

State of the County 2021



Cherokee County
Georgia

Harry B. Johnston
Chairman

The State of the County
is *uniquely* **EXCEPTIONAL.**

Cherokee County is *primed*
FOR GREAT THINGS.



**2021 &
BEYOND**



What's so *exceptional*
ABOUT CHEROKEE COUNTY?

PRACTICALLY

Everything.



What's so *exceptional* **ABOUT CHEROKEE COUNTY?**

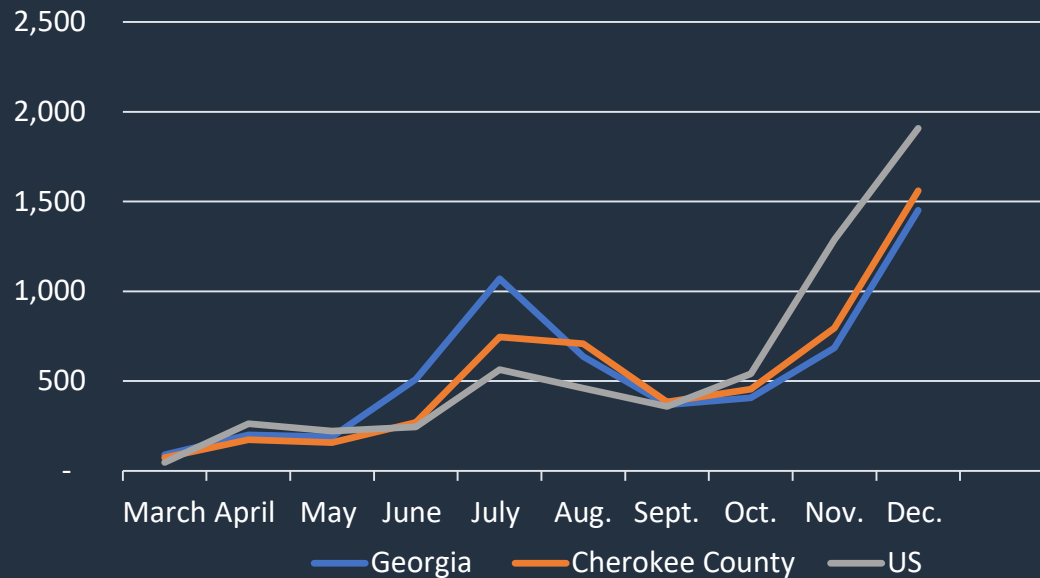
- Financial Strength & Very Low Taxes
- Excellent Schools, Public Safety, and Other Services
- Great Natural Resources
- Location where Metro Meets the Mountains
- Comfortable Small-Town Lifestyle with Easy Access to Atlanta



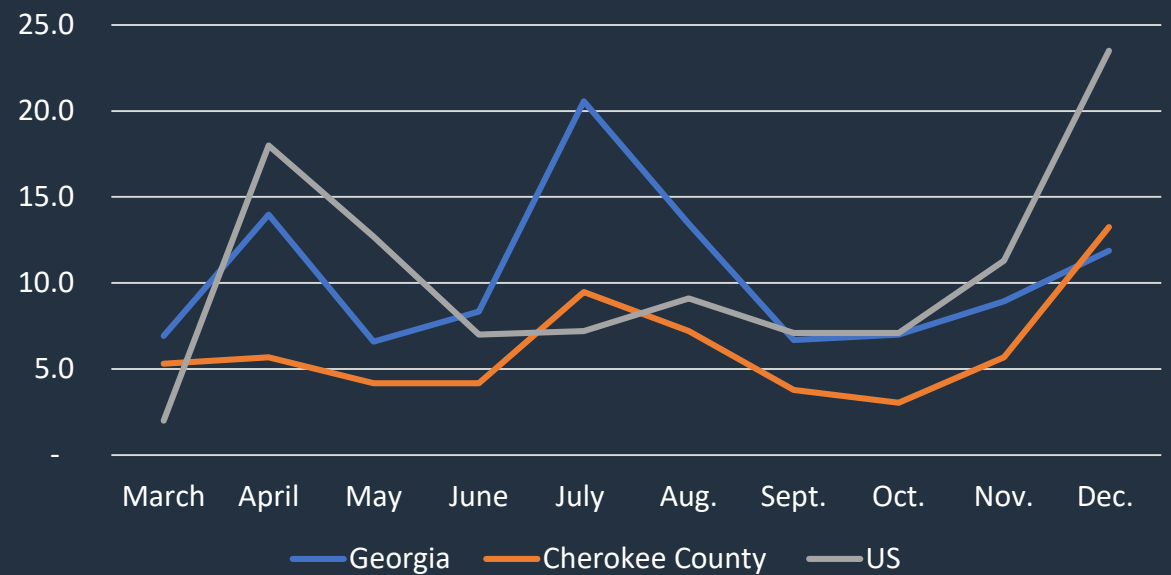
COVID-19 Pandemic

Cherokee County COVID-19 Comparisons

Positive Cases per Capita



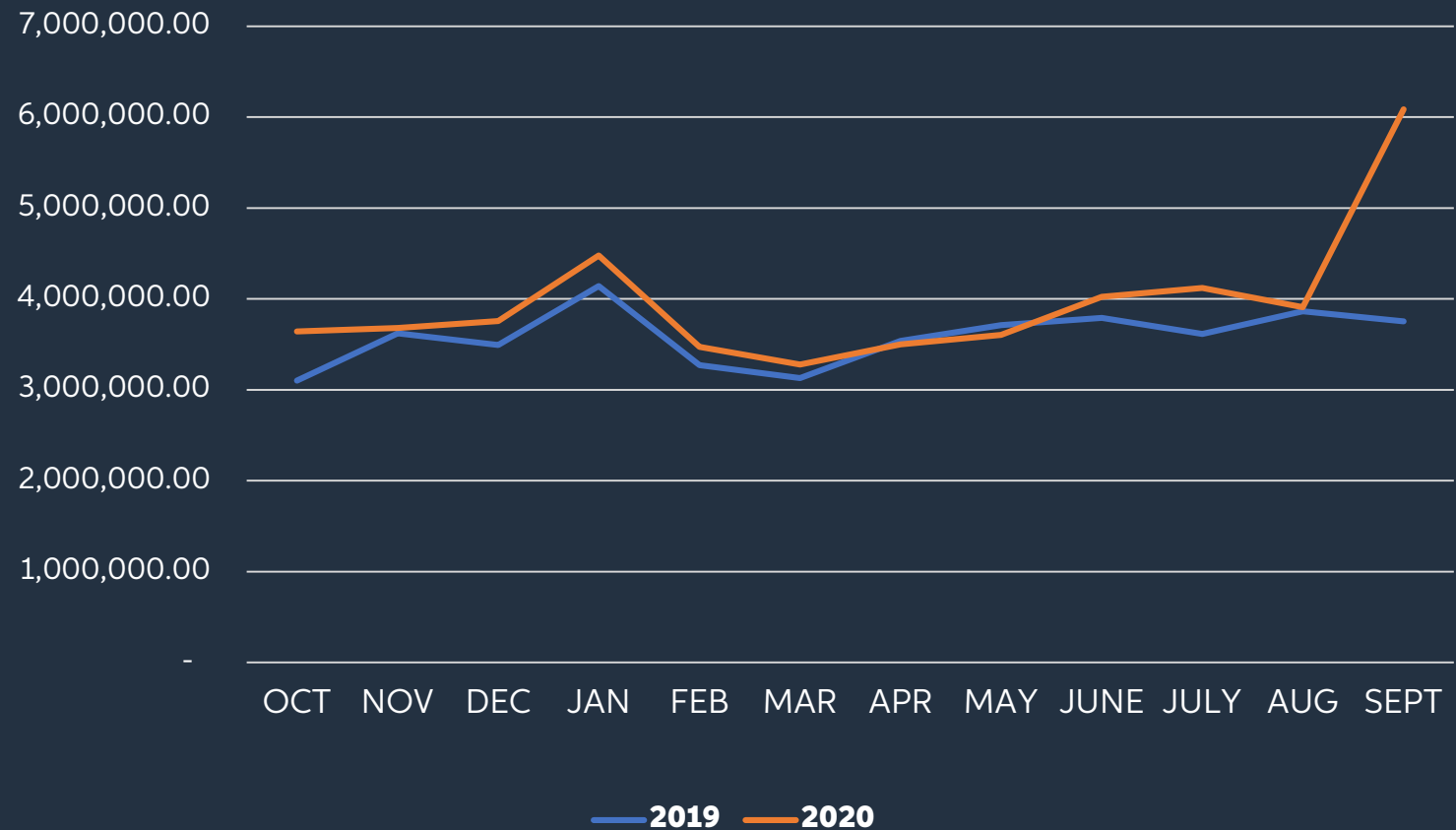
COVID-19 Deaths per Capita



COVID-19 Economic Recovery

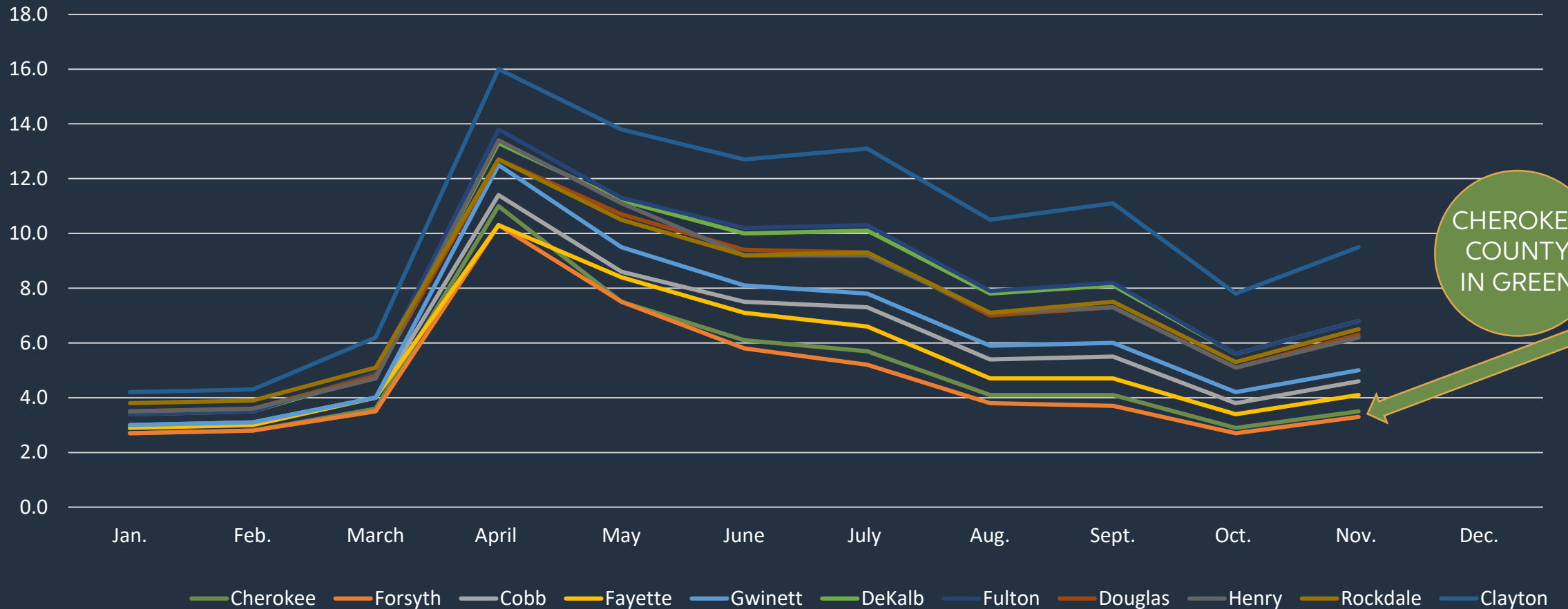
Oct. 2019-Sept. 2020 Sales Tax Collections

SALES TAX COLLECTIONS UP
10.5%
FROM FISCAL YEAR 2019



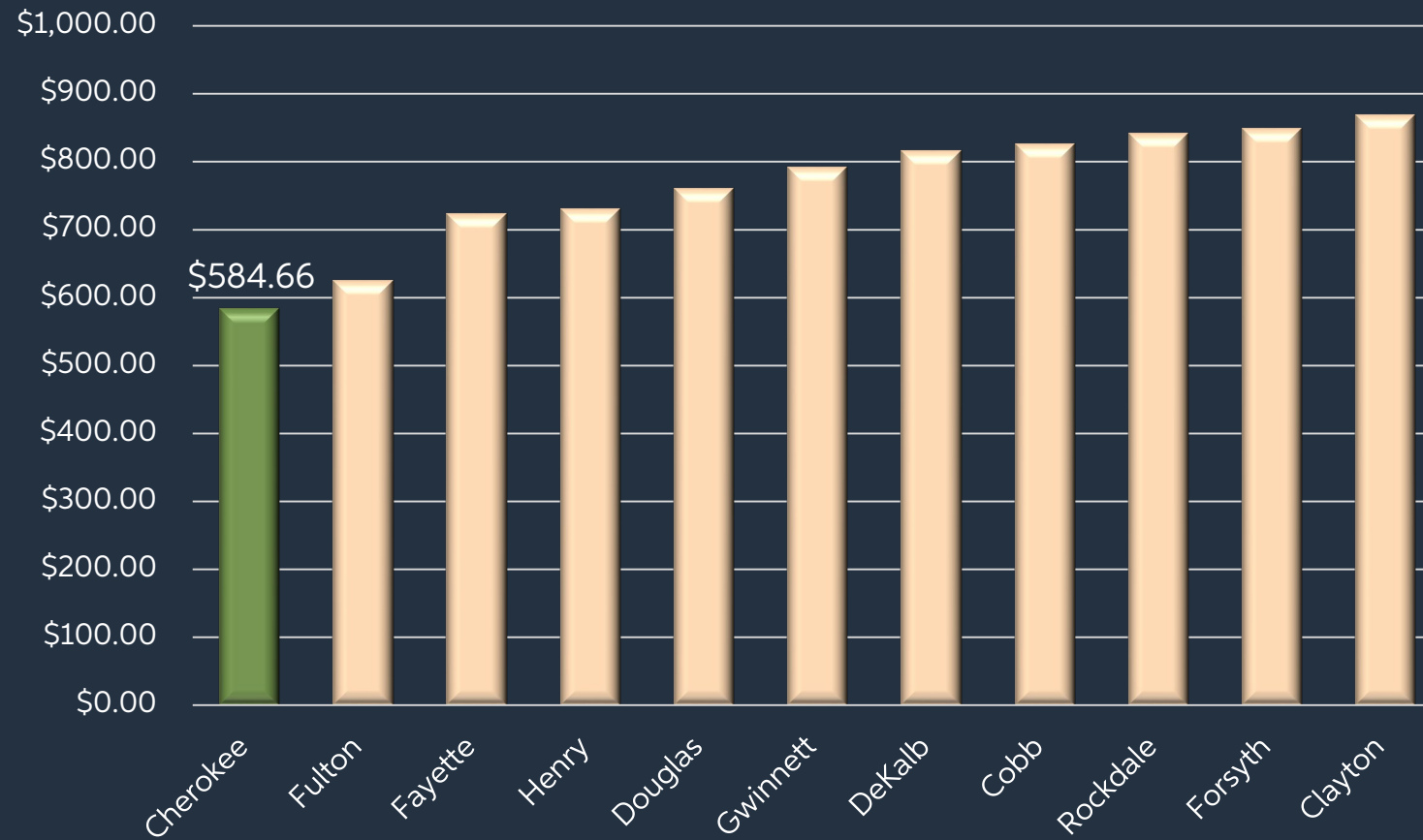
COVID-19 Economic Recovery

UNEMPLOYMENT 2020



FINANCIAL Strengths

Tax Burden Per Capita

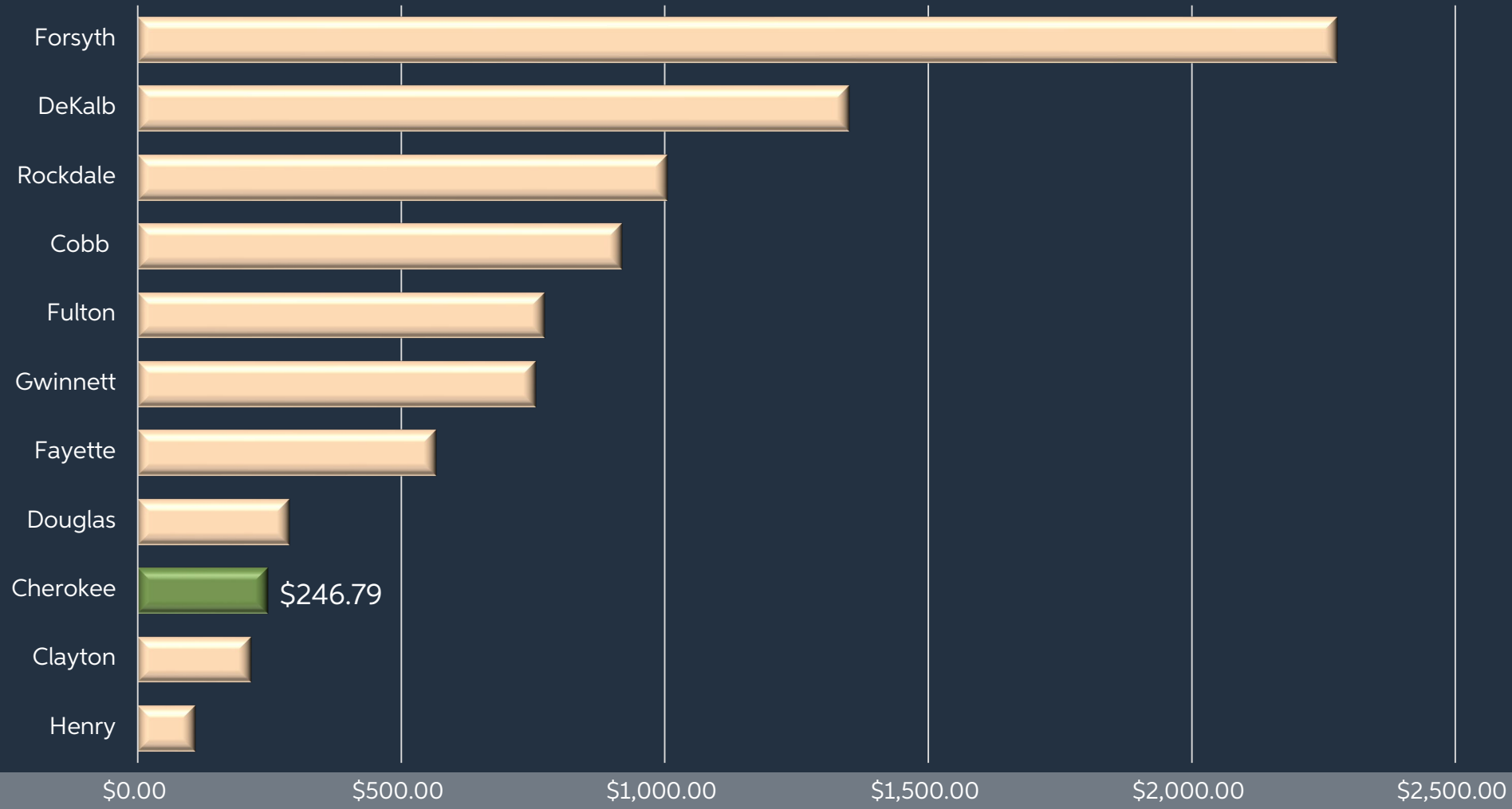


28.3%
OPERATING
CASH
RESERVES



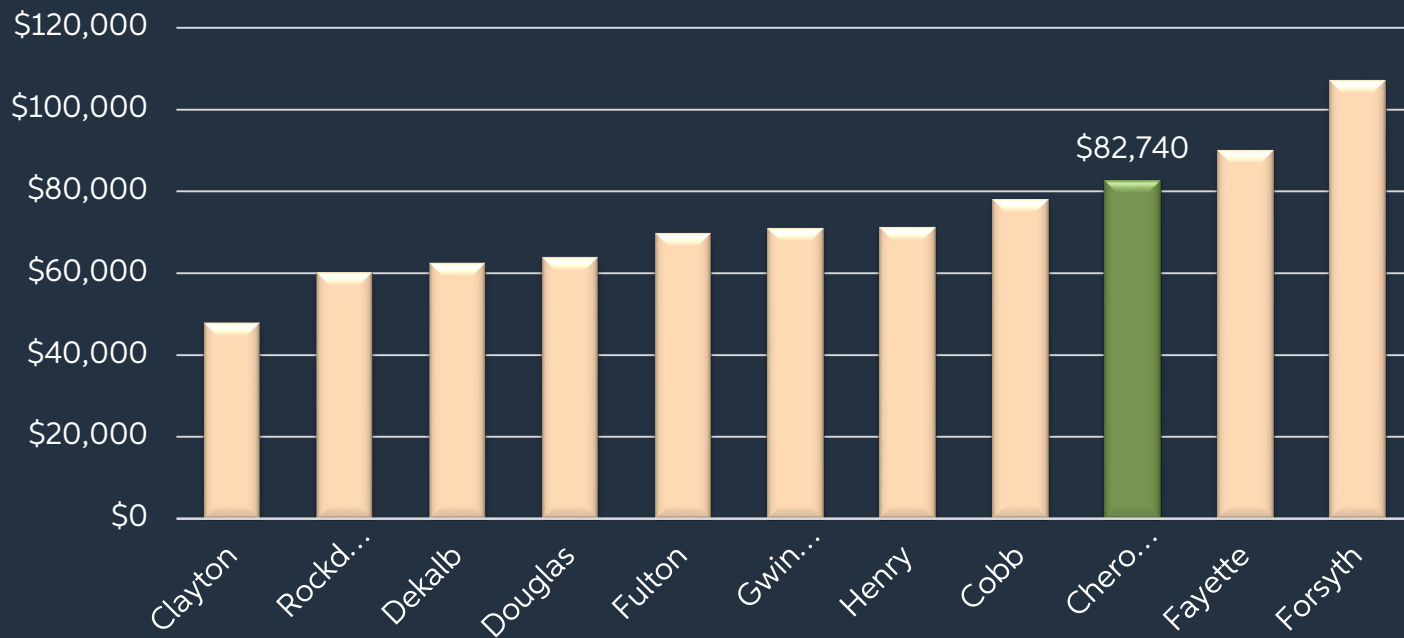
FINANCIAL Strengths

Debt Burden Per Capita



CHEROKEE'S Economy

2019 Median Family Income



\$82,740

3rd Highest Median Household Income in Metro Atlanta Region



59

Business Prospects

\$155 Million

In New Capital Investment

19+

New Locations/Existing Industry Expansions

600+

Businesses Supported During Pandemic

53+

Works Filmed



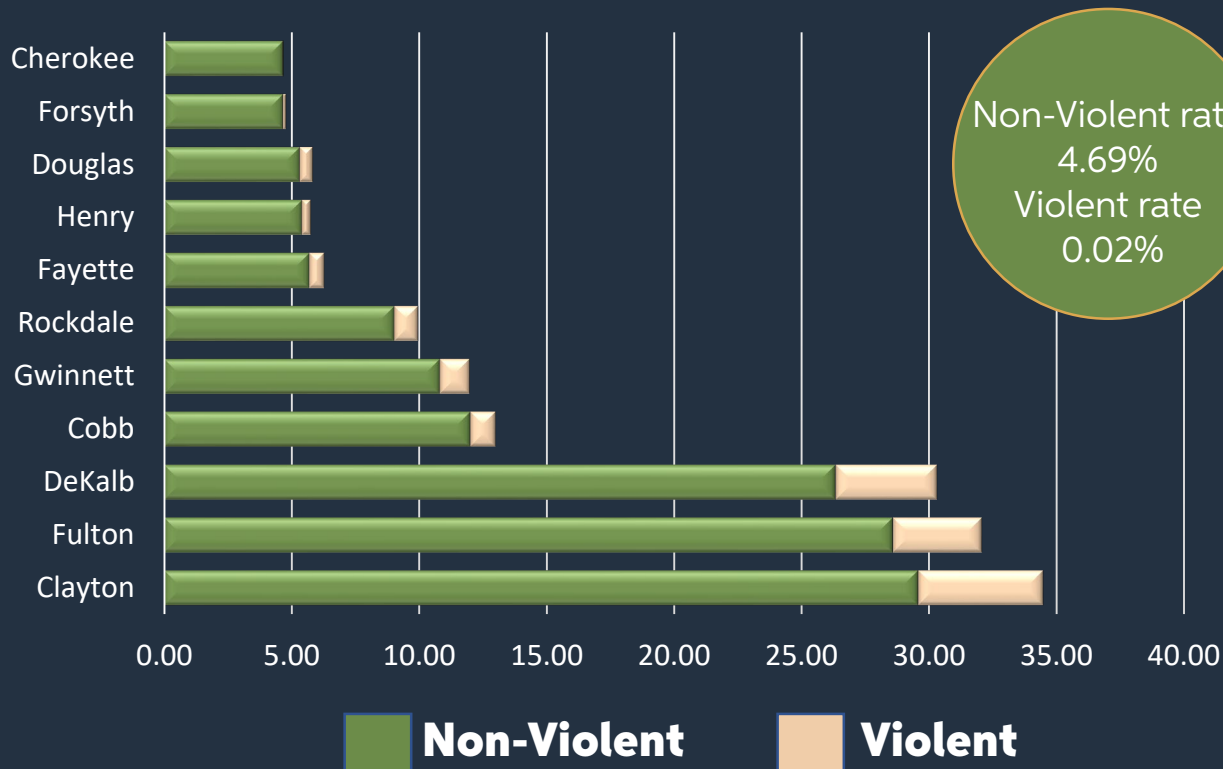
EXCELLENT Schools

- #3 in metro Atlanta and 12th in Georgia for SAT Scores (Class of 2020)
- #1 in Metro Atlanta Counties for AP Exam Pass Rates/ #3 in Georgia
- Chattahoochee Tech – Great asset for work force development
- Reinhardt University again named College of Distinction



SUPERIOR Law Enforcement

CRIME RATE



Crimes Per 1,000 | 2019 FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics

Non-Violent rate
4.69%
Violent rate
0.02%

LOWEST
Crime Rate in
the Metro
Atlanta Region



**Sheriff Frank
Reynolds**

Triple Crown Award
Law Enforcement
Corrections
Correctional Healthcare

123K

Calls for
Service

471

FT/PT
Personnel

7:29

Avg. Response
Time

FIRST-CLASS Fire-EMS



- ISO 2 Rating
- 30 New Firefighters
- 21 New Paramedics
- 6 New Ambulances
- 6 New Engines
- New Station Opened

28.5K

Calls for
Service

Fire – 465 | EMS – 17,308 | Other – 10,700

12K+

Ambulance
Transport

TOP 2%

In the Country of
Public Protection
Rated Fire Depts.

6:14

Avg. Response
Time



OTHER OUTSTANDING Public Services



8,752 Total Calls for Service – Nationally Accredited – Nationally Certified



238,638 Total Calls for Service – Nationally Accredited – Nationally Certified



1,373 Adopted, Reclaimed or Rescued Animals



3,163 Calls for Service



713 New Misdemeanor Probation Cases

Marshal's Office | Code Enforcement | E-911 | Probation | Animal Shelter | Animal Control

CHEROKEE'S Water Resources

Water Supply:

Current Yearly Average Demand: 16.375 MGD

Current Treatment Capacity: 38 MGD

Permitted Withdrawal Capacity: 40.5 MGD

Waste Water:

Current Average Demand: 8.66 MGD

Current Treatment Capacity: 11.5 MGD

Permitted Capacity: 42.35 MGD

Now adding 6.75 MGD at Fitzgerald Creek Plant

Two Drought-Contingency Reservoirs



Important Note:

Our permitted water and wastewater capacity is sufficient to meet demand beyond the long-term planning horizon.

REGIONAL Healthcare Center

Northside Hospital Cherokee

- **Over 3,000 employees**, over 1,000 medical staff, 35-plus specialties
- **\$100M in expansion** including medical/surgical floors, Cardiology and Surgery, additional 22 beds in ER, additional 80 beds with vertical, patient floor expansion. Currently, the hospital has 211 licensed beds.

Cherokee County has a strong presence from WellStar Health System, Piedmont Health System, Kaiser Permanente, and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.



CHEROKEE'S Transportation

Road Project Highlights

HWY 20 East

- In Progress. Estimated Completion 2025

HWY 20 West

- Four-lane into Bartow County. Tentative 2026-2030

Interim HWY 140 Improvements

- Intersections, turn-lanes, and targeted widening. 2021-2026

Bells Ferry Widening/Bridge Replacement

- 2022-23

Ball Ground Truck Bypass

- 2026-2030



CHEROKEE'S Facilities

Cherokee County Jail Expansion Project

- Estimated completion date March 2021
- Will provide 582 additional beds and 109,000 square feet

Justice Center Expansion Project

- Phase 1 - 550-space parking deck, new security pavilion, records storage & a covered breezeway. Completion expected in summer 2022.
- Phase 2 – 100,000 to 185,000 sq. ft. of new space, renovations to existing building. Construction expected to begin in 2024.

Cherokee Regional Airport

- Widening runway to 100' & Lengthening to 5500' in 2021
- Later to 6000'



CHEROKEE'S Recreation & Parks

Expansion Projects

- **E.W. & Edith Cochran Park:** 90-plus acres in Free Home to include additional county services
- **L.B. Ahrens Recreation Center:** Nearing the end of the design process. Construction bid process expected first quarter of 2021.
- **SW Cherokee Parks & Trails Project:** Great public participation involving four parcels in the Hwy. 92 corridor.



4,159

Acres of Protected Land

9.1

Acres of Parkland per
1,000 Residents

23

Total Parks

CHEROKEE'S Thriving Cities

Canton

- ✓ NICHE ranked as Top 50 Most Diverse Suburbs in Georgia
- ✓ Safewise ranked Top 50 Safest Cities to Live in Georgia

Woodstock

- ✓ NICHE ranked as Top 30 Best Suburbs to Raise a Family in Georgia
- ✓ Safewise ranked #17 Safest Cities to Live in Georgia
- ✓ Georgia Chamber of Commerce ranked Top 25 Best Places to Live in Georgia

Ball Ground

- ✓ NICHE ranked as Top 15 Best Places to Buy a House in Georgia

Holly Springs

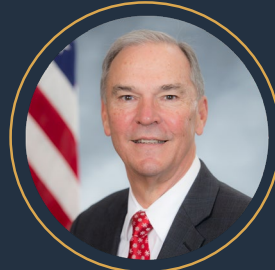
- ✓ NICHE ranked as #7 Best Places to Buy a House in Georgia
- ✓ Creating new downtown center

Waleska

- ✓ Country Crossroads
- ✓ Home to Reinhardt University

CHEROKEE'S Cooperative Leadership

- Unified Board of Commissioners
- Good Relations with State Legislative Delegation and GDOT
- Consensus now for Responsibly Managed, Quality Growth
- Strong City Leadership; Generally Good City/County Relationship



**Harry
Johnston**
Chairman



**Steve
West**
District 1



**Richard
Weatherby**
District 2



**Benny
Carter**
District 3



**Corey
Ragsdale**
District 4



*Thank you to retired District 2
Commissioner Raymond
Gunnin for your 8 years of
service on the Cherokee Board
of Commissioners.*



**Jerry
Cooper**
County
Manager

CHEROKEE'S Continued Commitment to Growth Management

- 2nd Fastest Growth in Region – Most Desirable Place to Live
- 7th Largest County in Georgia
- Growth Management has been better than most
- Strong Consensus for Managed, High Quality Growth
- Planning Allows Reasonable Growth while Protecting Quality of Life



LOOKING TO 2021 And Beyond

- Reasonably Restrain Residential Growth
- Retain Quality of Life that Makes People Want to Live Here
- Keep Infrastructure & Services Up with Growth
- Create Quality Jobs & Non-Residential Tax Base
- Keep Taxes One of the Lowest in Georgia



Keeping Cherokee *uniquely*
EXCEPTIONAL as we grow.