



CITY OF WARNER ROBINS

GEORGIA'S INTERNATIONAL CITY - CHARTERED 1943
"A CITY OF CHARACTER"

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City of Warner Robins Passes \$143.8 Million Budget for FY 2023 *Annual Budget Includes Community Input, Maintains Public Safety Priorities, and Provides Needed Wage Increases for City Staff*

WARNER ROBINS, Ga. – The City of Warner Robins completed an important step in its annual finance process yesterday, June 30, as the City Council adopted its Fiscal Year 2023 budget. Close collaboration between Mayor Patrick, the City's Finance Department, and their finance consultant led to the successful delivery of a draft budget on time. As part of the process, City Council members held public meetings in their respective posts, which provided the community an opportunity to share their input.

Effective today, the \$143.8 million budget will help to address the city's continued economic expansion and population growth. The annual funds include a 10 percent graduated pay increase for city employees—7.75% to be issued immediately and the remaining 2.25% on the employee's work anniversary. Police and Fire Departments also received recruitment and retention bonuses of \$4,000 for the rank of police officer and firefighter to be disbursed over a three-year period.

Additionally, the FY23 budget provides \$4.97 million in new initiatives, such as \$1.25 million toward Improved Customer Service projects and \$2.5 million in Technology Improvements to upgrade systems and expand community outreach capabilities. The remaining resources will largely go toward new equipment needs across the city, with a portion set aside for special annual community events.

"Our city has seen incredible growth in the past two decades and our budget reflects that; it remains a hopeful and exciting time for the people of Warner Robins," said Mayor LaRhonda W. Patrick. "For me, it is important that we give our citizens and employees the tools they need to succeed. The approval of this budget is critical because it will bring our community the services and programs it deserves, while providing our city employees the pay increases and equipment they have long needed."

"This year, we were able to incorporate community feedback into the annual budget presentation to a greater extent than ever before," said Holly Gross, Assistant City Finance Director. "We held town hall meetings and hearings open to the citizens of Warner Robins to ensure their voices were heard. I am proud of the work we have accomplished and grateful to Mayor Patrick for her leadership."



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The budgeting process began on March 2 with the Finance Department soliciting requests from each city department by March 25. Upon receiving those requests, official discussions began in earnest. In the absence of a City Administrator and Finance Director, the Mayor's Office chose to lean on the expertise of an experienced municipal budgeting consultant to ensure the process was held to the highest fiscal standards. The initial draft budget was developed between April 22 and May 16, when the City's Finance Department and Mayor Patrick presented it to City Council and the public.

"In the 13 years that I have been on City Council, I have witnessed many budgets and budget processes. I want to applaud Mayor Patrick on her leadership and transparency throughout this process, and congratulate her and the Warner Robins Finance Department on a job well done," said Councilman Clifford Holmes, Jr. "This budget, completed on time and with community input, is a step in the right direction. Our people work hard to provide our citizens with excellent services and this budget will allow them to continue that work to the best of their abilities."

"Transparency and accountability are top priorities of my administration; therefore, it is incredibly important to me that the city is a good steward of our taxpayer dollars," Patrick continued. "I am grateful for the commitment and dedication from both the City Finance Department and our Council Members, which ensures that we can continue to serve the people of Warner Robins."

Each year, the City of Warner Robins estimates the property tax and other revenue for budget development based on projections. The actual adoption of the millage rate for property tax revenue does not occur until after Houston County officials provide the tax digest to the city. At that time, the City Council will hold hearings in accordance with state law. The FY23 budget did not include any assumed increases in the millage rate.

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