

# *Opelika* **ON TRACK**

SPRING 2026



MAYOR EDDIE SMITH  
PROUD TO SERVE HIS  
HOMETOWN

# PROUD TO SERVE HIS HOMETOWN

## MAYOR EDDIE SMITH

Dear Citizens of Opelika,

It is an honor to write my first letter to you as Mayor in our city's On Track magazine. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and proud to call Opelika home. This is a special community, and I am happy to be your mayor as we work together to shape its future.

One of the most rewarding parts of these first months in office has been getting to know our city staff. I have been impressed by their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to serving our citizens each day. Learning more about their work has been both insightful and rewarding. Opelika benefits from a strong team that truly cares about this community.

We are also continuing our strong partnership with the school system, including plans for the expansion at Fox Run School. Investing in education is investing in our future, and we are committed to ensuring our facilities meet the needs of our growing population while maintaining the quality our families expect.

As Opelika continues to grow, we are taking thoughtful steps to manage that growth responsibly. Implementing a moratorium with respect to planning, allows us to slow development strategically, ensuring our infrastructure and services can keep pace. Growth is positive, but it must be guided carefully to protect the character and stability of our city.

At the same time, we are focused on bringing new industry and quality jobs to Opelika. Strengthening our local economy will create lasting opportunity for our citizens.

I am excited about the future of Opelika. The years ahead hold significant promise, and I look forward to all we will accomplish together.

Sincerely,



Mayor Eddie Smith



# FINANCIALS

## REVENUE TOTALS FY 2025

Budgeted 2025 Revenue \_\_\_\_\_ \$178.8 million

Actual Total Revenue \_\_\_\_\_ \$177.8 million

### General Fund only

SALES TAX \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.9 million

PROPERTY TAX \_\_\_\_\_ \$7.2 million

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE FEE \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.6 million

BUSINESS LICENSE FEE \_\_\_\_\_ \$4.6 million

OTHER TAX \_\_\_\_\_ \$14.3 million



**AMERICA 250 ALABAMA**  
*City of Opelika*

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR NATION'S 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
 OF THE SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

See Opelika's America 250 Events at: [opelika-al.gov/America250Opelika](http://opelika-al.gov/America250Opelika)




If you live, work, or travel  
 in the City of Opelika...

We want to  
 hear from  
 you!

[bit.ly/SS4AOpelikaSurvey](http://bit.ly/SS4AOpelikaSurvey)

**OPELIKA SS4A**  
 SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL

## Opelika Easter Events

**Flashlight Egg Hunt**  
 Thursday, April 2nd at 7:30 p.m.  
 Opelika SportsPlex | 3rd-5th graders  
 FREE and open to public

**Underwater Egg Hunt**  
 Friday, April 3rd at 6:00p.m.  
 Opelika SportsPlex | Ages 6-10  
 \$5 per person. Must register by March 30th.

**Easter on the Square**  
 Saturday, April 4th at 10:00 a.m.  
 Courthouse Square | 2nd grade & under  
 FREE and open to public

For more information visit [opelikaparks.com](http://opelikaparks.com)



# ENGINEERING, PUBLIC WORKS, & OPS/SIGNAL DIVISION

## **TRAFFIC, TRAFFIC, EVERYWHERE!**

The City of Opelika is growing! This is a good thing because a growing city is a healthy city. Growth does come with its shares of challenges, from the schools, emergency services to transportation. The City Engineering, Public Works, and OPS/Signal Division have been working diligently for years to maintain, manage, and grow the transportation infrastructure to keep up with this growth. From new roads, improved intersections, and improved traffic signal technologies, the city is doing its best to manage and maintain a free-flowing and safe transportation system inside and throughout the city.

The city is in its second year of a three-year plan to maintain and upgrade the traffic signals inside the city to improve traffic through the intersections and along major corridors. The implementation of modern traffic signal technology is the key to improvement. The newly formed traffic signal group within OPS and Engineering has upgraded most of the signals in the city with modern traffic signal control systems as well as dependable detection systems.

Traffic signal detection in the form of cameras and radar can identify when a vehicle pulls up to a signal and can send this message to the new computer-controlled signal. This will reduce the wait time for when a vehicle is stopped at a signal with no opposing traffic. This new detection system also allows the signal technicians and engineers to perform live counts at an intersection, and they can adjust the function of the signal in live time. The new computer controllers in the signal will also allow the city staff to coordinate timings between signals on major corridors like Gateway Drive, Pepperell Parkway, and Frederick Road. This coordination will allow the heavy traffic areas to flow more freely and efficiently.

We are utilizing a new series through Waze, called Waze for Cities, to get more real-time data in the hands of our drivers. From interactive Waze user's input, along with information shared from our traffic cabinets, we can influence drivers route decisions based on real-time data regarding slowdowns, collision location, road closures, and similar information. Putting the decision in the hands of the driver can eliminate frustration as we grow as a city.

Growing pains and increased traffic are hard to work with and will take time to perfect, but please know we are working diligently to make traffic flow better. We live in a great city and the employees that are working on this task are dedicated to making the city the best it can be.




# OPELIKA<sup>®</sup>


## PUBLIC LIBRARY




**410,084** people walked through our doors!



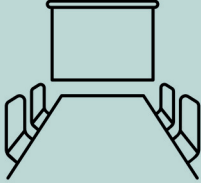
**17,196** people have a library card




Public computers were used **14,804** times & WiFi was used **1,450,552** times




Open for **3,096** hours



In-library services included **725 meetings** hosted at OPL



**Hosted authors:**  
Mary Kay Andrews  
Kiley Reid  
Mike Malbrough  
Grady Hendrix



**299,605** materials circulated

**ADULT** Books: 52,220  
eContent: 88,647  
A/V: 12,767

**YOUTH** Books: 127,107  
eContent: 11,341  
A/V: 7,523

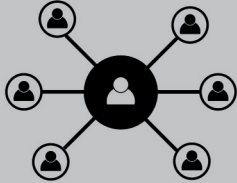


The value of services provided in FY25 was **\$10,878,583.23**

For every **\$1.00** provided to Opelika Public Library, we returned **\$4.75** in value.

View the full ROI calculator at <http://bit.ly/oplroi25>

Across all age groups offered **1,189** programs with **22,388** attendees




**OPL Makerspace**  
The Makerspace offers hands-on creativity, learning, and community collaboration. We saw **104% increase** in open make session use and **26% more** unique patrons overall.



**129** ILL Items lent to other libraries



**252** ILL Items borrowed for Opelika patrons

# FY 25 ANNUAL REPORT SNAPSHOT

# PARKS & RECREATION



## 2025 STATS

**116** coach safety certifications

**500** kids took swim lessons

**123** programs offered

**86** CPR/First Aid certifications

**32** special events offered

**325** seniors provided with health resources

**\$10** million economic impact generated by 28 sports tournaments

## AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 10U + 12U Boys ARPA District V Basketball Tournament Champions

## COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Floral Park inclusive playground, splash pad, athletics facilities, and parking
- Spring Villa Lodge

## ONGOING CONSTRUCTION

- Penn Yonge Dining Hall renovation
- West Ridge Park Miracle League field, playground, canopies, fencing, and landscaping
- Sam Bailey Pickleball Pavilion and open courts

## NEW HIRES

- Phoebe Brown - Age Group Swim Coach
- Derick Reap - Maintenance Supervisor
- Corey Butler - Sportsplex Center Supervisor
- Ari Brogdon - Building Service Worker
- Bobby Chambers - Building Service Worker

# OPELIKA POWER SERVICES

## WELCOME TO OPS

At Opelika Power Services, we're more than just your electric utility—we're your neighbors, your partners, and a proud part of what makes Opelika thrive. As a city-owned, community-powered utility, we're dedicated to delivering safe, reliable, and affordable energy while reinvesting in the people and places we serve.

### POWERING OPELIKA WITH PURPOSE

Being locally owned means every dollar we earn stays right here. We are supporting jobs, upgrading infrastructure, improving service, and helping Opelika grow. Our mission goes beyond keeping the lights on. We're here to build a stronger local economy and a more connected community.

### OUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS (AS OF DECEMBER 2025)

**16,321** total active residential accounts

**2,423** total active commercial accounts

### WHY CHOOSE A COMMUNITY-OWNED UTILITY?

- Local Control: As part of city government, utility decisions reflect community priorities.
- Reinvestment in Opelika: Revenue stays local which improves services and drives development.
- Job Creation: We create and support jobs right here in our hometown.
- Business Friendly: We provide system capacity, fast response, and competitive rates to support local business growth.
- Responsive Service: Our customer service team and skilled linemen work daily to meet your needs.

### TOGETHER, WE'RE BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

From reliable electricity to long-term economic development, Opelika Power Services is proud to power the lives and businesses of our community. Thank you for trusting us to serve you.



# INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS



## **BUILDINGS & PARKS**

- Floral Park (completed 2025)
- Spring Villa Lodge (completed 2025)
- Public Works building (completed 2025)
- Fire Station #2 (construction starting 2026)
- Pickleball Complex - 9 courts and player experience (under construction, expected to finish early 2026)
- West Ridge Park improvement (ongoing)
- Downtown landscaping refresh (ongoing)

## **ROAD & PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS**

- Cunningham Dr. and Frederick Rd. intersection (completed 2025)
- New city signage project (completed 2026)
- Thomason Rd. extension (under construction, expected to finish 2026)
- Frederick Rd. and Gateway intersection improvements (construction starting 2026)
- Waverly Pkwy. multi-use path (construction starting 2026)
- Gateway Dr. (Society Hill Rd. to Marvyn Pkwy.) multi-use path and resurfacing (under construction)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. and N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. signal (construction starting 2026)
- Waverly Pkwy./Dunlop Dr. signal and intersection improvements (construction starting 2026)
- Hi Pack Dr. extension to Cunningham Dr. with a roundabout (construction starting 2026)
- Cunningham Dr./1<sup>st</sup> Ave. roundabout (Mill development) (construction starting 2026)
- Northeast sewer expansion/Industrial Park sewer improvements (ongoing)

# INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

## ONGOING PROJECTS

- Culvers - 455 Westpoint Pkwy. (construction starting 2026)
- The Mill mixed use development (construction expected 2026)
- Chasing Aces - golf entertainment venue
- Mercy Medical - 325 Dunlop Dr. (almost complete)
- EAH Hospital addition (under construction)
- GL Pack - Industrial - 3100 S. Uniroyal Rd. (under construction)
- Liv Smart Hotel - 2495 Interstate Dr. (under construction)
- Cunningham Plaza - multi-use commercial center
- St. Mary's Catholic Church - 450 Lake Condy Rd. (construction expected 2026)
- Midsouth Bank - 500 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. (under construction)
- Creekside Cottages - 225 residential units on Society Hill Rd. (under construction)
- Towns of Hampshire Apartments - 155 residential units - 2650 Frederick Rd. (under construction)
- Flat Penny development - S. Railroad
- Piper Sage Station development - N. Railroad
- The Local - 196 residential units
- EAH Psychiatric Hospital - Village Professional Dr. (completed 2025)
- Food Bank of East Alabama - 1606 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. (completed 2025)
- Townplace Suites (completed 2025)
- Element Hotel (completed 2025)

## MAJOR INDUSTRIAL EXPANSIONS

- Pharmavite Expansion
- Daewon Expansion



# OPELIKA FIRE DEPARTMENT

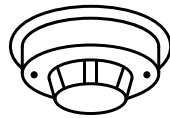
## 2025 SUMMARY OF EVENTS

At the Opelika Fire Department, service is personal. We train hard, respond quickly, and stand ready at all times. As part of the City of Opelika, we are proud to protect our community with professionalism, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to safety.



**2,250**

INSPECTIONS /  
PRE-FIRE PLANS



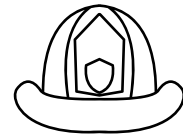
**45**

SMOKE ALARMS  
INSTALLED



**390**

LOCAL CPR  
CERTIFICATIONS



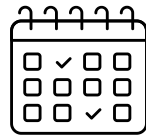
**8,000**

STUDENT TRAINING  
HOURS



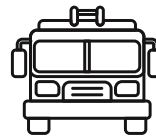
**200**

PROFESSIONAL  
CERTIFICATIONS  
ISSUED



**308**

COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH  
ACTIVITIES



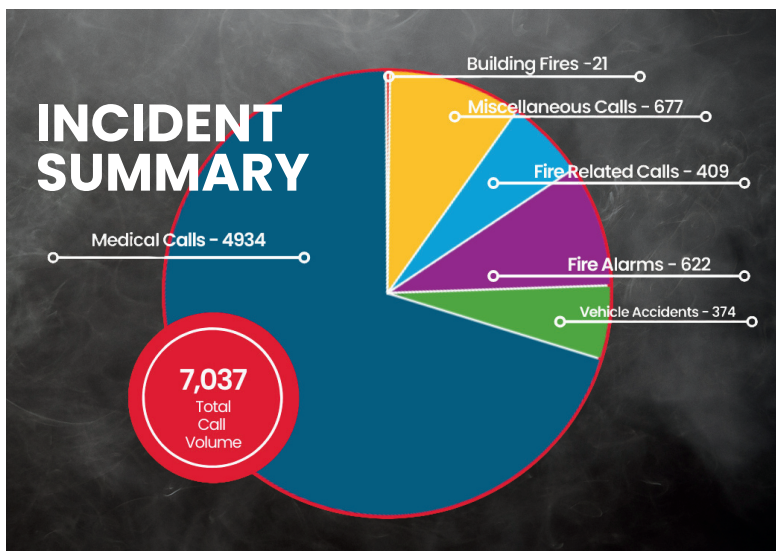
**7,037**

CALLS  
RESPONDED



**1,860**

FIRE HYDRANT  
MAINTENANCE





# OPELIKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

January – December 2025



### Total Calls for Service

**88,592**

Police, Fire and Rescue



### Total Incidents

**5,153**

Reports Taken



### Traffic Stops

**11,313**



### Traffic Crashes

**3,195**



### Cases Assigned

**1,008**



### Social Media

Posts: 1,557  
 Impressions: 42,937,214  
 Shares: 33,442  
 Total Followers: 38,792



### Major Crime Down 17.2% from 2024

Incidents	2025	2024	% Change
Violent Crime	159	189	-15%
Property Crime	873	1,057	-17%

### Arrests

Total Arrests **2,615**    Felony Arrests **325**    DUIs **252**

### Total Citations: 3,639

**539** No Insurance    **435** Improper Tag    **397** No Driver's License    **380** Speeding

### Social Services Contacts **3,765**

#### Records, Property, & Evidence

E-Crash Reports	1,624	Incident & Crash Reports	1,557
Background Checks	562	Carfax Reports	724
Evidence Received	3,282	Evidence Purged	5,265
Found Property	43	Property Returned	253

### Annual Report

The 2025 Opelika Police Annual Report will be available to pick up in the lobby of the police department in March.



**BE THE FIRST TO KNOW**  
 DOWNLOAD THE OPELIKA POLICE MOBILE APP  
[opelikapd.org](http://opelikapd.org)



Together, **OPELIKA.**

CONNECT WITH US  
  
 @opelikapd

# CITY COUNCIL

## NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Opelika City Council Meetings are held the first and third Tuesday each month at Municipal Court. The work session begins at 5:30 PM and the regular meeting begins at 6 PM. The meetings are open to the public.



**PRESIDENT**

**WARD 1**  
**George Allen**  
 334.663.3164  
 wgallen@opelika-al.gov



**PRESIDENT PRO-TEM**

**WARD 4**  
**Chuck Beams**  
 334.319.3473  
 cbeams@opelika-al.gov



**WARD 2**  
**Janataka Hughley-Holmes**  
 334.559.5183  
 jhughley-holmes@opelika-al.gov



**WARD 3**  
**Leigh Whatley**  
 334.524.6365  
 lwhatley@opelika-al.gov



**WARD 5**  
**Todd Rauch**  
 334.737.9355  
 trauch@opelika-al.gov



**CITY CLERK**  
**Russell Jones**  
 334.705.5110  
 rjones@opelika-al.gov

## City of Opelika Department Directory

Administration 334.705.5150	Engineering 334.705.5450	Municipal Court 334.705.5196	Parks & Recreation 334.705.5560
Community Relations 334.705.5136	Environmental Services 334.705.5480	Probation 334.705.5198	Planning 334.705.5156
Building Inspection 334.705.5420	ESG/Public Works 334.705.5400	Opelika Power Services 334.705.5170	Police (Non-Emergency) 334.705.5260
City Clerk 334.705.5110	Fire Department 334.705.5300	Opelika Public Library 334.705.5380	Purchasing (Revenue) 334.705.5120 (5160)