

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

01 JAN 2025



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PURPOSE



STRATEGIC PLAN

Mission Statement

The mission of the Effingham County Board of Commissioners is to provide, through integrity, accountability, and transparency, exceptional public services that promote safety, health, and a high quality of life for its customers and constituents.

Values

- 1. Honesty and Integrity
- 2. Openness and Transparency
- 3. Efficiency and Accountability
- 4. Friendliness and Customer Centricity
- 5. Creativity and Innovation

Vision Statement

A prosperous county that cultivates balanced growth while preserving its culture, character, and history.

STRATEGIC THEME Communications

Foster and produce accurate, and effective communication between the county, its employees and the public, ensuring that they are wellinformed, engaged, and empowered.

OVERVIEW

Public Engagement Services is dedicated to advancing the mission of enhancing public awareness, deepening engagement, and cultivating a positive image of the government. By leveraging diverse communication channels and visually impactful media, we will focus on delivering clear. accessible information to our customers and constituents. This approach will empower informed decisionmaking, strengthen public trust, and positively shape perceptions of government actions. Guided by our core values, we are committed to fostering transparent, meaningful interactions with the community and ensuring that every communication reflects our vision for an informed and engaged society.



TARGET AUDIENCE



Customers

Citizens, community members, businesses and nonprofit organizations

Prospective Customers

Individuals, businesses and organizations seeking to relocate to Effingham County

Internal Stakeholders

County employees, elected officials and partners

External Stakeholders

Regional, statewide and national governments and organizations

> Media

Local press, bloggers, critics and news outlets







DIGITAL

WEBSITE

- Main effinghamcounty.org
 - Redirected Sites (Elected and Departmental)

EMAIL/TEXT NOTIFICATIONS

- Municode
- Rave

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Facebook
 - BOC, EEMA, Fire, Senior Center, Animal Shelter, Rec
- YouTube
- Instagram (Reserved but unused)
- LinkedIn (Free Version)
- X (Twitter, Reserved but unused)

APPS

• Engage Effingham (311 See-Click-Fix) In Development

EVENTS

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Trunk or Treat
- Lunch with Santa
- Fishing Rodeo
- Town Halls
- Ceremonies Ribbon cutting and honorary
- Public showings and Q&A
- Internal

STRUCTURE

EMPLOYEES

- Communications Manager
- Public Information Officer
- Events Coordinator



SWOT



A SWOT analysis helps identify our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, providing valuable insights for strategic planning. By understanding these factors, we can make informed decisions, capitalize on opportunities, address challenges, and build on our strengths, ultimately improving our effectiveness and achieving our goals.



STRENGTHS

CONTENT

We have a vast and diverse pool of content available to us. With access to numerous departments, events, and a rich community network, we are able to create and share a wide variety of engaging and relevant content that reflects the breadth of our government's initiatives and the needs of the public.

GROUND-UP GROWTH

Without the constraints of established habits, we are able to design an efficient workflow and marketing plan that is adaptable, innovative, and aligned with current best practices, ensuring a fresh and effective approach to communication.

AMPLE FREE RESOURCES

We have the ability to learn from and adapt the successful communication strategies of other municipalities and governments. With a wealth of software, technologies, and resources at our disposal, we can implement proven ideas and best practices, customizing them to our unique needs while leveraging cutting-edge tools to enhance our messaging and engagement efforts.

CROSS-DEPARTMENT FLEXIBILITY

We can more easily integrate with other parts of the organization and align messaging, ensuring better coordination and synergy in communication efforts.



WEAKNESSES

BUDGET

Without dedicated financial resources, our ability to invest in essential tools, technologies, and campaigns is limited, which may hinder our capacity to execute communications strategies at full scale.

STAFF

With current staffing, our ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously may impact the overall efficiency and scope of our communications efforts.

LACK OF PROCESS

Without predefined workflows or guidelines, the department may face inefficiencies, confusion, and inconsistencies in executing tasks and campaigns.

INADEQUATE ANALYTICS

We do not have the processes in place to track, measure, and analyze the effectiveness of communication efforts, which hinders decision-making and continuous improvement.

INTERNAL COLLABORATION

We may struggle with cross-department collaboration, especially if other departments are unfamiliar with the communication goals or processes or are resistant to change.



OPPORTUNITIES

UNUTILIZED TECHNOLOGY

To fully utilize the technologies and services we are already paying for, maximizing their potential to improve efficiency and enhance our communication efforts.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

To purchase or subscribe to technologies used by other organizations that we are not yet utilizing, allowing us to enhance our communication strategies and stay competitive.

UNTAPPED MARKET

Engage the large portion of our population that isn't currently interacting with our content. By developing targeted strategies and outreach efforts, we can increase citizen participation and improve community engagement.

BLANK SLATE

Create a cohesive brand from the ground up allows us to establish a strong and consistent identity that resonates with our community and enhances recognition.

EVENTS

The newly established events coordinator position presents an opportunity to host a wider variety of events, fostering deeper engagement with our citizens and providing a platform to cross-market departmental services.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Employees can acquire new skills and expand their expertise in various communication and marketing areas providing an opportunity for professional growth.



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THREATS

MIS/DISINFORMATION

False or misleading information can undermine public trust, create confusion and hinder the effectiveness of our messaging.

DISSEMINATION

Delays or errors in communication can lead to confusion, mistrust and missed opportunities to effectively engage and inform the public.

CRISES

Power outages or technology failures can hinder our ability to communicate effectively and in real-time, impacting our responsiveness and the accuracy of the information we provide to the public.

APATHY

A lack of engagement or interest from the public can make it difficult to effectively communicate key messages and drive participation in community initiatives.

PERCEPTION

A misstep in messaging, a crisis, or negative media coverage can lead to damaged reputation, eroding trust and damaging the department's credibility.





INTERNAL RESISTANCE

Resistance from other departments or staff members to new communication strategies or technologies can slow progress and limit the department's effectiveness.

LEGAL AND COMPLIANCE

Failing to comply with regulations around data privacy, accessibility, copywrite laws or other legal requirements can lead to penalties, lawsuits, or reputational damage.

STAKEHOLDER CONFLICT

Conflicting interests or priorities among internal stakeholders (e.g., government departments, community leaders) can result in misaligned messaging or difficulty in reaching consensus on communication strategies.

COMPETITION

The overwhelming volume of information from multiple sources (social media, news outlets, etc.) can make it difficult for our communications to stand out and capture the public's attention.



GOALS & OBJECTIVES

GOALS

Primary

Foster and produce accurate, and effective communication between the county, its employees and the public, ensuring that they are well-informed, engaged, and empowered.

Openness and Transparency

- Increase the quality and quantity of information distributed to our customers
- Provide more opportunities for customers to directly communicate with Effingham County government

Honesty and Integrity

- Foster a positive, professional, and trustworthy image of the government through strategic branding
- Effectively disseminate accurate information

Efficiency and Accountability

- Demonstrate that Effingham County government is efficiently investing tax dollars into essential services and infrastructure that directly enhance the quality of life for its residents
- Leverage KPIs such as website impressions, social media metrics (likes, shares), event attendance, and survey results to demonstrate to customers that Effingham County is effectively disseminating key public information.
- Demonstrate that the Effingham County government is effectively fulfilling its mission statement, upholding its core values, and consistently prioritizing the strategic themes outlined in the Strategic Plan

Friendliness and Customer Centricity

- Build stronger relationships with residents and stakeholders
- Promote a positive and encouraging internal work atmosphere through internal marketing efforts to boost employee morale, enhance retention, and attract top external talent
- Increase participation in and satisfaction of Effingham County events, sports and recreation activities through positive and engaging experiences



OBJECTIVES

SHORT TERM

YEAR 0-1

ESTABLISH COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

- Create a Budget
- Identify and purchase required media service subscriptions, software, cameras, lighting, audio equipment
- Identify and purchase promotional signage and literature, decor', props and tools/supplies to enhance and conduct current and new events.
- Define job responsibilities and scheduling

CORE COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS

- Redesign Effingham County website
 - Complete website redesign.
 - Update branding with aesthetics established in the future branding specification guidelines
 - Implement an intuitive and user-friendly interface
 - Provide an actively updated and visually compelling news reel featuring public information, event reminders, employee highlights, meeting summaries, culture, etc.
 - Quality visuals Commissioner and department head headshots, stock photography for departmental sub-sites and banners, imbedded videos and photo reels highlighting county people, places and things
 - Prominently display mission statement, values, vision, and strategic themes from the strategic plan
 - Feature internal and external customer testimonials
 - Single sign-on account for users with access to multiple features
 - Establish and develop SEO







CORE COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS

- Refine 3rd party websites
- Implement and market Engage Effingham App
- Expand RAVE Text/email notification system
- Social Media
 - Purge unused accounts
 - Combine redundant accounts
 - Develop active accounts
 - Assign departmental social media liaison roles & train in best practices
 - Identify opportunities to purchase paid advertising, boost posts and target communications
- YouTube/Podcast Expand to include short-form informational content and staff/Commissioner interviews.
- Expand variety and number of public events. Participate in external stakeholder events.

BRANDING

- Develop a style sheet and branding guidelines
 - Disseminate and require departments to comply with branding guidelines
- Update logos, social media, stationary etc. to reflect new aesthetic

ANALYSIS

- Establish Baseline Analytics
 - Citizen satisfaction surveys
 - Website and social media impressions
 - Event attendance
 - Collect direct feedback through in-person and virtual town halls









CONTENT

- Establish a media content schedule
- Establish events calendar
- Collect stock photography of parks, park maps, facilities and complexes, infrastructure, nature, citizens, employees and events
- Work directly with department heads to establish promotional opportunities
- Meet with other municipalities/organizations to compare marketing tactics/tools/content
- Develop employee retention and recruitment marketing plan in conjunction with Human Resources, including employee spotlight and employee of the month
- Identify outreach opportunities for underrepresented citizens

STANDARD PRACTICE

- Establish emergency communication protocols
- Establish crisis management protocols
- Establish guidelines for communications with the press
- Identify and comply with ADA guidelines, identify opportunities for multilingual content
- Require all departments and staff to adhere to branding guidelines.
- Require all county events to be coordinated through or organized by the Communications Department to ensure a quality and consistent product.







GROWTH

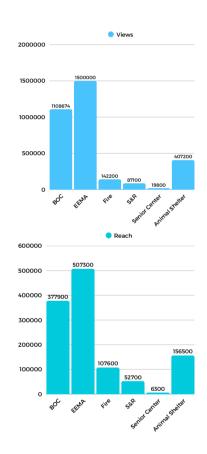
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All goals in this section are based in preliminary (or currently unavailable) data and will be updated as more analytics are established. According to Hootsuite analytics, these are the average growth metrics for governmental agencies in 2024: Facebook - +.04%/year Linkedin - +8%/year

Instagram - +2%/year

FACEBOOK VIEWS/REACH

- BOC 2024 1.1 Million Views, 377.9 K Reach
 Goal +5%.
- EEMA 2024 1.5 M Views, 507.3 K Reach
 Goal +5%
- Fire 2024 142.2 K Views, 107.6 K Reach
 Goal +5%
- Sports & Rec 2024 87.1 K Views, 52.7 K Reach
 Goal +5%
- Senior Center 2024 19.8 K Views, 6.3 K Reach
 Goal +20%
- Animal Shelter 2024 407.2 K Views, 156.5 K Reach
 Goal +5%

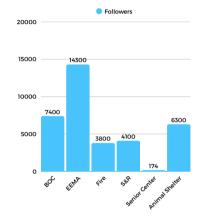


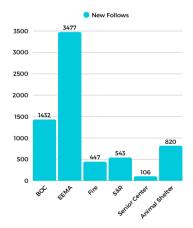


GROWTH CONTINUED

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

- BOC 2024 7,400 Followers, 1,432 New, +20%
 New followers were gained in part due to cross-following Hurricane alerts via EEMA, transition of members from a now defunct sister page for BOC, and more frequent/more engaging content. 2025 should expect to have less growth considering these factors.
 Goal +5%
- EEMA 2024 14,300 Followers, 3,477 New, +24%
 Hurricane alerts created a surge of new followers in late Summer 2024. The unpredictable nature of weather events makes projecting future growth difficult.
 Goal +5%
- Fire 2024 3,800 Followers, 447 New, +11%
 Hurricane alerts created a surge of new followers in late Summer 2024. The unpredictable nature of weather events makes projecting future growth difficult.
 Goal +5%
- Sports & Rec 2024 4,100 Followers, 543 New, +13%
 Growth was steady throughout the year, with a small bump in Spring 2024.
 Goal +5%
- Senior Center 2024 174 Followers, 106 New, +60%
 Large growth was seen in 2024. The Senior Center page was unused until September 2024 and experienced a surge of new users. This page has the opportunity for rapid growth as there is a large available market for new users and engaging content.
 Coal +20%
- Animal Shelter 2024 6,300 Followers, 820 New, +13%
 Growth was steady throughout 2024.
 Goal +5%







RECDESK

Current Users - 11,700
 Goal - Discuss development or elimination and transfer to Civicplus.

RAVE

- Current Users 2024
 - EEMA 1,800
 - Goal +5%

INSTAGRAM

Current Users - 2024 - 2 Users
Goal - Development or elimination.

LINKEDIN

- Views Past 365 Days 11.2 K
 - Goal +10% Upgrade to paid version. Begin paid job posting/boosting.

MUNICODE

- External Users 1 K
 - Currently used by County Clerk for agenda distribution and management. Potential switch to RAVE.
 - Goal +5%.

TWITTER

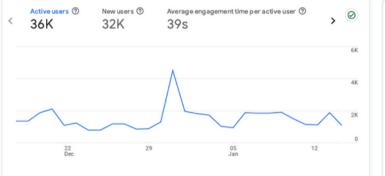
- Reserved but unused. Need to discuss implementation and content plan.
 - Goal +300 followers



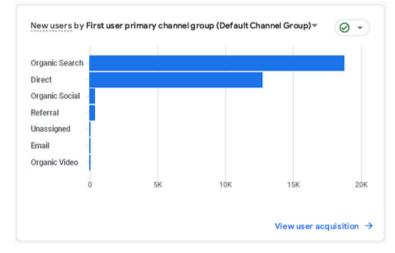
WEBSITE

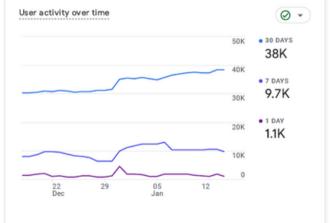
Full review of analytics is listed as short term goal. Specific goals for pages, visitors, length of stay, subpages, links, SEO/organic search will be established at a later date

- Total Visits Past 30 Days 38 K
 Goal +10%
- Total Users (Past 30 Days) 36 K
 Goal +10%



Session primary channel group SESSION PRIMARY CHAN	SESSIONS
SESSION PRIMARI CITAN.	020010110
Organic Search	348
Direct	158
Referral	692
Unassigned	547
Organic Social	475
Email	6
Organic Video	4





PAGE TITLE AND SCREEN	VIEWS
Booking Desk Effingham Co	8.1K
Effingham County, GA Offici	7.76
Search • Effingham County, G	6.3K
Jail Effingham County, GA	4.18
Staff Directory • Judge Steph	3.28
Jobs • Effingham County, GA	2.8K
Sheriff Effingham County, GA	2.16

View pages and screens \rightarrow



OBJECTIVES

LONG TERM

YEAR 1-3

EXPAND

- Establish a physical and digital county newsletter
- Negotiate a full-page infographic spot (quarterly "health of the county") in the Herald
- Implement a weekly/monthly news show on YouTube
- Implement a 24/hr public information channel on YouTube
- Implement "5 minute" podcasts
- Expand paid advertising presence. Digital, print, billboards etc.
- Expand county events in variety and scale.
- Expand department staff to achieve broader coverage of county affairs and increase quality/quantity of communications and events







EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Develop clear, accessible messaging for all demographics
- Use a combination of digital platforms (website, social media, email/text notifications, webinars, virtual town halls, mobile apps) and traditional media (press releases, town halls) to disseminate information
- Host engaging, entertaining, and family-friendly events that foster a sense of community and strengthen the relationship between residents and county government.
- Engage in external stakeholder events through sponsorships and by managing promotional booths.
- Utilize paid advertising to promote key services, initiatives and events
- Focus on transparency and timely dissemination of information regarding county policies, services, and events
- Communicate how Effingham County is addressing the strategic themes of Balanced Growth, Infrastructure, Service Delivery and Communications
- Work directly with HR to attract top talent for open positions, utilizing digital recruitment services and promotional materials, including a branded employee benefits sheet
- Comply with all ADA and language requirements while making a concerted effort reach underrepresented citizens



INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

- Foster effective communication between departments
- Create a centralized system for sharing news and updates
- Work directly with HR to recognize tenured employees and reward them for their accomplishments, including an employee of the quarter program

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Implement digital surveys or polls to gather feedback
- Organize town hall meetings, open forums, or listening sessions
- Utilize digital media to interact directly with residents and answer questions, including virtual town halls and webinars
- Use county events to foster a greater sense of community and promote department services
- Implement app "Engage Effingham" to allow citizens to directly report perceived maintenance and nuisence issues

CONTENT MARKETING

- Create educational content explaining county processes, services, and resources
- Highlight the achievements of our citizens
- Humanize government employees through emotionally driven content
- Create an emotional connection with our citizens by showcasing the positive impact of our services on their lives and the lives of others

BRANDING

- Establish branding requirements across all departments and BOC communication tools to achieve a professional unified perception
- Increase the graphic quality, variety and frequency of information to encourage engagement and trust



MEASUREMENT & EVALUATION



► Key Performance Indicators (KPI's)

- Website traffic (unique visitors, return visitors, engagement, page views, time on site, etc.)
- Social media engagement (likes, shares, comments, followers)
- Media coverage (number of press mentions or features)
- Event attendance
- Public feedback (survey results, participation rates in town halls)

Regular Review

- Establish a process for quarterly or annual reviews of communication efforts and adjust strategies as necessary based on feedback and performance metrics
- Define measurable goals (impressions, shares, views, attendance, satisfaction, etc.) and track progress



CONCLUSION



In conclusion, Effingham County's communications strategy is centered on fostering a well-informed and engaged community by consistently delivering transparent, accessible, and relevant information. Through the strategic use of diverse communication channels and impactful media, we will continue to build strong relationships with our customers and constituents, ensuring that every interaction reinforces the government's commitment to accountability, trust, and positive engagement. As we move forward, we will remain dedicated to enhancing public awareness, encouraging meaningful participation, and shaping a favorable image of the government, all while reflecting our core values and advancing our mission to support an empowered and informed society.



APPENDICES

A. LOGOS B. LETTERHEAD, STATIONARY AND BUSINESS CARDS





APPENDIX A: Logos





LOGO CONTINUITY



BOC DEPARTMENT LOGOS



APPENDIX B: STATIONARY

LETTERHEAD BUSINESS CARD ENVELOPE EMAIL SIGNATURE





BOC LETTERHEAD - FIRST PAGE

DAMON RAHN Chairman At Large STEPHANIE JOHNSON County Clerk				TIMOTHY J. CALLANAN County Manager Edward L. Newberry, Jr. County Attorney
Forrest Floyd District 1	Effingham Col Roger Burdette District 2	unty Board of JAMIE DELOACH Vice Chairman - District 3	Commission BETH HELMLY District 4	MCLS Phil Kieffer District S

Dear Mrs. Doe,

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> 804 South Laurel Street • Springfield, Georgia 31329 (912) 754-2123 • Fax (912) 754-4157

BOC LETTERHEAD - FOLLOWING PAGES

Effingham County Board of Commissioners

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Thank you, Tim Callanan County Manager

804 S. Laurel St. Springfield, GA 31329 Phone: (912) 754-2111 tcallanan@effinghamcounty.org



804 South Laurel Street • Springfield, Georgia 31329 (912) 754-2123 • Fax (912) 754-4157

Page 2 of 2

DEPARTMENT LETTERHEAD - FIRST PAGE



808 GA-119 S. Springfield, GA 31329 Phone: (912) 754-6339 Effinghamrec.recdesk.com

Mock Rockwell Header

Made Tommy Sub-header

Dear Mrs. Doe,

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DEPARTMENT LETTERHEAD - FOLLOWING PAGES

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Thank you,

Ron Smith

Director, Sports and Recreation Services

808 GA-119 Springfield, GA 31329 Phone: (912) 754-6339 rsmith@effinghamcounty.org





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Sports and Recreation Services 808 GA-119 S, Springfield, Georgia 31329 (912) 754-6339 Effinghamrec.recdesk.com

BUSINESS CARD

Front - Non Photo





Tim Callanan County Manager

804 South Laurel Street Springfield, GA 31329 effinghamcounty.org

Office: (912) 754-2111 Mobile: (912) 665-6749 tcallanan@effinghamcounty.org

Front - Photo



Roger Burdette Commissioner (District 2)

804 South Laurel Street Springfield, GA 31329 effinghamcounty.org



Office: (912) 754-2138 Mobile: (912) 123-4567 email@effinghamcounty.org

Back - Both

What's Your Effingham Problem?



Specs

- Vendor: VistaPrint
- Size
 - Bleed 3.61" x 2.11"
 - Trim 2"x3.5"
- Finishes
 - Embossing Image (Logo) Only
 - Paper Matte, Premium
- Font
 - Name Roboto Slab 11pt
 - Title Eb Garamond 10pt Italicized
 - Information Eb Garamond 10pt

Layout

- Non Photo
 - Name and Title Center aligned
 - Address/website (Bottom-left) aligned)
 - Phone/Email (Bottom-right aligned)

Litter Pothole

- Photo
 - Name and Title Left aligned

ENVELOPES



Effingham

Emergency Management Agency 181 Recycle Way Guyton, GA 31312

Recipient name Street Address City, State Zip



EMAIL SIGNATURE



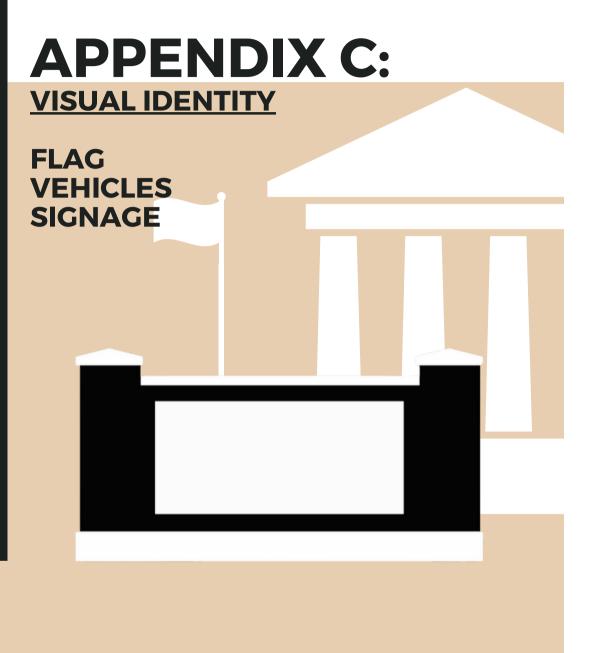
Jake Zeigler

Communications Manager EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS 804 South Laurel Street | Springfield, GA 31329 o. 912-754-8061 ext. 4301 c. 912-433-6834

www.linkone.com www.anotherlink.com "This is a quote people chose to include in their signature."

- Logo
 - Approved department logo, vertical version, no department sub-header
 - Size No taller than 1" (Absolute Size Setting)
- Name
 - Font: Rockwell (Bold), 22pt
- Job Title
 - Font- Made Tommy, italicized, bold, 10pt
- Department Name
 - Font Made Tommy, All caps, 10pt
- Address
 - Font Made Tommy, single line, No abbreviations, vertical line separating street address and city/state/zip, 10pt
- Phone
 - Font Made Tommy, 10pt
 - O. XXX-XXX-XXXX
 - ° C. XXX-XXX-XXXX
- Optional Information
 - All quotes, links, pictures, or additional information included in the email signature must be included below the logo.
 - Must be separated by 2 blank and one horizontal line







FLAG

FEATURES

- 3:2 Aspect Ratio
- Black and White
- County Seal: 8 Stars representing the 8 original counties of Georgia
- County Name
- Laurel Branches: International symbol of victory, achievement and success.
 Laurel Street is also the home to Effingham County administration and courts.
- Founding Date





VEHICLES

Sides

Logo: Vertical format (no BOC sub-header), center of driver side and passenger side door

Vehicle ID Code: Rockwell font, under driver-side mirror



County ham Effing



VEHICLES

Rear

Engage Effingham Bumper Sticker



SIGNAGE

Welcome



Standard Building



Updated Signage







CLOTHING

Uniform Clothing Standards

All clothing purchases must adhere to the department-specific branding guidelines as determined by Public Engagement Services. These guidelines ensure consistent branding and quality, making it easier for citizens to identify employees, recognize departments, and enhance worker safety. Branding requirements include:

- Logo
 - Version
 - Application method (silk-screen, embroider)
 - Thread color
 - Location on clothing
- Fabric
 - Color
 - Style (Polo, Button-Up, Active Wear)
- Vendor
 - Approved vendors only
 - Departments must submit vendor change requests through Public Engagement Services
- Additional Customization
 - Any design requests not outlined in the branding guidelines must be approved by Public Engagement Services

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LOGOS

- Embroidered (When Possible)
- Black/White Text dependent on clothing color







SPECS

- Shirts
 - Polo
 - Black, White
 - BOC Logo Left Chest
 - ∘ 1777 Logo Back Collar
- Hat
 - Black
 - Logo location Front Center
 - Vertical Orientation (No Subheader))



CLOTHING EXAMPLES

SPORTS & RECREATION SERVICES

LOGOS

- Embroidered (When Possible)
- Black/White Text dependent on clothing color

• S&R Logo - Left Chest







SPECS

• Shirts

• Red

- Hat
 - Black
 - Logo location Front Center
 - Vertical Orientation (No Subheader)



ANIMAL SHELTER

LOGOS

- Embroidered (When Possible)
- White Text/White Logo



SPECS

- Scrubs
 - Turquois, Purple, Fuscia
 - Logo location Left Chest, All White



NAME TAGS



Vendor: NameTagCountry

- White plastic, Digitally Printed
- 1 1/4" x 3", Rounded Corners
- Magnetic Backing

COMMISSIONERS, DIRECTORS



TIM CALLANAN

County Manager Effingham County Board of Comm

- Layout # 3171
- Department Logo, Vertical, No Subheader
- Name
 - All caps
- Title
- Department Name

STAFF

BUILDING & FIRE INSPECTION SERVICES

Ashley Kessler

Chief Building Official

- Layout 3703
- Department Name
- Name
- Title







