

CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET



**October 1, 2021, through
September 30, 2022**

CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Cullman County, Alabama, established in 1877, is in north-central Alabama. The City of Cullman is the largest city and the county seat and is approximately halfway between Birmingham and Huntsville on Interstate 65. The County is made up of 734 square miles and has a 2020 population of 87,866 people. The County Commission will transition from a three-member body to a five-member body in November 2022.

The County Commission serves as the county's legislative body, which is a political subdivision of the State of Alabama. The Chairman and Commissioners are elected county-wide beginning in 2022 and serve four-year terms.

Chairman: Jeff Clemons

Commissioner Place 1: Kerry Watson

Commissioner Place 2: Garry Marchman

The Code of Alabama 1975, Title 11, Chapter 8, Section 3, sets out that the county commission must adopt the annual budget no later than October 1st each year. In addition, this section requires that the budgeted expenditures for the year cannot exceed the budgeted revenues for the year. Therefore, the Commission is legally required to pass a balanced budget. The following is the adopted balanced budget for the Cullman County Commission for the fiscal year of October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022.

THE BUDGET 2021-2022

The officially adopted budget is on page 6 of this book. The Commission approves the budget at the fund level. This allows flexibility in daily operations for departments to move funds among individual line items as needs arise. The only changes that require future Commission action (via budget amendment) are those which would increase the overall budget for a fund. Each department's budget is divided into three areas (Personnel, Operations, and Capital). Administrative policy doesn't allow for budget transfers to or from the personnel budget. Any budget transfers must occur within the operations and capital budget. This year the budget process began with the Commission setting some priorities. These priorities include road and infrastructure restoration, a revitalization of the employee job descriptions and pay scale, and a maintenance plan for the existing assets of the Cullman County Commission. This budget reflects those priorities and includes a new pay scale based on the updated job descriptions. The road budget will continue to draw down the \$2 million in Restore Cullman County Roads funds allocated by the Commission in 2021, and we have projected an increase in the Rebuild Alabama funds as well. The plan to maintain equipment begins with a rotation plan to better manage the surplus of older equipment and reduce downtime and maintenance costs. A comprehensive review of the real property owned by the County Commission is underway to determine the highest and best use of each. This will include a maintenance plan as well. Personnel numbers have fluctuated over the last several years, but with the pay scale update has come a plan to maintain staffing levels that balance stewardship and productivity. As the Commission has worked toward the priorities this year, the challenge of COVID-19 remains. The pandemic continues to impact labor, equipment, and materials availability. With all these challenges, the outlook for Cullman County is bright as we embrace the growth that our County is experiencing. Through good planning and consistent action, Cullman County will continue to be the premier place to live, work and raise a family in North Alabama.