



County Approves SPLOST-Funded Equipment to Strengthen Public Safety Operations

Posted on January 12, 2026 by Carey Fauscett-Anderson

TRENTON, Ga. (Jan. 12, 2026) — The Dade County Board of Commissioners approved multiple SPLOST-funded capital equipment purchases during its January workshop, authorizing investments aimed at strengthening law enforcement, emergency medical services and administrative operations countywide.



Chief Deputy Tommy Bradford presented proposals for the purchase of two new law enforcement vehicles to support patrol operations. Bradford said five bids were received through a competitive procurement process. Commissioners approved the selection of Prater Ford, whose proposal included a five-year, 100,000-mile bumper-to-bumper warranty at a cost of \$48,994 per vehicle.

The commission also approved the purchase of a replacement jail transport van following a request from Capt. Chad Payne. The selected vehicle, a 2020 Ford Transit 350 with approximately 7,000 miles, will replace a nearly 20-year-old transport van that has accumulated more than 200,000 miles. Payne noted the vehicle had been garage-kept, thoroughly inspected and remains in excellent condition. Commissioners approved the purchase with an extended six-year, 100,000-mile warranty, bringing the total cost to \$55,937.



Emergency Services Director Alex Case presented a proposal for a new EMS response vehicle designed to safely transport emergency equipment and personnel while improving operational efficiency. Commissioners approved the bid from Prater Ford, which included a platinum warranty and full emergency vehicle outfitting, at a total cost of \$55,915.72.

In addition to public safety vehicles, commissioners approved the purchase of a replacement administrative copier through Chattanooga Office Supply at a cost of \$13,700. The purchase followed an extended testing period to ensure the equipment met county operational needs.

Chairman Don Townsend emphasized that the approved purchases reflect the county's continued commitment to maintaining reliable equipment and supporting public safety personnel through responsible use of SPLOST funds.