

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement Between Lowndes County  
and the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security  
Agency

DATE OF MEETING: April 23, 2024

Work  
Session/Regular  
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: None

FUNDING SOURCE:

- Annual
- Capital
- N/A
- SPLOST
- TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Approval of Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: In January 2020, Lowndes County entered into a statewide mutual aid agreement with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and each of the other 158 counties, as well as the majority of municipalities, within the State of Georgia. This previous agreement was to remain in effect for a 4-year period and expired on March 1, 2024. GEMA has recently provided an updated mutual aid agreement with similar terms. This agreement serves as the formal framework that allows Lowndes County to provide assistance to other local governments when requested. Since it is a reciprocal agreement, it also provides Lowndes County with the mechanism to request assistance in the case of a situation that overwhelms local resources or requires resources that the County does not otherwise have available. It also establishes GEMA as the State's coordinating entity for mutual aid resources. Just as with the previous agreement, this agreement includes two attachments for the purpose of designating officials authorized to request outside resources on behalf of the county as well as identifying those individuals authorized to make purchases or obligate the county to provide reimbursement for resources requested.

- OPTIONS: 1. Approve the Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, including the attached Designation of Officials, and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of Lowndes County.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Option 1

DEPARTMENT: Emergency Management

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Ashley Tye

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: