



## Commissioners Approve SPLOST Projects Supporting Facilities, Public Safety and Regional Planning

Posted on December 5, 2025 by Carey Fauscett-Anderson

**TRENTON, Ga. (Dec. 4, 2025)** — The Dade County Board of Commissioners approved several Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) projects during its December meeting, authorizing targeted investments in county facilities, animal services, fire protection and regional planning initiatives.

The approved projects reflect a balance of infrastructure maintenance, public safety priorities and long-term planning efforts designed to support county operations and services.

### Agricultural Center Improvements

UGA Extension Agent Laura Beth Cunningham presented a request to replace deteriorating indoor-outdoor carpeting at the Dade County Agricultural Center, citing safety concerns as the material has begun to tear and create tripping hazards. The project also includes replacement of three aging toilets and installation of a new water fountain.

Bids for the flooring replacement ranged from approximately \$18,840 to \$24,890. Cunningham secured \$6,467.88 in grant funding to offset costs, reducing the county's SPLOST contribution to an estimated \$13,500. Commissioners approved the request with a not-to-exceed amount of \$15,000 and commended Cunningham for leveraging grant funds to minimize local expense.

**Ag Center Floor**

- Numerous tears that are covered with duct tape or need to be covered
- Tripping hazard
- So many rips and tears that it just looks bad

**Toilets**

- Permanent stains
- Have to hold down the handle to get any of the toilets to flush

**Water Fountain**

- Unable to get the build-up cleaned off
- Does not have enough water pressure to be able to fill up a water bottle

Zern LK Brand available to purchase from the county for \$1,029.00

## Trenton-Dade Animal Center Building Package

Commissioners next considered bids for construction of a new metal building shell at the Trenton-Dade Animal Center. Following discussion of building specifications, insulation, window placement and site readiness, the board selected Chazler Inc. of Chattanooga for the project.

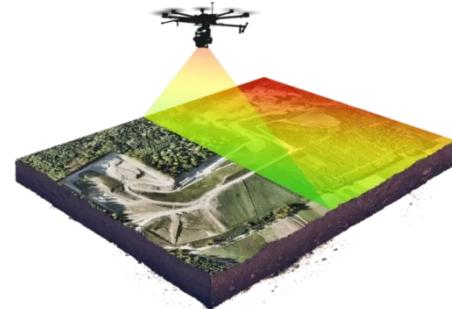
The approved contract totals \$182,521 and includes construction of a 50-by-100-foot metal structure with a lean-to, to be located near the county transfer station off Sunset Drive. Interior build-out will be addressed separately as mechanical, electrical and plumbing plans are finalized.



## Regional LIDAR Mapping Project

The board also approved a letter of intent with the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission to participate in a countywide LIDAR mapping initiative. The project will update elevation and terrain data across Dade County's 174 square miles, supporting enhanced mapping for E-911 services, the assessor's office and county planning functions.

County officials noted that similar data was last collected several years ago and that updated mapping will improve accuracy for emergency response, property assessment and infrastructure planning.



## Used Pumper Tanker for Fire Stations 1 and 4



Assistant Fire Chief Ansel Smith and Fire Chief Jerry Kyzer requested authorization to purchase a used pumper tanker in the 2,000- to 3,000-gallon range to serve Fire Stations 1 and 4. Commissioners discussed available SPLOST balances, anticipated proceeds from the sale of surplus fire equipment and the county's long-term goal of improving insurance service ratings through strategic investment.

The board unanimously approved authorization to acquire a used pumper tanker at a not-to-exceed cost of \$300,000, with funding to be drawn from a combination of SPLOST allocations and other available resources as appropriate.

Chairman Don Townsend emphasized the importance of timely action, noting that used fire apparatus must often be secured quickly due to market availability.

Collectively, the approved SPLOST projects advance countywide priorities by improving public facilities, strengthening emergency services and supporting data-driven planning. Commissioners expressed appreciation to staff for preparing detailed proposals and identifying cost-effective solutions that maximize the impact of SPLOST funding for Dade County residents.

