

for the lead service line inventory requirement. The lead service line inventory is a new requirement from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for all public water systems. This loan can be used for engineering, administration, service line investigation, potholing, devices and equipment. Lowndes County has been approved for a \$635,000.00 loan, with a 3.25% interest rate and a potential forgiveness of \$190,000.00, if all funds are used. Staff recommends approval. Vice Chairman Marshall asked regarding the potential \$190,000.00 forgiveness if all funds are used, Mr. Stalvey answered all of the funds should be used. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the loan as presented, second by Commissioner Evans. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Amendment #1 to Windstream Build Agreement

Assistant Finance Director, Rachel Bowen, presented the item. Mrs. Bowen stated the United States Treasury provided updated guidance regarding the broadband infrastructure project that Lowndes County has entered into with our internet service provider Windstream. When they updated the guidance of Treasury, they passed it through the Office of Planning and Budget with the state where we made an amended agreement between the state and county; this amendment to our Windstream agreement is simply passing along the new treasury guidance and practices that have been passed to Lowndes County. Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to approve the item as presented, second by Commissioner Orenstein. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

BID

Bid for Six Compact SUV Vehicles for Multiple Departments

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated Lowndes County solicited bids for a quantity of six new compact SUV's for the Public Works Department, Magistrate Court and the Inspections Department. These vehicles will be replacing older vehicles with high mileage. Ms. Blacks stated three bids were received that met specifications, with Cass Burch submitting the low bid in the amount of \$160,122.00, for Jeep Compasses. Vice Chairman Marshall asked if these were 2024 or 2025 year models, Ms. Black responded she did not have that information. Commissioner Orenstein asked why Jeep Compasses, County Manager responded it was the lowest bid that met specifications. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if these vehicles were four-wheel drive, Public Works Director, Robin Cumbus answered no sir. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to award the bid to Cass Burch in the amount of \$160,122.00, second by Vice Chairman Marshall. Commissioners Evans, Wisenbaker, Smith and Vice Chairman Marshall voted in favor of the request, Commissioner Orenstein opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes reported the following:

- The Lowndes County Bird Supper is scheduled for February 5, 2025 with tickets currently on sale. If there are groups, agencies, boards, authorities, or citizens that you work with, please let them know.
- The deadline for debris removal for the unincorporated area is Friday, January 17, 2025. That is not the deadline for it to be picked up, but the deadline that we have been encouraging citizens to get it to the curb.
- The deadline to apply for FEMA benefits has been extended to February 7, 2025. Mrs. Dukes mentioned she spoke to EMA Director, Ashley Tye and he stated the Disaster Recovery Center is still