

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES

Special Called Meeting to Adopt the Proposed FY 2026 Budget
Monday, June 30, 2025

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

Vice Chairperson Joyce Evans and Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker were not present.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and asked for a brief recess until a quorum was present. Commissioner Orenstein arrived at 8:46 a.m. and Chairman Slaughter reconvened the meeting.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated the budget the Commission is reviewing this morning, had no changes other than those mentioned initially. Mrs. Dukes asked Finance Director, Stephanie Black, to present this item. Ms. Black stated the Commission held the required public hearing on June 23, 2025, adding that the 2025-2026 budget remains ready for the Commission's consideration. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve and adopt the budget as presented, second by Commissioner Orenstein. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Budget Plan for Hotel Motel Proceeds for Fiscal Year 2026

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item stating the Georgia Statute requires the Commission to adopt prior to each fiscal year a budget plan for the use of hotel/motel tax proceeds for the upcoming fiscal year. The same statute also requires the Commission to obtain from the Conference Center and Tourism Authority a budget plan. This Authority Budget Plan is required to be included in the County's Budget Plan. Commissioner Smith asked if this was the same estimate range as last year, Ms. Black answered yes. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the budget plan for the hotel/motel proceeds for fiscal year 2026, second by Commissioner Marshall. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Slaughter expressed his thanks to Mrs. Dukes, Ms. Black and the finance staff for their work in preparing the budget for consideration with many challenges to overcome.