

PlanFirst Program Application - May 15, 2017

Introduction: The Department of Community Affairs' PlanFirst program rewards local governments that clearly demonstrate success with implementing their local comprehensive plan. To apply for PlanFirst designation, a local government must have Qualified Local Government certification and be current on required reporting to DCA. (To check status of both, please visit <http://www.georgiaplanning.com/planners/planreview/default.asp>).

A multi-agency review panel will evaluate a number of indicators of community success with plan implementation to select communities for this designation. All of these indicators are equally important, but size of the community is taken into consideration in the evaluation so that communities of various sizes are equally competitive for PlanFirst designation.

Instructions: Please answer all the following questions thoroughly, attaching additional pages where necessary, so that the reviewers have sufficient information to measure the success of your comprehensive plan implementation. Supporting documents might include: news articles, legal ads, lists of attendees, letters of support or other evidence of local involvement and commitment to successful plan implementation activities in your community. *Total application length, including supporting information and support letters, must not exceed 20 pages. Text areas will expand as needed.*

Applicant government	Crawford County
Mailing address	P.O. Box 1059 Roberta, Georgia 31078
Telephone	(478) 836-3782
Email	f.hollis@crawfordcountyga.org
Contact person; title	Fabian Hollis, County Manager
Application prepared by	Jasmine Campbell, Middle Georgia Regional Commission
I, the undersigned authorized representative of the applicant, certify that to the best of my knowledge the information in this application is true and correct.	
Name of authorized official signing; title	Fabian Hollis, County Manager
Date	May 15, 2017
Signature	

PRE-REQUISITES

A. (1) We have a consistent record of maintaining our Qualified Local Government status **and** submitting required reports to DCA, including the current Report of Local Government Finances. (To check status, please visit <http://www.georgiaplanning.com/planners/planreview/default.asp>).

QLG status: yes no
Local government reports: yes no

In April 2017, Crawford County was awarded an audit report submission extension by the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts. Crawford County uses this audit report to complete the DCA Report of Local Government Finances. For this reason, Crawford County will submit the Fiscal Year 2016 Report of Local Government Finances to DCA once the audit report is complete. Documentation of this audit report extension request and approval can be found in the application attachments. Please take this into consideration if Crawford County is listed on the above website as not being compliant with local government reports.

A. (2) We have attained the Minimum Standard for performance as called for in our regional commission's regional comprehensive plan.

yes no

INDICATOR: GOALS

B. The Goals (or Vision) section of our comprehensive plan is supported by the community and its leadership.

The 2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan for Crawford County and the City of Roberta identified the following Community Vision, "Crawford County and the City of Roberta aspire to be a place of rural pride, strong collaboration, economic potential, a community where all citizens are actively encouraged to engage in shaping their common future." The community leadership continually seeks to improve its infrastructure, attract new residents and retirees. The Comprehensive Plan also delineates more specific visions of the future development for character areas and the following land use categories: agricultural/forestry, conservation areas, public and institutional areas, major highway corridor, downtown area, rural residential, mobile home areas, industrial areas and transportation/communication/utilities. Crawford County provides employment, educational, cultural, recreational, recycling, tourism, and historical opportunities for the entire county. Together the overall guiding vision and specific visions of land use development are continually carried out by elected and appointed officials, local government staff, community organizations and citizens. The small-town lifestyle is still very prevalent in Crawford County and citizen engagement during the visioning process helped inform elected officials of issues and needs of the community.

C. The Goals are both ambitious and achievable for the community. Please give examples of some ambitious yet achievable Goals included in your comprehensive plan.

Yes. Crawford County has been fortunate in achieving many successes, in accordance with our comprehensive plan goals and community objectives. We have continuously inspired the protection of numerous historical sites throughout the county. For example, over 65 percent of the action items identified in the 2012-2016 report of accomplishments have been completed or substantial milestones have been achieved to ensure completion in a reasonable time frame.

Listed below are examples of ambitious **2017 comprehensive plan** goals for the rural community, which represent areas of ongoing interest and which have been long-term priorities for the county. Each of these are in the process of being achieved:

1. **Goal:** Encourage the conservation of the community's natural environment and development of outdoor recreational areas.
 - a. David Bailey Park has fallen into relative disrepair over time. The county began refurbishing in 2016 and the park will receive constant upkeep, tree planting, park bench installation, and tree maintenance.
2. **Goal:** Promote stewardship of the community's history and heritage through preservation and care of cultural assets.
 - a. The Crawford County Historical Society has undertaken efforts to rehabilitate the "Old Courthouse" and "Old Jail" buildings to promote tourism and attractions. This is scheduled to be completed in 2017.



Figure 1: Old Courthouse



Figure 2: Old Jail

3. **Goal:** Improve the surface transportation infrastructure of the community and enhance its connectivity to its neighbors.
 - a. Downtown Roberta has become an increasingly walkable community with the construction of a walking trail in 2012 and the continuation of sidewalks connecting the residential areas to downtown. Many citizens enjoy the walking trail on a daily basis.

D. The Goals steer local decision-making on a continuous basis. Please tell us how and provide specific examples.

The leadership of Crawford County instill the furtherance of the community when making decisions and select the best choice based on input from the current Comprehensive Plan. Specific examples include how:

1. The plan is utilized consistently throughout the annual budgeting process, capital project prioritizations, land use decision making, community development grant and loan projects.
2. Plan project status updates along with program goals and objectives are discussed at weekly departmental meetings, monthly elected official's meeting, and bi-weekly at the Board of Commissioners and City Hall meetings.
3. Zoning and land use regulations are required to adhere to the Comprehensive Plan.
 - a. A new permit fee schedule may soon result from a major energy company establishing the first solar farm in Crawford County which aligns with future character area goals for the County found in the comprehensive plan.

E. Consistent progress is being made at achieving the Goals. Please explain, and if possible, include examples of this progress.

The county's success in achieving goals is attributed to its leadership and great working relationships. We are committed to increasing the quality of life for all citizens while maintaining our friendly, small-town, rural lifestyle. Examples of consistent goals progress from the **2012-2016 Report of Accomplishments** include:

1. **Goal:** Expand County Recreational Facilities at existing complex (i.e. additional baseball fields, youth football field, etc.).



a. Recreational Facilities expansion was completed in early 2017 with additional fields (*as seen in the photo to the left*). Grant funding has been secured to install lighting on these new fields with a scheduled completion date of August 2017.

2. **Goal:** Construct a new Government Center.
 - a. The County Government is scheduled to move all its operations into the newly acquired Central Georgia Technical College in 2017 renaming it "Crawford County Municipal Complex".
3. **Goal:** Continue efforts to pave roads as needed.
 - a. Marshall Mill, Olive Grove, and Jordan are examples of roads paved in 2016. Three more roads are scheduled to be paved in 2017.

INDICATOR: LEADERSHIP

F. We have effective planning staff or another suitable arrangement for handling community planning matters. Please tell us about your staff or suitable arrangement, including, if you wish, any degrees or certifications.

- Crawford County employs a Planning and Zoning Officer to provide consultation expertise on planning projects. Frank Miller is the Planning and Zoning Officer and has been in this position since October 20, 2008. Figure 3 shows Mr. Miller's credentials for this planning leadership position.
- The County Manager is the chief administrator of the County, readily accessible to the community to handle planning matters, and is instrumental in promoting early planning coordination.
- Elected officials of Crawford County request the assistance of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to facilitate plan preparation, visioning, and goal setting. This outside guidance allows projects to have the desired community outlook upon completion.



Figure 3: Frank Miller Credentials

G. We have an active planning commission or similar body to steer local planning decisions. Please provide information about your commission or similar body; for instance, number of members, meeting schedule, local affiliations, etc.

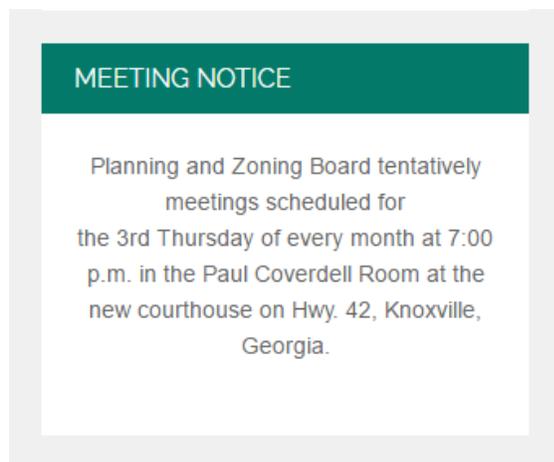


Figure 4: Planning and Zoning Board Meeting Notice

Our Planning Commission consists of a five-member board consisting of residents who have an interest or background in planning and development. The board meets monthly and hears items such as rezoning requests, special use permit requests, and amendments to the zoning ordinance. The board is involved in consideration of future development of all map amendments, zoning amendments, special exceptions and final plat approval within the county. Figure 4 shows the Planning and Zoning Board meeting notice which can be found on the department's page of Crawford County's website in addition to meeting agenda and minutes.

The Planning and Zoning department is a joint service between the City of Roberta and Crawford County which is responsible for producing zoning information, license information, permit information, animal control investigations and complaints, logging permits, inspecting logging roads, citations, and ordinances. This department helps steer local planning decisions

by helping the community access resources to expand business and navigate the required processes for development.

H. We have a regular local plan effectiveness evaluation process (such as annual planning retreats of elected leadership). Please provide information about the most recent.

Evaluations are performed annually to ensure all measures are taken to clearly address the needs of the community and projects as it relates to additional funding that may be needed in the budget. Each project or event performed throughout the year is compared to the anticipated outcome developed by the comprehensive plan steering committee. Evaluations are known to encompass multiple days of review in Crawford County with elected and appointed officials on-hand. Since the steering committee involves a large amount of community input, it is the best resource to evaluate the county's ability to present projects that the community would like. One particular project that has resulted in a large amount of pressure from the community is the replacement of the bridge over the Flint River/SR 128. During annual evaluations, the county realized the large amount of influence needed to ensure Georgia Department of Transportation's completion of the project. The need for additional force would not have been prevalent if the annual evaluations were not completed. Additionally, monthly meetings are held with all elected officials and department heads to evaluate the progress of the goals outlined in the comprehensive plan which ensures consistent focus on implementation and success.

I. All local officials (both elected and appointed) involved in local planning processes have recently attended training in how to use the plan effectively. Please list who attended, which trainings and the date(s) attended. These trainings may include those from Carl Vinson Institute of Government, the Community Planning Institute, GMA or ACCG land use or planning classes, and similar courses.

All members of the Crawford County Board of Commissioners, except Commissioner Justin Spillers, have attended a variety of ACCG trainings, which is documented in the attached training documents. In April 2013, Planning and Zoning Commission members attended a training hosted by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government. The County Manager participates in numerous training opportunities to stay informed of the upcoming planning process avenues and has initiated LEAN Six Sigma initiatives, Eight Step Problem Solving Methodology, and Continual Process Improvement initiatives throughout the county.

J. Provide up to ten of your best recent examples where the plan steered a key local decision, with pertinent plan references (attach additional sheets as needed). Please explain the connection between the comprehensive plan and the decision(s) made.

1. Promote new business development for professional, managerial, and high-tech job opportunities (2006-2011 Short-Term Work Program, Economic Development #2).

- a. Crawford County pursued and received its Work Ready designation in 2011 which allowed coordination with Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC) to develop training courses to efficiently prepare the young workforce for available jobs in Crawford County. Promotion of workforce development has been a

tremendous deciding factor for new industries interested in relocating to Crawford County.

2. Encourage community conservation efforts (2006 Community Agenda, Future Development, Patterns of Development)

- a. In order to accurately address the conservation of open space and encourage the land to be used for parks, trails, and greenways there has been the creation of a memorial park throughout the downtown area of Roberta. When considering new conservation projects, the County looks at future land use character areas with this designation in the comprehensive plan.

3. Promote community pride and protection (2006 Community Agenda, Future Development, Implementation Measures).

- a. The establishment of Keep Roberta/Crawford Beautiful allows for the promotion of aesthetics for the area. Their mission is to encourage community involvement and create a beautiful, healthy environment for all to enjoy. This organization enhances community pride by gathering local volunteers when completing projects.

4. Promote the protection of the historic character and traditional development (2006 Community Agenda, Future Development, Implementation Measures).

- a. Establishment of the Crawford Historical Society was very instrumental in promoting the protection of the historic character and traditional development practices for Crawford County. The goal of the society is to collect, preserve, and interpret the buildings, sites, artifacts, and records significant to the community. Having



additional citizens working towards the preservation of the history in Crawford County is excellent because of their vast knowledge of the area and their ability to obtain any additional information that may not be readily known. The photo above shows the Benjamin Hawkins grave site which was selected for maintenance by the County based on historical significance.

5. Encourage a greater emphasis of aesthetics: streetscape, sidewalk, and landscape improvements (2006 Community Agenda, Future Development, Implementation Measures).

- a. Government officials recognized the strong desire of the citizens for a walkable community and the drive to provide recreational opportunities. Connectivity between the downtown area and surrounding residential neighborhoods has become very prevalent with the establishment of sidewalk extensions allowing residents to walk from their homes to downtown. These new connections allow for exercise, shopping, and community involvement.

6. Enhance the channels of communication community-wide to provide effective coordination across organizational barriers (2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan, Intergovernmental Coordination, page 5).

- a. Crawford County participated in the Peaches to the Beaches Yard Sale in 2017. This is the longest yard sale in Georgia, over 200 miles of yard sales, with official

sites and vendors in communities along US Hwy 341. The decision to participate and expose local businesses as well as citizens to this event was based on potential economic investments and intergovernmental coordination efforts mentioned in Board of Commissioners meetings months prior to the event.

7. The adoption of an animal control ordinance and the need for an assessment for animal control facilities (2006 Community Agenda, Community Issues and Opportunities, Community Facilities and Services).

- a. Crawford County officials recognized the importance of having a strong animal control service with the creation of the Animal Control Ordinance and the forming of partnerships with surrounding counties to provide an animal control task force to respond to situations. This Animal Control Ordinance has recently been renewed and enforcement has decreased public safety concerns on this matter.

8. Promote coordination and cooperation between governments and organizations. (2006-2011 Short-Term Work Program, Intergovernmental Coordination #1).

- a. Crawford County's Emergency Management Agency's (EMA) mission is to coordinate the preparation for, response to, recovery from and mitigation against a host of potential hazards and threats that may affect the citizens of Crawford County. The newly created EMA-Ordinance was very beneficial in leading to hiring decisions for a fully staffed EMA department which allows effective planning activities that are greatly needed for disaster response.

INDICATOR: PARTICIPATION

K. Our comprehensive plan was prepared with multiple community input opportunities. Please provide information about these opportunities, including, if available, dates, agendas, other meeting materials.

Development of the various elements of the 2017 Crawford County and City of Roberta Joint Comprehensive Plan update relied heavily on community input to encompass the needs and opportunities of all sectors of the community. The planning process was formally launched at the first public hearing, held on March 24, 2016 at the Crawford County Courthouse. This initial meeting was designed to inform the community that the planning process had officially started, and to present the formal participation plan, as well as proposed land use maps. Setting this initial background was identified as a necessity by the city and county administration to better familiarize stakeholders with the planning process and encourage more active community involvement. This planning hearing was overseen by city and county administration and facilitated by Middle Georgia Regional Commission staff.

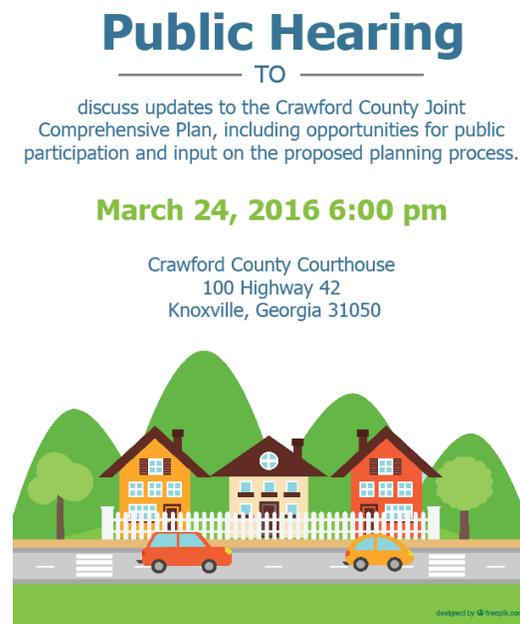


Figure 5: Public Hearing Flyer

Beyond the two required public hearings, the following community input techniques were used:

- Regular steering committee meetings for guidance of the planning process.
- Regular correspondence with community stakeholders.
- Solicitation of feedback at other regular community meetings (City Council, County Commission) through both local government and Regional Commission staff.
- Notification of planning process on city and county websites with invitation for both email and phone input.
- Fliers posted in government and community buildings with contact information for planning staff.

As shown in Table 1, monthly stakeholder meetings were held on a series of topics throughout planning. Each meeting was made open to the public, and consisted of information being presented to the community for feedback along with the opportunity to discuss issues and proposed activities. Notice was given of these stakeholder meetings on both the local government and MGRC websites, and during the first public hearing.

Table 1: Stakeholder Meeting Schedule

1	Plan Overview/Vision, Review Existing Land Use, Discuss Community Goals	February 2016
2	Review Draft Goals and discuss Needs and Opportunities	March 2016
3	Review Draft Needs and Opportunities and Discuss Future Land Use	April 2016
4	Review Draft Land Use and Discuss Recommended Elements	May 2016
5	Transportation/Housing/Economic Development	June 2016
6	Transportation/Housing/Economic Development	July 2016
7	Discuss Community Work Program	August 2016
8	Review Draft Community Work Program	September 2016
9	Review Draft Plan prior to Public Hearing	October 2016
10	Second Public Hearing	October 2016

L. The community input received during plan preparation influenced the content of the plan. How?

Each of the broad plan categories accompanied by a set of needs and opportunities were influenced by input gathered during plan preparation from the citizens of Crawford County and the City of Roberta. Staff at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission further expanded on this input source to develop supplementary content of the plan, especially the community vision and goals and future character land use area sections. Additional outreach and input from other interested community parties who were unable to attend stakeholder meetings was obtained through other methods such as email correspondence, face to face conversation with local representatives, and website feedback. At the final public hearing held in October 2016, members of the public had the opportunity to comment on the final plan draft during a formal submission period. This submission method was used so that all members of the public had the maximum possible potential to contribute to the planning process. All comments and suggestions received during this submission period were considered when revising the final plan draft before adoption. These community input collection examples show how influential

community leaders along with the general public were in ensuring the comprehensive plan represents a wide range of community interests.

M. Our steering committee that guided development of the plan included local leaders and elected officials. Please provide a list of steering committee members and their local affiliations.

A comprehensive list of potential stakeholders was created with input from local organizations, elected officials, local government staff, and residents. A complete list of steering committee members and their local affiliations is found in Table 2:

Table 2: Steering Committee Members				
<u>Name</u>	<u>Local Affiliation</u>		<u>Name</u>	<u>Local Affiliation</u>
Becky Smith	Mayor of Roberta		Lewis Walker	Sheriff
Brenda Carroll	Development Authority		Marcus Early	Central Georgia Tech
Brent Lowe	Education		Pat Kelly	County Manager
David Mincey	Attorney		Patti Temple	Chamber of Commerce
Doug Kelley	Fire Fighter		Paul Chapman	County Commission
Frank Holmes	Citizen		Reverend Hudo	Local Clergy
Frank Miller	Government		Steve Davis	Finance
Henry Blasingame	Citizen		Trey Seagraves	Education
Kelli Cody	UGA Extension Office		Vickey Simmons	Georgia Post
Larry Spillers	Farmer		Zach Woods	High School Student

N. We have an active, ongoing, outreach process for soliciting input on planning matters from a broad spectrum of the community, including non-traditional populations, and the resulting input is listened to by community leaders. Describe this process. How do you engage the stakeholders? Have partnerships been developed because of the planning process? This outreach process includes activities such as:

As shown in the steering committee list above, Crawford County solicits participation from all age groups, ranging from the elderly population to high school students, to obtain planning feedback and include the public in planning decisions. Commissioner meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month; meeting agendas and minutes are uploaded to the County's website regularly. During meetings, leaders hear issues from citizens directly and are able to inform the community of ongoing plan implementation activities. There is also daily public availability from the Board of Commissioners and government staff to discuss community issues through phone calls, e-mails, and face to face interactions. An additional outreach process is the upcoming events calendar, contact information for the Board of Commissioners and each department, and recent news stories found on the County's website. Following the recent comprehensive planning process, relationships grew and improved between the county and the Development Authority. For example, the public and Development Authority expressed

the desire to fill all industrial buildings. Through partnership between the Development Authority and the county, including the county's support for economic development initiatives, today, none of the industrial buildings are vacant.

O. We have active advocates for plan implementation (such as activist citizens, organizations or neighborhood groups) that are listened to by community leaders. These groups include:

1. Brenda Carroll, Crawford County Development Authority board member
2. Water Department staff
3. Older Americans Center
4. UGA Cooperative Extension Office
5. District Attorney
6. Elections Board

Group advocates contact local government staff and elected officials when seeking change. The above list is comprised of both organizations and individual citizens of Crawford County who actively advocate for the community's growth and development. Community leaders listen to the advice, concerns, and ideas presented by these groups when implementing initiatives from the plan. In addition, on a rotational basis, all elected officials are allowed to tell their story 10 minutes before the BOC meetings.

INDICATOR: IMPLEMENTATION

P. The Work Program section of our comprehensive plan consists primarily of specific action items that make it clear exactly what we intend to do to implement the plan. Please give examples of measurable action items included in your work program(s).

The Community Work Program (CWP), which was last completed for the 2017-2022 term, is very detailed for the types of projects desired to achieve the goals set forth in the 2017 Comprehensive Plan. All action items are specific enough to identify certain tasks, developments, or roads to be implemented or updated. Below are examples of measurable action items from the **2017-2022 Community Work Program:**

1. Continue initiative to develop another industrial park off of Highway 341 South and Zenith Mill Road (*Economic Development # 5, page 32*).
2. Maintain the Middle Georgia Folk Pottery Museum to broaden the understanding of the historical standing of the community (*Natural and Cultural Resources #3, page 37*).
3. Widen US Highway 80 for heavy traffic (*Transportation # 5, page 34*).
4. Quarterly meetings of all entities to encourage community development (*Intergovernmental Coordination #3, page 34*).

Q. Our Work Program action items clearly address local needs or goals identified in the plan. These local needs or goals are aligned with work program activities. For example:

2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan Goal	2017-2022 CWP Action Item
Ensure that community need is consistently assessed, and that needed community facilities are provided efficiently, safely, and effectively (<i>Community Facilities #1, page 6</i>).	Ensure all public safety needs are met with up-to-date supplies and training (<i>Community Facilities #3, page 33</i>).
Develop a well-balanced and fully developed housing stock that fits the needs of citizens (<i>Housing #1, page 5</i>).	Support efforts to establish housing options for young professionals (<i>Housing #4, page 32</i>).
Work with local educational partners to ensure that the training needs of local workforce are met (<i>Economic Development #3, page 4</i>).	Seek additional avenues to coordinate with Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC) to promote professional development courses to adequately prepare community residents for jobs within the community (<i>Economic Development #1, page 32</i>).
Coordinate local groups in a community-wide strategy for the recruitment of new industry and the expansion of existing industry (<i>Economic Development #2, page 4</i>).	Establish an effective small business development program to attract and promote new commercial businesses (<i>Economic Development #3, page 32</i>).

R. We have a good track record of accomplishing most of the action items included in past plan Work Programs. Our Report of Accomplishments very specifically shows our level of accomplishment, such as:

More than 65 percent of the action items identified in the **2012-2016 Crawford County Report of Accomplishments** have been completed or substantial progress has been taken to ensure completion; the following list displays recently completed projects:

1. Construct a new 10,000 square foot speculative building in the industrial park; photos below show 2016 completion. (*Economic Development #4, page 39*)



2. Establish a Georgia Scenic Byways along State Route 42 and Highway 341 in Crawford County, which will promote existing trails (Bartram, Peach Blossom), cultural and historic sites, and non-motorized transportation initiatives (i.e. bicycle/golf carts); completed in 2014. (*Natural & Cultural Resources #2, page 40*)
3. Develop a strategy for utilizing portions of the Flint River as a venue for recreational use and creation of a 100-acre park; completed in 2016. (*Natural & Cultural Resources #6, page 40*)
4. Smith Chapel Road Project (3 miles); completed in 2015. (*Transportation #6, page 41*)

S. Our local capital budget is consistent with, and is designed to implement, the comprehensive plan. Please explain the connections between your budget and your work program.

Crawford County's capital budget is consistent with the enactment of the comprehensive plan goals specifically as it relates to special projects that would require the designation of larger than anticipated funding. County funding is set aside for work program projects along with the possibility of funding from grant opportunities. These additional funds are also designated to act as matching funds for large projects that could not be completed without the use of grant funds.

T. Provide up to ten of your best recent examples of important projects carried out as a result of the plan, with the specific plan references (attach additional sheets as needed). Please explain how these activities were a result of the plan or the planning process. Consider including photographs, newspaper articles or other exhibits to elaborate on these projects.

<p>1. Replacement of the bridge over Flint River/SR 128 (8 miles north of Reynolds), PI #333205 (State Transportation Improvement Program-STIP) (2012-2016 Crawford County Report of Accomplishments, Transportation #2, page 41).</p> <p>This project was completed in 2016 with assistance from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). It was originally included in the comprehensive plan following a GDOT determination that the bridge was unsafe for use. This replacement allows normal flow of traffic over the bridge.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Flint River/SR 128</p>
<p>2. Promote the use of Crawford Transit (the 5311 Program) (2012-2016 Crawford County Report of Accomplishments, Transportation #1, page 41).</p> <p>Crawford County noticed the underutilization of the Crawford Transit 5311 Program and the need to inspire its use among the community within the first years of the program being established. Following the county's promotion of the service, in 2017, the Crawford Transit System operates five days per week with a weekly average of 35 riders who otherwise don't have any means of transportation. The County plans to continue to inform citizens of this service, especially to help the growing elderly population.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Crawford Transit User</p>
<p>3. Continue Code Enforcement activities with developers to enforce minimum housing standards for new development (2012-2016 Crawford County Report of Accomplishments, Housing #3, page 39).</p> <p>Building code standards were amended in 2016 as a result of the need for new commercial sites in the County. Code enforcement is an ongoing process which has allowed the Planning and Zoning department to attract new development in the community.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">New construction being inspected by Planning and Zoning</p>

4. PI #7029-Replace Highway 80 bridge over Echeconnee Creek at Crawford County line (2012-2016 Crawford County Report of Accomplishments, Transportation #5, page 41).

Construction is underway to resolve GDOT safety concerns and this project will be complete by September 2017. The county long recognized the need for replacement due to traffic congestion and to address safety concerns, such as allowing emergency lanes. Finally, highway resurfacing will alleviate extensive road damage due to the large amount of traffic the road receives.



Current project status

5. Encourage total community involvement (2017-2022 Community Work Program, Intergovernmental Coordination #2, page 34).

Total community involvement is encouraged by the many cooperative organizations of Crawford County including the Chamber of Commerce, Development Authority, Historical Society, and UGA Cooperative Extension. Most of the efforts include the preservation of the large amount of natural and cultural history along with the rich agricultural influence in the community. This has been and remains an ongoing priority for Crawford County leadership.



Georgia JugFest: annual event in celebration of the pottery-making heritage of Crawford County

6. Establish a Joint Recreational Facility Board (2012-2016 Crawford County Report of Accomplishments, Community Facilities #1, page 40).

The Joint Board of Recreation was recognized as a need and then established in 2013 to assist with the expansion of recreational facilities and allow for an extensive review of potential opportunities. In 2016, the Board of Recreation successfully developed a Recreation Master Plan which addresses community recreation and entertainment.



Joint Board Members review recreational facilities all over the County such as this one

7. Advertise home ownership assistance programs, such as Georgia Dream Home Ownership Program, to low-to-moderate income families (2012-2016 Crawford County Report of Accomplishments, Housing #1, page 39).

Many community members are unaware of the housing opportunities available in the County. Recognizing the benefit to the community of promoting home ownership, Crawford County took steps to advertise programs such as the Georgia Dream Homeownership Program. These advertisements are found throughout the community, specifically at the Crawford County Administrative Building, allowing material to be distributed regularly. Those interested in the program are also encouraged to seek additional information from DCA.



8. Create mixed employment areas which encourage a broad range of employment opportunities (2017 Joint Comprehensive Plan, Economic Development Goal #2, page 4)

Crawford County has had great success in attracting national and international businesses. Recently announced, Kruger Energies who purchased 1700 acres in the county for a power management solar farm, expect to create 200 short-term construction jobs valued at \$240 million dollars. Having a broad range of employment opportunities will allow additional economic development which is an overall goal of the County.



Please attach additional sheets as needed to tell your story. Application should not exceed 20 pages. Application may be electronically transmitted or printed, scanned and emailed to adriane.wood@dca.ga.gov . For more information, contact Adriane Wood.

Crawford County 2017 PlanFirst Application
ACCG Board of Commissioner's Training Documentation

Paul (Paul) Chapman -Chairman at Crawford County

Program	Certification Hours			Date of Certification	Display
	Required Courses	Elective Courses	Total		
Commissioners Training Program	24 Hrs	18 Hrs	42 Hrs	9/30/2013	<input type="button" value="Display"/>
Certified Commissioners Advanced Program	0 Hrs	12 Hrs	12 Hrs		<input type="button" value="Display"/>

Bobby (Bobby) Blasingame - Vice-Chairman at Crawford County

Program	Hours Needed for Certification	Hours Completed	Date of Certification	Display
Core Certification Courses	66 Hrs	66 Hrs	6/5/2014	<input type="button" value="Display"/>

Sterling (Sterling) Braswell - Commissioner at Crawford County

Program	Hours Needed for Certification	Hours Completed	Date of Certification	Display
Core Certification Courses	66 Hrs	66 Hrs	10/9/2015	<input type="button" value="Display"/>

Justin (Justin) Spillers - Commissioner at Crawford County

Program	Certification Hours			Date of Certification	Display
	Required Courses	Elective Courses	Total		
Commissioners Training Program	0 Hrs	0 Hrs	0 Hrs		<input type="button" value="Display"/>
Certified Commissioners Advanced Program	0 Hrs	0 Hrs	0 Hrs		<input type="button" value="Display"/>

John (JT) Thomas - Commissioner at Crawford County

Program	Hours Needed for Certification	Hours Completed	Date of Certification	Display
Core Certification Courses	66 Hrs	66 Hrs	7/18/2014	<input type="button" value="Display"/>

CRAWFORD CO. PLANNING & ZONING BOARD

***Darren Suggs, Chairman**

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***Jarred Mattox**

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CRAWFORD COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING

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Roberta/Crawford County Planning and Zoning Board Meeting

Meeting Date: October 25, 2012

Chairman Suggs called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

The following members were present: Mr. Darren Suggs, Mr. Nedam Walker, Mr. Richard Joyner, and Mr. Dan Hudson

Invocation given by: Mr. Nedam Walker

Approval of the agenda: The agenda for October 25, 2012 was presented. Mr. Suggs asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to the agenda as presented. There were none. He asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Walker entered a motion to approve the agenda and Mr. Joyner seconded the motion. The board voted 3-0 to approve the agenda.

Previous minutes: Minutes from September 27, 2012 were read. Mr. Suggs asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes as read. There were none. He asked for motion to approve the minutes as read. Mr. Hudson entered a motion to approve the minutes as read and Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The board voted 3-0 to approve the minutes.

First on the agenda

Mr. Albert Jones has requested the Planning and Zoning Board to consider rezoning a parcel of property located at 645 US Hwy 341 N., Roberta, Ga., (Map C054C, Parcel 019). He would like to rezone from R-MH to C-2. The present zoning does not allow a commercial application. Mr. Jones proposes operating a meat processing and packaging facility at this location. The building is located on 0.6 acre, but only requires 3500 square feet with city sewer. There was no opposition to the rezoning. The Dept. of Agriculture has jurisdiction over the requirements and the Health Dept. is requiring a grease trap for anything entering the sewer system. Parking requirements are three (3) spaces for every two hundred (200) square feet of retail sales space. All parking spaces shall be hard surfaced with concrete or plant bituminous material. Mr. Walker inquired as to whether the siding contained asbestos. It is undetermined at this time and it would be incumbent on Mr. Jones to properly disposed of the siding if it is disturbed. Mr. Suggs wanted to know what renovations the Dept. of Agriculture requires. Mr. Jones does not have a complete list at this time. Mr. Suggs asked if there were any further questions. There were not. He asked for a motion to approve or deny the rezoning. Mr. Walker entered a motion to deny the rezoning and Mr. Hudson seconded the motion. Mr. Suggs asked if there was any further discussion. There was not. The Board voted 3-0 to **Deny** the rezoning.



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Ms Adrian Wood
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
PlanFirst Program
60 Executive Park South, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 40329-2231

*"Come see us for the beauty, history, to relax
and to live...see you soon"*

Dear Ms. Wood,

The Roberta-Crawford County Chamber of Commerce is excited and very proud to submit a letter of support for city and county's application for "PlanFirst Program" designation.

Our city and county can be described as an engaged community comprised of many elements with common goals to succeed. We rely upon successful planning of events for example, Peaches to the Beaches (GIPA), Georgia Jug Festival and Old Knoxville Days, Papa's Peach Classic 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run and more. Involvement of county government, manger, commissioners, county elected officials, development authority, city mayor and council, department heads, board of education, police and sheriff department and our recycling offices and organizations provide services or materials are planned elements we rely to provide success in tourism, economic development worthy of our citizenry. No one event or project is completed by an individual, nor organization, that is not the Crawford County plan. Our plan is like a team relying on not just one player but the team who gets the game won.

In Crawford County and Roberta, citizens will come together to provide what is necessary to accomplish goals using volunteerism where there is little capitol finance available. This was very evident when county Recycling Center took on providing green space known as our David Bailey Park; Crawford Civic Center was developed by a relocated church in Musella; Christmas and Fall Decorations in place each year by volunteers; our festival as a joint effort by chamber and Historical Society. This list goes on through years of cooperative spirit, common goals, leadership in all areas to promote tourism, or programs needed. Though most often faced with common problem of very little capital as leaders the results are triumph ends. The same happens if a disaster befalls the community, everyone comes out to assist their neighbor and community, because that is the plan in Crawford County ... reliance on each other and it is planned to execute in that same way with all occasions confident our leaders will lead and those leaders may change but results will remain constant.

As a result, using the abilities of many, the planned results by our leadership become successful ventures in events of tourism, business development, and including our education of students in Roberta and Crawford County through planned scholarship programs. That is why I believe in this county and its people and proudly request Roberta and Crawford County application for PlanFirst Program designation be given very favorable consideration knowing this community will implement a plan and carrying the plan through to the finished outstanding product or end.

Sincerely,
Patti Temple
Patti Temple
RCCCoC E.D.





Crawford County Development Authority

Brenda Carroll, Board Member
P.O. Box 700, Roberta, GA 31078
478-836-3497

May 9, 2017

Ms. Adrian Wood
Georgia Department of Community Affairs, PlanFirst Program
60 Executive Park South, N.E., Atlanta, GA 40329-2231

Dear Ms. Wood:

Please accept this letter as my total support for Crawford County's PlanFirst application. Our community is a growing and thriving community that has historic preservation, economic development, planning and revitalization. These things are the result of hard work and progressive leadership that has a desire to assist in the growth of Middle Georgia.

Despite a county-wide population according to the 2016 Census of 12,630 people, and according to houses, planning and zoning the population is near 18,000 people. We are able to provide transportation, employment and healthcare for three counties. Over 25,000 people depend on Crawford County's ability to continue creating jobs, housing, transportation and quality of life amenities. It is critically important that our team partners with DCA and the state of Georgia to explore any and all resources to be effective.

This community has worked very hard to develop long-term plans and to put them into action. The community has the first successful rural incubator in USDA history and still in operation, plans are in place for a new bike trail. Crawford County houses one of the largest sand producers which creates jobs as well as the successful industrial park businesses including a stone company, coated sand manufacturer, chemical company, uniform company, and various others.

Because of our success we have had visits from several International Business leaders looking to develop within the county as well as a few local Business leaders. Please help us to continue the upward trend, I would like to thank you for all you do for our wonderful state.

Sincerely,

Brenda Carroll
Board Member
Crawford County Development Authority