Statesboro Property Tax Hearing FY2027

SEPTEMBER 2026

FY2027 Budget Objectives

- Emphasis on Public Safety
- Retain and Recruit Exceptional Employees
- Emphasis on Utility Infrastructure in natural growth areas
- Tax Base and Revenue Growth

FY2027 Budget Highlights

- 5% Total Budget Increase from FY 2026
- 5% General Fund and Fire Fund Combined Increase
- Increase transfer from General Fund to Fire Fund (from $3,200,000 to $7,485,550)
- Presenting a Balanced Budget
- No Increase in personnel

Compensation & Benefits Highlights

- Federal Inflation Rates
  - March 2025: 2.8%
  - March 2026: 3.3%

- Pay Plan adjustment of 2.0%
- Continue Pay for Performance for Employees
- 15% Increase in Employee Related Premiums

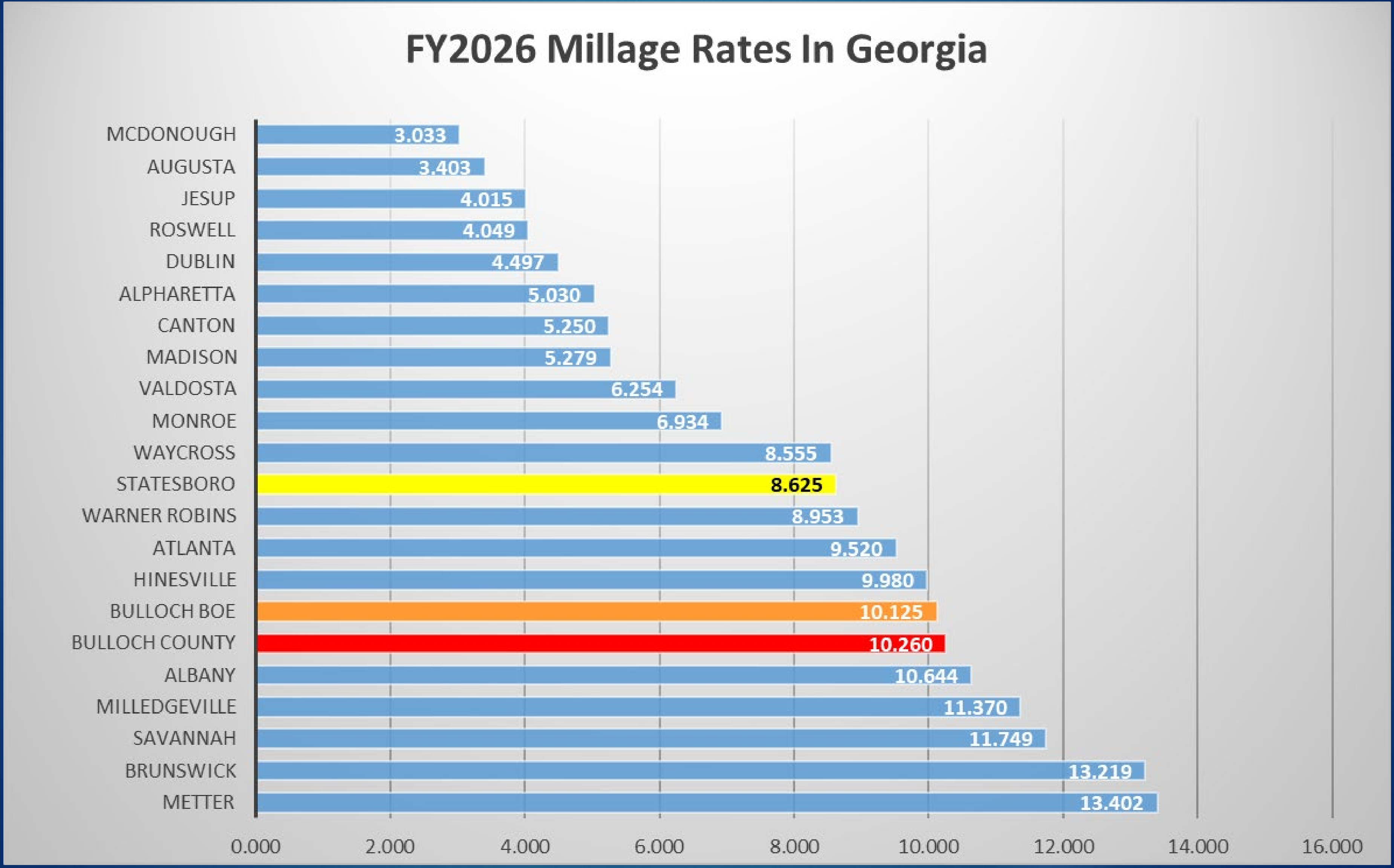
How Did We Get Here

- The City realizes the full impact of the Bulloch County decision to dissolve the Fire District
- Last year, we covered the revenue loss with loans from the enterprise funds, which is unsustainable
- City Council decided not to implement the Fire Service Fee, due to several pending court challenges in Georgia communities

How Did We Get Here

- During the budget process, the projected millage increase started at 3.825. The tax digest growth was projected at 8%.
- The final tax digest growth is 13%
- 5 months of FLOST helped reduce the $4 million needed to cover fire revenue loss and SAFER Grant
- FLOST provided the $1.4 million in this budget, further reducing the shortfall

Property Tax Millage Rates



Current Local Property Millage Rates

Bulloch County

- 10.26, approximately $3,790,000/mill

Board of Education

- 10.125, approximately $3,775,000/mill

City of Statesboro

- 8.625, approximately $1,376,000/mill

General Fund and Fire Fund Highlights

- 75.7% of the General Fund and Fire Budget is Salary and Benefit Costs
- Increased Expenditures:
  - Salaries and Benefits $803,581
  - Police Flock Equipment $170,000
  - Electricity – Street Lights $100,000
  - Credit Card Fees $80,000
  - FUSUS Annual Contract $80,000
- Increase transfer to Fire Fund (from $3,200,000 to $7,485,550)

Property Tax Calculation Example: $250,000 House

House Value		**$ 250,000.00**	**$ 250,000.00**
Millage Rate		8.625	9.6
40% Assessed Value		$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00
Homestead Exemption		$ (2,000.00)	$ (2,000.00)
Taxable Value		$ 98,000.00	$ 98,000.00
Taxes		$ 845.25	$ 940.80
Current Millage Rate - Taxes	0.008625		

Annual Increase: $95.55

Monthly Increase: $7.96

In Summary – 2027 Budget

- Recommend increasing the millage rate to 9.6 from the current rate of 8.625
- Adopting a lower rate will require the further reduction of the general government fund balance
- Fund balance is below Council's policy of 25 percent. Fund balance is currently at 20 percent.

In Summary – 2027 Budget

- Next year (FY2028), the City will be able to reduce the millage rate by 2.1 mills due to the full impact of FLOST
- The General Fund has grown from $16,000,000 in 2019 to $32,000,000 in 2026
- Less dependent on Fund Balance to balance the budget

In Summary – 2027 Budget

- Increased General Fund also increases the required amount of Fund Balance in order to comply with Council's policy
- Current Fund Balance is estimated at $6.5 million
- By Council's policy, the General Fund Balance should be $8 million

In Summary – 2027 Budget

- Recommend increasing the millage rate to 9.6 from the current rate of 8.625

Questions?