

An aerial photograph of a river winding through a dense forest. The trees are in various stages of autumn, with some showing vibrant yellow and orange, while others remain green. The river is dark and reflects the surrounding landscape. On the left side, there are large, layered rock formations. The overall scene is serene and natural.

# Town Hall Meeting

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December 28, 2021

# Welcome

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# Disclaimer

Let me begin by saying, I am only one commissioner, and my opinion may or may not always be shared by my fellow commissioners.



# Commission Meetings

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- The Habersham Board of Commissioners meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room on the first floor of the courthouse in Clarkesville.
- Special meetings are called when necessary.
- Meeting announcements, agendas, and information is kept up to date on this website.
- The public is invited to attend all Commission Meetings.



# Public Safety

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- Fire
- EMS
- Animal Control
- Central Communications
- Law Enforcement
- Fire Station/Administration
- Communications Center/EOC
- Animal Shelter
- Emergency Radio System
- Detention Center



# Habersham County Emergency Services

- Station 8 – Batesville
  - Not Staffed
- Built as a Volunteer Station



A photograph of a large, modern emergency services station with a dark metal roof and grey siding. Several large bay doors are open, revealing fire trucks and ambulances parked inside. A dark SUV is parked in the foreground on the left. The background shows green trees under a clear sky.

# Habersham County Emergency Services

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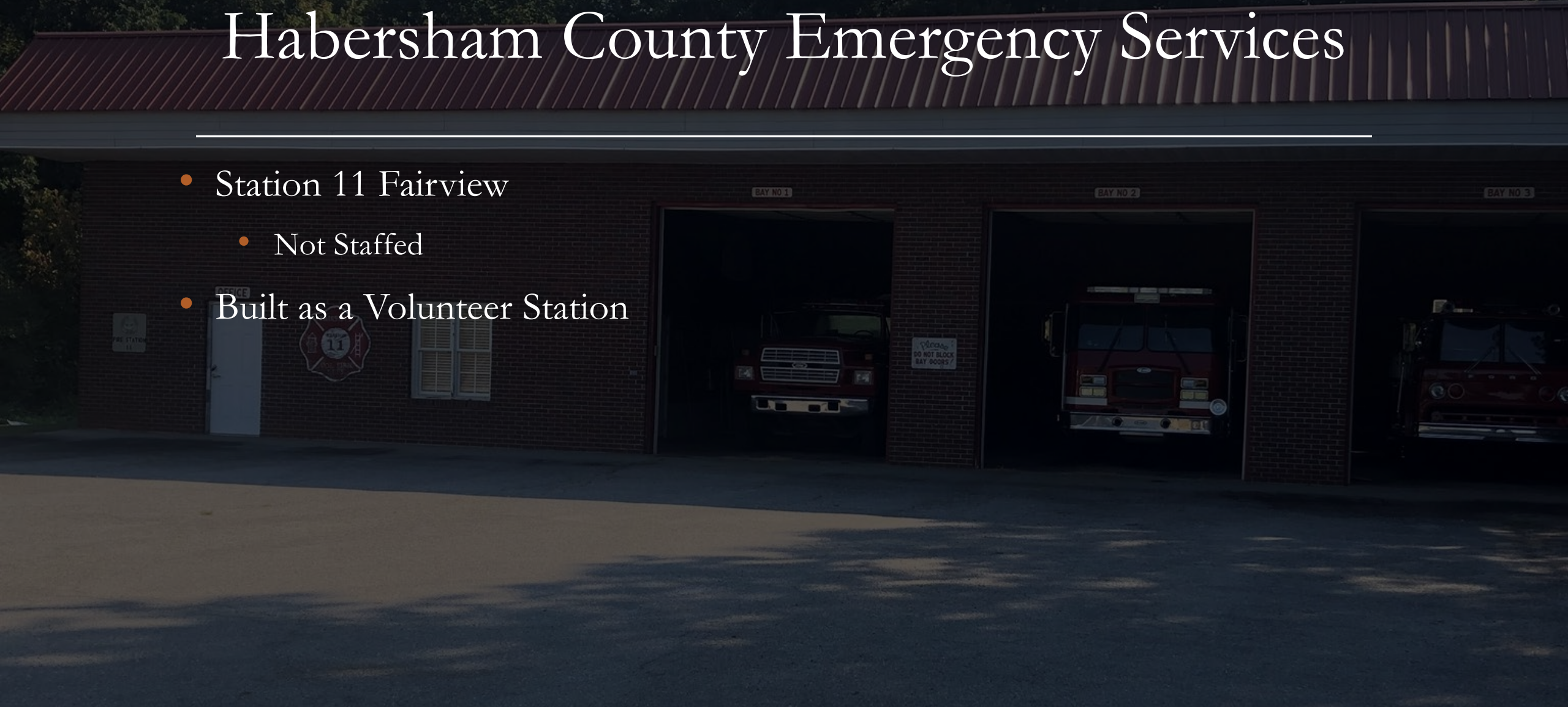
- Station 9 – Hollywood
  - 1 Fire Engine +1
  - 2 Ambulance
  - Ladder +2
- Currently Serves as Emergency Services Headquarters



# Habersham County Emergency Services

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- Station 11 Fairview
  - Not Staffed
- Built as a Volunteer Station





# Habersham County Emergency Services

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- Station 12 View
  - 2 Fire Engine
  - 2 Ambulance
- Built as a Volunteer Station





# Habersham County Emergency Services

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- Station 13 Habersham Mills
  - 1 Fire Engine +1
  - 1 Battalion Chief
- Built as a Volunteer Station

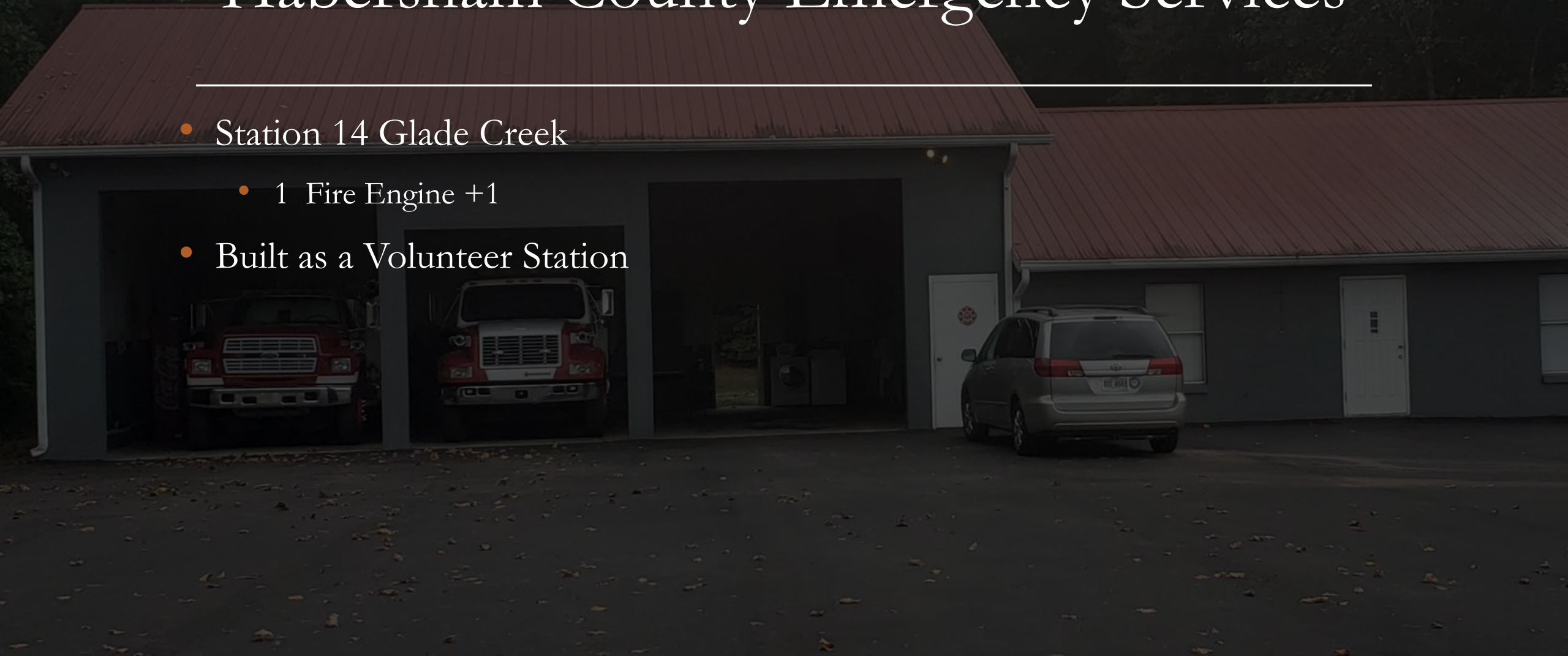




# Habersham County Emergency Services

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- Station 14 Glade Creek
  - 1 Fire Engine +1
- Built as a Volunteer Station





# Habersham County Emergency Services

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- Station – 15 Macedonia
  - Not Staffed
- Built as a Volunteer Station





# Habersham County Emergency Services

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- Station – 16 Amy's Creek
  - 1 Fire Engine +1
  - 2 Ambulance
- Built as a Volunteer Station and to house 2 EMS Personnel



# Habersham County Emergency Services

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- Station - 17 Orchard
  - 1 Fire Engine +1
- Built to house 6 personnel

HABERSHAM COUNTY  
FIRE STATION #17





# Habersham County Emergency Services

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- Station 21
  - 2 Ambulance
  - 2 Ambulance (10 hours)
  - Captain
- Built as a house that's been remodeled several times to be doctors office's
- Currently Storehouse for EMS Supplies



# Habersham County Emergency Services

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- Station 2 Cornelia
  - 2 Ambulance





# Current Daily Staffing

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- Current Daily Staffing

- Fire Engine (6)
  - 7– 24 hr.
- Ambulance (5) (1)
  - 10 - 24 hr.
  - 2 - 10 hr.
- Battalion Chief
- Captain

- Daily Staff

- 19 - 24hr
  - 57 Personnel
- 2 – 10 hr. M-F



# Under Construction

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- Emergency Services Headquarters
- Central Fire Station
- 911 Center
- Emergency Operations Center



# New Fire Station

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- Engine
- Ladder
- Ambulance
- 12 Fire Personnel
  - 4 per Shift
- Move Personnel from Station 21 Ambulance
  - 2 per Shift

# Additional Staff



**Safer Grant for 9 Firefighters**

**Denied**



**Safer Grant for ???**

**30**



# Needed Personnel

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- 21 to staff 9, 13, 14, 16, 17
- 12 to staff 1
- 18 to staff 8, 11, 15
- 51 Total for Fire Staffing

# Firefighter/EMT

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- Entry Level Firefighter/EMT
- Salary \$39,657.28
- Benefits \$13,199
- Total \$52,856



# Sticker Shock

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- 21= \$1,109,976
- 12= \$634,272
- 18= \$951,408
- \$2,695,656
- 51 entry level positions
  - +Duty Uniforms
  - +Turnout Gear

# Volunteer Firefighters

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30 Active Firefighters



# Central Communications

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- Built in the same building with the Central Fire Station/ Fire administration building
  - Proactive approach so no separate building needed in the future
- Staff moved from the current 911 center



With Cell Phones we may receive calls from outside of Habersham County.

We can transfer a call to another 911 center if needed.

Most commonly transfer and get transfers from surrounding counties – Banks, White, Rabun, Hall, and Stephens.





# Operating Procedures

- Holiday's, Weekends and Bad Weather days there are 911 Dispatchers working
- Five (5) Dispatchers per shift
- Twelve (12) hour shifts
- Every two (2) weeks a shift will work a 36-hour week – 3 days, and a 48-hour week – 4 days
- Shifts split the days a month that they are not working to be on-call







# Community Involvement



In 2007 we began the Children's Fun Fest.

Located at the E911 Center  
Approximately 200+/- people attended

By 2012, it had grown so large that it no longer fit in the original location.

Now located at the Habersham County Fairgrounds in Clarkesville

Approximately 8,500+/- people attended in 2019.

Held annually in October before Halloween.





# COMMUNICATION PROJECT



HABERSHAM COUNTY NEW SYSTEM COVERAGE				
<b>95%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>96%</b>
Habersham Mobile Coverage	Habersham Outdoor Portable Coverage in Populated Areas	20 dB Critical Building Coverage: Fire Stations, PD's, Schools, & Colleges	20 dB Dense Building Coverage: Cornelia & Clarkesville	10 dB Building Coverage: Demorest, Mount Airy

Alto  
 Baldwin  
 Clarkesville  
 Cornelia  
 Demorest

NGTC  
 Piedmont University  
 TUSA Consulting  
 Tallulah Falls  
 Mt. Airy



# Animal Control

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- SPLOST allotted 1.75 million for new Animal Shelter



# NEW ANIMAL SHELTER FACILITY



HABERSHAM COUNTY  
ANIMAL CARE &  
CONTROL



## CURRENT CHALLENGES











## CURRENT CHALLENGES

- No bathroom for visitors
- No room to treat or quarantine animals
- No quiet area for people to meet a prospective family member.
- Storage space throughout the shelter is inadequate.
- Floors of the kennel area are constructed of unsealed concrete which harbors pathogens, and the lack of drains requires an arduous cleaning process.
- There is poor climate control and ventilation in the cat rooms and work areas.
- There is inadequate space for cats, especially new intakes who need to be isolated and inadequate areas sick cats.
- Inadequate space to separate dogs (Ex: Adoptable, Intakes, Quarantine, Court Holds and Isolation)
- Entrance/exit area presents cross contamination and dangerous situations with animal contact
- Animal space and enclosure types currently not acceptable to new Department of Agriculture Regulations
- As our population rises, so do our intakes.



## REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW FACILITY

- Kennel Facilities to house 45 dogs and 80 cats
  - Aggressive, bite quarantine and court held dogs (maximum 10)
  - Strays Canine (maximum 10) Strays Feline (15)
  - Medical quarantine for contagious dogs, Medical quarantine for contagious cats.
  - Kittens and nursing mothers, Puppies and nursing mothers
  - Adoption areas for Cats, kittens, dogs and puppies
- •Conference room for education, presentations, meetings, and volunteer orientations
- Rear warehouse “Sally Port” area to be used for deliveries, storage and Animal Control drop-off
- Video monitoring of interior and exterior areas including kennels, offices, public areas, exercise area, entries, and exit

# Sheriffs Office

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4 Deputy on shift (6-6)

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2 Lieutenants

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2 K-9

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2 HEAT (Highway Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic)

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2 SCAT (Sheriffs Concentrated Anti-Theft)



# 2021 Habersham County Sheriff's Office Accomplishments

Heightened Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic (H.E.A.T.) Unit

Special Victims Unit Patrol Investigators Program

School Resource Officer Teaching Our Youth Safety (T.O.Y.S.) in Schools program

Selective Traffic Enforcement Patrol (S.T.E.P.)

Increased pay

Scenario-Based Firearms Shooting Simulator



# School Resource Officers

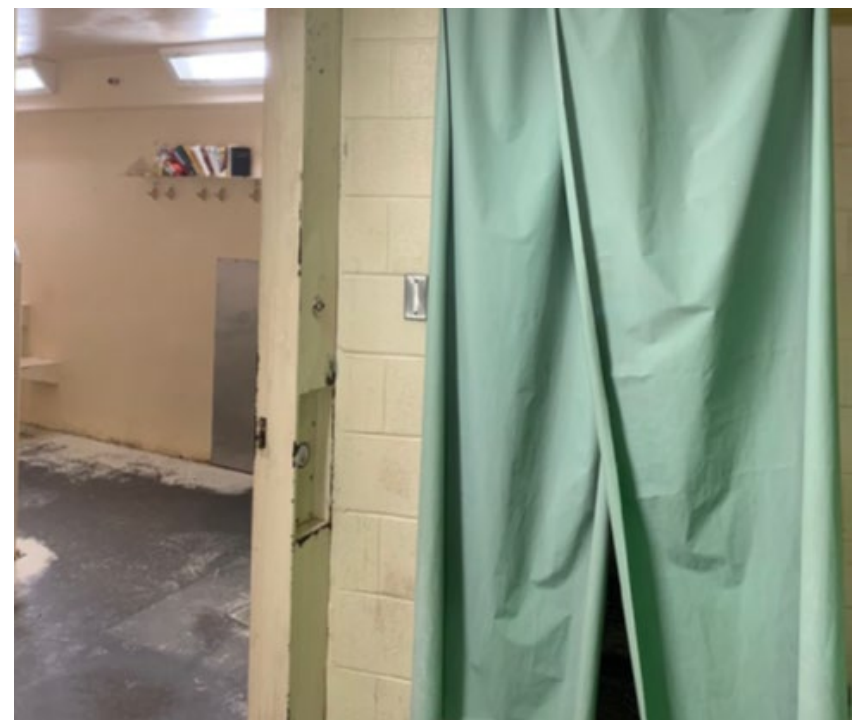
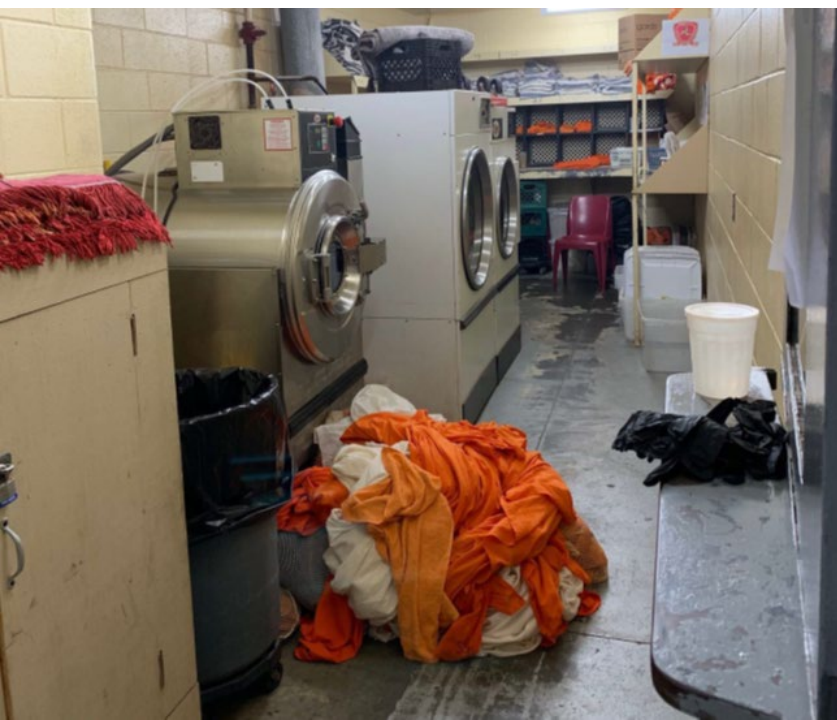
- 7 are paid 75% by Board of Education 25% by County
- 1 is paid 100% by BOE



# Detention Center

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- Multiple issues
- Misconception about the “Jail Vote”





# Existing Jail Facility Concerns

- Inmate Population exceeds capacity
- Facility was not designed for expansion
- Facility does not comply with jail design standards
- Security/safety of officers and inmates is at risk
- Ongoing transportation and housing of inmates in other counties increases risk to staff and cost to Habersham County
- 70+ non-compliance issues



# New Detention Center

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- ARP Grant Application?
- Funding method?





Thank You

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