

## **2024 Federal Legislative Agenda**

*The Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce's Mission is to promote and sustain the economic growth of the Calhoun County Region, resulting in a community that is a dynamic place to work, visit, and live.*

### **Anniston Army Depot**

- The Chamber supports the Depot's mission of "Providing superior industry expertise, products, and services to support America's Warfighters, Allies, and commercial customers."
- The Chamber supports the Depot's assignment as the Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence (CITE) by the Secretary of the Army for all Combat Vehicles (wheeled and tracked) (except Bradley), including Assault Bridging, Artillery, Stryker Family of Vehicles, Small Caliber Weapons and Locomotive and large generators.
- The Chamber will work with our congressional Delegation and the Depot to stabilize workload and provide assistance to increase the Depot's Army workload and other military services and Foreign Military Sales work.
- The Chamber will work to ensure the Department of Defense and the Army assign future modernized combat systems and other CITE-related systems to the Depot as the "Depot Source of Repair."
- The Chamber will support the Depot, local Defense Contractors, and the community by encouraging and facilitating Public/Private and Community Partnerships and training local small businesses to compete in Government Contracts.

### **Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP)**

- The Chamber recognizes the CDP as an essential training organization under the Department of Homeland Security with significant growth potential and positive economic impact for the county.
- The Chamber will work to ensure the CDP's budget never falls below \$65 million and to grow the CDP via Economy Act Agreements with the Center for Disease Control, the VA, and other organizations, including FEMA HQ and other organizations within FEMA.
- The Chamber supports increased training at the CDP and additional funding to grow the capabilities necessary.
- The Chamber will assist in increasing FEMA Mission Training at the CDP and help facilitate lodging and classrooms to meet the need for added responder personnel in emergencies and natural disasters.
- The Chamber will work with the CDP to safely resume all local and distance training as the impact of the pandemic lessens.

### **Alabama Army National Guard**

- The Chamber will work with the 167<sup>th</sup> Theater Sustainment Command, the McClellan Army National Guard Training Center, and the State to ensure the Army National Guard's mission is sustained and grows, and their modernization program continues to be funded and executed.
- The Chamber will continue to include National Guard and Reserve components in the Military and Security Affairs Committee for all events.
  - Plan another event this year to recognize all Armed Forces
- Work with Army recruiters to help the Army reach its Active and Reserve components recruiting goal.
  - Engage with local school systems and recruiters to promote JROTC programs

### **Healthcare**

- The Chamber will support efforts to reach an equitable resolution on the Medicare Wage Index Issue so that hospitals in the regions will be fairly reimbursed for the services provided to the Medicare population. The current wage index calculation penalizes Alabama hospitals, which are already some of the most efficient in the country in terms of costs, by paying hospitals in other states almost double what is produced in Alabama for the same care.