagraph; or

(3) While off the owner's property, kills a pet animal; provided, however, that this subparagraph shall not apply where the death of such pet animal is caused by a dog that is working or training as a hunting dog, herding dog, or predator control dog;

(4) A dog that inflicts an injury upon a person when the dog is being used by a law enforcement officer to carry out the law enforcement officer's official duties shall not be a dangerous dog within the meaning of this article. A dog shall not be a dangerous dog within the meaning of this article if the injury inflicted by the dog was sustained by a person who, at the time, was committing willful trespass or other tort or was tormenting, abusing, or assaulting the dog, or had in the past been observed or reported to have tormented, abused, or assaulted the dog, or was committing or attempting to commit a crime.

*Owner* means any person owning, possessing, harboring, ~~keeping~~keeping, or having custody or control of ~~a~~ dangerous dog or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog within the county or a municipality within the county.

~~*Potentially dangerous dog* means any dog that without provocation bites a human being or domestic animal.~~

*Proper enclosure* means an enclosure for keeping a dangerous dog or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog while on the owner's property securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen, fence, or structure suitable to prevent the entry of young children and designed to prevent the dog from escaping. Any such pen or structure shall have secure sides and a secure top, and if the dog is enclosed within a fence, all sides of the fence shall be of sufficient height, and the bottom of the fence shall be constructed or secured in such a manner, as to prevent the dog's escape either from over or from under the fence. Any such enclosure shall also provide protection from the elements for the dog.

~~*Severe*~~*Serious injury* means any physical injury that creates a substantial risk of death; results in death, broken or dislocated bones, lacerations requiring multiple sutures, or cosmetic disfiguring avulsions; requires plastic surgery or a physical injury that admission to a hospital; or results in death, protracted impairment of health, including transmission of an infection or contagious disease, or impairment of the function of any bodily organ.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

*Vicious dog* means a dog that inflicts serious injury on a person or causes serious injury to a person resulting from reasonable attempts to escape from the dog's attack.

Sec. 10-101. - Violations and penalties.

(a) — The owner of a ~~dangerous~~vicious dog who violates the applicable provisions of this article or whose ~~dangerous~~vicious dog is subject to confiscation under this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of high and aggravated nature. In addition to any confinement and fine that

might be imposed for a conviction under this article, for the second conviction, a fine of not less than \$750.00 shall be imposed and for a third and subsequent conviction, a fine of not less than \$1,000.00 shall be imposed.

- (b) — The owner of a ~~potentially~~ dangerous dog who violates the applicable provisions of this article, or whose ~~potentially~~ dangerous dog is subject to confiscation under this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. In addition to any confinement and fine that might be imposed for a conviction under this article, for a second conviction, a fine of not less than ~~\$250~~500.00 shall be imposed, and for a third or subsequent conviction, a fine of not less than ~~\$350~~750.00 shall be imposed.
- (c) — In addition to the penalties for violation of this article, the dangerous or vicious dog involved shall be immediately confiscated by the animal control officer or by a law enforcement officer or another person authorized by the animal control officer and placed in quarantine for the proper length of time as determined by the county board of health and, thereafter, the dangerous or vicious dog shall be destroyed in an expeditious and humane manner.
- (d) — No owner of a dangerous dog shall be held criminally liable under this article for injuries inflicted by said owner's dog to any human being while on the owner's property so long as all the requirements of the chapter are met.
- (e) — Persons violating this division are subject to prosecution under O.C.G.A. § 4-8-~~283~~2.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-102. - Liability of county; liability of owner.

The owner of a dangerous dog or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog shall be solely liable for any injury ~~to~~ or death of a person caused by such dog. Pursuant to state law, under no circumstances shall the county, a municipality within the county or an employee or official of a local government which enforces or fails to enforce the provisions of this article be held liable for any damages to any person who suffers an injury inflicted by a dog that has been identified as being a dangerous dog or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog, or by a dog that has been reported to the proper authorities as being a dangerous dog or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog, or by a dog that a local government has failed to identify as a dangerous dog or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog, or by a dog that has been identified as being a dangerous dog or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog but has not been kept or restrained in the manner described in this article, or by a dangerous dog or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog whose owner has not maintained insurance coverage or a surety bond as required in this article.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-103. - Investigations by animal control officer.

Upon receiving a report of a dangerous dog or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog within a dog control officer's jurisdiction from law enforcement agency, an animal control agency, a rabies

control officer or the county board of health, the ~~animal-dog~~ control officer shall make such investigations and inquiries with regard to such report as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this article.

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~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-104. - Notice of classification as dangerous dog or vicious dog.

When an animal control officer classifies a dog as a dangerous dog, or ~~reclassifies a potentially dangerous~~vicious dog, the animal control officer shall notify the dog's owner in writing by certified mail to the owner's last known address of such classification or reclassification. Such notice shall be complete upon its mailing.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-105. - Procedures for classification as dangerous dogs or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dogs.

- (a) ~~—~~ Applicability for enforcement purposes. As applied to the owners of potentially dangerous dogs, the procedures provided for Any irregularity in classification proceedings shall not be a defense to any prosecution under this article ~~must be carried out as a necessary condition for the enforcement~~ so long as the owner of the dog received actual notice of the classification and did not pursue a civil remedy for the correction of the provisions ~~irregularity.~~
- (b) If the dog poses an immediate threat to public safety, the dog shall be immediately impounded and kept at the animal shelter until an appropriate hearing to determine where the dog will be kept. Any refusal by the owner to allow the impoundment of a dog deemed by the animal services division to be an immediate threat to public safety under this article against such owners. As applied to the owners section shall constitute a violation of dangerous dogs, ~~the procedures provided for in this article shall not be an essential element for the enforcement~~ section.
- (c) If impounding of this article the dog is not possible and/or the dog owner has taken immediate action to ensure the dog cannot pose a public threat and has proven he can properly contain the dog, the animal services division may allow the dog to remain with ~~respect to any crime provided for in this division.~~ the dog owner with specific directions to contain the dog, as determined in the sole discretion of the animal services officer.
- (b) ~~—~~ d) Contents of notice of classification. The notice to the owner shall meet the following requirements:
  - (1) ~~—~~ The notice shall be in writing and shall be mailed by certified mail to the owner's last known address;

- (2) — \_\_\_ The notice shall include a summary of the animal control officer's findings that form the basis for the dog's classification as a dangerous or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog;
  - (3) — \_\_\_ The notice shall be, and shall state that the owners, within 15 days after the date shown on the notice have a right to request a hearing on the animal control officer's determination that the dog is a dangerous dog or a ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog;
  - (4) — \_\_\_ The notice shall state that the hearing, if requested, shall be before the county animal control board;
  - (5) — \_\_\_ The notice shall state that if a hearing is not requested, the animal control officer's determination that the dog is a dangerous dog or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog will become effective for all purposes under this article on a date specified in the notice, which shall be on the last day on which the owner has a right to request a hearing; and
  - (6) — \_\_\_ The notice shall include a form to request a hearing before the applicable agency and shall provide specific instructions on mailing or delivering such a request to the Dawson County ~~Health Board of Health~~/Animal Control Board.
- (e) — ~~e~~ \_\_\_ *Hearing.* When the county health board/animal control board receives a request for a hearing as provided ~~in subsection (e) of this section~~herein, it shall schedule such hearing within 30 days after receiving the request. The county health board/animal control board shall notify the dog owner in writing, by certified mail, of the date, time and place of the hearing, and such notice shall be mailed to the dog owner at least ten days prior to the date of the hearing. At the hearing, the owner of the dog shall be given the opportunity to testify and present evidence, and in addition thereto the county health board/animal control board shall receive such other evidence and hear such other testimony as the board may find reasonably necessary to make a determination to either sustain, ~~modify~~modify, or overrule the animal control officer's classification of the dog.
- (~~d~~) — ~~f~~ \_\_\_ Notice of determination by county health board/animal control board. Within ten days after the date of the hearing, the county health board/animal control board shall notify the dog owner in writing, by certified mail, of its determination on the matter. If such determination is that the dog is a dangerous dog or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog, the notice shall specify the date upon which that determination is effective.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

(g) Judicial review of the county health board/animal control board's final decision may be had in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-19. Written notification of such an appeal shall be given immediately to the county health board/animal control board.

Sec. 10-106. - Requirements for possessing dangerous or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dogs.

- (a) — \_\_\_ It is unlawful for an owner to have or possess within the county a dangerous dog or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog without a certificate of registration issued in accordance with the provisions of this section.

- (b) — Subject to the additional requirements of this ~~article~~sections for ~~dangerous~~vicious dogs, the animal control officer, where an owner possesses a dangerous dog or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog, shall issue a certificate of registration to the owner of such dog if the owner presents to the animal control officer or he/she otherwise finds sufficient evidence of:
- (1) — ~~Proper enclosure to confine the dangerous dog or~~ potentially dangerous~~vicious~~ dog; and
  - (2) — ~~The posting of the premises where the dangerous dog or~~ potentially dangerous~~vicious~~ dog, respectively, is located with a clearly visible sign warning that there is a dangerous ~~dog or vicious~~ dog on the property and containing a symbol designed to inform children of the presence of a dangerous dog, or vicious dog. The sign shall comply with regulations of the state department of natural resources as required pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 4-8-~~2527~~.
- (c) — In addition to the requirements of subsection (b) of this Code section, the owner of a ~~dangerous~~vicious dog shall present to the animal control officer evidence of:
- (1) — ~~A policy of insurance in the amount of at least \$50,000.00 issued by an insurer authorized to transact business in this state insuring the owner of the~~ dangerous~~vicious~~ dog against liability for any personal injuries inflicted by the ~~dangerous~~vicious dog; or
  - (2) — ~~A surety bond in the amount of \$50,000.00 or more issued by a surety company authorized to transact business in this state payable to any person or persons injured by the~~ dangerous~~vicious~~ dog, ~~(O.C.G.A. 4-8-25; and HB 935-2114/00)~~
  - (3) A microchip containing an identification number and capable of being scanned has been injected under the skin between the shoulder blades of the dog.
- (d) — The owner of a dangerous dog or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog shall notify the animal control officer immediately, if the dog is on the loose, is unconfined, has attacked a human, has died, or has been sold or donated. If the dog has been sold or donated, the owner shall also provide the animal control officer with the name, address, and telephone number of the new owner of the dog.
- (e) — The owner of a dangerous dog or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog shall notify the animal control officer if the owner is moving out of the county. The owner of a dangerous dog or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog who is a new resident of the state and the county, or who moves from another jurisdiction to the county, shall register the dog as required in this section within ten days after becoming a resident.
- (f) — Issuance of a certificate of registration or renewal of a certificate of registration by the animal control officer in the county does not warrant or guarantee that the requirements specified above are maintained by the owner of a dangerous dog or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog on a continuous basis following the date of the issuance of the initial certificate of registration or following the date of any annual renewal of such certificate.
- (g) — An animal control officer is authorized to make whatever inquiry is deemed necessary to ensure compliance with the provisions of this article. Pursuant to state law, law enforcement agencies, including those of the county and the municipalities within the county, will cooperate with animal control officers in enforcing the provisions of this chapter ordinance.

(h) — The county will charge an annual fee of \$100.00 in addition to any regular dog licensing fees to register dangerous dogs and ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dogs as required in this article. Certificates of registration shall be renewed on an annual basis. At the time of the annual renewal of a certificate of registration, an animal control officer shall require evidence from the owner or make such investigation as shall be necessary to verify that the dangerous dog or ~~potentially dangerous~~vicious dog is continuing to be confined in a proper enclosure and that the owner is continuing to comply with other provisions of this ordinance.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-107. - Restrictions on permitting ~~dangerous or potentially dangerous~~classified dogs to be outside a proper enclosure.

(a) — It ~~is~~shall be unlawful for an owner of a dangerous dog to permit the dog to be ~~outside a proper enclosure off the owner's property~~ unless ~~the:~~

~~(1) The dog is muzzled and restrained by a substantial chain or a leash not to exceed six feet in length and is under the immediate physical restraint control of a responsible person. The muzzle shall be made in a manner that will not cause injury to, capable of preventing the dog and will not interfere with its vision or respiration, but will prevent it from biting or engaging any person other human or animal, when necessary; or~~

~~(b) — It (2) The dog is contained in a closed and locked cage or crate.~~

~~(3) The dog is working or training as a hunting dog, herding dog, or predator control dog.~~

~~(b) It shall be unlawful for the an owner of a potentially dangerous vicious dog to permit the dog to be outside a proper enclosure;~~

~~(1) Outside an enclosure designed to securely confine the vicious dog while on the owner's property or outside a securely locked and enclosed pen, fence, or other structure suitable to prevent the vicious dog from leaving such property unless the:~~

~~a. The dog is muzzled and restrained by a substantial chain or leash not to exceed six feet in length and is under the restraint immediate physical control of a responsible person capable of preventing the dog from engaging any other human or animal when necessary; or~~

~~b. The dog is contained in a closed and locked cage or crate; or~~

~~(2) Unattended with minors.~~

~~(c) No person shall be the owner of more than one vicious dog.~~

~~(d) No more than one certificate of registration shall be issued per domicile.~~

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~

Sec. 10-108. - Confiscation of dogs.

- (a) — A dangerous dog shall be immediately confiscated by an animal control officer or by a law enforcement officer or by another person authorized by the animal control officer if:
- (1) The owner of the dog does not secure liability insurance or bond required by this article;
  - (2) The dog is not validly reregistered as required by this article;
  - (3) The dog is not maintained in a proper enclosure; or
  - (4) The dog is outside a proper enclosure in violation of this article.
- (b) — A ~~potentially dangerous~~ vicious dog shall be confiscated in the same manner as a dangerous dog, if the dog is:
- (1) Not validly registered as required by this article;
  - (2) Not maintained in a proper enclosure; or
  - (3) Outside a proper enclosure in violation of this article.
- (c) — Any dog that has been confiscated under the provisions of this article shall be returned to its owner upon the owner's compliance with the provisions of this article and upon the payment of reasonable confiscation and impound costs. Such costs shall be set by the board of commissioners based upon a report from the animal control officer on the actual cost of confiscation. In the event the owner has not complied with the provisions of this article within 20 days of the date the dog was confiscated, said dog shall be destroyed in an expeditious and humane manner.

~~(Ord. of 1-18-2018(1))~~ Sec. 10-109. – Penalties for violation.

Unless otherwise specified in this chapter, any person violating this chapter may be deemed guilty of violating a county ordinance and may be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00, by imprisonment in the county jail for a period of time not to exceed 60 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment, or up to the limits of any penalty provided by state law for the ordinance. Each act or omission in violation of this chapter shall constitute a separate offense. Each day that such violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense. In addition to any other penalties allowed by law, the court, as part of the sentence, may prohibit the offender from owning, possessing, or having on the offender's premises in the county any animal during the term of the sentence, may order for the animal to be removed from the county or humanely euthanized, and may order restitution.

Sec. 10-110. – Applicability of provisions.

Any dog classified prior to the adoption of this ordinance as a potentially dangerous dog in this state shall on and after that date be classified as a dangerous dog under this article. Any dog classified prior to the adoption of this ordinance as a dangerous dog or vicious dog in this state shall on and after that date be classified as a vicious dog under this article. The owner of any dog referred to in this section shall come into compliance with all current provisions of this article by July 1, 2021.



Ordinance Number \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 10 OF THE DAWSON COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING ANIMALS; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the State of Georgia, approved by the voters of the State in November of 1982, and effective July 1, 1983, provides in Article IX, Section II, Paragraph I thereof, that the governing authority of the county may adopt clearly reasonable ordinances, resolutions and regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, O.C.G.A. §36-1-20 authorizes counties to enact ordinances for protecting and preserving the public health, safety, and welfare of the population of the unincorporated areas of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing authority of Dawson County, to wit, the Board of Commissioners, desires to exercise its authority in adopting this Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-80-19(c), ordinances and amendments shall be printed in substantially the same style as the code currently in effect in Dawson County and such ordinances and amendments shall be suitable in form for incorporation therein; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners now finds that it is in the public interest to update and amend the existing Chapter 10 of the Dawson County Code of Ordinances to adopt the amendment attached hereto as Exhibit A.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Dawson County, Georgia, and it is hereby enacted pursuant to the authority of same as follows:

**1. Ordinance Amendments**

Chapter 10 of the Dawson County Code of Ordinances is hereby modified as provided in Exhibit A, attached hereto and by this reference incorporated herein.

**2. Severability**

It is the express intent of the Dawson County Board of Commissioners that this Ordinance be consistent with both federal and State law. If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Ordinance which may be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared severable.

**3. Effective Date**

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage.

SO ORDAINED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of June, 2021.

**DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Billy Thurmond, Chairman

Attest:

[COUNTY SEAL]

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kristen Cloud, County Clerk

Vote: Yes: \_\_\_\_\_  
No: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Public Meetings:

Exhibit A

Chapter 10 - ANIMALS

ARTICLE I. - IN GENERAL

Sec. 10-1. - Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*Abandoned animal* means any domesticated animal that has been placed upon public property or within a public building or upon or within the private property of another without the express permission of the owner, custodian or tenant of the private property and is unattended or uncared for. Any domesticated animal shall also be considered abandoned, when it has been unattended and without proper food and water for a period in excess of 36 hours, regardless of where the animal may be found or kept.

*Adequate food* means a sufficient quantity of non-contaminated and nutritionally healthy sustenance that is appropriate to the species, breed, size, age, and health of the animal, or at the direction of a licensed veterinarian, which is sufficient to prevent starvation, malnutrition, or risk to the animal's health. Garbage, spoiled, rancid or contaminated food is not adequate food.

*Adequate shelter* means a protective covering for a dog that is of adequate size and provides adequate protection to maintain the dog in a state of good health, and that prevents pain, suffering, or significant risk to the animal's health. It should also be clean, dry, and compatible with current weather conditions, in addition to the breed of the dog. The structure should be of sufficient size to allow the dog to stand, turn around, lie down, and go in and out of the structure comfortably.

*Adequate space* means sufficient space for adequate exercise suitable to the age, size, species, and breed of animals.

*Adequate water* means clear, drinkable water with adequate supply. Examples of inadequate water include, but are not limited to, snow, ice, and rancid/contaminated water.

*Animal at large* means any animal not under restraint or voice control and off the property of its owner. If an animal has no known owner or keeper, then it shall be considered "at large" when on any public or private property.

*Animal control officer* means a person employed by the Dawson County Marshal's Office or any other employee of Dawson County duly authorized to pick up, restrain, or impound animals, and who is responsible for discharging such other duties or functions pertaining to animals as may be prescribed by this or any other ordinance, by state law, or by the lawful order of a county official authorized to supervise and direct animal control officers.

*Animal control center* means those facilities designated by the board of commissioners for the housing and care of animals pursuant to this article.

*Animal control department carries the same meaning as the Animal Control Officer.*

*Animal shelter* means the facility designated by the Board of Commissioners of the county for the detention of animals.

*Animal under restraint* means any animal secured by a leash or lead held by a competent person, temporally tethered not as a primary form of restraint, or enclosed by way of fence or other enclosure including an activated invisible fence, or under the control of a responsible and competent person and obedient to that person's commands, and the person being present with the animal; or an animal confined within a vehicle, parked, in motion, or in a crate or cage or otherwise secured in a pickup.

*Appropriate authority* means Dawson County, the Dawson County Sheriff's Office, the Dawson County Marshal's Office, the State of Georgia, any city, any county, or any state or subdivision thereof.

*Attack* means any biting or attempted biting or other action by an animal that places a person in danger of imminent bodily harm. An attack also means the actual biting of another animal or actual biting of a person.

*Board* means Dawson County Board of Health, State of Georgia.

*Cat* means any age feline of the domesticated type.

*Certificate* shall mean a certificate of vaccination on a form furnished or approved by the Georgia Department of Public Health.

*Companion animal* means a domesticated animal kept for pleasure rather than utility. Pets include but are not limited to birds, cats, dogs, hamsters, horses, mice, reptiles, domesticated wild animals, exotic animals and other animals associated with man's environment.

*Cruelty* means causing the death or unjustifiable pain or suffering to an animal by an act, an omission, or neglect.

*Dangerous dog* means any dog that, according to the records of an appropriate authority:

- (1) Causes a substantial puncture of a person's skin by teeth without causing serious injury; provided, however, that a nip, scratch, or abrasion shall not be sufficient to classify a dog as dangerous under this subparagraph;
- (2) Aggressively attacks in a manner that causes a person to reasonably believe that the dog posed an imminent threat of serious injury to such person or another person although no such injury occurs; provided, however, that the acts of barking, growling, or showing of teeth by a dog shall not be sufficient to classify a dog as dangerous under this subparagraph; or
- (3) While off the owner's property, kills a pet animal; provided, however, that this subparagraph shall not apply where the death of such pet animal is caused by a dog that is working or training as a hunting dog, herding dog, or predator control dog.
- (4) A dog that inflicts an injury upon a person when the dog is being used by a law enforcement officer to carry out the law enforcement officer's official duties shall not be a dangerous dog within the meaning of this article. A dog shall not be a dangerous dog within the meaning of this article if the injury inflicted by the dog was sustained by a person who, at the time, was committing willful trespass or other tort or was tormenting, abusing, or assaulting the dog, or had in the past been observed or reported to have

Commented [R1]: Why are we deleting this?

tormented, abused, or assaulted the dog, or was committing or attempting to commit a crime.

*Dangerous dogs and vicious dogs ordinance* means article IV of this chapter.

*Department* means the Department of Public Health, State of Georgia.

*Dog* shall mean a dog, of either sex, vaccinated or not vaccinated against rabies.

*Domesticated animals* mean animals that are accustomed to living in or about the habitation of men, including, but not limited to: cats, cows, dogs, fowl, horses, swine, domesticated wild animals and/or exotic animals. (This definition only applies to those animals mentioned herein and is only applicable to this chapter and in no way affects the meaning or application of a definition of the described animal, as may be found in any other city ordinance.)

*Feral animal* means an animal that has escaped from a domestic or captive status and is more or less living as a wild animal or is born of a feral animal.

*Governing authority* means the governing body or official in which the legislative powers of a local government are vested.

*Guard dog* means any dog which has been trained to attack persons or other animals independently or upon oral command and any dog which, while not so trained, is reasonably expected to perform as a guardian of the property upon and within which he is located.

*Health department* means the Dawson County Health Department or in the absence of a functioning health department, the Dawson County Health Board.

*Local government* means the City of Dawsonville and Dawson County.

*Owner* means any natural person or any legal entity owning, keeping, harboring, possessing, or having custody or control, or acting as caretaker or custodian of any domesticated animal, having a right of property in an animal, or any person who permits an animal to remain on his premises, within the City of Dawsonville or Dawson County.

*Person* shall mean any individual, firm, corporation, partnership, municipality, county, society, or association.

*Proper enclosure* means an enclosure for keeping a dangerous dog or vicious dog, while on the owner's property, securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen, fence or structure suitable to prevent the entry of younger children and designed to prevent the dog from escaping. Any such pen or structure shall have secure sides and a secure top, and if the dog is enclosed within a fence all sides of the fence shall be of sufficient height and the bottom of the fence shall be constructed or secured in such a manner as to prevent the dog's escape either from over or from under the fence. Any such enclosure shall also provide protection from the elements for the dog.

*Public nuisance* means any animal which:

- (1) Is found at large in violation of section 10-4. Is found at large in violation of section 10-5 and section 10-6 as set out below;
- (2) Is vicious, and for the purpose of this section, an animal shall be considered vicious if it attacks without provocation any human being or other domesticated animal or animals;

- (3) Produces, because of quantity, manner, or method in which the animals are domesticated or maintained, unsanitary conditions in the county;
- (4) Attacks passersby's or passing vehicles; or
- (5) Is harmful or hostile to the public health, welfare, or safety according to the rules and regulations promulgated by the county health department, whose rules and regulations are incorporated in and made a part of this article as if fully set out.

*Rabies control fee* shall mean that surcharge (fee) authorized by the State Health Code and levied by the county of residence at the time of rabies immunization of a pet animal in a private or public clinic. This fee is to be collected by the veterinarian and forwarded to the treasurer of the county of the animal owner's residence. The "rabies control fee" is not to be confused with any fees associated with licensing or registering pet animals, or the fee that shall be charged by the veterinarian for performing the vaccination.

*Rabies vaccination tag* shall mean a tag furnished or approved by the Georgia Department of Public Health and which tag shall be worn by the vaccinated dog at all times.

*Records of an appropriate authority* means records of any state, county or municipal law enforcement agency, records of any county or municipal animal control agency, records of any county board of health, records of any federal, state, or local court, or records of an animal control officer as provided for in this division.

*Serious injury* means any physical injury that creates a substantial risk of death; results in death, broken or dislocated bones, lacerations requiring multiple sutures, or disfiguring avulsions; requires plastic surgery or admission to a hospital; or results in protracted impairment of health, including transmission of an infection or contagious disease, or impairment of the function of any bodily organ.

*Vaccinate, inoculate* shall mean the injection of a specified dose of anti-rabies vaccine by a veterinarian into the proper site of an animal, such vaccine having the U.S. Department of Agriculture Veterinary Biologics Control Section license number approval stamped on the label of the container and having been approved by the Georgia Department of Public Health.

*Vaccine* means an injectable material containing killed or attenuated rabies virus, licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Biologics Section, and approved by the Georgia Department of Public Health. Vaccine used for the purpose of this rule shall be stored at the temperature prescribed on the purchase label. Outdated vaccine shall not be used.

*Veterinarian* shall mean any person who holds a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM).

*Vicious dog* means a dog that inflicts serious injury on a person or causes serious injury to a person resulting from reasonable attempts to escape from the dog's attack.

*Vicious animal* means:

- (1) Any animal that attacks, bites, or injures humans or other animals without provocation;
- (2) Which, because of temperament, conditioning, or training, has a known propensity to attack, bite or injure other living creatures without provocation.

- (3) An animal which has on one or more occasions caused injury to other living creatures without provocation; or
- (4) Any animal which constitutes a physical threat to human beings or domesticated animals by one or more attacks without provocation of severity to cause physical injury. The definition of "vicious animal" contained in this subsection shall be supplementary to the definitions contained in article IV.

Sec. 10-2. - Interpretation of chapter; conflicting provisions.

- (a) Where there is a conflict between this chapter and another county or municipal ordinance, this chapter shall apply.
- (b) Where there is a conflict among chapters or sections within this chapter, the chapter or section which is more restrictive and stricter shall apply.
- (c) Definitions in one article of this chapter may be used to define terms in other parts of this chapter unless it is clear from the context that the definition does not apply.
- (d) This chapter shall apply to the participating municipalities, notwithstanding the use of the word "county" instead of "city."

#### ARTICLE IA. - DOMESTIC ANIMAL CONTROL

Sec. 10-3. - Running at large prohibited.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for the owner of any animal, or anyone having an animal [any domestic fowl or livestock] in his possession and custody, to allow it to run at large unattended on or about the streets and highways of the unincorporated and incorporated limits of the county, or on the property of another person or of the person in possession of such property, except for dogs being used in hunting in accordance with state game and fish department laws, rules, and regulations.
- (b) Any such animal at large may be impounded by the animal control officer or an authorized representative thereof.

Sec. 10-4. - Duty to keep animal under restraint—While on property; no tethering of dogs as primary means of restraint.

- (a) It shall be the duty of every owner of any animal to ensure that it is confined with a primary means of restraint by way of a fence or other enclosure including an activated invisible fence or in some other physical manner, under the control of a competent person so that it cannot wander off the real property limits of the owner, it being the intent of this article that all animals be prevented from leaving, while unattended, the real property limits of their owners.
- (b) The above requirement notwithstanding, it shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog to utilize a tether, chain, cable, rope, or cord as the primary method of restraining a dog, it being the intent of this section that tethering a dog shall be used only as a temporary restraint mechanism. The prohibition in this subparagraph shall have no application if the dog is in a

park or recreational area where the rules of said park or recreational area require the tethering or physical restraint of dogs.

- (c) In addition, all male and female dogs and cats that have not been spayed or neutered must be securely confined in such a way as in conformance with these regulations that they not only cannot get out to run loose, but also cannot be reached by other dogs or cats.

Sec. 10-5. - Duty to keep animal under restraint—While off property.

- (a) It shall be the duty of the owner of any animal or anyone having an animal in his possession to keep the animal under control at all times while the animal is off the real property limits of the owner, possessor, or custodian. For the purposes of this section, an animal is deemed under control when it is confined within a vehicle, whether parked or in motion; is secured by a leash or other device held by a competent person; or is properly confined within an enclosure with permission of the owner of the property where the enclosure is located. An animal may be under voice control only if the owner is present and if the animal is responsive to the owner.
- (b) No person shall tie, stake, or fasten any animal within any right-of-way, street, alley, sidewalk, or other public place or in such manner that the animal has access to any portion of any right-of-way, street, alley, sidewalk, or other public place.
- (c) Every female dog in heat shall be confined in a building or other enclosure in such manner that such female dog cannot come into contact with another animal except for planned breeding.
- (d) Every animal shall be restrained and controlled so as to prevent it from harassing passersby, chasing vehicles, or attacking persons or other animals.

Sec. 10-6. - Abandonment of animals.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for a person to abandon any domestic animal owned by him. No person shall put out or abandon any dog, cat, or other domestic animal on public or private property. It shall be unlawful for anyone to knowingly abandon any domesticated animal within the county. Each person who does abandon, knowingly or willingly permits such abandonment, or aids in the abandonment of any domesticated animal shall be in violation of the law and shall be punished as provided in this article.
- (b) Each offense shall be punished with a fine of the maximum amount allowable by law.
- (c) If the owner, possessor or custodian of an animal is not known, and the animal is upon the public streets, alleys, sidewalks, school grounds or other public places or premises, or property of another, without the property owner's permission, as prohibited by this section, any law enforcement officer or agent or employee duly authorized by the county shall be authorized to immediately take possession of such animal and impound it in accordance with the rules and regulations provided by law or by ordinance of the county for the detention, control and disposition of animals.
- (d) The impoundment of an animal shall be accomplished without a breach of the peace. Once impounded, an animal shall be kept for a period of time as outlined in this article, and,



thereafter, if the animal is not claimed by anyone after a reasonable effort has been made to locate the owner, possessor or custodian of the animal as provided in this article, the animal may be disposed of in a humane fashion or in accordance with the rules and regulations of the state.

Sec. 10-7. - Cruelty to animals; fighting animals.

No person shall, by act, omission, or neglect, cause unjustifiable physical pain, suffering or death to any animal. This section shall not apply to the killing of animals raised for the purpose of providing food, nor does it apply to any person who shall hunt wild animals in compliance with the game and fish laws of the State of Georgia. Furthermore, this section shall not apply to the killing or injuring of animals for humane purposes or in the furtherance of medical or scientific research or in the necessary defense of one's person or personal property.

- (a) Whoever willfully or maliciously kills, abuses, maims, or disfigures any animal or willfully or maliciously administers poison to an animal or exposes any poisonous substance with intent that the substance shall be taken and swallowed by an animal shall be in violation of this article.
- (b) Whoever overloads, overdrives, tortures, torments, or deprives an animal of its necessary sustenance or shelter or beats, mutilates or kills any animal or causes such acts to be done, or carries in or upon a vehicle or otherwise any animal in a cruel or inhumane manner, shall be deemed in violation of this article.
- (c) No person shall:
  - (1) Own, possess, keep, or train any animal with the intent that such animal shall be engaged in an exhibition of fighting.
  - (2) Build, make, maintain, or keep a pit on premises owned by him or occupied by him, or allow a pit to be built, made, maintained, or kept on such premises, for the purpose of an exhibition of animal fighting.
  - (3) In any manner encourage, instigate, promote, or assist in an exhibition of animal fighting.
  - (4) Charge admission to be an assistant, umpire, or participant at or be present as a spectator to any exhibition of animal fighting.
- (e) Any animal control officer shall impound any animal found to be treated in a cruel manner.

Sec. 10-8. – Neglect of animals.

- (a) It shall be unlawful to endanger an animal's health by failing to provide or arrange to provide the animal with adequate food or adequate water if the animal is dependent upon a person for the provision of food or water, or by restraining an animal in inhumane conditions or in a manner that endangers the animal's life or health.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any owner or possessor of any animal to fail to provide adequate water, adequate food, adequate space, adequate shelter, sanitary conditions, or necessary veterinary care in the case of an injury or illness that endangers the life or health of an animal.

Sec. 10-9. - Animals creating nuisance.

- (a) The owner of any animal which habitually barks, whines, howls, or causes other objectionable noise, or which is at large or chases or runs after persons or vehicles, or which destroys or damages any property of another person, or which causes serious annoyance to a neighboring resident and interferes with reasonable use and enjoyment of his property, or which is otherwise offensive so as to create a nuisance, shall be deemed to be committing an act in violation of this section.
- (b) Any person that knowingly keeps, owns harbors, has custody or control of, or acts as custodian of an animal constituting a nuisance shall be guilty of an unlawful act and shall be punished as provided in this chapter.

Sec. 10-10. - Enforcement.

- (a) *Responsibility.* The primary responsibility for the enforcement of this article shall be vested in the animal control officer. He may, in the exercise of his authority as the animal control officer for the county, delegate the enforcement responsibilities of this section to such county employees under his direct supervision as he may select. By joint agreement of the participating municipalities with the county board of commissioners, enforcement of this chapter shall be by the county board of commissioners.

Sec. 10-11. - Commercial guard/security dogs.

- (a) It shall be the duty of all persons who keep, use, or maintain any guard/security dog to have signs conspicuously posted on the premises where the guard/security dog is located to warn of the presence of the dog. This warning shall consist of a warning sign placed at each entrance and exit to the premises and in a position to be legible from the sidewalk or ground level adjacent to the sign (eye level). If the premises are not enclosed by a wall or fence, a sign shall be placed at every entrance and exit to each structure on the premises in which a guard/security dog is located. Each sign shall measure at least ten inches by 14 inches and shall contain block lettering stating "Warning, Guard Dog on Duty." In addition, for dogs rented or leased, the sign shall set forth the name, address, and phone number of the responsible person to be notified during any hour of the day or night.
- (b) It shall be the duty of all persons who keep, use, or maintain a guard/security dog to ensure the dog is vaccinated against rabies and licensed as required by state and county laws and ordinances. The dog also must have the current vaccination tag affixed to a collar worn by the dog at all times as required by state and county laws and ordinances.
- (c) It shall be the duty of any person who sells, leases, and/or rents any guard/security dog to be used within the county to notify the County Animal Control of the location and number of guard/security dogs in use, kept, or maintained at a particular location. The animal control office shall maintain a record of the location, number of guard/security dogs, and current rabies vaccination and licensure of all guard/security dogs utilized within the county. The person who sells, leases, and/or rents a guard/security dog to be used in the county shall furnish the following information to the county animal control office:

- (1) Name, address, and telephone number of the location where a guard dog is located.
- (2) Name, breed, sex, current license tag information of each guard dog at any location in the county or the city.
- (d) It shall be unlawful to transport any guard/security dog in an open bed truck, and the vehicle transporting guard dogs shall be identified as to the business owner. It shall be unlawful to transport any guard dog in the county or the city except under the following conditions:
  - (1) Each dog shall be placed in separate holding bins.
  - (2) Each holding bin shall be enclosed and measure 48 inches long by 18 inches wide by 30 inches high.
  - (3) Each holding bin will be adequately ventilated.
- (e) No guard/security dog shall be chained, tethered, or otherwise tied to any inanimate object such as a tree, post, or building, outside of its own enclosure.
- (f) A guard/security dog shall be confined by the owner/custodian/harbinger within a building or secure enclosure out of which it cannot climb, dig, jump, or otherwise escape of its own volition.

Sec. 10-12. - Vicious animals—Precautions to be taken by owners.

- (a) Vicious animal.
  - (1) The words "vicious animal" shall mean any animal which attacks, bites or injures humans, other animal without provocation; or which, because of temperament, conditioning, or training, has a known propensity to attack, bite or injure other living creatures without provocation; or any animal which constitutes a physical threat to human beings or domesticated animals by one or more attacks without provocation of such severity to cause physical injury.
  - (2) Exception: An animal is not considered vicious if it attacks, bites or menaces:
    - a. Anyone attacking the owner;
    - b. Unlawful trespassers on the property of the owner;
    - c. Any person or animal that has tormented or abused it;
    - d. If it is defending its young or other animal.
- (b) No person owning or having custody or control of any dog or other animal known to be vicious shall permit it to run at large or permit it to run loose on or within the premises of such person in such a manner as to endanger the life or limb of any person lawfully entering such premises.
- (c) For owners of vicious animals who maintain their animal out-of-doors, a portion of their property shall be fenced with a perimeter or area fence. Within this perimeter fence the vicious animal must be humanely confined inside a house, building, pen, or kennel of adequate size. The pen or kennel shall not share common fencing with the area or perimeter fence. The kennel or pen must have secure sides, with a secure top attached to all sides, and the sides must be securely set into the ground or onto a concrete pad or securely attached to a wire

bottom, out of which it cannot climb, dig, jump, or otherwise escape on its own volition. The gate must be securely locked.

- (d) A warning sign (e.g., BEWARE OF VICIOUS ANIMAL) shall be conspicuously posted denoting a vicious animal is on the premises and if said vicious animal is kept in a secure enclosure such signs will be posted on all four sides of said enclosure. It is the intention of this article to make all persons who have legitimate business at the place where a vicious animal is kept to be fully warned that such vicious animal is present.
- (e) No vicious animal shall be chained, tethered, or otherwise tied to any inanimate object such as a tree, post, or building, outside of its own enclosure.
- (f) Whenever outside of its enclosure, but on the owner's property, a vicious animal must be attended by the owner and restrained by a secure collar and leash of not more than six feet in length and of sufficient strength to prevent escape.
- (g) It shall be unlawful for any person to cause, permit, accompany or be responsible for any vicious animal on the streets or in any other public place, at any time, unless, in addition to the other requirements of this article, such animal is humanely and securely muzzled and in charge of a competent person to effectively prevent it from biting any person or other animal.
- (h) The owner of any vicious animal which is not confined in a building or secure enclosure, or any person who shall release, either willfully or through a failure to exercise due care or control, or take such animal out of such building or secure enclosure in a manner which is likely to cause injury to another person or damage to the property of another person, shall be in violation of this article, and such animal shall be permanently confined or humanely destroyed.
- (i) The provisions of this section shall apply to all animals, with the exception of dogs. Article IV, pertaining to dangerous and vicious dogs, shall govern the classification of dogs as dangerous dogs or vicious dogs as defined in that article

Sec. 10-13. - Penalties for violation.

(a) Unless otherwise specified in this chapter, any person violating this chapter may be deemed guilty of violating a county ordinance and may be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00, by imprisonment in the county jail for a period of time not to exceed 60 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment, or up to the limits of any penalty provided by state law for the ordinance. Each act or omission in violation of this chapter shall constitute a separate offense. Each day that such violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense. In addition to any other penalties allowed by law, the court, as part of the sentence, may prohibit the offender from owning, possessing, or having on the offender's premises in the county any animal during the term of the sentence, may order for the animal to be removed from the county or humanely euthanized, and may order restitution.

(b) Unless otherwise provided, the county shall have jurisdiction of all cases arising from violation of this article.

Secs. 10-14—10-37. - Reserved.

ARTICLE II. - ANIMAL CONTROL; IMPOUNDMENT

Sec. 10-38. - Powers and duties of animal control officer.

The animal control officer shall be primarily responsible, with support from the county health department, for the enforcement of this article, and his duties shall include but not be limited to the following:

- (1) Cooperation with the county board of health in the enforcement of rabies control regulations and of animal control directives.
- (2) Cooperation with the county Humane Society, through the board of commissioners, in the promotion of animal control and welfare.
- (3) Taking up and impounding animals that are in violation of this article, using any and all means available which are humane in nature.
- (4) Keeping a record of the number, description and disposition of all animals impounded or otherwise taken into custody, showing in detail in the case of each animal a general description by sex, breed, and approximate age, together with any identification tag, vaccination tag or other marking and the date of receipt.

Sec. 10-39. - Interference with animal control officer.

It shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take any animal from any vehicle used to transport such animal, or to take or attempt to take any animal from the animal control impounding areas. It shall also be unlawful for any person to remove or attempt to remove any animal from any trap set by the animal control division or to disturb, molest or damage any trap set by the animal control officer.

Sec. 10-40. - Notice to owners of impounded animals; redemption by owner.

- (a) Any animal seized or impounded under any provision of this article shall be detained in the animal control shelter or any other such facility that the county may so designate.
- (b) Upon receipt of any impounded animal wearing a tag, the animal control officer or designated animal shelter shall immediately make diligent efforts to ascertain the identity of the animal's owner and shall, within 24 hours of receipt, telephone the owner to give notice of the impoundment. If the animal control officer is unsuccessful in reaching the owner by telephone, he shall send notice of the impoundment to the owner by certified mail or by personal service.
- (c) The owner of the impounded animal may after receiving such notice, regain possession of the animal upon payment of all applicable fees specified in this section. Such redemption shall not affect any criminal liability of the owner, which may exist with respect to any violation of this article, and shall not preclude proceedings against the owner for the purpose of pursuing sanctions under this article.

Sec. 10-41. - Commencement of period of impoundment.

All periods of impoundment specified in this article shall be deemed to commence at 12:01 a.m. of the day following the date of confinement.

Sec. 10-42. - Fees and requirements for violations and impounds.

- (a) The fees with respect to services performed, in connection with the enforcement of this article shall be set by the board of commissioners from time to time. A copy of such fee schedule shall be posted at the headquarters of the animal control officer. Such fees may be changed at any time and from time to time as determined by the board of commissioners.
- (b) The fees established and collected under this article are not penalties, but are imposed for the sole purpose of defraying expenses borne by the county for animal control and welfare under this article. Such fees are subject to change at any time. Such fees shall include but not be limited to the following:
  - (1) An impounding fee.
  - (2) A boarding fee on a per-day basis.
  - (3) A rabies inoculation fee if needed.
- (c) In no event shall any animal be redeemed by its lawful possessor, owner, or custodian unless those fees established for boarding the animal, as provided for in section 10-40 are paid.

Sec. 10-43. - Consequences of impounded and not claimed.

If for any reason an animal is impounded and not claimed by the owner after proper notification is made the animal shall be considered abandoned and the following subsections shall apply:

- (a) If the animal is not claimed by the owner within three days of the receipt of the certified letter giving notice of impoundment or if the letter is returned by the post office or if within ten days of impoundment the owner cannot be located, the animal shall be deemed abandoned and the animal control shelter may at their discretion adopt said animal or dispose of said animal in accordance with state law.
- (b) The owner shall have conclusively presumed to give his consent to the adoption of the impounded animal or to give his consent to the disposal of the animal in a humane fashion in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 4-11-5.1. All rights of ownership in said animal will immediately cease and the owner shall have no further claims to such animal.
- (c) In the event an animal is impounded, and through its appearance seems to have been abandoned or is stray, said animal will be kept for a period of three days before it will be considered for adoption or destroyed. The appearance of being abandoned or stray would include, but not be limited to the following: no collar, tag, brand, or other identifiable marks, an appearance of being malnourished, excessively dirty or mange like fur coat, or any other condition that would lead the animal control officer to conclude that said animal is a stray.

Sec. 10-44. - Authority to destroy injured or diseased animals.

Any dog, cat or other domestic animal injured upon the public right-of-way is subject to destruction by a competent licensed veterinary authority or an animal control officer certified to administer euthanasia on lower class animals, in that person's discretion, depending upon the extent of injury to or disease of such animal, or, in the alternative, if such animal is not claimed by the owner thereof within a reasonable time, in the interest of humane treatment.

Sec. 10-45. - Fees.

Where not otherwise specified, fees and costs referred to in this chapter shall be established from time to time by the board of commissioners and posted publicly at the county animal shelter. Any such moneys received in connection with the enforcement of this chapter shall be paid to Dawson County.

Sec. 10-46. - County board of health; enforcement of division; animal control officer.

- (a) *Enforcement generally.* Enforcement of this division shall be by the county board of commissioners. All fines, fees, penalties, or other funds received in connection with the enforcement of this division shall be paid to Dawson County.
- (b) *Hearings.* Hearings concerning dangerous or vicious dogs shall be carried out by the county board of health as set forth by O.C.G.A. § 31-5-2.
- (c) *Animal control officer.* A person employed by the Dawson County Marshal's Office or any other employee of Dawson County duly authorized to pick up, restrain, or impound animals, and who is responsible for discharging such other duties or functions pertaining to animals as may be prescribed by this or any other ordinance, by state law, or by the lawful order of a county official authorized to supervise and direct animal control officers.
- (d) *Powers and duties of the county board of health.* The county board of health is designated to conduct hearings and determine matters as required in this article.
- (e) *Appeals from decisions of the county board of health.* Appeals from decisions of the county board of health shall be on the record and to the superior court for the county. It is the responsibility of the county board of health to certify the public record to the superior court.

Secs. 10-47—10-59. - Reserved.

### ARTICLE III. - RABIES CONTROL

Sec. 10-60. - Definitions.

Definitions as used in article III are as follows:

*Board* means Dawson County Board of Health, State of Georgia.

*Certificate* shall mean a certificate of vaccination on a form furnished or approved by the Georgia Department of Public Health.

*Department* means the Department of Public Health, State of Georgia.

*Director* means the chief executive of the county board as defined in O.C.G.A. § 31-3-11 or in his absence, subject to approval of the board, a member of said board appointed by the chairman for the purposes enumerated herein.

*Dog* shall mean a dog, of either sex, vaccinated or not vaccinated against rabies.

*Health department* means the Dawson County Health Department or in the absence of a functioning health department, the Dawson County Board of Health.

*Owner* shall mean any person having a right of property in a dog, or any person who permits a dog to remain on his premises.

*Person* shall mean any individual, firm, corporation, partnership, municipality, county, society, or association.

*Rabies control fee* shall mean that surcharge (fee) authorized by the State Health Code and levied by the county of residence at the time of rabies immunization of a pet animal in a private or public clinic. This fee is to be collected by the veterinarian and forwarded to the treasurer of the county of the animal owner's residence. The "rabies control fee" is not to be confused with any fees associated with licensing or registering pet animals, or the fee that shall be charged by the veterinarian for performing the vaccination.

*Rabies vaccination tag* shall mean a tag furnished or approved by the Georgia Department of Public Health and which tag shall be worn by the vaccinated dog.

*Vaccinate, inoculate* shall mean the injection of a specified dose of anti-rabies vaccine by a veterinarian into the proper site of an animal, such vaccine having the U.S. Department of Agriculture Veterinary Biologics Control Section license number approval stamped on the label of the container and having been approved by the Georgia Department of Public Health.

*Vaccine* means an injectable material containing killed or attenuated rabies virus, licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Biologics Section, and approved by the Georgia Department of Public Health. Vaccine used for the purpose of this rule shall be stored at the temperature prescribed on the purchase label. Outdated vaccine shall not be used.

*Veterinarian* shall mean any person who holds a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM).

Sec. 10-61. - Legal authority.

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Dawson County Board of Health under O.C.G.A. § 31-3-2 et seq., the Dawson County Board of Health and the Board of Commissioners of Dawson County adopt the following rules and regulations for the control of rabies within the County of Dawson, and the Board of Commissioners of Dawson County hereby enacts the following rules and regulations as an ordinance of Dawson County.

Sec. 10-62. - Purpose.

To prescribe rules for the prevention and control of rabies within Dawson County by providing for the vaccination, tagging, certification of dogs, the confinement of dogs and other animals, to designate Dawson County's rabies control officer, collection of rabies control fees, and for other purposes.



Sec. 10-63. - Rabies control officer.

- (a) The rabies control officer shall be the animal control officer or the Dawson County Health Department.
- (b) Duties of the rabies control officer will include:
  - (1) Investigate and maintain a record of animal bites in Dawson County.
  - (2) Provide for proper confinement of an animal involved in a bite; or if the animal is dead or killed, preparation and submission of the head for laboratory examination.
  - (3) Enforce proper disposition of animals exposed to known rabid animals.
  - (4) Provide stray animal pickup service.
  - (5) Assist in rabies immunization clinics.
  - (6) The duties as stated in the rabies control regulations.

Sec. 10-64. - State rabies vaccination tag; Dawson County license tag required for dogs.

- (a) Every dog or cat three months of age or older shall be vaccinated against rabies. Dogs and cats will be revaccinated one year later. When dogs or cats one year of age or older are vaccinated with vaccines accepted by the state, county, or department for providing a three-year duration of immunity, boosters will be required every three years.
- (b) At the time a dog or cat is vaccinated for rabies a Dawson County license form will be filled out by the veterinarian. This form will contain the name of the owner, address, breed, sex and color of each animal and any other descriptive data. The rabies tag will also serve as the Dawson County license tag. The veterinarian will issue each cat or dog owner a copy of the Dawson County License for their dog or cat.
- (c) The license will be initially issued when the animal is vaccinated against rabies and renewed when the animal is revaccinated for rabies or receives a booster shot annually thereof.
- (d) Each license under this code section shall not be transferable from one animal to another or from one owner to another. It shall be unlawful for any person to attach a license/vaccination tag to an animal fur which it was not issued.
- (e) In the event that the owner of an animal receives veterinarian care from an office outside of Dawson County, the owner may supply the required information directly to the animal control officer at the Dawson County Sheriff's Office and obtain their Dawson County License, during normal business hours. In the event that an owner does obtain the license at the sheriff's office, proof that the animal has been vaccinated against rabies must be shown prior to the license being issued.
- (f) The cost of the license if purchased at a veterinarian's office shall be \$1.00 above the cost of the rabies vaccination. If the license is obtained at the Dawson County Marshal's Office, it will be issued at no charge. Each veterinarian's office shall receive \$1.00 from each license sold to defray cost to the veterinarian for providing such service to the county. The cost of the license shall be waived for persons who have seeing-eye dogs or hearing-ear dogs or any other animal used to assist a handicapped person. Any animal used by a law enforcement agency is

also exempt from the cost of the license as is any other animal utilized by a governmental agency.

Sec. 10-65 - Dogs to wear collar, Dawson County identification tag and state vaccination tag; exceptions.

- (a) The wearing of a vaccination/license tag is not required for show dogs where the wearing of such tag could damage the coat, and except dogs when boarded in kennels or veterinary clinics, or in an area zoned for agricultural purposes where the owner or custodian of the dog in question is using the dog for hunting purposes, and has on his/her person a valid hunting license. In the latter case, the owner, custodian or harbinger shall have the tag or vaccination certificate in his/her possession where it may be shown upon demand by any duly constituted authority.
- (b) Any dog being shipped or transported through the county or city, or any dog entering the county or city for the purpose of a temporary stay, when such stay does not exceed 15 days, shall be exempt from the licensing provisions of this article; however, such dogs are subject to the restraint provisions of this article.

Sec. 10-66. - Clinics.

- (a) If deemed necessary by the board, the rabies control officer along with the animal control officer may operate or cause to be operated within Dawson County, a county-sponsored clinic for the vaccination of dogs against rabies.
- (b) Vaccinations will be performed by a veterinarian or under his direct supervision. Payment of services shall be derived from vaccination fees.
- (c) The vaccination fee for such clinics, including the administering and cost of the vaccine, the issuance of certificates and tags, and other necessary expense shall be predetermined by the county board of health at least 15 days in advance of the first clinic appearing on the schedule. Such notice shall include the schedule of each clinic including the day, the hour, the place, and the vaccination fee.

Sec. 10-67. - Reporting.

- (a) The owner or custodian of any animal having signs suggestive of rabies shall confine the animal and immediately notify the animal control officer or the Dawson County Health Department reporting any information regarding any persons bitten or attacked by said animal.
- (b) The animal control officer shall report all known cases of rabies in Dawson County to the department.
- (c) The animal control officer shall report accumulated data relating to rabies in Dawson County to the department when, in his opinion, rabies is prevalent or likely to become prevalent to the extent that quarantine procedures are indicated.

Sec. 10-68. - Report of animal bites or attacks; confinement of biting animals.

- (a) Any person having information that an animal has attacked or bitten a person shall immediately report such to the Dawson County Sheriff's Office or the County Board of Health. Failure to do so constitutes a violation of this article.
- (b) If an animal has bitten a person, such animal shall be immediately confined at a facility so designated by the animal control officer or the county health department. The confinement will commence on the date of the bite and said animal will be segregated in isolation, if available, for a period of ten days. The animal control officer may allow a vaccinated female which is nursing offspring to remain confined on the premises of the owner provided that the animal control officer is permitted daily inspections of the animal during the ten-day period.

Sec. 10-69. - Confinement of dogs or other animals.

- (a) The rabies control officer will maintain enforcement of all regulations pertaining to confinement of dogs or other animals.
- (b) The owner of any dog or other animal as defined in this article shall confine or cause to be confined such dog or animal as herein prescribed:
  - (1) A dog or other animal, whether vaccinated or not, which has bitten a person (or other animal) shall be confined for a period of ten days following the date of the bite.
  - (2) A dog or other animal, whether vaccinated or not, having signs suggestive of rabies shall be confined in isolation until its death or until its freedom from suspicion of having rabies is established and its release is authorized by the director.
  - (3) A dog or other animal not vaccinated and bitten by a known or suspected rabid animal shall be immediately destroyed or if the owner is unwilling to destroy the exposed animal, strict isolation of the animal in an approved kennel for six months shall be enforced. One month prior to release, the dog shall be vaccinated according to prescribed methods.
  - (4) Any dog or other animal, the rabies vaccination of which is current as evidenced by the certificate of vaccination and which is bitten by a known or suspected rabid animal, may be revaccinated, confined in an approved manner for 45 days, and then released if no signs of rabies are evident.
  - (5) Every dog, whether vaccinated or not, shall be kept in a quarantined area confined at the owner's or custodian's premises during the entire quarantine period, unless other provisions suitable to the board are made.
  - (6) Any dog less than three months old may be confined to the owner's premises or kept on a leash; provided, such permission is granted by the rabies control office.

Sec. 10-70. - Confinement area facility.

The area or facility to which any dog or animal is confined in compliance with the provisions of this article shall be subject to the approval of the animal control officer or county board of health. The confinement area or facility may include either a pound, a kennel, an animal hospital, or other place, which provides:

- (1) Construction and management which will keep the animal dry and clean and prevent its escape.
- (2) A method and procedure for the identification of the animal and the recording of the date of its admission to the area or facility.
- (3) Assurance that the animal will have sate and adequate water and food.
- (4) Adequate space for the animal's exercise.
- (5) Protection against excessive heat and cold.
- (6) Space, cages, pens, and other necessary equipment to isolate the animal for its protection against

Secs. 10-71—10-99. - Reserved.

#### ARTICLE IV. - DANGEROUS DOGS AND VICIOUS DOGS

Sec. 10-100. - Definitions.

*Appropriate authority* means Dawson County, the animal control department of Dawson County, the State of Georgia, any city, any county, or any state or subdivision thereof.

*Dangerous dog* means any dog that,

- (1) Causes a substantial puncture of a person's skin by teeth without causing serious injury; provided, however, that a nip, scratch, or abrasion shall not be sufficient to classify a dog as dangerous under this subparagraph;
- (2) Aggressively attacks in a manner that causes a person to reasonably believe that the dog posed an imminent threat of serious injury to such person or another person although no such injury occurs; provided, however, that the acts of barking, growling, or showing of teeth by a dog shall not be sufficient to classify a dog as dangerous under this subparagraph; or
- (3) While off the owner's property, kills a pet animal; provided, however, that this subparagraph shall not apply where the death of such pet animal is caused by a dog that is working or training as a hunting dog, herding dog, or predator control dog;
- (4) A dog that inflicts an injury upon a person when the dog is being used by a law enforcement officer to carry out the law enforcement officer's official duties shall not be a dangerous dog within the meaning of this article. A dog shall not be a dangerous dog within the meaning of this article if the injury inflicted by the dog was sustained by a person who, at the time, was committing willful trespass or other tort or was tormenting, abusing, or assaulting the dog, or had in the past been observed or reported to have tormented, abused, or assaulted the dog, or was committing or attempting to commit a crime.

*Owner* means any person owning, possessing, harboring, keeping, or having custody or control of dangerous dog or vicious dog within the county or a municipality within the county.

*Proper enclosure* means an enclosure for keeping a dangerous dog or vicious dog while on the owner's property securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen, fence, or structure suitable to prevent the entry of young children and designed to prevent the dog from escaping. Any such pen or structure shall have secure sides and a secure top, and if the dog is enclosed within a fence, all sides of the fence shall be of sufficient height, and the bottom of the fence shall be constructed or secured in such a manner, as to prevent the dog's escape either from over or from under the fence. Any such enclosure shall also provide protection from the elements for the dog.

*Serious injury* means any physical injury that creates a substantial risk of death; results in death, broken or dislocated bones, lacerations requiring multiple sutures, or disfiguring avulsions; requires plastic surgery or admission to a hospital; or results in protracted impairment of health, including transmission of an infection or contagious disease, or impairment of the function of any bodily organ.

*Vicious dog* means a dog that inflicts serious injury on a person or causes serious injury to a person resulting from reasonable attempts to escape from the dog's attack.

Sec. 10-101. - Violations and penalties.

- (a) The owner of a vicious dog who violates the applicable provisions of this article or whose vicious dog is subject to confiscation under this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of high and aggravated nature. In addition to any confinement and fine that might be imposed for a conviction under this article, for the second conviction, a fine of not less than \$750.00 shall be imposed and for a third and subsequent conviction, a fine of not less than \$1,000.00 shall be imposed.
- (b) The owner of a dangerous dog who violates the applicable provisions of this article, or whose dangerous dog is subject to confiscation under this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. In addition to any confinement and fine that might be imposed for a conviction under this article, for a second conviction, a fine of not less than \$500.00 shall be imposed, and for a third or subsequent conviction, a fine of not less than \$750.00 shall be imposed.
- (c) In addition to the penalties for violation of this article, the dangerous or vicious dog involved shall be immediately confiscated by the animal control officer or by a law enforcement officer or another person authorized by the animal control officer and placed in quarantine for the proper length of time as determined by the county board of health and, thereafter, the dangerous or vicious dog shall be destroyed in an expeditious and humane manner.
- (d) No owner of a dangerous dog shall be held criminally liable under this article for injuries inflicted by said owner's dog to any human being while on the owner's property so long as all the requirements of the chapter are met.
- (e) Persons violating this division are subject to prosecution under O.C.G.A. § 4-8-32.

Sec. 10-102. - Liability of county; liability of owner.

The owner of a dangerous dog or vicious dog shall be solely liable for any injury to, or death of a person caused by such dog. Pursuant to state law, under no circumstances shall the county, a municipality within the county or an employee or official of a local government which enforces or

fails to enforce the provisions of this article be held liable for any damages to any person who suffers an injury inflicted by a dog that has been identified as being a dangerous dog or vicious dog, or by a dog that has been reported to the proper authorities as being a dangerous dog or vicious dog, or by a dog that a local government has failed to identify as a dangerous dog or vicious dog, or by a dog that has been identified as being a dangerous dog or vicious dog but has not been kept or restrained in the manner described in this article, or by a dangerous dog or vicious dog whose owner has not maintained insurance coverage or a surety bond as required in this article.

Sec. 10-103. - Investigations by animal control officer.

Upon receiving a report of a dangerous dog or vicious dog within a dog control officer's jurisdiction from law enforcement agency, an animal control agency, a rabies control officer or the county board of health, the animal control officer shall make such investigations and inquiries with regard to such report as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this article.

Sec. 10-104. - Notice of classification as dangerous dog or vicious dog.

When an animal control officer classifies a dog as a dangerous dog, or vicious dog, the animal control officer shall notify the dog's owner in writing by certified mail to the owner's last known address of such classification or reclassification. Such notice shall be complete upon its mailing.

Sec. 10-105. - Procedures for classification as dangerous dogs or vicious dogs.

- (a) *Applicability for enforcement purposes.* Any irregularity in classification proceedings shall not be a defense to any prosecution under this article so long as the owner of the dog received actual notice of the classification and did not pursue a civil remedy for the correction of the irregularity.
- (b) If the dog poses an immediate threat to public safety, the dog shall be immediately impounded and kept at the animal shelter until an appropriate hearing to determine where the dog will be kept. Any refusal by the owner to allow the impoundment of a dog deemed by the animal services division to be an immediate threat to public safety under this section shall constitute a violation of this section.
- (c) If impounding of the dog is not possible and/or the dog owner has taken immediate action to ensure the dog cannot pose a public threat and has proven he can properly contain the dog, the animal services division may allow the dog to remain with the dog owner with specific directions to contain the dog, as determined in the sole discretion of the animal services officer.
- (d) *Contents of notice of classification.* The notice to the owner shall meet the following requirements:
  - (1) The notice shall be in writing and shall be mailed by certified mail to the owner's last known address;
  - (2) The notice shall include a summary of the animal control officer's findings that form the basis for the dog's classification as a dangerous or vicious dog;

- (3) The notice shall be, and shall state that the owners, within 15 days after the date shown on the notice have a right to request a hearing on the animal control officer's determination that the dog is a dangerous dog or a vicious dog;
  - (4) The notice shall state that the hearing, if requested, shall be before the county animal control board;
  - (5) The notice shall state that if a hearing is not requested, the animal control officer's determination that the dog is a dangerous dog or vicious dog will become effective for all purposes under this article on a date specified in the notice, which shall be on the last day on which the owner has a right to request a hearing; and
  - (6) The notice shall include a form to request a hearing before the applicable agency and shall provide specific instructions on mailing or delivering such a request to the Dawson County Health Board/Animal Control Board.
- (e) *Hearing.* When the county health board/animal control board receives a request for a hearing as provided herein, it shall schedule such hearing within 30 days after receiving the request. The county health board/animal control board shall notify the dog owner in writing, by certified mail, of the date, time and place of the hearing, and such notice shall be mailed to the dog owner at least ten days prior to the date of the hearing. At the hearing, the owner of the dog shall be given the opportunity to testify and present evidence, and in addition thereto the county health board/animal control board shall receive such other evidence and hear such other testimony as the board may find reasonably necessary to make a determination to either sustain, modify, or overrule the animal control officer's classification of the dog.
- (f) Notice of determination by county health board/animal control board. Within ten days after the date of the hearing, the county health board/animal control board shall notify the dog owner in writing, by certified mail, of its determination on the matter. If such determination is that the dog is a dangerous dog or vicious dog, the notice shall specify the date upon which that determination is effective.
- (g) Judicial review of the county health board/animal control board's final decision may be had in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-19. Written notification of such an appeal shall be given immediately to the county health board/animal control board.

Sec. 10-106. - Requirements for possessing dangerous or vicious dogs.

- (a) It is unlawful for an owner to have or possess within the county a dangerous dog or vicious dog without a certificate of registration issued in accordance with the provisions of this section.
- (b) Subject to the additional requirements of this sections for vicious dogs, the animal control officer, where an owner possesses a dangerous dog or vicious dog, shall issue a certificate of registration to the owner of such dog if the owner presents to the animal control officer or he/she otherwise finds sufficient evidence of:
  - (1) Proper enclosure to confine the dangerous dog or vicious dog; and
  - (2) The posting of the premises where the dangerous dog or vicious dog, respectively, is located with a clearly visible sign warning that there is a dangerous dog or vicious dog

on the property and containing a symbol designed to inform children of the presence of a dangerous dog or vicious dog. The sign shall comply with regulations of the state department of natural resources as required pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 4-8-27.

- (c) In addition to the requirements of subsection (b) of this Code section, the owner of a vicious dog shall present to the animal control officer evidence of:
  - (1) A policy of insurance in the amount of at least \$50,000.00 issued by an insurer authorized to transact business in this state insuring the owner of the vicious dog against liability for any personal injuries inflicted by the vicious dog; or
  - (2) A surety bond in the amount of \$50,000.00 or more issued by a surety company authorized to transact business in this state payable to any person or persons injured by the vicious dog; and
  - (3) A microchip containing an identification number and capable of being scanned has been injected under the skin between the shoulder blades of the dog.
- (d) The owner of a dangerous dog or vicious dog shall notify the animal control officer immediately, if the dog is on the loose, is unconfined, has attacked a human, has died, or has been sold or donated. If the dog has been sold or donated, the owner shall also provide the animal control officer with the name, address, and telephone number of the new owner of the dog.
- (e) The owner of a dangerous dog or vicious dog shall notify the animal control officer if the owner is moving out of the county. The owner of a dangerous dog or vicious dog who is a new resident of the state and the county, or who moves from another jurisdiction to the county, shall register the dog as required in this section within ten days after becoming a resident.
- (f) Issuance of a certificate of registration or renewal of a certificate of registration by the animal control officer in the county does not warrant or guarantee that the requirements specified above are maintained by the owner of a dangerous dog or vicious dog on a continuous basis following the date of the issuance of the initial certificate of registration or following the date of any annual renewal of such certificate.
- (g) An animal control officer is authorized to make whatever inquiry is deemed necessary to ensure compliance with the provisions of this article. Pursuant to state law, law enforcement agencies, including those of the county and the municipalities within the county, will cooperate with animal control officers in enforcing the provisions of this chapter ordinance.
- (h) The county will charge an annual fee of \$100.00 in addition to any regular dog licensing fees to register dangerous dogs and vicious dogs as required in this article. Certificates of registration shall be renewed on an annual basis. At the time of the annual renewal of a certificate of registration, an animal control officer shall require evidence from the owner or make such investigation as shall be necessary to verify that the dangerous dog or vicious dog is continuing to be confined in a proper enclosure and that the owner is continuing to comply with other provisions of this ordinance.

Sec. 10-107. - Restrictions on permitting classified dogs to be outside a proper enclosure.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for an owner of a dangerous dog to permit the dog to be off the owner's property unless:



- (1)The dog is restrained by a leash not to exceed six feet in length and is under the immediate physical control of a person capable of preventing the dog from engaging any other human or animal when necessary; or
  - (2)The dog is contained in a closed and locked cage or crate.
  - (3)The dog is working or training as a hunting dog, herding dog, or predator control dog.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for an owner of a vicious dog to permit the dog to be:
- (1)Outside an enclosure designed to securely confine the vicious dog while on the owner's property or outside a securely locked and enclosed pen, fence, or other structure suitable to prevent the vicious dog from leaving such property unless:
    - a. The dog is muzzled and restrained by a leash not to exceed six feet in length and is under the immediate physical control of a person capable of preventing the dog from engaging any other human or animal when necessary; or
    - b. The dog is contained in a closed and locked cage or crate; or
  - (2)Unattended with minors.
- (c) No person shall be the owner of more than one vicious dog.
- (d) No more than one certificate of registration shall be issued per domicile.

Sec. 10-108. - Confiscation of dogs.

- (a) A dangerous dog shall be immediately confiscated by an animal control officer or by a law enforcement officer or by another person authorized by the animal control officer if:
  - (1) The owner of the dog does not secure liability insurance or bond required by this article;
  - (2) The dog is not validly reregistered as required by this article;
  - (3) The dog is not maintained in a proper enclosure; or
  - (4) The dog is outside a proper enclosure in violation of this article.
- (b) A vicious dog shall be confiscated in the same manner as a dangerous dog, if the dog is:
  - (1) Not validly registered as required by this article;
  - (2) Not maintained in a proper enclosure; or
  - (3) Outside a proper enclosure in violation of this article.
- (c) Any dog that has been confiscated under the provisions of this article shall be returned to its owner upon the owner's compliance with the provisions of this article and upon the payment of reasonable confiscation and impound costs. Such costs shall be set by the board of commissioners based upon a report from the animal control officer on the actual cost of confiscation. In the event the owner has not complied with the provisions of this article within 20 days of the date the dog was confiscated, said dog shall be destroyed in an expeditious and humane manner.

Sec. 10-109. – Penalties for violation.

Unless otherwise specified in this chapter, any person violating this chapter may be deemed guilty of violating a county ordinance and may be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00, by imprisonment in the county jail for a period of time not to exceed 60 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment, or up to the limits of any penalty provided by state law for the ordinance. Each act or omission in violation of this chapter shall constitute a separate offense. Each day that such violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense. In addition to any other penalties allowed by law, the court, as part of the sentence, may prohibit the offender from owning, possessing, or having on the offender's premises in the county any animal during the term of the sentence, may order for the animal to be removed from the county or humanely euthanized, and may order restitution.

Sec. 10-110. – Applicability of provisions.

Any dog classified prior to the adoption of this ordinance as a potentially dangerous dog in this state shall on and after that date be classified as a dangerous dog under this article. Any dog classified prior to the adoption of this ordinance as a dangerous dog or vicious dog in this state shall on and after that date be classified as a vicious dog under this article. The owner of any dog referred to in this section shall come into compliance with all current provisions of this article by July 1, 2021.

**AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR THE REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS AND ISSUANCE OF PERMITS RELATED TO BROADBAND NETWORK PROJECTS; TO CREATE A NEW CHAPTER IN THE DAWSON COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the State of Georgia, approved by the voters of the State in November of 1982, and effective July 1, 1983, provides in Article IX, Section II, Paragraph I thereof, that the governing authority of the county may adopt clearly reasonable ordinances, resolutions and regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, O.C.G.A. §36-1-20 authorizes counties to enact ordinances for protecting and preserving the public health, safety, and welfare of the population of the unincorporated areas of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-40-41, the County shall not be certified as a broadband ready community unless the County enacts a specific ordinance for reviewing applications and issuing permits related to broadband network projects; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 50-40-41(a)(1), the County hereby appoints the Director of the County’s Public Works Department as the single point of contact within the County to administer all matters related to a broadband network project; and

**WHEREAS**, the governing authority of Dawson County, to wit, the Board of Commissioners, desires that the County attain certification as a broadband ready community and desires to exercise its authority in adopting this Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-80-19(c), County ordinances shall be printed in substantially the same style as the code currently in effect in Dawson County and such ordinances shall be suitable in form for incorporation therein; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners desires that the procedures established herein shall be codified in the County’s Code of Ordinances under a new Chapter 31 to be titled “Broadband Network Projects”; and

**WHEREAS**, the County acknowledges that a Georgia Certified Broadband Ready Community has an affirmative duty to notify the Georgia Department of Community Affairs of any changes to the information submitted as part of its application, and that failure to notify the Georgia Department of Community Affairs of changes may result in revocation of the County’s Broadband Ready Community Certification, should such certification be granted to the County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Dawson County, Georgia, and it is hereby enacted pursuant to the authority of same as follows:

**1. Ordinance**

The County hereby enacts the Broadband Network Projects Ordinance to be codified in a new Chapter 31 (Broadband Network Projects) of the Dawson County Code of Ordinances as provided in Exhibit A, attached hereto and by this reference incorporated herein.

**2. Severability**

It is the express intent of the Dawson County Board of Commissioners that this Ordinance be consistent with both federal and State law. If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Ordinance which may be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared severable.

**3. Effective Date**

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage.

SO ORDAINED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

**DAWSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Billy Thurmond, Chairman

Attest:

[COUNTY SEAL]

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kristen Cloud, County Clerk

Vote: Yes: \_\_\_\_\_  
No: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Public Hearings: \_\_\_\_\_, 2021  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2021

**EXHIBIT A**

**DAWSON COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES**

**CHAPTER 31 – BROADBAND NETWORK PROJECTS**

**Sec. 31-1. - Definitions.** As used in this Chapter, the following terms are defined as follows:

- (a) *Applicant* means a person applying for a permit for a broadband network project.
- (b) *Broadband network project* means any deployment of broadband services.
- (c) *County* means Dawson County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia.
- (d) *Permit* means any local permit, license, certificate approval, registration, or similar form of approval required by policy, administrative rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution with respect to a broadband network project.

**Sec. 31-2. - Single Point of Contact.** The County shall appoint a single point of contact for all matters related to a broadband network project within the unincorporated areas of Dawson County, Georgia.

- (a) The single point of contact documentation shall include, but is not limited to:
  - 1) Full Name,
  - 2) Position or Title within the County organization,
  - 3) Department within the County organization,
  - 4) Physical address within the County organization where broadband network project information is provided and processed,
  - 5) Telephone contact information (business and cell numbers, as applicable),
  - 6) Email contact information, and
  - 7) Website/URL address providing County contact and broadband network project information.
- (b) The single point of contact shall be available for matters related to a broadband network project or a related liaison who may direct such inquiry in real time, with general scope and responsibilities to include permitting and right-of-way access; and

- (c) The single point of contact information shall remain current and any changes to such contact information shall be updated on the County's dedicated web pages and associated sources within 15 calendar days of such change.

**Sec. 31-3. - Application Completeness Review.**

- (a) The County shall determine whether an application is incomplete and notify the applicant, by email, of the County's determination within 10 calendar days of receiving an application.
- (b) If the County does not respond to the applicant on whether the application is incomplete, within 10 calendar days, the application shall be assumed to be complete on the 11th day.

**Sec. 31-4. - Notification of Incomplete Application.**

- (a) If the County determines that an application is not complete, the notification by email to the applicant shall specify all required components of the submitted application that were considered 'incomplete.'
- (b) The County's response shall include a checklist of sequenced items that resulted in the application being deemed 'incomplete' and the review timeline shall be as follows:
  - 1) The applicant has up to 40 calendar days from the date of notification of incompleteness to respond back with corrections; and
  - 2) If the applicant does not respond back within 40 calendar days, the application is deemed canceled.
- (c) If within 10 calendar days the County does not respond to the applicant on whether the corrected application is incomplete, the application shall be assumed to be complete on the 11th day.
- (d) The County shall require a new submission and reset the process and application fees, should an application be deemed incomplete a second time.

**Sec. 31-5. - Approval or Denial Notification.** If, on or before the 11<sup>th</sup> day as described in 2 (b), an application is deemed complete, the County shall approve or deny the application within 10 calendar days unless a joint meeting between the applicant and the County is deemed necessary.

- (a) If a joint meeting is deemed necessary, the joint meeting shall occur within 15 calendar days of notification of completion and the joint meeting shall include:

- 1) Where the applicant is going to conduct work,
  - 2) When the work will be conducted,
  - 3) What type of work will be done,
  - 4) Who the County can contact for specific details or related questions, and
  - 5) Any permit seeking approval under application.
- (b) Following a joint meeting between the applicant and the County, the County shall deny or approve the application within 10 calendar days.
- (c) Upon final approval, any required permit shall be deemed issued.

**Sec. 31-6. - Related Fees.**

- (a) Any fee imposed by the County to review an application, issue a permit, or perform any other activity related to a broadband network project shall be reasonable, cost based, and nondiscriminatory to all applicants.
- (b) Any application fee that exceeds \$100.00 shall be considered unreasonable unless the County can provide documentation justifying such fee based on a specific cost.

**Sec. 31-7. - Other Information.**

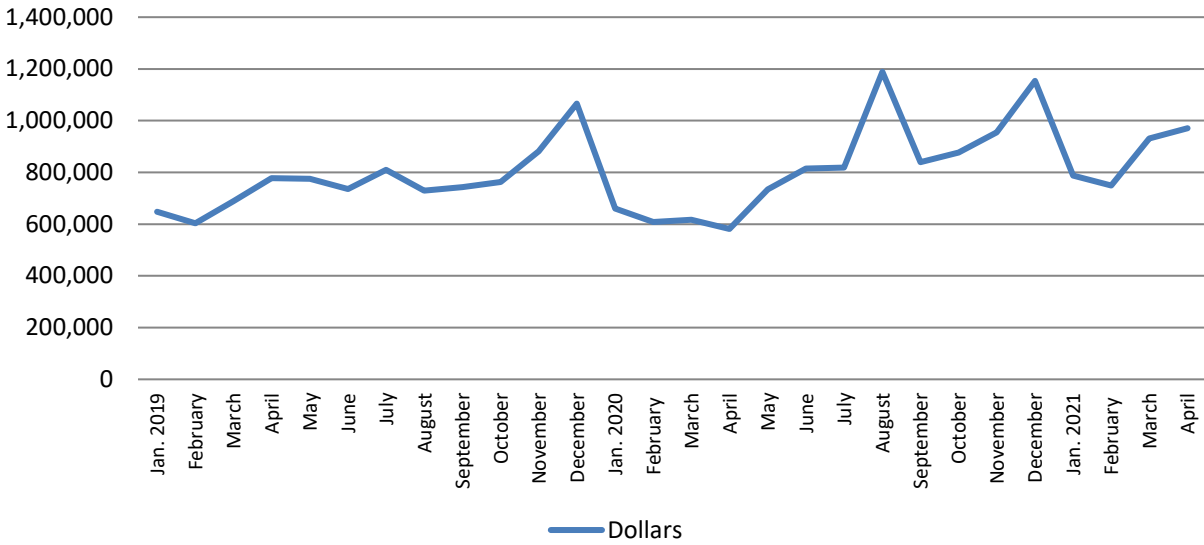
- (a) **Double Fee:** The County shall not require an application or permit(s) when already approved by an authorized state or federal jurisdiction. Provider shall notify and provide a copy of the approved permit to the County's single-point-of-contact prior to access of right-of-way within the County's jurisdiction.
- (b) **Application Validity Timeline:** Any approved application shall be valid for six (6) months from the date of approval. Should a provider not commence the service request qualified in the approved application within six (6) months, the permit shall expire, and it shall require a new permit approval and any associated fees, as applicable.
- (c) **Single Service Drop:** The County does not require a permit for a broadband service provider to perform an installation of broadband service at an individual customer's service address as long as the facility being utilized only transverses a *de minimis* portion of the public right-of-way to reach the customer's property. The provider must still comply with the provisions of Chapter 9 of Title 25 of the O.C.G.A.



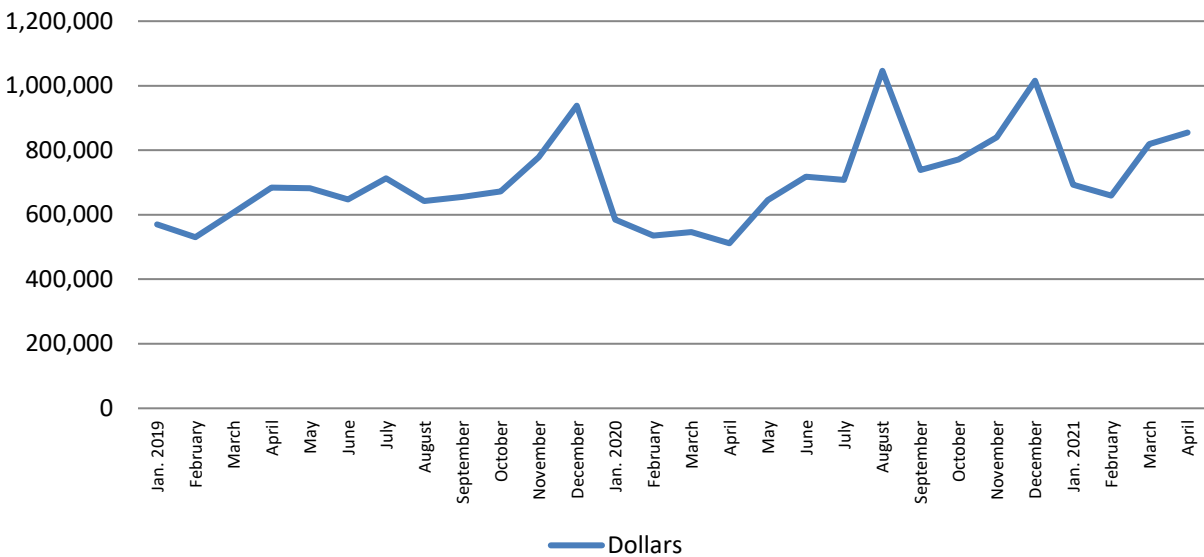
Key Indicator Report  
May 2021



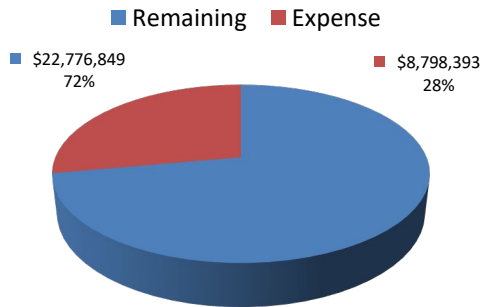
### SPLOST VI COLLECTION CHART



### LOST COLLECTION CHART

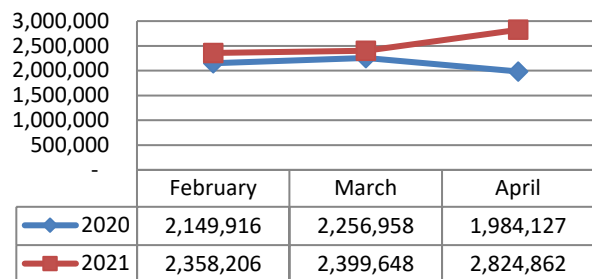


### Budget

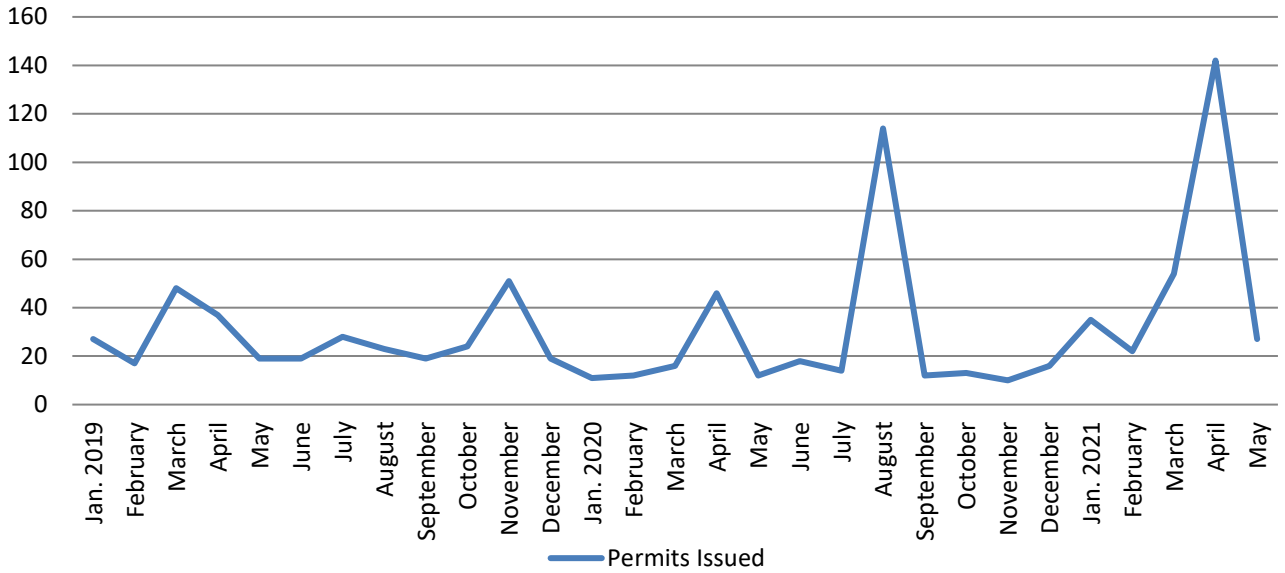


Through 04/30/2021

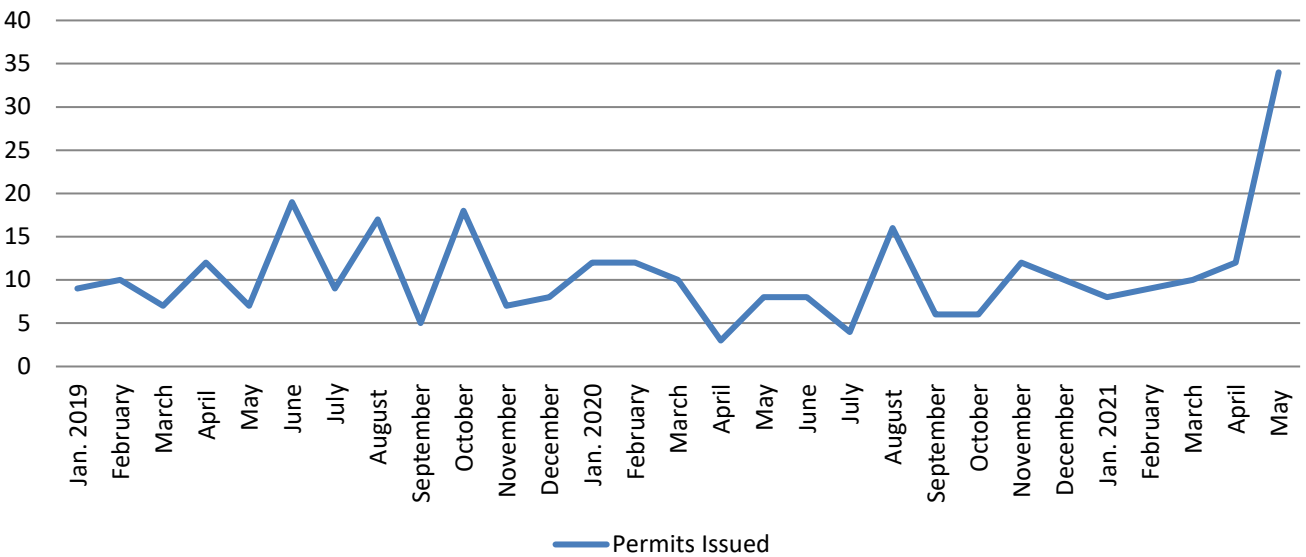
### All Revenue Per Month



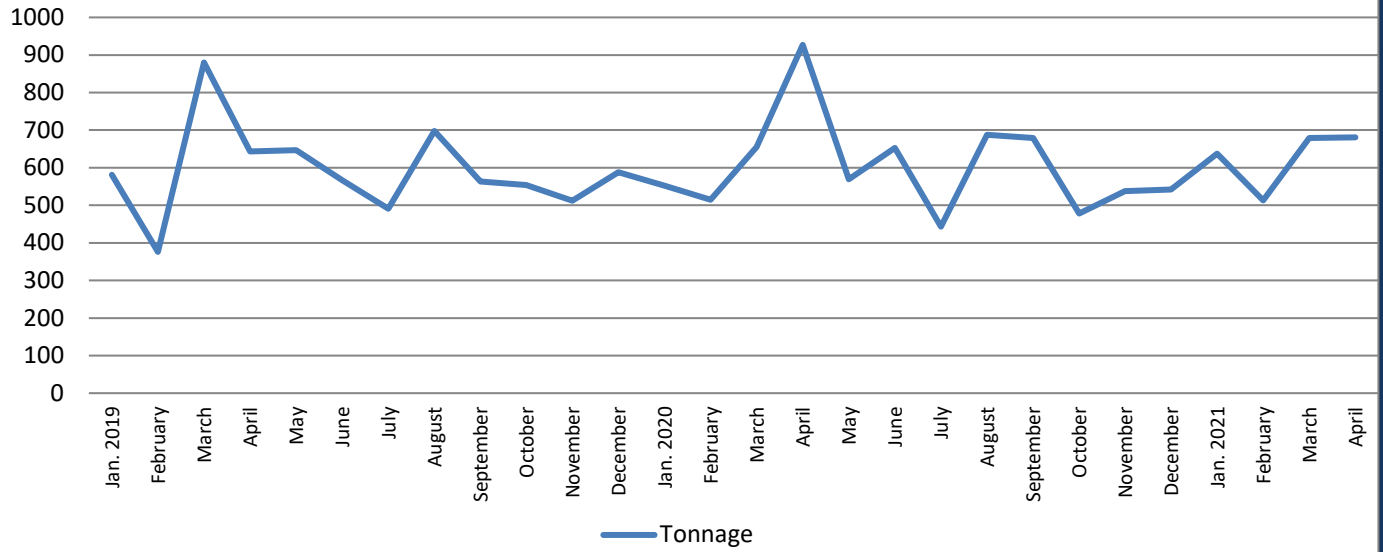
### SINGLE-FAMILY HOME BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED



### COMMERCIAL BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

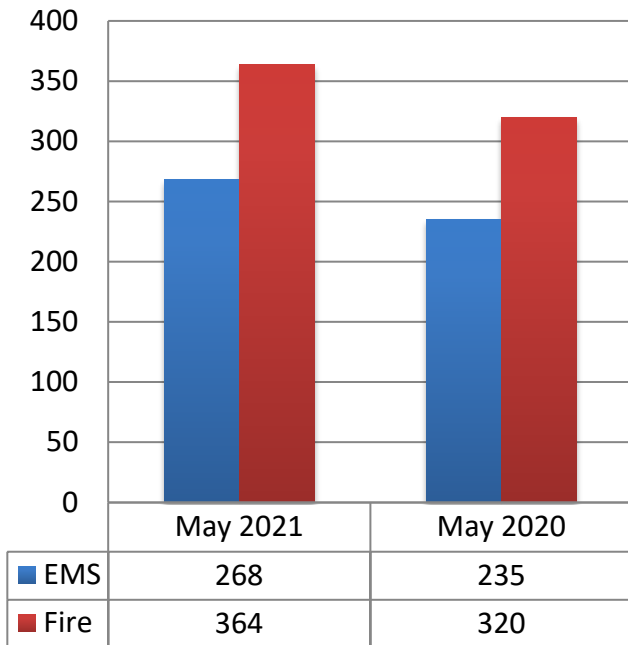


### TRANSFER STATION TONNAGE COLLECTION

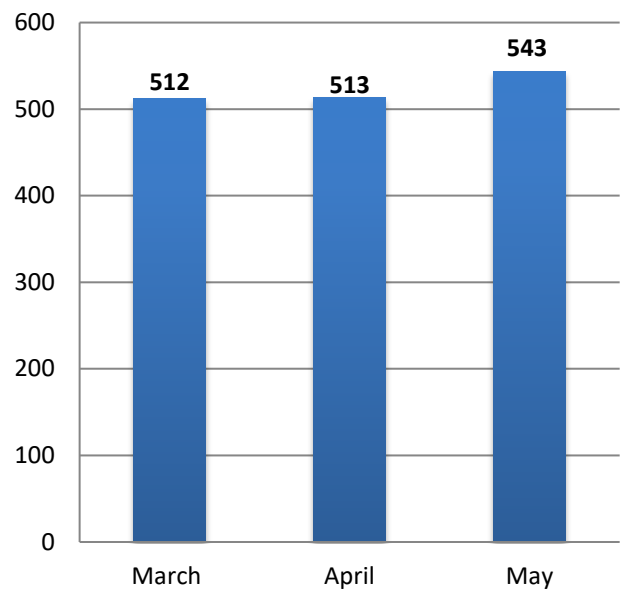


*Transfer Station numbers unavailable for May; see Public Works report.*

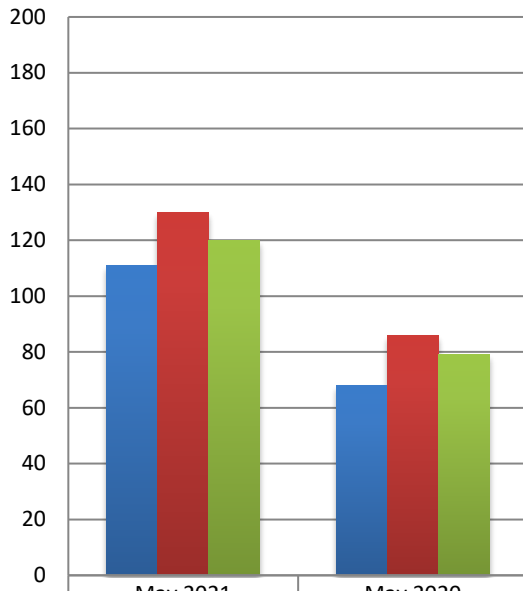
### EMS/Fire Calls for Service



### Number of County Employees



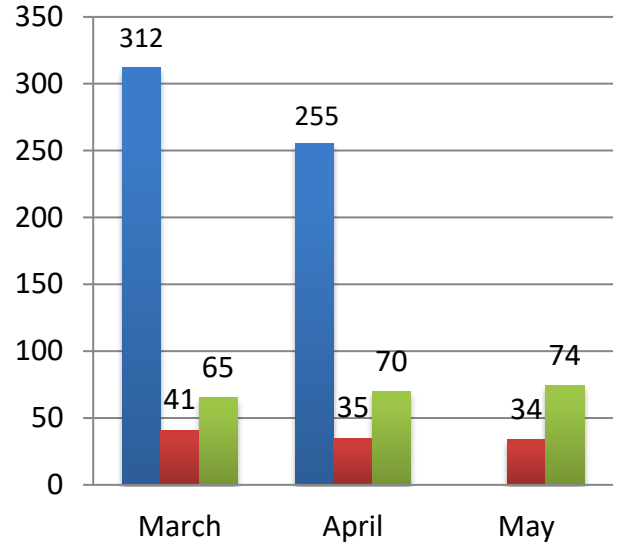
**Inmate Population**



Lowest Daily Count	111	68
Highest Daily Count	130	86
Daily Average	120	79

**Repair Requests**

■ Roads ■ Facilities ■ Fleet



*Roads numbers unavailable for May; see Public Works report.*



## Dawson County Board of Commissioners

### Elections/Registrar Monthly Report – May 2021

- **New Applications/Transfers In: 141**
- **Changes/Duplicates: 59**
- **Cancelled/Transferred Out: 136**
- **Total Processed: 336**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Voter Registration Projects:**

- Office's cleaned and prepared for filling of open positions due to restructure.
- 2020 backlog of voter registration entry, scanning & filing complete and up to date.
- SOP and training materials being updated in preparation for new employees.

#### **Elections Projects:**

➤ 2021 Election Calendar (remaining):

- Municipal General Election  
- Qualifying dates for two city council seats  
- Voter registration cutoff  
- Advance Voting
- |                               |
|-------------------------------|
| November 2, 2021              |
| August 16-19 8:30-4:30 daily. |
| October 5, 2021               |
| October 12-29, 2021 8a-5p M-F |
- Finalizing/updating November Municipal General Election task list with the new election bill changes.
  - Following SB 202 Omnibus Election Law; interpreting and implementing necessary changes.
  - Election Coordinator setting up office and deferring job duties respectively to each new restructured position.
  - Continual clean up and equipment storage restructure.

#### **Highlights of plans for upcoming month:**

- Municipal candidate qualifying packets complete and ready for distribution (electronic)
- Continuing to dissect, analyze and implement the passing of SB 202 Omnibus Election bill and how it will affect costs, impact and the restructure of duties within our office.
- Interview and fill open positions within the department.
- Board of Elections & Registration monthly meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at 96 Academy Avenue.



## Dawson County Board of Commissioners

### Dawson County Emergency Services Monthly Report – May 2021

Fire Responses	MAR	APR	MAY		EMS Responses	MAR	APR	MAY		EMS Revenue		
2019	306	292	341		2019	250	230	260		2020	MAY	\$38,499.63
2020	287	272	320		2020	208	195	235		2021	MAY	\$45,338.45
2021	359	351	364		2021	240	280	268		17.76% increase from last year		

Plan Review and Inspection Revenue Total		Business Inspections Total	
		Final Inspections	Annual & Follow Up Inspections
County	\$4350.00	13	107
City	\$300.00	1	9

HIGHLIGHTS: Dawson County Emergency Services Projects			
Training Hours Completed by Staff	1,224.25 hours	Fire Investigations	2
PR Detail	1 (300 kids)	CPR Training per Individual	1
Smoke Detector Installations	0	Stop the Bleed Training per Individual	15
Search & Rescue	0	Child Safety Seat Installations	1
Swift Water /Water Rescue	0	Plan Reviews	12

Types of Fires Total – 11			
(11) 111-118: Structure Fire Building, Cooking, Chimney- Flue, Incinerator, Fuel Burner-Boiler	2	(14) 141-143: Natural Vegetation Fire Forest, Woods, Wildland, Brush, Grass	3
(12) 121-123: Fire in Mobile but Fixed Structure Mobile Home, Motor Home, RV, Camper, Portable Building	2	(15) 151-155: Outside Rubbish Fire Rubbish, Trash, Waste, Dump, Landfills, Dumpsters	2
(13) 131-138: Mobile/Vehicle Property Fire Passenger, Road Freight, Transport, Rail, Water Vehicles, Aircraft, Campers/RV, Off Road Vehicles, Heavy Equipment	2	(16) 161-164: Special Outside Fire Storage, Equipment, Gas/Vapor, Mailbox	0

Total Water Usage – 6,250 gallons			
Etowah Water	6,250 gallons	Pickens County	0 gallons
City of Dawsonville	0 gallons	Big Canoe	0 gallons
Forsyth County	0 gallons	Other	0 gallons



## Dawson County Board of Commissioners

### Facilities Monthly Report –May 2021

- **Total Work Orders: 34**
- **Community Service Workers: 2**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- \*Working on issues with A/C unit C at Rock Creek Park Gym
- \*Painted 9 offices in the front of Fire Station #2
- \*Had carpet install in the 9 offices in the front of Fire Station #2



# DAWSON COUNTY, GA

Where Quality of Life Matters

## FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

### MONTHLY REPORT

For Period Covering the Month of May 2021

SN	TASKS/ WORK DONE	LOCATION/S of Service
1	Working on issues with A/C unit C	Rock Creek Gym
2	Removed dead tree	Chappell Building
3	Had PM on HVAC units at Gov Center & Coils cleaned	Gov Center
4	Had A/C unit repaired 2 times	New Senior Center
5	Repaired wiring	Transfer Station
6	Repaired water leak	KH Long Building
7	Cameras installed	KH Long Building
8	Painted 9 offices in the front of Fire Station #2	Fire Station #2
9	Trimmed shrubs	Library
10	Working on major A/D issues	Rock Creek/Fire Station #2
11	Met with on Park on Splost #6 Projects	Splost/Parks
12	Hired new Building Maintenance Mechanic	Facilities
13	Had carpet install in the 9 offices in the front of Fire Station #2	Fire Station #2
14	Installed tree and shrubs	New Fleet Shop
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		
26	Total Work Orders for the month = 34	Facilities
27	Total Community Service for the month = 2	Facilities

**These numbers do not reflect daily/ weekly routine duties to include:**

- Cutting of grass and landscape maintenance on all county properties
- Cutting of grass and landscape maintenance on all five (5) parks on the west side of county
- Cleaning of the new government center and other county owned buildings, offices and facilities
- Emptying outside trash receptacles at county owned buildings
- Collecting and recycling of all county buildings, offices and facilities



# Dawson County Board of Commissioners

Finance Monthly Report – May 2021

## FINANCE HIGHLIGHTS

- **LOST Collections:** \$854,327 – up 67.01% compared to 2020
- **SPLOST Collections:** \$970,671 – up 66.97% compared to 2020; Total SPLOST VI projection of \$46 million reached in 2020; Total SPLOST VI collections: \$49,745,560
  - \$825,071– County Portion (85%)
  - \$145,600– City Portion (15%)
- **TAVT:** \$218,835 – up 111.8% compared to 2020
- **See attached Revenue and Expenditure Comparison for 2021**
- **Total County Debt:** \$2,467,813 (See attached Debt Summary)
- **Audit Status:** 2020 audit in process
- **EMS Billing Collections:** \$54,846 for April 2021; \$231,454 YTD
- **Budget Status:** FY 2022 Budget Kickoff Meeting to occur in June 2021
- **Monthly Donations/Budget Increases:** \$340,272
  - Paramedic 15% Salary Increase - \$237,412
  - Paramedic Med Unit Incentive Pay Increase - \$76,000
  - Paramedic Education Incentive - \$20,000
  - Passport Fees - \$4,480
  - Donations - \$2,380

## PURCHASING HIGHLIGHTS

### Formal Solicitations

- Road Rehabilitation Project – Public Works
- On-Call Traffic Study Engineering Services – Public Works
- Single Restroom Addition at Splash Pad
- Artificial Turf at Rock Creek Park
- Batting Cage at Veterans Park

### Informal Solicitations

- None

### Quotes for less than \$25,000 this month

- Gasoline – Fleet Maintenance
- Diesel – Fleet Maintenance
- Football Uniforms – Park & Rec
- Football Helmets – Park & Rec
- Replace Carpet at Fire Station 2 – Facilities
- HVAC Replacement at Rock Creek – Facilities
- Chain Link Fence at Rock Creek – Park & Rec
- Gear Washer & Dryer – Emergency Services

### Purchase for less than \$25,000 that did not receive required quotes

- None

### Pending Projects

- Unified Solution for Inmate Communication
- Awaiting Delivery of New Vehicles
- Comprehensive Upgrade of Security System
- Painting & Floor Replacement at Rock Creek Park Gym

### Work in Progress

- Land Use Resolution Update
- 400 Overlay Update
- 53 Overlay
- Energov Update
- Inmate Banking/Commissary

### Future Bids

- Install Soil Vapor Extraction System at Closed Landfill
- Security Maintenance at Dawson County Government Center & Sheriff's Office
- Radio System Upgrade Consultant

### Future Bids – SPLOST VI

- Pothole Patching Machine – Roads
- Water Filtration System for DCGC & DCSO – Facilities
- 2021 Capital & SPLOST Projects

### Purchase for more than \$25,000 that did not receive required sealed bids

- None

### Budget to Actual

	Actual at 4/30/2021	Percent of Budget Actually Collected/ Expended	2021 BOC (2) Approved Budget	Over(Under) Approved Budget	Percentage Over(Under) Approved Budget
Revenue	\$ 8,823,806	27.95%	\$ 31,575,242	\$ (22,751,436)	-72.05%
Expenditures	8,798,393	27.86%	31,575,242	(22,776,849)	-72.14%
	<u>\$ 25,413</u>	<u>0.08%</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 25,413</u>	<u>0.08%</u>

**\*NOTE:** Adjustments will be made during the year-end close out. The actual revenue and expenditure totals are subject to change pending normal year-end adjustments such as accruals and results of the audit.

(1) Reporting actuals as of 4/30/2021 because revenue collections are 30 days behind. The LOST revenues for the month of April 2021 were received in May 2021.

(2) Change in total budget due to account adjustments:

\$ 30,788,031	Original Budget
\$ 151,209	Carryover Balances
\$ 1,941	January
\$ 44,412	February
\$ 249,377	March
\$ 340,272	April
	May
	June
	July
	August
	September
	October
	November
	December
<u>\$ 31,575,242</u>	Revised Budget

**ACTUAL COMPARISON  
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2021**

MONTH	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec*	YTD
2020 REVENUE	1,270,151	2,149,916	2,256,958	1,984,127	2,046,586	2,284,093	2,423,070	2,467,239	2,841,996	6,357,842	2,624,293	4,138,047	32,844,319
2021 REVENUE	1,241,090	2,358,206	2,399,648	2,824,862									8,823,806
<b>% CHANGE</b>	<b>-2%</b>												<b>-73%</b>
2020 EXPENSE	1,891,343	3,111,473	2,310,296	1,947,487	1,975,746	2,299,611	2,239,179	1,380,393	2,517,171	3,109,636	2,113,825	3,386,130	28,282,290
2021 EXPENSE	1,977,515	2,033,313	2,512,686	2,274,878									8,798,393
<b>%CHANGE</b>	<b>5%</b>												<b>-69%</b>
<b>2021 Total Rev-Exp</b>	<b>\$ (736,425)</b>	<b>\$ 324,892</b>	<b>\$ (113,038)</b>	<b>\$ 549,984</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 25,413</b>

**REVENUE**  
YTD 2020 7,661,152  
YTD 2021 8,823,806  
% Changed 15.18%

**EXPEDITURES**  
YTD 2020 9,260,599  
YTD 2021 8,798,393  
% Changed -4.99%

\*NOTE: Adjustments will be made during the year-end close out. The actual revenue and expenditure totals are subject to change pending normal year-end adjustments such as accruals and results of the audit.

**DAWSON COUNTY LOST COLLECTION ANALYSIS**

LOST COLLECTIONS BY SALES MONTH	2020									2021								
	2020 LOST	\$ CHANGE	%CHANGE	TAVT	TAVT \$ CHANGE	TAVT % CHANGE	TOTAL OF LOST & TAVT	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE	2021 LOST	\$ CHANGE	%CHANGE	TAVT	TAVT \$ CHANGE	TAVT % CHANGE	TOTAL OF LOST & TAVT	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
JANUARY	585,076	14,660	2.57%	197,780	77,111	63.9%	782,856	91,771	13.28%	693,527	108,451	18.54%	190,308	(7,472)	-3.8%	883,834	100,979	12.90%
FEBRUARY	535,152	4,785	0.9%	162,878	66,319	68.7%	698,029	71,104	11.3%	669,451	124,300	23.23%	181,007	18,129	11.1%	840,458	142,429	20.40%
MARCH	546,172	(61,078)	-10.1%	163,568	57,003	53.5%	709,740	(4,076)	-0.6%	819,160	272,988	49.98%	246,536	82,968	50.7%	1,065,696	355,956	50.15%
APRIL	511,547	(172,733)	-25.2%	103,305	(56,401)	-35.3%	614,852	(229,134)	-27.1%	854,327	342,780	67.01%	218,835	115,530	111.8%	1,073,162	458,310	74.54%
MAY	645,955	(36,605)	-5.4%	164,494	58,439	55.1%	810,449	21,833	2.8%									
JUNE	717,680	69,992	10.8%	193,280	54,739	39.5%	910,959	124,731	15.9%									
JULY	707,901	(4,797)	-0.7%	171,205	12,706	8.0%	879,106	7,908	0.9%									
AUGUST	1,046,184	403,971	62.9%	171,212	14,294	9.1%	1,217,396	418,265	52.3%									
SEPTEMBER	739,021	83,636	12.8%	173,450	23,718	15.8%	912,471	107,354	13.3%									
OCTOBER	771,452	99,518	14.8%	185,115	27,059	17.1%	956,567	126,577	15.3%									
NOVEMBER	839,832	61,344	7.9%	181,214	52,912	41.2%	1,021,046	114,256	12.6%									
DECEMBER	1,015,493	77,095	8.22%	190,308	41,699	28.1%	1,205,801	118,794	10.9%									
Prorata Distribution(June)	606	(2,684)	-81.6%		0		606	(2,684)										
Prorata Distribution (Dec.)	1,100	(1,135)	-50.8%		0		1,100	(1,135)										
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,663,171</b>	<b>\$ 535,967</b>		<b>\$2,057,809</b>			<b>10,720,980</b>	<b>\$966,700</b>		<b>\$ 3,026,465</b>	<b>\$ 848,518</b>		<b>\$836,686</b>			<b>3,863,150</b>	<b>\$1,057,673</b>	

FY21 LOST & TAVT	3,863,150
FY20 LOST & TAVT	10,720,980
FY19 LOST & TAVT	9,755,416
FY18 LOST & TAVT	\$8,871,741
FY17 LOST & TAVT	\$8,094,043
FY16 LOST & TAVT	\$7,147,120
FY15 LOST & TAVT	7,024,812
FY14 LOST & TAVT	6,771,602
FY13 LOST & TAVT	6,287,973
FY12 CONVERTED	5,763,005
FY12	5,632,027
FY11	5,244,606
FY10	4,939,542
FY09	4,789,221
FY08	5,015,881
FY07	5,621,760
FY06	5,608,446
FY05	4,426,013
FY04	3,527,663

**BELOW FIGURES INCLUDE TAVT CALCULATIONS**

FY20 ACTUAL TO DATE	\$2,177,946
FY21 ACTUAL TO DATE	\$3,026,465
\$ DIFFERENCE	848,518
% DIFFERENCE	38.96%

FY20 ACTUAL TO DATE	\$2,805,477
FY21 ACTUAL TO DATE	\$3,863,150
\$ DIFFERENCE	1,057,673
% DIFFERENCE	37.70%

**SPLOST 6**

SPLOST COLLECTIONS BY SALES MONTH	Total Actual	Total Actual	Total Actual	Total Actual	Total Actual	Total Actual	County	City	%	Total Actual	County	City	%	2021	2021 Actuals
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	(85%)	(15%)	Change 2020	2021	(85%)	(15%)	Change 2021	Projections	vs. Projections
JANUARY		458,716	502,157	604,751	648,202	659,726	560,767	98,959	1.78%	787,979	669,783	118,197	19.44%		Total SPLOST VI projection of \$46 million reached in 2020
FEBRUARY		474,268	514,143	521,238	602,699	607,910	516,724	91,187	0.9%	749,380	636,973	112,407	23.27%		
MARCH		561,400	608,288	703,497	688,532	616,984	524,437	92,548	-10.4%	930,667	791,067	139,600	50.84%		
APRIL		561,619	601,645	657,805	777,630	581,347	494,145	87,202	-25.2%	970,671	825,071	145,601	66.97%		
MAY		570,679	636,807	719,926	775,252	733,999	623,899	110,100	-5.3%	-	-	-	-100.0%		
JUNE		582,823	660,473	675,757	735,862	815,415	693,103	122,312	10.8%	-	-	-	-100.0%		
JULY	579,906	591,982	698,736	753,150	809,891	819,086	696,223	122,863	1.1%	-	-	-	-100.0%		
AUGUST	537,416	549,012	645,796	690,198	728,964	1,188,750	1,010,438	178,313	63.1%	-	-	-	-100.0%		
SEPTEMBER	552,590	580,089	682,219	665,171	743,147	839,517	713,589	125,928	13.0%	-	-	-	-100.0%		
OCTOBER	543,321	613,703	623,291	797,261	762,365	876,561	745,077	131,484	15.0%	-	-	-	-100.0%		
NOVEMBER	678,241	710,648	826,862	830,759	882,055	954,260	811,121	143,139	8.2%	-	-	-	-100.0%		
DECEMBER	771,324	807,105	910,697	958,016	1,065,726	1,153,910	980,823	173,086	8.3%	-	-	-	-100.0%		
Prorata Distribution (June)	2,318	1,707	1,031	2,607	3,739	687	584	103	-81.6%	-	-	-	-100.0%		
Prorata Distribution (Dec.)		1,135	959	4,753	2,542	1,248	1,061	187	-50.9%	-	-	-	-100.0%		
SPLOST Jet Fuel Tax (July)				2,861						-	-	-			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,708,332</b>	<b>\$7,064,885</b>	<b>\$7,913,104</b>	<b>\$8,587,749</b>	<b>\$9,226,607</b>	<b>\$9,849,401</b>	<b>\$8,371,991</b>	<b>\$1,477,410</b>		<b>\$3,438,698</b>	<b>\$2,922,894</b>	<b>\$515,805</b>		<b>-</b>	

2015 \$ 3,665,116  
 2016 \$ 7,064,885  
 2017 \$ 7,913,104  
 2018 \$ 8,587,749  
 2019 \$ 9,226,607  
 2020 \$ 9,849,401  
 2021 \$ 3,438,698  
**Total SPLOST 6 Collections to date: \$49,745,560**

**DAWSON COUNTY  
DEBT SCHEDULE**

5/31/2021

DEBT DESCRIPTION	BANK/PAYEE	CURRENT SOURCE OF PAYMENT	DEBT ORIGINATION DATE	DUE DATE OF FINAL PMT	PRINCIPAL BAL AT 12/31/2020	NEW LOANS IN 2021	2021 PMTS TO DATE		BALANCE DUE	PENDING 2021 PAYMENTS		PROJECTED BAL AT 12/31/2021	NOTES
							PRINCIPAL	INTEREST		PRINCIPAL	INTEREST		
2012 EWSA Bonds	Community & Southern Bank	General Fund	5/14/2012	3/1/2027	2,475,000.00	-	275,000.00	36,630.00	2,200,000.00	-	32,560.00	2,200,000.00	Partial defeasement of bonds in April 2012 reduced principal by \$1,525,000. Refunded Bonds and received lower interest rate of 2.96% on 5/14/2012. Interest due semi-annually on March 1 and Sept. 1.
Fire Pumper Truck	BB & T	SPLOST VI	1/12/2018	1/12/2025	330,100.39		62,287.89	9,605.92	267,812.50			267,812.50	Pumper was purchased January 2018. First annual payment from SPLOST VI paid Jan 12, 2019. Annual Payments made in January each year.
<b>Totals</b>					\$ 2,805,100.39	\$ -	\$ 337,287.89	\$ 46,235.92	\$ 2,467,812.50	\$ -	\$ 32,560.00	\$ 2,467,812.50	



## Dawson County Board of Commissioners

### Fleet Maintenance and Fuel Center Monthly Report – May 2021

#### FLEET

- **Preventative Maintenance Performed: 22**
- **Tires Mounted: 20**
- **Repair Orders Completed: 74**
- **Labor Hours: 252.75**
- **Labor Cost Savings: \$ 13,901.25**  
(Comparison of the Fleet Maintenance rate of \$25.00 per labor hour to outsourced vendors rate of \$80.00 per labor hour)
- **Parts Cost Savings: \$ 3,883.16**  
(Comparison of Dawson County's parts discounts to outsourced markup; average 20%)
- **Total Cost Savings for May: \$ 17,784.41**

#### FUEL CENTER

- **Average Fuel Center Price Per Gallon:**  
Gasoline: \$ 2.24  
Diesel: \$ 2.25
- **Fuel Center Usage - Dawson County and Board of Education**  
Gasoline: 12,117 gallons; 982 transactions  
Diesel: 7,986.4gallons; 202 transactions
- **Fuel Center Usage - Etowah Water and City of Dawsonville**  
Gasoline: 1,263.3 gallons; 94 transactions  
Diesel: 541.4 gallons; 29 transactions
- **Revenue from Etowah Water and City of Dawsonville: \$ 90.24**

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Fleet Services continues to clean by sanitizing all commonly used areas.
- Fleet has received 5 new county vehicles this year for Fire, District Attorney and County Administration Department.



## Dawson County Board of Commissioners

### Human Resources Department Key Indicator Monthly Report – May 2021

#### **POSITION CONTROL**

- Positions approved by BOC: 605
- # of filled F/R Positions: 296
- # of filled F/T Positions: 0
- # of filled Grant Funded Positions: 20
- # of filled P/R Positions: 89
- # of filled P/T Positions: 79
- # of Supplemental Positions: 59
- # of Vacant Positions: 62
- % of Budgeted/Actual Positions: 90.25%
- NOTE: Number of Frozen position removed as not Approved/Funded.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- FMLA/LOA/Military tracking: 2/0/2
- Unemployment Claims received: 0
- Property & Liability Claims: 2
- Worker's Compensation Claims: 4
- Performance Evaluations received: 0

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

##### **Positions Advertised/Posted: 11**

- Emergency Services—Firefighter/Paramedic (Full Time) – 0
- Emergency Services – Firefighter/EMT (Full Time) -- 5
- Parks & Recreation – Athletic Assistant -- 2
- Public Works – Roads Operator I – 6
- Public Works – Administrative Assistant -- 20
- Facilities – Building Maintenance Mechanic – 3
- Facilities – Part Time Custodian – 5
- Magistrate Court – Magistrate Clerk I – 36
- Board of Elections & Registration – Administrative Clerk - 7
- Board of Elections & Registration – Voter Services Specialist - 4
- Sheriff's Office – Detention Officer – N/A
- General Application – 2

##### **Applications Received: 90**

##### **New Hires added into system: 16**

- Ethan Taffar – Sheriff's Office – Detention Lieutenant
- Charles Kenneth Shoemaker Jr. – Superior Court – PC Technician
- Parker Massey – Parks & Recreation – Parks Maintenance Worker
- Parker Kincaid – Parks & Recreation – Athletic Assistant
- Nicholas Baloga – Parks & Recreation – Lifeguard/Concessions
- Robert Todd Edwards – Emergency Services – PT Firefighter/EMT
- Erick Sprouse – Emergency Services – FT Firefighter/Paramedic
- Justin Riggs – Emergency Services – FT Firefighter/Paramedic
- Michelle Caleron Tarchetti – Emergency Services – Volunteer Firefighter
- Justin J. Fedoruk – Emergency Services – Volunteer Firefighter
- Chase Ball – Emergency Services – Volunteer Firefighter
- Terry Porter – Emergency Services – Volunteer Firefighter
- Nicholas Schoenholz – Public Works – Roads Operator I
- Wade Walker – Public Works – Roads Operator I
- Hunter Burks – Public Works – Roads Operator I
- Randall Allen Dickerson – Facilities – Building Maintenance Mechanic

Termination/Resignation/Retirement Processed:14



- Travis Jordan – DA’s Office – A.D.A.
- Jason Redd – Communications Officer – E-911
- Shaun Benfield – Emergency Services – FT FF/EMT
- Brandon Harkness – Facilities - Custodian
- Kaitlyn Alvarez – Parks & Rec. – Athletic Assistant
- Gabriel Justus – Public Defender - Asst. Public Defender
- Alexa Bruce – Public Works – Administrative Assistant
- Wade Walker – Public Works – Operator I
- Anne Martin – Sheriff’s Office – Administrative Assistant
- Keleigh Paige – Sheriff’s Office – Detention Officer
- Abbigale Roof – Sheriff’s Office – Detention Officer
- Timothy Dorsey – Sheriff’s Office – Detention Officer
- Velma Finley – Sheriff’s Services – Deputy
- Chris Clements – Tax Commissioner – PT Tax & Tag Specialist

**Promotions: 1 Transfers: 1 Re-Classed: 5 Personnel Updates: 13**

**Additional Highlights April:**

- Submitted ACCG GSIWCF Safety Grant Application.
- Collaborations with NFP regarding insurance renewal Informational seminars and enrollment.
- Collaborations with NFP & Harris Local Government regarding automated insurance and benefits upload.



## Dawson County Board of Commissioners

Information Technology – May 2021

- **Calls for Service:162**
- **Service Calls Completed: 162**

### Highlights

- Changes to increase security protocols as a response to the global rise in hacking
- Continued wireless infrastructure upgrade roll-out
- Long building security camera system replacement
- Developed cyber security training video to be rolled out to all employees
- Continued to work with DCSO on the comprehensive security upgrade project



## Dawson County Board of Commissioners

### Planning and Development Monthly Report – May 2021

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	TOTAL
<b>BUILDING PERMITS</b>	85	58	84	177	134	538
<b>HOUSE</b>	35	22	54	142	27	280
<b>GARAGE - POLE SHED</b>	10	6	0	4	6	26
<b>STORAGE BUILDING</b>	0	0	1	0	16	17
<b>ADDITIONS/REMODELS</b>	10	10	8	8	3	39
<b>FARM BUILDING</b>	3	0	0	0	0	3
<b>RETAIL - COMMERCIAL</b>	8	9	10	12	34	73
<b>MISC</b>	19	11	11	11	48	100
<b>MULTI - FAMILY</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>MOBILE HOME</b>	5	1	2	1	0	9
<b>ELECTRICAL</b>	70	55	76	182	58	441
<b>PLUMBING</b>	48	34	63	148	41	334
<b>HEATING &amp; AIR</b>	47	29	63	145	40	324
<b>ZONING/VARIANCES</b>	5	12	2	3	4	26
<b>PLAN REVIEW - PLATS</b>	5	2	2	11	8	28
<b>PLAN REVIEW - SITE</b>	2	1	11	5	7	26
<b>PLAN REVIEW - BUILDING</b>	8	7	4	9	8	36
<b>PLAN REVIEW - SIGN</b>	2	7	7	5	7	28
<b>GRADING PERMITS-FULL</b>	8	8	5	10	10	41
<b>GRADING PERMITS-AGRI</b>	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	293	173	267	154	155	1042
<b>SIGNS</b>	2	5	6	10	6	29
<b>SHORT-TERM RENTAL</b>	4	2	2	2	7	17
<b>BED &amp; BREAKFAST</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>PARADE/ASSEMBLY</b>	0	0	0	2	0	2
<b>TIMBER HARVESTING</b>	1	0	0	0	0	1

- **Impact Fee Collection**

- May Residential: \$64,180.25
- May Commercial: \$8,038.35
- YTD 2021: \$719,206.02

- **Revenue**

- Planning
  - May 2021: \$72,906.03
  - YTD 2021: \$513,744.13

- Business Licenses
  - May 2021: \$29,203.91
  - YTD 2021: \$180,306.20

As of April 2021	2020	2021	%
	PERMITS	PERMITS	2020 to
<b>BUILDING PERMITS</b>	259	538	<b>108%</b>
<b>HOUSE</b>	97	280	<b>189%</b>
<b>GARAGE-POLE SHED-BARN</b>	16	26	<b>63%</b>
<b>STORAGE BUILDING</b>	11	17	<b>55%</b>
<b>ADDITIONS/REMODELS</b>	29	39	<b>34%</b>
<b>FARM BUILDING</b>	3	3	<b>0%</b>
<b>RETAIL-COMMERCIAL</b>	45	73	<b>62%</b>
<b>MISC.</b>	58	100	<b>72%</b>
<b>MULTI-FAMILY</b>	0	0	<b>0%</b>
<b>MOBILE HOME</b>	8	9	<b>13%</b>
<b>ELECTRICAL</b>	191	441	<b>131%</b>
<b>PLUMBING</b>	128	334	<b>161%</b>
<b>HEATING &amp; AIR</b>	125	324	<b>159%</b>
<b>ZONING/VARIANCES</b>	4	26	<b>550%</b>
<b>PLAN REVIEW - PLATS</b>	32	28	<b>-13%</b>
<b>PLAN REVIEW - SITE</b>	3	26	<b>767%</b>
<b>PLAN REVIEW - BUILDING</b>	20	36	<b>80%</b>
<b>PLAN REVIEW - SIGN</b>	6	28	<b>367%</b>
<b>GRADING PERMITS-FULL</b>	19	41	<b>116%</b>
<b>GRADING PERMITS-AGRI</b>	1	1	<b>0%</b>
<b>BUSINESS LICENSE</b>	935	1042	<b>11%</b>
<b>SIGNS</b>	23	29	<b>26%</b>
<b>SHORT-TEM RENTAL</b>	15	17	<b>13%</b>
<b>BED &amp; BREAKFST</b>	0	0	<b>0%</b>
<b>PARADE/ASSEMBLY</b>	0	2	<b>200%</b>
<b>TIMBER HARVESTING</b>	1	1	<b>0%</b>

# Marshal's Office 2021 Monthly Report

Activity	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total Activities or Revenues
Animal Control Cases	23	22	45	23	35								148
Animal Bites Investigated	1	2	4	4	1								12
Animals Quarantined	1	2	4	3	1								11
Animals Taken to DC Humane Society	13	11	48	13	28								113
Animal Control Citations Issued	0	0	2	3	0								5
Animal Control Court Cases	0	2	0	1	1								4
Code Compliance Cases	26	20	17	0	16								79
Erosion Site Visits	4	4	5	4	5								22
Code Compliance Citations Issued	0	0	1	2	7								10
Non-Conforming Signs Removed or Signage letters sent	0	42	0	60	6								108
Open Records Requests	1	2	2	3	2	1							11
Code Enforcement Letters Mailed	8	6	5	12	8								39
Alcohol Pouring Permits Issued	39	30	67	28	18								0
Alcohol License/Vape Audit Site Visits	0	0	28	4	0								0
Alcohol Phone Calls or e-mails	0	0	5	0	0								5
Certified Business Letters Mailed	2	5	3	0	2								12
Code Compliance Court Cases	0	0	0	37	2								39
Short term Rental Letters Sent	4	6	4	6	4								24
Short Term Rental Renewals	3	3	0	1	1	4							12
New Short Term Rentals	1	1	2	1	1	2							8
Sign Reviews Conducted	1	7	4	17	11								40
Signs Purchased	1	5	3	10	6								25
Monthly Short-term Rental Revenues	800.00	800	400	409.4	1200								\$ 3,609.40
Monthly Donation Box Revenues	0.00	100	0	0	0								\$ -
Monthly Excise Tax Revenues	#####	40110.91	51308.03	#####									\$179,208.46
Monthly Pouring Permit Revenues	670.00	600.00	1340.00	540.00	360.00								\$ 3,510.00
Monthly Magistrate Revenues	0.00	100.00	0.00	150.00	450.00								\$ 700.00
Monthly Marshal's Revenues, (STOP WORK, Dangerous Dog, etc., APPEALS)	200.00	0.00	300.00	200.00	0.00								\$ 700.00
Monthly Sign Revenues	150.00	1050.00	900.00	1614.43	900.00								\$ 4,614.43



## Dawson County Board of Commissioners

### Parks and Recreation Monthly Report – May 2021

- **Youth Sports Participants:**
  - May 2021: 3,448– up 1,668.2% compared to same month last year
  - YTD 2020: 16,096– up 271.9% compared to last year
- **Facility Rentals/Bookings/Scheduled Use:**
  - May 2021: 4,916 – up infinity% compared to same month last year
  - YTD 2020: 28,470 – up 1,417.6% compared to last year
- **Adult and Youth Wellness and Specialty Program Participation:**
  - May 2021: 452 – up infinity% compared to same month last year
  - YTD 2020: 6,670 – up 479.5% compared to last year
- **Total Customers Served:**
  - May 2021: 8,816 – up infinity% compared to same month last year
  - YTD 2020: 51,236 – up 596.6% compared to last year

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Park Projects:**

- A flood control berm is being redesigned at Rock Creek to help with flooding on soccer fields.
- The sinkholes at Rock Creek have been repaired.
- COVID-19 vaccines at the Veterans Memorial Park gymnasium ended.
- A new a/c unit is being installed in Gym B at Rock Creek.

#### **Athletic and Program Summary:**

- Adult Boot Camp, Pickleball, adult Tai Chi, Tennis clinics, adult Yoga continue to go well.
- Travel Team activities continue to go well.
  - 16 total teams registered (baseball, softball, basketball)
- Pickleball open play continues to go well. When weather cooperates, most of the players use the outdoor courts.
- Walk-in registration for football, cheer, and flag football was May 3-10, 2021 and yielded record numbers.
- Water Aerobics classes began May 25, 2021.

- The pool at Veterans Memorial Park and the splash pad at Rock Creek officially opened to the public on Saturday, May 29, 2021.
- Swim Lessons began May 31, 2021.
- Summer tennis session began May 31, 2021.

**On the Horizon:**

- The first outdoor movie night of the year is scheduled for Friday, June 4, 2021 at War Hill Park.
- Summer camps begin June 7, 2021.
- Party at the Pool free swim events will be held June 16, 2021 and July 14, 2021.
- The EPIC Day program is resuming June 3, 2021 with an outdoor splash pad day.



## Dawson County Board of Commissioners

### Public Works Monthly Report – May 2021

We are unable to provide information regarding monthly quantities for the Roads or Transportation Station at this time. However, I have provided a project update. Please refer to the below. My apologies for getting this to you late.

- 1) We have completed 5.25 miles of re-paving and deep patch work. Of the 5.25 miles, 5.1 miles are LMIG Roads. We have completed 7 of the 8 LMIG roads (have not completed Barker Road). Paving crew will resume paving after July 4<sup>th</sup>. They will begin on Mountainside (Gravel to Pave)
- 2) FDR Proposals received. Recommendation to BOC to award to Blount Construction. Scheduled to begin August with completion end of November 2021. Awaiting decision from the City of Dawsonville if they want the County to perform FDR on the City's portion of Howser Mill. The three roads to receive FDR are Howser Mill, GW Taffer and Wesley Chapel.
- 3) Fire Station #2: Easement approved by BOC. Material and equipment on site. Waiting on direction from Etowah Water & Sewer when they will begin work.
- 4) Emmet Drive: We have completed the installation of all of the driveway pipes and have installed cross over pipe. The County's recommended remediation work is complete. We will continue to monitor.
- 5) Roundabout / Gateway maintenance quotes: We have received one quote, waiting on other two.
- 6) Rock Creek Berm Project: Initial phasing to begin this week (weather permitting). This includes staking and erosion control.
- 7) Harry Sosebee Roundabout: Construction of the round-about has already begun with initial staking being performed, Utility lines are being located and moved as necessary. Contractor is waiting on delivery of arch culvert (presently being fabricated) before the road work can start. Meeting with Contech (fabricator) has been conducted to ensure that culvert meets the requirements of USACE and USFWS. Construction anticipated to begin within the next two weeks.
- 8) Burt Creek K9 Building: Complete-CO issued 5-3-2021
- 9) Rock Creek Park Project: held meeting with Roberson Loyla Roof Architects last week for conceptual preliminary design of new restroom facility at Rock Creek Park. We should have preliminary plans for review in the upcoming weeks.

Thank you,

*Denise H. Farr*

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## Dawson County Board of Commissioners

### Dawson County Senior Services Monthly Report – May 2021

#### **SENIOR CENTER**

- **Home Delivered Meals Served**
  - May 2021: 2,210
  - YTD 2021: 10,577
- **Congregate Meals Served**
  - May 2021: 439
  - YTD 2021: 1,804
- **Physical Activity Participation** (Tai Chi, Silver Sneakers, Yoga, individual fitness)
  - May 2021: 332
  - YTD 2021: 544
- **Lifestyle Management Participation** (Awareness, Prevention, Virtual Learning)
  - May 2021: 739
  - YTD 2021: 2,422

#### **TRANSIT**

- **DOT Trips Provided**
  - May 2021: 125
  - YTD 2021: 585
- **Senior Trips Provided**
  - May 2021: 354
  - YTD 2021: 1,360
- **# of Miles**
  - May 2021: 5,614
  - YTD 2021: 24,630
- **Gallons of Fuel**
  - May 2021: 612
  - YTD 2021: 2,745

**LOST and SPLOST Collections**

Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) collections are up 67.01% for the same month in 2020 and up 38.96% for year to date. Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) collections are up 66.97% for the same month in 2020. Total SPLOST VI collections (July 2015 to present) are \$49,745,560.

April collections received in May are as follows:

<b>LOST</b>	<b>\$854,327</b>
<b>SPLOST</b>	<b>\$970,671</b>
County (85%)	\$825,071
City (15%)	\$145,600

**Items Approved by the County Manager or Chief Financial Officer Since Last Report**

Gainesville Truck Center	Public Works/Roads	Two MACK 2023-Granite 64FR Mack Dump Trucks	Cooperative Agreement - Signed by County Manager	Purchase Order	\$295,276	Funding Source – Roads SPLOST VI Equipment Funds
Presidio	Superior Court	Change Order for 85” TVs from 75” TVs	Cooperative Agreement - Signed by CFO in Absence of County Manager	Purchase Order	\$6,063.75	Funding Source – Superior Court Regular Operating Budget (Transferred to Project Fund)
Canon USA	Dawson County Jail	Black/White and Color Copier	Cooperative Agreement Purchase	Purchase Order	\$3,960.35	Funding Source – Jail Fund Regular Operating Budget

MySeniorCenter	Senior Services	Computer Program for Class Schedules and Reporting	Agreement	Agreement	\$1,000 annually	Funding Source – Senior Services Regular Operating Budget
Mill Creek Environmental LLC	County Manager	Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for Harmony Church Road, Parcel #119 037 002	Agreement	Purchase Order	\$1,545	Funding Source – Fire Station #3 Site Regular Operating Budget