

Column1	COST	CHALLENGE	SOLUTION	COMMUNITY BENEFIT
Proposed Projects	\$	Why is this on the SPLOST?	What is it being proposed?	How will this project make life/business better in Floyd County?
City Projects				
East Central Secondary Access	395,000	Relieve heavy traffic congestion on Dean Avenue during school drop-off and pick-up times.	Create an alternate drive to the school campus off East 14th Street and Bobo Drive to include addition of curb and gutter and widening to a standard two-lane section.	Addition of an alternate drive and entrance to the school will relieve traffic congestion on Dean Avenue. (School systems are barred by law from using its revenue on projects outside the schools.)
Public Works & Infrastructure Improvements	5,000,000	Improve city streets and roads which are deteriorating at a greater rate than current funding can match; improve safety for motorists and pedestrians.	Rome Public Works will pave approximately 24 miles of streets and roads. New sidewalks will be added in heavily traveled pedestrian corridors to include Redmond Circle, Redmond Road and Lavender Drive. Sidewalk construction and drainage improvements will be made along Reservoir Street.	Road paving allows for safer driving conditions and an improvement to the infrastructure. New sidewalks will increase pedestrian safety and improve connectivity to vital areas of our community. The sidewalks will provide handicap accessibility where currently none exist.
Public Safety Facility & Equipment Improvements	4,400,000	New equipment purchases and facility improvements are needed for police and fire protection.	Upgrade the Rome-Floyd County Fire Department complex on North Avenue with improvements to the maintenance facility, burn building and training equipment. Purchase new fire ladder truck, and water tanker truck. Purchase take-home vehicles for the Rome Police Department.	Fire facility improvements and equipment will provide the necessary means for fighting fires, maintaining firefighting equipment, and providing a safe, controlled, environment for firefighting. Take home police cars increase response time, community visibility and deter crime.
Waterways	3,639,500	Leverage natural resource assets to increase use of our waterways and greenways while supporting current environmental education and community development efforts.	Expand the River Education (E.C.O.) Center in Ridge Ferry Park to incorporate event space; add a community boathouse on the old Curtis Packing plant property off Pollock Street in South Rome; create a river trail campsite, along with two more "soft-access" points on local waterways.	New E.C.O. Center event space will generate funding to increase program capacity and education services offered at the E.C.O. Center; new boathouse and river trail campsite creates an eco-tourism destination along the Coosa River while supporting South Rome community revitalization efforts.
5th Ave. River District/Arts District	2,000,000	Expand the character of the Broad Street corridor to the west side of the Oostanaula River; revitalization is needed in this district which serves as a gateway to downtown.	Enhance the district by moving overhead utilities which create visual clutter; add landscape accents and street scape.	The vitality and dynamic development along downtown Broad Street was stimulated by similar revitalization efforts and streetscape plans. Enhancements will complement the latest investment of property owners, while attracting new business development.
Barron Stadium Improvements	825,000	The artificial surface at Barron Stadium has a life span of 10 years and is aging; scoreboard has recurring maintenance issues; and facility improvements are needed in the press box.	Replace the artificial playing surface of Barron Stadium; replace existing scoreboard; upgrade the press box.	Maintaining Barron Stadium is necessary to keep this facility open to the public for use year round; replacement of field playing surface will eliminate liability exposure created by using turf past the recommended 10 year replacement cycle; replacement of Scoreboard creates long-term savings for recurring maintenance; press box improvements position community to attract NCAA Division 2 & 3 National Football Championship games creating economic benefit.
Water & Sewer System Improvements	1,750,000	Portions of North and East Rome experience line break disruptions and discolored water flow; current water mains are incapable of providing fire protection. The main line at the pump station that feeds area lines needs upgrades to efficiently increase water flows.	Upgrade the main line at the Maple Street pump station from an 8" to 20" water line service. Upgrade existing mains in Rosemont Park from 2" to 6" to include fire hydrants.	Residents and businesses in North and East Rome will have higher water pressure and flows required for fire protection; the upgrade will eliminate discolored water and reduce service disruptions.
County Projects				
E-911 Update/Upgrade/Renovation	257,000	It is important to keep our E-911 dispatchers safe and comfortable while they do their important duties. They are currently operating in an enclosed environment in which 5-7 people are working 24 hours, 7 days a week, 365 days a year and which has not been renovated in 15 years. The room has become stale and dingy due to the inability to thoroughly clean the surfaces because it is a 24/7 workspace in which the noise must be kept at a minimal. The adjustable desks currently used were designed to hold three or more computers and six or more monitors are too small and are falling apart. The room and building also need security and safety enhancements.	The 2017 SPLOST package includes a full renovation of the E-911 Center, ceiling to floor, which includes replacing carpet with tile for easier cleaning, purchasing new dispatch consoles that are designed with cable management and for easier cleaning, moving a false wall in the center to open up more floor space and enhance communications between the dispatchers, fresh paint, and new lighting that is not as harsh as our current fluorescent overhead lights. The renovation would also include storm shutters on the exterior windows to make the E-911 Center safer during storms. Other steps would be taken to improve the building security in several small ways.	Trained, experienced E-911 dispatchers handle any emergency a citizen might have; however, better working conditions lead to better performance, and we want to ensure we have taken every possible step to ensure our E-911 dispatchers are comfortable and safe.
Recreation	2,026,600	Rome-Floyd County Parks & Recreation is challenged by the amount of repair and renovation that needs to be done throughout the parks system. Many of the projects listed on the 2017 SPLOST package are a renovation or rejuvenation of current properties. If funded by SPLOST, we will have the time to prioritize and ensure all of these projects are completed.	By funding through the 2017 SPLOST, these projects can be budgeted, planned, and completed within a specific timeframe. Some of the main recreation projects include repair of the docks and a new pavilion at Brushy Branch, rework of the Skate Center located at Etowah park, new playground equipment, and facility upgrades throughout the parks system.	There are several benefits: better, more usable facilities, upgrades that will save the tax payers money, quality of life improvements, etc. Energy efficiency projects will save operating costs and reduce time and money dedicated to fixing aged HVAC units; Tennis court repairs will make the facility in Shannon usable again; roof replacements will prevent further issues in the facilities. Boat docks and pavilions will make the parks more user friendly and easier and safer to use.
Prison Systems Security Upgrade	2,705,000	The challenge is to address the physical plant upgrades as security systems begin to fail throughout the facility in order to enhance both officer and offender safety. The Floyd County Prison was constructed in the late 1990's and occupied in 2000. National standards recognize that correctional facilities age at a rate of three times faster than a standard government complex due to the constant use of the physical structure, thus making this facility sixty years old. By selecting ten security and maintenance related upgrades needed at the prison staff will be able to be proactive in addressing state and federal policy shortfalls, address fire code upgrades, and better protect the themselves and offenders assigned to this facility.	The Floyd County Prison is unique to the other twenty county prison across the state in the fact in its operations as a regional force in the Corrections field rather than focusing solely on county related issues. From the Focus in Re-Entry program that is designed to bring back regional offenders and place them back into their communities with employment and a home prior to being released from prison, to the inmate work details that complete projects all across the region; Floyd County Corrections has a large economic impact in Floyd County. Often officers from across the state lodge in Rome while completing training courses as well as offender families that come to visit there love ones housed at this facility. Aside from its inmate work force, Floyd County Corrections also has a work force of fifty skilled workers housed at the work release center that hold jobs in the community and spend money in the community on a daily basis.	The primary benefit is the security of the general public offered by the completion of this project as well as the safety of the officers and offenders assigned to this facility. The completion of this project will allow the citizens of Floyd County and Northwest Georgia to continue to benefit from ability of having a county prison in their community. Conservative estimates for 2016 show that Floyd County Corrections had an economic impact in Floyd County of over \$24 million. Floyd County Corrections brought in an additional \$175,000.00 in state educational grants in 2017 that directly impacted our local colleges and vendors in the community. These security improvements will give peace of mind to those that live in the immediate area and to those that have loves ones housed there as well.
Public Works Facilities Building	2,450,000	Floyd County Public Works has tried for years to maintain the facilities as best as possible but funding has not been available through the general budget to construct a much needed new facility. The current Floyd County Public Works buildings were built over fifty years ago and have had several additions over the years. Old roof lines have been tied together and cannot be maintained, yielding multiple leaks on equipment and work stations, including computers and servers. The administration building is the first building to be evacuated during inclement weather. The floor in the shop is so pitted that it cannot be mopped and the fumes from the paint shop bleed into the warehouse creating an extremely unpleasant environment.	One of the 2017 SPLOST projects is for a new building to house Floyd County Public Works administration, shop, and warehouse. This facility would be larger and provide a cleaner, more efficient workspace. There would be more room to work on additional items at the same time indoors instead of possibly in the extreme heat or extreme cold.	The primary benefit will be Floyd County Public Works' ability to respond when needed, not just in emergencies but a more efficient operation will help keep equipment maintained and working in the field on a daily basis.
Historic Courthouse Renovations/Judicial Improvements	5,000,000	The historic courthouse renovation is needed in order to preserve the historical integrity of the building as well as to make better use of the existing space. Deferred maintenance has led to significant damage to the building that if not addressed, will put the building in jeopardy. This building currently houses the Tax Commissioner and the Assessor's offices and has foot traffic that averages approximately 500 people per business day. The historic significance in addition to the future use of the facility is heavily reliant on the renovation. SPLOST is the most effective way to fund projects, in that it uses money that is spent by residents as well as non-residents. Any time a project can be funded by SPLOST, it greatly benefits the local taxpayers.	The renovation plan consists of addressing the structural integrity of the facility, the building envelope (roof, soffits, gutters, windows, brick) as well as a complete HVAC system in order to remove space heaters, steam boiler, and window unit A/C. We anticipate that the renovation will include the complete removal and reinstall of all plumbing and electrical systems. Once the future use of the facility is determined, the layout of the entire building will be configured in order to address ADA compliance and the best use of office space, while hopefully regaining some of the original details of the building's interior that have been lost during previous attempts at renovation. Security will also be addressed once the future use is decided.	The community focal point is made up only a few landmarks. The historic courthouse is one of those. The preservation of the structure from a purely historic standpoint is imperative. Addressing the future use of the facility needs to be addressed so that it can be best used to serve the public.
Paving, Infrastructure & Bridges	4,500,000	Floyd County has struggled with sufficient funding for infrastructure for the last nine years. The county is currently paving roads on a 40+ year cycle when ideally, paving should follow a 20 year cycle. If approved, the additional forty miles will improve the cycle to thirty-two years, which will help considerably. SPLOST is the only mechanism outside of a millage rate increase to fund our paving needs. In addition, our weight restricted bridges have grown from twenty to twenty-two in the past ten years. SPLOST funds would allow the county to upgrade some of the most critical routes to help improve school bus traffic and commercial routes.	The 2017 SPLOST package includes \$3 million for paving, \$1 million for bridge upgrades and traffic improvements, and \$500,000.00 for the historic communities of Lindale and Riverside. Most of the money in Lindale and Riverside will go towards storm water and sidewalks (accessible ramps) with the goal to move pedestrian traffic off of the roads.	This project will help everyone have a better opportunity for a smooth ride to work, less wear and tear on their vehicles, more secure and efficient routes of travel, and to help keep pedestrians off of the roadways.
Texas Valley Infrastructure Expansion	2,500,000	A project the size of the Texas Valley Infrastructure Extension would not be financially feasible without additional funding such as SPLOST. This project will loop the water distribution system which will improve reliability by feeding water from two directions rather than one. Looping may also help reduce water quality problems by allowing the water to circulate, versus having dead-end lines.	Installing approximately eight miles of 8-inch ductile iron pipe, with approximately thirty-two new fire hydrants and appurtenances. The Texas Valley Project will complete Phase III of the water department's Water Source Strategy. This project will complete an outer-perimeter, which will allow the transportation of water to all four quadrants of the county. The location of the project will be from Rocky Mountain Recreation Area southwest to Huffaker Road.	The potential benefits to the community include the ability for the distribution system to meet the higher water pressure and flows required for firefighting. It will also diversify water department operations, defer rate increases due to escalation in supplier prices, provides an incentive for future development, improves insurance ratings for customers, provides yearly savings on purchased water from other counties or municipalities, and provides the potential for new revenue. Additionally, an expanded service area will provide an option to citizens who are currently using well water. Combined, these benefits ultimately increase citizen satisfaction through improved service and reliability to new customers.

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Jail Medical Phase II/Infrastructure Improvements	5,200,000	The Floyd County Jail currently has 820 inmate beds and the daily inmate population has at times been as high as 1100 inmates. Currently, with only four (4) medical beds in the infirmary, the jail has less than 1% of the required number of medical beds, which equates to a daily shortage of thirty-seven medical beds. Since the closing of Northwest Georgia Regional Hospital in 2011, the Floyd County Jail has become the de facto Mental Health Hospital for Floyd County and surrounding communities. Since the closing, the volume of persons with serious mental health issues housed in the jail has increased substantially from an average of 15-20 inmates daily, to an average of between 100-150 everyday, most of which have to be medicated with psychotropic drugs. The jail currently has zero dedicated beds for the most severely mentally ill.	In 2013, the Floyd County Jail requested SPLOST funding of approximately \$6.7 million to construct additional medical and mental health facilities. The jail was awarded \$2.2 million on SPLOST funds. The amount was not enough to cover the total project. "Phase I" using 2013 SPLOST funds amounts to renovating the existing medical unit and gutting the jail's only training room, employee lockers, employee showers/bathroom facilities, and small work-out area to create approximately twelve additional beds for a total of 16 medical and mental health beds for the entire facility. This will still leave the jail in a precarious situation, with less than one third of the actual number of medical and mental health beds needed.	The majority of those incarcerated in the Floyd County Jail today will be released back into our community sooner rather than later. A high percentage of the jail's inmate population comes to jail with serious medical and mental health issues. As a result, the medical vendor has almost 70,000 clinical encounters a year with jail inmates and many successful medical outcomes are a result of the discovery and treatment of inmates during their incarceration. Additional mental health beds and treatment facilities to accommodate this ever growing population will help ensure a safer community once they are released back into society.
North Broad Youth Center Recreation Renovations	600,000	The North Broad Youth Center is a nonprofit organization that desires to continue building a program that will not only educate our students but one that will strengthen them mentally, spiritually, and physically. The goal is to enhance the lives of our students in every area. At the current time, the center has everything in place but a playground and exercise area. The majority of the students playtime is inside and a safe outdoor recreation is needed. A laptop, cell phone, television or iPad should not be their only sources of entertainment.	The 2017 SPLOST package includes a safe, protected outside play area. The students in North Rome currently do not have an area to learn and play. The pavilion and play area included in SPLOST would also be used for tennis and soccer instruction. This gated area would provide a safe area to learn and grow while having fun.	When these students graduate from their local high schools and the Rising Star program, they will become productive citizens in our community because others have invested in them, allowing them to have the same opportunities every child should have. The proposed property is currently owned by the North Broad Youth Center but will be gifted to the City of Rome for the purpose of the requested renovations and future public use. The North Broad Youth Center will oversee the annual operational and maintenance costs for the recreational area.
Silver Creek Trail Extension to Lindale	1,180,000	The Heritage Trail network has been developed to provide opportunities for physical activity for bike and pedestrian traffic, but lacks the connectivity to unify manufacturing corridors, neighborhoods, and colleges in southern Floyd County. Connecting 1200 employees via the Silver Creek Trail Extension will provide users safer and easier passage between Rome and Lindale.	Expand the Heritage Trail network from East 12th Street along abandoned rail corridor 3.6 miles south to Lindale.	The trail extension will increase pedestrian and bicycle safety along Maple Road in lieu of a sidewalk. It will connect Georgia Northwestern Technical College to the Heritage Trails, therefore, making it the third Rome college/university that is connected to the trails. This will expand the Heritage Trail network to over seventeen miles and provide a transportation alternative to Georgia Northwestern Technical College and the business adjacent to the corridor. It will also increase tourism and traffic in Lindale by creating a rail viewing station as the trailhead at Park Avenue and North 1st Street.
Real Estate & Infrastructure for Economic Development	3,110,000	We are limited on tracts of land of any substantial size. Our largest tract is actually a little smaller than 100 acres, which means we are immediately eliminated from consideration from site selection consultants and prospective companies, without even being contacted. In addition to the purchase of property, these funds can be used to offset specific requirements of potential business and industry prospects (water, sewer, retention, accessibility, etc.).	We are still acquiring 2013 SPLOST dollars through next year which will allow the previous SPLOST funds to be paid for industrial development and acquisition. However, successful economic development depends on continual reinvestment in land and infrastructure. This was the reason for the additional proposal and request of SPLOST funds.	The community benefit is an increase in tax base and tax revenue (both sales tax and property tax) after development and announcement of new business. The additional benefits are the increase in workers from employment at these developed sites, along with the property taxes and sales taxes paid by these newly employed citizens and the impact to small businesses. For example, the Lowes Regional Distribution Center now employs in excess of 800 employees (45% of whom are Floyd County residents). This year's property tax assessment for Lowes is approximately \$500,000.00 (even with the current abatement), as opposed to the approximately \$8,000.00 the community received in property taxes prior to this development.
Capital Equipment/Vehicle Fund	3,400,000	The expense to replace all county vehicles and equipment that are beyond their useful service life is significant. During the economic downturn/recession, Floyd County saw a decrease in revenue and sales tax collection. While holding the mileage rate constant to prevent an increased burden on the taxpayers, spending on capital project and equipment was reduced to balance budgets. As a result, vehicles and equipment have been kept in service for longer periods. This extension of the service life has caused a significant amount of these vehicles and equipment to be kept in service well beyond nationally recognized standards for useful service life.	The 2017 SPLOST package includes \$3.4 million for Floyd County capital vehicle and equipment. While the amount included in the SPLOST will not eliminate the backlog of aging and high-mileage vehicles and equipment, it will remove enough to allow creation of a fundable replacement schedule. The funds from SPLOST will allow for a countywide replacement of all essential vehicles and equipment items that are beyond their useful service life. It will establish a long term vehicle and equipment replacement schedule based on life-cycle cost analysis of each component.	All county departments that rely upon the County's vehicle and equipment fleet will be better able to serve the citizens of Floyd County. From a public safety perspective, the project will make the community safer. Aging, high mileage vehicles used by Floyd County Police and Sheriff's Office will be replaced with new vehicles. Reduction in vehicle maintenance times and vehicle breakdowns will result in reduced response times and greater police presence on Floyd County Roads. From a public works and utility perspective, Floyd County Water and Public Works will be able to provide the citizens of Floyd County with a higher level of service. Better, more efficient maintenance of roads and drainage will result in safer travel and a reduction in wear on a citizen's own vehicle. Economically, removal of aging, high mileage vehicles and equipment will result in reduced operation and maintenance costs. This reduction will result in long-term savings to Floyd County citizens.
Public Works Facilities Building	2,450,000	Floyd County Public Works has tried for years to maintain the facilities as best as possible but funding has not been available through the general budget to construct a much needed new facility. The current Floyd County Public Works buildings were built over fifty years ago and have had several additions over the years. Old roof lines have been tied together and cannot be maintained, yielding multiple leaks on equipment and work stations, including computers and servers. The administration building is the first building to be evacuated during inclement weather. The floor in the shop is so pitted that it cannot be mopped and the fumes from the paint shop bleed into the warehouse creating an extremely unpleasant environment.	One of the 2017 SPLOST projects is for a new building to house Floyd County Public Works administration, shop, and warehouse. This facility would be larger and provide a cleaner, more efficient workspace. There would be more room to work on additional items at the same time indoors instead of possibly in the extreme heat or extreme cold.	The primary benefit will be Floyd County Public Works' ability to respond when needed, not just in emergencies but a more efficient operation will help keep equipment maintained and working in the field on a daily basis.
Airport Corporate Hangar Construction	899,210	The airport does not currently have a hangar big enough to accommodate transient aircraft. The airport is able to accommodate smaller general aviation aircraft but has not hangar big enough to accommodate corporate or visiting larger aircraft.	The proposed hangar will be large enough to handle the largest corporate jet that comes in plus one or two additional smaller jets or turboprop aircraft. This area has a history of dangerous storms and year round inclement weather including heavy winds, damaging hail, along with frost and ice in the winter months.	The airport and community would benefit from this hangar from revenue generated hourly and daily or nightly through hangar rental. The more revenue the airport can make, the better chance the airport will not have to be subsidized and become a burden on the taxpayers of Floyd County. In order to accommodate the customer, we must make them feel that their assets will be protected while they are conducting business in our city and county.
Stadium Improvements	2,000,000	In 2003, Floyd County became home to the Class-A Atlanta Braves affiliate Rome Braves. The stadium construction was funded by SPLOST. Since it's opening, 14 years ago, Floyd County taxpayers have not contributed any funds to the maintenance or renovation of the facility. As with any leased property, a refresh and updates are necessary. Thirty-five percent of the Rome Braves fan base travel from out of Floyd County to attend games. Using SPLOST funding to renovate the ballpark will allow these out of county visitors to contribute this project. Over the lifespan of their current contract, the Braves have invested over \$3.3 million into the facility.	SPLOST funding will provide for necessary modernization to ballpark. Upgrades include entry and access improvements, larger and improved team store, additional restrooms and ticket booth, renovated group seating, new sound system, and clubhouse expansion.	In 2016 the Rome Braves economic impact was \$5.43 million to Rome and Floyd County. Over the past 14 years, the team has stepped up to the plate as a community partner while providing a quality product to fans, both citizens and out of towners alike. The Braves have hosted many non-regular season events as well, including the 2007 South Atlantic League All-Star Game, the 2017 Georgia High School Baseball Championship Series, concerts, and community fundraisers.
Public Safety Technology Upgrades	415,170	The Floyd County Police Department utilizes 125 digital video cameras in the form of In-Car Digital In-Car Video Systems, Interview Room Digital Video Systems as well as Body Mounted Cameras. FCPD is tasked with maintaining this video footage until all court appearances are completed. Losing this digital video data due to server failure would be catastrophic. Digital video footage allows for the protection of the officer and public in cases of wrongful accusations and can suggest areas of training for individual officers and the collective whole of the department. Forensic Investigation Equipment to complement the existing forensic processing abilities of the FCPD.	Purchase of the following equipment: a new server and disc writer for digital video data storage, 110 body cameras, 38 mobile vision digital in-car video systems, 65 tablets, vehicle mounts, blue tooth keyboards, and a minimum of 8 hot spots, a fuming chamber, alternative light source, and a reflected ultra-violet imaging system.	These projects as well as others that make up the public safety technology upgrades involve the digital video data of our officers in their everyday interactions with the public that we serve. It will also provide an intangible impact to the community by providing an additional 5,500 man hours of Officer presence in the county due to officers not having to return to the office to complete reports. Finally, this project will provide more timely response to needed crime scene/fingerprinting investigations through the ability to accomplish these duties "in-house". Through increased case clearances, the community will realize fewer thefts and this may translate into less in the way of insurance premiums.
Special Operations Equipment	248,200	Rome Floyd Special Operations is a regional tactical unit made up of SWAT, bomb, and chemical response teams. This request will replace aging and soon to be expired equipment that will ensure our officers are protected.	This type of equipment is necessary for actual events and training purposes.	The SWAT and Bomb teams both statistically average two calls a month.
Cave Spring Sewerage System Improvements & Upgrades	1,281,000	Cave Spring sewers are overloaded with groundwater and storm water which causes permit violations at the wastewater treatment plant. Lack of sewer capacity inhibits economic growth around Cave Spring.	Sewer lines in the flood plain most susceptible to being overloaded will be rehabilitated to seal out groundwater and storm water and the older manholes will be sealed and structurally restored. \$1,281,000 is proposed to rehabilitate 11,400 linear feet of sewer and manholes.	The benefits are restoring capacity to the sewerage system for new and existing customers, preventing contamination of local surface waters by eliminating sewage overflows, and lowering the costs of operating the City's treatment plant without significant sewer rate increases.
Ag Center	8,000,000	Agriculture in Floyd County represented \$88,870,992.00 in 2016 according to Farm Gate Values. This economic driver is underrepresented in the community. This citizen submitted proposal will create an agricultural center which will represent a community coming together to connect back to the agricultural roots of Rome and Floyd County.	The 2017 SPLOST Committee allocated \$8,000,000.00 to the agricultural center. Private and public partnerships will allow the Rome-Floyd County Agricultural Center to create a regional multi-use facility with exhibition, education, and meeting space.	This center will provide agricultural and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Mathematics) based educational partnerships and opportunities in the community for students and all citizens and will create an agritourism destination for Rome-Floyd County. The center will provide retail opportunity for locally grown and sourced food products while promoting agriculture as a local economic driver. Finally, the space will allow for consolidating local, state, and federal agricultural service agencies in a central location.