# COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## PRESS RELEASE
## 2020/2021 COLUMBUS COUNTY BUDGET

**July 1, 2020**

On June 30, 2020, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners adopted its operating budget for fiscal year 2020/2021. This budget proved to be a challenge with the loss of sales and use tax revenue due to the effects of COVID 19. Faced with a decrease in State and Local revenues, the Board worked with the County Manager and the Finance Officer to develop a budget that is fair and equitable for all of our departments, as well as the citizens of our county. By working together and looking at each line item in every county department, Commissioners were able to adopt the budget with no tax increase for the citizens of our county.

In order to control our expenses, the majority of our departments' expenditures remained the same as the previous fiscal year. Our main focus in this year's budget was Education and Law Enforcement. Our Education budget increased $1,035,668 (7%) including $800,000 for technology needs. Our Sheriff's Office budget increased $536,665 (8%) including 6 new vehicles and 4 new positions. The Detention Center's budget increased $410,922 (13%) including 1 new position and $120,000 for a new camera system. Also, a 3% COLA adjustment was appropriated for our county employees.

Many of our departments did not receive all of their budget requests. The long-term, unknown effects of COVID-19 on the county's future revenues made it necessary to limit, to the extent possible, use of funds from the county's fund balance (savings account). The balanced budget did require $1,578,646 from the county's fund balance. Our goal was to not place the burden of a tax increase on our citizens in the years to come by allocating additional funds from the fund balance.