

Summary Information

History and Demographics

Founded in 1771 and located in the geographic center of North Carolina, Chatham County encompasses an area of more than 707 square miles and is known as the "The Heart of North Carolina." The county is situated between two of the state's largest centers of population and commerce, the Triangle Region and the Piedmont Triad.

Early History

According to *Chatham County: 1771-1971*, edited by Doris Goerch Horton, Nell Craig Strowd, and Wade Hadley, the county's early history was as follows:

Records show that settlers from Europe arrived in the area as early as the mid-1700s, including a Quaker settlement formed in 1751. Early settlers entered from the north through a trading route of the Catawba Indians and from the south through the Cape Fear River Valley.

The Colonial Assembly established Chatham County through legislation introduced on December 5, 1770, which was effective on April 1, 1771. The county was formed from a portion of what was once Orange County. The county was named for the Earl of Chatham, William Pitt, who was a "defender of American rights in the British Parliament." A portrait of the Earl of Chatham, replacing one destroyed in the March 2010 courthouse fire, hangs in the newly restored Chatham County Historic Courthouse.

The legislation forming Chatham County noted that the new county was needed to provide greater access to inhabitants living in the southern part of the county. It was too difficult and expensive for those residents to travel to the Orange County government seat (Hillsborough) to conduct business.

In the early years, the county was governed by justices of the peace, which served the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. The justices were appointed by the state's General Assembly. For a period of time, the justices also appointed other county officials, which included the sheriff, coroner, constables, clerk, register, county attorney, standard-keeper, entry-taker, surveyor, rangers (which dealt with stray animals), and overseers of roads. Reconstruction and the new State Constitution of 1868 established a five-member board of county commissioners, divided the county into townships, and radically changed the court system. Justices of the peace were eliminated from county government in 1894.

Education: Chatham County contributes funds to, but does not govern, K-12 public education and the community college system. The Chatham County School System is governed by its own elected board. Central Carolina Community College, which has two campuses in the county, is governed by its own appointed Board of Trustees.

Chatham County's population and economic base have changed substantially during its history. The county has experienced a dramatic increase in population due to residential growth in the eastern part of the county near Chapel Hill, Durham, and Cary.

Demographics:

The North Carolina State Demographer estimates the July 2018 (FY 2019) population at 74,264, an increase of approximately 17% since 2010. Chatham's population growth is tracking higher than neighboring Orange County (8%), Lee County (5 %) and Moore County (12 %), but not as high as

Wake County at 35%. Between 2010 and 2017, Chatham was among the fastest growing county in the state, according to NC OSBM, ranking 7th in growth out of 100 counties.

Only 22% of county residents live in incorporated towns. The county has about 93.1 residents per square mile, which reflects its generally rural nature. According to the state demographer, the incorporated towns in the county have an estimated 2018 population as follows:

- Siler City: 8534
- Pittsboro: 4,615
- Goldston: 274
- Cary: 2,832 (with a total population of 168,160 ; most of Cary's population is in Wake County)

Ethnic/Racial Diversity: Census QuickFacts estimates the 2017 overall racial/ethnic composition of Chatham County at 82.2% white, 12.7% African American, 12.3% Hispanic, and 2.2% Asian.

Fund Descriptions and Structure

The county's accounts are structured by fund. Each fund is a separate accounting entity with a separate set of self-balancing accounts reflecting assets, liabilities, fund balance, revenues and expenditures. Funds are created to capture the varied activities of the county and to comply with legal requirements.

Chatham County has four fund categories: governmental, proprietary, fiduciary, and capital projects. Governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary funds are appropriated annually and included in the approved budget. Capital project funds are multi-year and are not appropriated in or included in the annual operating budget. All funds, including capital projects, are included in the county's annual audited financial statements.

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds account for resources other than those accounted for in proprietary or agency funds. Most of Chatham County's functions are included in this fund type

In accordance with North Carolina General Statutes, governmental funds are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when measurable and available. Revenues are recognized when they are received in cash (example: licenses, fines, etc.) or when the collection of the amount is estimated to be received in the near future (example: property taxes). Expenditures are recognized when the goods and services are received or liabilities incurred. This type of accounting is considered the most conservative, because expenditures are recorded as soon as the liability is incurred and most revenues are not recorded until they are received in cash. The county's governmental funds include:

- **The General Fund** is the primary operating fund for the county. The General Fund accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund and includes typical governmental activities, such as human services, public safety, and education. Major revenues that support these functions include property tax and sales tax. The majority of departments are funded through the General Fund, with the exception of Utilities and Solid Waste, which are funded through the Utility and Solid Waste & Recycling proprietary funds.
- **Capital Improvement Project Reserve Fund:** The county transfers annually an amount equivalent to seven and seven tenths cents on the property tax rate into this fund. The transfer is

used to fund debt service for a variety of general capital projects, including a new high school, an elementary school, and a health sciences building.

- **Capital Reserve Fund:** The county uses this fund to set aside monies to fund general capital projects that are not funded through debt service, including school roof replacements, school HVAC replacements, school mobile classrooms, telephone system replacements, software system replacements, and renovations to existing County buildings.
- **Facilities Improvements and School Construction Funds** These funds account for the financing, acquisition and construction of County and School facilities, other than those financed by proprietary funds. Capital projects are not included in the annual operating budget.
- **Nonmajor Funds:** Nonmajor funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenues that are restricted for specific purposes or uses. The County maintains several legally budgeted nonmajor special revenue funds, including Emergency Telephone System, Forfeited Property, Recreation-Payment in Lieu, Impact Fees, Bynum Canoe Access/Easement Monitoring, Courthouse Clock, Library Foundation, and Special Fire Districts.

Proprietary Funds

These funds account for operations that are similar to the private sector, including enterprise, internal service, and capital reserve funds. Proprietary funds focus on the determination of operating income, changes in net position (or cost recovery), financial position, and cash flows. There are two types – enterprise and internal service.

Proprietary funds are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. This means revenues are recorded in the period in which they are earned or realized. Expenditures are generally recognized when goods or services are received or liabilities incurred. Enterprise funds are intended to be self-supporting through user-charges, and include:

- **Solid Waste & Recycling** accounts for the operations of the county's collection and disposal of solid waste.
- **Southeast Water District** accounts for the operations of the water district covering the southeastern portion of the county.
- **Utility Fund** accounts for the county's water and sewer operations.
- **Capital Reserve Funds** that support the enterprise funds include the Utility Capital Reserve, the Utility Vehicle Reserve, and the Waste Management Capital Reserve.
- **Utility & Solid Waste Capital Projects Funds** account for the acquisition and construction of capital financed by proprietary funds. Water and Solid Waste project funds are not included in the operating budget
- **Internal Service Fund** reports activities that provide goods or services to other funds, departments, or agencies of the primary government and its component units, or to other governments, on a cost-reimbursement basis. The county's budget includes one internal service fund, the Health Internal Service Fund. This fund tracks premiums paid by the county on behalf of its employees for health and dental insurance coverage. The fund also tracks health and dental premiums paid by employees for dependent coverage.
- **Agency funds** are custodial in nature and do not involve the measurement of operating results. Agency funds are used to account for assets the County holds on behalf of others. The County maintains several agency funds, including Social Services, Detention Center, Fines & Forfeitures, Cooperative Extension, Goldston-Gulf Sanitary District, and Municipalities. Agency funds are not included in the annual operating budget.

Financial Indicators

Benchmark counties were chosen because of proximity and similarity to Chatham. Figures below are for FY 2019-2020, unless otherwise noted

	Chatham	Lee	Moore	Orange
Budgeted Expenditures	\$125,251,224	\$77,170,272	\$114,071,611	\$237,121,872
State Rank	29	44	33	11
Non-school Expenditures	\$86,553,276	\$48,564,277	\$64,375,292	\$96,018,004
% Non-school Expenditures	69%	63%	56%	40%
Effective Tax Rate	\$0.6298	\$0.7559	\$0.5129	\$0.7891
State Rank	54	22	82	17
FY 2019 Population	75,994	61,690	101,180	147,093
State Rank	36	46	28	19
Budgeted Valuation/capita	\$151,933	\$93,103	\$136,007	\$128,582
State Rank	12	47	21	24
2018 Per Capita Income	\$63,041	\$40,098	\$51,307	\$67,385
State Rank	2	38	7	1
Total Current Expense Per Student (LEA)	\$3,057	\$1,917	\$2,413	\$4,499
State Rank	9	38	20	2
Number of Students (LEA)	8,938	9,868	12,882	19,743
State Rank	43	38	29	22

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s School of Government created a series of financial indicators that enable local governments to review and analyze their financial condition. Each indicator is graphed showing the trend over the past nine years.

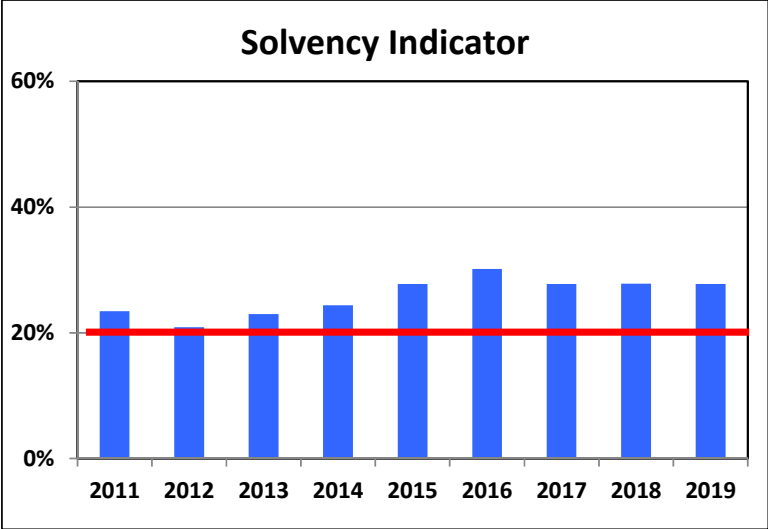
All of the indicators, except the Capital Assets Condition Indicator, are based on financial data from the General Fund. The Capital Assets Condition Indicator uses government-wide financial data which includes all governmental funds.

An analysis of Chatham County’s financial indicators shows that the county is in excellent financial condition. On the next page are the financial indicators that may provide background information about Chatham County’s financial condition:

Solvency

The Solvency Indicator measures a government’s ability to address long-term obligations. A high ratio suggests a government can meet its long-term obligations. The Solvency Indicator is calculated by dividing the available fund balance by total expenditures (less proceeds from capital leases) plus transfers out.

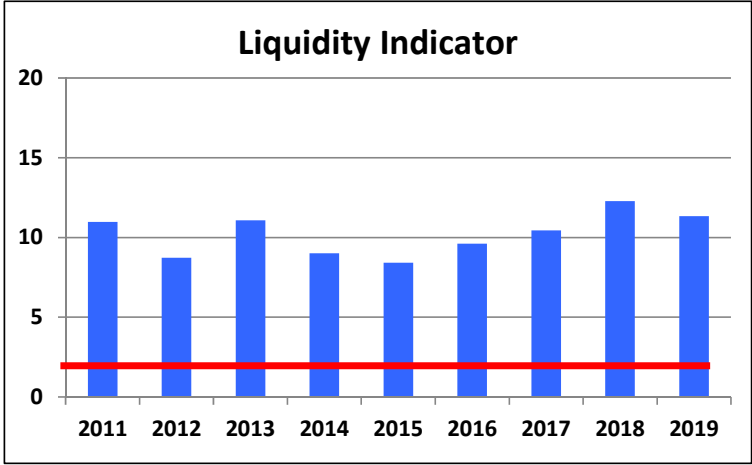
Chatham County’s solvency ratio is 27.8%, meaning the county has funds available for capital projects, such as one-time expenses and the capital improvements program. It also suggests that Chatham County is financially prepared in case of disaster. Chatham County has been able to save resources and keep expenditures low.



Liquidity

The Liquidity Indicator measures a government’s ability to meet its short-term obligations. The Liquidity Indicator is calculated as cash and investments divided by current liabilities (not including deferred revenue).

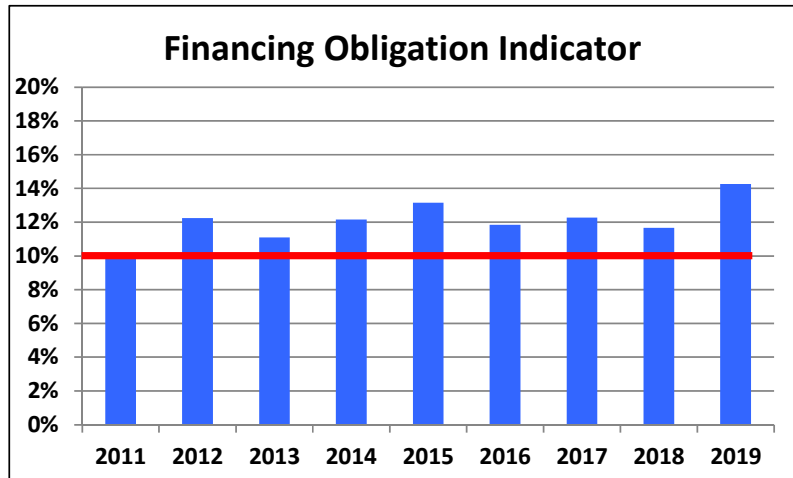
The School of Government recommends having a ratio of 2 or greater. Currently, Chatham County has a ratio of 10.44, meaning the county has cash available to meet its immediate cash needs.



Financing Obligation

The Financing Obligation Indicator provides feedback on the amount of expenditures committed to annual debt service. Service flexibility decreases as more resources are committed to annual debt service. The Financing Obligation is calculated by dividing the debt service principal and interest payment, including transfers to debt service fund, by total expenditures.

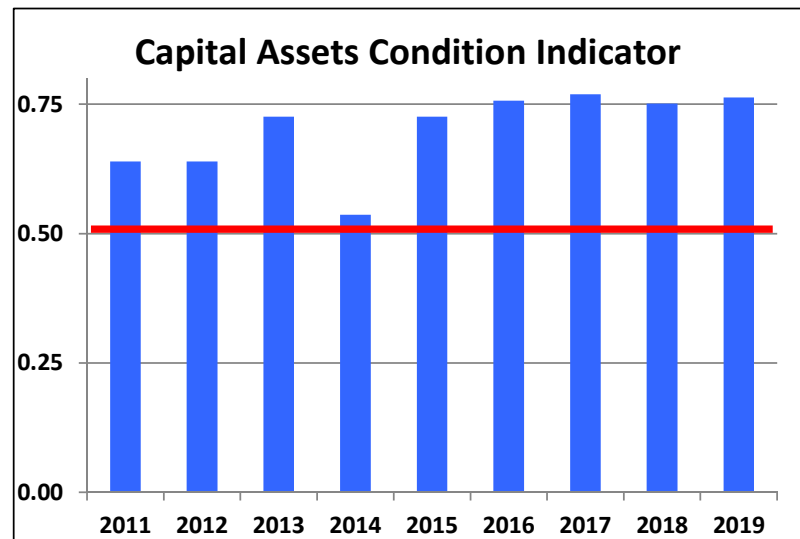
The School of Government recommends that this ratio should be no more than 10%. Chatham County's Financing Obligation Indicator is 10%. For another jurisdiction, this might mean that Chatham's debt is reaching the point where it impedes its ability to provide services. However, Chatham has set aside 7.7 cents on the tax rate in a reserve to pay for the majority of its debt service.



Capital Assets Condition Indicator

The Capital Assets Condition Indicator measures the condition of capital assets as defined by their remaining useful life. A high ratio suggests a government is investing in its capital assets. The Capital Assets Conditions Indicator is calculated as accumulated depreciation divided by capital assets being depreciated. This result is then subtracted from one.

The School of Government recommends maintaining a ratio of .5. Currently, Chatham County's Capital Assets Condition Indicator is .77, meaning Chatham County maintains and invests in capital, such as buildings and vehicles, appropriately. In the past, however, Chatham County did not achieve a .5 ratio. Recent capital expenditures reflect an effort to improve this ratio and invest in capital assets.



Employee Summary (Full-time Equivalents)

Personnel counts shown below are given in full-time equivalents (FTE) for all regular county employees (temporary positions are not included). The FTE converts the hours worked by a position into a percentage of a full year's number of hours. For most positions 1 FTE equals 2,080 hours per year per position (based on a 40-hour work week and a 52-week work year). If a position works 1,040 hours per year, this translates into .5 FTE.

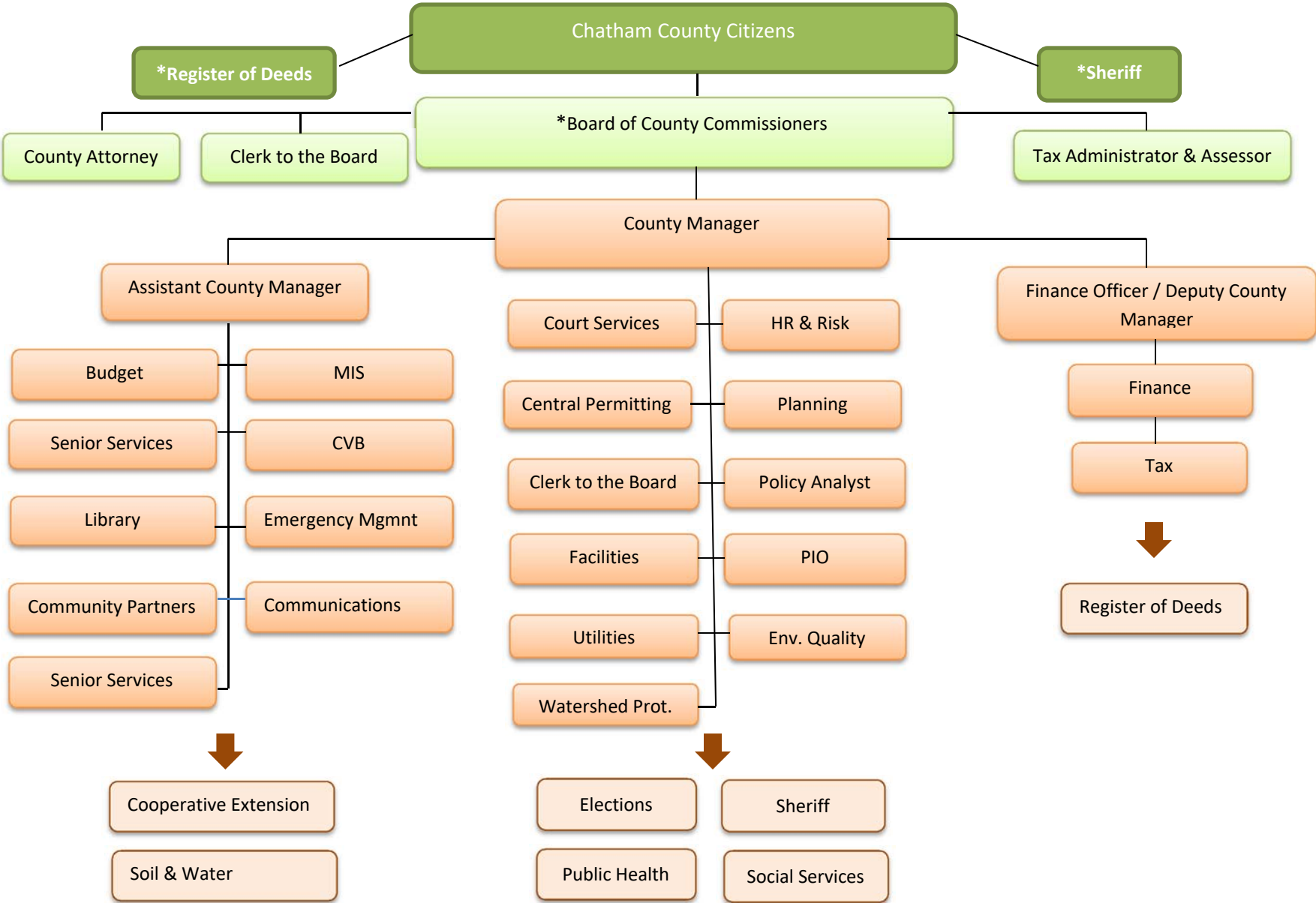
County Department	A	B	C	D	E	H	I	J
	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Amended	2020 Estimated	2021 Total Req.	2021 Total Appr.	Variance	Total % Inc./Dec.
Central Permitting - Administration	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	6.00	5.00	0	0%
Central Permitting - Building Inspections	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	11.00	9.00	0	0%
Central Permitting - Fire Inspections	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	0	0%
Council on Aging	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0	0%
County Attorney	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0	0%
County Manager	6.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.00	7.00	(0.50)	-7%
Human Resources CCA&CC	3.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	1	0%
Human Resources & Risk Mgmt	4.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.50	5.50	0.50	10%
Court Services - Victim Services	2.50	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	0	0%
Court Services - Family Visitation Center	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0	0%
Court Services	2.75	3.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	4.00	1	33%
Elections	2.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	0	0%
Emergency Operations	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	0	0%
Emergency Communications	22.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	25.00	24.00	0	0%
Facilities Management	19.00	19.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	0	0%
Finance Office	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	0	0%
Governing Board	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0	0%
Health Administration	4.00	4.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	1	25%
Health Clinic & Comm Health Service	33.35	33.85	33.85	33.45	33.45	33.45	(0.40)	-1%
Health Community & Family Health	8.75	8.75	8.75	8.75	7.75	7.75	(1)	-11%
Health Environmental Health	15.50	16.50	16.50	16.00	17.00	16.00	0	0%
Library Services	18.10	18.10	18.10	18.10	18.10	18.10	0	0%
Management Information Systems	14.00	15.00	15.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	(1)	0%
Parks and Recreation	6.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	10.00	8.00	0	0%
Pittsboro/SC Visitors Bureau	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0	0%
Planning	9.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0	0%
Register of Deeds	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	0	0%
Sheriff Animal Services	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	19.00	9.00	0	0%
Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement	103.60	103.45	108.00	108.00	115.00	108.00	0	0%
Sheriff's Office Detention Center	44.00	44.00	43.00	43.00	46.00	45.00	2	5%
Social Services	89.60	89.60	94.60	94.60	98.60	97.60	3	3%
Soil and Water	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	3.00	0	0%
Solid Waste & Recycling	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	0	0%
Tax Administration	11.00	11.00	10.00	10.00	11.00	10.00	0	0%
Tax Assessment & Revaluation	5.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	0	0%
Utility Distribution	16.00	17.00	18.00	18.00	19.00	18.00	0	0%
Utility Water Treatment	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	0	0%
Watershed Protection	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	6.00	4.00	0	0%
Total County Employees	521.15	534.25	542.80	542.90	578.90	547.90	5	1%

Explanation of changes in staffing levels:

- In FY 2020 an A/V technician was transferred from MIS to CCA&C.
- In FY 2020 Health Department made some transfers between divisions
- In FY 2021 a part-time Veterans Services Officer was transferred from County Manager to Human Resources
- In FY 2021 the number of county positions is increasing by 7 full-time equivalents:
 - 1 Substance Abuse Counselor is added to Court Services [+1.00]

- 2 Detention Officers are added to Sheriff Detention Center [+2.00]
- 2 SW III IA&T and 1 SW II positions are added to Department of Social Services [+3.00]

Chatham County Government Organizational Chart



**Denotes Position as Elected Official*

All Appropriated Funds

Budget Summary								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	2018	2019	2020	2020	2021	2021		Total %
	Actual	Actual	Amended	Estimated	Total Req.	Total Appr.	Variance	Inc./Dec.
Revenues								
Permits and Fees	(5,339,411)	(4,809,228)	(4,852,600)	(4,603,401)	(4,221,290)	(4,221,290)	631,310	(13%)
Intergovernmental	(10,951,160)	(13,096,358)	(11,465,009)	(11,490,443)	(10,990,134)	(10,818,469)	646,540	(6%)
Interest	(1,450,404)	(4,655,216)	(727,625)	(1,594,088)	(605,425)	(605,425)	122,200	(17%)
Contributions from others	(4,105,156)	(2,388,347)	(560,568)	(721,482)	(368,667)	(368,667)	191,901	(34%)
Miscellaneous	(579,912)	(518,142)	(384,368)	(448,246)	(296,950)	(296,950)	87,418	(23%)
Other Taxes/Licenses	(983,132)	(995,457)	(941,000)	(919,000)	(900,060)	(900,060)	40,940	(4%)
Property Tax	(76,305,713)	(80,009,134)	(87,232,395)	(77,679,036)	(90,483,659)	(90,434,475)	(3,202,080)	4%
Charges for Services	(20,938,140)	(22,266,657)	(21,297,736)	(22,229,145)	(20,509,483)	(21,785,910)	(488,174)	2%
Sales Tax	(13,859,606)	(14,707,546)	(14,788,500)	(14,788,500)	(15,756,611)	(15,756,611)	(968,111)	7%
Transfers In	(20,422,103)	(29,758,341)	(31,601,666)	(31,402,167)	(30,124,256)	(32,661,745)	(1,060,079)	3%
Appropriated Fund Balance	0	0	(24,660,893)	0	(19,320,022)	(25,915,743)	(1,254,850)	5%
Total Revenues	(154,934,736)	(173,204,424)	(198,512,360)	(165,875,507)	(193,576,557)	(203,765,345)	(5,252,985)	3%
Expenditures								
Salaries	23,573,721	24,829,875	27,521,580	25,803,124	29,129,300	27,664,070	142,490	1%
Benefits	15,665,458	17,318,517	19,322,426	17,827,719	20,632,302	20,255,358	932,932	5%
Operating	27,858,609	28,985,988	47,246,740	20,512,802	43,863,013	43,347,225	(3,899,515)	(8%)
Debt	12,953,332	16,440,332	16,669,187	16,470,363	18,519,673	18,519,673	1,850,486	11%
Transfers Out	28,179,388	31,025,099	41,556,878	33,460,864	42,712,069	44,056,005	2,499,127	6%
Allocations/Programs	41,138,792	41,999,426	47,476,823	46,088,323	48,801,368	48,461,917	985,094	2%
Capital Outlay	1,329,415	1,499,754	1,236,392	1,196,432	2,125,529	1,461,097	224,705	18%
Total Expenditures	150,698,715	162,098,991	201,030,026	161,359,628	205,783,253	203,765,345	2,735,319	1%