

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, June 24, 2024

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Chairman Bill Slaughter
Commissioner Joyce Evans
Commissioner Scott Orenstein
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker
Commissioner Clay Griner

Vice Chairman Demarcus Marshall was not present

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of June 10, 2024, the regular session of June 11, 2024, and the Budget Public Hearing of June 13, 2024. No revisions to the minutes were requested.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Budget Plan for Hotel Motel Proceeds for Fiscal Year 2025

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the Commission is required to approve a budget for the use of hotel-motel proceeds each year, adding the Tourism Authority's budget is also required to be included in the county's budget plan.

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the Commission held the required public hearing on June 13, 2024, adding the budget remains ready for the Commission's consideration.

Lowndes County Accountability Court Grant Approval and Cash Match

Program Director, Jennifer Fabbri, presented the item. Mrs. Fabbri stated the Lowndes County Accountability Court (LCAC) is funded through a reimbursable state grant. LCAC must secure a cash match from Lowndes County. This year's cash match amount is \$35,354.00, which is an increase from 12% to 15% for fiscal year 2025.

Purchase of Stream Credits for PI # 0016279, Coleman Road NW Paving and Drainage Improvements

County Engineer, Mike Fletcher, presented the item. Mr. Fletcher stated Lowndes County is required to purchase 28.5 stream credits as a result of the Coleman Road NW paving and drainage improvements project. Mr. Fletcher stated staff recommends the purchase of 28.5 stream credits from

Georgia Alabama Land Trust, Inc. for \$1,800.00, per credit, with the total amount being \$51,300.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked to verify the cost? Mr. Fletcher answered \$1,800.00, per credit.

Pre-Event Debris Removal Contracts

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the request for proposal (RFP) to solicit qualified debris removal contractors. Mr. Tye stated Lowndes County has maintained pre-event contracts since 2008 and utilized the contract for the first time following Hurricane Idalia. Mr. Tye stated the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends that all local governments maintain a pre-event contract with two-three qualified contractors in advance of a disaster. Lowndes County had a pre-bid meeting with an evaluation committee of emergency management and public works staff from Lowndes County, the City of Valdosta and the City of Hahira. Mr. Tye stated the scoring was based on price, experience, qualifications, fee schedule and the quality of the proposal. Staff recommends awarding the pre-event contracts for the debris removal to the top three companies, which are Ashbritt, DRC and Southern Disaster Recovery. Mr. Tye stated Ashbritt will be the primary company. Commissioner Evans asked the location of the vendor? Mr. Tye responded, Ashbritt is located in Deerfield Beach, Florida. Commissioner Orenstein asked regarding the contract amounts versus what we paid? Mr. Tye answered the pricing did not change from the previous contracts. Additionally, Mr. Tye stated with the pricing being established and by having these contracts approved ahead of time, the removal process could begin immediately.

Pre-Event Disaster Debris Monitoring Contracts

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated Lowndes County has previously entered into pre-event contracts with a qualified disaster debris monitoring contractor that works in conjunction with the disaster debris removal contractors. Additionally, Mr. Tye stated Lowndes County recently utilized the existing contract following Hurricane Idalia. Mr. Tye mentioned regarding the disaster debris monitoring contracts, those firms bring in their management staff and try to hire local people to do the monitoring after they have been trained. Mr. Tye further stated staff recommended Thompson Consulting. Chairman Slaughter stated with the proper monitoring, this verifies the debris is accounted for and also helps with the documentation submitted to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Lowndes County Juvenile Accountability Court (LCJAC)

Case Manager, Geoffrey Martin, presented the item with Judge Tunison available in the audience. Mr. Martin stated the Lowndes County Juvenile Accountability Court (LCJAC) is funded through a reimbursable state grant. LCJAC must secure a cash match from Lowndes County. This year's cash match is \$11,183.00, with an additional amount of \$3,817.00 for a total amount of \$15,000.00. Mr. Martin stated the additional request for \$3,817.00 is for case management. Mr. Martin stated last year 19 juveniles were served with three (3) graduating. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked why the increase in cost? Mr. Martin answered to subsidize some of the money used from the emergency grant as well as inflation. Mr. Martin acknowledged their service provider, Ms. Ja'Taryia Thomas was in the audience.

Lowndes County DUI Court Grant Award and Match Approval

Lowndes County DUI Court Program Coordinator, Heather Harris, presented the item. Ms. Harris stated that the Lowndes County DUI Court has been awarded a grant by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for \$149,276.00, with a 15% match requirement by the County in the amount of \$26,343.00. The Lowndes County DUI Court is requesting a total \$42,404.00 for the 2024-2025 grant

period to offset the shortfall from the grant. Ms. Harris stated there are ninety-one (91) graduates from the program.

Request for Proposals (RFP) for Property & Liability Insurance

Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the item. Mr. Beals stated a request for proposal (RFP) was advertised for property and liability insurance. Mr. Beals stated two proposals were received with T. Hudson Risk Advisors, LLC submitting a proposal for loss control services only and ACCG-IRMA submitting a proposal that meets all the coverage specifications listed in the RFP. Chairman Slaughter asked if any local vendors submitted a proposal? Mr. Beals responded no sir. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if this amount was in accordance with previous amounts? Mr. Beals answered yes sir.

BID

Bid for a Vac-Trailer for the Utilities Department

Purchasing Agent, Amy Woods, presented the bid. Mrs. Woods stated Lowndes County solicited bids for a new Vac-Trailer for the Utilities Department. This is an approved budgeted item. Three bids were received that met specifications with Carter's Equipment being the low bidder in the amount of \$96,110.00. Chairman Slaughter asked Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, if this is the same as the bigger truck? Mr. Stalvey answered yes, this is a smaller unit.

REPORTS - County Manager

Chairman Slaughter requested an executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel. At 8:46 a.m. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel, Commissioners Evans and Orenstein seconded. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:53 a.m. Chairman Slaughter reconvened the work session with no additional information being discussed. Commissioner Griner made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting, Commissioner Evans seconded. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting.