CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION

Delivering Results for Cullman County

FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 BUDGET

ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

Cullman County at a glance

EST. 1877

734
square miles

92,604
2024 population

Located in north-central Alabama, Cullman County's largest city and county seat sits midway between Birmingham and Huntsville along I-65. The County Commission is the county's administrative body; its members are elected county-wide to alternating four-year terms.

COMMISSION PRIORITIES

- **Restore county roads, bridges and infrastructure**
- **Recruit and retain high-quality employees**
- **Maintain county buildings and equipment to a high standard**
- **Operate Enterprise Funds efficiently using proven business practices to reduce taxpayer subsidies**

Chairman Jeff Clemons
District 1 Kerry Watson • District 2 Garry Marchman
District 3 Kelly Duke • District 4 Corey Freeman

BALANCED BUDGET REQUIREMENT

Alabama law requires adoption by October 1 and a balanced budget—expenditures cannot exceed revenues. Fiscal year: October 1, 2026–September 30, 2027.

Code of Alabama 1975 · Title 11 · Chapter 8 · Section 3

THE BUDGET 2026-2027

A budget is the legal planning and management mechanism of a local government. Public policy is formed by legislation, but priorities are defined by a budget. The officially adopted budget is listed next on page 4. The Commission approves the budget at the fund level. This allows for flexibility in daily operations as needs arise. The only changes that require budget amendments are those that would increase the overall expense for a fund. Each departmental budget is made up of three areas: Personnel, Operations and Capital. Administrative policy does not allow for budget transfers to or from the personnel budget. The ongoing priorities are road and infrastructure improvement, facility revitalization and personnel recruiting and retention.

Reserve Balances

GFOA has recommended for many years that general purpose governments maintain unrestricted budgetary fund balance in their general fund of at least two months of regular general fund operating revenues or regular general fund operating expenditures. Under those guidelines, an unrestricted budgetary fund balance of $6,446,636 would be required for fiscal year 2027. A lower unrestricted fund balance may be appropriate for states and larger governments, such as cities and counties, because they can often better predict contingencies and they typically have diverse revenue streams. While Cullman County has diverse revenue streams, the County Commission has opted to maintain a stronger reserve than required, in order to have funds available to match Federal or State grant opportunities and to be prepared in the case of disaster events on road and bridge infrastructure. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2026-2027 the Cullman County Commission has adopted a Fund Balance Reserve Policy that requires us to maintain a minimum of 16.7% of General Fund expenditures and sets a target of 25% of General Fund expenditures. The Commission also set minimums and targets for grant match funds, disaster/emergency funds and capital replacement funds.

Highlights

The fiscal year 2027 budget focuses on the priority areas set by the County Commission. This budget includes road expenditures of $14,151,000 with $4.4 million for paving materials. It also includes a 4.14% increase for personnel (made up of a 1% COLA and a step of 3.14%) to keep the pay scale competitive. We have budgeted for a major Rural Trails Program Grant for Stony Lonesome OHV Park to provide better accommodations and upgrade the facilities. Cullman County has very limited debt and prioritizes using debt for long-term capital expenditures, especially those that generate funds to pay the debt service and for no longer than the useful life of the item.

			Cullman County FY 26-27 Budget							
Governmental Funds		Estimated		Revenues			Expenses		Estimated	
		Beg. Cash							Ending Cash	Increase
Fund	Fund	Balance	Current Yr	Transfers	Total	Current Yr	Transfers	Total	Balance	(Decrease)
Number	Name	Excl's CD's	Revenue	In	Revenue	Expenses	Out	Expense	Incl's CD's	Cash
001	General	5,276,166	38,602,616	0	38,602,616	34,388,504	5,714,112	40,102,616	3,776,166	(1,500,000)
002	Continency Fund	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	0
004	93 Sales Tax- Res.	3,355,406	65,000	0	65,000	0	0	0	3,420,406	65,000
029	Pistol Permit Revenue Loss Fund	463,846	70,000		70,000	50,000			533,846	
031	Opioid Settlement Fund	21,000				0		0	21,000	0
110	Service For COA	17,000	143,550	0	143,550	143,550	0	143,550	17,000	0
111	Gasoline Fund	0	7,323,500	5,303,445	12,626,945	12,626,945	0	12,626,945	0	0
112	Public Building, Roads, Bridges	3,274,000	3,450,000	0	3,450,000	250,000	3,000,000	3,250,000	3,474,000	200,000
113	Public Hwy & Traffic	39,000	530,000	0	530,000	0	515,000	515,000	54,000	15,000
116	Capital Improvement	1,254,243	475,000	0	475,000	200,000	275,000	475,000	1,254,243	0
117	RRR Gasoline	0	1,245,000	413,860	1,658,860	1,658,860	0	1,658,860	0	0
118	Secondary Road	0	413,860	0	413,860	0	413,860	413,860	0	0
120	Reappraisal	0	2,073,976	0	2,073,976	2,073,976	0	2,073,976	0	0
123	Tourism Fund	66,457	0	0	0	20,000	0	20,000	46,457	(20,000)
124	C.O.A. Fund	10,000	65,000	1,371,321	1,436,321	1,436,321	0	1,436,321	10,000	0
125	Juvenile Probation	2,000	44,000	310,414	354,414	354,414	0	354,414	2,000	0
126	Program & Subsistance	61,000	25,000	0	25,000	6,000	10,000	16,000	70,000	9,000
127	Day Treatment Prog.	90,000	31,000	0	31,000	11,000	20,000	31,000	90,000	0
128	Work Release	0	144,674	0	144,674	144,674	0	144,674	0	0
129	Law Library	39,000	15,000	0	15,000	15,000	0	15,000	39,000	0
135	Economic Development	152,000	12,500	387,462	399,962	449,962	0	449,962	102,000	(50,000)
136	Motor Vehicle Special	30,000	3,000	0	3,000	3,000	0	3,000	30,000	0
150	CARTS Escrow	9,714	431,620	422,971	854,591	539,525	0	539,525	324,780	315,066
155	C.A.R.T.S.	975,000	1,380,740	500,000	1,880,740	2,138,500	422,971	2,561,471	294,269	(680,731)
156	Special Probate fund	30,000	17,000	0	17,000	17,000	0	17,000	30,000	0
166	Sheriff's General Fund	42,000	4,000	0	4,000	4,000	0	4,000	42,000	0
201	Judicial Jail Fund	264,154	235,000	0	235,000	235,000		235,000	264,154	0
220	County Rebuild Alabama	0	1,581,000	0	1,581,000	1,482,289	0	1,482,289	98,711	98,711
221	Federal Aid Exchange	0	400,000	0	400,000	400,000	0	400,000	0	0
280	OHV RTP Grant	0	712,000	0	712,000	712,000	1	712,000	0	0
298	Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund	152,489	0	0	0	152,489	0	152,489	0	(152,489)
299	Coronavirus Rescue Act Fund	123,770	0	0	0	123,770	0	123,770	0	(123,770)
312	L/Term Note	0	0	888,500	888,500	888,500	0	888,500	0	0
765	District Attorney	84,516	23,000	0	23,000	20,000	0	20,000	87,516	3,000
770	Worthless Check Fee	15,000	50,000	0	50,000	50,000	0	50,000	15,000	0
Total Governmental Funds		15,848,261	59,567,036	9,597,973	69,165,009	60,595,279	10,370,944	70,916,222	14,097,048	(1,821,213)
Proprietary Funds										
511	Sanitation	200,000	9,328,056	0	9,328,056	9,328,056	0	9,328,056	200,000	0
512-516	Parks	918,000	1,417,680	1,834,145	3,251,825	3,418,262	0	3,418,262	751,563	(166,437)
520	Water	1,000,000	22,303,844	0	22,303,844	21,279,446	0	21,279,446	2,024,398	1,024,398
Total Proprietary Funds		2,118,000	33,049,580	1,834,145	34,883,725	34,025,764	0	34,025,764	2,975,961	857,961
	Total Budget - FY 26-27	17,966,261	92,616,616	11,432,118	104,048,734	94,621,043	10,370,944	104,941,986	17,073,009	(963,252)

CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION – FY 2026–2027 Budget

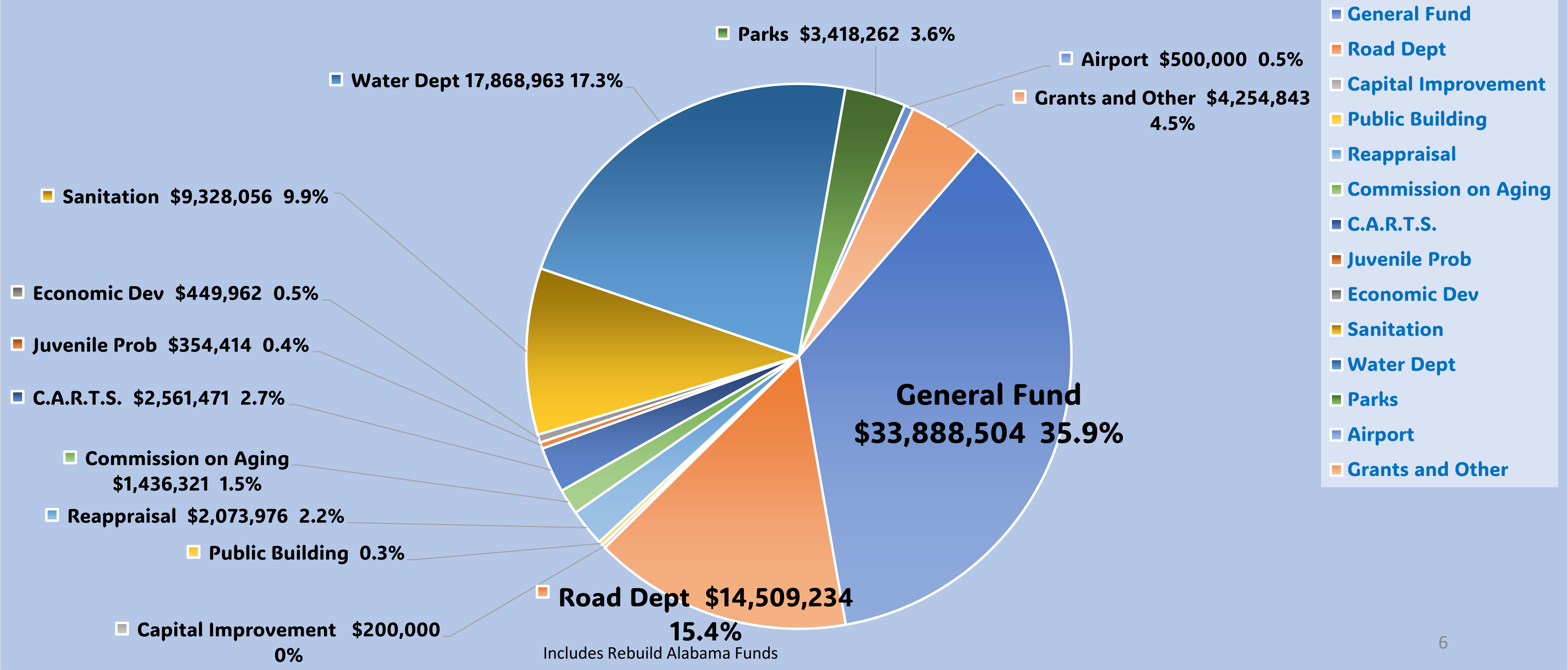
	FY 26-27 Budget	FY 25-26 Budget	FY 24-25 Budget	
General Fund-*(Incl's transfers to other*	40,102,616	36,914,519	33,736,306	8.64%
Less trf's to other departments	(5,714,112)	*(5,143,417)*	*(5,185,473)*	11.10%
Road Department*(incl's RRR, Pub Hwy*	12,560,289	12,193,000	12,698,937	3.01%
Rebuild Alabama	1,482,289	1,558,000	1,334,323	-4.86%
Federal Aid Exchange	400,000	400,000	400,000	0.00%
Public Building	3,250,000	3,250,000	3,336,000	0.00%
Capital Improvement Fund	642,000	642,000	376,299	0.00%
Reappraisal	2,073,976	1,897,988	1,898,324	9.27%
Commission On Aging	1,436,321	1,284,953	1,193,459	11.78%
C.A.R.T.S.	2,561,471	2,536,471	2,213,342	0.99%
State Juvenile Probation Dept	405,739	318,519	370,851	27.38%
Economic Development	449,962	373,342	442,056	20.52%
Sanitation	9,328,056	8,970,116	8,400,000	3.99%
Parks-Smith Lake, Sportsman Lake, Cl	3,418,262	3,292,780	3,181,360	3.81%

Variances in the budget from year to year can be the result of several factors. Grant dollars or one-time revenue can vary from budget cycle to budget cycle. Some years, more dollars will be budgeted from one fund in order to manage the cash balances of funds in compliance with reserve polices. The decrease in this year's Rebuild budget is related to the projects that are planned for these funds, but other funds will be used to supplement the road work this fiscal year, which is reflected in a higher transfer from General Fund. CARTS operational budget is flat this year, but additional dollars will be invested in fleet safety upgrades. FY 2026 buses were not purchased due to contract changes, so those buses will be purchased in FY 2027 and decrease cash balance in Fund 155 CARTS.

CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION – FY 2026–2027 Budget Overview

$94,621,043

* major funds, excludes transfers

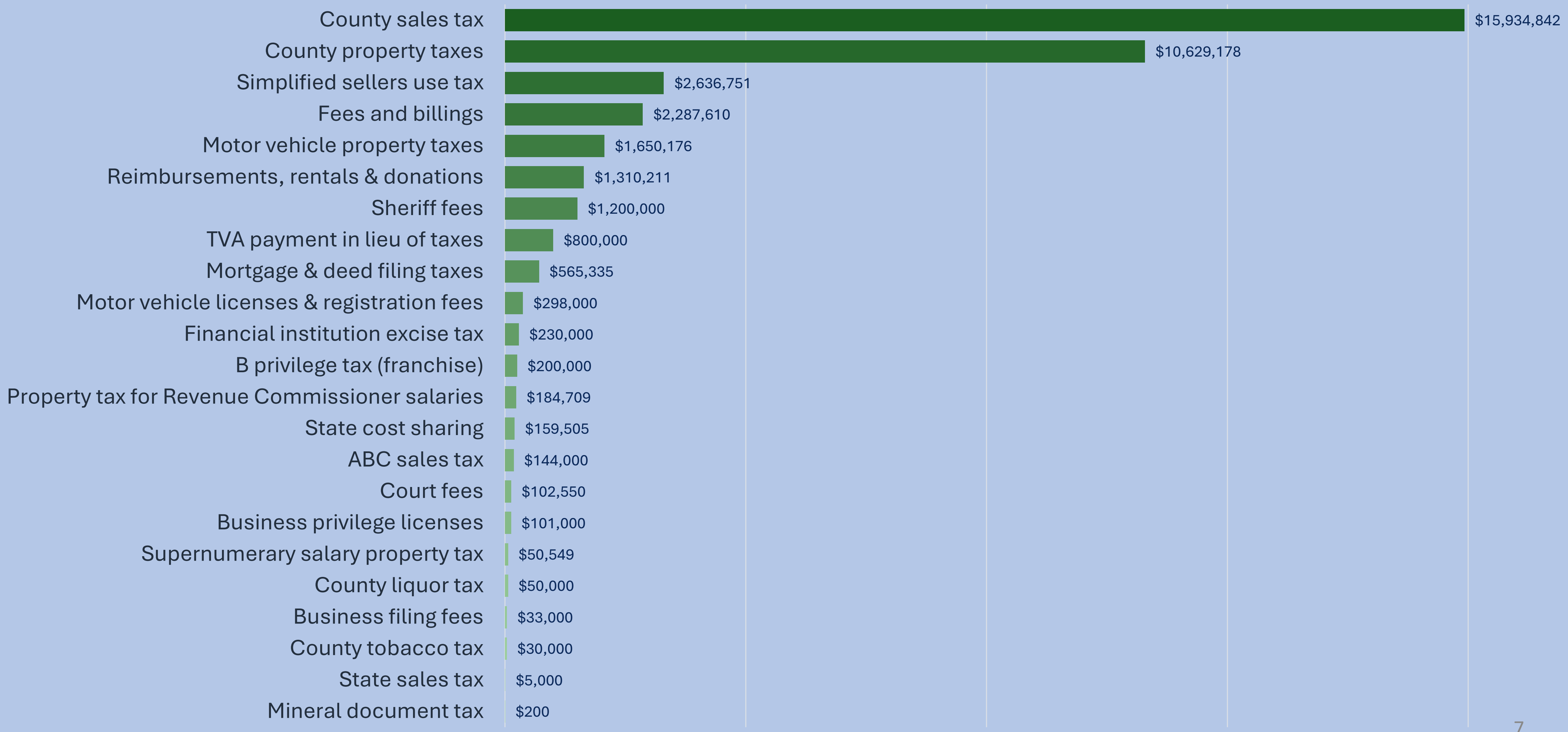


Includes Rebuild Alabama Funds

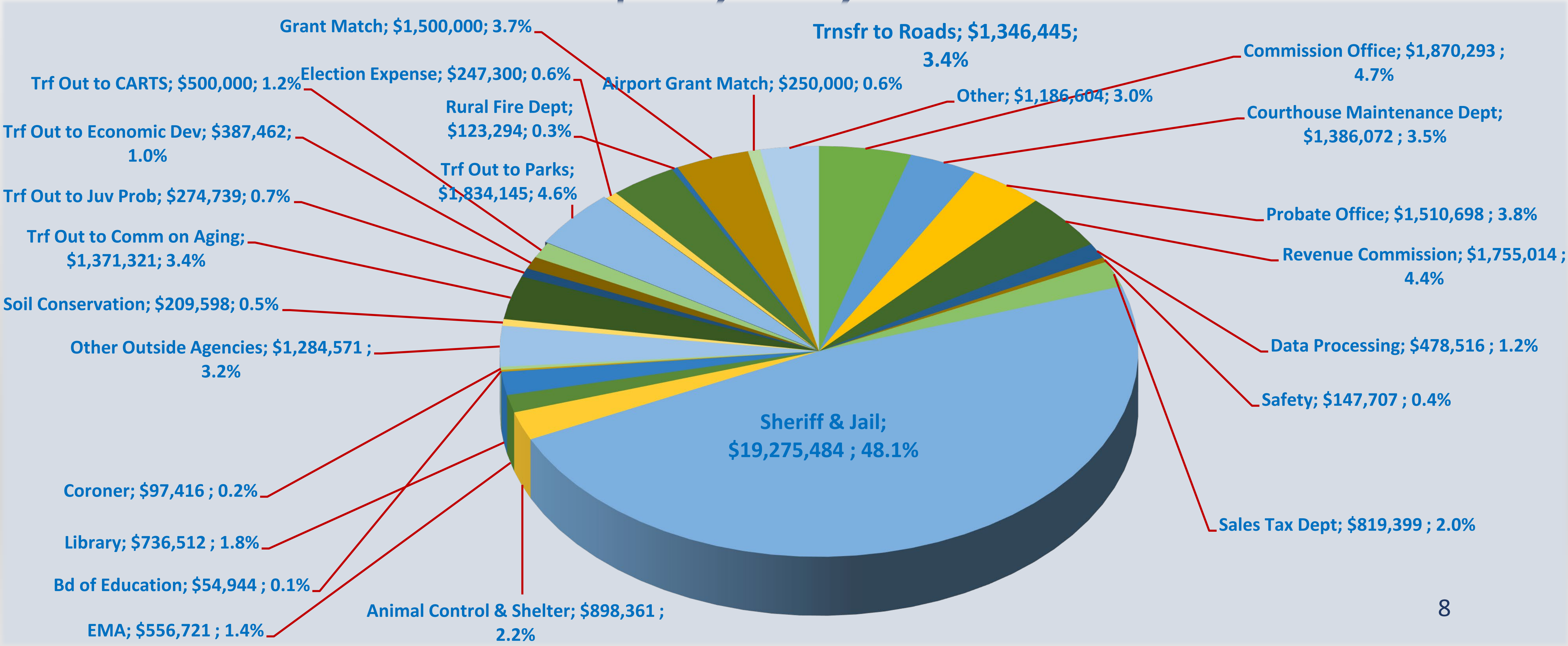
CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION – FY 2026–2027 General Fund Revenue

$38,602,616 budgeted revenue

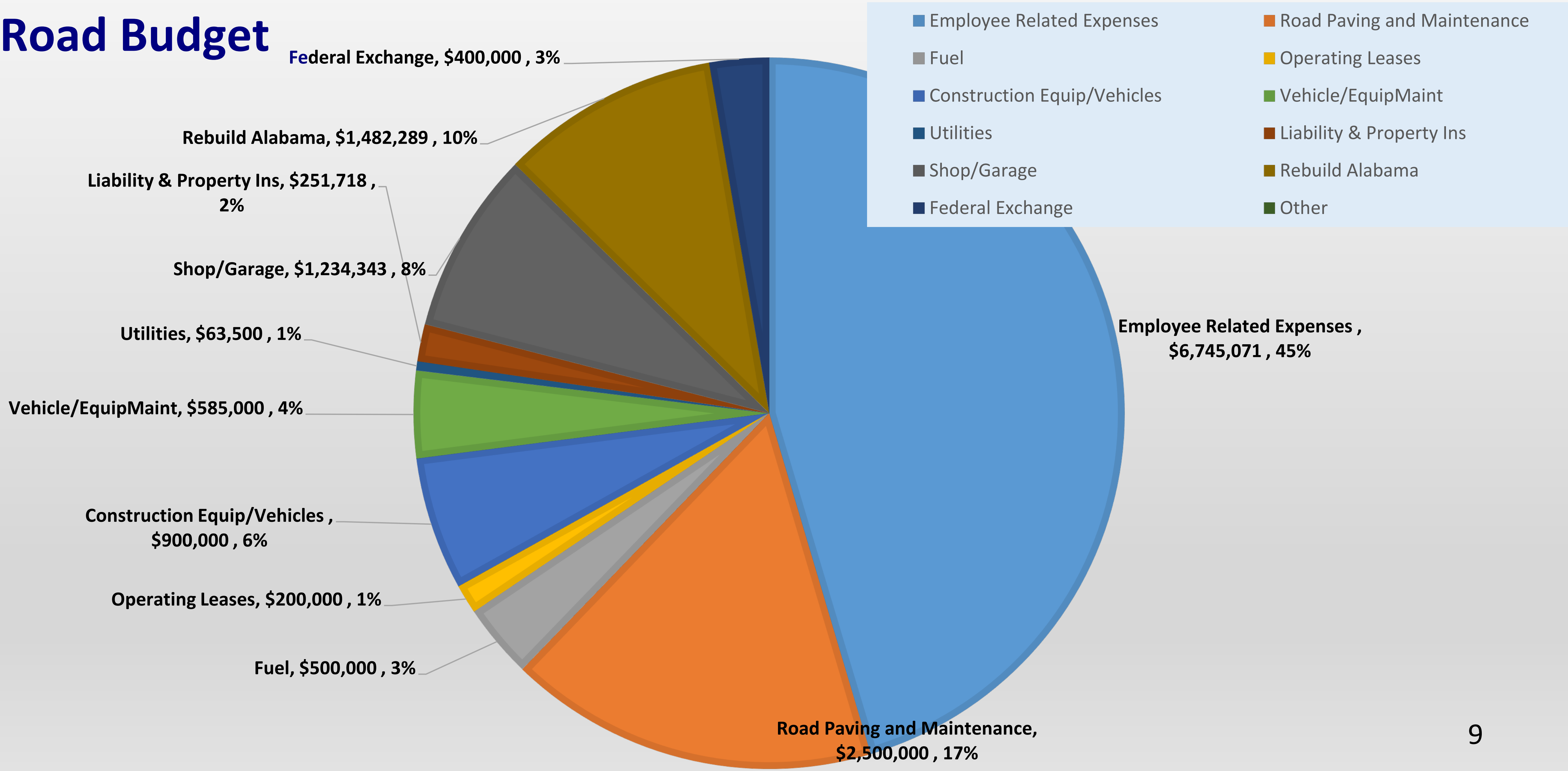
Revenue sources ranked largest to smallest



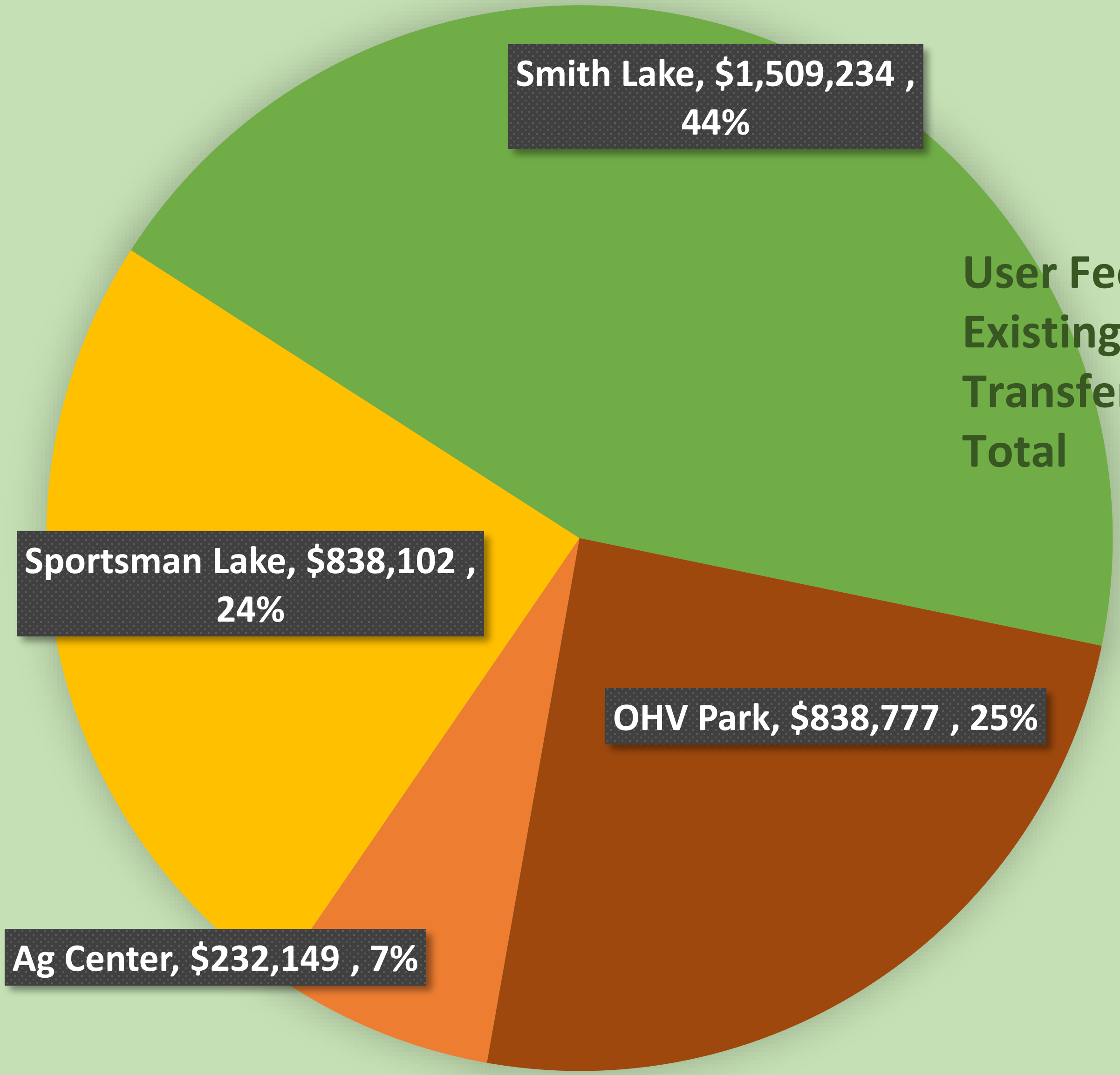
General Fund FY 2027 Budgeted Expense
$40,102,616



Road Budget


Employee Related Expenses
Road Paving and Maintenance
Fuel
Operating Leases
Construction Equip/Vehicles
Vehicle/EquipMaint
Utilities
Liability & Property Ins
Shop/Garage
Rebuild Alabama
Federal Exchange
Other
Federal Exchange, $400,000 , 3%
Rebuild Alabama, $1,482,289 , 10%
Liability & Property Ins, $251,718 , 2%
Shop/Garage, $1,234,343 , 8%
Utilities, $63,500 , 1%
Vehicle/EquipMaint, $585,000 , 4%
Construction Equip/Vehicles , $900,000 , 6%
Operating Leases, $200,000 , 1%
Fuel, $500,000 , 3%
Road Paving and Maintenance, $2,500,000 , 17%
Employee Related Expenses , $6,745,071 , 45%

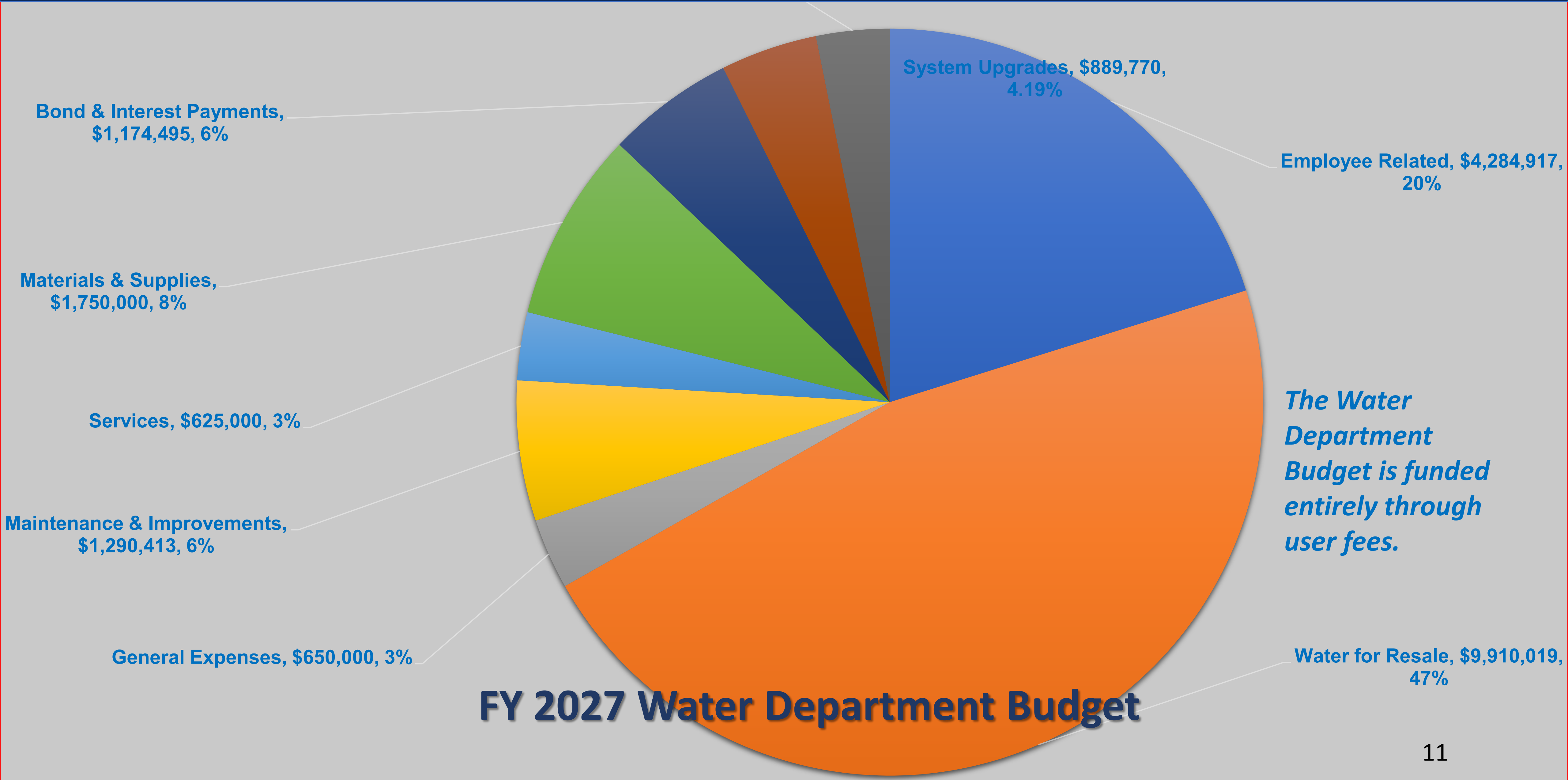
CULLMAN COUNTY PARKS SYSTEM- FY 2027 Budget



Revenue Sources

User Fees	$1,417,680	41%
Existing Cash Balance	$166,437	5%
Transfer From General	$1,834,145	54%
Total	$3,418,262	100.00%

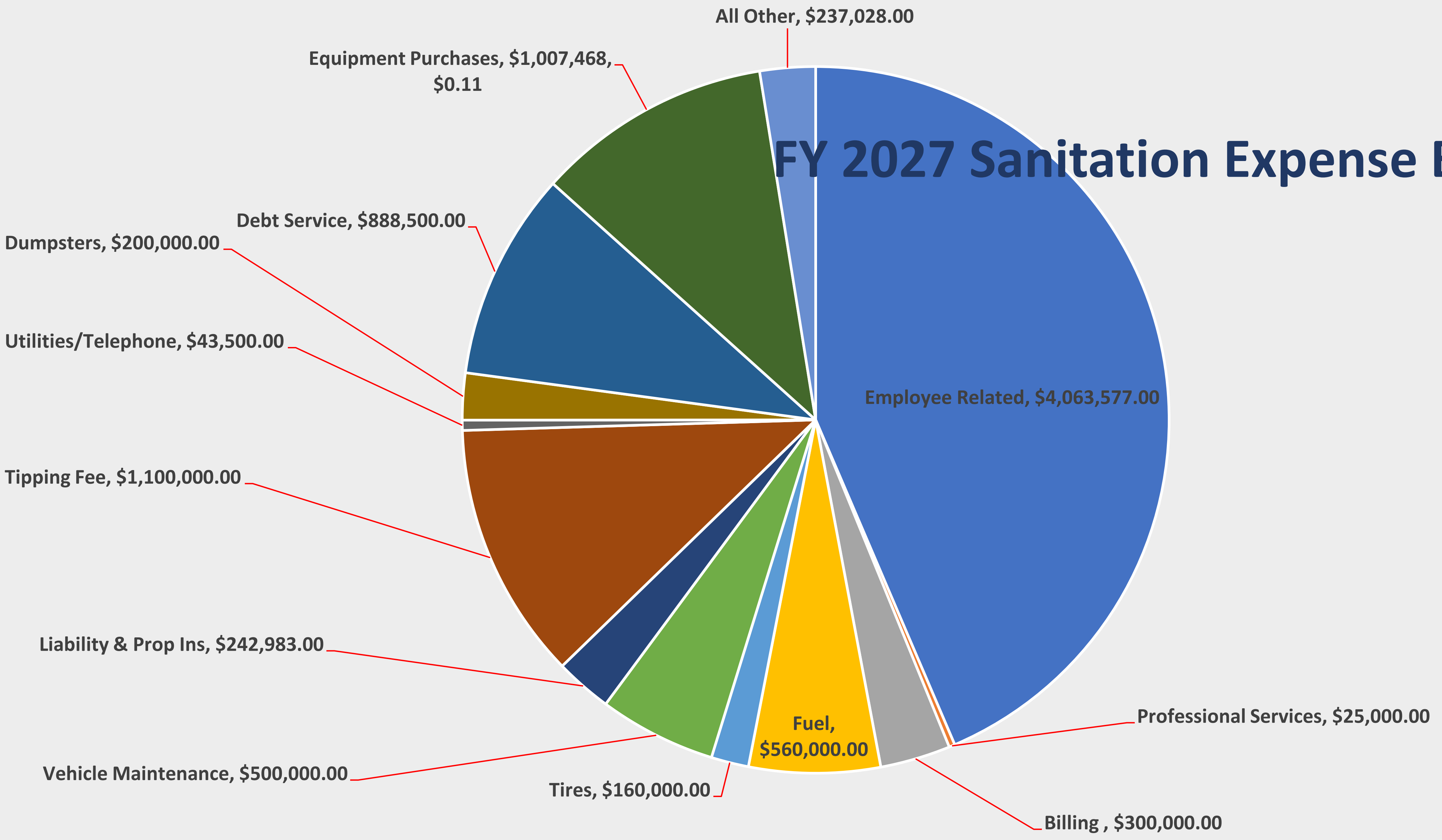
CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION – FY 2026–2027 Budget



The Water Department Budget is funded entirely through user fees.

CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION – FY 2026–2027 Budget Overview

FY 2027 Sanitation Expense Budget



Appropriations To Outside Agencies

Cullman Elks Veterans Committee	18,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00
Cullman Festhalle Market Platz Committee Promotion	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Industrial Development Board	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
Soil Conservation	209,598.00	228,337.00	200,719.00	200,719.00
Forestry	24,000.00	24,000.00	24,000.00	24,000.00
Airport- Operations	250,000.00	250,000.00	250,000.00	245,000.00
Vol Fire Department	133,294.00	109,000.00	109,000.00	109,000.00
Health Dept- AL Public Health	100,000.00	100,000.00	80,000.00	75,000.00
Cullman Area Mental Health	29,000.00	29,000.00	29,000.00	29,000.00
Chamber of Commerce- membership through CCEDC	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Developmentally Disabled-Cullman 310 Authority	60,000.00	60,000.00	60,000.00	60,000.00
Board of Education	48,000.00	148,000.00	148,000.00	148,000.00
Extension Service	45,000.00	45,000.00	45,000.00	45,000.00
Victim Services of Cullman	1,500.00	2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Agriplex- request for Extension rent upon completion of building	7000	30,000.00	30,000.00	7,500.00
Foster Grandparent(Community Action)	1000	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
United Way	2500	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Good Samaritan Health Clinic	1500	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00
Child Advocacy Center of Cullman	1000	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Lighthouse	500	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
Friends of the Public Library	2500	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Farm-City	300	300.00	300.00	300.00
VFW Heroes Dinner	500	500.00	500.00	500.00
Veteran Support	10000	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
Project Lifesaver	4500	5,000.00	5,000.00	-
Total	**1,057,692.00**	**1,182,637.00**	**1,133,019.00**	**1,094,519.00**