

City of Wauchula

Annual Report 2024-2025



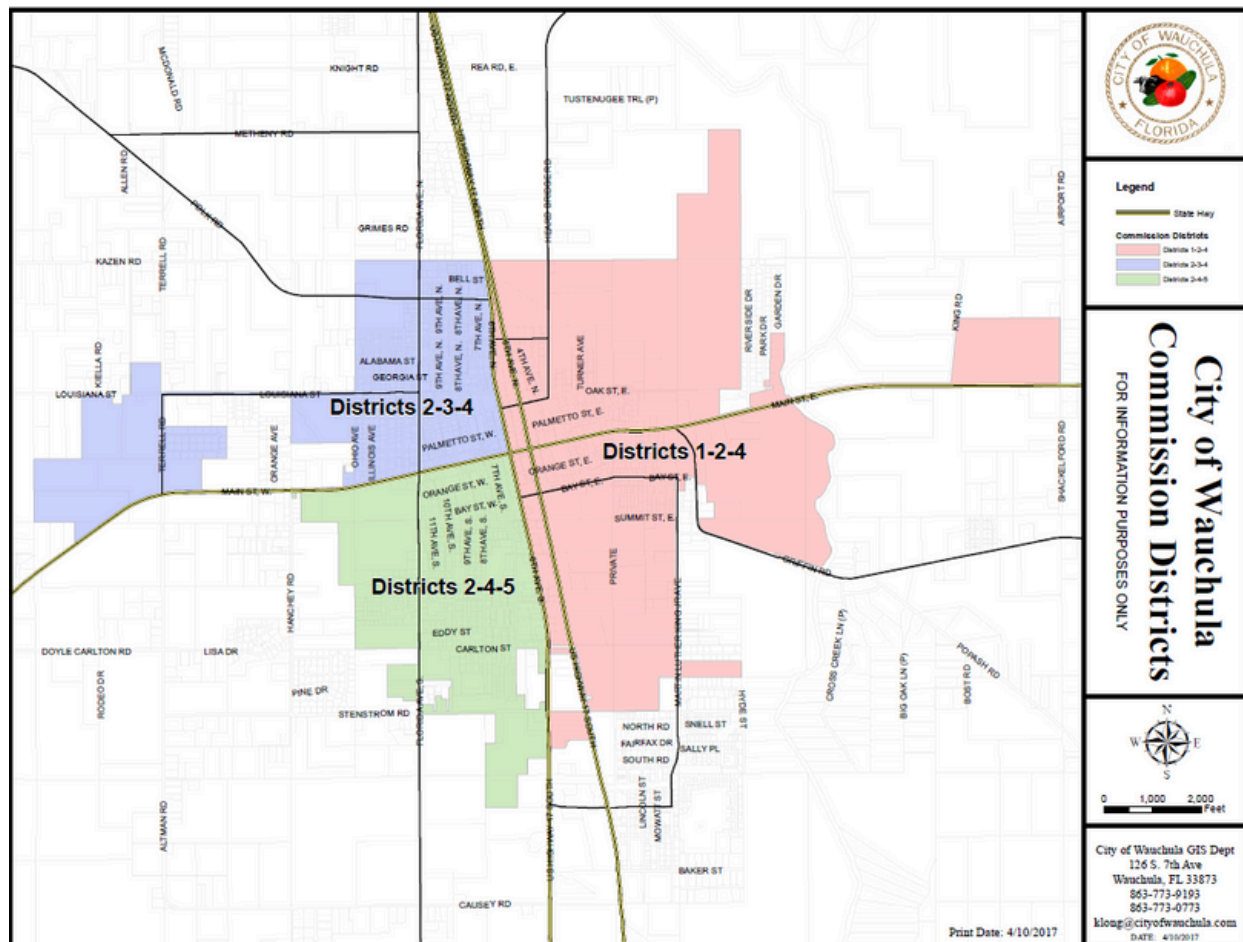
ABOUT

THE CITY OF WAUCHULA GOVERNMENT

The City of Wauchula operates under a weak mayor-commission system. The governing body consists of five members, each representing an individual district.

The city manager oversees the administration of all city services and programs. Appointed by the city commission, the city manager reports to both the mayor and the commissioners. As the city's chief executive officer, the manager actively engages with the public to gather feedback and ensure community needs are met.

The city manager serves as a key liaison between the various departments, the residents of Wauchula, and the city commission. All department heads, including the police chief, report directly to the city manager. This department provides executive leadership to manage all municipal departments and city enterprises efficiently.



4,905

POPULATION
(AS OF 2024)

BY THE NUMBERS

1888

WAUCHULA WAS
NAMED

6

BOARDS WITH
AGENDAS

3.3

SQUARE
MILES

36,324

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME

1902

WAUCHULA WAS
INCORPORATED

MEMBER
CITY
COMMISSION **5**

1 MAYOR
SELECTED BY
COMMISSIONERS

1926

HISTORIC CITY
HALL BUILT

33

MEDIAN AGE OF
WAUCHULA
RESIDENTS

1922

CITY OF WAUCHULA
BEGAN PROVIDING
ELECTRICITY

COMMISSIONERS



District Seat 3
Keith Nadaskay, Jr., Mayor



District Seat 1
Russell Smith, Mayor Pro-Tem



District Seat 2
Anne Miller



District Seat 4
Sherri Albritton



District Seat 5
Gary Smith

EXECUTIVE TEAM



Olivia Minshew
City Manager



John Eason
Deputy City Manager



Dr. Ronald Curtis
Chief of Police



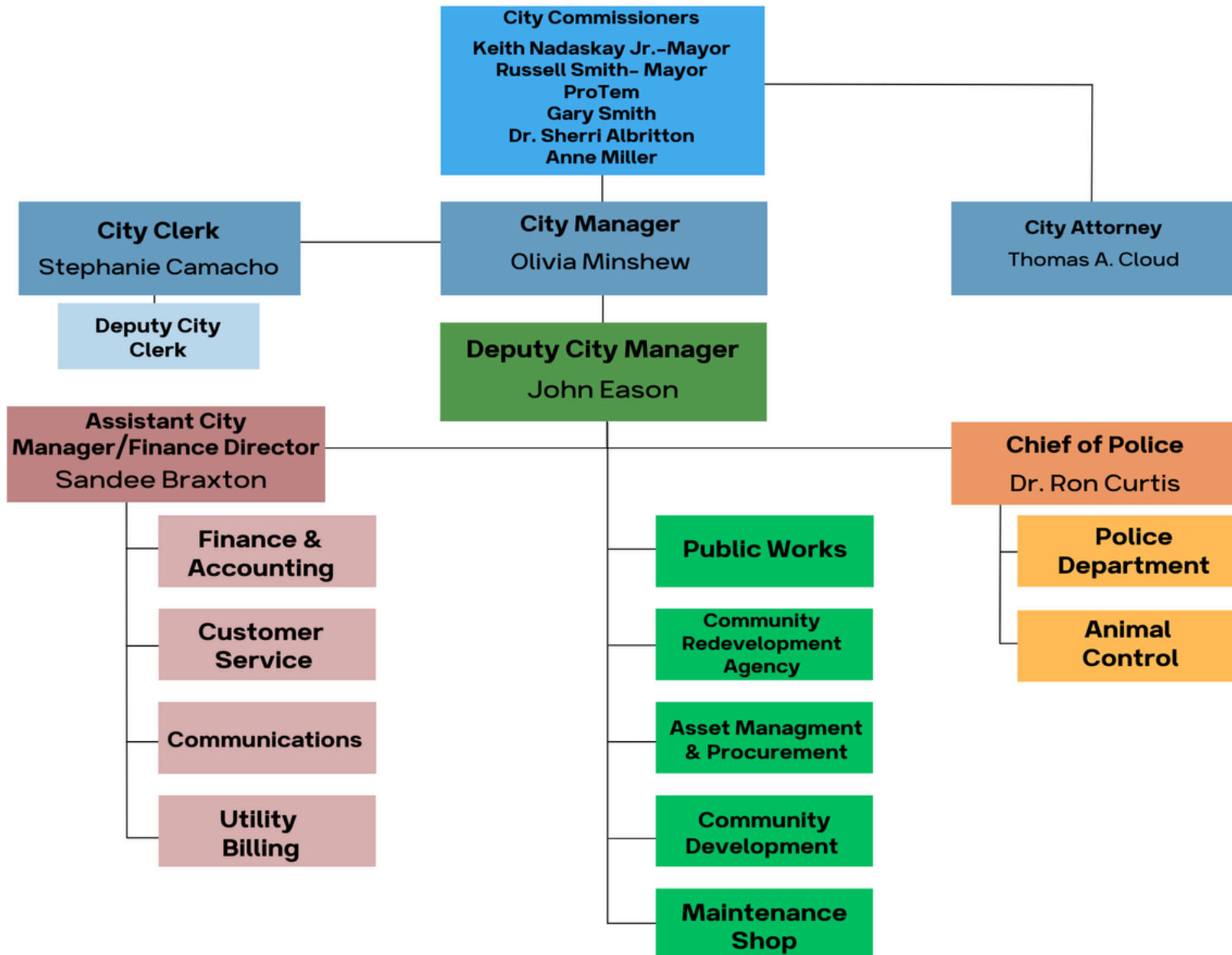
Sandee Braxton
Assistant City Manager/Finance
Director



Stephanie Camacho
City Clerk

CITY

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



FROM THE CITY MANAGER

OLIVIA MINSHEW

2024–2025 has been a year of remarkable progress, resilience, and collaboration for the City of Wauchula. Our team has worked diligently to strengthen operations, secure vital funding, and enhance the quality of life for our residents, all while responding to unexpected challenges with professionalism and care.

In October 2024, Hurricane Milton made landfall, bringing renewed concerns to a community still mindful of Hurricane Ian. While we were fortunate to avoid major impacts, our staff across all departments—including Public Works, Sanitation, Water & Sewer, Parks, and the Police Department—executed a swift, well-coordinated response. Cleanup was efficient, communication stayed strong, and with support from three mutual-aid electric utilities, power was restored quickly and safely. The Florida Municipal Electric Association recognized these efforts with the Restoring Communities Award, a testament to our team’s preparedness and commitment to community resilience.

The 2025 legislative cycle brought its own set of challenges, with multiple special sessions and a delayed state budget. Despite this, Wauchula secured more than \$23 million in legislative appropriations across nine projects—an extraordinary achievement for a community of our size. Additional grants were obtained for the design and construction of the Hogan Street extension, a comprehensive update to our land development code with a historic preservation focus, and a \$1 million EDA grant to support water main extensions along Heard Bridge Road.

We were honored to receive several state recognitions this year, including the FCCMA Annual Photo Contest award for an aerial image of Peace River Park, the FDEP Water & Wastewater Plant Operations Excellence Award, and three separate FMPA awards for electric reliability. These acknowledgments highlight the skill and dedication of our staff across multiple departments.

Internally, we continued refining policies and procedures to better support our staff and residents. This included drafting a new Artificial Intelligence Policy, updating the dangerous dog ordinance and solid waste fee schedules, securing a new sludge hauling contract, improving after-hours utility dispatch services, and addressing rising insurance costs by transitioning to the PRM self-insured pool.

Throughout the year, I remained actively engaged in legislative advocacy and professional development, representing Wauchula at the state and national levels. My participation with the Florida League of Cities, the Florida Municipal Electric Association, and the American Public Power Association has allowed our community’s needs and priorities to be heard. I am honored to have been named a 2025 Home Rule Hero and the 2025 FMEA Member of the Year, and I continue to serve as the District VI Director on the FCCMA Board of Directors.

None of the accomplishments in this report would be possible without the dedication of our exceptional staff. Their professionalism, passion, and commitment to public service are the foundation of everything we achieve. I am grateful every day for the opportunity to serve as your City Manager and to work alongside a team who cares so deeply for this community.

Thank you for your continued support of the City of Wauchula.

Sincerely,
Olivia Minshew
City Manager, Wauchula

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



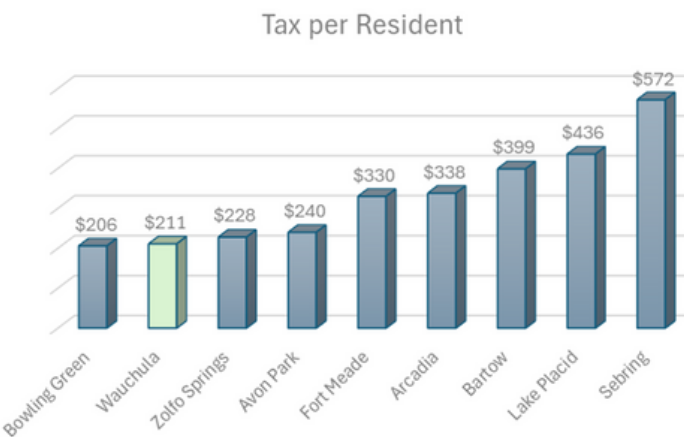
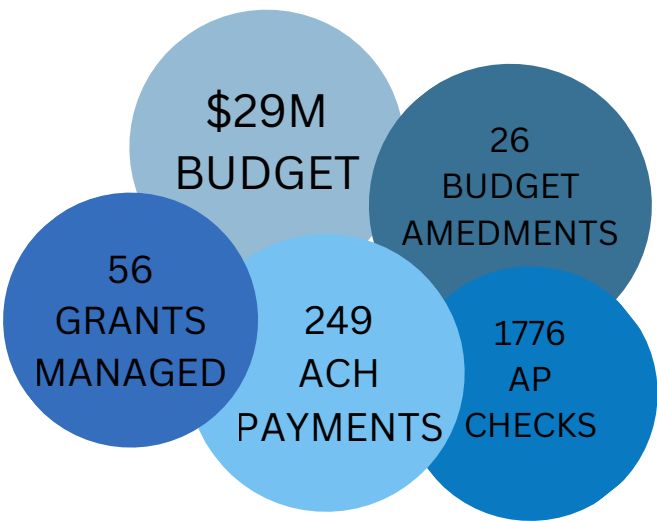
FINANCE

DEPARTMENT

This annual report presents an overview of the financial performance and key activities of the City of Wauchula's Finance Department for the fiscal year 2025. The department is responsible for ensuring the effective management of public funds, supporting sustainable financial planning, and maintaining transparency and accountability in all financial operations.

During this period, the department focused on optimizing resource allocation, managing the local budget, and ensuring compliance with relevant financial regulations. This report reflects our commitment to prudent financial stewardship and continued support for the community's growth and well-being.

The City of Wauchula operates in 5 funds: General Fund, Community Redevelopment Agency Fund, Airport Fund, Utility Fund, and Sanitation Fund. Finance is responsible for all general government accounting duties of the City, such as fixed assets, accounts payable, annual audit, payroll, and preparation of all City financial reports such as the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. They are also responsible for the preparation of the City's budget, financial budgetary controls, the management of all debt, the investment of surplus funds, the monitoring of grants and the accurate billing of all services.



All Funds Revenues & Expenses		
	Unaudited Actuals	Adjusted Budget
Revenues		
General Fund	7,323,179	7,203,501
CRA Fund	1,954,413	5,483,446
Airport Fund	1,043,661	907,991
Utility Fund	15,367,416	14,137,290
Sanitation Fund	1,538,604	1,405,000
Expenses		
General Fund	7,054,547	7,203,501
CRA Fund	1,006,820	5,483,446
Airport Fund	1,045,411	907,991
Utility Fund	12,212,333	14,137,290
Sanitation Fund	1,555,836	1,405,000

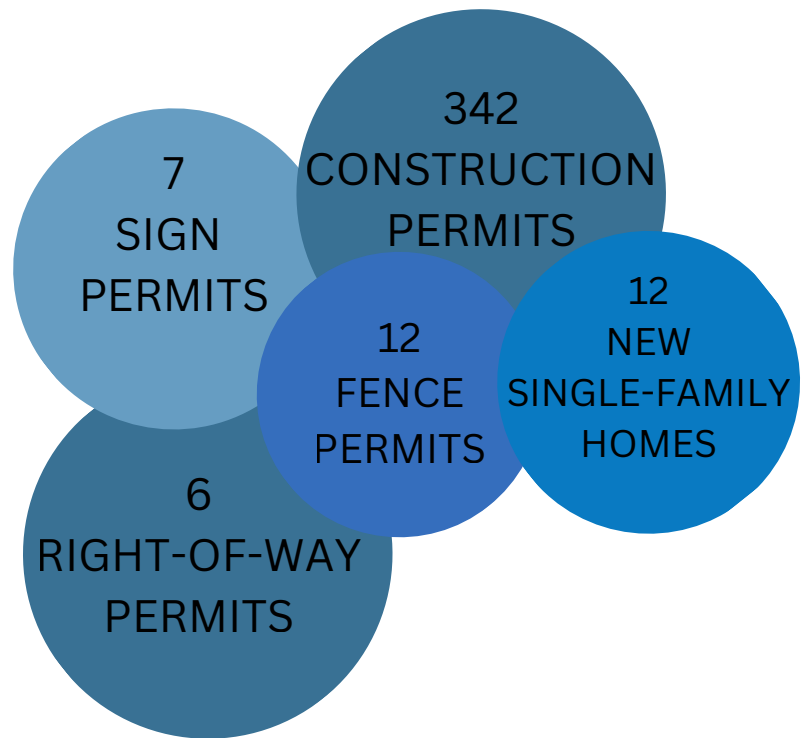
During the 2025 fiscal year, the City utilized \$5.5 million dollars to continue 26 grant funded projects. The following is a listing of the projects, funding sources and amounts expensed during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Grant Funding Summary		
Project	Funding Source	2025 Expense
General Fund		
Justice Assistance Grant (Direct- Patrol Protection)	Florida Dept of Law Enforcement	9,482
Justice Assistance Grant (Rapid Response)	Florida Dept of Law Enforcement	7,745
Victim Outreach Community Assistance	Department of Legal Affairs	49,848
Flood Vulnerability Assessment	Florida Dept of Environmental Protection	19,490
Inland Port Feasibility Study	Florida Dept of Commerce	100,750
Technical Assitance Grant (Historic Preservation Update)	Florida Dept of Commerce	25,000
State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Covid-19)	US Dept of the Treasury	395,079
Occupant Safety	Florida Dept of Transportation	19,833
Melendy Street Improvements	Florida Dept of Transportation (SCOP)	680,176
Hogan Street Extension	Florida Dept of Commerce	78,262
Alabama Street Improvements	Florida Dept of Transportation (SCOP)	4,834
Tennessee Street Improvements	Florida Dept of Transportation (SCOP)	4,878
Oak, Bay and Palmetto Street Improvements	Housing & Urban Development	68,799
		1,464,176
CRA Fund		
Auditorium Improvements	FL Dept of State	211,500
Farr Field Improvements	Legislative Appropriation	262,925
		474,425
Airport Fund		
Runway Extension Feasibility Study	Legislative Appropriation	46,422
Runway Extension Design and Construction	Legislative Appropriation	473,058
T-Hangar Construction	Legislative Appropriation	11,148
		530,628
Utility Fund		
AMI Meter Replacement	Legislative Appropriation	307,159
SW Area Elevated Water Tower	Legislative Appropriation	420,859
Servica Area 3 Waterline Replacement	Legislative Appropriation	524,589
Water Tower Main Line Connection	State Revolving Fund	128,978
Heardbridge Water Line Design	Economic Development Authority	127,324
Riverview Water Line Design	Economic Development Authority	167,803
Biosolids Digester	State Revolving Fund	995,396
Disaster Recovery (Hurricane Milton)	Federal Emergency Management Agency	396,039
		3,068,147
	Total	5,537,376

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT

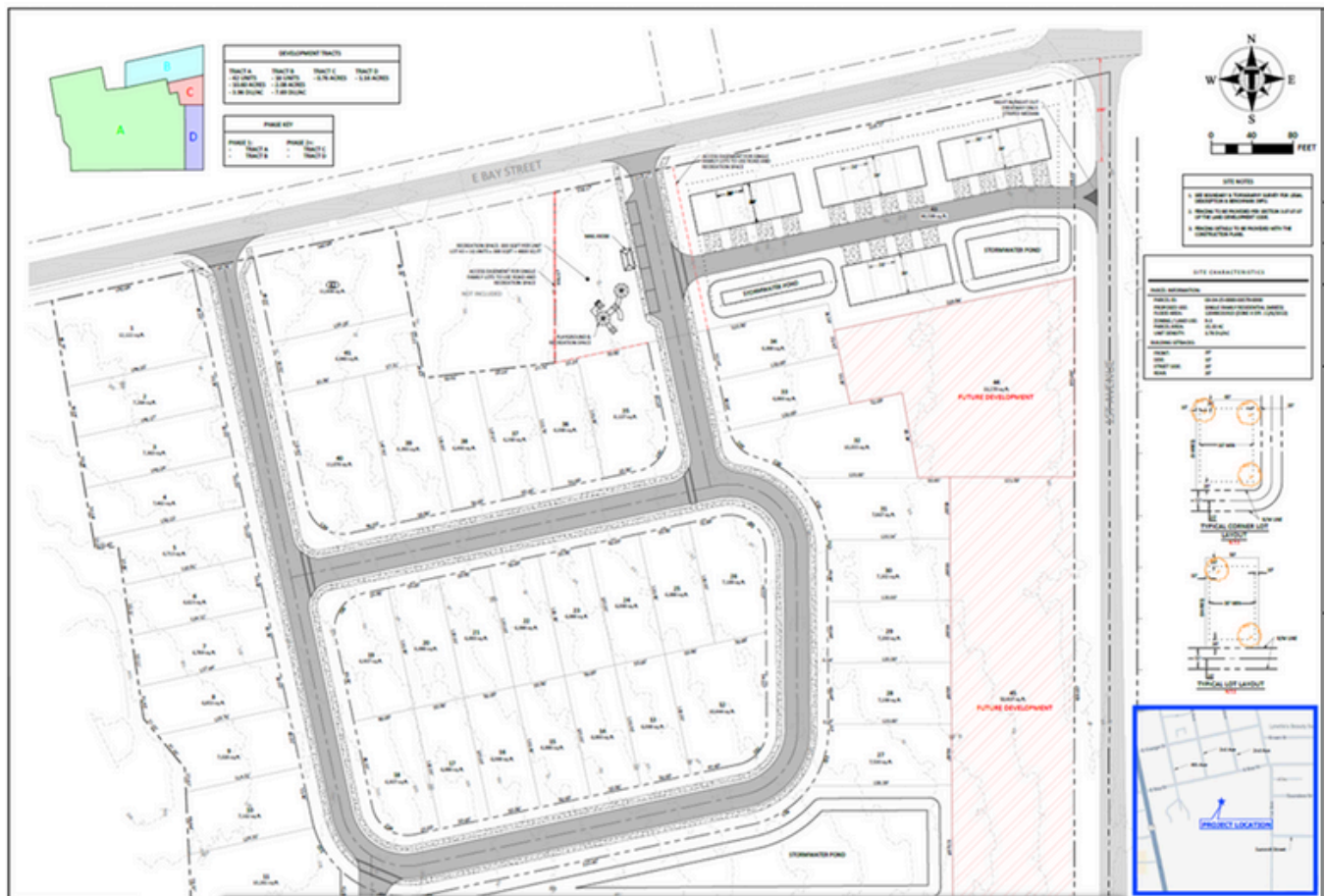
The goal of the Wauchula Planning and Zoning Department is to be your primary source of information for all matters related to Wauchula's development process including the minimum standard for buildings, lot sizes, setbacks, and landscaping. Also guiding you through the process of applying for variances, special exceptions, re-zonings and annexations.



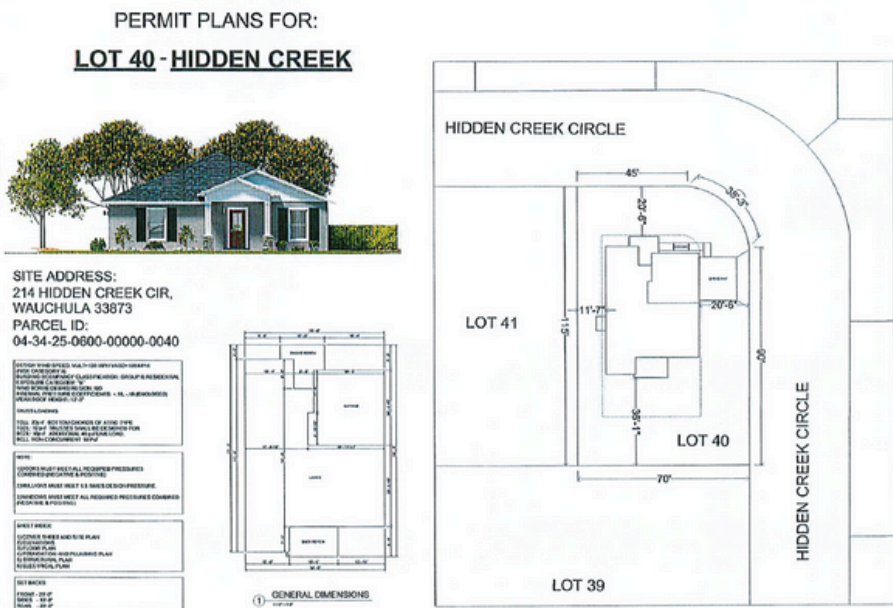
The Planning & Zoning Board heard the following requests over the past year

- ULDC Text Amendment Relating to Fencing Requirements
- Annexation and Future Land Use Map Amendment for County Property on US-17
- Rezone and Future Land Use Map Amendment for 1001 N 6th Avenue
- Annexation Rezone and Future Land Use Map Amendment for 572 Stenstrom Road
- Annual Update to the Comprehensive Plan's Capital Improvement Element (CIE)
- Approved Preliminary Subdivision Plat located on E Bay Street

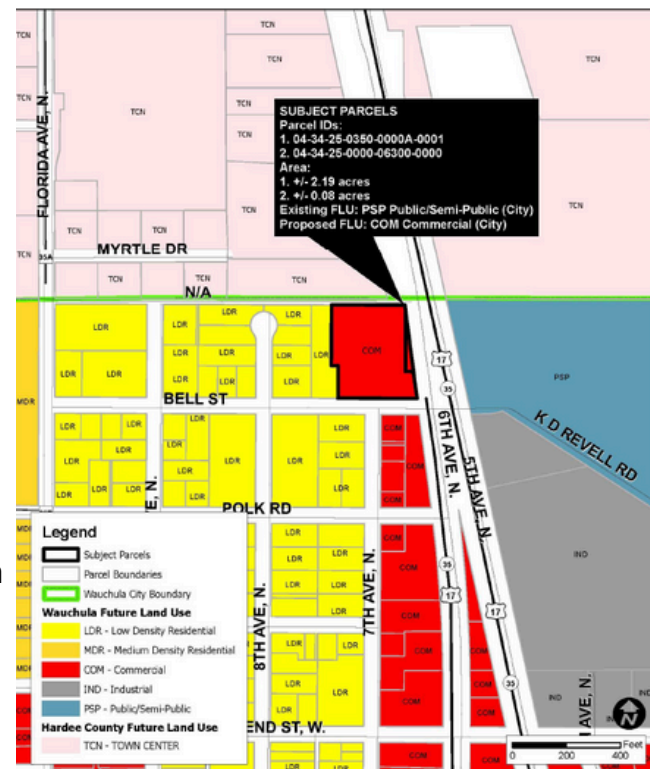
The Historic Preservation Board remained active in protecting and promoting Wauchula's historic character. This year, the board collaborated with the CRA and City staff on the Historic City Hall Auditorium renovation project, ensuring compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The board also reviewed certificates of appropriateness, supported educational efforts on historic preservation, and continued to promote the value of preserving Wauchula's architectural and cultural heritage.



Approved Preliminary Subdivision Plat located on E Bay Street



Site plans for new construction in Hidden Creek Subdivision

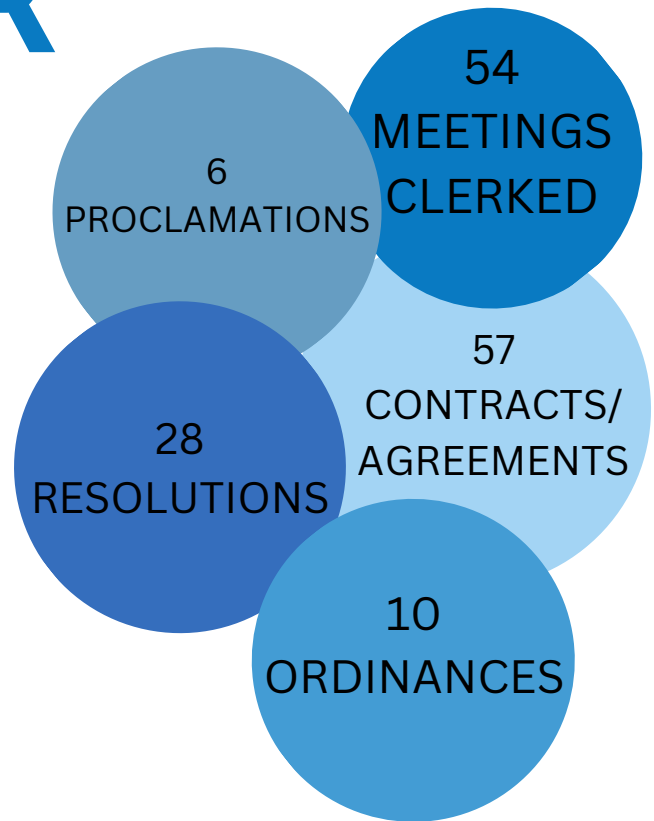


Future Land Use for City of Wauchula

CITY CLERK

OFFICE

The role of clerk is one of the oldest in municipal government. City clerks are responsible for documenting and archiving all official actions by the city commission. The clerk is also the official custodian of public records and the city seal. The city clerk is an officer outlined in the city charter and is appointed by the city commission.



This year brought a season of change and new beginnings for the Human Resources and City Clerk's Office. After many years of dedicated service, Terri Svensden retired in August, leaving behind a legacy of commitment, mentorship, and professionalism. Throughout the year, City Clerk Stephanie Camacho trained alongside Terri to prepare for her transition into the dual role of City Clerk and Human Resources Manager.

To further strengthen the department, Melodie Kincaid joined the team as Deputy City Clerk, bringing energy, enthusiasm, and innovative ideas to support daily operations and enhance service delivery. Together, this team continues to provide exceptional service to City employees, elected officials, and the public.

The City Clerk's Office remains at the heart of City operations, ensuring transparency, compliance, and efficiency. This year's accomplishments included implementing new organizational tools to streamline agenda preparation, digitizing public record processes for easier access, and enhancing employee communication through updated HR procedures. The office also supported the City Commission with meeting coordination, recordkeeping, and election compliance while assisting all departments with personnel support and employee engagement initiatives.

With a renewed sense of purpose and teamwork, the City Clerk and Human Resources Office looks forward to continuing to serve the Wauchula community with integrity, efficiency, and care.

HUMAN RESOURCES

DEPARTMENT

The City of Wauchula Human Resources Department provides support to all city employees by managing:

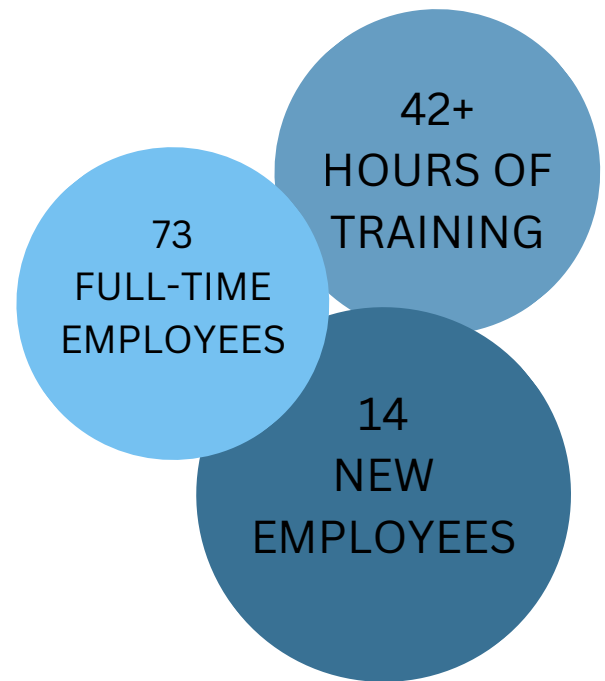
- Employee insurance and benefit programs
- Payroll
- Beneficiary issues and changes
- New employee orientations
- A wellness program
- Employee assistance program
- Retiree benefits

This year, the City completed a competitive bid process for a new insurance carrier, resulting in the selection of Public Risk Management (PRM). Following the award, City staff partnered closely with PRM to ensure a smooth and well-coordinated transition to new health, dental, vision, and life insurance plans. The collaborative effort helped position employees for continued access to quality coverage and support in managing their overall well-being.

Several employees reached milestone years of service this year:

- Raina Bergens – 20 years
- Tammy Pearson – 15 years
- Kyle Long – 10 years
- Jose Mier – 10 years
- Carl Carte – 25 years

The Wellness program continues to be a great success. Throughout the year, the Wellness Committee hosted monthly events designed to motivate employees to stay active and maintain a focus on overall well-being. In addition, employees had the opportunity to join a six month weight loss challenge.



At the conclusion of the 2024-2025 program year, the following incentives were awarded:

- \$12,050 for the general wellness program
- \$4,800 for the weight loss challenge
- \$1,500 in HSA contributions
- 72 vacation hours



COMMUNICATIONS

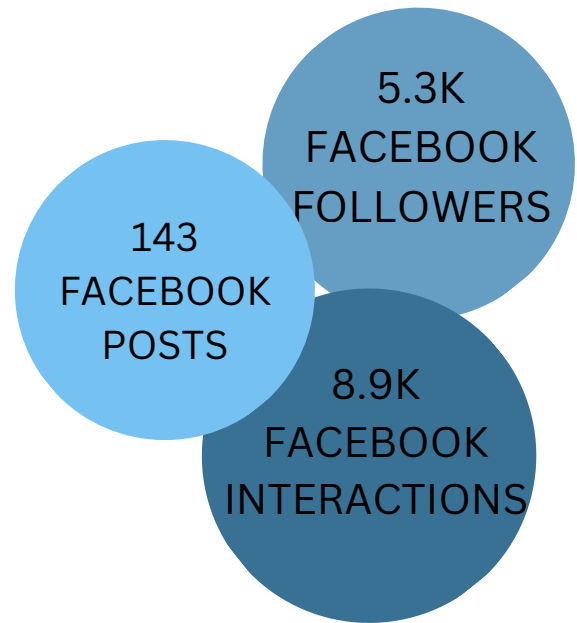
DEPARTMENT

The Communications Department is dedicated to fostering community engagement and ensuring residents stay informed about city projects, events, and services. This year, we celebrated major milestones and connected with residents in meaningful ways through both new and annual initiatives.

Community Engagement

The Communications Department played a key role in connecting the City of Wauchula with its residents and visitors through events and outreach. Highlights from the year include:

- Celebrated Public Power Week and Florida City Government Week, promoting city services and staff contributions.
- Planned and coordinated the Fall Festival costume contest, attracting families downtown.
- Assisted with the annual Fish Fry and helped make the Winterfest celebration a success.
- Represented the City at State of the County, Hardee High School Career Fair, and Wildcat Back to School Tailgate.
- Coordinated the swearing-in ceremony for the City's new Police Chief.



Internal Engagement & Support

Supporting City staff and operations remained a priority, with initiatives designed to keep employees informed and appreciated:

- Produced the monthly employee newsletter and the City's annual report.
- Organized department appreciation days to recognize staff contributions.
- Assisted with updates to the City Strategic Plan and Emergency Management Plan.

Communications

The Communications Department ensures the City's online presence is current, accessible, and engaging:

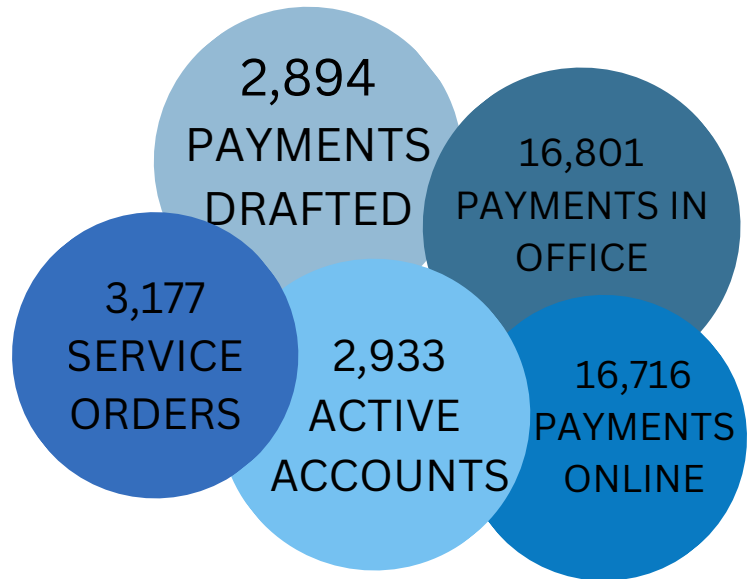
- Maintained and updated the City of Wauchula website.
- Managed and posted to the City's Facebook page, keeping residents informed of news, events, and updates.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

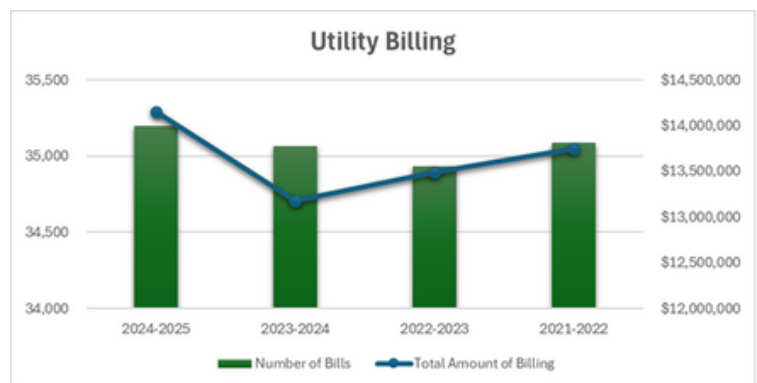
DEPARTMENT

The Customer Service Department is the primary point of contact for residents, businesses, and visitors needing services from any City department. Our focus has been on making these services more accessible, efficient, and responsive to the community's needs. Identified as one of the five key areas in the city's strategic plan, our commitment to exceptional service is vital for a customer-focused organization.

This year, through strategic process improvements and the implementation of more efficient customer service workflows, the department successfully streamlined operations, resulting in a reduction of staff from five full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to four. By optimizing task distribution, leveraging technology for routine inquiries, and enhancing cross-training among team members, the department maintained high service standards while improving response times and overall efficiency. This reorganization not only reduced personnel costs but also created a more agile and customer-focused service model.



The department oversees utility inquiries, business registration, cemetery plot sales and usage, and all billing and payment processing for utilities, airport hangar leases, and cemetery services. It also handles payments related to business taxes, grant reimbursements, and other city revenues, maintaining our dedication to efficient service and strong community ties.



COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

OFFICE

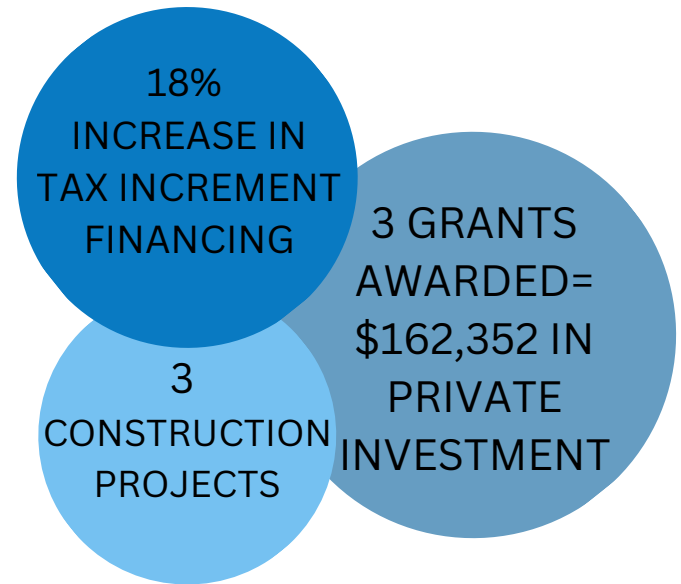
The Wauchula Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) remains focused on revitalizing our community through strategic improvements and fostering economic development. This year, the CRA completed significant projects aimed at enhancing quality of life, preserving historic sites, and attracting new visitors to Wauchula.

2-story 22-unit garden style apartment Community

- In May 2025, the CRA entered into its first Tax Increment Financing Program agreement with NDA Wauchula, LLC to construct a 2 story – 22-unit garden style apartment community. The complex was complete in July 2025 and provides housing to those with a target household range from 28% AMI to 60% AMI.

Historic Auditorium Renovations

- This project has been made possible with partnerships from a variety of public and private funding sources. Further restoration will be possible in 2026 with the city's 2025 State Appropriation award.
- Mosaic \$ 300,000 Audio/Visual Upgrades
- DOS Special Category Grant \$ 282,000 Window and Ceiling restoration, dressing room renovation
- ARPA \$ 150,000 Window restoration
- Appropriation \$2,500,000 Life Safety renovations



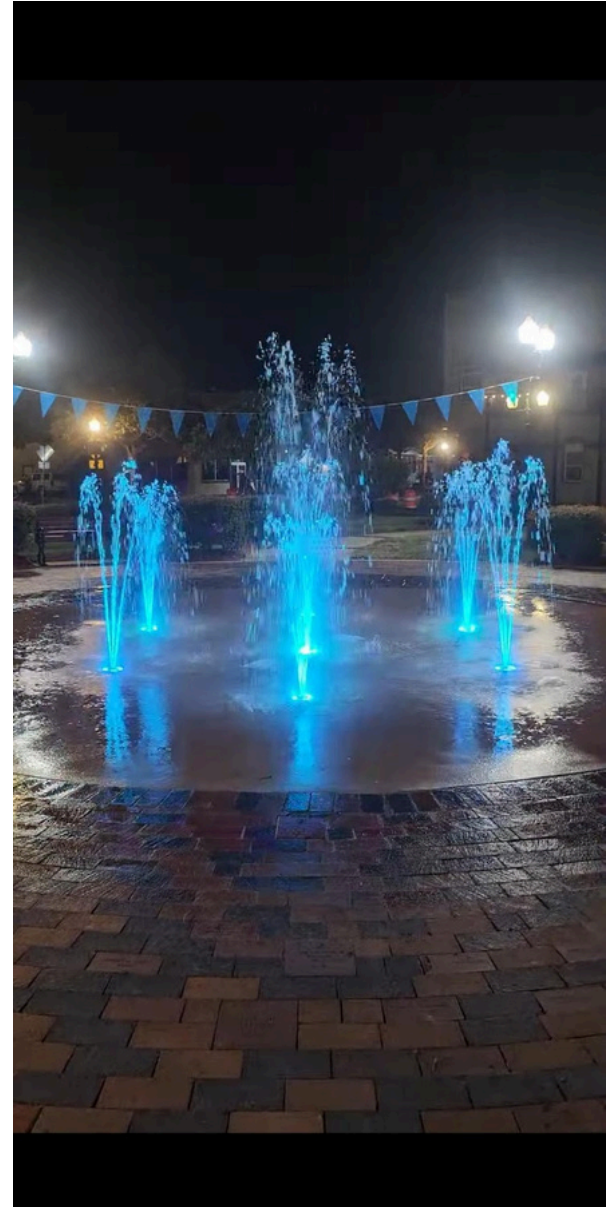
Heritage Park Fountain

- Heritage Park, a long-standing downtown Wauchula landmark first created nearly 30 years ago through a partnership between Main Street Wauchula, the CRA, local donors, and state grants, received a major upgrade in 2025. Originally transformed from a vacant lot into a community gathering space, the park's fountain had long awaited restoration due to other redevelopment priorities. In 2023, ARPA funds were allocated to bring the project to life, and the renovation was completed in August 2025.

Commercial Revitalization Grant Program:

In 2024, two grants were awarded, with both projects completed and funded in 2025:

- 115 S. 7th Avenue
 - Improvements: Paint, awnings, sign refurbishing, landscaping, front door refurbishing
 - Total Project Cost: \$20,025.76
 - CRA Grant Awarded: \$9,842.92
- 226 W. Main Street
 - Improvements: Repair brick and stucco, paint, awnings, new AC, new electric
 - Total Project Cost: \$76,630
 - CRA Grant Awarded: \$30,000



PURCHASING

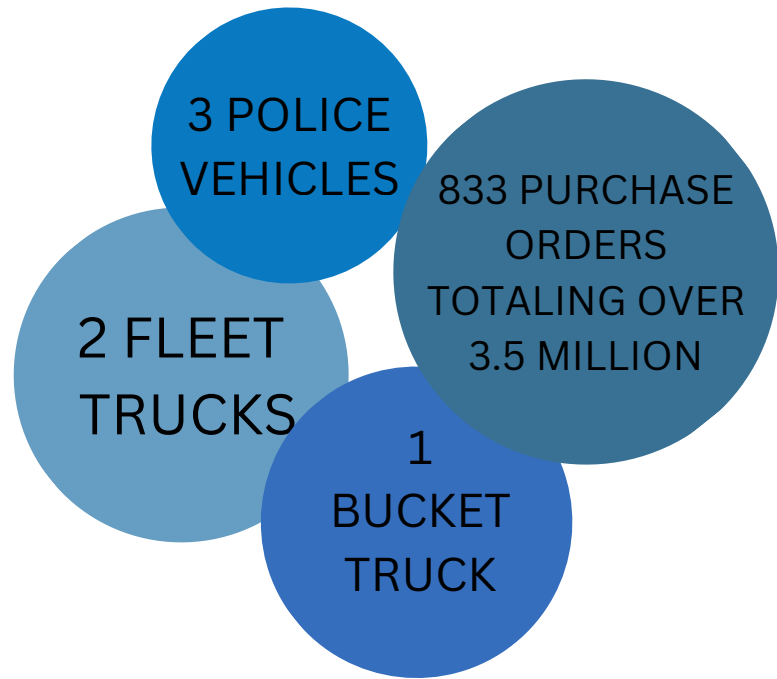
DEPARTMENT

The Purchasing Department plays a vital role in ensuring the City of Wauchula operates efficiently and responsibly. The department oversees all procurement activities, making sure purchases are conducted in a consistent, transparent, and cost-effective manner in accordance with City policy and all local, state, and federal regulations.

By promoting fairness, accountability, and strategic purchasing, the department helps the City maximize its resources while maintaining high-quality standards. The Purchasing Department also manages the City's inventories, ensuring essential supplies and equipment are available for departments such as Electric Distribution, Water and Sewer, Public Works, and Sanitation. This reduces delays in service delivery, prevents redundancy, improves asset tracking, and maintains accurate audit trails for equipment and consumables.

Key Responsibilities

- Ensuring compliance with procurement laws, regulations, and City policy
- Supporting departments by aligning purchases with the City budget and long-term goals



- Managing inventory and asset records to ensure accuracy and accountability
- Reducing waste and improving purchasing efficiency
- Maintaining transparency and fairness across all procurement activities

Major Purchases Facilitated in FY 2024-2025

- Parks & Grounds mower and UTV
- New jetter for Water/Sewer Department
- Upgraded vehicle scanner and software for the Maintenance Shop
- Clear well inspections and chlorine analyzer
- New roof at the Garden Club facility
- Substation testing services

- Servers for the Police Department and Administration Building
- Large trailered Thompson pump for Water/Sewer Department
- New substation relay and circuit breaker
- A/C replacements for Police Department and Warehouse
- Dump trailer for Sanitation and Parks & Grounds
- Multiple manhole rehabilitations
- Repair and replacement of the 4th Avenue culvert
- Termite treatment for the Administration and Police Department buildings
- Initial network hardware purchase for AMI project
- Two fleet trucks (Maintenance Shop & Water/Sewer)
- Bucket truck for Electric Distribution
- Vinyl fencing at Farr Field
- Three new police vehicles
- Warehouse signage



POLICE

DEPARTMENT

This year has been dynamic for the Wauchula Police Department, marked by key personnel changes, notable achievements, and a continued commitment to community safety and service.

Personnel Updates:

Chief Brandon Ball left the department to return to teaching, and Chief Ronald J. Curtis, Jr. was hired, bringing extensive experience from Lee County and Groveland Police Departments. Other staffing changes included:

- Promotions: Brennan Warner and Pablo Bermudez to Corporal
- New hires: Lyle Hart (full-time), Pablo Bermudez (full-time), Brandon Wells (part-time), Sean Bueford (full-time)

Community Safety Initiatives:

- School Zone Cameras:

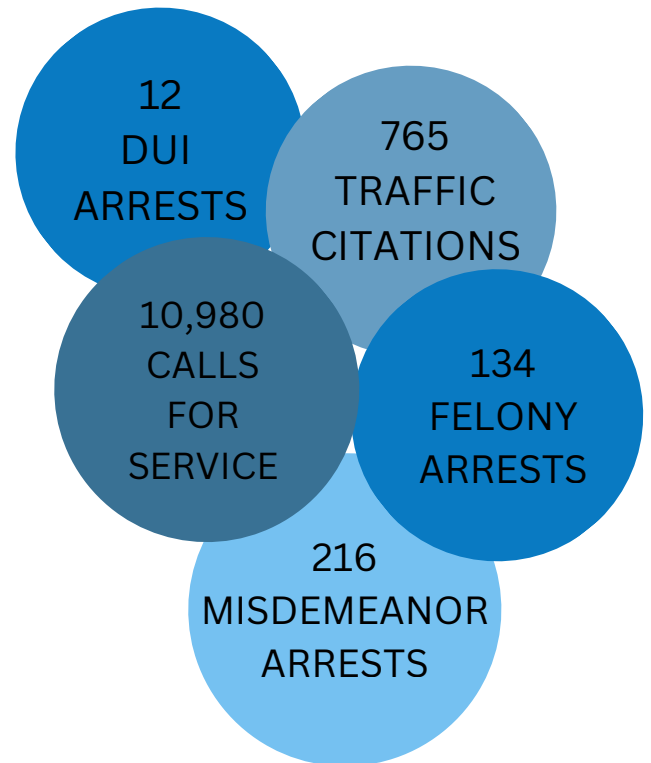
Installed and operational to enforce safe driving around schools, protecting students and reducing speeding during peak hours.

- Specialty Side-by-Side Vehicle:

Secured through state and Wal-Mart grants, this vehicle is equipped with emergency lights, and sirens

- Dangerous Dog Ordinance Update:

The ordinance defines a dog as dangerous if it has bitten or injured a person, is of a breed with known aggressive tendencies, shows unpredictable or violent behavior, or has been trained to be aggressive.



Community Engagement:

The Wauchula Police Department remained actively involved in the community this year. Officers participated in active shooter training at local schools and First Baptist Church, the Summer Academy with the Hardee County School Board, and Patriots Day, reading to students. The department supported Project Prom, helping distribute free prom dresses, and took part in Fuel for the Future with Advent Health at the old YMCA.

Education and Professional Development:

Detective Tyler Haywood earned his associate degree and is pursuing a bachelor's degree. Lieutenant Robert Ehrenkaufner graduated from Leadership Hardee.



WAUCHULA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

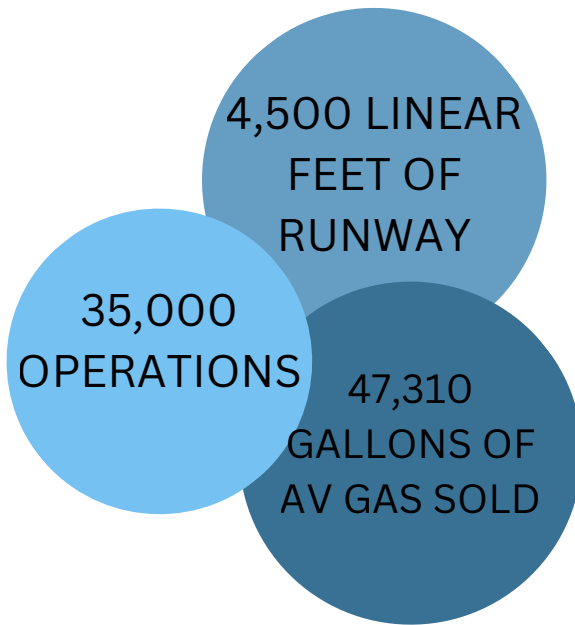
DEPARTMENT

City staff oversee the day-to-day operations at Wauchula Municipal Airport (CHN) and manage the planning and execution of grant-funded projects to improve facilities and enhance services. CHN serves private pilots, business travelers, and recreational pilots of sport aircraft, gyro planes and paramotors. It is also home to Harvest Aviation, a mission organization that flies essential supplies to Belize and Honduras. There is a flight school currently operating out of CHN and several other off-site civilian flight schools that utilize CHN for flight training.

Airport Activity and Events

- This past year CHN recorded over 35,000 operations, demonstrating its key role in the Central Florida aviation system.
- This past year CHN again hosted Bensen Days, one of the world's largest gyroplane/gyrocopter gatherings. The annual event has been held for over 50 years running.

Wauchula Municipal Airport continues to play an integral role in Central Florida, supporting both recreational and mission-driven aviation while steadily improving its facilities and services.



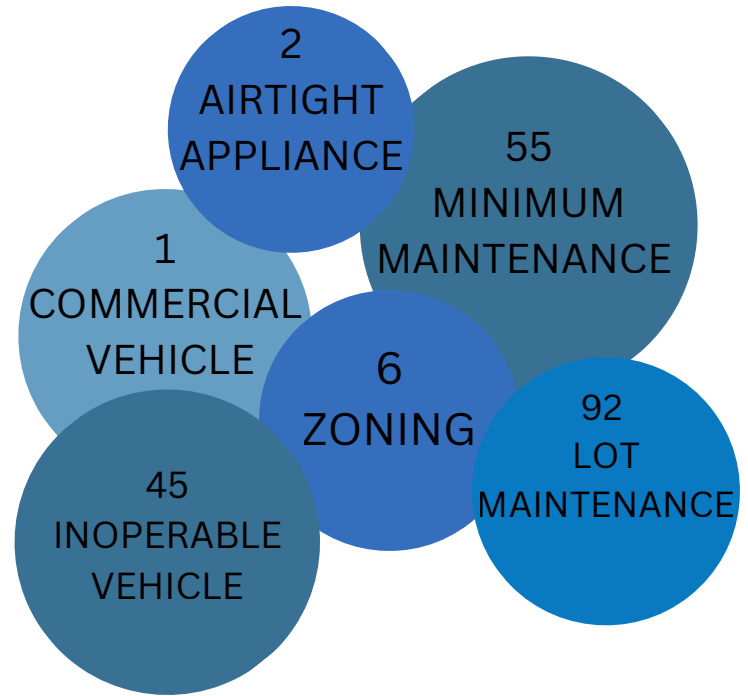
Current and Near-term Projects

- Several projects are underway to enhance operations and support future growth at Wauchula Municipal Airport. These include a Runway and Taxiway Extension to increase runway length to over 5,000 feet, a new fuel farm with AV gas and Jet A tanks, and a backup generator to support airport operations.
- Additional improvements include a new beacon light tower, a deep well for potable water and fire suppression, a new terminal building, and two new hangars for leasable space and flight training. Repairs to hangars damaged by Hurricanes Ian and Milton are also ongoing.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

DEPARTMENT

The department reviews and inspects development projects to ensure they meet all zoning requirements, conducting follow-up inspections when needed to secure compliance. Staff also inspect signs and billboards, review plans, and assist the public by providing guidance on permitted uses and zoning regulations. The team maintains accurate zoning records and files, prepares reports and correspondence, and provides testimony in a special magistrate court for violation cases. Staff also acts for supervisor as directed.



A total of \$18,431 in fines and liens was collected during the reporting period, with \$60,500 recorded in new liens. Violations at the following locations were brought into compliance.

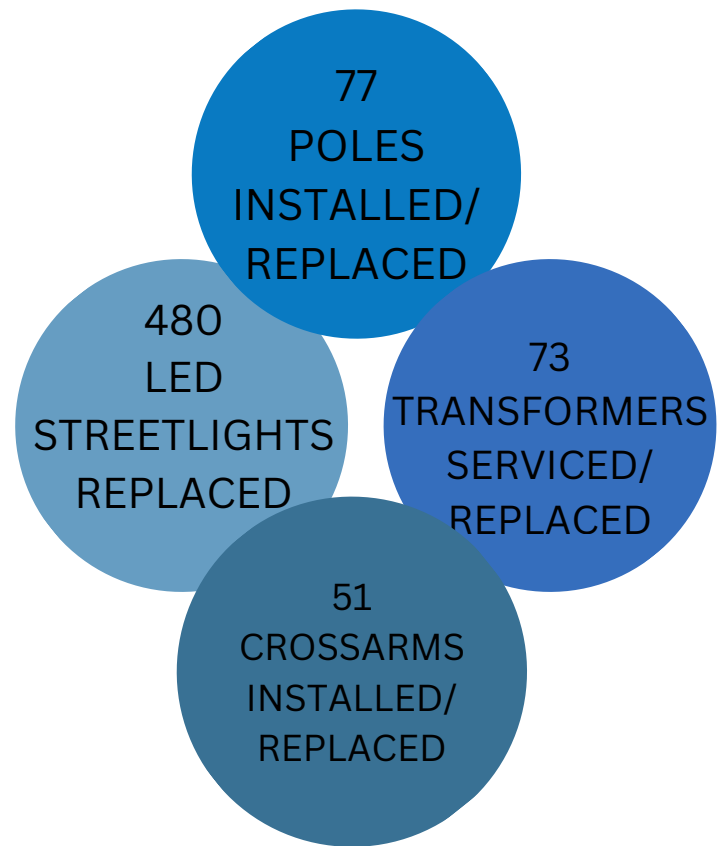
- 404 N 7th Avenue
- 208 W Orange Street
- 212 Louisiana Street
- 126 E Townsend Street



ELECTRICAL

DEPARTMENT

The City of Wauchula Electric Department is committed to providing reliable, safe, and efficient electrical services to residents, businesses, and community partners. Throughout the year, the department completed significant infrastructure projects, maintained essential services, and prioritized safety and training to ensure continuous improvements in service delivery.

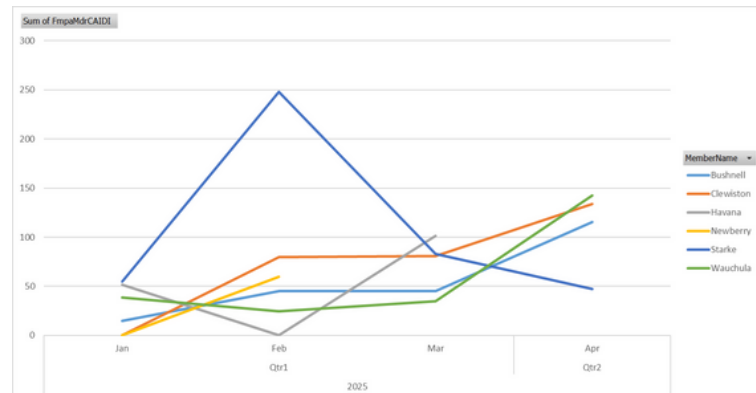


Primary Line Upgrades:

- Installed 800' of overhead #2 primary and 1,100' of underground 1/0 primary for a new apartment complex on Diana Avenue
- Replaced the three-phase transformer bank at Hardee Manor
- Installed three reclosers from W. Bay St. and 7th Ave to Carlton St. and 7th Ave
- Removed three-phase transformer and service for a demolition at 535 Carlton

Airport Electrical Work:

- Repaired 16 airfield lights
- Replaced PAPI controller board
- Installed new service and meter can for the well pump
- Replaced 1,200' of underground primary wire
- Maintained runway and taxiway lighting



CAIDI definition: Weighted average time to restore service to interrupted customers over a given period of time

Substation and Maintenance:

- Weekly inspections, amp readings, and relay checks
- Quarterly herbicide program
- SCADA maintenance
- Relay and transformer testing
- Repaired two SF6 gas leaks on the 2600 transformer switch

Lighting Repairs & Upgrades

- Repaired 31 lights along US 17 in Zolfo Springs and 8 in Bowling Green
- Installed/replaced 480 LED streetlights citywide
- Repaired Farr Field ballpark lighting
- Installed new wiring, conduit, and 32 outlets for Heritage Park lighting
- Replaced 6 wall-pack lights at airport hangars

Safety and Training:

- Irvin Campos completed his 3rd year of Apprentice School and promoted to Journeyman Lineman
- Training completed in: flagging, CPR, MOT, IMSA1, supervisor development, PRM safety, and bucket/pole-top rescue.
- Annual dielectric truck testing and rubber goods testing
- Monthly safety meetings and daily tailboards

Community Involvement:

- The department repaired lighting at the Wauchula airport and plays a key role in the installation of a 60-foot Christmas tree at Crews Park, and hanging holiday lights down HWY 17, enhancing the holiday spirit in the community.

Outage Management:

- The department reported and tracked outages to FMPA, ensuring timely restoration of services to impacted areas.

The City of Wauchula Electric Department continues to focus on infrastructure improvements, staff development, and safety protocols, all while delivering dependable electric services that support the community's growth and well-being.



PARKS AND RECREATION

DEPARTMENT

The Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing high-quality recreational spaces and programs that enhance the quality of life for all Wauchula residents. Our parks and green spaces serve as the heart of the community, offering a variety of amenities that promote fitness, relaxation, and community engagement.



2025 Accomplishments:

- Maintained all city parks, playgrounds, and athletic fields to ensure safe and enjoyable spaces for residents
- Completed upgrades and improvements at Crews Park, Peace River Park, and other city facilities
- Worked with volunteers and community partners to enhance green spaces and trails
- Managed park facilities for rentals, including pavilions, sports fields, and special event areas
- Conducted routine maintenance on landscaping, irrigation systems, and park equipment
- Supported city-wide events

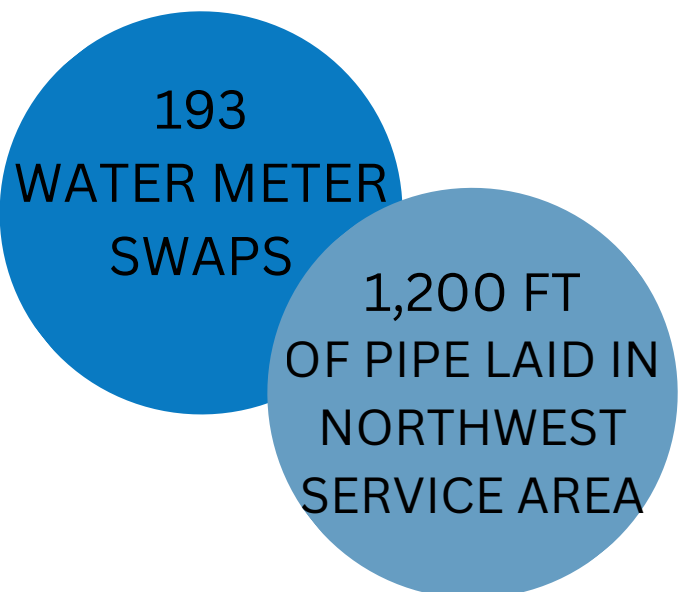
The City of Wauchula Cemetery is a historic and peaceful place where families can honor and remember their loved ones. Managed with care and respect, the cemetery provides a serene environment that reflects our community's values and traditions. Throughout the year, we focus on enhancing the overall appearance of the cemetery. Regular maintenance, including lawn care, tree trimming, and landscaping, keeps the grounds looking well-kept and welcoming. Seasonal flowers and additional landscaping improvements have added extra beauty, ensuring the cemetery remains a dignified and tranquil space for generations to come.



WATER & SEWER

DEPARTMENT

The Water & Sewer Department has achieved numerous infrastructure milestones this year, reinforcing Wauchula's commitment to reliable water services and proactive sewer management. These projects enhance service stability and prepare our city's utility infrastructure for future growth.



193
WATER METER
SWAPS

1,200 FT
OF PIPE LAID IN
NORTHWEST
SERVICE AREA

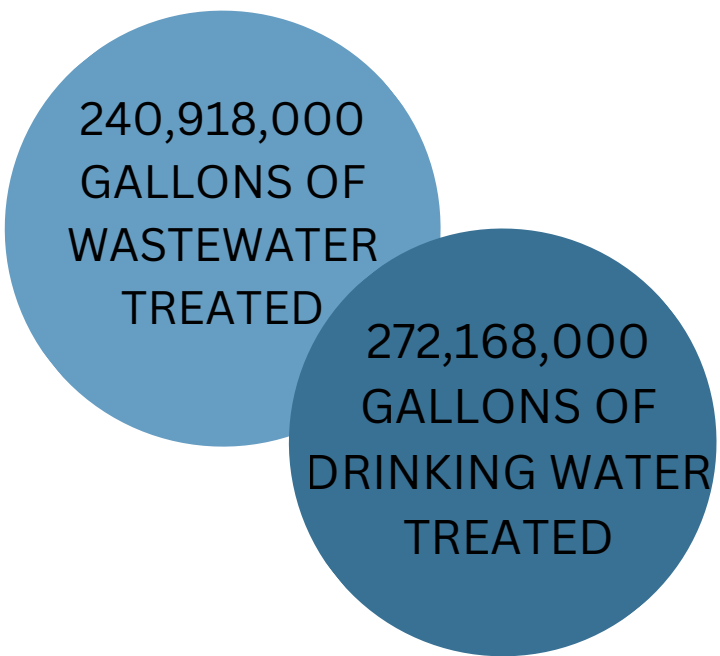
This year, the Water & Sewer crew stayed busy keeping our systems running smoothly. Some of the major tasks and improvements included:

- Refurbished and lined several aging manholes throughout the city
- Replaced long-overdue fire hydrants, including:
 - Louisiana Street & Illinois Ave
 - South 7th Ave & Strickland Street
 - Hwy 17 N near Walmart
- Repaired a broken 6" PVC water line behind CVS that serves Burger King and nearby businesses
- Fixed a leaking 2" water line on Constitution Drive that was beginning to wash out the roadway
- Repaired a blown-out 4" Transite main on Park Drive
- Rebuilt the sewer system at Crews Park restrooms to help prevent issues during big events like Winterfest
- Unclogged and rebuilt the 8" sewer main behind the old power plant and Family Dollar
- Installed a new 8" sewer main along Polk Road and N. 7th Avenue
- Spent many after-hours and on-call hours keeping water flowing and sewer systems running
- Continued regular maintenance such as unclogging mains and laterals across the city
- Upgraded Northwest service area and prepared bid packages for improvements on 7th and 10th Streets

WATER & WASTEWATER PLANT

DEPARTMENT

The Water & Wastewater Treatment Plant in Wauchula is committed to delivering reliable, high-quality water and wastewater treatment services that meet strict environmental and health standards. Our facility focuses on treating, monitoring, and maintaining water quality to ensure safe drinking water for residents, as well as effective wastewater treatment to protect public health and local ecosystems.



240,918,000
GALLONS OF
WASTEWATER
TREATED

272,168,000
GALLONS OF
DRINKING WATER
TREATED

Key accomplishments include:

- Integrated four lift stations into SCADA and added digester controls for improved system monitoring
- Began operation of the new digester and installed a new influent flow meter to enhance treatment efficiency
- Replaced pumps, valves, and control panels at multiple lift stations, including Briarwood, REA, and 4th Avenue
- Conducted neighborhood smoke testing and completed first-round PFAS/PFOA sampling in accordance with EPA requirements
- Repainted the Water Treatment Plant, inspected and cleaned both ground storage tanks, and exercised all valves for proper operation
- Repaired the chlorine feed system, replaced alarm sensors, and upgraded RO unit components

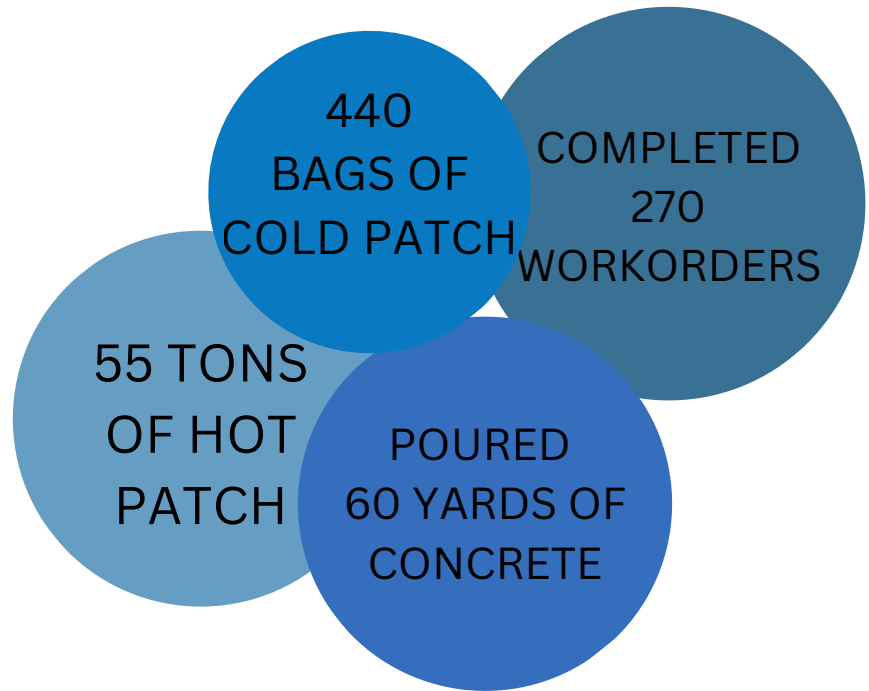
These upgrades and maintenance efforts strengthen the overall reliability, safety, and efficiency of the water and wastewater systems, ensuring the City continues to deliver exceptional service to the community.

ROADS & FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

DEPARTMENT

The mission of the roads and streets maintenance department is to maintain 30 miles of roadways as well as multiple city facilities. General maintenance & repairs at all City facilities which include but are not limited to roofing repairs, plumbing, carpentry, and pressure washing:

- City Admin/Police Department
- Historic City Hall
- Garden Club
- Nu-Hope
- Drug Free Hardee/Send Me Missions
- Farr Field
- Crews Park
- Heritage Park
- Oak St Park
- Seminole Park
- Peace River Park
- Train Depot
- City Shop, Warehouse and Break Room
- Power Plant



This year's accomplishments include:

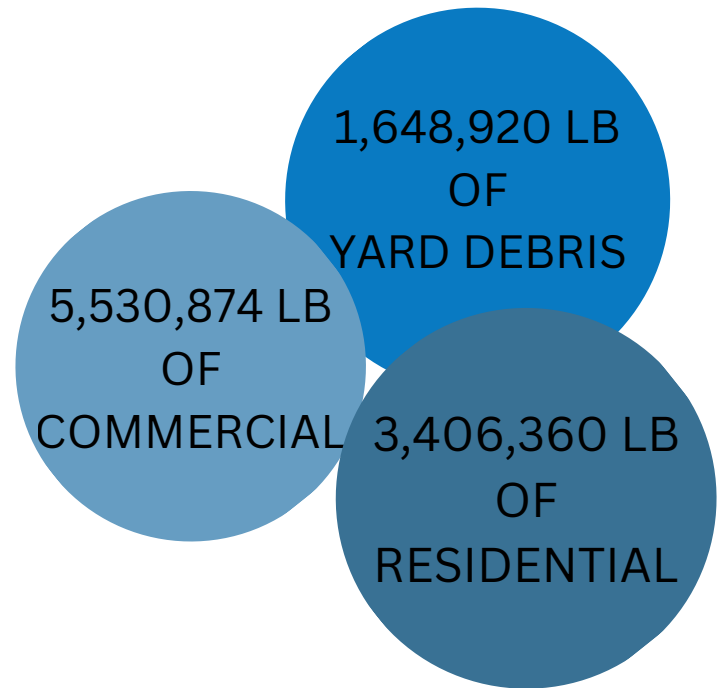
- Completion of 80% of new sidewalk construction on West Bay Street
- Completion of Phase 3 of the new street sign installation project in the northwest portion of the city
- Construction of a new sidewalk on Diana Avenue connecting the sidewalk in front of the new housing complex, Wauchula Place

These projects enhance pedestrian safety, improve neighborhood accessibility, and contribute to a more connected and welcoming community.

SANITATION

DEPARTMENT

The City of Wauchula Sanitation Department is dedicated to maintaining a clean, safe, and environmentally conscious community. Through efficient waste collection, and proper disposal of yard debris and bulk items, we ensure that Wauchula remains a pleasant place to live and work.



Some highlights from the year include:

- Continued reliable weekly garbage collection for homes and businesses across the city
- Collected bulk items, yard debris, and special pickup requests to help residents maintain their properties
- Responded quickly to storm-related debris needs, clearing roads and neighborhoods after severe weather
- Maintained and repaired sanitation trucks and equipment to ensure consistent service
- Worked with Customer Service to make sure employees and residents had accurate information about dumpster pickups, including the number of dumpsters and scheduled pickup days based on charges
- Assisted other departments during community events like Winterfest, Fall Festival, and more
- Supported city-wide cleanups and coordinated debris removal during improvement projects
- Continued enforcing proper placement and use of garbage carts to keep routes safe and efficient

The Sanitation Department remains committed to keeping Wauchula clean and running smoothly, providing dependable service to our community.



2024 BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES AWARD

Awarded by **FMEA** in recognition of Florida public power utilities
for their community-focused programs. ➡



FMEA FLORIDA MUNICIPAL
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

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