



Engineering Services Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: September 8, 2026

County-wide Trees Maintenance and Removal Funding

File Reference: 26 – 014(T)

Department:	Engineering & Environmental Services
Presenter:	Dr. Hameed Malik, Director
Caption:	Approve funding in the amount of \$150,000 from vegetation management 2026 allocation to ensure continuity of county-wide right of way trees maintenance and removal services. /AE
Background:	Engineering SPLOST 8 included \$1 million in funding allocated for the management of trees within Augusta-owned rights-of-way. Significant portions of the tree canopy along these rights-of-way are aging and increasingly vulnerable to stress and damage from severe weather events, which are occurring with greater frequency and intensity than in the past. Hurricane Helene caused extensive damage to the aging tree canopy. The impacts of recent severe weather events, including Hurricane Helene, are becoming increasingly evident throughout the area. Aging and damaged trees pose growing risks to public safety, transportation infrastructure, utilities. This funding will support maintenance and removal of trees as needed to reduce hazards.
Analysis:	To provide the necessary funding to maintain uninterrupted tree maintenance and removal services along county rights-of-way, supporting public safety, accessibility, and the proper maintenance of County infrastructure.
Financial Impact:	Funding is available within the 2026 General Fund allocation for the new Vegetation Management Department (currently in contingency). Since these funds will not be used for the new department in 2026, Finance recommends repurposing these funds on a one-time basis for the current year.
Alternatives:	Not proposed.
Recommendation:	Approve funding in the amount \$150,000 from vegetation management 2026 allocation to ensure continuity of county-wide right of way trees maintenance and removal services. /AE
Funds are available in the following accounts:	(\$150,000) 101000000 – General Funds Contingency
<u>REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:</u>	HM/sr

