

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING  
Monday, June 23, 2025

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Chairman Bill Slaughter  
Commissioner Scott Orenstein  
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker  
Commissioner Demarcus Marshall  
Commissioner Michael Smith

Vice Chairperson Evans was not present.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Presentation of the Proposed FY 2026 Budget**

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented an overview of the fiscal year 2026 budget and offered to answer any questions.

Commissioner Marshall inquired about the potential for fuel prices to rise as a result of recent events and asked what measures would be taken to address those increases, should they occur. Ms. Black responded there is some contingency and an estimation of cost based on the history and usage of vehicles.

Commissioner Orenstein asked regarding the fire services budget decreasing by ten percent and asked for clarification. Ms. Black stated the new fire trucks were pulled out of the fire services budget in anticipation of being placed in SPLOST IX. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if the amount shown in the presentation for fire services was the amount generated from the fire millage, Ms. Black explained that the amounts in the presentation were the expenditures and that the revenues, which include the fire millage, offset those expenditures.

County Manager, Paige Dukes, brought up concerns with the annual assessment notices; to make the commission aware that staff was in the process of researching this matter.

Chairman Slaughter opened the meeting to the public. No one spoke in favor or opposition.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the budget public hearing at 9:15 a.m.