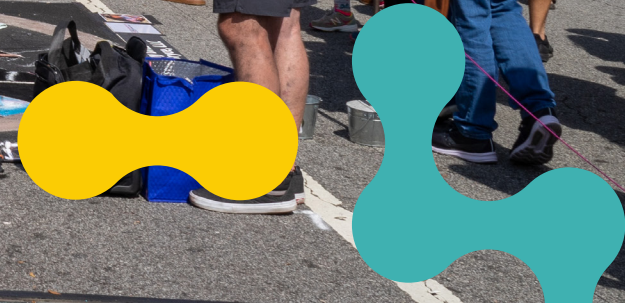


2024

COBB COUNTY

annual report





Cobb County Manager

Each year, we reflect on the previous one. We pause to express gratitude and appreciation to those who work tirelessly for the county providing our residents the best services. It's a time to think about what we achieved during the past 365 days.

We are proud of our core values: commitment, diversity, integrity, and teamwork. Our team of remarkable employees works diligently to improve the quality of life in the county. Ensuring our employees and residents are well-informed is a key priority of our communications team and we strive to provide the highest level of transparency.

This past year we presented more than 1,000 items for the board's consideration. The business of the county included approvals that impact public services, courts, transportation, water and sewer, zonings, permits, ordinances, public safety, the library system, property management, and many more.

Our Human Resources department held 25 new hire orientations for 1,143 new county employees. Among our efforts to retain and recruit the best employees, we strove to keep healthcare costs to a minimum again this year.

We worked collaboratively throughout 2024 on the Strategic Plan Initiatives. Each of the eight plan Initiatives is important and we will continue to examine and measure how we are doing. I invite you to read further in this annual report to learn more about our accomplishments.

Thank you for a very successful 2024!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie McMorris". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jackie McMorris, Cobb County Manager



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The 2024 Cobb County Annual Report represents just a few of the highlights and achievements Cobb County Government accomplished during the past year. For more information, please visit www.cobbcounty.org.



2024 COBB COUNTY Board of Commissioners

This year had its share of challenges, but it showed the resilience and determination of our county. Cobb remains committed to being a great place to live, work, and thrive. From improving public services to bolstering economic growth, Cobb demonstrates unwavering commitment to moving forward. Some notable achievements of being “All-IN” include:

INTEGRITY

- Earning “Triple A” credit ratings for the 27th consecutive year
- Accepting a judicial ruling regarding district lines, after asserting home rule to follow maps of our local delegation

INNOVATION

- Opening the first Family Advocacy Center in Georgia through our District Attorney’s Office
- Introducing microtransit through “CobbLinc Go” in South Cobb

INTELLIGENT

- Debuting findhelp.cobbcounty.gov to list helpful services ranging from mental health to housing
- Supporting police by launching our Community Assistance Response Team

INCLUSION

- Releasing recommendations to improve disparity in procurement
- Funding our first year of inclement weather shelter for those in need
- Increasing voter participation and enhancing student voter initiatives

INVESTMENT

- Holding the county’s first sustainability forum and obtaining a \$550 million grant to improve recycling and to update vehicle charging stations
- Opening the new, expanded Gritters Library with onsite workforce development
- Connecting with more than 500 businesses, obtaining \$640 million in business investment and awarding \$50,000 in small business grants

Our successes highlight our shared power when we serve the public good. Each accomplishment helps us to be a thriving, innovative, and safe community that enhances the quality of life for the well-being of all.

Lisa Cupid, Cobb County Commission Chairwoman



DISTRICT 1
Keli Gambrell



DISTRICT 2
Jerica Richardson



DISTRICT 3
JoAnn K. Birrell



DISTRICT 4
Monique Sheffield

STRATEGIC PLAN



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Cobb County is a place where land use policy and resources are used to thoughtfully and strategically develop and preserve communities, natural, and historical assets.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Cobb County is a place where people and businesses have an opportunity to thrive economically.



EFFECTIVE & EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT

Cobb County is a place where leaders are transparent, collaborative, and efficient in offering services and making data-driven decisions in managing resources.



HOUSING & LIVABILITY

Cobb County is a place where people have access to a variety of housing options.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME AREAS



INFRASTRUCTURE

Cobb County is a place where facilities and innovative systems support effective county services and sustainable growth.



MOBILITY & TRANSPORTATION

Cobb County is a place where people and goods safely reach destinations efficiently through a well-maintained and connected network of roads, sidewalks, trails, and transit.



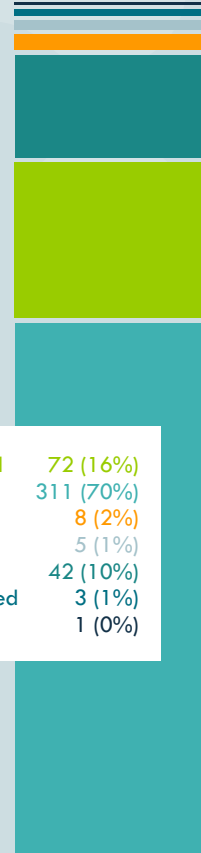
PUBLIC SAFETY

Cobb County is a place where all people feel safe to live, work, play and visit.

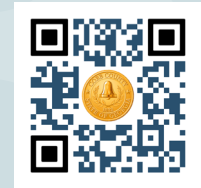


QUALITY OF LIFE

Cobb County is a place where all residents, businesses and visitors have access to resources and opportunities that contribute to a high quality of life.



Not Started	72 (16%)
On Track	311 (70%)
Off Track	8 (2%)
At Risk	5 (1%)
Achieved	42 (10%)
Not Achieved	3 (1%)
Canceled	1 (0%)



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR COMPLETE STRATEGIC PLAN

STATUS OF PROJECTS

HOW COBB COMPARES

Cobb residents have a lower tax burden than other metro counties. The General Fund millage rate remains the lowest of the core counties, and the sales tax rate is tied for the lowest in the state. Cobb also has fewer employees per capita than any other metro county. The county has enjoyed Triple-A ratings for the past 27 years from the nation’s top three credit agencies.



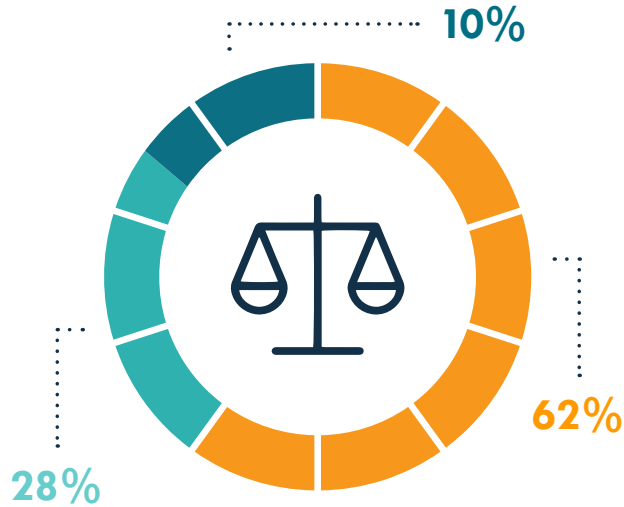
Total Operating & Capital Budgets *FY 10/1/23 - 9/30/24 | **FY 7/1/23 - 6/30/24 | ***FY2024 1/1/24 - 12/31/24

	2024 Millage Rates	2024 Metro Area Sales Tax Comparison	2024 Full-Time Government Employees
CITY OF ATLANTA	20.450***	8.9%	9,926
DEKALB	20.810	8%	7,253
FULTON	12.946†	7.75% (Not Atlanta)	---
GWINNETT	14.710	6%	6,279
COBB	11.450	6%	5,116

***City of Atlanta rate is within Fulton County
 †Fulton County rate reflects incorporated Johns Creek. Figures do not include school and state taxes.

WHERE YOUR TAX DOLLARS GO

For the average Cobb homeowner, the majority of property taxes go to the school district. The county's General Fund provides a floating homestead exemption, which freezes the valuation of your primary home at the time you applied for the exemption. For most, the longer you live in your home, the percentage that goes to the school district will rise.



Board of Education General Fund

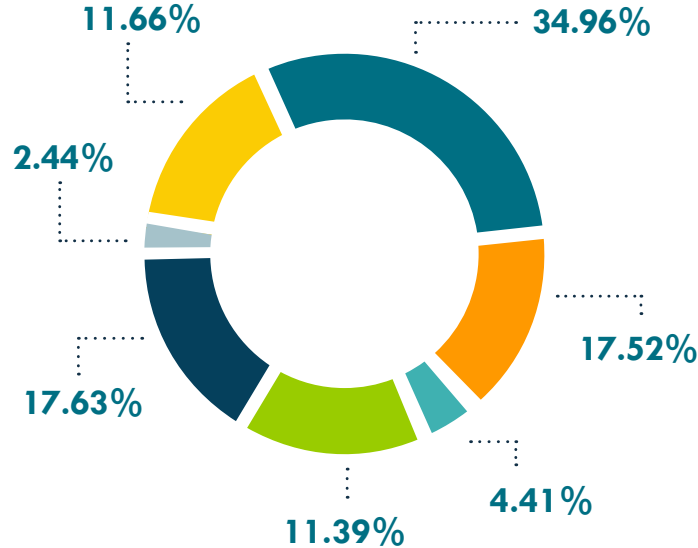
\$2,431.00

Cobb County General Fund

\$1,099.80

Cobb County Fire District Fund

\$418.60



- Administration
- Public Services
- Community Development
- Support Services
- Elected Officials
- Transportation
- Public Safety

**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO LEARN EVEN MORE
ABOUT WHERE YOUR TAX
DOLLARS GO**



TAX ASSESSOR

The 2024 tax digest was the highest in Cobb County history at \$61.8 billion in property value. This represented an increase of more than 8% compared to the 2023 tax digest.

The Cobb Tax Assessors Office is the first in Georgia to bring artificial intelligence into its office. This provides the appraiser with high-speed computing to review data at a faster pace. It will also enable staff to review the law, current policies and procedures, and study relevant case law faster. This project will become vitally important with the implementation of House Bill 581, since the passage of that law will change the schedule for mailing assessment notices.

TAX COMMISSIONER

During 2024, the Cobb County Tax Commissioner's Office expanded community outreach, including meeting in person with senior residents to answer their questions and using social media to raise awareness about the benefits of the services it provides.

The department, which produces the county's annual tax digest, expanded its internal controls to ensure daily monitoring for safeguarding assets, mitigating risks, and enhancing financial transparency.

To improve transaction accuracy and efficiency, the Cobb Tax Commissioner's Office – in partnership with the Georgia Department of Revenue – became the first in the state to adopt an application programming interface for motor vehicle over-the-counter credit card transactions.

Scan QR code to view
tax breakdown





COBB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT hosted quarterly small business events known as Coffee & Conversations. These meetups fostered connections between businesses and county staff and provided opportunities for industry experts to advise entrepreneurs and start-ups.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

For the 27th year in a row, Cobb County government’s fiscal fitness earned “Triple A” ratings from the nation’s top three credit agencies. Fitch, S&P, and Moody’s cited Cobb’s sound financial practices, diverse economy, and strong budgetary reserves in their reports.

Six small local businesses were awarded an Entrepreneurship and Innovation Grant from Cobb County Economic Development, totaling \$48,500 in 2024. Applications are scored by a stakeholder committee. Eligible applicants can receive up to \$10,000. For more information, contact econdev@cobbcounty.org.

The Cobb County Economic Development team hosted 30 large industry businesses at its Existing Industry Luncheon in October. Executives heard from a panel of economic development partners and learned about resources such as workforce development assistance, job tax credits and other potential incentives as they expand their businesses.

During the year, the Cobb County Business License Division, in partnership with Cobb Police Permit’s Unit and the Attorney General’s Office, shut down 11 spas involved in human trafficking in unincorporated Cobb.





The Cobb County Police Department reversed a decade-long slide in hiring and retention. It surpassed its recruitment goals by hiring 75 officers during the year. The results were 20 times higher than the 10-year average and the second most in any year during the last decade.

Cobb Fire's Training Division ensures that all current firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians/ Paramedics receive annual training and maintain certifications. The division has also worked continuously to teach a new generation of firefighters. In 2024, they started Class 63 with 23 recruits and Class 64 with 45 recruits. Classes 62 and 63 graduated 38 firefighters with 34 of this year's recruits remaining in the Fire Academy until graduation in early 2025.



"Service and duty are the cornerstones of Cobb County Public Safety. Our personnel embody these values through their tireless efforts to protect and serve our community. Their commitment to upholding the highest standards of professionalism and ensuring the safety of our residents is deeply appreciated. We are proud to stand alongside them in service to Cobb County."

Michael J. Register

Director, Cobb County Department of Public Safety

FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

In 2024, Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services purchased 80 new Thermal Imaging Cameras. These enable firefighters to see through smoke and darkness to rapidly locate trapped or unconscious victims. The cameras also allow firefighters to see potential collapse hazards and escape routes as well as verify when a building fire is completely out.

The department received two new Pierce Enforcer fire engines, Engine 1 and Engine 6. It has 29 front-line engines and 12 more for use as reserves. A typical fire engine has a lifespan of 13 years. With a current total of 41 engines and an expected delivery time of three years from the order date, it takes constant attention to plan for and replace fire department apparatus.

COBB FIRE TRAINING FACILITY

The Cobb Fire Training Facility is in the process of completing an \$18 million Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax project and Building 6000 (Logistics) was completed and occupied during the year. The building has a classroom, workshop, several restrooms with showers, a breakroom, and an air lab where personnel can refill air bottles during training exercises.





The Cobb County Police Department has increased cooperation with the community. This helped lower total crime by 23% during the year. Notably, the common crimes of car break ins and home burglaries were down 20% and 29% respectively while homicides declined by 25%.

Cobb Police designed a new Defensive Tactics Program and staffed a new unit designed to increase officer safety through the use of control techniques and increased communication with suspects. The department continues to innovate. Among other technologies, it implemented automatic gunshot detection to improve responses to incidents involving firearms.

The department began a new approach with a Community Assistance Response Team. This non-sworn unit will help police respond faster to non-dangerous calls while relieving pressure on patrolmen. This will allow sworn officers to stay in service for emergency responses.

Cobb Police celebrated its 100th anniversary in October, having originated with simple traffic work and now protecting about 800,000 residents and millions of visitors each year. The four-year, full inspection by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies re-accredited the department with exceptionally positive remarks – noting its 100% compliance with 460 standards.





911

During 2024, Cobb County E-911 achieved national training program certification from the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials International. The certification, which involved a comprehensive review of the agency's curriculum and training materials, ensures training programs meet APCO's standards and best practices.

During March, the City of Austell turned dispatch services over to Cobb County E-911, thereby streamlining emergency services to residents. This added approximately 10,000 calls a year to the typical 900,000 calls Cobb already receives.

Cobb County E-911 hosted its largest community outreach event this past year. The 911 Kids Expo has been held at its communication center for the past three years, with the most recent attended by almost 200 kids. The event, held to educate children about 911, offers interactive games, displays and a tour of the call center.



823,019 Total Calls Processed
16,888 Open Records Requests Received
93.06% Answered incoming 911 calls in under 15 seconds

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



The Cobb County Board of Commissioners approved \$500,000 to support emergency sheltering initiatives within the county. Cobb Emergency Management Agency partnered with the nonprofit organization MUST Ministries to expand its operations and enhance sheltering services for residents in need. This effort resulted in temporary housing during extreme heat and cold as well as transit vouchers to help residents reach the shelters.

Cobb EMA continues to develop the Crisis Coordinator Program, which provides training to select leaders within each county facility on safety in the workplace. This training helps them assist others during an emergency, disaster, or critical incident.

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency awarded Cobb EMA a \$75,200 grant to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan. This is a requirement every five years to maintain eligibility for disaster assistance funding.



SAFETY VILLAGE

The Cobb Safety Village engaged in education and resident safety, teaching fire and life safety to thousands of second and fourth grade children throughout the year, fire educators also performed smoke alarm and carbon monoxide monitor installations, replaced alarm batteries, and conducted home inspections for Cobb County residents.

Smoke alarms are the single most important safety device for life safety in the home. In 2024, Safety Village personnel installed more than 1,000 smoke alarms, around 150 carbon monoxide alarms, and changed close to 1,000 batteries in Cobb County homes.



**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO LEARN EVEN MORE
ABOUT COBB COUNTY'S
SAFETY VILLAGE**

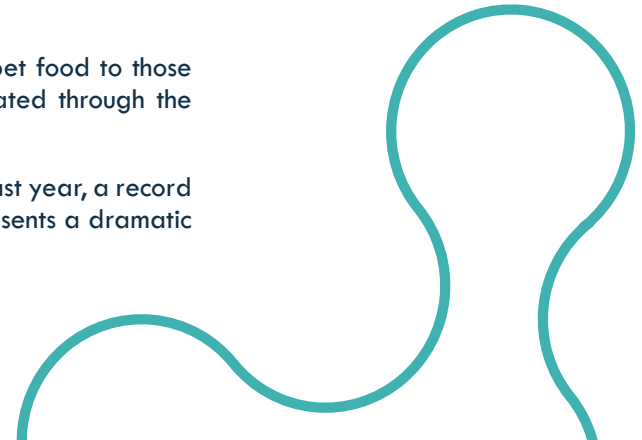


ANIMAL SERVICES

Cobb County Animal Services is an open admissions shelter that strives to find a loving home for every pet in its care. During 2024, it held about 120 community events – including four free microchip clinics, free adoption events, and educational sessions for schools.

Its pantry provided more than 10,000 pounds of free pet food to those struggling to feed their animals. All the food was donated through the community.

Animal Services had 8,000 animals enter its shelter this past year, a record number. Its more than 15,000 calls for service also represents a dramatic increase for the department.



SHERIFF'S OFFICE

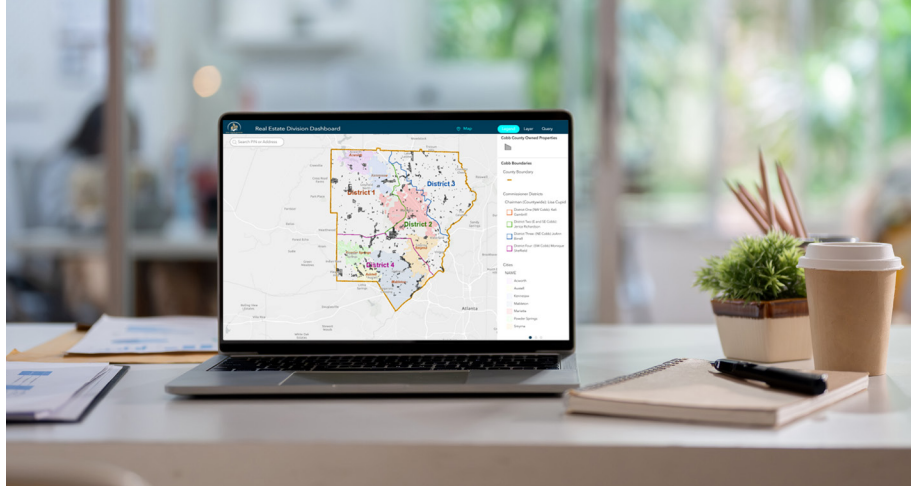
The Cobb County Sheriff's Office made significant strides in the education and rehabilitation of detainees, reinforcing its commitment to reducing recidivism and fostering positive change. It held four GED graduation ceremonies last year and 25 detainees earned diplomas. Parenting 101 and Anger Management programs also succeeded in graduating 124 participants after equipping them with vital life skills.

The Construction Ready program saw its second graduation of the year, with eight detainees completing a rigorous month-long training program. This program provided participants with eight certifications, including OSHA 10-hour, First Aid/CPR/AED, and Forklift Safety Awareness. Since the program's inception, 21 detainees have earned these valuable certifications, empowering them with employable skills.

In September, the Sheriff's Office introduced K-9 Sherlock, an electronic detection canine. Trained to locate hidden electronic devices like cell phones, laptops, and micro-SD cards, Sherlock supports investigations targeting crimes against children.

During October, the Sheriff's Office announced a groundbreaking partnership with DEKA to improve security at the Cobb County Adult Detention Center through advanced robotics. As part of a 90-day pilot program, two sentry robots were deployed to provide 24/7 surveillance. Equipped with 360-degree cameras, night vision, heat detection, and two-way audio, the "jailbots" document incidents and enhance safety for staff and detainees.





The Cobb County Real Estate Division created a comprehensive database encompassing all county-owned parcels. This initiative culminated in the Real Estate Division Dashboard — a centralized platform designed to enhance the visualization, analysis, and querying of Cobb County’s real estate assets. The dashboard has since been made available internally to directors and managers involved with the Real Estate Department, providing them with powerful insights and up-to-date data.

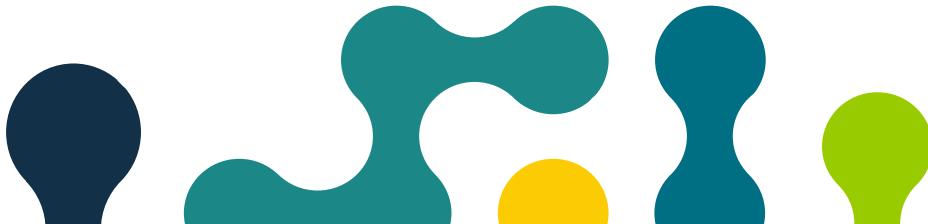
The division has introduced the real estate property inventory form, a streamlined resource for departments purchasing real property. This form is designed to capture critical property details before closing, with an option to update additional information post-closing. By standardizing the submission and tracking of property information, it enhances accuracy and ensures that essential data remains accessible at every stage of the acquisition process.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Cobb Property Management is overseeing a \$24 million phased renovation of the Sheriff’s Office headquarters on Roswell Street in Marietta. The anticipated completion date of the renovation is spring 2026.

In November, county officials celebrated the opening of the new 20,000-square-foot Gritters Library, which includes space for CobbWorks and the Northeast Cobb Community Center. The \$9.4 million project was funded through the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.

Property Management is also renovating Mableton’s old Fire Station #1 to hold a \$4.5 million CobbWorks WorkSource Center with completion expected in early 2025.





PROCUREMENT

Cobb Procurement Services earned the prestigious Achievement of Excellence in Procurement award from the National Procurement Institute in 2024. Award recipients focus on world-class initiatives including modernization and industry best practices.

A consultant firm completed a disparity study and provided a list of recommendations to the county. The recommendations are currently being reviewed by Procurement Services and will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for implementation decisions in 2025.

The county's first e-procurement system implementation is the culmination of a two-year modernization initiative, designed to introduce innovative tools, modernize business processes, and ensure alignment with worldwide procurement practices. This OpenGov platform is undergoing a system-wide rollout.

The Procurement Services Department's strategic initiatives included the implementation of a Supplier Diversity Management System, which will enable the county to identify and use certified diverse suppliers locally and nationally – as well as track and measure spending.



For more information on Cobb Procurement Services scan the QR code.

FLEET MANAGEMENT

Innovation and sustainability are the focus of Cobb's Fleet Management Department while continuing to provide dependable repair and maintenance support for the county's vehicles and equipment. About 12,500 work orders were completed in 2024 by fleet technicians.

Fleet manages a dozen fuel stations that handled 131,000 transactions during the year. A bulk fuel treatment was introduced this past year that will assist with vehicle efficiency and the reduction of emissions.

Grant funding obtained through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant allowed Fleet Management to implement an off-grid, solar-powered electric vehicle charging system that will never generate a utility bill.





DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The Cobb Family Advocacy Center, the first center of its kind in Georgia, opened its doors to serve the community in January. The center and its staff provide comprehensive resources to crime victims that include men and women who have endured domestic violence, rape, human trafficking, elder abuse and assault. Through November it had served more than 140 clients.

The Alternative Resolution Court, created in 2021, gives people charged with felony drug offenses expedited court dates to provide early access to the Pretrial Diversion Program, Accountability Courts and treatment-based case resolutions. More than 1,000 cases were referred to ARC in 2024. Of those, 95 were sent to Drug Treatment Court, 70 handled by Mental Health Court, and 32 taken by Veterans Court. The program has reduced the amount of time from arrest to case resolution for these types of cases from an average of two years to about six months.

The Pretrial Diversion Program had a 92% success rate through the start of November, with 290 defendants completing the program out of the 315 whose cases were accepted. The program is designed for low-risk offenders who committed certain non-serious crimes. It provides education, counseling, treatment and community service alternatives, while also ensuring restitution is provided to crime victims.





PROBATE COURT

Cobb Probate Court partnered with Highland Rivers Behavioral Health to offer mental health and substance abuse services to individuals and families in the community. Since receiving grant funding for a Court Navigator team, the program has aided roughly 65 individuals. The team consists of two case managers and a professional counselor fully licensed with the State of Georgia.

The Cobb Probate Judicial Bench helped develop the training for probate mediators that will be used throughout the state. In Cobb, 60% of all probate cases referred to mediation during 2024 resulted in a full or partial settlement.

Cobb Probate Court has diligently worked to set up e-filing and plans to roll it out in early 2025.

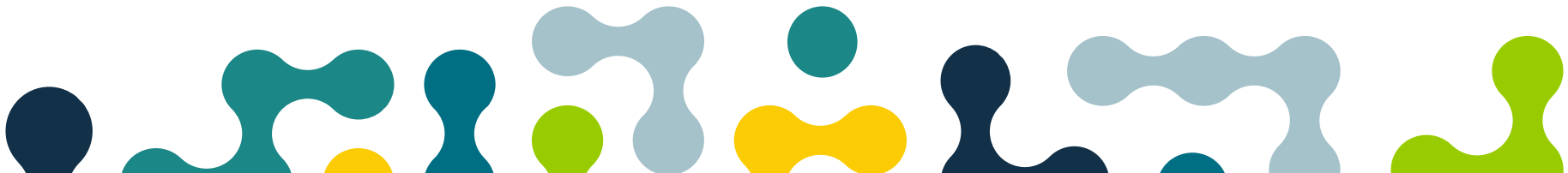


MAGISTRATE COURT

In May, the Magistrate Court held its inaugural Housing Stability Court Graduation. To date, 49 people — representing hundreds of family members — have completed this innovative, voluntary program. Housing Stability Court helps families facing homelessness by matching short-term rental assistance funding with required case management services to improve the family's employment and financial trajectory, break the cycle of eviction court, and achieve housing stability.

In October, the Magistrate Court secured a federal American Rescue Plan Act grant of almost \$1 million, approved by the Board of Commissioners, to extend the Housing Stability Court program through the end of 2026.

The busiest wedding venue in Cobb, the Magistrate Court conducted thousands of free wedding ceremonies for couples in 2024 — including group services for Valentine's Day, Leap Day, and Halloween.





The Solicitor General's Office implemented modern solutions like digital files and e-subpoenas. These upgrades drastically reduced postage costs, improved productivity, and enhanced accessibility for the public. The changes save taxpayers an estimated \$30,000 annually while ensuring an efficient justice system.

It launched the Youthful Offender Pretrial Diversion Program to support young adults facing non-violent misdemeanor charges. The program offers tools and interventions to guide participants toward positive choices and community reintegration. To date, 75 out of 104 candidates successfully completed the program — helping break cycles of reoffending and fostering personal growth.

By resolving 1,660 bench warrant status cases, the Solicitor General's Office reduced backlogs and minimized unnecessary police-citizen interactions on outdated warrants. This initiative enhances efficiency and saved taxpayers roughly \$124,500 — ensuring resources are allocated to initiatives that will impact the community.

STATE COURT

Cobb State Court Clerk's Office placed a scannable QR code on the back of uniform traffic citations issued by Cobb Police to assist in obtaining traffic court case and appearance date information virtually.

The State Court Clerk's Office also created a "Follow your case" QR code for other case types to place around the courthouse, on mailed court date notices, and on interactive screens. The innovations assist customers in locating case information and enables them to more easily follow and update their records.





SUPERIOR COURT

The Cobb County Superior Court Alternative Dispute Resolution program, in collaboration with Cobb Legal Aid and the Cobb Bar Association, launched the Family Law Workshop Clinic. This initiative provides legal assistance to residents facing complex family law matters. By combining a mandatory workshop with free consultations, the clinic offers comprehensive legal support.

In 2024, the Superior Court mediation program made substantial progress in streamlining operations. By facilitating out-of-court dispute resolution, the program successfully resolved more than 1,000 cases, reducing the court's caseload and optimizing resources.

The Superior Court Drug Lab and Accountability Court offices completed a new renovation project in Building C. The original location had been outgrown as staff was added. This new renovation includes seven offices, an improved lobby/waiting area, a conference room, a resource room, and a computer workstation for court participants.



ELECTIONS



The Cobb Elections and Registration Department continued to make democracy its mission. In 2024, it conducted four elections, with 642,810 votes cast, reflecting the vibrant participation of our community. Through the training of 5,554 poll workers, the department empowered residents to play a vital role in facilitating secure and efficient elections.

Elections and Registration also expanded voter education efforts to empower the next generation of voters. For the first time, high school students toured its elections building, providing them with a behind-the-scenes look at the democratic process. In partnership with Kennesaw State University, the department also contributed to an Elections 101 class, where first-time voters learned to navigate ballot equipment.

For the November General Election, the department mailed its first voter guide to every household, ensuring voters had the resources they needed to make informed decisions.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

As more applications move to cloud infrastructure, Information Technology Services increased our county's internet bandwidth from 2GB to 4GB. It also increased bandwidth at fire stations and other county facilities to help support this shift. Additional upgrades include replacing 808 personal computers countywide as well as network switch replacement and additions at the Adult Detention Center.

Cobb's Information Technology Services and Department of Transportation implemented enterprise transit management software, a hosted solution enhancing CobbLinc dispatch, scheduling, incident management, and paratransit support. This included rider apps for real-time booking and service tracking. ITS and the Water System implemented Umax, a new cloud-based water billing system, to modernize its service to the public.

The annual Digital Counties Survey ranked Cobb County Government fifth in its population group in the nation, noting the county's efforts to use technology better to connect with our nearly 800,000 residents.





Cobb County Government’s CobbWell employee program continues to lead the way in fostering healthier workplaces. For the fourth consecutive year, the Atlanta Business Chronicle named Cobb County Government one of Atlanta’s Healthiest Employers, a recognition celebrating organizations that prioritize workers’ well-being through innovative programs, dedicated leadership and proven results.

Further solidifying its reputation, the American Heart Association awarded the CobbWell program Silver Level status in its Workplace Health Achievement Index. This distinction honors the program’s best practices in cultivating a culture of health and wellness. Since 2018, the AHA has consistently recognized CobbWell for its contributions to workplace health.



5,585

Current Employees



2,345

Applications Processed



1,143

New Hires

(729 full time; 414 part time)



145

Employees that Retired

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION 2024

In addition to recruiting and hiring the most qualified candidates for each role, the county provides employees with diverse training and development opportunities. We believe that learning is a lifelong journey, and we encourage employees to take full advantage of these resources. By investing in employee growth, Cobb aims to keep their skills sharp and ensure the county remains at the forefront of innovation and excellence.



Training Classes Held **242**

Number of Training Class Participants **4,335**

No Harassment Attendees **730**

Performance Appraisal Attendees **468**

Supervisory Development Program Graduates **75**



UGA EXTENSION SERVICES

Cobb County 4-H staff delivered engaging, hands-on science lessons in fifth grade classrooms across 23 schools. It also implemented STEM-based activities through various enrichment programs throughout the year.

Family and Consumer Sciences conducted more than 60 sessions in Cobb, engaging 1,200 participants in programs about food preservation, food safety, farm-to-table nutrition, food history of the South, and personal finance. Food preservation workshops combined practical knowledge with hands-on experience.

Cobb County Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension supervises 218 Master Gardener Extension volunteers who worked 12,456 hours in 2024 – saving the county more than \$417,150. The volunteers have 15 projects across Cobb, ranging from helping at-risk youth to coordinating community gardens for local food banks. One project in particular, the Wellness Garden at Cobb Farm Bureau, donated more than 700 pounds of fresh produce to local food banks.



Cobb County received a Department of Energy block grant for \$557,290 to provide sustainable upgrades to the community. This will help finance public electric vehicle charging infrastructure, a Center for Hard to Recycle Material and the first Cobb County Sustainability Strategic Plan.

Community recycling is booming. Keep Cobb Beautiful, now part of the Office of Sustainability, started pop-up/drop-off events circulating through the county. These increased recycling collection by more than 25%. The events also collected new items such as sneakers that helped Cobb save more than 34 cubic feet of landfill space, conserving 11,400 kilowatt-hours of energy and preventing the waste of more than 1.5 million liters of water.



700,000 lb
Litter Cleared



1,720 lb
Expired/Unused
Medication Disposed



LIBRARIES

The new Gritters Library opened in November to serve as a focal point for lifelong learning, workforce development, and civic engagement for a growing, diverse community. Gritters Library replaced a smaller facility which opened in 1973. The 20,000 square-foot Gritters building includes space for Cobb County Public Library, Cobb PARKS, CobbWorks and the Northeast Cobb Community Center.

Nine libraries hosted The Basics Playground Paloozas, a child workshop series organized locally by Cobb Collaborative. The program promoted positive early childhood development for infants, toddlers and preschoolers through routine family engagement.

The 2024 Summer Reading Program Kickoff drew about 1,400 attendees to Switzer Library for a day of activities and entertainment for all ages. Nearly 4,500 participants registered for the program, an 8% increase from the previous year, with readers logging an impressive total of more than 3 million minutes.

Community outreach by Cobb libraries includes the bookmobile, and visits by library workers to schools, daycares, senior centers and community parks. The Cobb Library outreach program launched a special Book Discussion Club at the Marietta Regional Youth Detention Center where librarians lead monthly discussions with incarcerated youth.





The Cobb Water System implemented a new billing system with increased functions, including a self-service portal that allows customers to make online requests for move-outs and move-ins, senior citizen discounts, leak adjustments, toilet rebates, and more. Customers can also view their usage, bills, and payment histories online. Late fees and disconnections were paused through December as customers learned the new system.

The Water System also completed an inventory of water service line materials as required by the Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule. No lead service lines have been identified in the Water System's area, which includes most of unincorporated Cobb County and the cities of Acworth, Kennesaw, and Powder Springs.

AGENCY AWARDS

2024

Communications and Education Division

- EPA WaterSense Excellence Award
- GAWP Education Program of Excellence Award

System Maintenance Division

- GAWP Water Distribution System Platinum Award
- GAWP Wastewater Collection System Silver Award

Water Protection Division - Water Quality Lab

- GAWP Laboratory Quality Assurance Gold Award



TRANSPORTATION

Cobb County Department of Transportation completed construction of the first section of the Chattahoochee Riverlands Trail in November. It will link 19 metro Atlanta cities and seven counties to the Chattahoochee River with a greenway trail of connecting parks, overlooks, access points, and trailheads. The site also offers the first-ever public access to the river in South Cobb. Key features along the initial 0.6-mile trail include a paved shared-use path, a boardwalk that spans scenic wetlands, a soft surface trail, an education nook, a river overlook, and more.

In October, CobbLinc, the official transit division for the Cobb County Department of Transportation, launched its microtransit pilot program, CobbLinc Go. This new, on-demand microtransit service improves access in South Cobb, across Austell, Powder Springs, and southwestern Marietta.

Go to <https://city.ridewithvia.com/cobb-county> to learn more.

CobbLinc updated the fareboxes on its transit fleet in August. This systemwide upgrade provides riders with a smarter, faster, and more reliable way to pay. The FastFare boxes feature new technologies that will reduce boarding time and grant customers flexibility in how they pay for their ride.

Cobb County International Airport—McCollum Field is the fifth busiest in Georgia, known as one of the leading airports of its size in the country. The airport averages 250 take-offs and landings daily with more than 90,000 flight operations each year.



68

SPLOST Projects Completed



102

Miles of Road Resurfaced



13,617

Work Orders Completed



134.52

Tons of Litter Picked Up





This was an exceptional year for Cobb County Parks and Recreation. The department received the prestigious District 5 Agency of the Year award from the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association due to its initiatives.

New events like the Spring Arts Festival, FED (Focus, Energy, Direction) wellness weekend, and the Girls in Parks event inspired many participants. The Fall Festival of Fun also had a new format, drawing more than 8,000 attendees with family-friendly activities such as a haunted house, a mystery hayride, a kid zone with inflatables, face painting, and performances.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL



Cobb residents don't have to become tourists; the world comes to them. A total of 37 countries were represented at the annual International Fest this year. More than 9,000 people came to the Jim R. Miller Park Event Center in August to experience various cultures, watch performances from across the globe and taste food from other nations.

PROJECTS:

- Big Shanty Park received new parking spaces, pickleball courts and sanitary sewer connections.
- Additional parking was created at the Hurt Road basketball court.
- Resurfacing of the Cobblestone Golf Course parking lot and entry drive was completed.
- Added security measures were installed – including 13 license plate readers at six parks and Avigilon security cameras at 14 facilities.



SENIOR SERVICES

Cobb County Senior Services continued enhancing the quality of life for older adults. The department fought food insecurity by serving 125,138 nutritious meals, through efforts like Meals on Wheels, senior center meals, and 16 food distribution events. Transportation remained a vital resource, with 44,032 trips provided. And the department welcomed 230,948 visitors in their senior centers.

Senior Services reopened its renovated Assistive Tools Studio, a hands-on resource for exploring tools and technologies. The studio offers demonstrations and guidance on assistive devices that make daily tasks easier and safer, empowering individuals to live independently longer.

The department introduced 13 new intergenerational events, bringing all ages together through creative and educational activities. These had about 540 participants, creating shared learning and lasting memories.



Read the Senior Services
2024 Impact Report here.



COBB COUNTY FIND HELP

During the COVID pandemic, federal assistance funds came to the county to help residents with everything from food assistance to health care to rental and mortgage help. As those funds were expended, the needs remained in the community.

In 2024, Cobb County used part of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation to form a partnership with FindHelp. This organization vets assistance programs and provides a tool for residents to search for them. Since the FindHelp.CobbCounty.gov portal went active in September, nearly 19,000 searches have been recorded, with the most prominent request being housing and rental assistance.



COMMUNICATIONS



Cobb County Communications Office is the information conduit between government and its residents. Its CobbTV station produced more than 130 original shows and video segments in 2024, and streamed almost 100 live government meetings to the public.

Its Customer Service Center call agents connect residents, visitors, and businesses with non-emergency services, information, and resources. The team successfully handled more than 37,000 calls during the year, determining which department was best to handle the callers' needs.

Since implementing a new CRM system in 2023, the customer service team was able to alleviate congestion of 911 non-emergency calls, which helped improve emergency services' response times. Agents provided alternatives to resolve non-emergency needs such as reporting road maintenance, court information, park maintenance, and more.

The Communications Office won the Savvy Award for Best Annual Report from the national City-County Communications and Marketing Association. It was also recognized for its graphic design and use of humor in communications.





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