



Commission Approves SPLOST Purchases for Public Works and Sheriff's Office

Posted on September 5, 2025 by Carey Fauscett-Anderson

TRENTON, Ga. (Sept. 5, 2025) — The Dade County Commission unanimously approved two SPLOST-funded purchases during its September meeting: a 54-inch Roller Drum to Pave Roadways for the Public Works Department and a 52-inch Riding Mower for the Sheriff's Office.

Public Works Director Billy Massengale explained the need for the 54-inch drum, 48-horsepower, 9,500-pound Kubota roller, which will be purchased from Reynolds-Warren Equipment Company for \$61,438. The county's current roller has more than 6,000 hours on it and has reached the end of its useful life. Massengale noted that renting has proven ineffective since smaller rollers do not meet the county's needs and long-term rental costs would exceed the cost of purchase.

"We use stuff 'til it's used up, and this is used up," Massengale said. He emphasized that he has never asked for equipment that was not needed and is committed to making taxpayer dollars stretch as far as possible. *"I believe in getting the full life out of something, and I treat taxpayer money as I treat my own."*

By paving in-house, the county saves significantly, with costs averaging around \$120,000 per mile compared to \$220,000 per mile if contracted out. Roads paved so far this year include Hicks Hollow Road (from the interstate out), Dave Brown Road, Wells Road, Cloud Road, and Walls Circle. Commissioners praised Massengale for his stewardship, with Commissioner Bob Woods noting his careful management of county resources and Commissioner Melissa Bradford highlighting his ability to repair and maintain equipment in-house. Commissioner Bill Pullen lightheartedly asked if Massengale would stay another 20 years to keep the new roller in top shape.

The Commission also approved the Sheriff's Office request for a 2000 series Toro zero-turn, mid-mount 52-inch fabricated deck mower, to be purchased from TAS Equipment. The mower, with a sticker price of \$10,861, will cost the county \$7,461 after government pricing discounts. It includes a five-year warranty and is expected to handle the mowing needs of multiple county properties, including the Training Center, Firing Range, Veterans Park, Library, the creek walk behind CB&T, Courts Facility, the Depot, and the Transfer Station.

Jail Captain and Public Information Officer Chad Payne explained that the purchase was necessary since the department has not previously owned its own mower. In the past, mowing was managed with borrowed equipment, most recently the personal mower of Lt. Broom. Now, Officer Buddy Waters will oversee the mower and inmates assigned to groundskeeping. Payne added that he and Chief Deputy Major Tommy Bradford researched the purchase thoroughly, even shopping on Labor Day to ensure the best pricing. *"It's a need, not a want,"* Payne said.

Commissioner Melissa Bradford thanked Payne for discussing the project with her beforehand, saying she felt well-informed and confident in the decision. Commissioner Woods concurred, and Commissioner Phillip Hartline asked for clarification on the areas maintained by the department before agreeing to the purchase.