

**CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION TO THE PLANNING PROCESS**

Table 1.1 provides a brief description of each section in this chapter and a summary of the changes made.

**Table 1.1**

<b>Chapter I Section</b>	<b>Updates to Section</b>
I. Purpose and need of the plan, authority & statement of problem	Updated text of this section
II. Local methodology, Plan update process, and Participants	Updated the participants, planning process and how data was collected
III. Original Plan Review and revision	All sections of the original plan were analyzed and revised.
IV. Organization of the plan	The plan is organized by GEMA local planning Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Template and includes a timeline.
V. Local Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability (HRV) summary, local mitigation goals and objectives	Added new information to summary, new purpose for plan.
VI. Multi-Jurisdictional special considerations	Reviewed and updated information regarding multijurisdictional concerns
VII. Adoption, implementation, monitoring and evaluation	This was evaluated and remains the same. Additional text was added to clearly delineate the task of implementation and monitoring. Plan was adopted after GEMA and FEMA reviewed and approved the update.
VIII. Community Data	Updated demographic and added additional information by jurisdiction.

**SECTION I. PURPOSE AND NEED OF THE PLAN, AUTHORITY AND STATEMENT OF PROBLEM**

The Taliaferro County 2020 Update is the review and improvement to our Multi-Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan approved on January 12, 2010 and reapproved on May 15, 2015. The update is written to comply with Section 409 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act Title 44 CFR as amended by Section 102 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The act gives state and local governments the framework to evaluate and mitigate all hazards as a condition of receiving federal disaster funds. The act provides federal assistance to state and local emergency management and other disaster response organizations in an effort to reduce damage from disasters. The plan has involved multiple community partners including elected officials, city and county personnel, fire, emergency management, law enforcement, and public works. The ultimate goal of this plan is to identify natural hazards and develop strategies to lessen the impact on our community.

The update covers all of Taliaferro County to include the cities of Crawfordville and Sharon. The plan will identify all-natural disasters that could threaten the lives and properties of our

community. The scope of the update includes both short and long-term mitigation strategies, implementation policies and possible sources of project funding. It also identifies mitigation strategies implemented since the 2015 update.

The plan also contains the following information on:

- The vision of mitigation in our community;
- The profile of Taliaferro County, its geography, history, physical features and other community indicators;
- The planning process and the involvement of all municipal, state and federal governments, the public, industry and other community players;
- Taliaferro County's past and predicted exposure to natural hazards and the potential risks that include the impacts on critical infrastructure with anticipated losses was documented;
- An overview of Taliaferro County's capabilities to implement hazard mitigation goals and objectives, and policies that will effectively mitigate risks to our community;
- Procedures for maintaining an effective, long range hazard mitigation plan and strategy to implement;
- An assessment of Taliaferro County's current policies, goals and regulations that pertain to hazard mitigation;
- Documentation of the planning process;
- Updated hazard events that occurred since 2015;
- Updated critical facilities added since 2015;
- Documented current mitigation strategies implemented since 2015; and
- Examined and updated mitigation strategy goals, objectives and action steps.

The update is the product of the combined efforts of Taliaferro County, Crawfordville, and Sharon. Realizing that identifying the community's risks and working collectively toward the prevention of disasters in the community is in the county's best interest, the Taliaferro County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) took the lead role in the update. Under the agency's leadership, there has been an endorsement and a commitment by Taliaferro County, Crawfordville, and Sharon.

Continued mitigation planning is imperative to lessen the impacts of disasters in Taliaferro County, Crawfordville, and Sharon. This plan serves as an excellent method to organize and document current and ongoing mitigation strategies; however, the implementation of the plan and its components is vital to achieve a community that is resistant to the impact of a disaster. The objective is plan implementation which will result in a reduction of the loss of life and property, while allowing the county to prosper with minimal disruption of services to the community.

## **SECTION II. LOCAL METHODOLOGY, PLAN UPDATE PROCESS AND PARTICIPANTS**

The Taliaferro County Board of Commissioners (BOC) contracted with the Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission (RC) to assist in the plan update. The RC has assisted eleven counties in the completion and update of their Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plans. The RC is currently assisting six counties with their second update. The RC was tasked to review the current plan and identify new information to be incorporated into the update. The RC in conjunction with the EMA Director, supervised the project, organized the data, set meeting dates, documented in-kind services, and worked with GEMA to complete the update.

EMA Director David Foot assembled the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee. Table 1.2 identifies the 2019 members.

**Table 1.2**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency/Title</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>
David Foot	EMA Director	Taliaferro County
Vicki Swann	Tax Commissioner	Taliaferro County
Jane Hubert	Board of Commissioners, Commissioner	Taliaferro County
Kenya Smith	Health Department, County Nurse Manager	Taliaferro County
Jane Kuehn	City Clerk	City of Sharon
Charles N Ware	Board of Commissioners Chair	Taliaferro County
Barbara A Twilley	UGA Extension Office, Extension Educator	Taliaferro County
Ruby Randolph	Board of Commissioners, County Clerk	Taliaferro County
Willie D Blockum Jr	Board of Commissioners, Chair	Taliaferro County
Joe Martin	Dancing Pines Farm, Citizen	Taliaferro County
Andrew Foot	Taliaferro County Fire Dept. Fire Fighter	Taliaferro County
Wanda Dingler	City Clerk	City of Crawfordville
Catherine Dorsey	Board of Commissioners, Commissioner	Taliaferro County
Clarris C. Stephens	Probate Court, Judge	Taliaferro County
Gaylane Bowman	Board of Commissioners Assistant Clerk	Taliaferro County
Sharita Gresham	Taliaferro County Transit, Director	Taliaferro County
Jackie Butts	County Development Authority, Chairman	Taliaferro County
Krystal Spencer	Taliaferro County Tax Assessor	Taliaferro County
Renee Brown	Mayor	City of Sharon
Jane Kuehen	Clerk	City of Sharon

The committee was responsible for the organization, data collection and information needed for the revision of the plan. It was the responsibility of the committee to include all pertinent departments within their respective governments and to request information as needed. The following agencies/departments/organizations provided specific information and support for the original plan and provided any new information for the update:

- Taliaferro County School District was responsible for providing structural replacement and content values for all schools as well as square footage and occupancy limits.
- Taliaferro County Sheriff’s Office provided staff support to the PDM planning effort.
- Taliaferro County Health Department identified vulnerable populations. They also provided replacement value estimates for their properties.
- The Fire Department provided staff support to the PDM planning effort and assisted with identifying occupancy limits for some of the critical structures and replacement value estimates.
- Officials from the County, Crawfordville and Sharon provided information relative to their jurisdiction and provided replacement value estimates for their critical facilities.
- Georgia Forestry Commission provided data on wildfire events and assisted with the formulation of mitigation measures.
- Taliaferro County Tax Assessor’s Office provided most of the aggregate values for the critical structures. The valuations had to be converted to full values since they are figured

at 40 percent of actual value. This information, combined with demographic data, is compiled on GEMA Worksheet #3a in Appendix A for all jurisdictions.

- The RC’s Geographical Information System (GIS) Department produced several of the maps. Maps are located in Appendix A and C.

Several resources were consulted to facilitate the update. Data was collected from numerous sources, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), Spatial Hazard Events and Losses Database for the United States (SHELDUS™ ), National Weather Service, US Geological Survey (USGS), Southeast Regional Climate Center (SERCC), US Census Bureau, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC), Georgia Tornado History Project Database, Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), local and regional newspaper articles, as well as personal interviews. Table 1.3 provides a list of existing planning documents used during the update.

**Table 1.3**

Existing planning mechanisms	Record of Review	
	Reviewed (Yes/No)	Method of use in Hazard Mitigation Plan
Taliaferro County Joint 2015-2025 Comprehensive Plan	Yes	Development trends, capability assessment, mitigation strategies
Local Emergency Operations Plan	Yes	Identifying hazards; Assessing vulnerabilities; Capability assessment
Georgia Emergency Operations Plan	Yes	Identifying hazards; Assessing vulnerabilities;
Flood Damage Protection Ordinance	Yes	Mitigation strategies, capability assessment
Building and Zoning Codes and Ordinances	Yes	Development trends; Future growth, capability assessment, mitigation strategies
Mutual Aid Agreements	Yes	Assessing vulnerabilities, determine assets added to disaster relief and response.
State Hazard Mitigation Plan	Yes	Risk assessment, review of recommended strategies
Land Use Maps	Yes	Assessing vulnerabilities; Development trends; Future growth
Critical Facilities Maps	Yes	Locations
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Yes	Mitigation strategies, risk assessment
Flood Insurance Study	Yes	Review for historical Data and Information
The Taliaferro County Assets Index	Yes	Reviewed for assets data, tax information
CSRA Regional Plan 2035	Yes	Development trends; Future growth, regional concerns and data

The committee held seven meetings over a 24-month period to guide the development of the plan. Individual jurisdictions and/or agencies were contacted, as information was needed. The committee was responsible for developing the mission statement, as well as the goals, objectives, and action steps identified in the plan. The committee researched previous hazard information in the areas of flooding, wildfires, tornados, winter storms, hurricanes, high winds, dam failure, lightning, hail, and drought. However, some hazards were eliminated due to their low level of risk. Committee members collected critical facilities information based on their area of expertise or jurisdiction. The RC was responsible for assessing vulnerability and estimating potential losses

from the information collected. Potential losses include people, structures/properties, infrastructure, and other important community assets.

Table 1.4 provides the dates and synopsis of committee meetings. All meetings were open to the public and meeting notices posted at all governmental offices. Of the seven meetings, two were advertised in *The Advocate-Democrat*, the County’s legal organ. This is the most efficient means to disseminate information to residents and organizations located in the county. In order to meet the requirement to afford an opportunity for neighboring communities, local and regional agencies, businesses, academia and other private and non-profit interests to be involved in the planning process, invitations were extended by email. Invitations were extended to the following counties: Burke, Columbia, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Washington, Warren, and Wilkes including all municipalities located within the counties. It is noted that no public comments or feedback was provided by the public. Copies of correspondence, emails and advertisements are in Appendix E.

**Table 1.4**

Meeting Date	Purpose of Meeting
February 2, 2018	Advertisement ran in <i>The Advocate-Democrat</i> for public meeting on February 7, 2018.
February 7, 2018	Kickoff meeting Shelby Meyers, from GEMA provided a presentation about the purpose and need of the plan along with changes to the process since the 2014 plan update.
June 20, 2018	This meeting was to ensure all data collected to date was correct for critical facilities and to reviewed mitigation strategies and action steps
February 20, 2019	Reviewed plan, mitigation strategies and HASUZ information.
June 12, 2019	Discussed strategies and mitigation accomplishments.
August 6, 2019	Reviewed plan draft to ensure all information was added and correct
October 4, 2019	This meeting was to ensure the committee and public had a final opportunity to provide input before submission to GEMA for review.
<i>To Be Added after FEMA Approval</i>	Advertisement ran in <i>The Advocate-Democrat</i> Advertising for public review and the final meeting <i>date will be added after FEMA approval</i>
<i>To Be Added after FEMA Approval</i>	After GEMA submitted the plan to FEMA and FEMA Approved Pending Adoption (APA), the public was invited to review the final plan prior to adoption during (will be added after APA) time frame. The meeting was held after the aforementioned review period to ensure that the public was afforded the opportunity provide input.

### SECTION III. ORIGINAL PLAN REVIEW AND REVISION

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires an update to the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan every five years. The EMA Director was responsible to meet this requirement. The committee, with the assistance of the RC, was involved in the planning process to ensure thorough data collection. All members of the committee were responsible for the evaluation of 2014 plan. During the review process, the committee noted mitigation accomplishments, updated and prioritized mitigation projects, added additional hazard information, developed new goals and objectives, solicited input from the public and made any needed or required revisions. The

evaluation included analyzing any changes in the needs and/or capabilities of Taliaferro County as well as the Cities of Crawfordville and Sharon.

#### **SECTION IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE PLAN**

The estimated time to complete the plan update was approximately 24 months. Plan completion is identified by adoption of resolution by all jurisdictions. The update contains a Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability (HRV) Assessment describing the natural hazards typically occurring within the county, as well as a review of all mitigation goals, objectives, and related courses of action. In addition, plan implementation and maintenance are reviewed, which includes methods to provide opportunities for public involvement.

The hazards included in this plan are considered to have the highest probability of occurrence, vulnerability, potential loss/damages, and highest frequency of occurrence. The plan also identifies and prioritizes hazard mitigation opportunities in each vulnerable area based on the input from the committee members, relevant government agencies, local businesses, and Taliaferro County citizens.

#### **SECTION V. LOCAL HAZARD RISK AND VULNERABILITY, SUMMARY LOCAL MITIGATION PLANNING GOALS OBJECTIVES**

The committee, early in the update process, established a set of goals and objectives to ensure the effectiveness of this plan. These goals and objectives established the paradigm for the planning process and proved very successful by the many accomplishments since 2015. These goals and objectives are as follow:

- To actively involve and gain support from the cities of Crawfordville and Sharon and Taliaferro County for the reduction of disasters in our community.
- Prioritize identified mitigation projects.
- Seek and implement any grant funding for the reduction of disasters in Taliaferro County and cities of Crawfordville and Sharon.
- Monitor, evaluate, and update the progress of the plan as needed.
- To form partnerships among local, state, and federal agencies to make Taliaferro County more resistant to the effects of disasters.
- Strengthen our communities against the impacts of disasters through the development of new mitigation strategies and strict enforcement of current regulations that have proven effective.
- Reduce and where possible eliminate repetitive damage, loss of life and property from disasters.
- Bring greater awareness throughout the community about potential hazards and the need for community preparedness.
- To further enhance common mitigation projects and goals between Taliaferro County and cities of Crawfordville and Sharon.

An HRV assessment was accomplished by compiling and reviewing historical data on the location of specific hazards, the value of existing structures/properties in hazard locations, and analyzing the risk to life, property and the environment that could potentially result from future hazard

events. The committee accomplished the HRV goals and objectives by completing the following steps:

*Inventory of Critical Facilities:* Critical facilities are crucial for providing essential services necessary for preserving the safety and quality of life of its residents. In addition, these facilities fulfill important public safety, emergency response, and/or disaster recovery functions. All critical facilities were added to the Georgia Mitigation Information System (GMIS). Critical facilities for Taliaferro County and Cities of Crawfordville and Sharon were identified, updated, mapped, and illustrated in Appendix A.

*Hazard Identification:* Maps and historical data sources were studied and reviewed to identify the geographic extent, intensity, and probability of occurrence for various hazard events. The 2014 committee identified six major hazards that have the potential to affect Taliaferro County: flooding, dam failure, drought, wildfire, severe weather (tornados, tropical storms, thunderstorms and lightning) and winter storms. The update committee reviewed current hazard data and added hail to the already identified hazard. Appendix A provides an updated comprehensive table for each hazard event.

*Profiling Hazard Events:* The committee analyzed the causes and characteristics of each hazard, and its effect on Taliaferro County in the past to determine what segment of the population and infrastructure has historically been vulnerable to each specific hazard. A discussion of each hazard's updated profile is in Chapter 2.

*Vulnerability Assessment:* This step was accomplished by comparing each previously identified hazard with the inventory of affected critical facilities and population exposed to each hazard. An updated Worksheet #3a is provided in Appendix D.

*Estimating Losses:* Using the best available data, tax digest data, parcel maps and GMIS reports and maps for critical facilities allowed the committee to estimate damages and financial losses that might occur in a geographic area. Describing vulnerability in terms of dollar losses provides the county with a common framework in which to measure the effects of hazards on critical facilities. All information in this section has been updated (*Appendix A and Appendix D*).

*Mitigation Goals and Objectives:* After ensuring that all interested persons had been given ample opportunity to contribute to strategy development, mitigation action steps were next given priority status by committee members. To evaluate priorities, committee members used as a guide a planning tool prepared by FEMA known as STAPLEE (Social, Technical, Administrative, Political, Legal, Economic, and Environmental) criteria. Each mitigation strategy step was evaluated using STAPLEE criteria as the guiding principle to identify those steps best for Taliaferro County. Steps were ranked as high priority, medium priority, or low priority. Past occurrences of disasters and historical trend data aided committee members in assigning priorities. A copy of the STAPLEE is located in Appendix D.

## **SECTION VI. MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Taliaferro County and Cities of Crawfordville and Sharon provided active participants in the planning process and have identified mitigation goals, objectives and action items specific to their

jurisdiction. The governing bodies for the county and all municipalities have formally adopted the Taliaferro County Multi-Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan.

The municipalities were notified in August 2017 of the requirement concerning the update plan. Representatives from all jurisdictions have worked collectively over the past months to gather data that included researching old records, newspaper articles, databases, historical data, past and present flood plain data, and technical information for the plan. Collected data was forwarded to the RC for review and plan development. The committee held subsequent meetings in an effort to ensure that all information was correct and that all agencies and organizations input was included.

The EMA Director led activities for mitigation planning countywide. The committee goals are to work in partnership with municipal partners toward a common mitigation strategy that significantly reduces vulnerability of natural disasters. Most natural threats overlap jurisdictions and are all susceptible to their affects. Taliaferro County and the Cities of Crawfordville and Sharon share the same desire for protecting and reducing risk through the mitigation projects. Specific risks and areas were identified through working relationships and data collection from all areas of the county and are identified in this plan.

**SECTION VII. ADOPTION, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

**Adoption Date**

Jurisdiction	Adoption Date
Taliaferro County	<i>To Be Added after FEMA Approval</i>
City of Crawfordville	<i>To Be Added after FEMA Approval</i>
City of Sharon	<i>To Be Added after FEMA Approval</i>

The plan was submitted to GEMA for review and then to FEMA for approval. Their respective governing bodies have formally adopted the 2020 update after GEMA and FEMA approval. The plan is intended to be implemented into policy and to enhance state and federal recommendations for the mitigation of natural hazards in the following ways:

- Substantially reduce the risk of life, injuries, and hardship from the destruction of natural disasters.
- Create awareness to the public about the need for individual preparedness and about building safer, disaster resistant communities.
- Develop strategies for long term community sustainability during community disasters.
- Develop governmental and business continuity plans that will continue essential private sector and governmental activities during disasters.

FEMA publishes many guidance documents for local governments for mitigating natural disasters. The plan fully recognizes, adopts, incorporates, and endorses the following principals.

- Develop a strategic mitigation plan for Taliaferro County.
- Enforce current building codes.
- Develop incentives to promote mitigation.
- Incorporate mitigation of natural hazards into land use plans.



- Promote awareness of mitigation opportunities throughout Taliaferro County community on a continual basis.
- Identify potential funding sources for mitigation projects.

The private sector is often an overlooked segment of the community during disasters. It is vital that this sector of a community is included in mitigation efforts that are consistent with state and federal recommendations as such:

- Develop mitigation incentives with insurance agencies and lending institutions.
- Encourage the creation of a business continuity plan for the continuance of commerce during disasters.
- Partner with businesses in effort to communicate with customers about the community hazards and possible solutions.

Individual citizens must be made aware of the hazards they face. Additionally, they must be educated in how to protect themselves from natural hazards. They must be shown mitigation is an important part of reducing loss of life and property in their community. Their support is critical to the success of any mitigation effort. The Taliaferro County Plan supports the following FEMA recommendations regarding individual citizens:

- Become educated on the hazards that your community and you may face.
- Become part of the process by supporting and encouraging mitigation programs that reduce vulnerability to disasters.
- That individual responsibility for safeguarding you and your family prior to a disaster is essential.

Chapter IV. Plan Integration and Maintenance details the formal process that will ensure that the plan remains an active and relevant document. The plan maintenance process includes monitoring and evaluating the plan annually and producing a revision every five year. Additionally, Taliaferro County will develop steps to ensure public participation throughout the plan maintenance process. Finally, this section describes how Taliaferro County will incorporate the mitigation strategies identified in this plan into other relevant planning documents such as the Taliaferro County Joint Comprehensive Plan, Short-Term Work program (STWP) and Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP).

**SECTION VIII. COMMUNITY DATA**

**Political Boundaries - Taliaferro County**



*Taliaferro County*



*GA Department of Community Affairs  
Region 7*



*Georgia*

**History:** Taliaferro County was formed on December 24, 1825 by taking portions of five other counties: Wilkes, Greene, Taliaferro, Oglethorpe, and Warren Counties. The county is most famous for being the birthplace and home of Alexander H. Stephens, who served as a senator from Georgia in the antebellum south, the Vice President of the Confederate States of America, and the governor of Georgia until his death. A state park near his home in Crawfordville, Georgia bears his name.

**Government:** Taliaferro County operates under a commission-based system of government in which three commissioners are elected to four-year terms. Other county officials are the County Attorney, Clerk of Superior Court, Probate Judge, Coroner, Magistrate Judge, Sheriff, and Tax Commissioner.

The City of Crawfordville operates a Mayor and City Council-based system of government with five elected council members. Other officials charged with presiding over activities within the City are the Clerk, Attorney, and Public Works Director.

The City of Sharon operates a Mayor and City Council-based system of government with five elected council members. Other officials charged with presiding over activities within the City are the Clerk and Attorney..

**Demographics:** Presently, Taliaferro County has a population of 1,717 persons.

Category	Taliaferro County	Crawfordville	Sharon
Population	1,717	534	140
Number of Households	741	356	73
Average Household Size	2.74	1.44	1.92
Race - White	37.8%	33.9%	25.6%
Race - Black	59.7%	58.1%	74.4%
Race - Hispanic	2.5%	5.7%	0
Race - Other	0.9%	2.3%	0
Median HH Income	\$30,500	\$31,932	\$24,167

*Source: US Census Bureau and 2017 American Community Survey*

**Economy:** In the year 2018, the average weekly wage for employment sectors was \$500, compared to the statewide average of \$993. The April 2019 unemployment rate was 4.3 percent. In 2018, the labor force in Taliaferro County totaled 585. Of the total work force, 9.8 percent were employed in the service providing sector, followed by 21.5 percent in the goods producing sector and 68.7 percent in the government sector.

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. business economy. The table below provides a list of jobs, number of establishments and jobs along with average weekly wages per job for 2018 in Taliaferro County.

Annual Industry Distribution of Jobs and Average Wage in 2018 (NAICS)	Establishments	Jobs	Annual Average Wage Per Job
<b>Total Covered Employment and Wages</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Total Private Sector</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>\$464</b>
<b>Total Government</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>\$516</b>
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting	2	*	*
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	0	0	\$0
Construction	0	0	\$0
Manufacturing	2	*	*
Wholesale trade	1	*	*
Retail trade	2	*	*
Transportation, warehousing	1	*	*
Utilities	0	0	\$0
Information	0	0	\$0
Finance and Insurance	1	*	*
Real Estate, rental, leasing	1	*	*
Professional, Scientific, Technical services	0	0	\$0
Mgmt. of companies, enterprises	0	0	\$0
Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	0	0	\$0
Educational services	0	0	\$0
Health care, social assistance	1	*	*
Arts, entertainment, recreation	0	0	\$0
Accommodation and food services	1	*	*
Other services, except public administration	1	*	*
Unclassified-Industry not assigned	2	*	*

Source: Georgia Department of Labor \* Industry group does not meet criteria for disclosure

**Climate:** According to the National Weather Service, Taliaferro County gets 48 inches of rain per year. Snowfall is 1 inches. The number of days with any measurable precipitation is

101. On average, there are 218 sunny days per year. The July high is around 91 degrees. The January low is 33. Our comfort index, which is based on humidity during the hot months, is a 31 out of 100, where higher is more comfortable.

**Physical Features:** Taliaferro County encompasses an area of roughly 194 square miles and Crawfordville is the county seat. The Ogeechee and Little Rivers as well as several creeks are located throughout Taliaferro County. Taliaferro County lies within the Southern Piedmont Land Resource Area. These soils are classified “as steep to gently rolling thin, well-drained red soils with sandy loam surface layers over sandy clay to clay subsoils. In some areas, a red clay subsoil is exposed caused by agricultural erosion. Small grains and pastures are better adapted where topsoil is gone. Soybeans and forages are grown where topsoil remains. Fair to good suitability for building foundations; fair to poor suitability for septic tanks”. (Georgia Atlas, p. 36)

Although crop farming is no longer viable in Taliaferro County, forestry and cattle farming are profitable industries. Because of the lack of development in the County and Cities, this industry will not be threatened in the future.

**Transportation**

*Vehicle Traffic:* Interstate 20 and GA highways 12, 22, 44, 47, and U.S. 278 all intersect a portion of the county and are the primary arterials in Taliaferro County. Most of the roadway network is rural, with only a handful of urban roads in Crawfordville.

Mileage by Route and Road System Report 445 for 2017			
	Total Road Mileage	Lane Mileage	Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
State Route	57.984	136	315,809
County Road	164.558	329	34,480
City Street	10.764	22	3,190
<b>Total</b>	<b>233.306</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>353,479</b>

Source: Georgia Department of Transportation, Office of Transportation Data, “445 Series Reports 2017.”

*Public Transportation:* In addition to coordinated transportation through the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Taliaferro County Transit (TCT) provides transportation for senior citizens. There are two buses available and all transportation is done on appointment only.

*Rail Traffic:* CSX provides local rail service at Crawfordville. CSX and Norfolk Southern provide piggyback service at Atlanta (85 miles).

*Air Service:* The nearest local airport is 15 miles away in Green County while the nearest commercial air service is in Augusta, 50 miles away. Atlanta-Hartsfield International Airport, located in Atlanta approximately 105 miles from Crawfordville, provides major commercial airline service.

**Utilities**

*Electricity:* Residential electrical service is provided by two companies: Georgia Power and Rayle EMC.

*Natural gas:* Natural Gas Services is provided by Atlanta Natural Gas and Tri-City Gas to the Cities of Crawfordville and Sharon.

*Water:* Public water supply is provided by the City of Crawfordville. The City operates two wells. Sharon has a water system that provides fire protection and water to city hall. Citizens of Sharon are on private wells. Residents of the unincorporated areas are on private wells also.

*Sewer:* Public sewer service is provided in Crawfordville. It operates a 100,000 gallons per day sewage plant. The City currently processes approximately 33,000 gallons of residential sewage per day. The unincorporated areas of the County and the City of Sharon are on septic tanks.

*Solid Waste:* Taliaferro County residents deposit their household waste into collection boxes at sixteen (16) sites within the County. Taliaferro County collects the solid waste from these sites and hauls it to the Wilkes County transfer station. It is subsequently transferred to the Oak Grove Landfill in Winder, Georgia with whom Wilkes County has an agreement. The county seat of Crawfordville contracts with a private collection company to provide curbside collection to its residents.

*Communications:* Taliaferro County's communication services is provided by Wilkes Telephone and they also provide cable television and internet service. Local print media consists of *The Augusta Chronicle* and *The Advocate-Democrat*. Taliaferro County is served by 13 AM radio stations and 16 FM radio stations. 7 television stations in metro Augusta television stations broadcast in Taliaferro County. They are WJBF, WAGT, WRDW, WAAU, WBPI, WCES, and WFXG.

### **Fire and Emergency Services**

*Response:* Enhanced 911 Service (E-911) is available 24-hours a day throughout the county and is operated and coordinated by the Sheriff's Department.

*Emergency Medical Services:* EMS service is provided by Wilkes County.

*Fire and Rescue:* Fire protection is provided by the Taliaferro County Vol. Fire Department with stations in Crawfordville, Sharon and Margaret Grove. The Georgia Forestry Commission maintains a county protection unit located on Hwy 17 two miles north of Washington about 20 miles northeast of the county to respond to wildfires throughout the county. The incorporated City of Crawfordville and Sharon are serviced by pressurized water systems with hydrants available.

*Law Enforcement:* The Taliaferro County Sheriff's Office provides service to the County as well as the Cities of Crawfordville and Sharon. They have 10 full-time officers and 14 vehicles: 11 patrol cars and three trucks.