

## **Lowndes County Juvenile Accountability Court (LCJAC) FY24 Budget & Grant Award**

County Manager, Paige Dukes presented this item stating Judge Jim Tunision has solicited grant funds for Accountability Court for the Juvenile Court from the state with this being the third year that this program is in operation. Mrs. Dukes stated there is a cash match from Lowndes County in the amount of \$8,857.00. Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to approve acceptance of the grant and the required cash match in the amount of \$8,857.00, Vice Chairman Wisenbaker second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, gave the Commission a copy of the Georgia Department of Labor Profile Report for this year which was updated in June 2023. Mrs. Dukes gave the Commission an overview of the report:

Page 1: Employment and Unemployment Trends tracking with State averages

Page 2: U.S. Census Bureau reporting Building Permits are down slightly in April over last year  
Page 3: 2022 Industry Mix

Page 4: 2022 Top Industries by firm, employment and weekly wages

Page 5: Technical College Certificates, Diploma and Degree Graduates; this is important when looking at the value of our Technical College by adding to the workforce here in Lowndes County

Page 6: Top 10 Largest Employers 2022 and Labor Force Education

Mrs. Dukes stated staff will continue to share this information as it is updated.

Mrs. Dukes mentioned that the ACCG awards are featured in this month's Georgia Trend magazine as well as Commissioner Marshall and his family being featured in June's Valdosta Scene magazine. Mrs. Dukes stated there will be bids going out next week for the animal shelter, resurfacing and jail medical. Briggston Road will bid the first of August and we hope to have the new fire station on the north end ready to bid out in August/September. Bids are going out for utilities North/South Connector (water above ground storage tank and the clearing of the Land Application System (LAS) with the ARPA obligation being complete. The Chamber's Young Professionals group was hosted at the Quiet Pines Golf Course last Friday and the Georgia Grown Regional Directors held their meeting there today. Mrs. Dukes reminded those in attendance the offices will be closed on Monday for the Juneteenth holiday. On behalf of the staff, Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to Commissioner Orenstein.

## **CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD -**

Janice Monaco, 3744 Bermuda Run Drive, addressed the Commission regarding concerns related to the 2023 property tax assessment. Ms. Monaco also questioned why Lowndes County does not give seniors exemptions regarding property taxes. Chairman Slaughter stated he would discuss the matter with her after the meeting was adjourned.

Blake Robinson, 3819 Schroer Road, addressed the Commission regarding the Georgia County Internship Program with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG). Mr. Robinson asked the board to consider applying for the program for the 2024 grant cycle.