

Approval of DA's Federal VOCA/CESF Grant Application Renewal

Victim Services Director with the District Attorney's Office, Carla Williams, presented the request. Ms. Williams stated the application is a continuation of a VOCA grant that has been in operation since 1997 and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) has been given COVID emergency supplemental funding with the application deadline of January 31, 2022. Further, Ms. Williams stated the funds from the grant, along with "five percent" funds, pay for victim services.

Special Assessment Rate for 2022

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated the county is required to set the interest rate on special assessments each year. Ms. Black stated the rate is set to be at two percent above prime, adding the 2022 rate is calculated at 5.25%. Ms. Black stated the rate for last year was 5.25%.

AT&T Switched Ethernet Circuit Continuation of Service

911 Director, Danny Weeks, presented the item. Mr. Weeks stated this is an existing contract and the board is being asked to approve in order to keep the current rate for the next 36 months; if not approved the cost would increase 25%.

GDOT Safety Action Program Loch Laurel Road Project

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has identified Loch Laurel Road for a possible 2024 Off System Safety Project. The project will be 100% federally funded. Mr. McLeod stated the project includes audible centerline striping and audible edgeline striping. Mr. McLeod further stated since Lowndes County already has audible edgeline striping, new edgeline striping will be substituted for that item and the County will be responsible for clipping the shoulders. Commissioner Marshall asked if bike lanes have been mentioned to be installed with any of the safety projects, Mr. McLeod answered not to his knowledge, but he could verify with Georgia Department of Transportation.

FY 2023 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Application

Fire Chief, Lloyd Green, presented the item. Mr. Green stated the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program which provides funding for the hiring of additional firefighters. Lowndes County Fire Rescue is requesting to apply for a SAFER Grant which would fund the hiring of nine (9) full-time firefighters and fully fund their salary for three (3) years. Mr. Green stated this grant requires no matching funds, however, it provides funding for salaries and benefits only.

Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority Sales Tax Exemption

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated currently, Lowndes County is working with Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority (VLPRA) on some of their large SPLOST purchases, especially to handle those through the county to save on sales tax. Mrs. Dukes stated when the authority was created it was not taken care of legislatively, with regards to its tax exempt status. Additionally, Mrs. Dukes stated Representative John Corbett will carry legislation to hopefully get the General Assembly to approve for VLPRA. Mrs. Dukes stated this is not statewide, this is only for our parks and recreation authority in Lowndes County. Mrs. Dukes stated in order to move forward, a resolution that demonstrates the commission is in favor is attached.