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DESOLO COUNTY, FLORIDA
COUNTY STATISTICS
POPULATION: 33,976
Area (Square Miles): 637.06
Established: 1887
County Seat: Arcadia
Median Household Income: $35,438
Districting:
  5 Districts At-Large

Source: The United States Census Bureau
Mandy Hines has worked for DeSoto County since 2003 and was appointed County Administrator by the Board of County Commissioners in August of 2014. As the County Administrator, she provides fiscal, strategic, and operational leadership to the organization, as well as, sound analysis and professional implementation of the Board’s policies. She holds a Master of Business Administration from the College of Business at Florida State University. She was recognized for leadership and service by the Small County Coalition in the summer of 2021 and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Florida Association of County Managers.

The 2021 annual report contains the great accomplishments and highlights of the County’s most recent fiscal year which began on October 1st of 2020 and ended on September 30th of 2021.

This past year has presented unprecedented challenges amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. So many of our residents and businesses suffered impacts, as did we as an organization. The loss of two County Commissioners and a 30-year employee this past year hit us especially hard, organizationally and emotionally. Despite the hardships and operational challenges, I am so proud of the accomplishments my colleagues and the staff made possible. This report is by no means a full accounting of all work performed, rather, it contains highlights and accomplishments of note. We shall continue to strive to provide the highest level of service and we are committed to continuous improvement. Thank you for taking the time to review the 2020-2021 Annual Report.

- Mandy Hines
County Administrator
MEET THE COMMISSIONERS

| JEROD GROSS  | DISTRICT 1 |
| JC DERISO, CHAIRMAN  | DISTRICT 2 |
| JUDY SCHAEFER  | DISTRICT 3 |
| ELTON LANGFORD  | DISTRICT 4 |
| ASHLEY COONE  | DISTRICT 5 |

Pictured from left to right: Florida Senator, Ben Albritton; State Representative, Kaylee Tuck; Commissioner, Ashley Coone; Commissioner, JC Deriso; County Administrator, Mandy Hines; Florida Governor, Ron DeSantis; Commissioner, Judy Schaefer; Commissioner, Jerod Gross; Commissioner, Elton Langford
IN MEMORIUM

Sincere appreciation of the dedication to public service exhibited each and every day. They live on through their acts of service and in our memories forever.

Commissioner Terry Hill

Commissioner Buddy Mansfield
WELCOMED COMMISSIONERS

Appointed by Governor Desantis

Commissioner Ashley Coone
Commissioner Jerod Gross
TOTAL COUNTY WIDE BUDGET: $109M: SOURCES OF FUNDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intergovernmental (State &amp; Federal Funds) Revenue</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISC Non-Operating Rev</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Sources</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licenses &amp; Permits</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges for Services</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNES, Forfeitures &amp; Misc Revenue</td>
<td>&gt; 1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL COUNTY WIDE BUDGET: $109M: USES OF FUNDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Government</td>
<td>40.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road &amp; Bridge</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental/Landfill/Collection</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID/CARES/ARPA</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term Debt</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2021 DESOTO COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT
### BUDGET BY FUND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>2020/21 Budget as Amended</th>
<th>2021/22 Requested Budget</th>
<th>% Increase or Decrease</th>
<th>$ Increase or Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>44,406,692</td>
<td>47,454,357</td>
<td>6.86%</td>
<td>3,047,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIHEAP Fund</td>
<td>338,960</td>
<td>275,000</td>
<td>-18.87%</td>
<td>(63,960)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Fund</td>
<td>6,412,541</td>
<td>6,446,796</td>
<td>0.53%</td>
<td>34,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Fund</td>
<td>865,161</td>
<td>961,470</td>
<td>11.13%</td>
<td>96,309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety Fund</td>
<td>7,149,120</td>
<td>6,921,288</td>
<td>-3.19%</td>
<td>(227,832)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Lighting Districts</td>
<td>63,017</td>
<td>65,642</td>
<td>4.17%</td>
<td>2,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curbside Collection</td>
<td>2,027,117</td>
<td>2,115,560</td>
<td>4.36%</td>
<td>88,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DART Fund</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-911 Fund</td>
<td>704,804</td>
<td>664,127</td>
<td>-5.77%</td>
<td>(40,677)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Management Fund</td>
<td>325,058</td>
<td>305,148</td>
<td>-6.13%</td>
<td>(19,910)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIP Fund</td>
<td>1,719,823</td>
<td>1,393,448</td>
<td>-18.98%</td>
<td>(326,375)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourist Development Fund</td>
<td>181,929</td>
<td>187,384</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
<td>5,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDBG Housing/REHAB</td>
<td>719,347</td>
<td>374,323</td>
<td>-47.96%</td>
<td>(345,024)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane Irma/Dorian</td>
<td>773,268</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-100.00%</td>
<td>(773,268)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 Fund</td>
<td>1,812,437</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-100.00%</td>
<td>(1,812,437)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cares Act Fund</td>
<td>4,128,192</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-100.00%</td>
<td>(4,128,192)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Rescue Plan Act</td>
<td>3,690,625</td>
<td>3,706,125</td>
<td>0.42%</td>
<td>15,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosquito Control Fund</td>
<td>78,403</td>
<td>51,200</td>
<td>-34.70%</td>
<td>(27,203)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article V Courts Fund</td>
<td>765,117</td>
<td>861,318</td>
<td>12.57%</td>
<td>96,201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term Debt Fund</td>
<td>4,702,811</td>
<td>1,986,569</td>
<td>-57.76%</td>
<td>(2,716,242)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landfill Reserve Fund (301)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Construction Fund</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Road Grant Projects Fund</td>
<td>5,826,425</td>
<td>4,977,260</td>
<td>-14.57%</td>
<td>(849,165)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Projects Fund</td>
<td>2,026,714</td>
<td>2,237,047</td>
<td>10.38%</td>
<td>210,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Services Fund</td>
<td>2,552,693</td>
<td>3,098,546</td>
<td>21.38%</td>
<td>545,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landfill Reserve Fund (401)</td>
<td>2,488,842</td>
<td>2,490,442</td>
<td>0.06%</td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landfill Capital Construction Fund</td>
<td>1,921,428</td>
<td>2,568,212</td>
<td>33.66%</td>
<td>646,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities Operations Fund</td>
<td>6,460,274</td>
<td>7,724,516</td>
<td>19.57%</td>
<td>1,264,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Water Fund</td>
<td>1,036,262</td>
<td>1,337,262</td>
<td>29.05%</td>
<td>301,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Waste Water Fund</td>
<td>4,398,264</td>
<td>3,651,802</td>
<td>-16.97%</td>
<td>(746,462)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement Trust Fund</td>
<td>215,113</td>
<td>215,713</td>
<td>0.28%</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigent Health Trust Fund</td>
<td>1,525,000</td>
<td>1,750,000</td>
<td>14.75%</td>
<td>225,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTALS**                               **109,315,437**     **103,820,555**     **-5.03%**     **(5,494,882)**

**As of September 30th (prior to auditor adjustments)**
END OF YEAR LONG-TERM DEBT SUMMARY

VALUES / MILLAGE RATES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Operating Taxable Value</th>
<th>Millage Rate</th>
<th>Generated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,939,797,899</td>
<td>8.5060</td>
<td>$16,499,921</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Law Enf. MSTU Taxable Value   | 2.4399      | $4,247,336 |

LOAN RE-CAP AS OF: 10/1/2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interest Rate</th>
<th>Loan Description</th>
<th>Original Loan Amount</th>
<th>Current Balance</th>
<th>Maturity Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.15%</td>
<td>2012 Series Pari-Mutual Refunding Note-Hancock Bank</td>
<td>$2,280,000.00</td>
<td>$374,000.00</td>
<td>10/1/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.80%</td>
<td>2010 Series Capital Improvement Ref Rev Note-JP Morgan Chase</td>
<td>$15,450,000.00</td>
<td>$3,170,000.00</td>
<td>10/1/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.09%</td>
<td>Florida Power &amp; Light Loan #1 - Crews Trust</td>
<td>$906,760.11</td>
<td>(0.00)</td>
<td>11/23/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PAID OFF 5/12/2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.25%</td>
<td>Florida Power &amp; Light Loan #2 - Crews Trust (Int Only)</td>
<td>$919,857.11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11/23/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PAID OFF 5/12/2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.90%</td>
<td>Fire Station Loan - Crews Trust</td>
<td>$1,100,000.00</td>
<td>(0.00)</td>
<td>12/1/2026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PAID OFF 5/12/2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.29%</td>
<td>SRF 63904S Revolving Fund Loan-Wells Fargo Bank</td>
<td>$2,900,527.55</td>
<td>$1,572,197.30</td>
<td>1/15/2035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.69%</td>
<td>SRF DW140230 - FL DEP</td>
<td>$580,096.36</td>
<td>$277,748.18</td>
<td>9/15/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.80%</td>
<td>2018 Series Refunding Revenue Bond - Seacoast Bank</td>
<td>$7,080,000.00</td>
<td>$6,317,803.63</td>
<td>6/1/2038</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Outstanding Debt: $11,711,749.11

Remainining Long-Term Debt Descriptions
(In order presented above)

Hancock Bank Loan:
Consolidated refinancing of 2006-07 debt consisting of Hurricane Charley loan, Fire Truck, Ladder Truck and Solid Waste loans.

Cap. Improvement/JP Morgan Chase
20 year road paving bond, Annual payment funded with fuel tax transportation revenues.

SRF 63904S/Wells Fargo:
DEP State Revolving Loan Fund - U.S. 17 Utility wastewater line extension.

SRF DW140230/FDEP:
DEP State Revolving Loan Fund - U.S. 17 Utility water line extension *low balance in comparison to wastewater loan due to 1.2M in loan forgiveness.

2018 Series Refunding/Seacoast:
Debt associated with initial construction of water and wastewater utility lines. This debt was refinanced this FY, saving 1.2M over life of the loan.

3 Loans Paid off Early
$1.2M Saved through debt refinancing activity

F/T POSITIONS FUNDED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>186</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constiutional Offices</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>351</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9 | 2021 DESOTO COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT
24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week

The men and women that serve in the Public Safety Department provide the most fundamental and critical service. This past year, our brave PSD employees did not hesitate to serve as the COVID-19 Pandemic remained prevalent. Paramedics/Firefighters are in high demand, difficult to recruit, and often challenging to retain. They are the only staff members who are frequently required to work mandatory overtime due to staff shortages. Recruitment and Retention remain a challenge we continue to work to mitigate.

9/11 REMEMBERANCE CEREMONY

On the 20th Anniversary of this tragedy the DeSoto County Fire Rescue, Desoto County Sherriff’s Office, Arcadia Police Department, American Legion Honor Guard Post #11, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #2824, and the patrons of DeSoto County gathered in remembrance of the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

EMS RESPONSES:
Rescue, EMS incidents, medical assists, EMS crew assists, emergency medical services, or EMS calls

Motor Vehicle RESPONSES:
Motor vehicle accidents with or without injuries and vehicle/pedestrian accidents

Fires Extinguished

Trash Fires - outside rubbish, trash, waste, dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fires

Outdoor Fires - natural vegetation, forest, woods or wildland, brush, grass or brush-and-grass fires

241

465

4,015
### PUBLIC SAFETY

**5,372 hours of practical training**

**1,224 hours of medical training**

**960 hours of medical training with Dr. O’Leary**

**180 hours of safety committee training**

**500 hours of paramedic credentialing**

**Additional Training:**
- 500 hours for All Officers Meetings
- 96 hours of Volunteer meetings and training
- 32 hours of Fire Tower Training in Charlotte County

**219 hours for Peer Driven Quality Insurance (PDQI)**

**136 hours of COVID testing for the public**

**44 hours of walkthroughs at FPL Solar Field, Walmart Distribution Center, and Peace River Citrus**

**New Support Team for the Public Safety Department**
# Infrastructure

## Road & Bridge Department

### Service & Maintenance:

- **Ditch Cleaning Service Requests**: 31
- **Tree Trimming Service Requests**: 57
- **Miles of County-Maintained Roadway**: 362
- **Total Service Requests**: 764
- **Total Miles of Road Maintenance and Mowing**: 2905

### Culvert Installation:

- **Linear feet of pipe used for cross drain and driveway replacements**: 3,490
- **Tons of dirt used for culvert replacement**: 377
- **Tons of millings for culvert replacements**: 190
- **Tons of shell used for culvert replacements**: 371
820 Cubic yards of trash and 40 cubic yards of tires were picked up from county roadways prior to mowing.

**$860K IN PAVING COMPLETED**

**PAVING PROJECTS:**

- **NW GIRL SCOUT ROAD**
  - $672,427.73

- **SE DURANCE STREET**
  - $108,749.04
  - 1.05 miles

- **NE NAT AVENUE**
  - $39,663.77
  - 0.20 miles

- **SE HARGRAVE STREET**
  - $70,081.20
  - 0.39 miles
Connected 90 new customers to a safe, reliable water source.

Started a major wastewater treatment plant rehabilitation project. The project will allow the plant to be re-rated to accept up to 950K gallons per day. The project will also provide for a stand-alone headwork platform for future expansion.

Renewed the operating permit for an additional 5 years.

Completed expansion of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Capabilities at DCI Water Plants and the WWTP for improved remote access, monitoring & operational efficiency.

Began work toward a Wastewater Facilities Plan which will serve as a road map for future expansion.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **System Changes by Category**
  - Plant Rehabilitation $1,091,251.68
  - Improved reliability $4,180
  - Improved efficiency $15,939
  - Improved Flow Accuracy $2,016
  - System longevity $38,905
  - Guidenail replacement $5,187
  - New piping for reliability $11,498
  - Improved system maintenance $57,791
  - New blower for efficiency $8,961
  - New equipment for lift stations for improved operations during emergencies $47,501
  - Expansion $18,261.23

**DESO TO COUNTY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

750,000 MILLION GALLONS PER DAY CAPACITY

$1,301,490 TOTAL SYSTEM INVESTMENT
I am very pleased with the friendly service of Miss Moneisha.

Doris Schroeder

DESO TO COUNTY WATER UTILITY

93M
GALLONS OF WATER SOLD
Amount sold to direct customers 93,233,000 gallons total for the year (7,769,417 average gallons per month)

54M
GALLONS OF WATER DELIVERED THROUGH INTERCONNECT
Amount sold to City of Arcadia - 54,147,000 gallons total for the year (4,512,250 average gallons per month)

Number of Current Customers
- Residential - 826
- Commercial - 150
- Institutions - 2
- New Connections - 103

Water Source: Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority

The County is a member government of the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority which is governed by a Board of Directors and is comprised of DeSoto, Charlotte, Sarasota, and Manatee Counties. The County water utility gets all of its water from the Authority, with the exception of the water wells that serve the state prison property.

Commissioner Elton Langford serves on the Authority Board; Commissioner J.C. Deriso serves as an alternate to the Board seat.
A portion of Hillsborough Avenue experienced extreme levels of erosion from Hurricane Irma. The erosion caused significant undermining of the existing sidewalk rendering the sidewalk a hazard to public safety. The erosion also exposed a water main adjacent to the sidewalk. Later DeSoto County Road and Bridge Department removed the damaged sidewalk within these limits for public safety. A product design of a flexible concrete mat for steep slope stabilization was applied to the eroded area. The project also included sod restoration and a sidewalk area constructed in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The cost of the project was $128,775.39.
$1.4M
SE Reynolds Street Bridge Project funded by Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) grant by FDOT

Above: Reynold’s Bridge project during construction when the contractors did the concrete deck pour at night

ANNUAL STRIPING PROJECT
For the Annual Striping Project, the Engineering Division found a striping contractor to repaint the lines and symbols on CR 769 (Kings Highway) from the Charlotte County line to SR 72. The work was completed in September 2021. All striping was thermoplastic and the reflective pavement markers (RPMs) were replaced throughout the roadway. The project also included new paint striping on SW Kingsway Circle and SW Egret Circle. The total contract amount was $95,123.48.

6  
Culvert replacements in Pembroke Cir. and restoration

122  
Issued Right-of-Way Permits

16  
Restored culvert crossings with hot asphalt

I expected to wait for an answer to my question. I am very impressed and pleased that Mike Giardullo, P.E., got back to me within minutes!!! Wow, it only takes a little effort to give good customer service. Thank you, Mike!

Sue Paquin
GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

2,006 TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED
1,144 BUILDING PERMITS (RESIDENTS)
336 MECHANICAL PERMITS
6,554 INSPECTIONS
63 CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCIES ISSUED
333 RESEARCH REQUESTS

32 Subdivision Plats (Lot Splits)
158 Projects Completed
523 Zoning Applications
**GO REQUESTS**

Residents can easily submit an issue on the go. A picture is worth a thousand words. With GORequest Mobile, a photo and GPS coordinates allow DeSoto County to efficiently find and fix issues. Around-the-clock service reporting through any smartphone, website, email, and landline.

- **12%** of code enforcement requests were reported through the app
- **33%** of code enforcement requests were reported through the website
- **76%** of code enforcement requests were reported by phone call

DeSoto County BOCC is the best one I have ever dealt with. All the girls have given me exceptional service and the field inspectors are really easy to deal with. I wish all municipalities were as easy to deal with!!!!

Jeff Angus, Project Manager, White Aluminum & Windows
TOURISM REVENUES

$69K
FY2019-20 $69,444
Revenues

$84K
FY2020-21 $84,008
Revenues

DeSoto County gets a map re-design!

A FRESH LOOK!

Partnered with Visit Sarasota to create a regional Farm Guide that promotes our agricultural events and markets.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

BROADBAND INITIATIVE

Broadband is generally defined as the transmission of information by various technologies and frequencies that enable multiple messages to be communicated simultaneously. DeSoto County wants to see improved high-speed connectivity for internet users in the governmental, educational, health care, commercial, and residential sectors. Thus, we engaged Precision Contracting Services (PCS) to conduct a Broadband Feasibility Study to analyze and map the current infrastructure. The research considered a wide array of capabilities and existing services provided by several companies that utilize various technologies. PCS also gathered information and evaluated the high-speed needs of the internet users in DeSoto County. Using this study as a starting point, we will identify funding sources and create a plan to help grow the high-speed internet service throughout the county. This is a long-term project that will take place over several phases.

DeSoto County was featured in Business View Magazine’s September Issue. The article focused on the many assets DeSoto offers to the business community and our ideal location in the “middle of everywhere.” The writer highlighted the many plans for new residential communities as well as the number of new business applications. Photos and descriptions of our wonderful tourist attractions helped provide a well-rounded impression of our community.
PUBLIC LIBRARY
The DeSoto County Public Library serves the informational and leisure reading needs of residents and visitors to our community.

10.5K QUESTIONS ASKED BY PATRONS (MOST WERE ANSWERED)

16K COPIES MADE FOR PATRONS

24/7 WI-FI

4.8K COMPUTER SESSIONS

3,284 children attended the library
Children had the opportunity to enjoy 362 activities presented virtually, in person, and/or as take-home kits.

29,750 active patrons & 40,242 visits by patrons and guests in DeSoto County

There are 580,751 items held within 7 libraries of the Heartland Library Cooperative.
Seven locations in 5 counties serve our cooperative. Reciprocal borrowing is possible from most of the Southwest Florida public libraries.
The DeSoto County Environmental Services Division held a household hazardous waste collection day. **MARCH 27th, 2021**

**HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY**

The DeSoto County Environmental Services Division held a household hazardous waste collection day. **MARCH 27th, 2021**

**2021 TIRE AMNESTY EVENT**

DeSoto County had **185 customers** dispose of tires at no cost to the customer between 1/29/21 - 2/6/21 for a total of **53.57 tons** of tire waste.

**YARD DEBRIS & METAL RECYCLABLES**

- **243** TONS of white goods RECYCLED
- **1,909** TONS of yard debris RECYCLED

**WHITE GOODS** are picked up on the **FIRST & THIRD WEDNESDAY** of each month. Pick-up is by appointment only and consists of washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, stoves, dishwashers, and water heaters.

**YARD TRASH** such as tree and shrub trimmings, palm fronds, grass clippings, and small tree branches are picked up by Womack Sanitation once a month on a **WEDNESDAY**.

**MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE**

- **26,264** TONS OF SOLID WASTE

The total landfill area is approximately twenty acres and consists of four-lined cells. There is an on-site waste tire facility, yard trash area, white goods area, scrap metal area, recycling trailers, and the County’s household hazardous waste facility.

**WASTE PICKED UP BY ROAD & BRIDGE DEPT.**

- 101.9 tons of mixed material
- 4.17 tons of tire waste
- 113.83 tons of yard debris
BREW PARK
BALLFIELD USAGE

For 6 months of the year an
average of 15 teams
(approximately 12 kids per team)
use the ballfields in the Fall and
Spring. These teams use five
fields, four nights per week. The
park services approximately 200
youth playing baseball and
accommodates their families on
game nights.

PARK
IMPROVEMENTS

- upgraded the
  water/aeration system at
  Brownville Park ($7,000)
to increase capacity for the
campsites and bathrooms
- new irrigation system at
  Brewer Park
- upgraded backwash
  controller ($1,000) and
  portable air compressor
  at Brewer Park
- repaired termite damage
  in the pavilion at Kings
  Park
- completed standard
  repairs to the wooden
dock at Liverpool Park

45

Pavilion rentals:
Morgan Park and Kings Park
pavilions were the busiest
and Brewer Park’s large
pavilion was a little less

1,422

Overnight camping:
Rentals at Brownville
Park are usually for 2-3
nights and primarily
rented for the weekend.
DeSoto County’s Parks and Recreation Department is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of the citizens we serve, by providing innovative and progressive recreational parks, programming and facilities, while preserving and protecting our cultural and natural resources.

$1.5M
COMING IN 2022:
NEW BOAT RAMP
DESO TO VETERANS’ MEMORIAL PARK

Desoto Veterans’ Memorial Park will gain a new $1.5 million double boat ramp, with an attached floating dock, retaining walls, large parking lot, 3 storm-water areas/ponds, and sidewalk area that will all be handicap accessible. The new boat ramp is located to the east end of the park. Construction will occur in 2022-23 fiscal year.

$42K
Brownville Park Camping Revenue $42,665

$10K
Brownville Park Daily Parking Revenue $10,225

$65K
Liverpool Park Boat Ramp Grant $65,000

Six Abandoned Vessels Removed From DeSoto County’s Peace River

DeSoto County BOCC has received five derelict vessel removal grants over the past two years for a total of $37,300. County Administration has additional grant agreements and is in the process of removing more derelict vessels as they are identified.
The Florida Housing Finance Corporation administers the SHIP program, which provides funds to local governments as an incentive to create partnerships that produce and preserve affordable housing through homeownership and limited rental housing. The program was designed to serve very low, low and moderate income families.

**LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)**

Florida’s Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides grants to local governments and non-profit agencies to assist eligible low-income Florida households in meeting the costs of home heating and cooling. The majority of the funds are used for utility payment assistance.

LIHEAP’s purpose is to assist low-income households with home heating and cooling costs. The program can assist customers in paying their home energy expenses. There are three categories: Home Energy, Crisis, and Weather-related Emergency Assistance.

**$268K** LIHEAP Dollars spent to assist residents in DeSoto County - $268,728.09

**STATE HOUSING INITIATIVES PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (SHIP)**

Indigent Burials Florida law states that all counties are charged with the burial of unclaimed or indigent bodies at the county’s expense. The law was enacted to ensure that unclaimed or indigent bodies are properly disposed of for public health purposes.

**$15K** Indigent Burials

**23** Number of indigent burials paid this year

**337** Clients received Home Energy Assistance

**319** Clients received Crisis Energy Assistance

**STATE HOUSING INITIATIVES PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (SHIP)**

The Florida Housing Finance Corporation administers the SHIP program, which provides funds to local governments as an incentive to create partnerships that produce and preserve affordable housing through homeownership and limited rental housing. The program was designed to serve very low, low and moderate income families.

**COMMUNITY**
$315K of a $750K Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Expended

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program provides annual grants on a formula basis to states, cities, and counties to develop viable communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

Housing Assistance

14 Homes Replaced
7 Homes Rehabilitated
4 Families Received Down Payment Assistance to Buy a Home
1 Family Assisted in Getting into a Home to Rent

$386,834
$259,965
$70,000
$1,500

Health Care Responsibility Act (HCRA)

To assure that adequate and affordable health care is available to all Floridians. HCRA places the ultimate financial obligation for a qualified indigent's out of county emergency care at a participating HCRA hospital on the county in which the qualified indigent patient resides. DeSoto served 2 clients.
The Turner Center was the logical choice when it came to locating COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination administration during much of the year. The County, the Health Department, Public Safety and the Hospital all coordinated efforts when it came to testing and vaccinating. Due to the pandemic, the Turner Center was limited in its normal operations for much of the year.

My wife and I received our second shots on February 18 at Turner Center. I would like you to know and pass on to all involved that everyone did an excellent job. Of course, scheduling the initial appointment was difficult, but everyone we encountered on the phone and at the Turner Center was kind, helpful, professional, and performed their duties well. Thank you for a job well done under difficult circumstances.

Craig McEwan | February 20, 2021

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS:
• Main Arena and dressing rooms repainted.
• The parking lot was repaved and striped.
The DeSoto County Department of Emergency Management promotes a culture of preparedness and resilience through partnerships and education within our community before, during, and after an emergency. The department is partially funded by an Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance (EMPA) Grant of $105,806 and an Emergency Management Performance Grant for (EMPG) $57,666.

10,302

COVID-19 VACCINES
Vaccines given at the Turner Center in partnership with the Florida Department of Health in DeSoto.

5,396

COVID-19 TESTING
Total number of tests from October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2021.

COVID-19 TESTING KIOSKS
AVAILABLE IN DESOTO COUNTY

477 TESTS - TURNER CENTER
The original testing site was located at the Turner Agri Civic Center on 3/16/21 and continued testing through 5/21/21. The site was relocated to the Desoto County Library.

223 TESTS - DESOTO VILLAGE
A testing site was created at Desoto Village on 4/5/21 and was relocated to St. Edmund’s Church on 5/17/21 through 8/16/21.

178 TESTS - LA PLACITA
The testing site was available every Tuesday at La Placita from 4/6/21 through 8/3/21.

518 TESTS - OTHER KIOSKS
- Arcadia Village
- Big Tree
- Exxon Mobile
- House of God Church
- St Paul’s Catholic Church
- Oakview Estates
- Sorrells Croves
The Extension office is a partnership between state, federal, and county governments to provide scientific knowledge and expertise to the public. The University of Florida (UF), together with Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU), administers the Florida Cooperative Extension Service.

FDACS Pesticide Tests administered in the following subject areas:
- Core/General Standards
- Ag Row Crop Pest Control
- Aquatic Pest Control
- Natural Area Weed Management
- Right-of-way Pest Control
- Ornamental & Turf Pest Control
- Private Applicator Ag Pest Control
- Termite Control

ADMINISTRATIVE PESTICIDE TESTING
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Youth were reached through Special Interest/Short Term (SPIN) Programs

Youth were reached through 4-H School Enrichment Programs: Embryology and Ag Literacy Day

Two youth served on the State 4-H Executive Board and Planning Committees & one youth served as a District X 4-H Officer

20 Youth Submitted Project Record Books and were recognized at the 4-H Awards Ceremony

4-H Project Areas:
- Beef & Dairy Cattle
- Goat
- Poultry (chickens)
- Rabbit
- Swine (pigs)
- Citizenship & Community Service
- Clothing and Sewing
- Environmental Science
- Outdoor Education
- Food & Nutrition
- Leadership Development
- Gardening and Plants

70 Youth

175 Youth

10 Volunteer 4-H Leaders

Youth participated in 4-H County Events in the following areas:
- Public Speaking
- Demonstrations
- Illustrated Talks
- Photography Exhibits

11 Youth

4-H Community Clubs

7
757 Number of Participants in the Family Nutrition Program

FAMILY NUTRITION PROGRAM

Classes were taught in DeSoto County through the following partners:

DeSoto Senior Friendship Center, Imagination Station Learning Center, Casa San Juan Bosco Community Center, DeSoto Boys and Girls Club, RCMA Nocatee DeSoto County UF/IFAS Extension 4-H, Memorial Elementary School, Step Up Suncoast

MULTI-COUNTY CITRUS

45 GROUP LEARNING PARTICIPANTS

@ 403 EMAILS

240 CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEUS) AWARDED

262 PHONE CALLS
Desoto County Animal Services is dedicated to enlisting and employing dedicated animal care personnel. Animal Services and complaint calls for domestic canine, feline, and fowl for both the city of Arcadia and Desoto county encompass response to strays, unwanted pets, nuisance domestic animals, neglect/abuse investigations, animals at large, and sick/injured animals. Adoptions of domestic pets and coordination with pet rescues serve to place these pets into safe, lasting homes.

**MOSQUITO CONTROL**

Completes approximately 1,365 spray miles using about 397 gallons of Biomist and distributed approximately 45 pounds of larvicide products to the community.

**ANIMAL CONTROL**

- **157** Pets Reunited with Families
- **823** Animals Placed with Rescue Organizations
- **67** Animals found homes through Adoption
- **1,381** Impounds FY2021-21

**VETERANS SERVICES**

- **$142K** $142,042 of benefits
- **2,091** Number of Veterans in DeSoto County
- **96** Veterans received services

**TYPES OF ASSISTANCE**

- PENSION
- AID AND ATTENDANCE
- BURIAL BENEFITS
- COMPENSATION
- VA HEALTHCARE

- Outreach/ Home Visits

**VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING**

- ANNUAL COUNTY VETERANS OFFICER ASSOCIATION
- PENSION
- SUICIDE TRAINING
- BYSTANDER INTERVENTION
- DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH QUARTERLY TRAINING

**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

The Veteran Services Officer supports the AmVets’ local school supply drive in August and provides quarterly briefings to new frontline workers at DeSoto Memorial Hospital.
The Emergency Management team has displayed exceptional and exemplary leadership skills throughout the pandemic. Their dedication and concern were a beacon of light throughout the community. They coordinated with our community partners, thus organizing a very successful vaccine rollout for the citizens of DeSoto County and surrounding counties. There was no playbook that arrived with the pandemic, however, the Emergency Management team did not let that stop them. Their dedication, dependability, and ability to adapt to highly stressful situations in a tactful and calm manner serve as a model to others.

DeSoto County renewed medical, dental, vision, and life insurance lines of coverage with a flat rate for the 3rd year in a row.

The Facilities Department is responsible for maintaining more than twenty buildings throughout the County including pest control management, lawn maintenance, janitorial services, HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning), plumbing, electrical, painting, fire alarms, automatic doors, elevators, generators, security systems, emergencies, and routine maintenance. The Department also manages renovations, building upgrades, office space planning, and designs in-house.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FACILITIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>total corrective maintenance activities completed</td>
<td>657</td>
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<tr>
<td>total planned maintenance performed</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total number of Work Orders received</td>
<td>951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inventory requests processed</td>
<td>672</td>
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</table>
OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE AWARD

"James “Jim” Whidden is an exceptional employee for the Utilities Department. He began as a Field Service Technician and was promptly promoted to Utilities System Technician. He works very well with staff, vendors, and contractors, as well as delivers exceptional service to customers. He is invaluable and a key component in making the department better. His attendance, work ethic, and overall positive attitude is inspiring."

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE AWARD

"Jeannine Tatum exemplifies an outstanding employee. She achieves excellence with organizational skills and an awareness of all that is going on in the water and wastewater department. She has gone to a major water line break-repair site to assist residents. She is extremely knowledgeable regarding all aspects of the department and strives to run the office with high standards."

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE AWARD

"Laura McClelland has been a member of the Development Department since December 2019. Laura assists in any division of the department, learning the varied processes and programs. She has gone above and beyond to assist developers with applications and required submittals. She ensures that pending projects continue to move forward. Her commitment to customer service is reflected by the number of positive feedbacks that are received."

Longevity Awards

10 years: Wayne Markey
10 years: Timothy Hipp
10 years: Timothy Alley
10 years: Oby Baucom III

15 years: William Gallagher
15 years: James Huckaby
15 years: Cindy Talamantez

20 years: Timothy Alley
20 years: Henry Martinez

30 years: Timothy Alley
30 years: Henry Martinez
The Purchasing Division provides a unified purchasing system that ensures integrity and fairness, with centralized responsibility for oversight of solicitation, vendor selection, negotiation, award, contract management, reporting, disposal of surplus property, and support for all departments.

**PURCHASING**

**Formal Solicitations:**
- 22 Invitation to Bid (ITB)
  - 3 Commodities
  - 6 Contracted Services
  - 11 Construction Contracts
  - 2 Land Leases
- 4 Request for Proposals
  - 2 Professional Services
  - 2 Contracted Services
- 1 Request for Qualifications
  - 1 Professional Service

**NEW CAPITAL ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Number Acquired</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc Equip</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furnitures/Fixtures</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Equipment</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tent/Canopy</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology &amp; Communications</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trailers, Vehicles, Heavy Equip</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SURPLUS OF FIXED ASSETS**

- Revenue generated: $23,700
- Surplus Items: 106

**HIGHLIGHTS**

The Purchasing Department assisted in the acquisition and planning of the Administration building remodel project along with building security measure projects. Planned and organized the first annual cybersecurity training event for 105 employees. Updated vehicle inventory and classification to launch Samsara for vehicle GPS tracking of 118 light-duty vehicles and 20 heavy-duty/equipment assets. Planned and launched Request for Proposal (RFQ) and contract negotiations to onboard IT Services as a fully managed service. Participated and worked toward compliance with IT audit findings. Coordinated and worked on a county Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). Retained a company to perform a network vulnerability test and participate in an after-action report.
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
The IT Department services the county by providing a stable and efficient technological environment and maintaining information processing for the various county departments and agencies.

ADMINISTRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CARES Act Awarded</th>
<th>American Rescue Plan Act Awarded $7.3M</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$6.6M</td>
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<th>194</th>
<th>28</th>
<th>325</th>
<th>196</th>
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<td>Public Record</td>
<td>BOCC Meetings</td>
<td>Agenda Items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requests processed</td>
<td>held</td>
<td>processed</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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</table>

I am so beyond grateful for all the help from the staff in Desoto County to help in my time of need. I have never been in such a position to need local help from an agency. I am so glad that there is this program in the area. The year of Corona has affected many and I thank you all so much for the help. My children and myself are forever grateful.

Ebony Dilmore

LEGAL DIVISION
The County Attorney is selected by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), reports to the Board, and is primarily responsible for providing legal advice and representation to the BOCC, the County Administrator and County Departments. The County Attorney provides legal advice concerning compliance with state and federal law in all aspects of County government.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>109</th>
<th>202</th>
<th>198</th>
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<tr>
<td>SPECIAL MASTER</td>
<td>LEGAL REQUESTS</td>
<td>AGENDA ITEMS</td>
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<td>CASES PRESENTED</td>
<td>REVIEWED, RESEARCHED,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AND RESPONDED TO</td>
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</table>

Ebony Dilmore