

securing legislative approval over the years for an increased starting salary for an entry-level public defender, currently set at \$72,000.00. He stated that our office has worked to remain competitive and that this will continue to be addressed during budget meetings. Chairman Slaughter stated that with the increased jail population, the Commission is working to track and implement improvements to help reduce that population. Chairman Slaughter requested that the Public Defender's Office review its operations to ensure there are no delays that would keep individuals incarcerated longer than necessary and to report back on any areas where improvements are needed.

2026 ACCG Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal

Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the item. Mr. Beals presented the renewal in the amount of \$301,680.00 to include discounts and safety credits that reduce the annual premium to \$280,452.00. Mr. Beals stated that due to the County's safety/loss control program, there was a 7.5% reduction added as well.

2026 Stop Loss Insurance Coverage Renewal

Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the annual Stop Loss coverage related to Lowndes County's self-insured employee insurance plan, in the amount of \$1,929,379.00. Mr. Beals stated that EPIC Brokers & Consultants represents Lowndes County as our health insurance broker and Swiss Re is currently offering the lowest available rates for the upcoming 2026 plan year.

Enhancement and Innovation/Law Enforcement Grant

Lowndes County Accountability Court Representative, Geoffrey Martin, stated this request is for two grants recently submitted. The Lowndes County Juvenile Accountability Court is a grant-funded program serving high-risk, high-need juveniles in the court system with underlying substance use disorders that contribute to their charges. The goals are to address group causes and behavior through treatment, supervision structure, ultimately improving public safety and reducing recidivism. Mr. Martin stated there are currently thirteen (13) active participants, with five (5) participants that have begun to test consistently negative for THC. For the Enhancement and Innovation Grant money was requested for case management, drug testing and supplies and we were awarded \$7,626.00 and there is a 15 % match in the amount of \$1,346.00. The Law Enforcement Grant has not been completed yet and that amount requested is \$3,000.00 and those funds are for deputies that visit juveniles at their homes for drug screenings. Commissioner Marshall asked what onsite screening devices were used, breathalyzers. Mr. Martin answered instant read urine drug testing cups. Commissioner Marshall asked if these tests were given at home or the Sheriff's Office, Mr. Martin answered different locations such as court, in the courthouse and also the juveniles' homes. Chairman Slaughter stated for the Law Enforcement Grant this will be prepared by the end of the year and we are giving approval to move forward with the grant.

Motorola Migration Assurance Plan (MAP)

911 Director, Tonya Davis, presented the item. Mrs. Davis stated the Motorola Migration Assurance Plan (MAP) is a continuation of our existing evergreen agreement, which has been in place since 2017, that provides the ongoing maintenance, upgrades, and system enhancements required to sustain the Public Safety Radio System. Our current agreement expires in August 2027. The agreement presented for consideration allows us to secure pricing at current rates, with the new term beginning in September 2027 and extending through August 2032. The total cost is \$5,039,730.00, of that amount, approximately \$2,143,327.00, will be for equipment planned for use with future SPLOST funds. Chairman Slaughter asked if this was for the equipment and software. Mrs. Davis responded yes, and the equipment can be invoiced separately. County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated a question