

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Tuesday, May 28, 2024

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

Vice Chairman Demarcus Marshall and Commissioner Scott Orenstein were not present.
Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

PRESENTATIONS

GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated that Lowndes County has received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for this fiscal year 2024 Budget. Ms. Black explained budgets must be rated proficient in all four categories and in fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories to receive the award. Ms. Black stated there are over 1,700 participants in the award program throughout the United States and Canada and this is Lowndes County's 18th consecutive year receiving this award. Chairman Slaughter thanked Ms. Black and her staff for their ongoing commitment to preparing and presenting financial information in a detail-oriented way, which helps the commissioners as well as the citizens of Lowndes County.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work session of May 13, 2024 and the regular session of May 14, 2024. No revisions to the minutes were requested.

FOR CONSIDERATION

2024 Local Road Assistance (LRA) Administration Funds Application

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented this item. Mr. McLeod stated the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) announced the Governor and Legislature included \$250 million dollars in Local Road Assistance (LRA) funds in the amended fiscal year 2024 budget. These funds will be distributed using the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Application System and will require no matching funds. The amount for Lowndes County is \$1,656,734.49. Mr. McLeod stated if approved, these funds will be used for the Val Del Road at North Valdosta Road intersection and restriping approximately 35 miles of paved roads. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked regarding the restriping of the roads, if this will include raised pavement reflectors? Mr. McLeod answered yes.

A New Addition to the Lowndes County Jail Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP)

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Lowndes County Staff, the architect with Studio 8 Designs and the Construction Manager (Allstate Construction

and Cauthan Construction Joint Venture, LLC) have been working on the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) since the subcontractor bids were received in March. This project includes constructing a new sixty (60) cell, 120 bed facility that will join the existing medical area at the jail. The Construction Manager has submitted a GMP of \$8,965,053.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if this amount was expected or possibly a lower amount? Mr. McLeod responded that \$8,000,000.00 was estimated. Chairman Slaughter stated \$5,000,000.00 was allocated from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for this project.

RAVE Alert Service Agreement

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated since 2007, Lowndes County has used a mass notification and emergency alerting system with Code Red and its parent company, OnSolve. In the past years, there have been some issues with calls and messages not being sent out. To provide the best product for Lowndes County, RAVE Alert, which is now a product of Motorola, provides more functionality and reliability to meet the county's needs. Additionally, Mr. Tye stated this company is \$4,000.00 less, which includes a \$2,000.00 set up fee and this is before the board for their consideration. Chairman Slaughter asked if this will require the citizens to sign up or is it an automatic transfer of data? Mr. Tye responded yes, they will need to sign up due to an option on the enrollment page, which gives the citizen an option to choose "keep my information private" and Code Red cannot provide that information due to their privacy policy.

Crisis Track Damage Assessment Software

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated Hurricane Idalia emphasized a need for a more efficient method to conduct post-storm damage assessments, utilizing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidelines. Crisis Track is a damage assessment software that can be installed as an app on any smartphone or tablet for users, with there being no limit to the number of users, allowing access for first responders and our damage assessment team in the field, to quickly collect damage assessment information and provide it to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This will allow Emergency Management to provide damage assessment numbers more quickly to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) enabling them to notify FEMA of a request for assistance more quickly. There is also a public portal where citizens can self-report their damage to be verified. Mr. Tye stated GEMA made some additional grant funds available that will cover the initial implementation funding and allow us to have the system in place with personnel trained ahead of the peak hurricane season. Chairman Slaughter asked regarding everyday uses, for example areas being flooded, would public works and/or the public be able to report these with this software? Mr. Tye responded yes, there would be a link available to input the information. Mr. Tye stated this software will help track time, which will help with submitting information to FEMA as well. Chairman Slaughter mentioned with pre-event warnings, it seems it would be an advantage for local governments to have a process for citizens to be able to make a report if damage is seen throughout the county. Mr. Tye responded that would be possible.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes, requested an executive session for the purpose of privileged attorney-client communications regarding the purchase of real estate. At 8:47 a.m. Commissioner Griner made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of privileged attorney-client communication regarding discussion of real estate acquisition, Commissioner Evans seconded. 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 Griner made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting, Commissioner Evans seconded. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting.