

Updates as of August 15, 2023:

Short-Term Animal Shelter:

Saluda County has partnered with Edgefield County to take care of the stray animal situation in the county. We contacted them in November of 2022 about the partnership as they were breaking ground on their Animal Care and Control facility in December of 2022. Saluda County just did not have the funds to build the same type of facility. Saluda County is building a "short-term" animal shelter meaning that the "residents" that are picked up by the officer and taken there will only be housed there until they are claimed by their owners or transported to the new Edgefield facility. Completion of our shelter should be by the end of August as we are waiting on supplies to be delivered. The Edgefield shelter is had their ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 14, 2023. This is also when the Saluda County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Division will be implemented. The Saluda County Animal Control ordinance was passed in April of 2023.

Public Safety Referendum:

Since the referendum did not pass to build all of our Public Safety facilities at one time the county still will have to move forward with a plan to provide a safe working environment for its service members and the public. Most of the comments that we received from the public were that while residents knew that these projects were needed they did not agree that we needed to do it all at once.

*The Detention Center will be built with funds received through a prior referendum in 2018 with Capital Sales Tax Funds. We are at the end of our 4th year of collections and will borrow against the next 4 years of expected revenue so that we can start construction at the beginning of 2024. We will also have to borrow against the counties 8% borrowing capacity to complete the project as the total projected cost will be \$17 million.

*The EMS Headquarters building will be our next project. We have funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to use for this construction and the balance will come from Building Reserve and the additional 8% borrowing capacity. ARPA funds are required to be expended by the end of 2025. Our goal is to start planning this after we receive the final bids from the Detention Center so we will know exactly how much we have to work with.

*The Sheriff's Office expansion will follow these projects.

Update on 2018 Capital Project Sales Tax:

Below is the vote on the 2018 Capital Project Sales Tax that was approved and an up-to-date account as to how these projects are progressing.

Shall a special one percent sales and use tax be imposed in Saluda County for not more than eight (8) years, beginning on the May 1, 2019, to raise the revenues which will be applied to pay

directly the cost of or to pay debt service on bonds issued to defray the cost of certain capital improvements set forth below for the County and shall the County be empowered to issue, either at one time as a single issue or from time to time as several separate issues, general obligation bonds of the County in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$9,400,000, to be repayable solely from the sales tax or other available sources, the proceeds of which shall be used to defray the costs of the capital improvement needs of the County, including specifically the following purposes, listed in order of priority with estimated cost:

Projects:

1. Saluda County Library (Saluda County) \$125,000
2. Saluda County Animal Shelter (Saluda County) \$125,000
3. Ridge Spring Downtown Revitalization and Economic Development (Town of Ridge Spring) \$175,000
4. Reconstruction of Bathrooms at Brooks Royston Park (Saluda Recreation District) \$50,000
5. Saluda County Detention Center (Saluda County) \$8,434,304

To date we received from the State \$5,359,570.89

- We have paid out item #1 to purchase the Building at 307 Butler Avenue for the Library. We are in the process of renovating the building using funds that the Library has raised.
- We are in the process of item #2 at a current expenditure of \$29,808.49 to Sommers Construction and materials for the Short-Term Animal Shelter.
- The Downtown Revitalization and Farmers Market in Ridge Spring was completed in 2020 at \$175,000
- We have a plan ready to present to the Saluda Recreation District Board for Construction of Restrooms
- The Balance of Funds will be used for #5 Detention Center. We have these funds in a separate account as required by law until we are ready to construct. County Council passed first reading on an ordinance to borrow against the remaining funds left to collect so that we can proceed with building plans at the first of the year. These funds will be repaid in the next four years as we collect the remaining Sales Tax Funds.