

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
Tuesday, June 20, 2023 - 9:00 AM

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Vice Chairman Mark Wisenbaker
Commissioner Joyce Evans
Commissioner Scott Orenstein
Commissioner Clay Griner

Chairman Bill Slaughter and Commissioner Demarcus Marshall were not in attendance.

Vice Chairman Wisenbaker called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

Presentation of the Proposed FY 2024 Budget

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

Commissioner Evans asked why the amount given to LODAC was decreased? Ms. Black answered that the amount of revenue coming into that fund and the existing fund balance, is not enough to cover the matching funds for the three accountability grants and the funding that is given to LODAC; thus the amount being given to LODAC has been decreased.

County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated there was conversation between the Commissioners and Chairman Slaughter since the last budget work session and there has been a request to roll the estimated collection for the property taxes back to twenty-four million, which will have an impact on not increasing the fund balance next year. Mrs. Dukes stated if that is the consensus of the Commissioners, that adjustment can be made and the budget can be balanced by reducing contingency and increasing other revenues, if the board wishes to do so. Commissioner Griner stated this was his request. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker asked what the procedure is for making this adjustment as requested? Mrs. Dukes stated a recommendation can be received from Commissioner Griner, if he would like to make one and if the majority agrees to move in that direction, Ms. Black can make those changes prior to the consideration of the budget next week. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker asked if this should happen now or wait until Chairman Slaughter returns as well as Commissioner Marshall? Mrs. Dukes responded that would be the board's decision. Commissioner Griner stated he wanted to proceed. Commissioner Griner made a motion to proceed with making the recommendation for the board to project property taxes coming in at \$24,225,00.00