

On an accrual basis, expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred. The measurement focus of governmental fund accounting is on decreases in net financial resources (expenditures) rather than expenses. Expenditures are generally recognized in the accounting period in which the related fund liability is incurred, if measurable. Allocations of cost, such as depreciation and amortization, are not recognized in governmental funds.

All unencumbered appropriations lapse at year-end. However, the appropriation authority for major capital projects and capital assets carries forward automatically to the subsequent year. When these encumbrances become expenditures, they are charged to the subsequent year's revised budget. All other encumbered appropriations lapse at year-end and any of these orders that the County honors must be charged against the subsequent year's original budget.

The budget shall be adopted at the fund/department level. ~~Department directors shall have authority to transfer appropriations within the department subject to the approval of the Finance Director and the County Manager.~~ Any adjustment of salaries and benefits shall require approval of the Board of Commissioners.

The County shall include an amount in the general fund budget for unforeseen operating expenditures. This contingency appropriation shall be approximately 1.5% of the operating budget or \$350,000, whichever is less. ~~To finance this contingency, an equal amount of fund balance will be budgeted to fund the contingency.~~

The County shall maintain a system of budgetary control to ensure adherence to the budget. ~~___ and shall prepare timely financial reports to compare actual and budget amounts. Encumbrances and available budgets shall also be included. These reports shall be distributed to department directors on a monthly basis.~~

The proposed budget shall be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for adoption prior to June 30 of each calendar year for the subsequent year. A copy of the proposed budget shall be made available to the public and, upon request, to the news media. An advertisement of the availability of the proposed budget and notice of a public hearing shall be placed as prescribed in Georgia Code Section 36-81-5. The public hearing shall be at least one week prior to the meeting at which the budget is to be adopted by the Board of Commissioners.

Lowndes County
Ref. No. 2000-0006-a
December 13, 2000

~~Revision of Policy adopted Oct. 1996~~ Revised November 25, 2008 Revised September 23, 2025,
effective for FY 2025