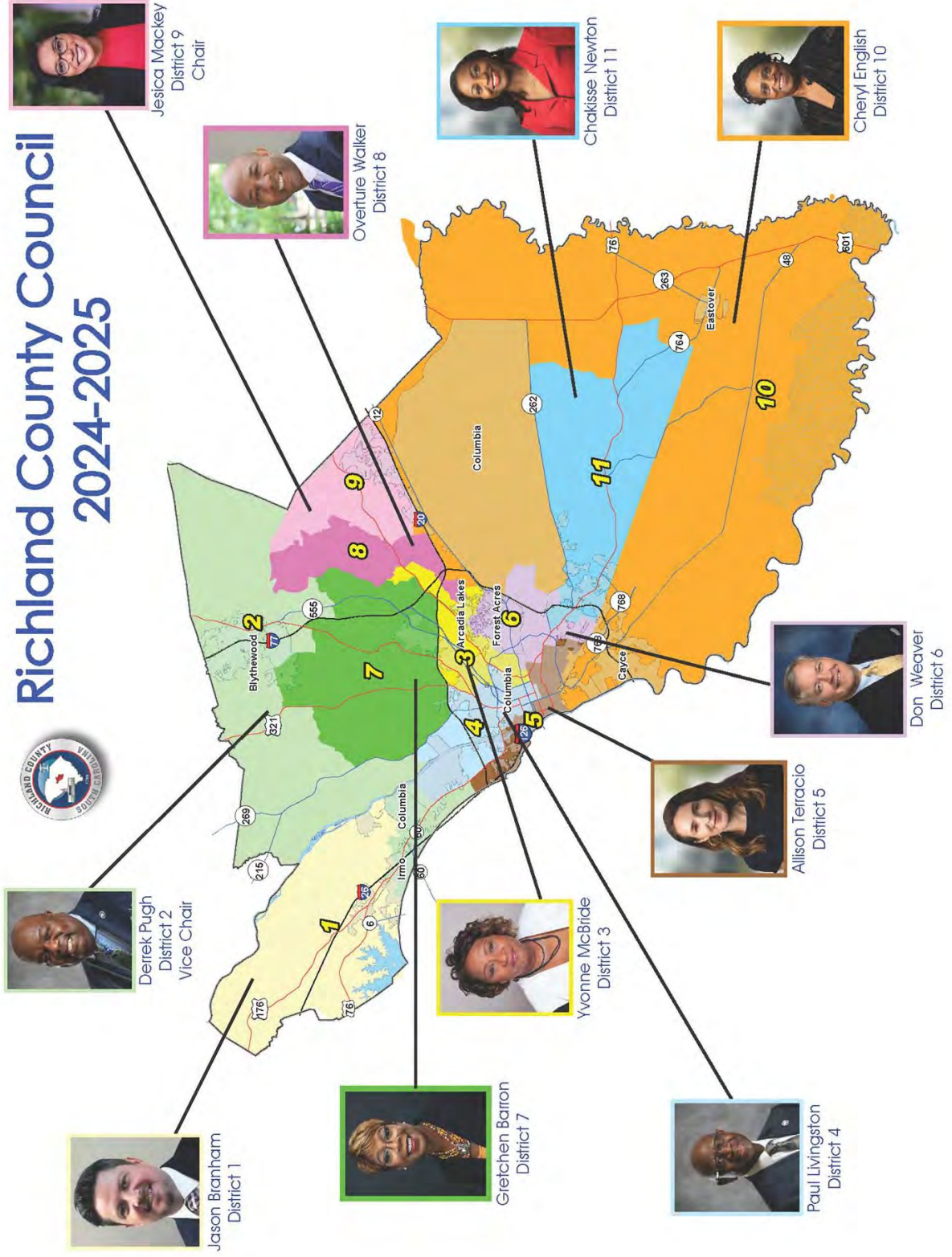


**RICHLAND COUNTY  
FY24-25 BUDGET  
WORK SESSION  
AGENDA**



**TUESDAY MAY 9, 2024  
3:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

# Richland County Council 2024-2025





## Richland County

### FY24-25 Budget Work Session

### AGENDA

May 9, 2024 - 3:00 PM

Council Chambers

2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
  - a. ROLL CALL

The Honorable Jesica Mackey, Chair  
Richland County Council
2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The Honorable Jesica Mackey
3. **COST ALLOCATION PLAN [PAGES 7-16]**

Leonardo Brown  
Richland County Administrator
4. **ENTERPRISE FUNDS**
  - a. Jim Hamilton-LB Owens Airport [PAGES 17-22]
  - b. Solid Waste [PAGES 23-34]
  - c. Utilities [PAGES 35-63]

Leonardo Brown  
Richland County Administrator
5. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Honorable Jesica Mackey, Chair  
Richland County Council



Special Accommodations and Interpreter Services Citizens may be present during any of the County's meetings. If requested, the agenda and backup materials will be made available in alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), as amended and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Any person who requires a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in the public meeting may request such modification, accommodation, aid or service by contacting the Clerk of Council's office either in person at 2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC, by telephone at (803) 576-2061, or TDD at 803-576-2045 no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

# COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP

## Cost Allocation & Enterprise Funds

May 9, 2024  
FY 2025

Richland County Government



# AGENDA

- **Cost Allocation Plan**
- **Jim Hamilton – LB Owens Airport**
- **Solid Waste**
- **Utilities**



# COST ALLOCATION PLAN



Richland County Government

# COST ALLOCATION PLAN

(PAGE # 4 OF THE RECOMMENDED BUDGET BOOK)

- What is a cost allocation plan?
  - A process to distribute County-wide administrative costs to enterprise and special revenue funds
  - Establishes an indirect cost rate, which can be charged to grants to recover administrative overhead costs
  - Standard practice among governmental organizations





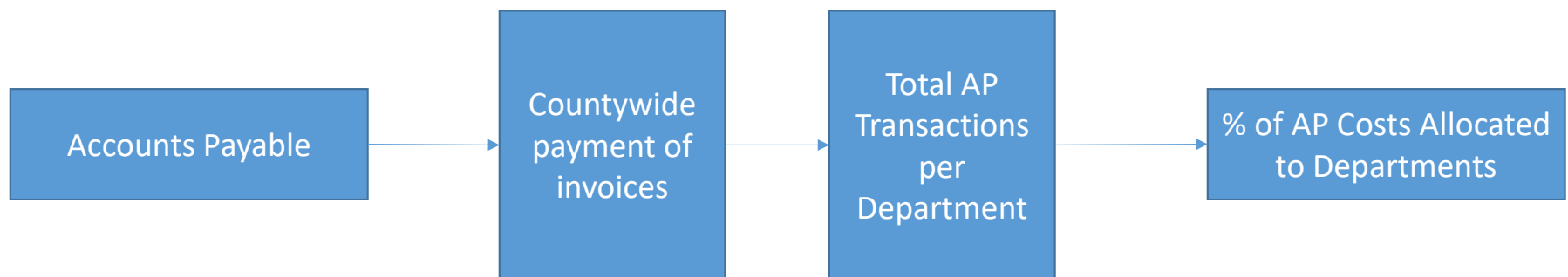
# COST ALLOCATION PLAN

- Timeline of Cost Allocation Plan Implementation
  - County issued a request for proposals (RFP) for a third party to complete the cost allocation plan – Cherry Bekaert was selected
  - Cherry Bekaert worked with the County team to establish central vs receiving departments
  - Internal service departments were asked to provide allocation information based on personnel distribution, insurance claims, facilities metrics, financial transactions, technology support, etc.



# COST ALLOCATION PLAN

- Example: Allocation of Accounts Payable



# COST ALLOCATION PLAN

## ALLOCATING COSTS FROM CENTRAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS TO RECEIVING DEPARTMENTS

### Internal Services Departments

- County Administrator
- Public Information
- County Risk Management
- County Ombudsman
- Auditor
- Budget
- Finance
- Procurement
- Grants
- Human Resources
- Central Services
- Information Technology
- Geographic Information System
- Support Services
- Facilities & Ground Maintenance

### Receiving Departments

- Emergency Telephone System
- Fire Services
- Stormwater
- Conservation Commission
- Neighborhood Redevelopment
- Road Maintenance
- Economic Development
- Solid Waste
- Utilities
- Jim Hamilton – LB Owens Airport



# COST ALLOCATION PLAN

## COST ALLOCATION TO SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Department	Claimable Totals	1205 - Emergency Telephone System	1206 -Fire Service	1208 - Stormwater Management	1209 - Conservation Commission	1210 - Neighborhood Redevelopment	1216 -Road Maintenance	1240 - Economic Development
1100-1610-County Administrator	\$1,120,619	\$2,290	\$5,725	-	-	-	-	-
1100-1611-Public Information	\$480,779	\$7,779	\$35,639	\$3,656	\$1,211	\$1,377	\$6,537	\$1,799
1100-1615-County Risk Management	\$6,584,883	\$3,641	\$48,033	\$8,347	\$426	\$426	\$93,107	\$9,562
1100-1616-County Ombudsman	\$89,1939	\$14,431	\$66,118	\$6,783	\$2,247	\$2,554	\$12,128	\$3,338
1100-1635-County Attorney	\$2,072,240	\$33,528	\$153,612	\$15,758	\$5,221	\$5,934	\$28,177	\$7,754
1100-1720-Auditor	\$1,750,167	\$28,317	\$129,737	\$13,309	\$4,409	\$5,011	\$23,798	\$6,549
1100-1730-Treasurer	\$1,363,315	\$22,058	\$10,1060	\$10,367	\$3,435	\$3,904	\$18,537	\$5,101
1100-1808-Budget Department	\$928,777	\$15,027	\$68,849	\$7,063	\$2,340	\$2,659	\$12,629	\$3,475
1100-1809-Finance Department	\$1,762,651	\$11,946	\$54,283	\$13,546	\$4,018	\$4,537	\$34,848	\$5,941
1100-1811-Procurement Department	\$740,382	\$428	\$1,962	\$9,827	\$4,996	\$1,854	\$13,455	\$11,741
1100-1820-Grants Department	\$403,030	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$32,428
1100-1840-Human Resources	\$1,535,271	\$5,240	\$12,226	\$14,846	\$1,747	\$1,747	\$52,398	\$3,493
1100-1850-Central Services	\$1,048,107	\$16,958	\$77,694	\$7,970	\$2,641	\$3,001	\$14,251	\$3,922
1100-1870-Information Technology	\$4,454,789	\$4,482	\$10,459	\$12,700	\$2,783	\$1,494	\$44,825	\$6,854
1100-1871-Geographic Information Systems	\$870,892	\$2,543	\$11,651	\$73,631	\$396	\$450	\$2,137	\$19,480
1100-3001-Support Services	\$247,177	\$482	\$1,742	\$530	\$242	\$188	\$1,809	\$129
1100-3170-Fac&Gnd Maintenance Division	\$5,446,660	\$5,924	\$7,545	\$13,103	\$10,099	\$5,957	\$56,327	\$12,229
<b>Total Claimable Costs</b>	<b>\$3,170,1678</b>	<b>\$175,076</b>	<b>\$786,335</b>	<b>\$2,114,36</b>	<b>\$46,209</b>	<b>\$4,1093</b>	<b>\$414,963</b>	<b>\$122,796</b>

Richland County  
Government



# COST ALLOCATION PLAN

## COST ALLOCATION TO ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Department	Claimable Totals	2 10 1-Solid Waste	2 110 -Richland Cty Utilities	2 170 - Jim Hamilton-LB Owens Airport
1100-1610-County Administrator	\$1,120,619	-	\$197,702	-
1100-1611-Public Information	\$480,779	\$48,349	\$9,390	\$496
1100-1615-County Risk Management	\$6,584,883	\$57,050	\$235,602	\$2,576
1100-1616-County Ombudsman	\$891,939	\$89,696	\$17,420	\$921
1100-1635-County Attorney	\$2,072,240	\$208,390	\$40,472	\$2,140
1100-1720-Auditor	\$1,750,167	\$176,002	\$34,182	\$1,807
1100-1730-Treasurer	\$1,363,315	\$137,099	\$26,626	\$1,408
1100-1808-Budget Department	\$928,777	\$93,401	\$18,140	\$959
1100-1809-Finance Department	\$1,762,651	\$119,738	\$414,664	\$4,432
1100-1811-Procurement Department	\$740,382	\$108,132	\$83,030	\$8,479
1100-1820-Grants Department	\$403,030	\$13,898	-	\$23,163
1100-1840-Human Resources	\$1,535,271	\$40,172	\$28,819	\$873
1100-1850-Central Services	\$1,048,107	\$105,401	\$20,470	\$1,082
1100-1870-Information Technology	\$4,454,789	\$47,680	\$49,565	\$1,606
1100-1871-Geographic Information Systems	\$870,892	\$25,252	\$91,311	\$36,793
1100-3001-Support Services	\$247,177	\$2,836	\$7,968	\$13,904
1100-3170-Fac&Gnd Maintenance Division	\$5,446,660	\$25,577	\$288,631	-
<b>Total Claimable Costs</b>	<b>\$31,701,678</b>	<b>\$1,298,671</b>	<b>\$1,563,991</b>	<b>\$100,639</b>



Richland County  
Government

# COST ALLOCATION PLAN

- Budgeted transfer from special revenue and enterprise funds to the general fund in FY2025

\$4,761,209



# DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS



**Lori Thomas, Assistant County Administrator**

**(O) (803) 576-2057**

**(M) (803) 331-9100**

**Thomas.Lori@RichlandCountySC.Gov**

**Maddison Wilkerson, Director of Budget**

**(O) (803) 576-2095**

**(M) (803) 977-4365**

**Wilkerson.Maddison@RichlandCountySC.Gov**







# AIRPORT FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2025 OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST



# OVERVIEW

- ➔ Facility Information
- ➔ Airport Operations / Economic Impact
- ➔ Airport Revenue
- ➔ FY 25 Budget Highlights



# FACILITY

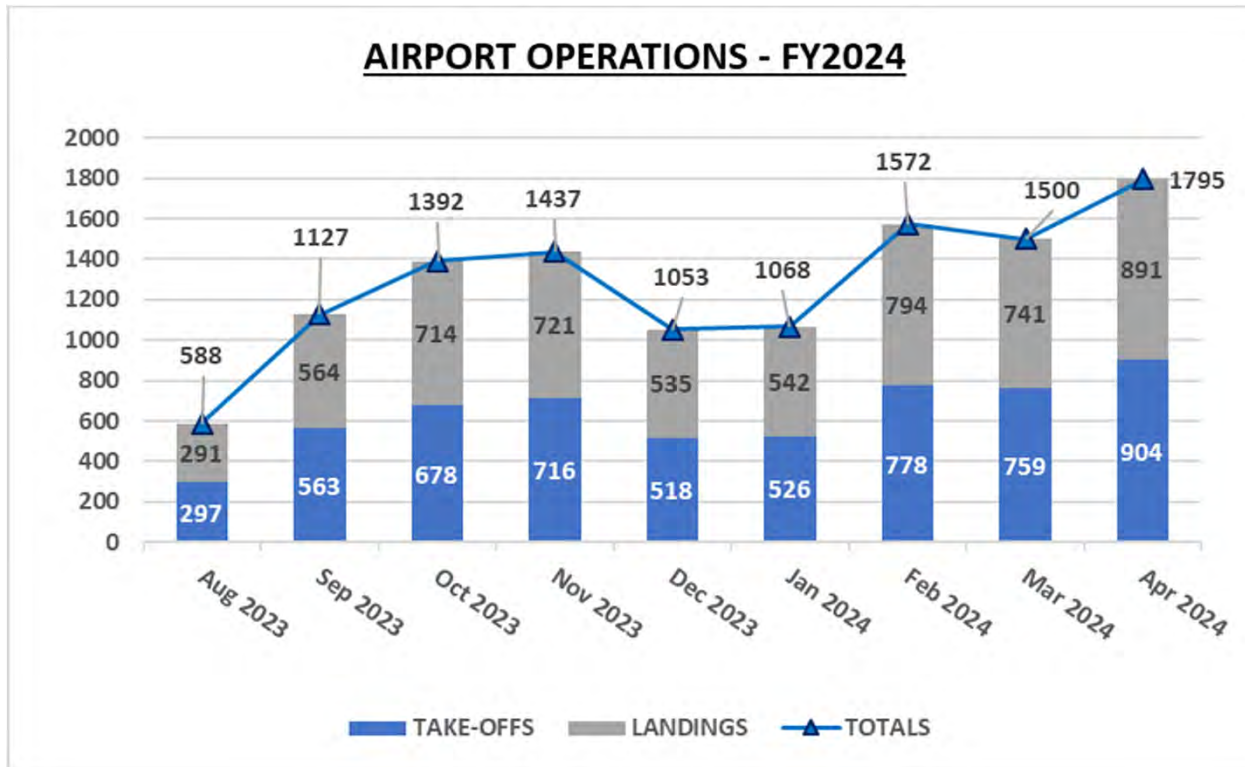


- 182 Acres
- 5,000 Ft. Asphalt Runway
- 9 Acre Aircraft Apron
  - Up To 10 Small/ Medium Business Jets
  - Over 30 Parking Spots For Single Engine/Helicopters
- 20,000 Gallon Aviation Fuel Storage Capacity
- Automated Surface Observation System for “Realtime” weather reporting
- 8,000 sq. ft. Terminal & Business Center
- 11 Hangar Buildings, 200,000+ sq. ft.
  - Capable of basing over 100 aircraft



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# AIRPORT OPERATIONS/ECONOMIC IMPACT

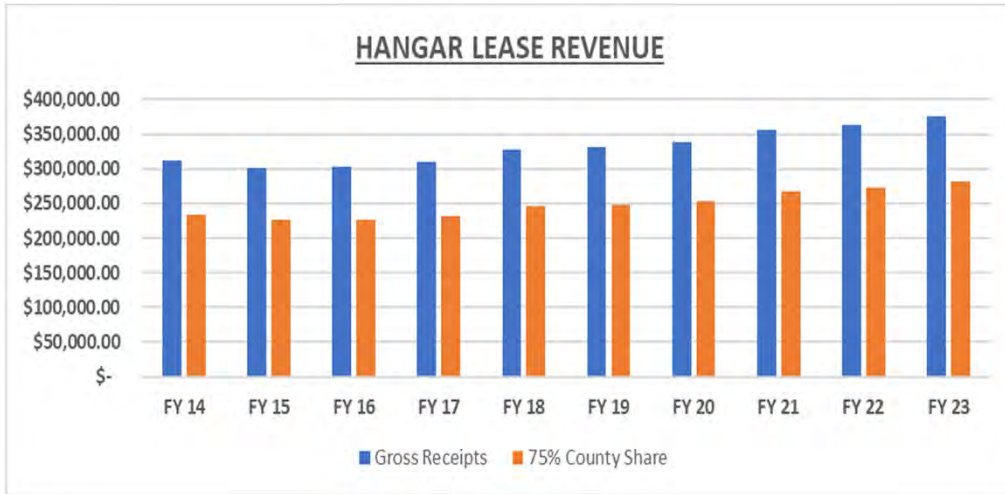


- Approx. 13,000 operations, to date
- 108 Based Aircraft
  - 97 single engine
  - 6 multi-engine
  - 3 Jets
  - 2 helicopters
- Annual economic impact -- \$16,120,000



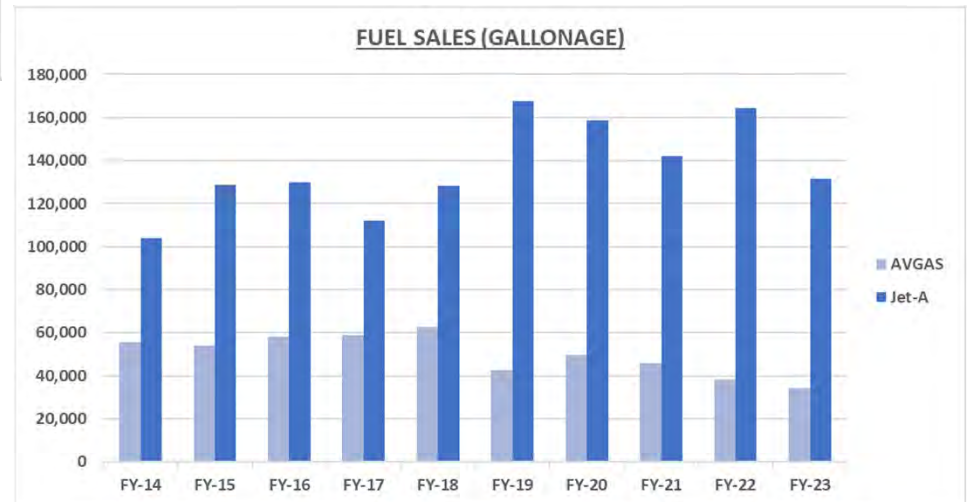
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# AIRPORT REVENUE



- Current occupancy – 100 % full
- Hangar lease revenue stable
  - Trending 91% lease revenue last 10 yrs.
- FY25 Projected increase - >\$80,000

- Fuel Sales stable
  - Ten year average = 186,670 gallons annual
- Great potential for growth with new FBO



# FY 25 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

CATEGORY	REMARKS	AMOUNT
<b>REVENUE</b>	<i>Potential Increase of 25 – 30%</i>	<b>\$474,078</b>
<b>PERSONNEL</b>	<i>Includes Airport Mgr. full salary (previously split with DPWA), Administrative Coordinator starting Jan 2025</i>	<b>\$249,996</b>
<b>OPERATIONS</b>	<i>Costs kept within 3% increase cap</i>	<b>\$273,373</b>
<b>CAPITAL</b>	<i>Includes 2 Capital Grant-funded Projects</i>	<b>\$78,556</b>
<b>COST ALLOCATION</b>	<i>Transfer to the general fund for internal services</i>	<b>\$100,639</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$665,439</b>





# SOLID WASTE SERVICE RATES

Department of Public Works  
Division of Solid Waste and Recycling



Richland County Government

# SERVICES

- Collections
  - 8 Collections Contracts
  - 2 Commercial Contract
  - 1 Fleet System Contract
  - Customer Service Section
- Construction & Demolition Materials Land Fill
  - 1 Grinding Contract
  - 1 Professional Services Contract
- Landfill Closeout (Servicing 2 closed landfills)
- Recycling Program/Drop-off Centers
  - 1 Hauling Contract
  - 5 Recycling Contracts
  - 2 Lease Agreements
- Special Services
  - Roadside Litter Division
  - Refuse Control – Code Enforcement Division
  - Site Cleanup Division





# SERVICES ■ PERSONNEL

- Management
  - 4 employees
- Collections
  - 1 collections manager
  - 1 supervisor of collections
  - 4 customer service reps
  - 8 collections inspectors
  - 4 roll-cart technicians
- Construction & Demolition Materials (C&D) Land Fill
  - 6 employees
- Landfill Closeout (Servicing 2 closed landfills)
  - 1 employee
- Recycling Program/Drop-off Centers
  - 1 coordinator
  - 3 lead drop-off center attendants
  - 4 drop-off center attendants,
- Special Services
  - 19 employees



# COLLECTIONS AND MILLAGE SERVICES

- **Curbside Collections**

- \$35,147,550/yr. (Curbside \$22.68 - \$29.00 per customer/month)(Backyard \$40.82 - \$52.20 per customer/month). Collections consist of 8 service areas distributed amongst 5 Contractors.

- **Landfill Millage**

- County C&D Landfill Operation - \$3,461,939/yr.
- County Recycling & Drop-off Centers Operation - \$2,671,409/yr.
- County C&D Landfill Closeout - \$437,655/yr.
- Management - \$830,730/yr.
- Special Services - \$1,492,520/yr.



# CPI EFFECT ON CURBSIDE COLLECTIONS

- All contracts use Consumer Price Index for rate adjustments
  - CY22 CPI was 7.0%, or a \$2,500,000 increase in costs.
  - CY23 CPI was 6.4%, or a \$2,300,000 increase in costs.
  - CY24 CPI was 3.4%, or a \$1,200,000 increase in costs.



# CPI AFFECTED CONTRACTS

- Collection Area 1 (WM) 02/28/2025
- E-waste (PWR House) 06/30/2025 extendable
- Hauling (Flash) 06/30/2025 extendable
- Collection Area #5A (New South) 06/30/2025
- Collection Area #3 (CWS) 06/30/2025
- MSW Landfill (WM) 06/30/2025
- Collection Area 2 (GFL) 09/30/2025
- Collection Area 4 (GFL) 09/30/2025
- Collection Area 6 (New South) 09/30/2025
- MRF (Sonoco) 03/31/2026
- Collection Area #5B (Johnson) 12/31/2026
- Collection Area #7 (Johnson) 12/31/2026
- C&D Landfill (WM) 07/01/2027
- Liberty Tire 07/31/2027
- Indefinite Delivery
  - Nine Lives (Mattress Recycling)
  - EcoFlo (Household Liquids)



# PROPOSED RATE CHANGE

## EXPENSES

Curbside Collections	\$35,147,550
County Program Management	\$830,730
Recycling Program	\$2,671,409
County Landfill	\$3,461,939
Landfill Closure	\$437,655
Special Services	\$1,492,520
Cost Allocation	\$1,570,881
<b>TOTAL Cost</b>	<b>\$45,612,681</b>

## REVENUE

	Landfill Millage	
	<u>Exist. Mil/Rate</u>	<u>Projected Mil</u>
Taxes	\$7,353,000	\$7,565,600
White Goods	\$378,000	\$200,000
Tipping Fee	\$840,000	\$850,000
Tire Revenue	\$273,000	\$180,000
Interest	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>130,000</u>
Est Revenue	\$8,944,000	\$9,125,600

## ADJUSTMENT

Separate Curbside Program	\$36,401,191	Curbside Revenue	\$34,756,995	\$(1,644,196)
<u>Millage+FILO+Int Related Costs</u>	<u>\$9,211,492</u>	Millage Revenue	<u>\$9,125,600</u>	\$(85,892)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$45,612,681</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$43,882,595</b>	

### RATE/Mil

4.75 %

Cap

### RESULT

Balance



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# REVENUE ADJUSTMENT

- Existing Collection Rates
  - Curbside Service = \$368.10
  - Backyard Service = \$662.58
- Proposed Collection Rates
  - Curbside Service = \$385.58
  - Backyard Service = \$694.05

- Existing Landfill Millage
  - 3.40
- Proposed Landfill Millage
  - Utilize the cap.



# FY 25 RATE SCHEDULE

- Curbside Collection Fee- \$ 368.10 (Current rate increased by 4.75%) \$385.58
- Backyard Service-\$ 694.05 (Proposed curbside rate x 1.8 as per ordinance)
- Disability Backyard Service-\$ 368.10 (Current rate increased by 4.75%) \$385.58
- Commercial Curbside Service - \$771.16 (Proposed curbside rate x 2.0 as per ordinance)
- Rollcart Initial Setup Fee - \$75.00
- C&D Disposal @ Richland County Landfill-\$27.50 per ton (Waste must originate in RC) 4.75% increase
- Yard/Land Clearing Debris/Dirt-\$27.50 per ton
- Brown Goods/Bulk Items-\$27.50 per ton
- Metal and Appliances-\$27.50 per ton
- Mattress/Box Spring – No Charge for Richland County Residents (Limit 2 per day. Mattress + box spring are 1)



# FY 25 RATE SCHEDULE (CONT)

- Mattress/Box spring commercial - \$352.00 per ton
- Tires Commercial-\$1.50 each or \$150.00 per ton
- Residential Tire with proper identification, No Charge (Limit 4 per day)
- Residential Electronic Waste (Up to 5 electronic items per day) No Charge.
- Commercial Electronic Waste, Landfill only - \$1.10 per/lb.
- Residential Mulch- County residents receive mulch at no charge. Resident self-load. Landfill only
- Commercial Mulch-\$14.00 per ton, Landfill only.
- Residential Latex Paint, No Charge for Richland County residents. (Up to 5 cans of any size per day)
- Commercial Latex Paint - \$1.10 per/lb.





# CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Update on Automated collection trucks
  - Used by three contractors at this time
- Drop Centers
  - Find Strategic Locations
  - Ability to take additional commodities
  - Enhance customer service with excellent facilities
  - Use state of the art compactors and roll-off containers
  - Plan for one new drop center for 2024
  - Reduce Illegal Dumping



# RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

- Update the SWR Ordinance (completed)
- Seek annual Council approval for the SWR Rates and Fees (underway)
- New Contract Terms (completed)
  - New penalties based on the Hauler Report Card
  - Contract time from 5 year to 3 year with two one-year extensions
  - Eliminate rear load truck requirement
  - Eliminate fuel markup
- Eliminated a poor performing contractor from a contract area.
- Move contract area lines for poor performance (one occurred)



# RICHLAND COUNTY UTILITIES

2024-2025 Budget Presentation

May 9, 2024



## UTILITIES



Richland County Government

# BUDGET PRESENTATION AGENDA

- General Information
- Employee Awards and Recognition
- Critical Objectives
- Challenges for Sewer and Water
- Organizational Changes
- RCU Water System
- RCU Water System History
- RCU Sewer System
- 2024 Sewer Rate Study – Presented by Raftelis
- Sewer and Water Financials



# UTILITY DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

- Director:  
Bill Davis, PE  
(803) 771-1235 Cell  
[davis.bill@richlandcountysc.gov](mailto:davis.bill@richlandcountysc.gov)
- Deputy Director:  
Jani Hussain  
(803) 401-0045  
[hussain.tariq@richlandcountysc.gov](mailto:hussain.tariq@richlandcountysc.gov)
- Manager of Administration (Business Services):  
Jessica Mancine  
(803) 401-0047  
[mancine.jessica@richlandcountysc.gov](mailto:mancine.jessica@richlandcountysc.gov)



# RICHLAND COUNTY UTILITIES (RCU) IS AN ENTERPRISE FUND

- “An enterprise fund is a self-supporting government fund that sells goods and services to the public for a fee.”  
([www.accountingtools.com](http://www.accountingtools.com))
- We periodically do a Rate Study to determine the appropriate rates for water and sewer services based on our expenses such as employee salaries, benefits, training and job related licensure, office space, supplies, vehicles, asset replacement/rehabilitation, operational costs, and maintenance costs.







# EMPLOYEE AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



Sahad  
Khilqa

University of SC Professor  
Received Professional  
Engineer License



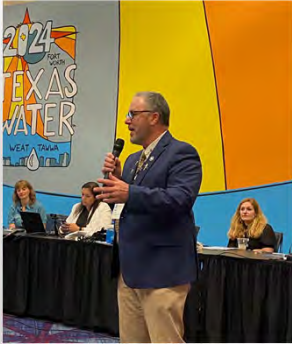
Glemmie  
Haimes

SC Environmental  
Conference  
& Operator  
Conference Speaker  
WEF Panel Speaker



Mike Teran

WEASC Dennis Pittman  
Collection System Award  
District At-Large Committee  
Operators Conference Vice  
Chair of Program Committee  
District Arrangements Chair



Bill  
Davis

WEF House Speaker-Elect  
WEF Volunteer Service  
Award  
Texas Water Conference  
Board Speaker  
Selected as Midlands  
Workforce Pathway  
Planning Liaison



Jani  
Hussain

WEASC Safety Award  
WEASC Safety Committee



Richland County  
Government



# CRITICAL OBJECTIVES

- Provide Friendly Responsive Customer Service
- Maintain a Culture of Inclusiveness and Diversity
- Recruit and Retain High Performing Staff
- Comply with Regulatory Agencies (SC DHEC)
- Maintain our Delegated Review Program (DRP)
- Follow our Code of Ordinances
- Provide Competitive Wages for Our Staff
- Provide Staff with Tools Needed for Success
- Develop a Preventative Maintenance Program to Protect our Assets
- Fully Assess Gravity Sewer System by 2030
- Maintain High Water Quality Standards
- Strategic Planning with a 10 year Capital Improvement Program



# CRITICAL OBJECTIVES

- Complete Southeast Master Plan for Water
- Get Approval of Completed Southeast Sewer Master Plan
- Complete Northwest and North Master Plan
- Enforce our FOG – Fat, Oil and Grease Ordinance
- Limit new and find better solutions for Low Pressure Sewer Systems
- Reduce Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) into our System
- Prevent Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)
- Maintain Robust Capacity Assurance Program (CAP)
- Leverage our Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP)
- Continue to have a Strong Presence in Water Industry Associations and Organizations
- Work with other Municipalities to require our review prior to approving new connections or change of use
- Perform Cut-Offs for Non-Payment and Collect All Plan/Project Review Fees



# CHALLENGES FOR SEWER / WATER

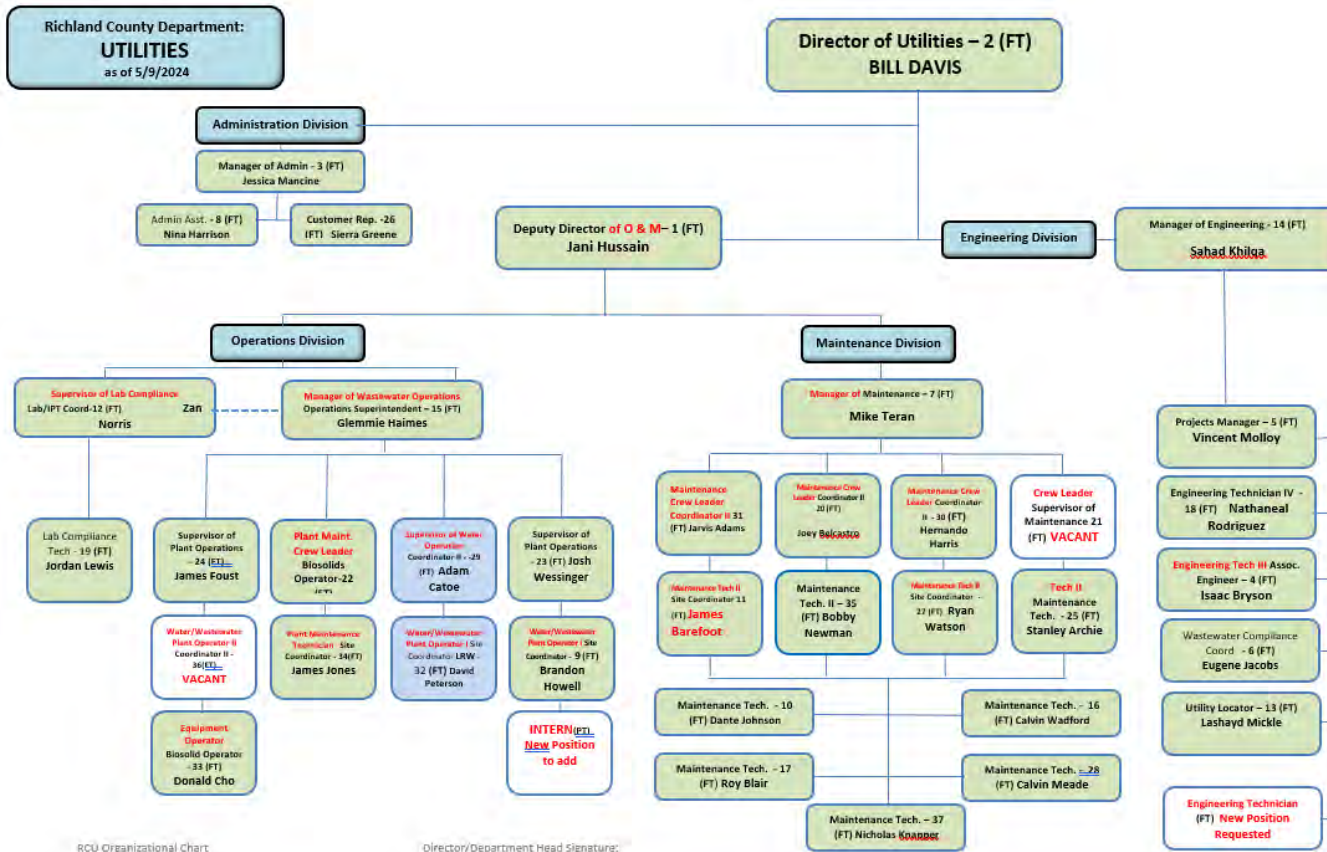


- Construction Costs are 40% Higher than 2020
- Few Bidders on Construction Projects - Last Three Bids:
  - One Bidder which was 175% Higher than Estimated
  - Two Bidders Bidding - one within Budget & the other was Double
  - One Bidder within Budget
- Escalating Equipment and Chemical Costs
- Short Life Expectancy for New Equipment
- Aging Infrastructure
- Workforce Compensation and Retention
- New Indirect Cost Allocation
- Balancing Rates and Affordability



Richland County  
Government

# PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES



**Current Staffing Levels:**  
Administration: 100% (5/5)  
Operations: 92% (11/12)  
Maintenance: 93% (13/14)  
Engineering: 100% (6/6)  
Overall: 95% (35/37)

RCU Organizational Chart

Director/Department Head Signature:



Richland County Government

# PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES



- Add Engineering Technician
- Consider adding a Part-Time (20hrs/wk) Wastewater Operator



# RCU WATER SYSTEM ASSETS

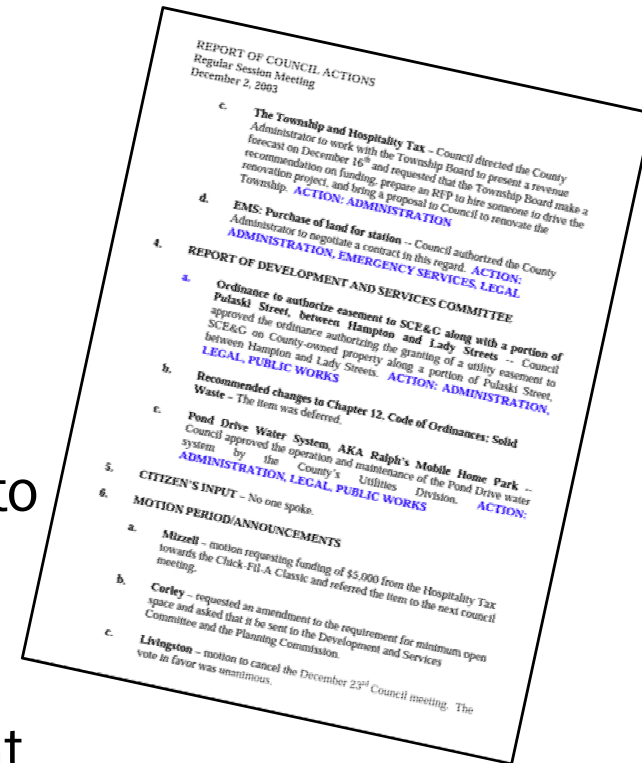
- Hopkins System
  - 562+ Customers
  - Ground Water Source
  - 300,000 Gallons Elevated Storage Tank
- Pond Drive
  - 27 Customers
  - Ground Water Source
  - 7,000 Gallon Hydropneumatic Storage Tank
- Murray Point
  - 14 Customers
  - City of Columbia – Bulk Customer





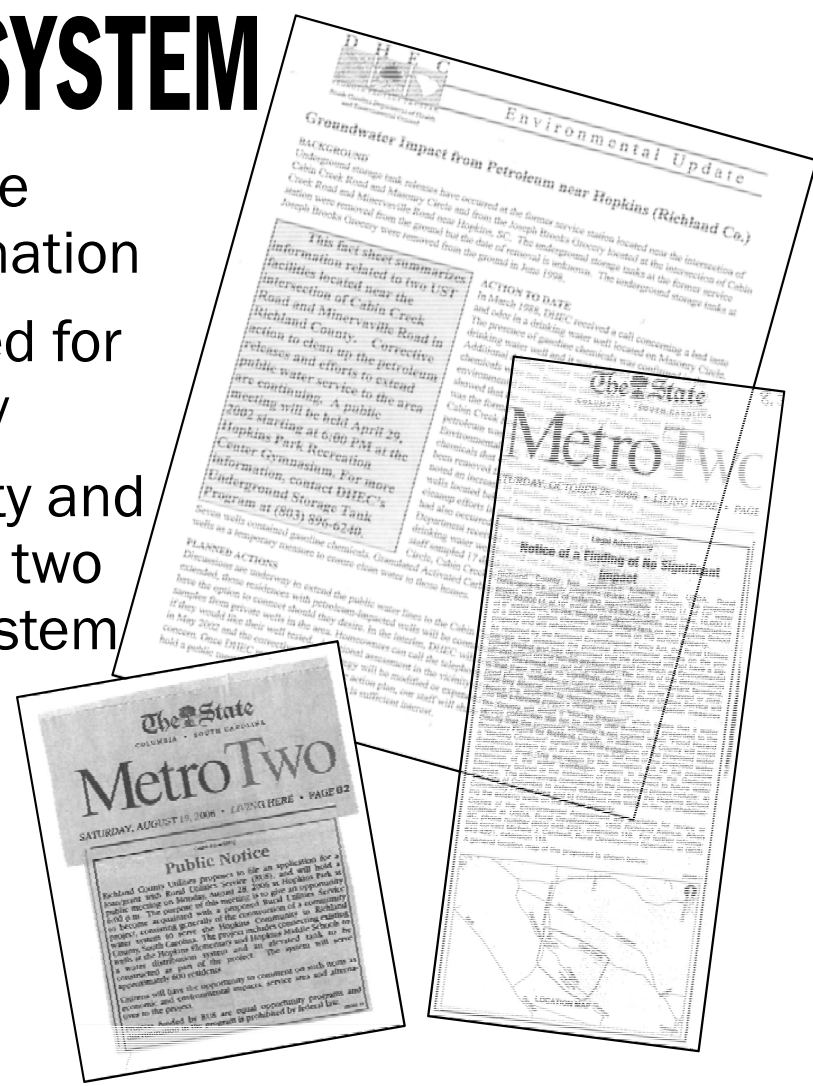
# POND DRIVE WATER SYSTEM

- Ralph's Mobile Home Park was in operation for 40 years and they filed for bankruptcy around 2003
- Richland County came to the aid of the citizens dependent on that well for drinking water
- The System was in disrepair with no operation or maintenance
- RCU engaged a local engineering firm, BP Barber, to design the new Pond Drive Water System
- Cost for the System was \$140,000 paid for by the State Budget and Control Board (\$90,000) and Richland County Grants Administration Department (\$40,000)



# HOPKINS COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM

- Leaking fuel tanks from three former service station sites caused ground water contamination
- Water system contamination dictated a need for new water supply system for the community
- RCU again came to the aid of the community and worked with the School District to take over two wells and create the new Hopkins Water System
- USDA Provided Funding for the System in conjunction with SCDHEC and EPA

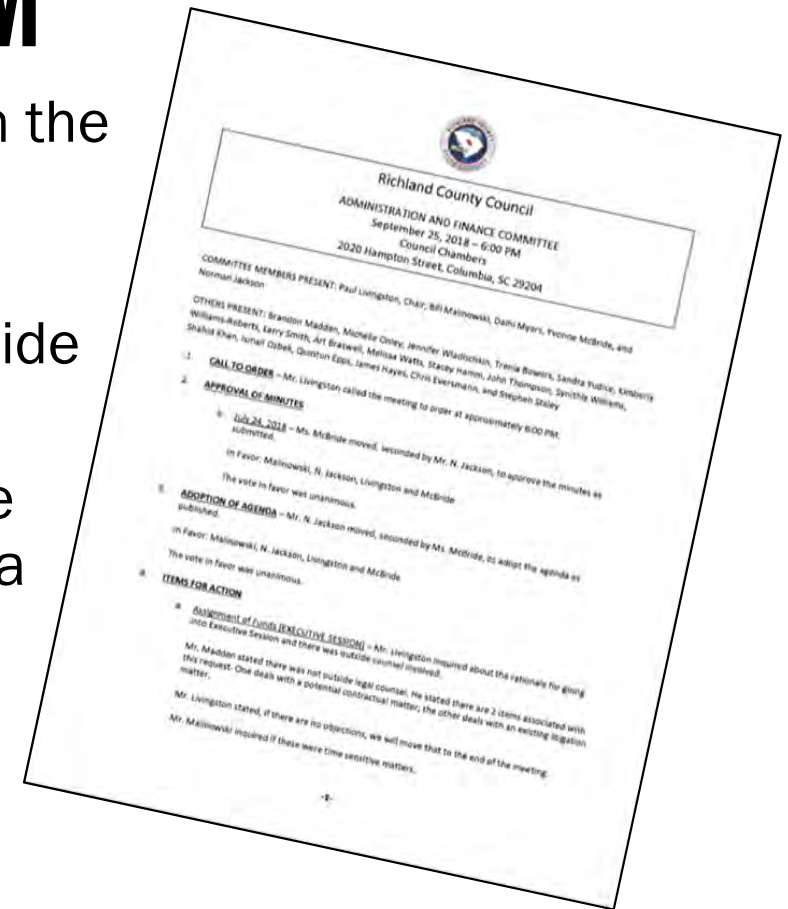


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# MURRAY POINT WATER SYSTEM

- The Water System was deeded to the RCU in the 1980's
- In 2018 the well failed and we received assistance from the City of Columbia to provide water temporarily
- We installed a metered connection and have been a bulk customer of the City of Columbia since then



# WATER RATES



- Initial Water Rate in 2009: \$14 Base plus Usage (\$3.80/1000 and up)
- Increased Rates in 2014: \$20 Base plus Usage by Tier (43% and 23%)
- In-House Rate Study in 2023





# PROJECTED WATER REVENUE

- Revenue has historically been less than actual expenses for the water system
- Proposed Rate Increases for next two years as presented in 2023:
  - ✓ 2024-2025 - 10%
  - ✓ 2025-2026 - 10%
- We anticipated reaching Breakeven by 2025-2026



# RCU SEWER SYSTEM ASSETS



- SEWER SYSTEMS\*:

- Broad River Service Area

- Regional WWTP - 6 MGD
- 13,233 Customer Equivalents
- Blue Granite – Bulk Customer
- 46 Pump Stations
- ~51000 liner feet of Gravity Pressure Lines
- ~843,000 linear feet of Gravity Sewer Lines
- ~324,000 linear feet of Forcemain
- ~5000 Manholes

- Southeast Service Area

- Regional WWTP – 1,200,000 GPD (upgrading to 2.5 MGD)
- Lower Richland – 1,500+ Customers
- ~ 84000 linear feet of Gravity Sewer Lines
- ~ 242000 linear feet of Forcemain
- 16 Pump Stations
- 2,641 Customer Equivalents
- Town of Eastover – Bulk Customer (~342 Customers/~11 Businesses)
- KEMIRA Chemicals – Bulk Customer
- McEntire and McCrady – Bulk Customers
- Schneider Electric (Square D) – Bulk Customer

## Interesting Fact:

We have about 292 total miles of sewer lines.

If you lay our pipe lines end to end on the roadways, beginning in Irmo South Carolina, you could almost reach Birmingham Alabama



# SEWER RATE HISTORY

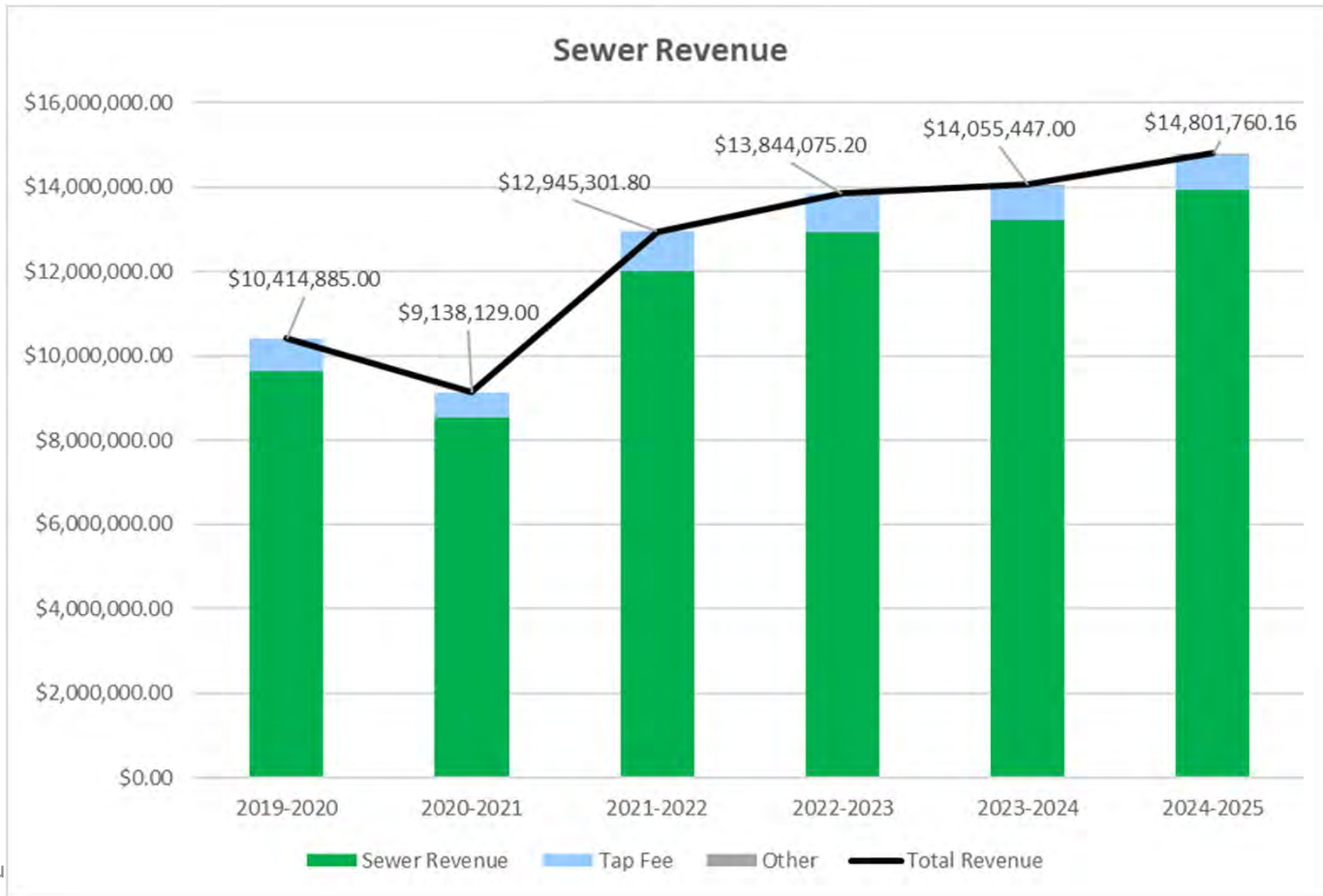


- No Rate Increases from 2010 – 2018
- Increased Rates in 2019, 2021, and 2022
- No Rate Increase in 2023
- Our Current Sewer Rate:

*\$72.03 Flat Rate per  
Residential Equivalent Unit (REU)*



# PROJECTED SEWER REVENUE



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## Sewer Rate Study

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024



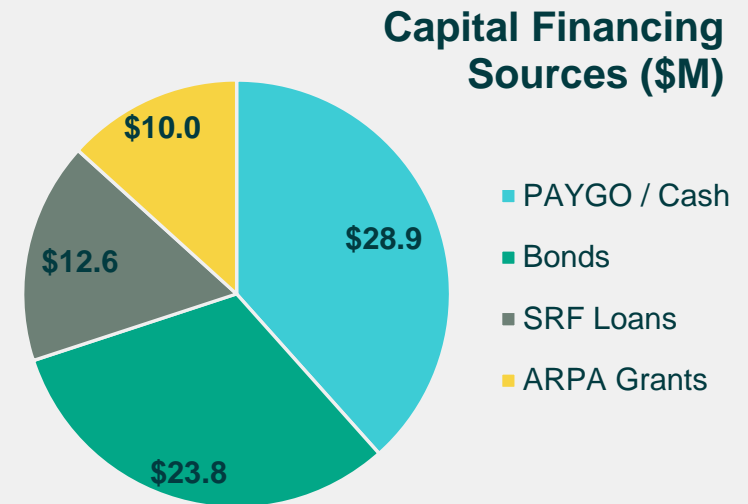
# Project Objectives

- Financial Plan
  - › Develop forecast of revenues and revenue requirements
  - › Assess level of future increases
  - › Build a financial planning model (Excel based) for use by staff
- Rates
  - › Evaluate effectiveness of existing rate structure

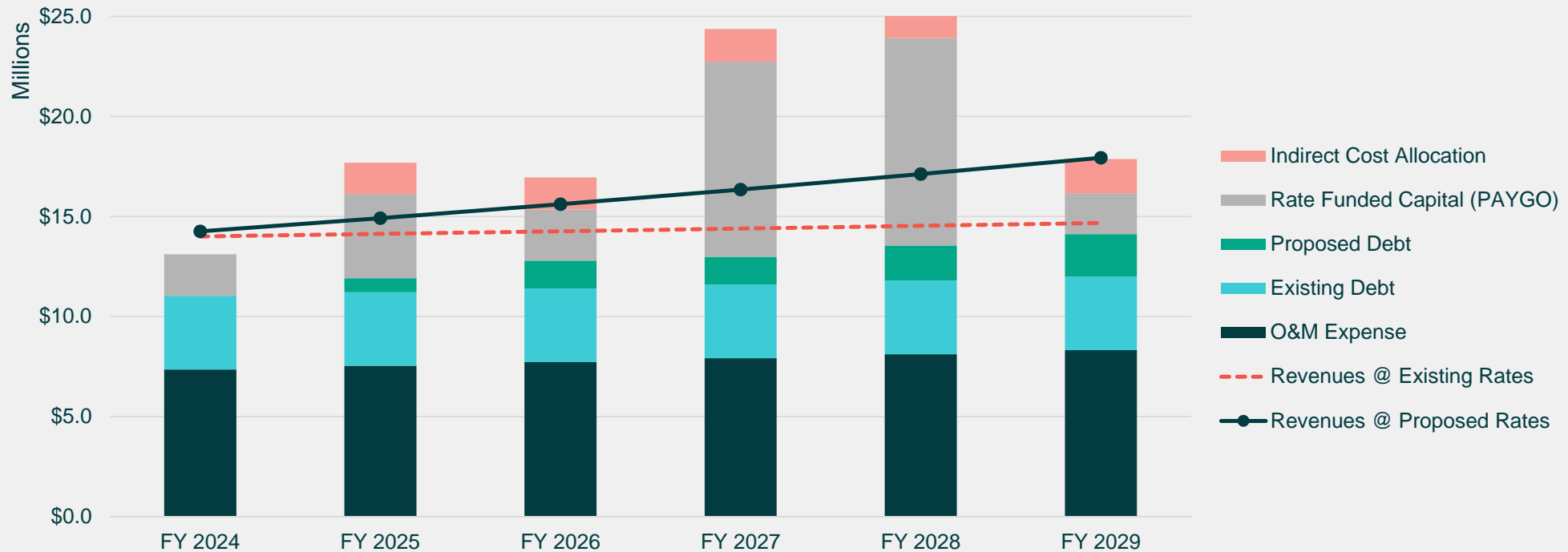


# Key Assumptions – Revenue Requirements

- Operating Expenses
  - › FY 2024 Budget as baseline for forecast
  - › 2.5% blended inflationary increases
- Debt Service
  - › 3 loans currently outstanding
- Capital Improvement Plans (FY 25-29)
  - › Total 5-year Spend: \$75.2 Million (\$15.0m per year)
  - › \$10M ARPA Grant
  - › Major Projects:
    - Eastover WWTP Expansion
    - 24” Force Main
  - › Includes 3% annual inflation factors

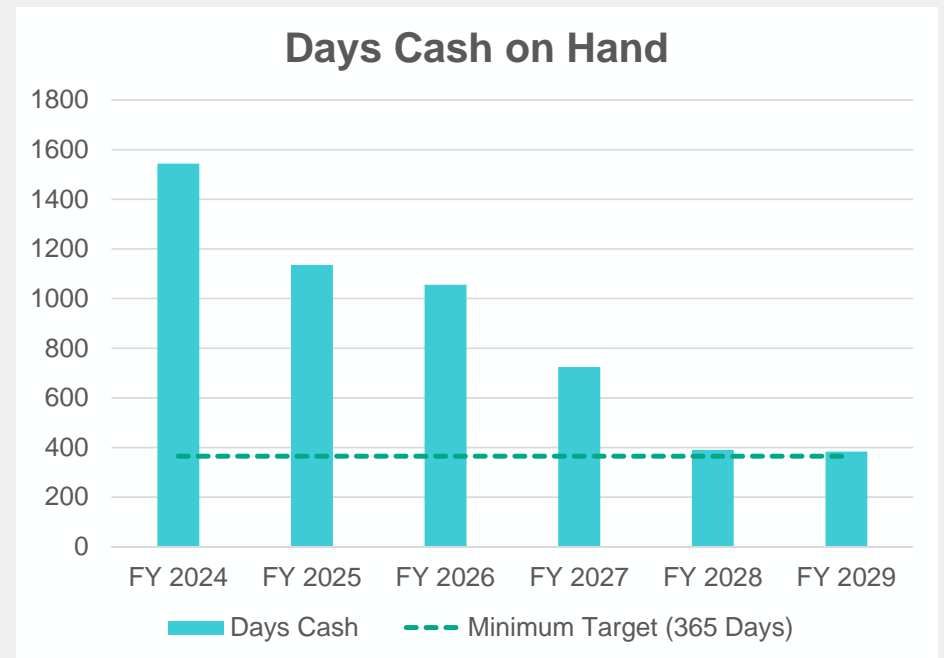
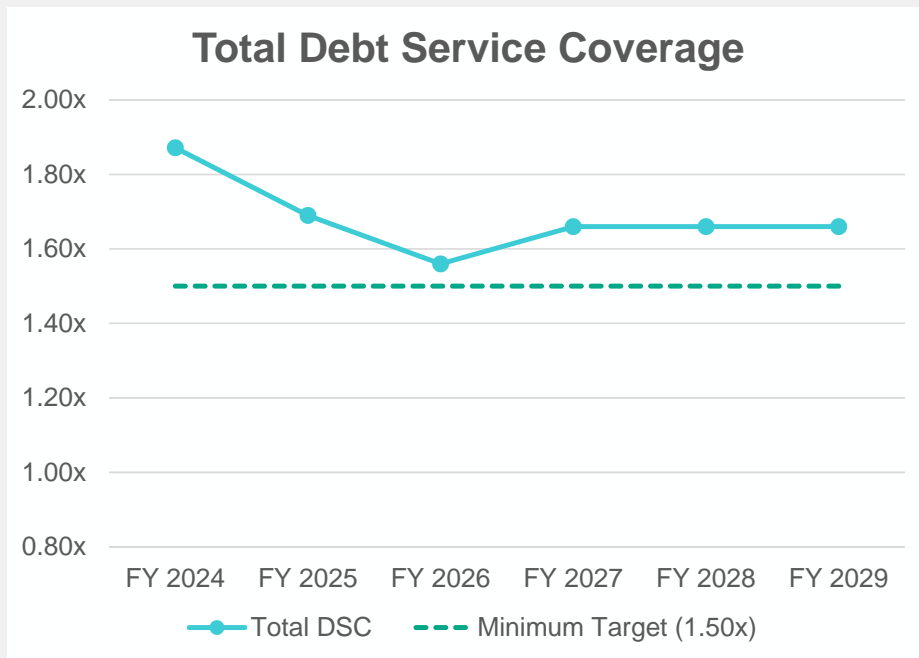


# Financial Forecast



	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29
Annual Rate Increase	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%

# Key Financial Metrics

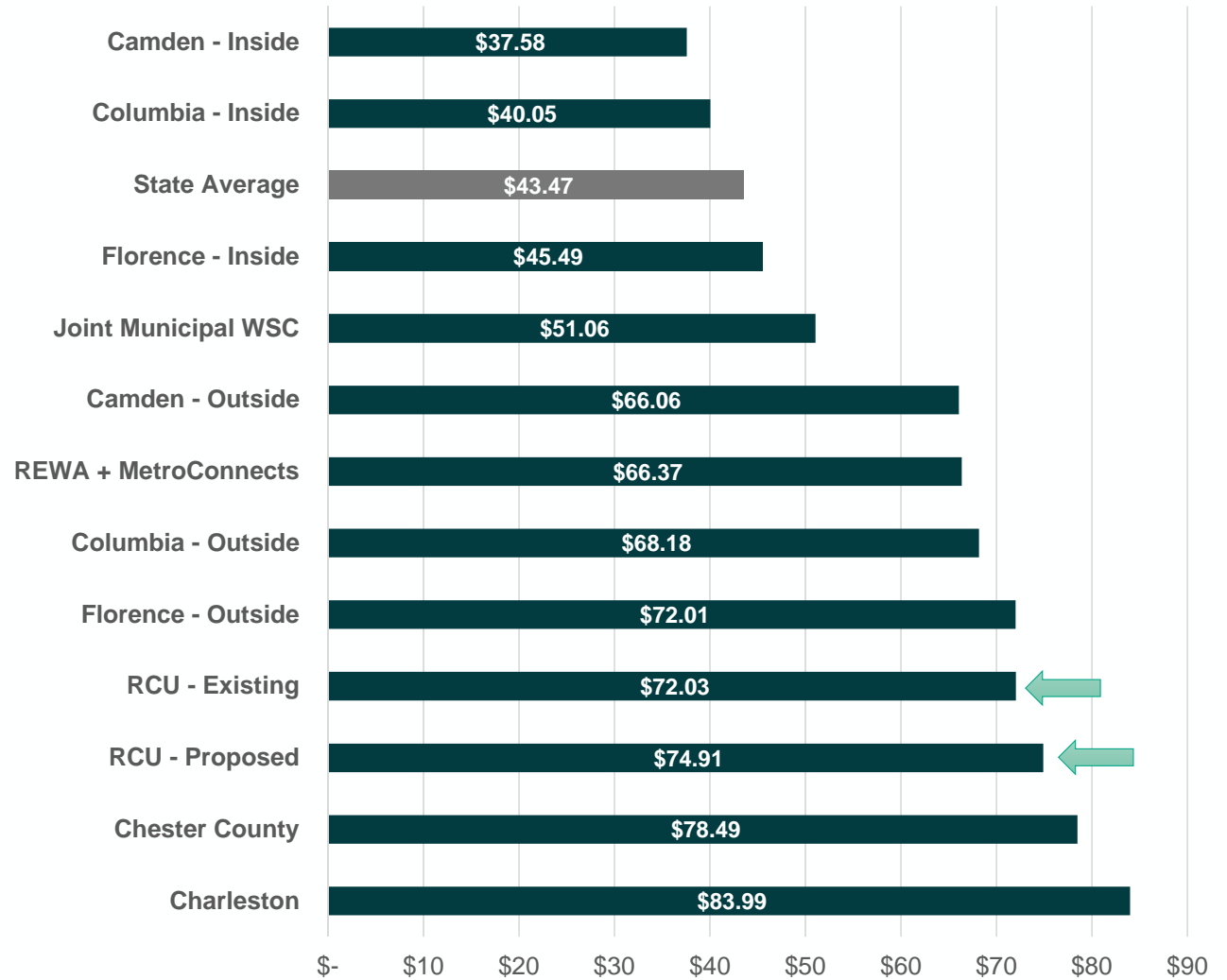


**Debt Service Coverage** measures ability to make required debt payments.

**Days Cash on Hand** measures system liquidity (cash) available to meet obligations, represented in number of days.

# Sewer Bill Comparison

*(Residential - 5,000 gal/mo)*





# Thank you!

**Contact:**

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# SEWER AND WATER FINANCIALS

Expenditures	FY 2025 Admin Recommended Total	FY 2025 Department Requested Total	Requested Increase
Sewer Personnel	\$3,043,824.60	3,043,824.60	\$0.00
Sewer Operating	\$4,795,893.00	4,795,893.00	\$0.00
<b>Debt Service*</b>	\$3,682,963.00	3,682,963.00	\$0.00
Sewer Capital	\$548,000.00	<b>\$1,569,207.00</b>	<b>\$1,021,207.00</b>
Sewer Indirect Cost Allocation	\$1,525,535.34	\$1,525,535.34	\$0.00
Add to Reserve	\$1,021,207.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>-\$1,021,207.00</b>
From Reserve for Pay as You Go Capital Projects	0	<b>\$10,000,000.00</b>	<b>\$10,000,000.00</b>
Water Personnel	147,889.00	147,889.00	\$0.00
Water Operating	182,131.00	182,131.00	\$0.00
Water Indirect Cost Allocation	38,455.66	38,455.66	\$0.00
Water Capital	\$0.00	<b>\$25,000.00</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$14,985,898.60</b>	<b>\$25,010,898.60</b>	<b>\$10,025,000.00</b>
<i>*This number will likely increase to cover the WWTP Expansion and 24" Forcemain</i>			
Revenue	FY 2025 Admin Projected	FY 2025 Department Projected	Projected Increase
<b>Sewer Rate Fees*</b>	\$13,941,999.02	\$13,941,999.02	\$0.00
Sewer Tap Fees	\$809,761.14	\$809,761.14	\$0.00
<b>Water Rate Fees**</b>	\$234,138.36	\$234,138.36	\$0.00
Water Tap Fees	\$0.00	<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>
Transfer From Reserve for Pay as You Go Capital Projects	\$0.00	<b>\$10,000,000.00</b>	<b>\$10,000,000.00</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$14,985,898.52</b>	<b>\$25,015,898.52</b>	<b>\$10,030,000.00</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>-\$0.08</b>	<b>\$4,999.92</b>	
<b>*4% Rate Increase</b>			
<b>**10% Rate Increase</b>			



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QUESTIONS?



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