

VOCA grant has declined significantly and the deposits that are currently going into this fund are not expected to sustain awards to states at their current level. The Prosecuting Attorney's Council (PAC) has informed the Solicitor-General's Office that the FY24 VOCA Award will be in the amount of \$75,020.00, which is a decrease from last year's award in the amount of \$98,691.00. Further, Ms. Hayes stated due to cuts in funding and in order for the victim advocates to receive a raise, Lowndes County would be required to provide a cash match of \$33,232.00. This grant period runs from October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024. Vice Chairman Marshall asked why is there a decrease in funding? Ms. Hayes answered the fines paid on federal cases. Ms. Hayes stated there has been one other instance of this grant being decreased in funding in past years and then in the following year, there was additional money received. Commissioner Orenstein asked if further cuts next year would occur? Ms. Hayes answered she does not expect it, but doesn't guarantee it. Mrs. Dukes mentioned that she met with the Solicitor towards the end of October and Mr. Cabral didn't know what the exact impact was going to be, but there was going to be a decrease and is following this closely. Chairman Slaughter stated we will continue to observe this grant.

BID

Francis Lake Warehouse Modifications Bids

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the Francis Lake Warehouse modifications includes enclosing the open bay of the existing metal building and improvements including a new monorail beam, insulation, lighting, and ventilation. Mr. McLeod stated that additional site work includes grading, asphalt paving, a new pump wash basin, a new sanitary drain and a new pump storage shelter structure. Mr. McLeod stated four bids were received with Chuck Smith and Son Construction being the low bidder in the amount of \$395,980.00. Two additive alternates include a new lift station in the amount of \$1,000.00 and spray foam in the amount of \$1,000.00. Chairman Slaughter verified the total amount is \$397,980.00, Mr. McLeod answered that is correct. Vice Chairman Marshall asked is this the same type of foam? Mr. McLeod responded yes. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked what does this warehouse support? Mr. McLeod stated utilities, E/One pump storage and utilities equipment. Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, added supplies for the utilities department are stored at this location as well as some offices are located in this building. Commissioner Orenstein asked how many E/One pumps are stored at this location? Mr. Stalvey responded seventy (70) pumps and when that number reaches twenty-five (25) an order is placed to restock. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked for the location of the entrance of this facility? Mr. Stalvey answered off of Frontage Road near the camping facilities.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, requested an executive session for the purpose of privileged attorney-client communications regarding the purchase and disposal of real estate. At 8:54 a.m. Commissioner Orenstein and Vice Chairman Marshall made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of privileged attorney-client communications regarding the proposed purchase and disposal of real estate, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:12 a.m. Chairman Slaughter reconvened the work session with no additional information being discussed. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting, Vice Chairman Marshall and Commissioner Griner second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting.