



## **Purpose of the GO Bond Line Item**

The purpose of the General Obligation (GO) Bond line item that appears on the 2018 tax bills is to collect sufficient county-wide revenues to allow the County to pay its annual debt payment of \$4.5 million for the General Obligation Bond of \$58 million that was originally issued in 2006. The \$58 million was borrowed through this GO Bond in order to fund the construction of the new Judicial Courthouse, new Detention Center, and to renovate the Historic Courthouse. All of these facilities benefit the entire community.

Through an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the County and the cities, SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) revenues were allowed to be used to pay this annual debt from July 2006-June 30, 2018. Due to the fact that the SPLOST IGA was set to expire on June 30, 2018, in early 2017 the County attempted to negotiate with the City of Winder and asked that SPLOST revenues which will be collected from July 2018-June 2023 be used to pay this \$4.5 million debt payment each year, as was the case from 2006-2018.

The City of Winder, as the city containing at least 50% of the municipal population, is a required signature on these intergovernmental agreements. Unfortunately, the City of Winder refused to sign the agreement that would have allowed SPLOST revenue to pay for the outstanding GO Bond debt. As a result, the County had no choice but to add a GO Bond Debt line item to the 2018 property tax bills.