

Grant Activity and Fiscal Impact

FY 22-23 to April 2026



Executive Summary

Over the past four fiscal years, Giles County has secured approximately \$17.1 million in grant funding to support infrastructure, public safety, and essential services. These funds represent external revenue sources—primarily state and federal—not originating from locally derived revenues.

Internal grant records confirm that this funding is composed of a mix of recurring programmatic support, one-time capital investment, and pass-through funding administered on behalf of partner organizations. This distinction is critical to understanding both the county's budget and its long-term financial position.

Grant Portfolio Overview

Total grant funding administered through the county includes:

- \$7.5 million in direct county grants
- \$5.1 million in pass-through funding to local partners
- \$4.5 million in federal ARP funding for broadband infrastructure

Total: \$17.1 million

This total does not include additional grants secured independently by the school system, municipalities, or partner organizations, which further increase the overall investment impact within the county.

Grant Funding Classification

Based on internal tracking and the presence of annualized award amounts, the county's grant portfolio can be categorized as follows:

1. Recurring / Programmatic Grants

These grants include identifiable annual funding amounts and typically support ongoing operations. While subject to renewal and not guaranteed, they represent an annual funding stream.

Examples:

- Sheriff's Department (DUI enforcement, opioid response, recruitment)
- School Resource Officer (SRO) support



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- Solid waste, litter control, and recycling programs

Key Characteristic: Supports ongoing services with annual or periodically renewed funding.

2. One-Time / Capital Grants

These represent the largest share of total funding and are tied to specific projects or infrastructure investments. They are non-recurring, one-time funds and do not establish a permanent spending baseline.

Examples:

- \$4.5 million broadband infrastructure (ARP)
- \$3.6 million FEMA emergency shelter (Agri Park)
- \$2.74 million water utility upgrades
- \$559,579 Health Department renovation
- \$500,000 courthouse historic preservation
- \$300,000 animal shelter project
- \$2 million library expansion
- \$80,000 Agri Park playground

Key Characteristic: Creates temporary increases in expenditures tied to capital improvements.

3. Pass-Through / Partner-Administered Grants

These funds are administered by the county but directed to partner organizations or community initiatives.

Examples:

- Nonprofit funding addressing food insecurity (~\$282,808)
- Partner agency and community program support (e.g. Library)
- Water utility and development-related grants

Key Characteristic: Flows through the county budget without impacting baseline county operations.

Programmatic Investments

Public Safety

- \$1.36 million for Sheriff's Department initiatives
- \$681,400 for School Resource Officers



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- \$163,400 for courthouse security upgrades
- \$3.6 million FEMA-funded emergency shelter

Historic Preservation

- \$500,000 courthouse historic development grant
- Additional Archives funding

Core Services and Infrastructure

- \$300,000 animal shelter project
- \$559,579 Health Department renovation
- \$30,303 EMS equipment
- ~\$171,000 litter control and recycling

Economic Development and Quality of Life

- \$4.5 million broadband expansion (near completion)
- \$2 million library expansion (underway)
- \$2.74 million water upgrades (near completion)
- \$282,808 food insecurity programs (complete)
- \$80,000 playground equipment (ongoing)

Budgetary Context and Interpretation

All grant funds must be appropriated and expended through the county budget, which can create the appearance of increased spending. As grant funding is embedded in the budget, some commissioners have questioned whether county spending has increased substantially—a conclusion that requires clarification.

Key Distinction:

- Recurring grants supplement operations but are limited in scale
- One-time grants account for the majority of large expenditure increases and do not establish permanent spending baselines
- Pass-through funds inflate expenditures on behalf of non-county services

Conclusion: A significant portion of the \$17.1 million reflects non-recurring capital investment that creates temporary budget increases tied to specific projects, not ongoing operational growth.

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Cost Structure and Administrative Considerations

Grant funding carries modest but necessary local contributions:

- **Matching Funds:** Local contributions are often required to secure larger external awards
- **Administrative Overhead:** Managing compliance, reporting, and financial oversight for \$17.1 million in grants equates to approximately one full-time equivalent employee.

Despite these factors, the return on investment is substantial.

Historical Context

The four-year period from FY 2021–Present represents the most successful grant funding era in Giles County history. **The \$17.1 million** reflects a fundamental shift in the county's capacity to compete for and manage complex state and federal funding opportunities.

Giles County currently ranks #2 in total grant funding among all counties served by the South Central Tennessee Development District—second only to Maury County, which has nearly four times our population. On a per capita basis, this positions Giles County as the leading grant recipient in the region.

This achievement is particularly noteworthy given:

- Increased competition for limited grant pools across 11 counties
- More stringent compliance and reporting requirements
- The complexity of administering multiple concurrent federal programs

The county's ability to successfully navigate this competitive environment positions Giles County as a model for rural grant administration.

Operational Execution and Partnerships

The county's grant success reflects coordinated efforts across multiple departments and partners:

- **Finance Department:** The backbone of grant administration, ensuring rigorous compliance with federal and state requirements, maintaining audit-ready documentation, meeting complex reporting deadlines, and navigating evolving regulatory frameworks. The Finance team's meticulous oversight has enabled the county to maintain a flawless compliance record across \$17.1 million in grant awards—a critical



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achievement that protects the county's eligibility for future funding and ensures that every dollar is properly accounted for and audited.

- **County Departments:** Strategic project identification, grant writing and justification, and coordination with Finance to meet grant requirements
- **External Partners:** Development district, nonprofits, water utilities, EDC, Chamber, Library, etc.

This collaborative structure, anchored by Finance's exceptional stewardship, strengthens the county's competitiveness and ensures successful implementation of complex, multi-year funding initiatives.

Performance Assessment

Giles County has emerged as a leading per capita grant recipient in the region. This reflects:

- Strategic pursuit of funding opportunities
- Effective cross-agency coordination
- Strong financial oversight and compliance

Conclusion

The \$17.1 million in grant funding secured over the past four years represents a significant expansion of county capability without increasing the local tax burden.

Importantly, the majority of this funding is one-time capital investment, supplemented by a smaller portfolio of recurring programmatic grants and pass-through funding. This composition should guide how expenditures are interpreted in both current and future budgets.

Sustaining this level of success will require continued discipline in grant pursuit, administration, and strategic alignment with county priorities.

V/R,

G. S. Stowe
Giles County Executive