

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PROPOSED AGENDA
WORK SESSION, MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024, 8:30 a.m.
REGULAR SESSION, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
327 N. Ashley Street - 2nd Floor

1. **Call To Order**

2. **Invocation**

3. **Pledge Of Allegiance To The Flag**

4. **Minutes For Approval**

- a. Work Session & Regular Session - November 12, 2024

5. **Appointments**

- a. Valdosta Lowndes County Conference Center And Tourism Authority

Documents:

[VALDOSTA LOWNDES COUNTY CONFERENCE CENTER AND TOURISM AUTHORITY \(2\).PDF](#)

6. **Public Hearing**

- a. REZ-2024-18 LSO Invest, 3910 Old US 41 N, ~0.93ac, R-21 To C-C, County Utilities

Documents:

[REZ-2024-18 LSO INVEST, 3910 OLD US 41 N, ~0.93AC, R-21 TO C-C, COUNTY UTILITIES.PDF](#)

- b. REZ-2024-19 U-Haul, Inner Perimeter, 3871 Inner Perimeter Rd, ~5.0ac, R-10 To C-G, City Utilities

Documents:

[REZ-2024-19 U-HAUL, INNER PERIMETER, 3871 INNER PERIMETER RD, ~5.0AC, R-10 TO C-G, CITY UTILITIES.PDF](#)

- c. REZ-2024-20 Wilson Estate, 5917 Thunder Bowl Rd., ~1.7ac, E-A To R-1, Well & Septic

Documents:

[REZ-2024-20 WILSON ESTATE, 5917 THUNDER BOWL RD., ~1.7AC, E-A TO R-1, WELL AND SEPTIC.PDF](#)

7. **For Consideration**

a. Acceptance Of Infrastructure For Val Del Estates Phase 5

Documents:

[ACCEPTANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR VAL DEL ESTATES PHASE 5.PDF](#)

b. Georgia Services Administration Public Buildings Service, Lease Amendment #5 For The Georgia County USDA Service Center

Documents:

[GEORGIA SERVICES ADMINISTRATION PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE, LEASE AMENDMENT 5 FOR THE GEORGIA COUNTY USDA SERVICE CENTER.PDF](#)

c. 2025 Public Defender Contracts

Documents:

[2025 PUBLIC DEFENDER CONTRACTS -.PDF](#)

d. Tower Replacement And Repair

Documents:

[TOWER REPLACEMENT AND REPAIR.PDF](#)

e. Fiber Install To Elections

Documents:

[FIBER INSTALL TO ELECTIONS.PDF](#)

f. Acceptance Of FY 2025 Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Grant

Documents:

[ACCEPTANCE OF FY 2025 JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION GRANT.PDF](#)

g. 2025 Holiday Schedule

Documents:

[2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE.PDF](#)

h. Section 125 Plan Document Renewal For 2025

Documents:

SECTION 125 PLAN DOCUMENT RENEWAL FOR 2025.PDF

i. 2025 ACCG Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal

Documents:

[2025 ACCG WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE RENEWAL.PDF](#)

j. 2025 Stop Loss Insurance Coverage Renewal

Documents:

[2025 STOP LOSS INSURANCE COVERAGE RENEWAL.PDF](#)

k. ACCG-IRMA Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Insurance Program

Documents:

[ACCG-IRMA POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER \(PTSD\) INSURANCE PROGRAM.PDF](#)

l. 2025 Commission Meeting Calendar

Documents:

[2025 COMMISSION MEETING CALENDAR --.PDF](#)

m. Bevel Creek Pump Repair

Documents:

[BEVEL CREEK PUMP REPAIR.PDF](#)

n. Office Of The Governor Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Accountability Court Lowndes County DUI Court - State Court

Documents:

[OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING
COUNCIL ACCOUNTABILITY COURT LOWNDES COUNTY DUI COURT -
STATE COURT.PDF](#)

8. **Bid**

a. PI# 0016279 TIA-07 Coleman Road NW Paving And Drainage
Improvements Bids

Documents:

[PI 0016279 TIA-07 COLEMAN ROAD NW PAVING AND DRAINAGE
IMPROVEMENTS BIDS.PDF](#)

b. Emergency Repair Bid - Lowndes County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division

Documents:

[EMERGENCY REPAIR BID - LOWNDES COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE PATROL DIVISION.PDF](#)

c. Lease-Purchase Two New Motor Graders For Public Works

Documents:

[LEASE-PURCHASE TWO NEW MOTOR GRADERS FOR PUBLIC WORKS.PDF](#)

d. Emergency Discharge Manhole Replacement

Documents:

[EMERGENCY DISCHARGE MANHOLE REPLACEMENT.PDF](#)

e. Hammock Trail Drainage Repair

Documents:

[HAMMOCK TRAIL DRAINAGE REPAIR -.PDF](#)

9. **Reports - County Manager**
10. **Citizens Wishing To Be Heard-Please State Your Name And Address**
11. **Adjournment**

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Valdosta Lowndes County Conference Center and Tourism
Authority

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Appoint/Reappoint Members

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The term of Rick Williams will expire December 31, 2024. Mr. Williams has expressed a desire to be reappointed. As a result of the District 5 election, an appointment is required to fill the unexpired term of Commissioner-Elect Michael Smith. Amanda Peacock has expressed a desire to serve.

OPTIONS: 1. Appoint/Reappoint Members.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure

DEPARTMENT: County Manager

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Paige Dukes

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: REZ-2024-18 LSO Invest, 3910 Old US 41 N, ~0.93ac, R-21 to C-C, County Utilities

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: REZ-2024-18 LSO Invest, 3910 Old US 41 N, ~0.93ac, R-21 to C-C, County Utilities

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: This request represents a change in zoning on the subject properties from R-21 (Medium Density Residential) zoning to C-C (Crossroads Commercial) zoning. The general motivation for the rezoning is to allow the property to be used at its highest and best potential. The subject property possesses road frontage on Old US 41 Northhand Barker Road, both County maintained Arterial and Local Roads respectively, is within the Urban Service Area, Old US 41 N Corridor Overlay, and on the border of Neighborhood Activity Center and Suburban Character Areas, which recommend C-C zoning as appropriate (Use Chart attached).

The TRC analyzed the request, the standards governing the exercise of zoning power set forth in 10.01.05 of the ULDC, and factors most relevant to this application, including the neighboring land uses, trending changes in zoning along Old US 41, the lots unique size and shape, the location of wetlands, and the availability of County utilities, and therefore recommends approval of the request for C-C zoning.

At the GLPC meeting, the attorney for the applicant spoke in favor of the request, stating that the applicants are open to consider conditions for the proposed zoning. Neighbors then spoke in opposition to the request, citing concerns about changes to the residential character of the neighborhood, potential impacts on the community, traffic and unwanted uses such as liquor stores and nightclubs. Ultimately, the GLPC voted (7-1) to recommend Denial.

AADT Old US HWY 41 N ~11,280

LO-2001-03 – C-H

LO-2004-53 – C-H

REZ-2009-02 – C-G

REZ-2013-15 – C-G

REZ-2016-18 – C-G

REZ-2017-15 – C-C

REZ-2018-19 – C-G

REZ-2021-22 – C-G

REZ-2024-10 – O-I

Setbacks for C-C – 80' F, 20' S, 12' R

Setbacks for O-I – 80' F, 15' S, 30' R

ULDC 4.01.02(C)(3) – through lot

- OPTIONS: 1) Approve
2) Approve with Conditions
3) Table
4) Deny

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure

DEPARTMENT: Planning/Zoning

DEPARTMENT HEAD: JD Dillard

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: REZ-2024-19 U-Haul, Inner Perimeter, 3871 Inner Perimeter Rd, ~5.0ac, R-10 to C-G, City Utilities

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: REZ-2024-19 U-Haul, Inner Perimeter, 3871 Inner Perimeter Rd, ~5.0ac, R-10 to C-G, City Utilities

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: This request represents a change in zoning on a portion of the subject property from R-10 (Suburban Density Residential) zoning to C-G (General Commercial) zoning. The general motivation for the rezoning is to allow the properties to be combined and used for a self-storage center. The subject property contains ~5 acres, possesses road frontage on Inner Perimeter Road, a State maintained highway, is within the Urban Service Area, and Neighborhood Activity Center Character Area, which recommend C-G zoning as appropriate.

The applicant has also applied for a Variance to the Supplemental Standards for Self-storage Facilities in Section 4.03.21 of the ULDC as it pertains to 1) building height, 2) lot size, and 3) front yard setbacks. The ZBOA will hear the request at their January 14, 2025 meeting.

The TRC analyzed the request, the standards governing the exercise of zoning power set forth in 10.01.05 of the ULDC, and factors most relevant to this application, including the neighboring land use, the availability of City utilities, the location on a principal arterial, and therefore recommends approval of the request for C-G zoning with the following conditions:

1. Any structure over thirty-five (35) feet in height shall be void of windows and/or reflective surfaces along its northern elevations.
2. All lighting shall be directed on-site and away from residentially zoned properties.
3. There shall be no reduction in the minimum buffer area requirements of Section 4.07.06.

At the GLPC meeting, representatives for the applicant spoke in favor of the request, and no one spoke in opposition. Therefore, the GLPC recommended Approval with the three (3) conditions as stated by staff unanimously (8-0).

- OPTIONS: 1) Approve
2) Approve with Conditions
3) Table
4) Deny

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Option 2

DEPARTMENT: Planning/Zoning

DEPARTMENT HEAD: JD Dillard

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: REZ-2024-20 Wilson Estate, 5917 Thunder Bowl Rd., ~1.7ac,
E-A to R-1, Well & Septic

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: REZ-2024-20 Wilson Estate, 5917 Thunder Bowl Rd.,
~1.7ac, E-A to R-1, Well & Septic

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: This request represents a change in zoning on a portion of the subject property from E-A (Estate Agricultural) zoning to R-1 (Low Density Residential) zoning. The general motivation for the rezoning is to allow the property to be subdivided into a conforming residential lot. The subject property includes ~22 acres in total, possesses road frontage on Thunder Bowl Road and Vickers Drive, both County maintained local roads, is within the Rural Service Area, and Rural Residential Character Area, which recommend R-1 zoning as appropriate.

The TRC analyzed the request, the standards governing the exercise of zoning power set forth in 10.01.05 of the ULDC, and factors most relevant to this application, including the neighboring land use and lot sizes, the lack of availability of County utilities, and the viability of wells and septic systems, and therefore recommends approval of the request for R-1 zoning as depicted on the submitted survey.

At the GLPC meeting, the applicant spoke in favor of the request, while no one spoke in opposition, therefore resulting in a unanimous (8-0) vote to recommend Approval of the ~1.7 acres depicted being rezoned.

- OPTIONS: 1) Approve
2) Approve with Conditions
3) Table
4) Deny

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Planning/Zoning

DEPARTMENT HEAD: JD Dillard

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Infrastructure for Val Del Estates Phase 5

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Acceptance of Val Del Estates Phase 5 Infrastructure

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: Val Del Estates Subdivision Phase 5 is located on Val Del Road and includes twenty-six (26) lots. All construction and paperwork have been completed. Engineering and Utilities staff have made the final inspection of the construction.

OPTIONS: 1. Adopt the Resolution accepting Infrastructure for Val Del Estates Phase 5.
2. Redirect.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Engineering

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Chad McLeod

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Georgia Services Administration Public Buildings Service,
Lease Amendment #5 for the Georgia County USDA Service Center

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$72,000.00

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Georgia Services Administration Public Buildings
Service, Lease Amendment #5 for the Georgia County USDA Service Center

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The current lease agreement between Lowndes County Board of Commissioners and the United States of America for the Georgia County USDA Service Center located at 2108 E. Hill Avenue, Valdosta, GA 31601 expired December 31, 2023. This proposed lease amendment will extend the current lease until December 31, 2028. The United States of America has asked for this extension to allow for enough time to negotiate a long term lease. The proposed lease amendment proposes that the United States of America will pay the lease price of annual rent of \$72,000.00 payable at the rate of \$6,000.00 per month representing \$9.00 per square foot for 8,000 net useable square feet in arrears. This annual rent is an increase from \$32,000 annually, which is in line with the Market Rate.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve the Lease Amendment and authorize the Chairman to sign.
2. Redirect.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Engineering

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Chad McLeod

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: 2025 Public Defender Contracts

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: 2025 Public Defender Contracts

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The attached contract for 2025 ongoing Public Defender Services and 2025 administration of operating expenses for the Valdosta office are the same as have been presented annually for several years with no changes.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve the request and authorize Chairman to sign both contracts.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Public Defender

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Wade Krueger

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Tower Replacement and Repair

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

BUDGET IMPACT: \$526,653.00

Work
Session/Regular
Session

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Tower Replacement and Repair

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: Hurricane Helene caused major damage to seven communication towers used by the Fire Rescue and Utilities Department. Six are freestanding towers at fire stations and one guyed tower at the Sprayfield. These towers, originally rated for 75 mph winds, are quoted with stronger, taller structures that can withstand winds of 110 mph or more.

Presented are quotes from two tower companies.

Tower Maintenance Corporation - \$639,480.03

Tower Services of South Georgia - \$526,653.00

- OPTIONS: 1. Approve Tower Services of South Georgia.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Option 1

DEPARTMENT: ITS

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Aaron Kostyu

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Fiber Install to Elections

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

BUDGET IMPACT: \$82,744.00

Work
Session/Regular
Session

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Fiber Install to Elections

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: This request is for the underground installation of a 96-count fiber optic cable to connect the new Board of Elections Office location at 901 North Patterson St. The proposed route includes utilizing an existing conduit from the Lowndes County Administrative Building at 327 North Ashley St. to a handhole at 601 N Lee St., with directional boring required to extend the cable from the handhole to the new Elections Building.

The existing 24-count fiber optic cable serving the current Elections Office on Oak St. was severely damaged during Hurricane Helene, with repair costs estimated at \$71,000.00. A temporary solution was implemented to maintain operations during the election period. It was subsequently decided to maintain the temporary connection until the relocation is complete, allowing the old cable to be abandoned and saving the county \$71,000.00 for a run that will no longer be needed in the future. The total cost to install the fiber optic network is \$82,744.00.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: ITS

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Aaron Kostyu

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Acceptance of FY 2025 Juvenile Justice Delinquency
Prevention Grant

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$50,000.00 - Reimbursed fully by CJCC through the
grant

FUNDING SOURCE:

- CJCC Funding - \$50,000.00
- Capital
- N/A
- SPLOST
- TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Acceptance of FY2025 Delinquency Prevention Grant

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: Earlier this year, staff submitted a request for continuation of funding as part of the Delinquency Prevention Grant. This grant program was originally funded beginning in April 2022 to implement evidence-based programs and prevention strategies for youth who are first-time offenders, diverted from the juvenile justice system, or charged with a status offense and identified as at risk. This funding was used to implement the Strengthening Families Program.

Lowndes County was recently notified it has been awarded \$50,000.00 in continuation funding for the Strengthening Families Program (SFP). This amount will allow for providing services to at least two (2) cohorts of SFP. Each cohort is a minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of twelve (12) youth and their families.

The Strengthening Families Program (SFP) is an evidence-based family skills training program for high-risk and general-population families recognized nationally and internationally. Parents and youth attend weekly SFP skills classes together, learning parenting skills and youth life and refusal skills. In the first hour, they have separate class training for parents and youth, followed by a joint family practice session in the second hour.

OPTIONS:

1. Authorize the Chairman to sign award documents, including agreement with Peaceway Counseling to provide SFP services.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Emergency Management

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Ashley Tye

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: 2025 Holiday Schedule

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Approval of the 2025 Holiday Schedule

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: In accordance with the Lowndes County Personnel Policy, the 2025 Holiday Schedule is being presented for the Commission's consideration. Lowndes County currently observes ten (10) holidays that span a total of twelve (12) working days.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve the 2025 Holiday Schedule in accordance with the current Lowndes County Personnel Policy.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure

DEPARTMENT: Human Resources

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Kevin Beals

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Section 125 Plan Document Renewal for 2025

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Adoption of the Section 125 Plan Document for 2025

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The Section 125 Cafeteria Plan is a premium only plan (POP) that provides for a pre-tax premium deduction on qualified health plans for our employees. This plan adoption renewal for 2025 is necessary in order to comply with IRS Regulations - Section 125.

Adoption of the Section 125 Cafeteria Plan allows Lowndes County to withdraw premium-only payments, from employees' paychecks, on a pre-tax basis. Health premiums that qualify for tax savings include, medical, dental, vision, critical illness, accidental death and dismemberment, hospital indemnity and/or cancer insurance, short and long term disability policies and group-term life insurance policies up to \$50,000.00. Lowndes County Section 125 premium only plan has been available to County Employees since May 26, 1989.

- OPTIONS: 1. Adopt the Section 125 Premium Only Plan for 2025 and authorize the Chairman to sign the Certificate of Resolution and Adoption Agreement.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure

DEPARTMENT: Human Resources

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Kevin Beals

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: 2025 ACCG Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$256,945.00

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Approve 2025 ACCG Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: Lowndes County participates in the ACCG-GSIWCF (Group Self Insurance Workers Compensation Fund) Insurance Program. This non-profit program began in 1982 with 11 counties and has grown to 167 counties and authorities throughout the State of Georgia. While the ACCG-GSIWCF Board of Trustees has approved an overall 3.8% rate increase for 2025, it was preceded by an 8.4% rate decrease in 2024.

The 2025 renewal premium for Lowndes County is \$278,170.00. However, due to a dividend credit of \$21,225.00, the total premium due is \$256,945.00. It should also be noted that Lowndes County's Safety/Loss Control Program has also contributed to a 7.5% reduction on our premium, which is equal to a savings of \$22,544.00.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve 2025 ACCG Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure

DEPARTMENT: Human Resources

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Kevin Beals

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: 2025 Stop Loss Insurance Coverage Renewal

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$1,632,890.00

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Approve Stop Loss Insurance Coverage renewal through HM Insurance Group for 2025

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The Lowndes County Health Benefit Plan is a self-funded program that is administered through Allied Benefits (third party administrator) using the Blue Cross Blue Shield Network of Georgia. Stop loss insurance is a form of excess risk coverage that provides protection for Lowndes County against a high claim on any one individual.

EPIC Brokers & Consultants represents Lowndes County as our Health Insurance Broker. Each year EPIC markets the County's Stop Loss Insurance Coverage in an effort to capture the best available rates for the employee health benefit plan. Marketing results indicate that HM Insurance Group is currently offering Lowndes County the lowest available rates for the upcoming 2025 plan.

- OPTIONS: 1. Approve the Stop Loss Insurance Coverage renewal through HM Insurance Group with a "Spec Coverage" rate of \$135,000 for 2025.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure

DEPARTMENT: Human Resources

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Kevin Beals

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: ACCG-IRMA Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
Insurance Program

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$46,808.00

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Approve ACCG-IRMA Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
(PTSD) Insurance Program

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: HB451 requires all public entities in Georgia to offer a supplemental benefit program for first responders diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) resulting from exposure to line of duty traumatic events. It creates a once-per-lifetime financial safety net to assist with uninsured costs associated with PTSD treatment and recovery.

All legally organized public safety departments in Georgia are required by House Bill 451 (2023-2024), to provide a benefit to first responders effective January 1, 2025. The Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) has developed a solution for Georgia counties that need this coverage which provides financial protection to first responders and their families in the event they develop PTSD.

The Act requires two once-per-lifetime benefits. The first is a \$3,000 lump-sum benefit paid following diagnosis of occupational PTSD by a qualified diagnostician. The second is a long-term disability benefit if the eligible first responder is no longer able to perform their duties as a first responder.

- The disability benefit begins 90 days after the first responder is determined to be unable to continue work as a first responder due to the covered condition, despite receipt of appropriate treatment.
- The disability benefit is paid monthly for up to 36 months.
- Paid first responders receive 60% of their monthly pay to a maximum of \$5,000 per month.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve participation in the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Insurance Program with the ACCG at mandated levels.

2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure

DEPARTMENT: Human Resources

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Kevin Beals

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: 2025 Commission Meeting Calendar

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: 2025 Commission Meeting Calendar

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The calendar provided for the Commission's review has listed the Commission meeting dates for 2025. The Commission is asked to review and approve the 2025 Commission Meeting Calendar.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: County Manager

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Paige Dukes

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Bevel Creek Pump Repair

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

BUDGET IMPACT: \$32,306.82

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

Work
Session/Regular
Session

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Bevel Creek Pump Repair

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The Bevel Creek lift station is a triplex station with 160hp pumps near the end of our trunk line before the LAS. One of the pumps began running high amps and tripping the breaker. The pump was pulled and sent to Xylem for repairs. After analyzing the pump, it needs a complete rebuild for \$32,306.82. The price for a new pump is \$77,626.15. Staff recommends approval for the pump to be rebuilt for \$32,306.82.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Utilities

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Steve Stalvey

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Coordinating
Council Accountability Court Lowndes County DUI Court - State Court

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$0.00

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Agreement for Law Enforcement Subgrant

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: This award is made under the Accountability Courts State of Georgia grant program. The Lowndes County DUI Court has been awarded a Local Law Enforcement Subgrant by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for a total of **\$12,584.00**; with no match requirement by the County. This subgrant will help fund the surveillance officer curfew checks, drug and alcohol screens, and surveillance duties for the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

The Lowndes County DUI Court began operating in January 2017 and currently has a total of 30 active participants in the program and is at maximum capacity.

- OPTIONS: 1. Approve
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: State Court

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Judge Golden

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: PI# 0016279 TIA-07 Coleman Road NW Paving and Drainage
Improvements Bids

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$3,068,176.54

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Coleman Road NW Bids

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: Coleman Road NW Paving and Drainage Improvements is a TSPLOST approved project that is 2.21 miles long. The project begins at Hagan Bridge Road and ends at Val-Del Road. Bids were opened on October 31, 2024 and two bids were received.

- Reames and Son Construction = \$3,993,301.50
- The Scruggs Company = \$3,745,392.42

The bid came in over budget and staff worked with the low bidder to value engineer (VE) the project. The contract amount after VE is \$3,068,176.54.

- OPTIONS: 1. Approve The Scruggs Company as the low bidder and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract.
2. Redirect.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Engineering

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Chad McLeod

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Emergency Repair Bid - Lowndes County Sheriff's Office
Patrol Division

Work
Session/Regular
Session

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

BUDGET IMPACT: \$114,720.00

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Emergency Repair Bid - Lowndes County Sheriff's Office
Patrol Division

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: On September 26, 2024 Hurricane Helene blew approximately 9,500 sq.ft. of TPO roof and membrane off of the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division. Staff has filed the claim with insurance and followed all procurement procedures for FEMA. The insurance adjuster and insurance engineer have been to the site for their inspection. Emergency purchases are those that are made to alleviate a situation in which there is a threat to health, welfare, or safety under certain conditions defined as an emergency by jurisdiction that does not allow time for normal, competitive purchasing procedures. For example, flooding, power outages or other natural disasters. Staff does anticipate insurance to cover the repair cost.

Staff was able to procure two quotes to repair the roof:

- JHS Strickland Construction: \$114,720.00
- Reliable Roofing: \$124,005.00

Staff has issued a PO to JHS Strickland Construction for \$114,720.00. Materials have been ordered.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve the PO and authorize JHS Strickland Construction for the Emergency Repair Bid.
2. Redirect.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Engineering

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Chad McLeod

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Lease-Purchase Two New Motor Graders for Public Works

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$405,838.00

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Lease-Purchase Two New Motor Graders for Public Works

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: Public Works is requesting to replace the two oldest graders in the current fleet. These two graders, a 2008 John Deere (22,000 hours and out of service) and a 2006 Caterpillar (25,000 hours), are the last two graders not on a lease-purchase agreement. The lease-purchase agreements also include scheduled preventative maintenance. The County received two quotes for leases to replace the graders.

		Monthly Lease	Total Price
Caterpillar	Valdosta, GA	\$6,091.04	\$405,838.00
John Deere	Valdosta, GA	\$7,285.00	\$406,692.00

- OPTIONS: 1. Award the Lease-Purchase to Caterpillar.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure

DEPARTMENT: Finance

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Stephanie Black

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Emergency Discharge Manhole Replacement

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$
FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Emergency Discharge Manhole Replacement

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The Utilities Department has three manholes on Val Del Road and one manhole near the Francis Lake office that needs to be replaced. These manholes are discharge manholes or directly near discharge manholes. Staff advertised the project and two contractors were present for the pre-bid meeting, JWA, Inc. and RPI, Inc. Bids will be opened at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday (December 10, 2024). The bid amounts will be emailed to commissioners as soon as they are verified. Staff recommends approval and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Utilities

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Steve Stalvey

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Hammock Trail Drainage Repair

DATE OF MEETING: December 10, 2024

BUDGET IMPACT: \$179,227.00

Work
Session/Regular
Session

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Hammock Trail Drainage Repair

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: During Hurricane Helene, a section of property at 5070 Hammock Trail was eroded, cutting a large ditch through the yard down to Hammock Lake. This damage was caused in part due to a two-inch water main break that could not be accessed immediately due to downed trees and power lines. Additional erosion occurred during the heavy rains on November 7, 2024. Due to the circumstances with the driveway, trees, and the road, staff deemed this to be an emergency. Plans were prepared to make the repairs. Three contractors attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting. Two bids were received; Killeen Construction for \$200,350.00, and Rountree Construction for \$179,227.00. Staff recommends approval and to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement with Rountree Construction for \$179,227.00.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Utilities

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Steve Stalvey

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: