



TOWN OF

*Kiawah Island*®



JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021

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## BUDGET AT A GLANCE

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[WWW.KIAWAHISLAND.ORG](http://WWW.KIAWAHISLAND.ORG)

WHO ARE WE

# ABOUT US



Jack Kotz

### Town Mission

To protect and preserve the residential character of the community and the Island's unique natural environment while supporting the economic vitality of the resort and other commercial enterprise.

### Elected Officials

- Craig Weaver, Mayor
- Chris Widuch, Mayor Pro Tem/Council
- Maryanne Connelly, Council Member
- Dan Prickett, Council Member
- Klaus Said, Council Member

### Other Officials

- Stephanie Tillerson, Town Administrator
- Dorota Szubert, Town Treasurer



## Statistics

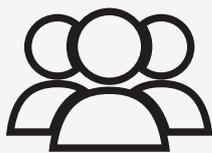



3657  
Households

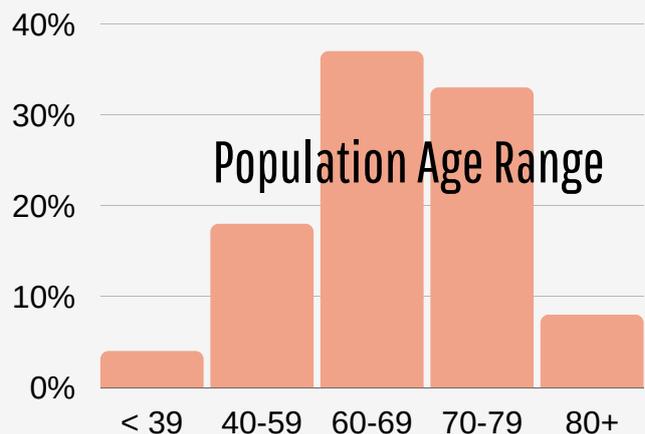


\$1.2 M Average Home Price Single-family 2019

\$825K Average Lot Sales Price



2065 Registered Voters  
(full-time residents)



# KIAWAH ISLAND

# HOME OF



Ten miles of wide, pristine, unspoiled, oceanfront beach



Five Star, Five Diamond Sanctuary Hotel at the Kiawah Island Golf Resort



The Ocean Course host of the 1991 Ryder Cup, 1997, 2003 World Cups, 2001 UBS Warburg Cup, 2007 Senior PGA Championship, 2012 PGA Championship and site of the 2021 PGA Championship

Jim Jordan



The longest-running bobcat GPS Study in the world. Kiawah's historically healthy bobcat population has been sharply declining. More at [www.savekiawahbobcats.com](http://www.savekiawahbobcats.com)



A vital nesting ground for loggerhead turtles with over 300 turtle nests on average per year and one of the largest volunteer turtle patrol programs in the U.S.



Bob Hill

One of the few select areas in the world where dolphins strand feed.



Bob Hill

Approximately 700 white-tailed deer



A critical staging area for Red Knots during spring migration as they undertake an incredible journey from South America to the Arctic traveling over 9,000 miles.



A healthy population of American alligators which can be seen in all of the 150 brackish and freshwater ponds interspersed throughout the island. Never feed, harass, or approach alligators.



A healthy population of Painted Buntings, one of the most beautiful songbirds in North America. Kiawah's coastal maritime forest provides critical breeding habitat for these birds.

# TOWN SERVICES

## TOWN COUNCIL & COMMITTEES

Establishment of Town policies

## MUNICIPAL COURT

Jurisdiction to try all cases arising due to the violation of Town ordinances and has powers and authority in criminal cases made under state law and conferred upon magistrates.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Island-wide law enforcement provided by Charleston County Sheriffs Office, Beach Patrol, Code Enforcement, Emergency Response, Disaster Planning and Recovery.

## PUBLIC WORKS

Island beautification and maintenance of Beachwalker Drive, Kiawah Island Parkway from the roundabout at Betsy Kerrison Parkway to the front gate and the Municipal Center.

## SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Island-wide garbage, recycling, yard debris, brown trash and household hazardous waste collection and disposal.

## PLANNING AND ZONING

Zoning permits, subdivision of land, re-zonings, planned developments, variance requests, special exception requests, site plan review, zoning & land development regulations, and appeals of administrative decisions.

## BUILDING SERVICES & BUSINESS LICENSES

Responsible for accountable business practices through licensing and building permit and inspection process for all commercial and residential projects within the Town. It has an express goal of maintaining a safe building environment for our residents through quality plan review and inspections.



## ENVIRONMENTAL

Beach management, wildlife population monitoring and research, habitat management, nuisance/injured wildlife response, Turtle Patrol education and outreach efforts.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Public information in normal and emergency operations is provided through various mediums, including the Town website, quarterly newsletter (Town Notes), bi-weekly e-blasts, social media, and specialty publications.

## TOURISM PROMOTION

Allocation of tourism funds, collaboration with island entities to promote tourism activities, and hosts a Charleston Visitors Bureau office.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Charitable Contributions, Arts & Cultural Events.

# Total Revenue Summary

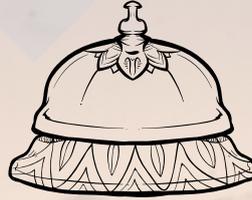
45%



## Charges for Services

Business Licenses  
Building Permits  
Solid Waste Fees

40%



## Accommodation & Hospitality Taxes

11%



## Franchise Fees

4%



## Other

Court Fines  
Investments Income  
Misc.



## Property Tax (No Town of Kiawah Island Property Tax)

Property taxes paid to  
Charleston County do  
not include any taxes for  
the Town.

**\$7.8 Million**

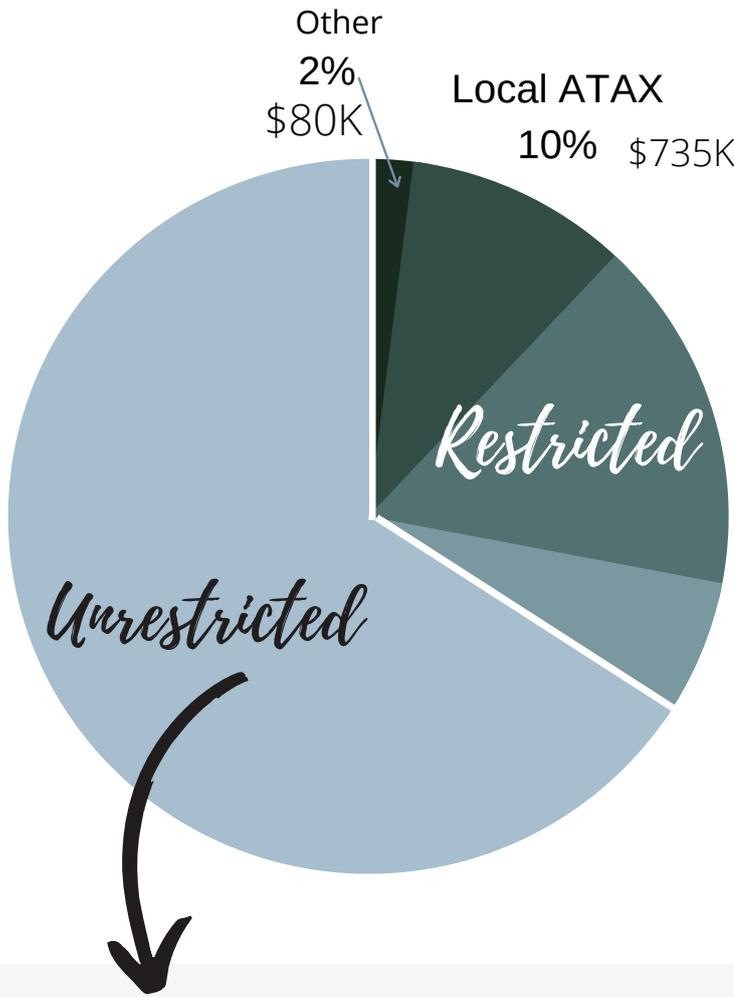
Restricted and  
Unrestricted Funds

Where the  
revenue  
comes  
from



# Total Revenues Budgeted

## Total \$7.8 Million



**Restricted Fund Revenues (34%)**  
**Total \$2.6 M**

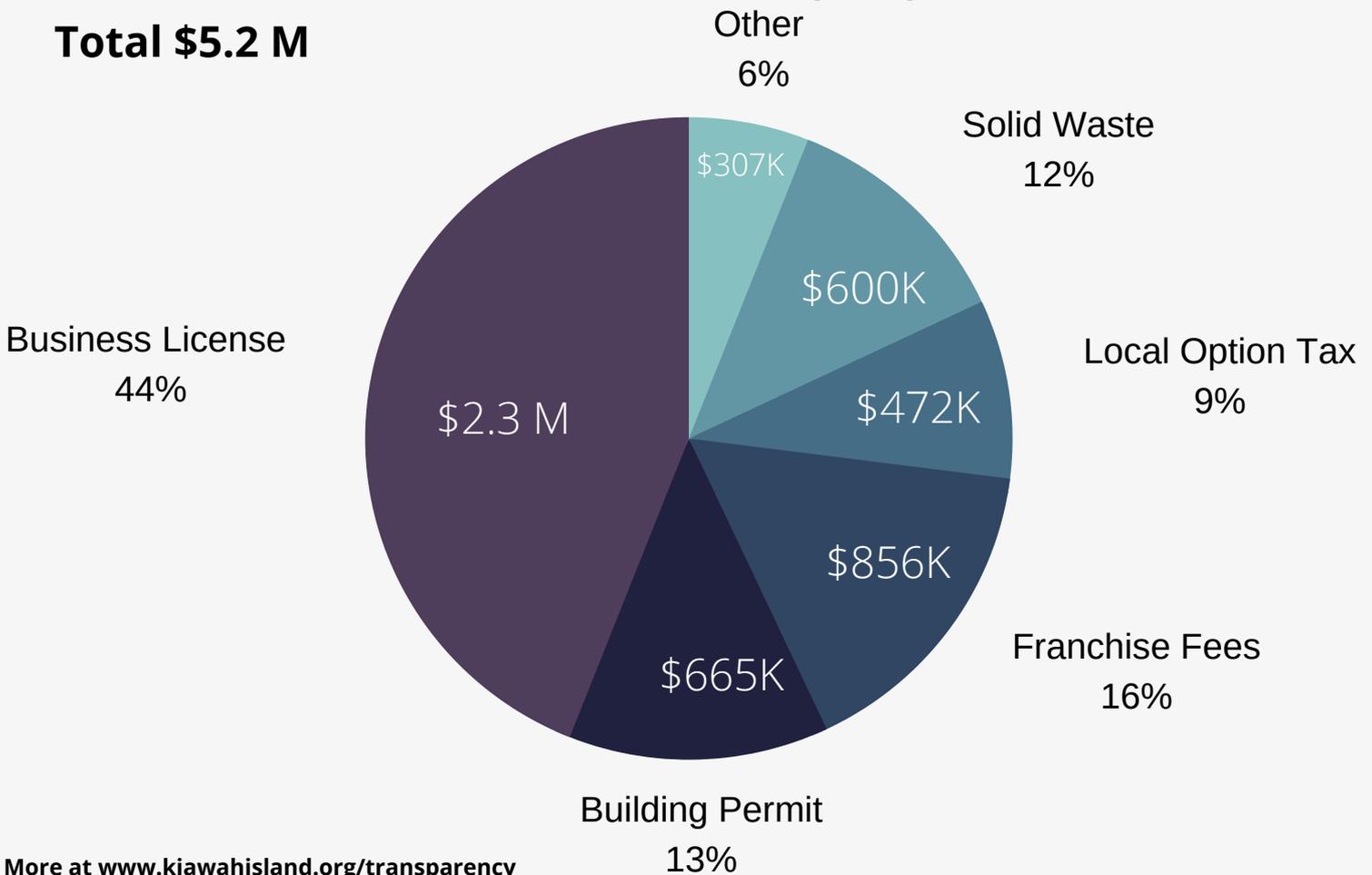
State ATAX  
16%  
\$1.3M

Hospitality Tax  
6%  
\$411K

Local ATAX  
10%  
\$735K

General Fund  
66%  
\$5.2M

**Unrestricted General Fund Revenues (66%)**  
**Total \$5.2 M**



# Revenue Sources Detailed

*\$0 Property Tax - Property Taxes paid to Charleston County do not include any taxes from the Town*

## Unrestricted Funds

Sources not required to be used for specific purposes. Listed below:



### Business Licenses

Fees charged to businesses to be able to operate within the limits of the Town.



### Building Permits

Fees charged to contractors for all construction projects, whether done by a licensed contractor or property owner.



### Solid Waste Collection

Fees for collection and disposal of residential garbage, recycling, and yard debris.



### Franchise Fees

Fees for the rights of specific companies to provide services within the Town, such as electricity, cable, and beach chair rentals.



### Local Option Tax

A uniform 1% tax on the taxable sale. The state collects this tax and distributes a percent to municipalities in the county.

## Other



- **Beverage Tax:** The state levies this tax for alcohol beverage permits sold to businesses, of which a portion is distributed to the municipality.



- **Fines and Forfeitures:** The Town keeps a small percentage of fees collected through Municipal Court for tickets issued within the Town limits. The majority of these fees go to the state.



- **Aid to Subdivision:** State aid to local governments from several tax sources annually.

## Restricted Funds

Sources that can only be used for specific purposes. Listed below:



### State Accommodation Tax (SATAX)

A tax tourists pay from the rental charges for accommodations when staying on the island. Revenues from this tax must be spent on tourism-related expenditures except for the first \$25K plus 5% of the remaining total revenues which are allocated to the Town's general fund and not restricted. The allocation of SATAX funds is recommended by the Town's SATAX Committee and approved by Town Council. The major areas where the money is allocated include enhanced police protection, Beach Patrol, and community events.



### Local Accommodation Fund

SC state law allows the Town to levy 1% municipal local accommodation tax. These fees are remitted to the Town by Charleston County monthly. Revenues must be spent exclusively for things such as tourism, cultural events, and beach access roads providing access to tourist destinations.



### County Accommodation

Charleston County levies 2% accommodation tax of which a portion is distributed to municipalities where they were earned. The Town receives approximately 25% of the fees collected, contingent on the use of the money on capital projects or services that promote tourism.



### Hospitality Tax

A tax paid by patrons of restaurants, grocery stores and any other establishments that sell and prepare food and beverages. The 1% tax is remitted to the Town by these businesses monthly.



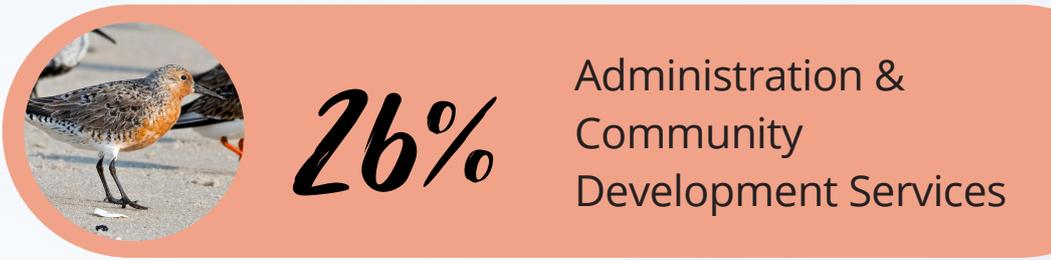
**\$0 Property Tax** - Property taxes paid to Charleston County do not include any taxes for the Town.

# Total Expenditures Summary

**\$7.8 Million**

Restricted and  
Unrestricted Funds

How the  
budget  
dollars are  
distributed



# 2020 - 2021 Expenditures

**\$7.8 million**

Below is how general & restricted funds are budgeted to be spent.

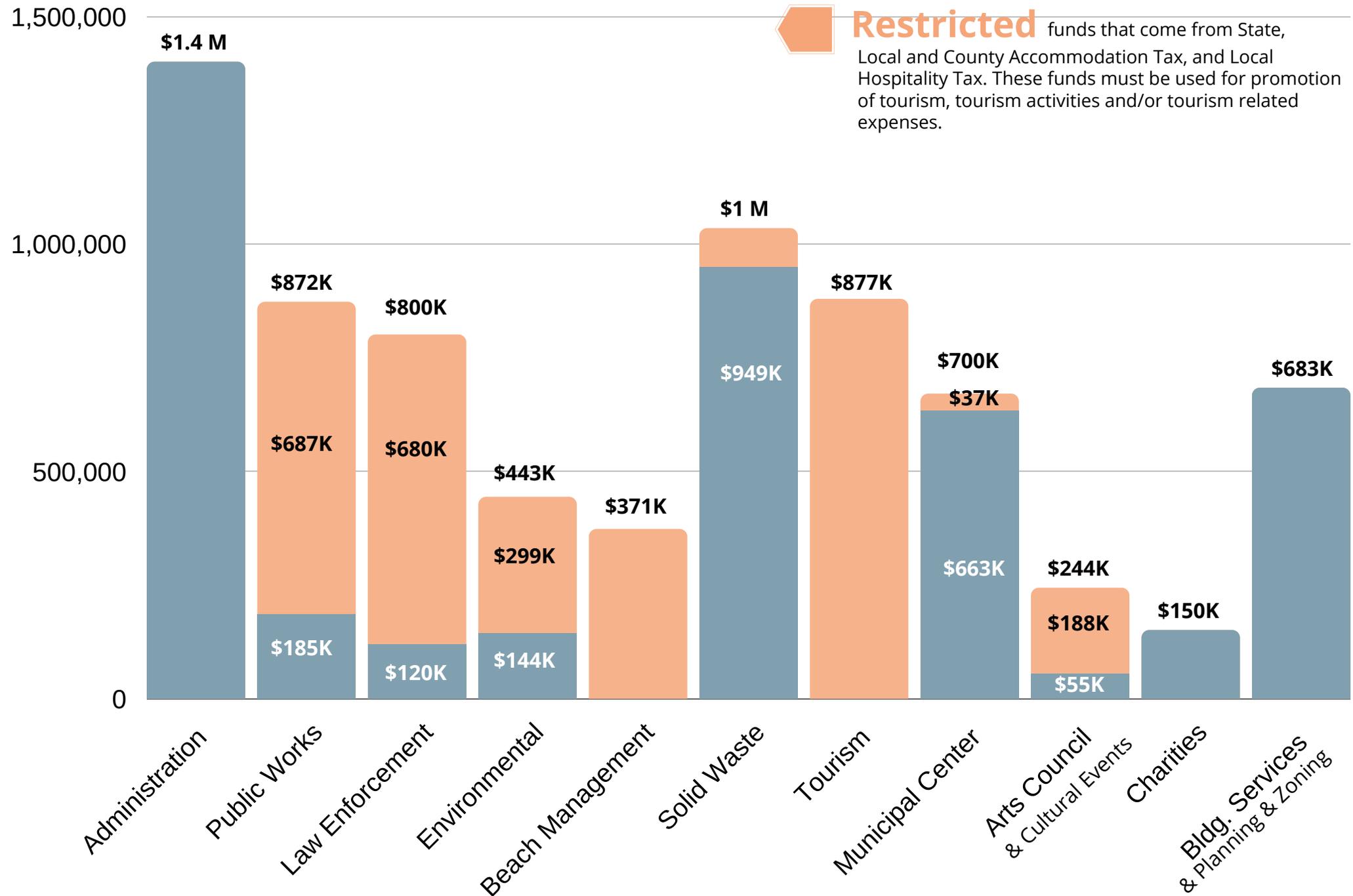


## Unrestricted - General Fund

The general fund or unrestricted fund is the Town's primary operating fund. This fund comes from revenue from business license, permit fees, franchise fees, etc.



**Restricted** funds that come from State, Local and County Accommodation Tax, and Local Hospitality Tax. These funds must be used for promotion of tourism, tourism activities and/or tourism related expenses.



# Expenditures Detailed

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## 13% Solid Waste

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The Town provides various collection types for its residents and continues to provide curbside service free of charge. Expenditures also include garbage collection on the beach, Kestrel Court Trash and Recycling Center, and the Beachwalker Drive site.

## 11% Tourism

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Distribution of State Accommodation Tax funds back into the community for the advertising and promotion of tourism-related activities and expenditures.

Funds for this fiscal year were allocated to:

- Freshfields Village events marketing/advertising
- Kiawah Island Golf Resort events promotion
- 2021 PGA Championship
- Beach Patrol coverage
- Charleston County Sheriff's Deputy coverage (a portion of)
- Charleston Visitors Bureau

## 11% Public Works

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Maintaining Beachwalker Drive, Kiawah Island Parkway from the roundabout at Betsy Kerrison Parkway to the front gate and the Municipal Center. Includes repaving and landscape design services for the KI Parkway.

## 10% Law Enforcement

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Dedicated law enforcement services contracted with the Charleston County Sheriff's Office that entails enhanced coverage and four permanently assigned deputies for Kiawah.

## 2% Charitable Contributions

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The Town supports a variety of charitable organizations through its Charitable Contribution Fund. The Town allocates up to 30% in the general fund each year, not to exceed \$150,000.

## 3% Arts and Cultural

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The Town strives to enhance the community and provide residents and visitors accessibility of performing arts events within the Town. The 2019-2020 annual report is available at [www.kiawahisland.org/events](http://www.kiawahisland.org/events)



## 5% Beach Management

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### **Beach Monitoring**

Annual beach sand volume survey, report, and recommendations (Coastal Science and Engineering). Mitigation for previous beach restoration projects.

### **Beach Patrol**

Contracted with Barrier Island Ocean Rescue for the provision of ocean rescue, life safety, first aid services, and code enforcement on the beach.



## 6% Environmental

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### **Bobcat GPS Research Project**

Analyzes the habitat needs of bobcats and assists in management and conservation. Longest, continuous GPS study on bobcats in the world.

### **Bird Banding Projects**

Studies on productivity, survivorship, and movements of many bird species that are indicators of the health of the island's ecosystem.

### **Alligator Behavior and Safety Studies**

Studies to understand the behavior and movements of alligators to increase awareness and safety across the island. Cooperative projects with KICA, Clemson University, SCDNR, and the Nemours Wildlife Foundation.

### **Wildlife Surveys and Monitoring**

Variety of wildlife surveys to estimate population size and abundance of many wildlife species to look at population trends over time to better understand how our native wildlife species are adapting to changes on Kiawah.

### **Environmental Programs**

Funding for educational programs to enhance awareness of Kiawah's wildlife and reduce negative interactions with wildlife. Programs include the Dolphin Education Project (NOAA NMFS, LMMN), Outdoor Wildlife Lessons in Science (KIGR), Grow Native, Kiawah Conservancy education and outreach programs, Shorebird Stewardship program, and more.

