

Beaufort County News Release

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH SECTION | COMMUNICATIONS AND ACCOUNTABILITY DEPARTMENT

Contact:

Alicia Holland, CPA
Assistant County Administrator for Finance
843.255.2296

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County Introduces Citizen Transparency Financial Website

Beaufort County has taken an additional step to become more financially transparent and engage the public in its civic process. Today, the County introduced Citizen Transparency, a user-friendly resource providing meaningful information about how the County utilizes public funds and the sources of those funds. Much of the County's financial data has been available online for several years, including annual and quarterly budget reports, as well as vendor payment reports, and department budgets; however, Citizen Transparency will allow anyone with access to a computer to sort, search, analyze, and download the County's financial information.

“The introduction of the Citizen Transparency website means that citizens can now more easily access and search Beaufort County’s financial records,” said Beaufort County Administrator Gary Kubic. “We are proud to be able to provide access to this kind of detailed information, which promotes public trust and government accountability.”

Unlike programs that only provide a static snapshot of data, Citizen Transparency will be updated weekly with the most recent figures. Users can review total spending to date, examine how funds are appropriated by department, see which vendors receive payments in a given year, or research spending for any area of the County, including non-tax dollar expenditures. Data is also available for the past two fiscal years. Citizen Transparency also features easy-to-navigate graphics with data organized by category, department, government area, fund, and vendor. The interactive charts and graphs allow for easy analysis of the County’s financial data and give meaning and clarity to those numbers.

Beaufort County Council and administrative staff began discussing Citizen Transparency last year during budget discussions, as a tool to not only heighten financial transparency, but also to reduce the staff time and cost associated with common records requests and maximize convenience for citizens in accessing the County’s financial information. Tyler Technologies, the County’s financial software provider, developed the site, which is available from the County’s homepage, www.bcgov.net, or by clicking [here](#).