

the public. The conveyance is authorized by Georgia law. A proposed quit claim deed of the property to the Industrial Authority is attached in the packet.

## **BID**

### **A New Facility for Lowndes County Fire Rescue No. 4**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, recognized the leadership present from Fire Rescue who were involved with working with the design of the station. Mrs. Dukes stated the plans are available for review if the commission would like to review. Mrs. Dukes asked Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, to present the item. Mr. McLeod stated a new facility for Lowndes County Fire Rescue Station No. 4 is a 13,296 sq. ft. building that is proposed to be constructed at 4111 Stewart Circle. The new facility includes Fire Rescue living quarters, EMS living quarters, four truck bays, and all site work. Lowndes County Fire Rescue currently operates out of the older volunteer station located at 4007 Old US 41 North with this location being temporary and not intended for long-term use. The new station is the next step in the previously approved expansion plan for Lowndes County Fire Rescue. Staff received five bids on May 23, 2025 and Kellerman Construction was the low bidder in the amount of \$4,767,660.00 in 270 days.

Mrs. Dukes asked Chief Billy Young to speak about what this station will mean for operations. Chief Young stated that with the new fire station, Lowndes County will be able to provide Fire and EMS services to the northern part of the community. He also commended his leadership staff for assisting with the station's design. Chief Young mentioned Fire Rescue is ready and excited. This moves us toward the future and helps meet the needs of our fire service. He added that the partnership with SGMCC, which includes another squad at Station Four, demonstrates how they will be able to provide not only fire protection but also EMS services. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if the living quarters were for both Fire and EMS personnel. Chief Young responded yes, there is a separate wing designated for EMS. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if EMS employees were employed by Lowndes County. Chief Young clarified that they are employees of South Georgia Medical Center. Commissioner Marshall inquired about the staffing at the facility. Chief Young responded that there would be two engine companies operating from the station, totaling eight personnel. Commissioner Smith asked whether the station is being built with future growth in mind. Chief Young replied yes. Commissioner Wisenbaker then asked whether the proposed Lake Park fire facility would follow the same design. Mrs. Dukes stated that, for budgetary reasons, they are hoping to retrofit the Rascals building into a fire station. However, if architects and engineers recommend that the structure needs to be leveled and rebuilt, this current station would serve as the model. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if Lake Park would include living quarters for both Fire and EMS. Chief Young responded yes. Commissioner Marshall asked whether the new fire station would be completed and operational by this time next year. Mrs. Dukes responded yes. Lastly, Commissioner Smith asked if the project is being funded through SPLOST VIII. Mrs. Dukes confirmed, yes.

## **REPORTS - County Manager**

There was no additional information to report.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 8:51 a.m.