

THE CITY OF DOTHAN, ALABAMA

POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2019



MARK SALIBA, MAYOR

District Commissioners

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Kevin Dorsey | 4. John Ferguson |
| 2. Janasky Fleming | 5. Beth Kenward |
| 3. Albert Kirkland | 6. David Crutchfield |

Kevin A. Cowper, City Manager



To the Citizens of Dothan!

Understanding today's governmental financial statements can prove to be difficult. In an effort to provide our citizens with an easy to read financial report of the City of Dothan's finances, we are pleased to present the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. This report represents Dothan's ongoing commitment to increase our level of operational productivity and accountability. As we strive to keep citizens informed about the City's financial position, we understand the importance of being accountable for the receipt and expenditure of public funds.

Through easier, more user-friendly financial reporting, the PAFR is another example of our commitment to improve communication with our citizens and increase public confidence in the governing body for the City of Dothan. I want to congratulate Lisa Reeder, Director of Finance, and our financial reporting staff for their work in providing citizens with an understandable general overview of the City's finances.

On behalf of the Dothan City Commission and the City Manager, I thank you for taking a moment to read our financial report. We are proud to serve the citizens of Dothan and we thank you for your support as we seek to further enhance the level of financial accountability to our taxpayers. Questions, comments and feedback on this report are welcomed and encouraged, so please feel free to contact me at (334) 615-3111.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark Saliba".

Mark Saliba, Mayor



INTRODUCTION

In the 1830's, a fort existed on the Barber Plantation, ten or twelve miles east of Poplar Head, named for the poplar trees that encircled the glade where the cool water, or "head" (as springs were often called) welled from the earth. This was where the settlers from the surrounding areas could go when they felt threatened by the Indians. By 1840, the Indian wars in Alabama were over and the fort soon disappeared. By 1885, the hamlet had grown into a village. The settlers realized that if the community's growth was to be sustained, they needed a governing body and local law enforcement. On November 10, 1885, the people of Poplar Head voted to incorporate and named the town Dothan.

The City of Dothan is located in the southeastern part of the State of Alabama approximately twenty miles west of the Georgia state line and eighteen miles north of the State of Florida.

Dothan currently operates under a Mayor/Commission/City Manager form of government. The Mayor is elected at-large, and the six (6) Commissioners are elected from six (6) single member districts, for concurrent terms of four (4) years. This Board of Commissioners serves part-time and is responsible for adopting all legislative ordinances and establishing policies to guide the various City departments in providing services to citizens, including the appropriation of all monies.

The Mayor, who is a member of the Board of Commissioners, is the City's chief executive officer. The City Manager is the administrative head of the City government and is responsible for directing and managing the daily activities of the City and implementing the policies of the Board of Commissioners. The City's departments include:

- General Administrative (Mayor, Commissioners, City Manager, City Clerk, EEO, Public Relations, Internal Analyst & Legal)
- Information Technology
- Judicial
- Finance (Accounting, Purchasing, Utility Services/ Meter Reading & Utility Collections)
- Personnel (Human Resources)
- Police
- Fire
- Public Works (Engineering, Street & Environmental Services)
- Planning & Development (Permitting, Business License, Inspections & Zoning)
- Leisure Services
- Performing Arts
- General Services (Liability & Workers' Compensation Insurance, Facility & Fleet)
- Dothan Utilities (Electric, Water & Wastewater/Sewer)

There are 1,283 authorized positions (1,033 full time, 74 part time and 176 seasonal) of which 1,160 are currently filled (972 full time, 53 part time and 135 seasonal) and those employees staff the departments, producing high quality and cost-effective public services.



Forever Wild Trails



Water World Improvements



Advanced Metering Infrastructure



Eastgate Multi-Purpose Facility



Ross Clark Circle Improvements

ABOUT THIS FINANCIAL REPORT

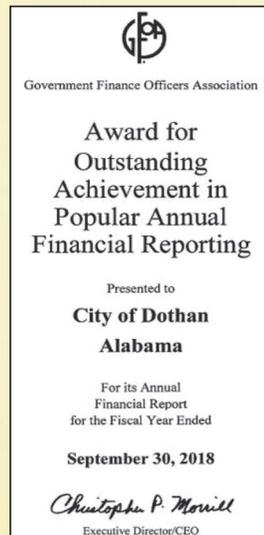
As part of our continuous effort to keep you informed of how your tax dollars are being spent, we are pleased to present the 2019 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). The PAFR is a summary of the financial activities of the City's governmental funds and is drawn from information found in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR is prepared in conformance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and includes financial statements audited by McClintock, Nelson & Associates, P.C.

Unlike the CAFR, the PAFR is unaudited and presented on a non-GAAP basis. The GAAP basis presentation in the CAFR includes the City's component units and the presentation of individual funds, as well as, full disclosure of all material events, financial and non-financial, in the notes to the financial statements. Dothan's CAFR can be viewed by the public at City Hall, at the Public Library and online at <http://www.dothan.org/DocumentCenter/View/6266>.

AWARDS

The City received the following awards (valid for one year only) from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA):

- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the CAFR for the year ended September 30, 2018 (thirty-six consecutive years, 1983 - 2018).
- Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for the PAFR for the year ended September 30, 2018 (fifteen consecutive years, 2004 - 2018).



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The City's *combined* net position (difference between assets and deferred outflows and liabilities and deferred inflows in governmental and business-type activities) at September 30, 2019, totaled \$146,471,668 as follows: \$191,784,657 in net investment in capital assets (difference between the capital asset and the outstanding debt incurred to finance those capital assets), \$2,901,466 restricted (resources that are constrained by legislation to a particular purpose) and a deficit unrestricted net position of \$48,214,455.
- Total revenues for all governmental funds were \$110,148,771 and total spending was \$117,257,962. The fund balances (the excess of what is owned over what is owed ~ assets minus liabilities/debt) for these funds were \$55,579,000 in FY 2019 compared to \$56,420,736 in FY 2018.
- Total revenues for business-type activities (Utility) at the end of FY 2019 were \$131,857,827 and total spending was \$105,500,113. Total net position was \$146,671,270 in FY 2019 as compared to \$126,581,011 in FY 2018.

- The City of Dothan adopts a biennial operating budget for its general, debt service, capital projects, school and utility funds. In addition, a capital or supplemental budget is presented no later than April 15th of each year.

GENERAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Most City services and projects are accounted for in a general category referred to as Governmental Funds. These concise descriptions should provide you with a better understanding of the accounts.

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

- **General Fund** - Accounts for revenues and expenditures associated with the general operations of the City that are not required to be accounted for in separate funds.
- **Special Revenue Funds** - Account for proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted for specific purposes (e.g. street paving and schools).
- **Debt Service Funds** - Account for the payment of principal, interest and related costs on general long-term debt.
- **Capital Projects Funds** - Account for the financial resources used for the construction and/or acquisition of major capital facilities.

PROPRIETARY FUNDS

Proprietary Funds account for activities the City operates similar to private businesses. The City of Dothan has one proprietary fund: the Utility Fund (Electric, Water, Wastewater/Sewer and Combined Activities).

The PAFR focuses on the City's two largest funds (General and Utility), which are of the most interest to citizens.

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS' FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

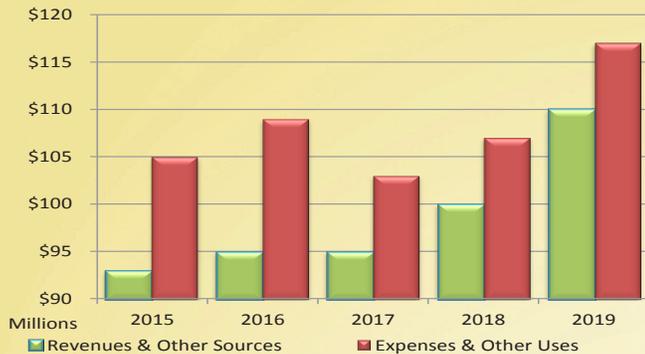
At September 30, 2019, the City's governmental funds reflected a combined fund balance of \$55,579,000, an \$841,736 decrease from the previous year at \$56,420,736. These financial activities comprise the major changes in governmental fund balances:

FY 2019 GOVERNMENTAL REVENUES



GOVERNMENTAL REVENUES

Total revenues for the governmental funds (\$110,148,771) showed an increase of \$9,703,039 or 9.66% over the prior year (\$100,445,732).



Key elements in the change of net position are as follows:

- In FY 2019, sales tax collections totaled \$74,607,092 which was \$7,547,334 (11.25%) over FY 2018 amount of \$67,059,758. Dothan's metro area services an estimated 525,000 people within a 50 mile radius and is a hub for dining, shopping, recreation, industry and medical services for surrounding towns and rural areas. Various other taxes had a net increase of \$731,713.

CITY OF DOTHAN SALES & USE TAX



- Grant revenue for FY 2019 (\$5,523,007) reflected a decrease of \$1,870,777 (25.3%) from FY 2018 (\$7,393,784).

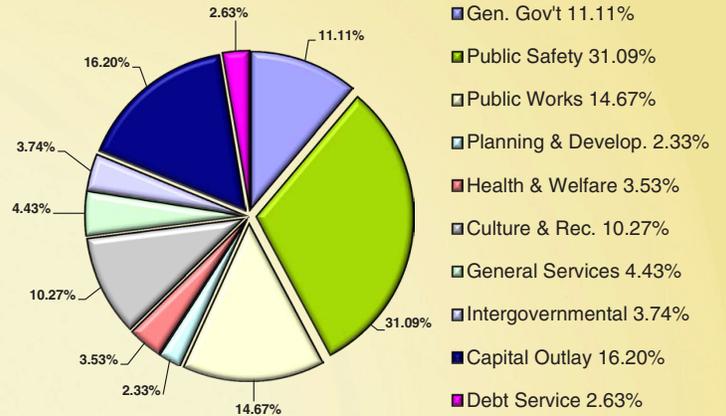
GOVERNMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Total governmental expenditures increased by \$10,447,502 (9.78%) in FY 2019 (\$117,257,962) from FY 2018 (\$106,810,460). The major contributing factors that resulted in this net increase include:

- City departments experienced a \$5,481,390 net increase as follows: (General Administration) contribution for senior housing development; (Public Safety) grants for equipment, training, and facilities; (Public Works) street resurfacing; and city-wide increase in salaries and benefits from cost of living and performance adjustments. This increase included a net increase in the Insurance department expenditures of \$251,409.
- Health and Welfare increased \$559,399 which was a result of a change in appropriations to various agencies.

- Intergovernmental increased by \$388,053 due to increased payments to Dothan City Schools for an entrance road at Dothan Preparatory and funding for School Protection Officers.
- Capital outlay increased by \$5,071,464 due to the increase in funding for the Public Safety Training Center.
- Principal retirement, interest and fiscal charges on long-term debt decreased \$1,052,804.

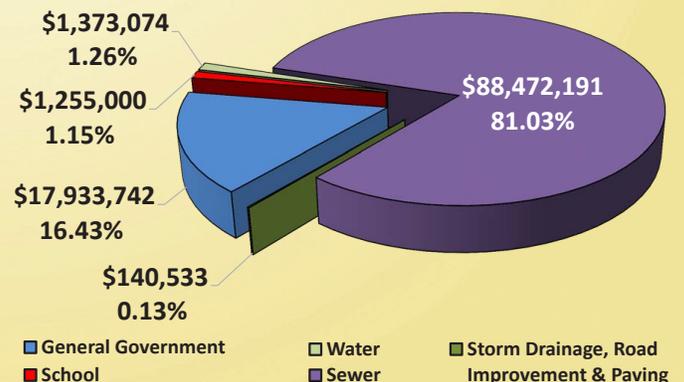
FY 2019 GOVERNMENTAL FUND EXPENDITURES



LONG-TERM DEBT

As of the fiscal year end, the City had \$109,174,540 in long-term debt outstanding compared to \$118,676,055 in 2018 (\$9,501,515 or 8.00%). This decrease is comprised of debt service payments totaling \$12,946,515 which was offset by the issuance of a \$3,445,000 general obligation (G/O) warrant during the year. The issuance was for refunding the 2009 G/O Warrants that were issued for water and sewer improvements.

OUTSTANDING DEBT AS OF SEPTEMBER 30



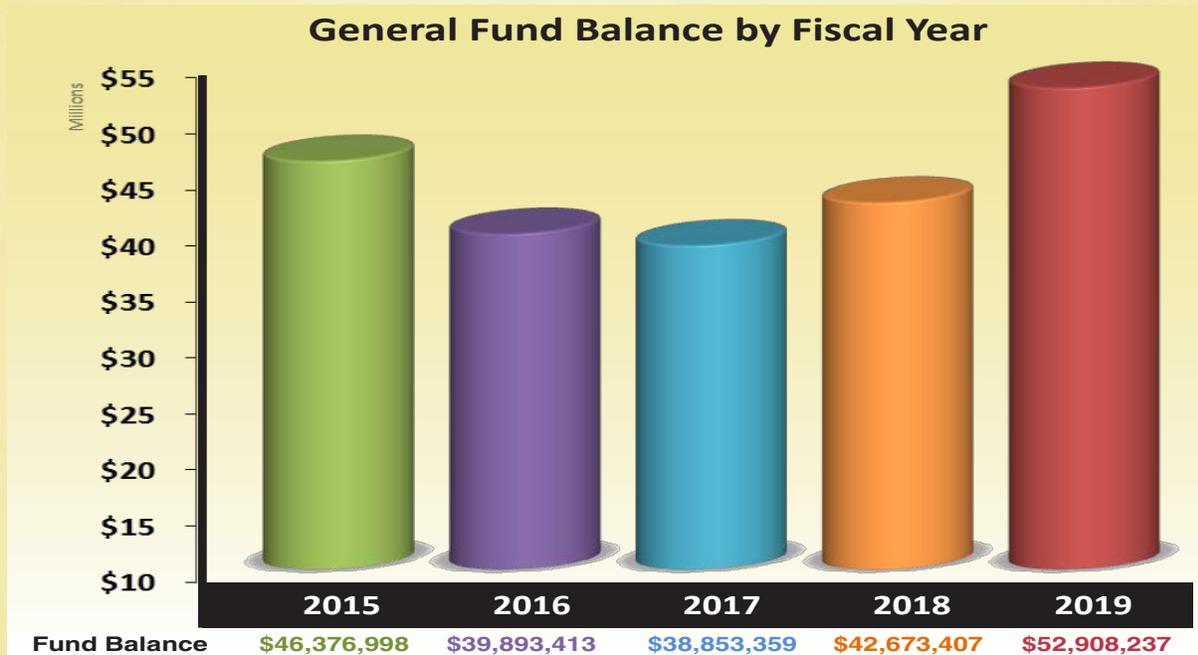
Principal payment on debt will (a) reduce current assets and reduce long-term debt and (b) reduce unrestricted net assets and increase net investment in capital assets.

GENERAL FUND

FUND BALANCE

Fund balance is the excess of what is owned (assets) over what is owed (debts or liabilities). The City Manager set a policy for maintaining reserves in the General Fund at no less than 8% of actual expenditures. The City has consistently exceeded this goal. The General Fund reported a fund balance at September 30, 2019, of \$52,908,237, an increase of \$10,234,830 (23.98%) in comparison with the prior year which totaled \$42,673,407. Governmental Funds' combined ending fund balances were \$55,579,000 compared to 2018 at \$56,420,736 producing an \$841,736 (1.49%) decrease. Of this fund balance, \$16,241,919 constitutes the unassigned fund balance, which is available for spending at the government's discretion (referred to as *unassigned fund balance*). The City additionally maintains an 8% utility fund reserve to be utilized in event of a natural disaster or unexpected economic decline.

The chart below provides fund balance comparisons:



GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

General Fund expenditures totaling \$98,479,843 increased \$5,596,734 (6.03%) from 2018 (\$92,883,109). The City made a conscious effort to live within the constraints of available revenues. Filling of vacated staff positions was still approved on a case by case basis and expenditures were closely monitored. The City cautiously purchased essential vehicles and equipment and addressed the most pressing building or facility maintenance/repair needs.

Increases or decreases for major functions are as follows:

MAJOR FUNCTIONS	AMOUNT	PERCENT OF TOTAL	INCREASE (DECREASE) OVER 2018
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$13,031,062	13.23%	\$1,235,450
PUBLIC SAFETY	36,452,530	37.02%	2,033,259
PUBLIC WORKS	17,203,975	17.47%	1,740,460
PLANNING & DEV.	2,731,282	2.77%	(19,523)
HEALTH & WELFARE	4,143,067	4.21%	559,399
CULTURE & RECREATION	12,041,924	12.23%	190,078
GENERAL SERVICES	4,727,145	4.80%	50,257
SELF INSURANCE	467,836	0.47%	251,409
CAPITAL OUTLAY	7,681,022	7.80%	(444,055)
TOTAL	\$98,479,843	100.00%	\$5,596,734

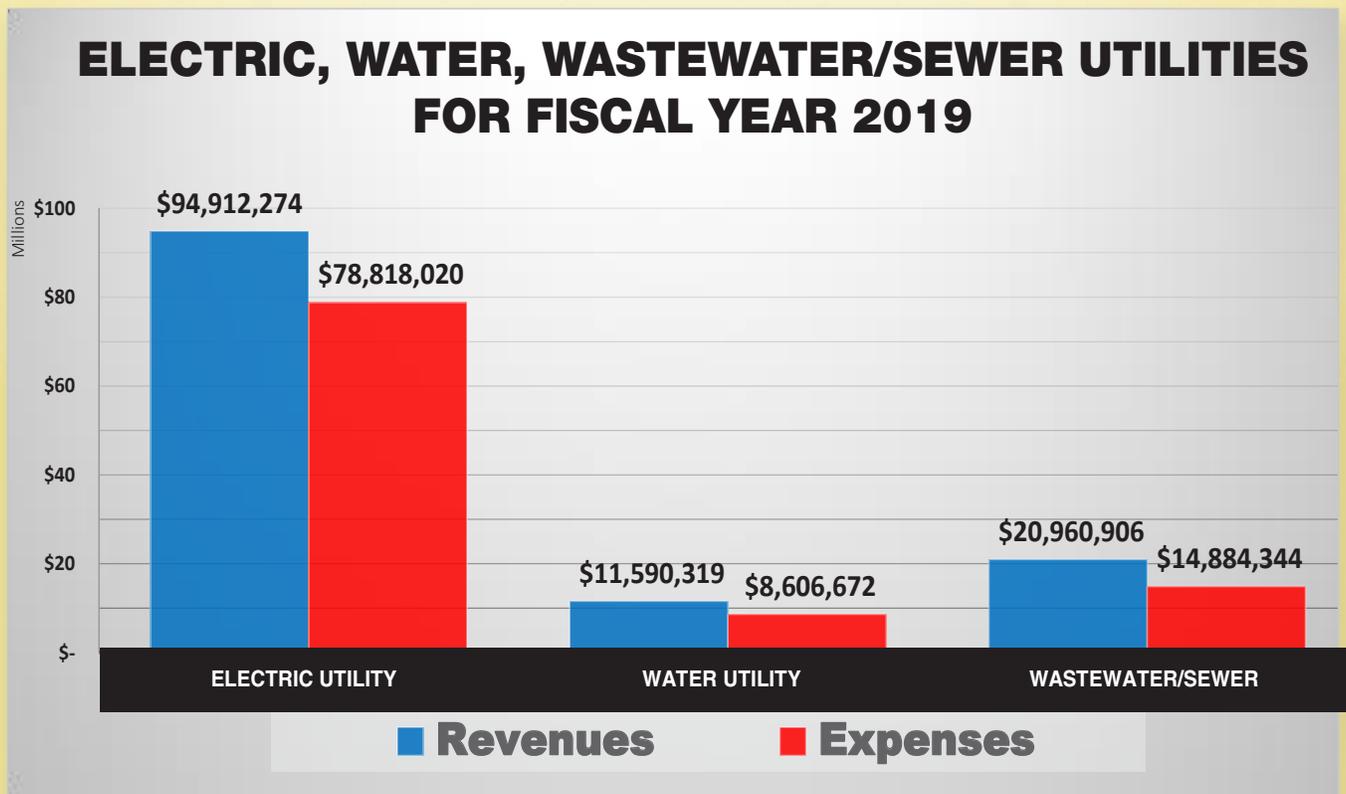
UTILITY FUND

The City's Utility Fund has a customer base of approximately 37,920 electric, water and wastewater/sewer customers. The largest utility revenue source comes from electric power sales. The gross income on electric sales for FY 2019 totaled \$22,880,951 compared to last year's amount of \$24,445,462. FY 2019's net income from electric sales totaled \$16,094,254 (excludes capital outlay). The City Commission approved an increase in the electric rates in December 2015 which became effective in January 2016. A steady wholesale power cost (as a result of lower fuel cost), along with a reduction in expenses contributed to the increase in income for FY 2019.

Each October the water rates increase 2.85%. This additional revenue over the years has allowed the City to pay the debt on wells, as well as fund upgrades on transmission lines and maintenance on the existing wells. FY 2019's net income from water sales totaled \$2,983,647 (excludes capital outlay).

In September 2009, a sewer rate increase was implemented and rates were adjusted \$.75 per thousand gallons of metered water for the next five years and 2.85% thereafter. However, the additional funds from this rate increase were not sufficient to offset the cost of the debt service on required sewer improvements; therefore, in December 2015, the Commission approved a revised annual rate increase of \$.25, \$.50, \$.30, \$.35 and \$.30 for years 2016-2019 and then increase by 2.85% each October thereafter. FY 2019's net income from sewer sales totaled \$6,076,562 (excludes capital outlay).

Electric, water, and wastewater/sewer operations, excluding capital outlay, for FY 2019 are reflected as follows:



BOND RATING

The City of Dothan maintains the following ratings for general obligation debt which reflects excellent financial security:

- S&P Global Ratings ~ “AA”
- Moody’s Investors Service ~ “Aa2”

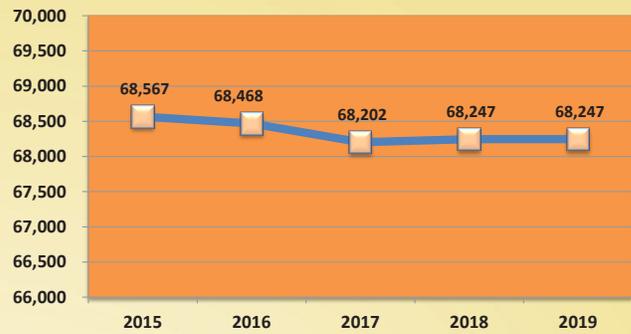
In June 2014, Standard and Poor’s Ratings Services upgraded the City of Dothan’s bond rating from AA- to AA. The increase was based on the rating agency’s view of the “city’s historically very strong budgetary flexibility and liquidity.” The bond rating can affect the cost of borrowing funds in the future.

RATING CATEGORIES		
SECURE RANGE:		
Moody's	S & P	
Aaa	AAA	PRIME: Superior financial security. Highest safety.
Aa1 Aa2 Aa3	AA+ AA AA-	HIGH GRADE: Excellent financial security. Highly safe.
A1 A2 A3	A+ A A-	UPPER MEDIUM GRADE: Good financial security. More susceptible to economic changes than highly rated companies.
Baa1 Baa2 Baa3	BBB+ BBB BBB-	LOWER MEDIUM GRADE: Adequate financial security. More vulnerable to economic changes than highly rated companies.
VULNERABLE RANGE:		
Ba1 Ba2 Ba3	BB+ BB BB-	NON INVESTMENT GRADE: Speculative. Capacity to meet long-term policies is vulnerable.
B1 B2 B3	B+ B B-	HIGHLY SPECULATIVE: Vulnerable financial security.
Any rating below a “B” rating is extremely vulnerable and possibly in default status with little prospect for recovery and questionable ability to meet obligations.		

TREND DATA

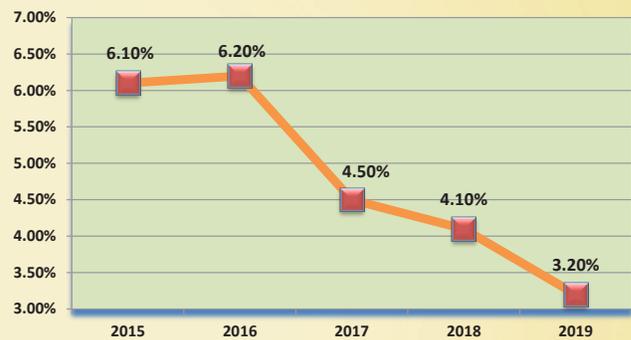
Population Trends

(Estimates Obtained from U.S. Census Bureau)



Unemployment Rate

(Obtained from AL Dept of Industrial Relations)



ECONOMIC GROWTH

The City relies on taxes (sales, property, gasoline, etc.), fees (license, permits, garbage), and fines (public safety) for their governmental activities. In the business-type and certain governmental activities (electric, water, sewer, recreational programs, etc.), the user pays a related fee/charge associated with the service. Revenue sources have a direct bearing on the City’s ability to (a) annex additional land into its corporate limits and (b) encourage development (office, retail, residential and industrial) to choose to be located in the jurisdiction. The City places significant emphasis on both economic development/recruitment and job growth.

The economic downturn has had a significant impact on Dothan and the local economy. However, recent years have provided signs of recovery. In addition to sales tax, the City’s major

tax source, continuing to show signs of improvement, unemployment has declined 5.8% since 2010.

Principal employers are as follows:

PRINCIPAL EMPLOYERS

1. Southeast Health
2. Dothan (City) & Houston Co. Schools
3. Flowers Hospital
4. Wayne Farms
5. City of Dothan
6. Southern Nuclear (Farley)
7. Michelin Tire
8. AAA Cooper Transportation
9. SpectraCare Health Systems
10. Houston County Government

The City has made an effort to live within the constraints of available revenue and addressed the most pressing needs. Major design/

construction projects in 2019 were as follows: Sanitary Sewer Improvements; Denton Road Widening and Bridge; Fiber Optic System; Landfill Expansion on Ennis Road; Omussee Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation and Upgrade; Dothan Regional Public Safety Training Center; Ross Clark Circle Widening; Highway 84/ACOM Shared Use Trail; Water World Expansion; Eastgate Multipurpose Facility; and Advanced Metering Infrastructure.

In recent years, the City’s staff has done an exceptional job of controlling costs. Additionally, the City Commission continues to work diligently to set priorities for major programs undertaken by the City while revisiting the Strategic Plan each year. This Strategic Plan provides a sense of unity, direction, and vision for the City’s future.

Direct any questions about this financial report to:

Lisa H. Reeder, Finance Director – Treasurer • lhreeder@dothan.org • P. O. Box 2128 • Dothan, AL 36302 • (334) 615-3140