



Investing in People: **The Americus Workforce Development Journey**

Mrs. Diadra Powell - *City Manager*
GMA District 4 & 8 Workforce Panel

A Commitment to Service

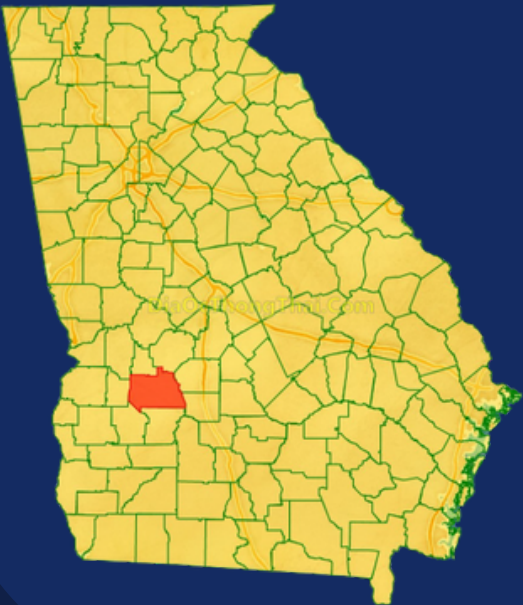
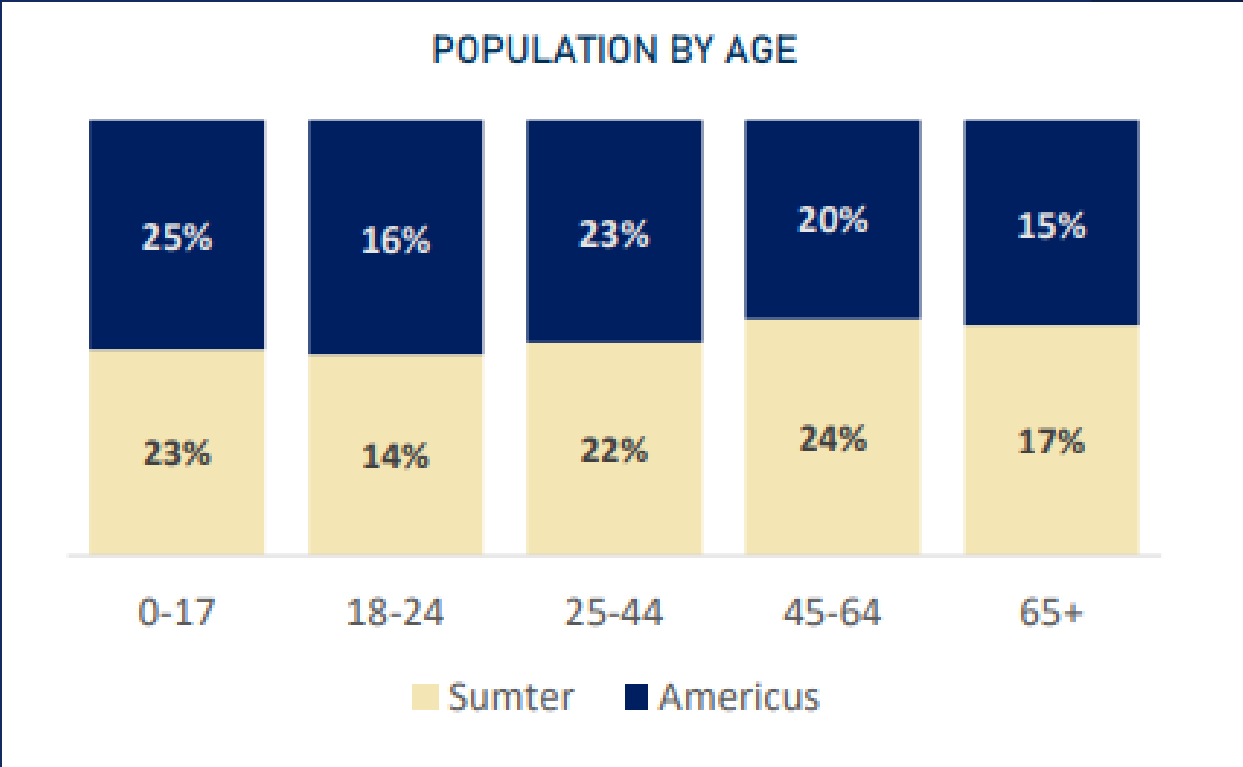
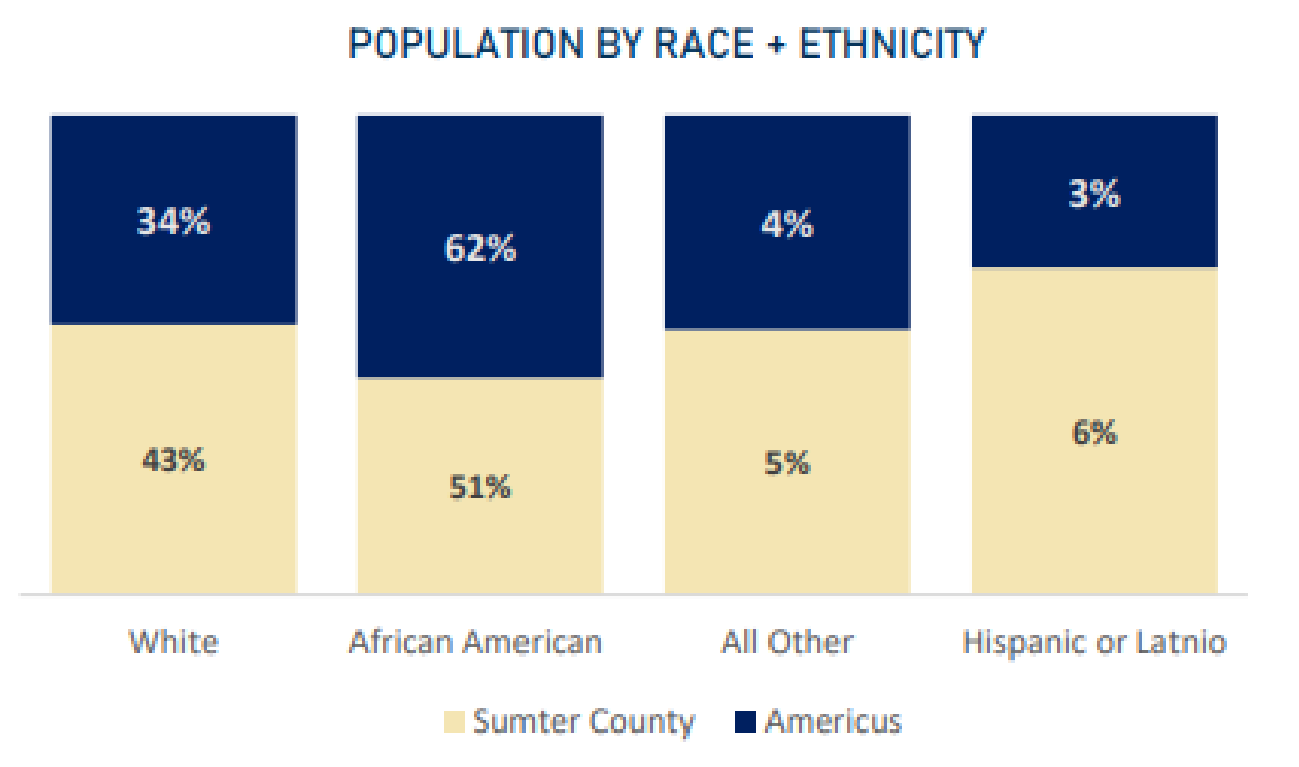





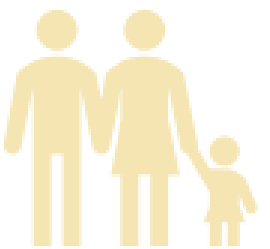
- Dedicated over 20 years to local government, including finance, planning, and service delivery.
- Americus has rebuilt its Community Development team after a 10-year gap, with renewed focus on equity and economic mobility.
- Workforce development is not just a goal — it's a shared commitment we're actively building together.

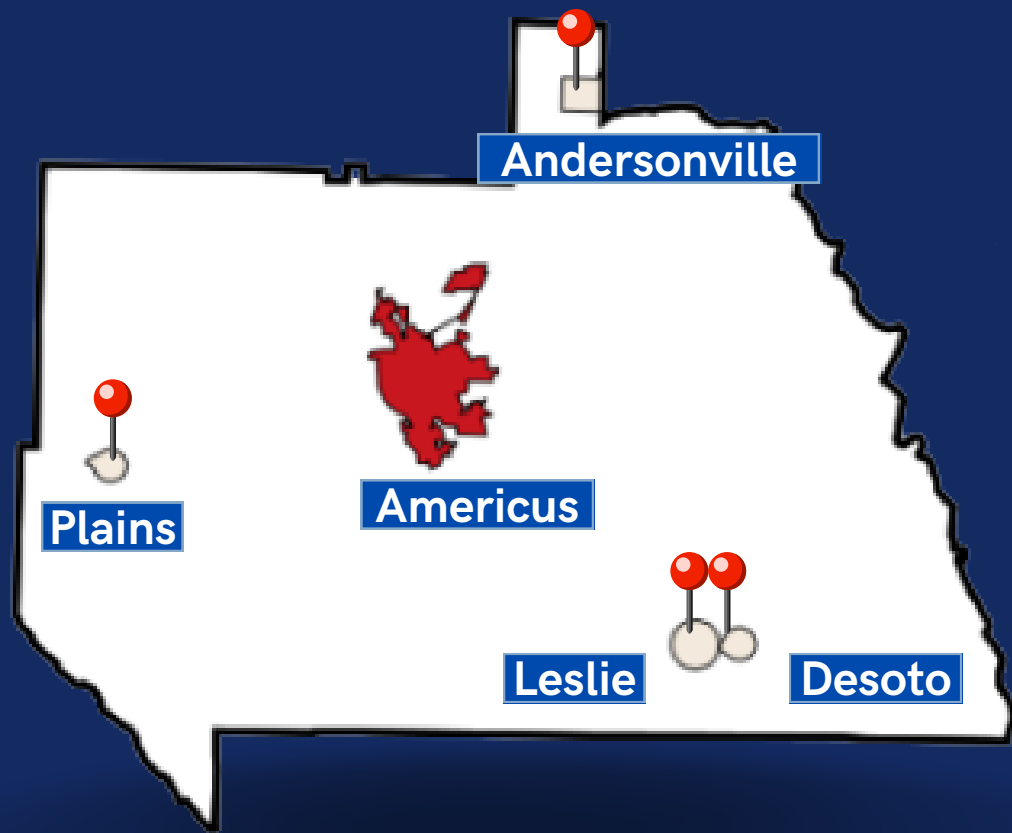


Certified Public Manager • U.S. Army Veteran • Passionate about equitable governance

Community Profile



<p>Americus Households</p> <p>10,825 Households</p> <p>2.6 Avg. Household Size</p>  		<p>Sumter County Households</p> <p>6,146 Households</p> <p>2.4 Avg. Household Size</p>  	
<p><small>*Note: Number of households is an estimate based on 2020 census population</small></p>			



Economic Snapshot

Workforce Challenges

Housing Cost Burden

Over **48% of renter households** in Sumter County are cost-burdened, paying more than **30% of their income** on housing expenses.

Low Labor Participation

Despite an unemployment rate of 5.4%, **Sumter County's labor force participation lags** behind the state average.

Limited Transportation Access

24% of renter households have no vehicle access, highlighting mobility as a key barrier to employment opportunities.

Population Decline Impact

Between 2010 and 2020, **Sumter County experienced a 6.3% population decline**, shrinking the local talent pool and workforce base.

Current Strategies & Partnerships

Transit Access Expansion

Partnered with RMS and **applying for 5311 funding** to improve workforce transportation options.



Local Education Alignment

Collaborating with SGTC and GSW to align training with industry needs and offer dual-enrollment pathways.



Community Engagement Initiatives

Launched **Adopt-A-Street Campaign** to boost civic pride amongst city and local organizations.



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What We're Building Next

1) Community Development Revitalization

The new Department of Community Development is actively supporting local boards and leading city-wide planning initiatives.

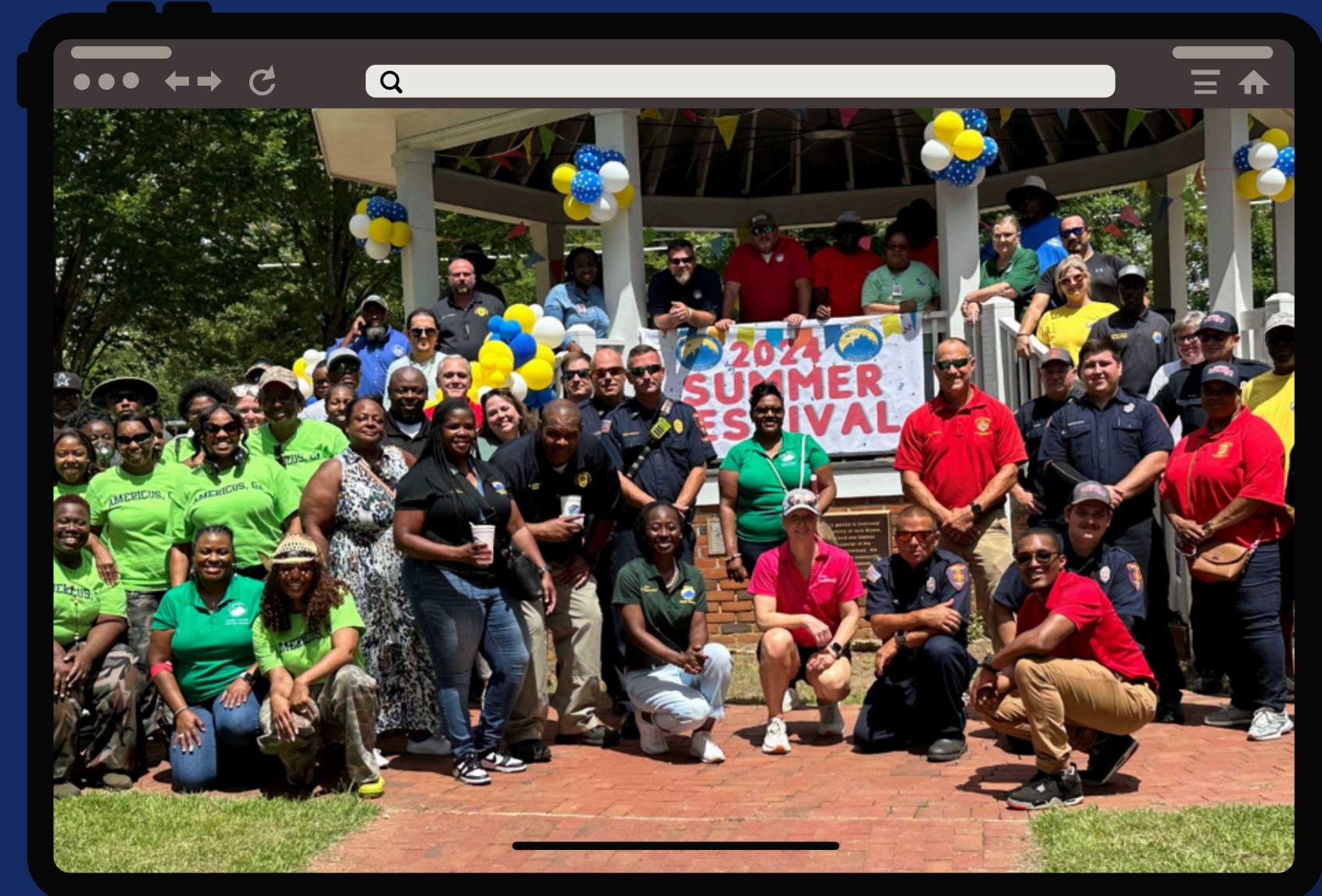
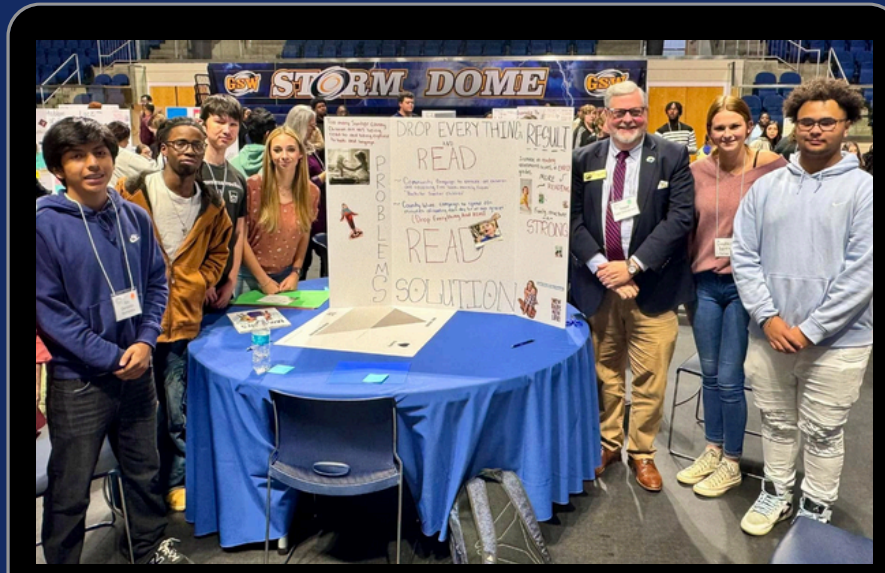
2) Data-Driven Decisions

Rebuilding systems to track employment gaps and align future programs with real community needs and planning initiatives.

3) Digital Access

Seeking broadband expansion and digital literacy training to better prepare residents for remote and tech-enabled jobs.

What Makes Americus Unique



Civic Spirit



High-Impact Partnerships



Focused Leadership



Small but Strategic

Thank You!!!

»»» Any Question ? «««



Q & A Session



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