

issued a county purchasing card. Ms. Black further stated that the current requests are from newly elected Tax Commissioner, Clay Guess and newly elected Probate Judge, H. Burke Sherwood. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the request as presented, second by Commissioner Smith. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Approval of the Solicitor General's FY2025 VAWA Continuance Grant Application**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the Solicitor General's Office has been a recipient of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant since 2018. The Solicitor General's Office is submitting a request for federal funding in the amount of \$79,112.00. In addition to the federal funds, Lowndes County would be responsible for \$26,371.00 in matching funds. Vice Chairperson Evans made a motion to approve the grant application as presented, second by Commissioner Wisenbaker. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **Authorization to Publish Intent to Opt Out Regarding HB 581 \*Agenda Item Added\***

Chairman Slaughter stated this item, Authorization to Publish Intent to Opt Out House Bill 581, was discussed at the work session. There being no objections, Chairman Slaughter asked that the item be added as agenda item 8d. Chairman Slaughter stated he has the ad and a press release that will go out to help educate the citizens regarding this matter. Chairman Slaughter asked for a motion to approve Authorization to Publish Intent to Opt Out regarding House Bill 581. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the Authorization of Publish Intent to Opt Out regarding House Bill 581, second by Commissioner Wisenbaker. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

### **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, reported the following:

Mrs. Dukes echoed Chairman Slaughter's comments about Ms. Black and the Finance Department. She further stated it is tremendous for the Finance Department to continue to pull this award off, especially over the last twelve months, with all the required paperwork for processing two hurricanes, managing ARPA funds, and all the reporting required, along with day to day financial management, and two budgets. She thanked Ms. Black and her team again for all of their hard work. Commissioner Orenstein arrived at 5:44 p.m.

The Extension Service fourth quarter report is available for review.

County Clerk, Belinda Lovern and Deputy County Clerk, Sabrina Denson will be recognized as certified County Clerks on Monday at the Georgia Clerks Education Institute Conference being held in Jekyll Island. Mrs. Dukes congratulated Mrs. Lovern.

Next week kicks off Severe Weather Preparedness Week. Certainly, there are things that we can improve from a preparedness standpoint. Those things will be highlighted next week through the Public Information Officer, Meghan Barwick.

Next Wednesday, February 5, 2025, is the Lowndes County Bird Supper. If you have questions regarding arrangements, please contact Mrs. Lovern or Mrs. Barwick.

On February 8th, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources will be holding a meeting at the Lowndes County Historic Courthouse to address the recently identified Chronic Wasting Disease that has shown up in our deer population.