FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET

ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION

CULLMAN COUNTY 1877 ALABAMA

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 2024 population of 92,604 people. The County Commission serves as the county's administrative body, which is a political subdivision of the State of Alabama. The Chairman and Commissioners are elected county-wide and serve alternating four-year terms.
- The Commissioners have set some priorities including:
  - Restoring Cullman County Roads, Bridges and Infrastructure
  - Recruiting and Retaining high-quality employees
  - Maintaining County buildings and equipment to a high standard
  - Operating Enterprise Funds as efficiently as possible using proven business practices to reduce taxpayer subsidies.

Chairman: Jeff Clemons

Commissioner District 1: Kerry Watson

Commissioner District 2: Garry Marchman

Commissioner District 3: Kelly Duke

Commissioner District 4: Corey Freeman

- 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. 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, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

THE BUDGET 2025-2026

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 $5,985,753 would be required for fiscal year 2026. 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. This budget includes an unrestricted fund balance “reserve” of $10,808,945 made up of the fund balance unreserved in Funds 001, 004 and 112.

Highlights

The fiscal year 2026 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 5.14% increase for personnel (made up of a 2% 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

Official FY 25-26 Budget

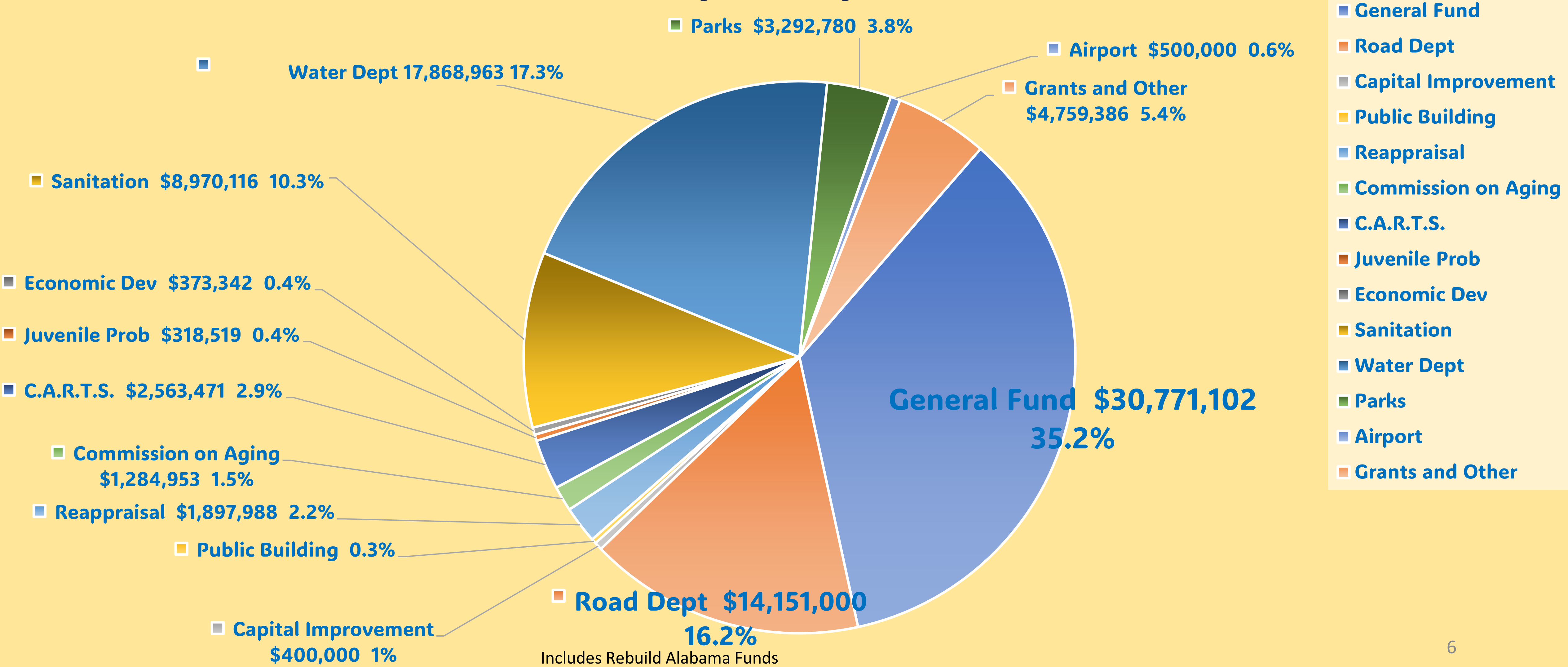
Governmental Funds		Estimated		Revenues			Expenses		Estimated	
		Beg. Cash							Ending Cash	Increase
Fund	Fund	Balance	Current Yr	Transfers	Total	Current Yr	Transfers	Total	Balance	(Decrease)
Number	Name	Excl's CD's	Revenue	In	Revenue	Expenses	Out	Expense	Incl's CD's	Cash
001	General	5,278,000	35,914,519	0	35,914,519	30,771,102	5,143,417	35,914,519	5,278,000	0
002	Contingency Fund	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	0
004	93 Sales Tax- Res.	3,415,473	65,000	0	65,000	0	0	0	3,480,473	65,000
029	Pistol Permit Revenue L	347,036	100,000		100,000	50,000		50,000	397,036	50,000
031	Opioid Settlement Fund	225,550	100,000	0	100,000	197,645		197,645	127,905	(97,645)
110	Service For COA	0	55,550	0	55,550	55,550	0	55,550	0	0
111	Gasoline Fund	50,000	7,236,000	4,957,000	12,193,000	12,193,000	0	12,193,000	50,000	0
112	Public Building, Roads, E	2,744,930	4,116,184	0	4,116,184	250,000	3,000,000	3,250,000	3,611,114	866,184
113	Public Hwy & Traffic	41,542	515,000	0	515,000	0	515,000	515,000	41,542	0
116	Capital Improvement	1,254,168	477,063	0	477,063	200,000	442,000	642,000	1,089,231	(164,937)
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	1,897,988	0	1,897,988	1,897,988	0	1,897,988	0	0
123	Tourism Fund	59,265	0	0	0	19,265	0	19,265	40,000	(19,265)
124	C.O.A. Fund	270,000	65,000	1,219,953	1,284,953	1,284,953	0	1,284,953	270,000	0
125	Juvenile Probation	2,441	44,000	294,519	338,519	318,519	0	318,519	22,441	20,000
126	Program & Subsistance	138,683	25,000	0	25,000	6,000	10,000	16,000	147,683	9,000
127	Day Treatment Prog.	0	25,000	0	25,000	6,000	10,000	16,000	9,000	9,000
128	Work Release	0	122,193	0	122,193	109,552	0	109,552	12,641	12,641
129	Law Library	40,000	19,000	0	19,000	19,000	0	19,000	40,000	0
135	Economic Development	140,000	12,500	360,842	373,342	373,342	0	373,342	140,000	0
136	Motor Vehicle Special	36,311	3,000	0	3,000	3,000	0	3,000	36,311	0
150	CARTS Escrow	9,713	1,666,882	397,971	2,064,853	2,064,853	0	2,064,853	9,713	0
155	C.A.R.T.S.	849,387	1,326,663	834,637	2,161,300	2,138,500	397,971	2,536,471	474,216	(375,171)
156	Special Probate fund	41,936	17,000	0	17,000	17,000	0	17,000	41,936	0
166	Sheriff's General Fund	36,444	7,500	0	7,500	7,500	0	7,500	36,444	0
201	Judicial Jail Const.	214,785	0	0	0	214,785	0	214,785	0	(214,785)
220	County Rebuild Alabama	0	1,558,000	0	1,558,000	1,558,000	0	1,558,000	0	0
221	Federal Aid Exchange	0	400,000	0	400,000	400,000	0	400,000	0	0
250	CARES Act	210,000	0	0	0	0	20,000	20,000	190,000	(20,000)
280	RTP Grant 2025	0	712,000	0	712,000	712,000	0	712,000	0	0
298	Coronavirus Rescue Act	249,521	0	0	0	249,521	0	249,521	0	(249,521)
299	Coronavirus Rescue Act	443,826	0	0	0	443,826	0	443,826	0	(443,826)
765	District Attorney	68,575	20,000	0	20,000	15,000	0	15,000	73,575	5,000
770	Worthless Check Fee	15,000	35,000	0	35,000	35,000	0	35,000	15,000	0
Total Governmental Funds		16,183,086	58,194,902	8,478,782	66,673,684	57,269,761	9,952,248	67,222,009	15,634,761	(548,325)
Proprietary Funds										
511	Sanitation	419,221	9,125,000	0	9,125,000	8,970,116	0	8,970,116	574,105	154,884
512-516	Parks	648,719	1,451,441	1,834,308	3,285,749	3,292,780	0	3,292,780	641,688	(7,031)
520	Water	700,000	17,868,963	0	17,868,963	17,868,963	0	17,868,963	700,000	0
Total Proprietary Funds		1,767,940	28,445,404	1,834,308	30,279,712	30,131,859	0	30,131,859	1,915,793	147,853
	Total Budget - FY 24-25	17,951,026	86,640,306	10,313,090	96,953,396	87,401,620	9,952,248	97,353,868	17,550,554	(400,472)

	FY 25-26 Budget	FY 24-25 Budget	FY 23-24 Budget	Variance Inc(Dec)
General Fund-*(Incl's transfers to other dept's of approx $4.5mil)*	36,914,519	33,736,306	31,467,929	3,178,213
Less trf's to other departments	*(5,143,417)*	*(5,185,473)*	*(4,499,695)*	(42,056)
Road Department*(incl's RRR, Pub Hwy, Sec Rds & Severence)*	12,193,000	12,698,937	10,488,240	(505,937)
Rebuild Alabama	1,558,000	1,334,323	1,364,000	223,677
Federal Aid Exchange	400,000	400,000	400,000	0
Public Building	3,250,000	3,336,000	3,250,000	(86,000)
Capital Improvement Fund	642,000	376,299	475,000	265,701
Reappraisal	1,897,988	1,898,324	1,843,794	(336)
Commission On Aging	1,284,953	1,193,459	1,166,558	91,494
C.A.R.T.S.	2,536,471	2,213,342	2,472,812	323,129
State Juvenile Probation Dept	318,519	370,851	401,414	(52,332)
Economic Development	373,342	442,056	363,993	(68,714)
Sanitation	8,970,116	8,400,000	8,350,000	570,116
Parks-Smith Lake, Sportsman Lake, Clarkston & OHV	3,292,780	3,181,360	2,709,767	111,420
Water	16,500,000	15,424,500	14,690,360	1,075,500
Airport Operations	250,000	250,000	245,000	0
Airport Capital	250,000	250,000	0	0

FY 2026 Total Budget

$87,401,620

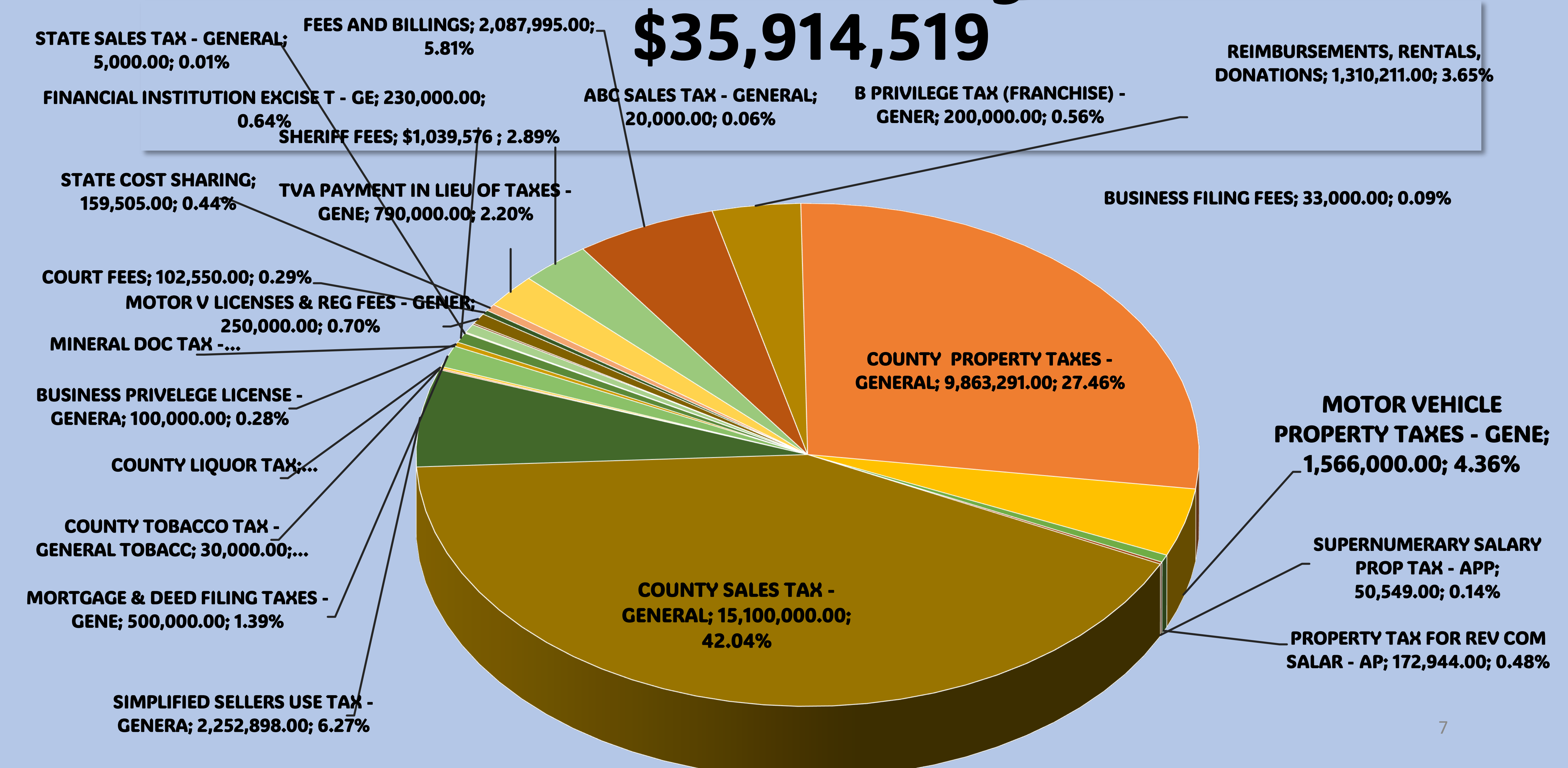
*excludes transfers



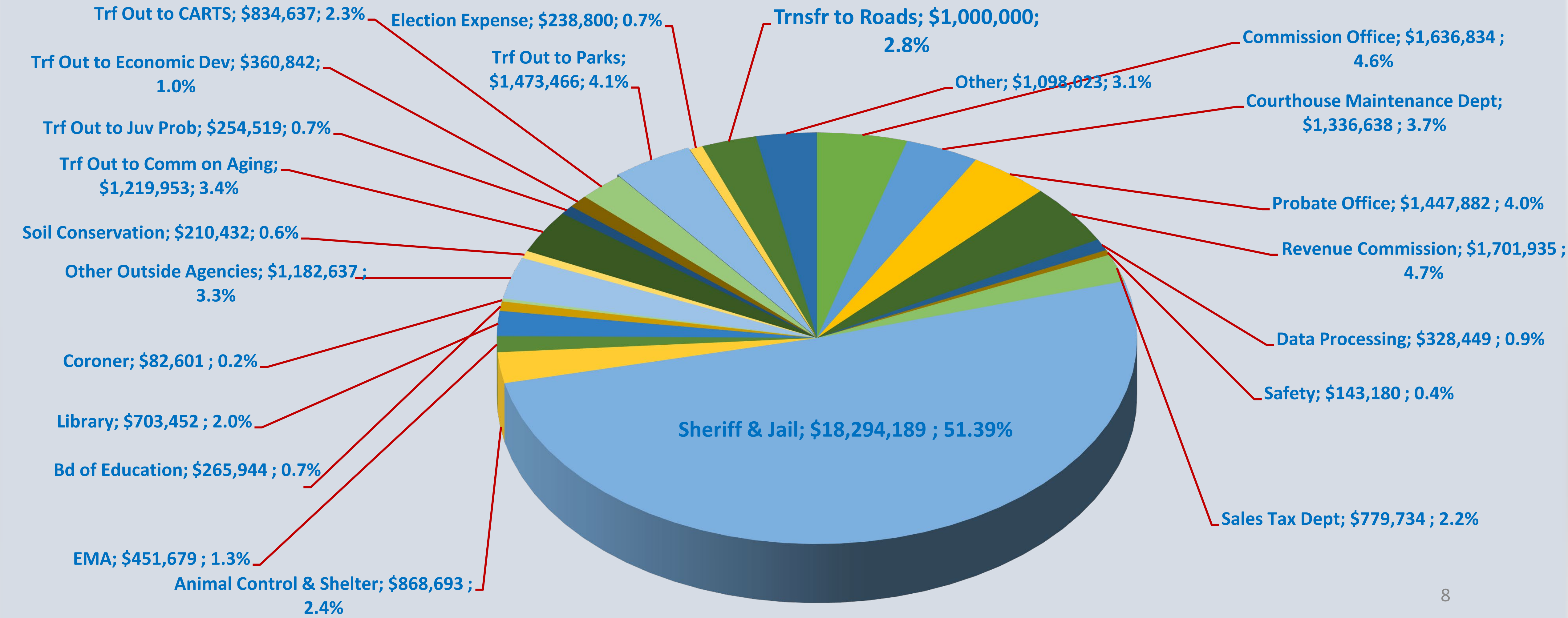
Includes Rebuild Alabama Funds

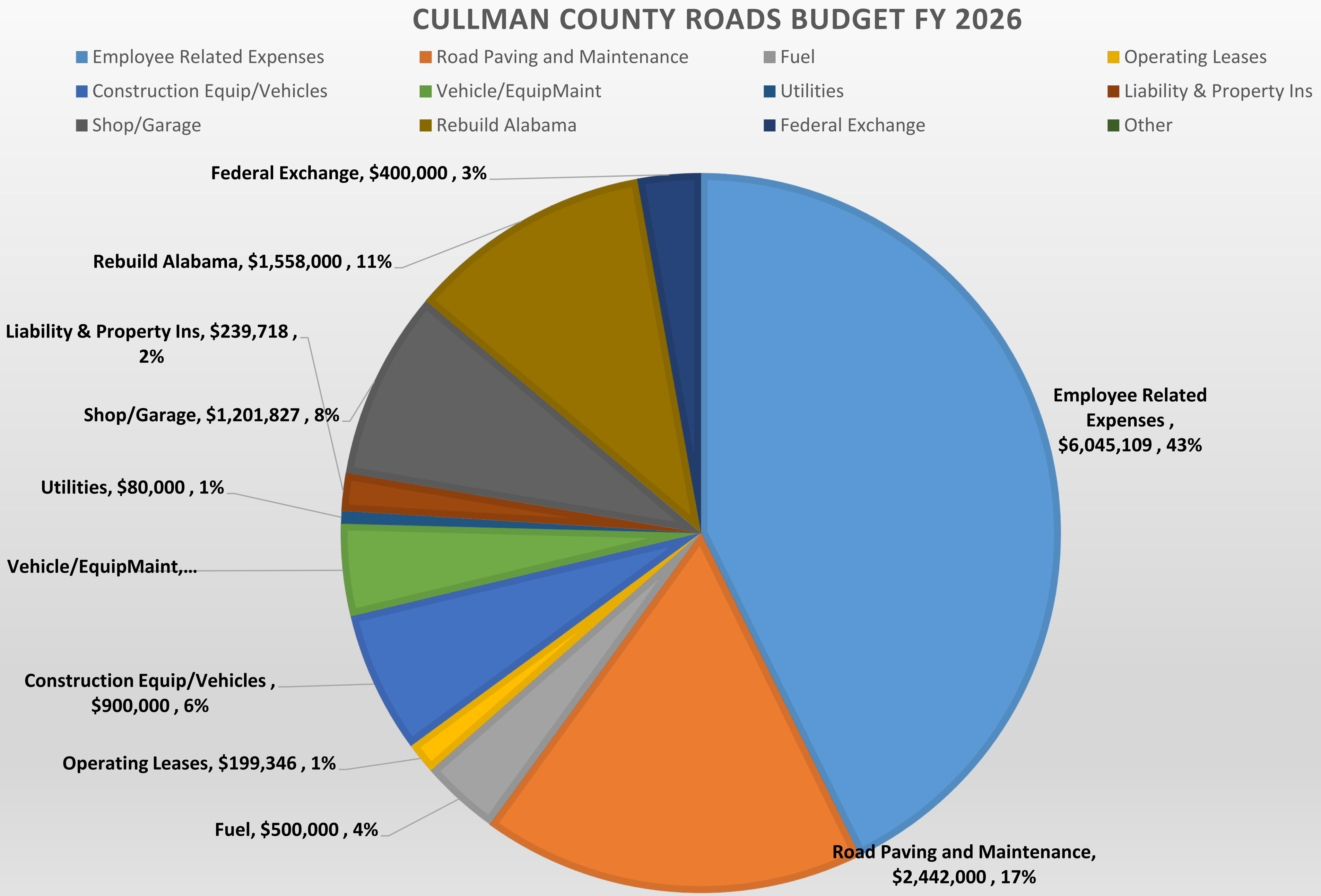
General Fund FY 2026 Budgeted Revenue

$35,914,519

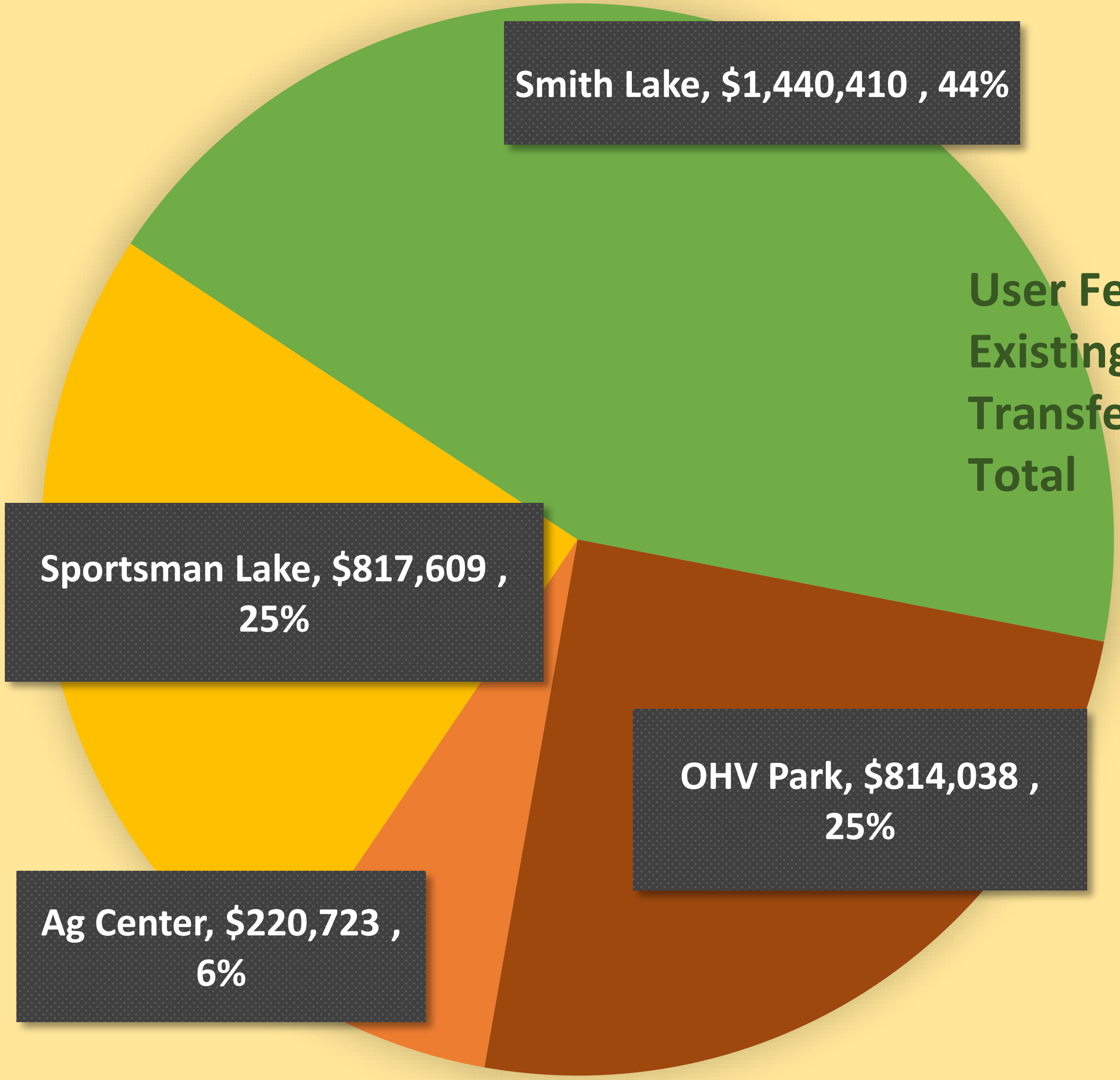


General Fund FY 2026 Budgeted Expense $35,914,519




CULLMAN COUNTY ROADS BUDGET FY 2026
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, $1,558,000 , 11%
Liability & Property Ins, $239,718 , 2%
Shop/Garage, $1,201,827 , 8%
Utilities, $80,000 , 1%
Vehicle/EquipMaint,...
Construction Equip/Vehicles , $900,000 , 6%
Operating Leases, $199,346 , 1%
Fuel, $500,000 , 4%
Road Paving and Maintenance, $2,442,000 , 17%
Employee Related Expenses , $6,045,109 , 43%

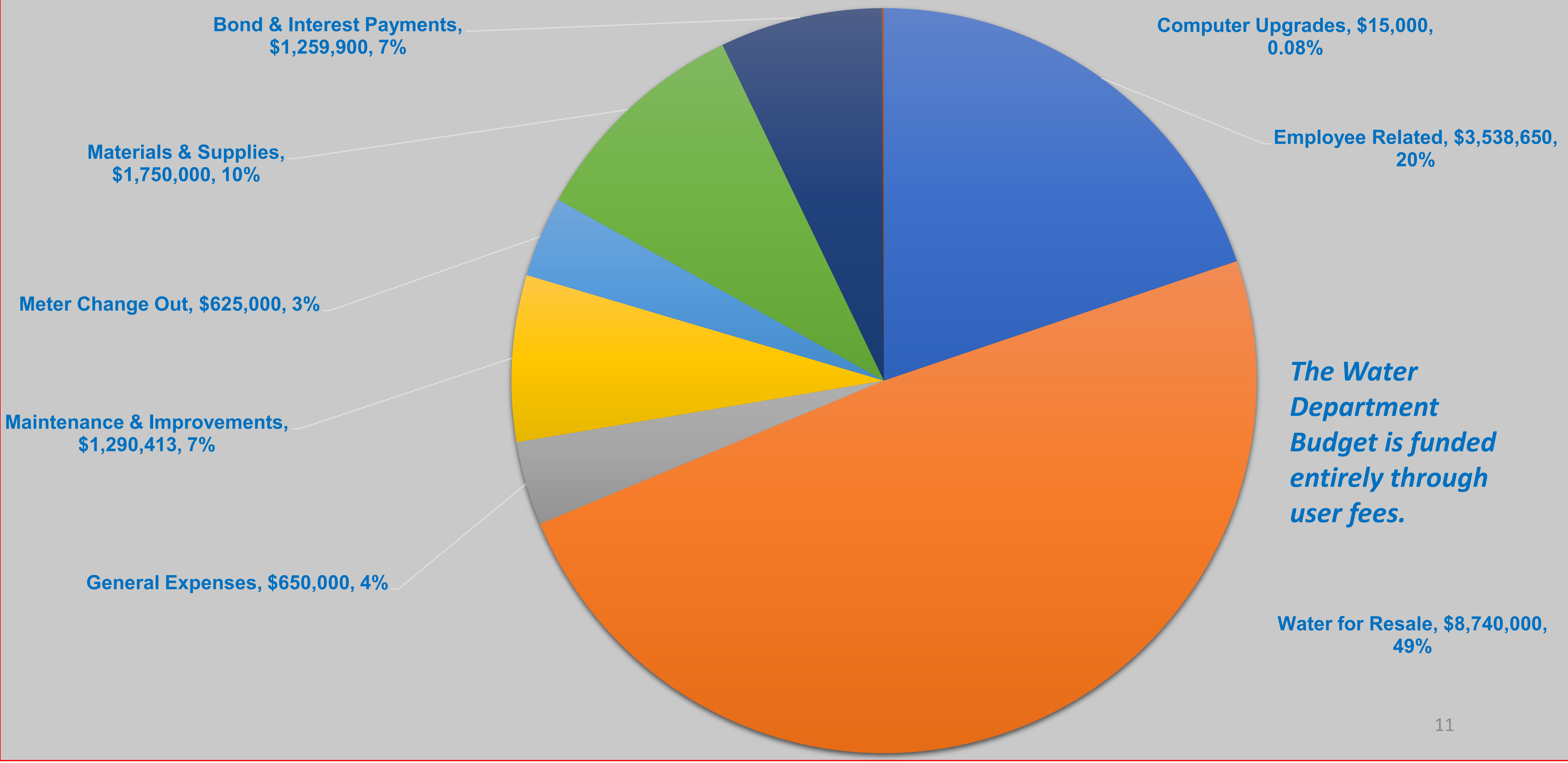
CULLMAN COUNTY PARKS SYSTEM- FY 2026 Budget



Revenue Sources

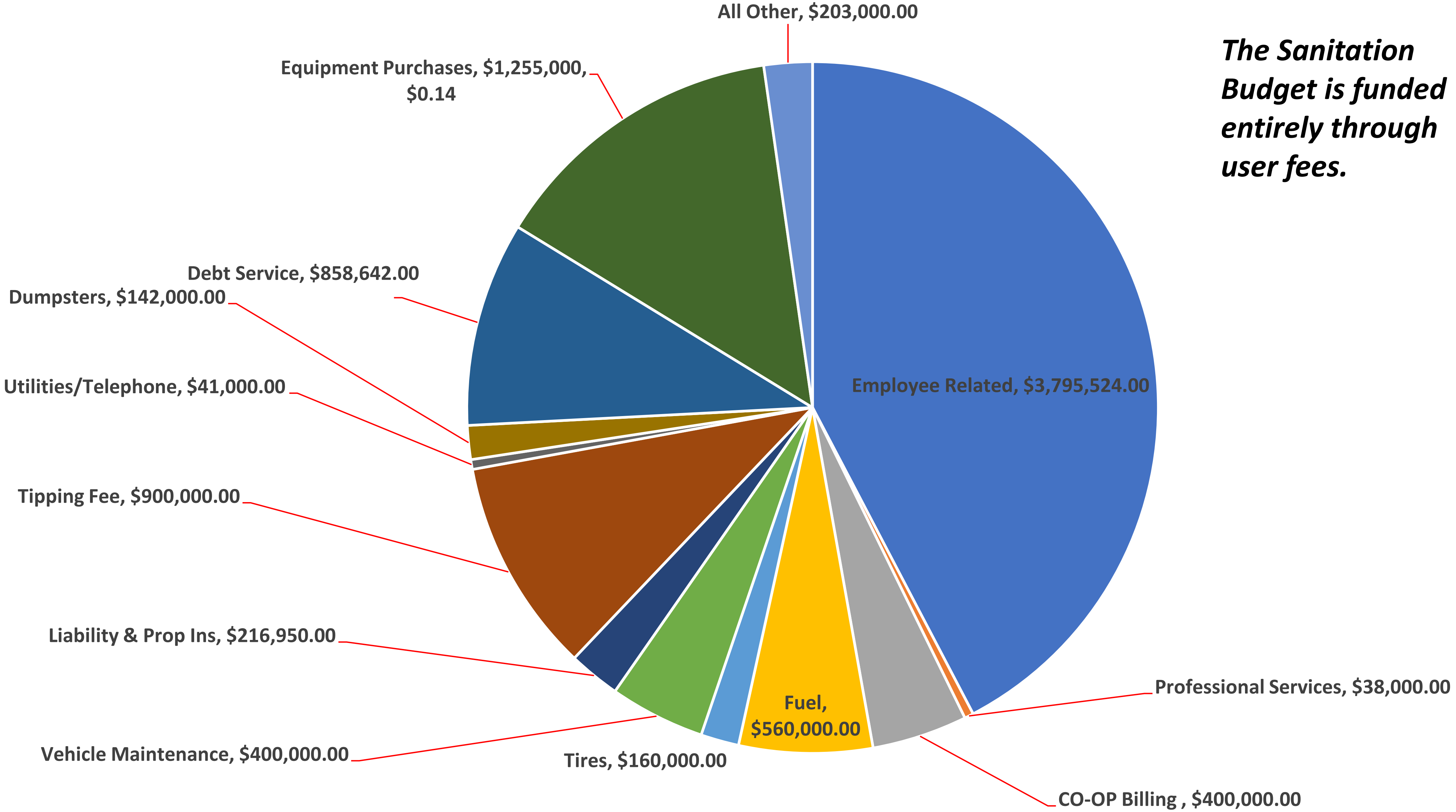
User Fees	$1,451,441	44.08%
Existing Cash Balance	$360,447	10.95%
Transfer From General	$1,480,892	44.97%
Total	$3,292,780	100.00%

FY 2026 Water Department Budget



The Water Department Budget is funded entirely through user fees.

FY 2026 Sanitation Expense Budget



The Sanitation Budget is funded entirely through user fees.

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	228,337.00	200,719.00	200,719.00	197,849.00
Forestry	24,000.00	24,000.00	24,000.00	24,000.00
Airport- Operations	250,000.00	250,000.00	245,000.00	245,000.00
Vol Fire Department	109,000.00	109,000.00	109,000.00	109,000.00
Health Dept- AL Public Health	100,000.00	80,000.00	75,000.00	72,000.00
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	148,000.00	148,000.00	148,000.00	148,000.00
Extension Service	45,000.00	45,000.00	45,000.00	40,000.00
Victim Services of Cullman	2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Agriplex- request for Extension rent upon completion of building	30,000.00	30,000.00	7,500.00	5,000.00
Foster Grandparent(Community Action)	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
United Way	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Good Samaritan Health Clinic	3,000.00	3,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Child Advocacy Center of Cullman	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Lighthouse	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
Friends of the Public Library	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Farm-City	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
VFW Heroes Dinner	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
VFW SGB Shot	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
Project Lifesaver	5,000.00	5,000.00	-	-
Total	**1,182,637.00**	**1,133,019.00**	**1,094,519.00**	**1,081,149.00**