



**General information**

**Q. What are the projects to be funded by the proposed 1¢ sales tax?**

A. The SPLOST includes three projects:

- 800 MHz radio communication system for law enforcement, fire and rescue and public works personnel (building inspection, animal control, code enforcement, etc.)
- Student Learning Center on the University of Georgia Griffin Campus
- Spalding County Senior Citizens Center expansion and renovation or purchase of a new facility

**Q. What is the budget for this SPLOST**

A. The total budget for this SPLOST is \$21, 700,000.

800 MHz Radio System	\$10,572,000
<u>-Homeland Security Grant</u>	<u>- \$500,000</u>
SPLOST amount	\$10,072,000
UGA Student Learning Center	\$10,000,000
Senior Center Improvements	\$1,100,000
<u>-Proposed CDBG Grant</u>	<u>-\$500,000</u>
SPLOST amount	\$600,000
Interest Expense and Bond Issuance Costs	\$1,028,000
<b>Total SPLOST Budget</b>	<b>\$21,700,000</b>

**Q. What is the timeline for these projects?**

A. Should it pass, the SPLOST, a 1% sales tax, will be collected for less than three years. Following the November election, the timeline for the SPLOST project would be:

- Tax collection begins .....April 1, 2006
- Bonds issued for purchase of radio system.....First quarter of 2006
- Purchase and testing of radio system .....2006, operational first quarter 2007
- First funds available for UGA Student Learning Center .....August 2006
- Construction of UGA Student Learning Center to begin.....Spring 2007
- Senior Citizens Center expansion/renovation or purchase .....Upon receipt of CDBG grant funds

**Q. Why were these three projects chosen for this SPLOST?**

A. Georgia law states that only certain types of projects can be funded with SPLOST monies. Spalding County is currently addressing other needs through other means. The three projects were chosen because of their timeliness and their positive county-wide impact.

**Q. Can voters choose which of the proposed projects they would like to fund?**

A. No. Georgia law allows for a single-question ballot only. A vote for or against the 1% sales tax would be a vote for or against all three projects.

## **800 MHz Communication System**

### **Q. Why is a new radio communication system needed?**

A. The new radio system is needed to replace current communication systems. Presently, law enforcement, fire and rescue, and all other City and County departments rely on multiple systems (radios, Nextel, cell phones etc.) to communicate. The new system will correct existing problems, streamline communication, guarantee better coverage throughout Spalding County and provide interoperability.

### **Q. What is the scope of this project?**

A. This project includes the purchase of the 800 MHz digital communication system including:

- Approximately 600 radio units
- Necessary software, controllers, servers, routers, workstations, switches, antennas, transmitters, etc.
- The use of three existing towers (one purchased, two leased)
- Back-up power generators and uninterruptible power supplies
- Complete installation and testing

### **Q. How much will the new communication system cost?**

A. The new system will cost \$10,572,000. \$500,000 of this cost will be covered by a Homeland Security Grant which was awarded earlier this year. Bonds will be purchased to cover the remaining balance. Once in place, the new system will cost approximately the same amount to operate as the current City and County systems. However, the new system will offer more reliable service and greater coverage, making it more cost-effective.

### **Q. Why was this particular system chosen to be purchased?**

A. This system was chosen because of its versatility and reliability. The system:

- Has the ability to function at different frequencies, should they become available.
- Maintains increased channel efficiency and reduces interference.
- Allows for communication among all branches of law enforcement, fire and rescue, and all City and County departments (interoperability).
- Offers TalkGroup and private conversation modes.
- Can be used to communicate with health and safety personnel in other counties in Georgia.
- Guarantees at least 95% coverage in Spalding County.

### **Q. Who will use the new communication system?**

A. The new system will be used by the Spalding County Sheriff's Department, the Griffin Police Department, the Griffin and Spalding County Fire Departments, 911, and all City and County departments. Other public services entities such as the local school system and hospitals may purchase their own equipment and use the system as well.

## **UGA Student Learning Center**

### **Q. Why was the student learning center chosen as a SPLOST project?**

A. The UGA Student Learning Center was chosen to fill a need for additional economic and educational growth in Spalding County. The University of Georgia is currently looking for a location in the South Atlanta Metro Area for a campus to house undergraduate and graduate programs. This center can provide increased educational opportunities for the residents of Spalding County and surrounding areas and would mean additional economic growth as the programs expand.

**Q. What is the scope of this project?**

A. The UGA Student Learning Center project includes the design, construction and equipping of an approximately 35,000 square foot, two-story brick veneer classroom building to be located on the UGA Griffin Campus. The project also includes the construction of adequate parking adjacent to the building and any required roadway access. The center will include “classatoriums,” traditional classrooms, teaching laboratories, faculty and administrative offices, and student commons areas.

**Q. How much will the UGA Student Learning Center cost?**

A. The UGA Student Learning Center will cost \$10 million to construct and equip. Once constructed, the building will be the property of Georgia taxpayers through the University of Georgia. All subsequent maintenance and operation costs will be the responsibility of the University of Georgia.

**Q. Who will use the UGA Student Learning Center?**

A. The center will be available to house the current undergraduate program offering two degrees, Gordon College night classes, Continuing Education programs, training programs, and graduate degree classes.

**Q. What commitment has been made to this project at the state level?**

A. The University of Georgia has continually invested in the Griffin Campus and is actively working with Spalding County to bring new programs—graduate and undergraduate—to our campus. Officials at the local and state levels, including our governor and state legislative leadership, have declared support for this project. Also, the Office of the Attorney General has determined that this project is an appropriate use of SPLOST funds.

**Spalding County Senior Citizens Center**

**Q. Why are the Senior Citizens Center improvements needed?**

A. An estimated 7,000 Spalding County residents are seniors who are eligible to use the center. The current facility cannot house the programs needed. Presently, 20+ programs for seniors are offered through the center. Several of these must be held off-site or have waiting lists due to a lack of space.

**Q. What is the scope of this project?**

A. The proposed renovations include a 3,800 square foot addition and parking improvements. The addition would include a kitchen, large commons area, stage, storage, etc. There is also a possibility that, should a suitable replacement building be found, the SPLOST funds could be used to purchase that facility. If a replacement were purchased, the current center could be sold or used to house other departments allowing other county buildings to be sold.

**Q. How much will the Senior Center improvements cost?**

A. The total budget for the Senior Center is \$1,100,000. Of this, \$600,000 would come from SPLOST funds. \$500,000 of the total cost is to be covered by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Construction on the project will begin once these funds are secured.

**Q. Who will use the Senior Center?**

A. The center is available to all Spalding County citizens age 50 and over and offers recreational programs such as fitness classes, art classes, seminars, social and educational programs. Also, the Council on Aging uses the facility for programs including Meals on Wheels which delivers 120 meals to people who are unable to leave their homes and they provide social services, activities and nutritional programs for seniors age 60 & over.