

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, July 24, 2023

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

Commissioner Demarcus Marshall was not present.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Recognition of Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week 2023**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, asked the Probation Director, Ferlisha Rountree and her staff to come up to be recognized. Mrs. Dukes commended Mrs. Rountree for her leadership. Mrs. Rountree stated last week the Lowndes County Probation Office celebrated Probation and Parole Appreciation Week, with this year's theme being "stronger together." Mrs. Rountree thanked her officers for their hard work and dedication to the community. Mrs. Rountree stated her officers have one "free work day" a week, with an average of 20 working days a month, with 15-16 of those days being spent in court. The one "free work day" is spent preparing for court, filing petitions, returning phone calls, etc. Mrs. Rountree thanked the Chairman, Commissioners and the County Manager for their daily support. Lastly, Mrs. Rountree mentioned this is the fifth year of operation for the Lowndes County Probation Office. The office is currently staffed with two senior officers, eight probation officers, two case clerks and an administrative assistant.

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of July 10, 2023 and the regular session of July 11, 2023. No revisions to the minutes were requested.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Motorola SUAll (Evergreen)**

911 Director, Danny Weeks, presented the item stating this agreement with Motorola SUAll (Evergreen) will allow Lowndes County to maintain the current system by providing system upgrades every two years, as well as 24/7 support. Mr. Weeks stated this is a budgeted item and Lowndes County will pay Motorola a monthly amount of \$40,776.00.

**Vertiv Service Contract for the Liebert UPS at the 911 Center & the Four Tower Sites**

911 Director, Danny Weeks, presented the request in the amount of \$28,892.56. Mr. Weeks stated this agreement will provide maintenance and battery replacement for the 911 Center and four tower sites used by the 911 center.

**Acceptance of FY24 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Funding**

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item stating the Commission approved the application request in April 2022. Mr. Tye stated upon approval of this grant, Evidence Based Associates (EBA) will continue providing Functional Family Therapy Services to Lowndes County youths referred through the Lowndes County Juvenile Court System. Mr. Tye stated for fiscal year 2024, Lowndes County was awarded \$346,372.00, in funding for these program services allowing the court to provide services to sixty (60) Lowndes County youths and their families. Mr. Tye stated there are no matching funds on Lowndes County's behalf, it is funded on a reimbursement basis. Commissioner Evans asked how many years Lowndes County has received this assistance? Mr. Tye responded ten (10) years.

**Approval of FY24 Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Grant Application**

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant which was the previous item is a grant for medium - high risk youth, this will be the third year of funding and two years ago we received funding for the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Grant Program which provides the Strengthening Families Program (SFP). Mr. Tye stated the difference with Functional Family Therapy (FFT) is they go into the homes and it is an individual, one family, one therapist. Mr. Tye stated this is Strengthening Families Program (SFP) and this is a group process for lower category offenses. Mr. Tye stated Peaceway Counseling was used as the provider and has also expressed an interest in continuing to be the service provider. Mr. Tye stated currently there are 12 families enrolled in the program and the goal is to receive the funding and to be able to provide up to an additional 24 families over the next fiscal year.

**Fire Rescue Engine 10 Emergency Repair**

Fire Chief, Billy Young, presented the item stating this is the service contract for an emergency repair of Engine 10. Chief Young stated this fire truck sustained engine failure and the exhaust system was damaged and this repair cost is for \$64,205.17 with Ward International Trucks performing the repairs. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker asked how old is this fire truck? Chief Young responded it is a 2018 model.

**Permitting and Inspections Ordinances**

Permitting, Inspections and Code Enforcement Director, Mindy Bates, presented the item. Mrs. Bates stated this item is updating two ordinances that will affect how inspections is administered. Mrs. Bates stated the first ordinance is regarding the codes that we adopt and the second ordinance is how Permitting and Inspections administers those codes as adopted. Chairman Slaughter asked that Mrs. Bates give a brief overview of the Permitting and Inspections Department. Mrs. Bates stated as of this morning there have been 130 processed applications and the inspectors are out every morning completing the inspections process as needed.

**Building Permit Fee Schedule**

Permitting, Inspections and Code Enforcement Director, Mindy Bates, presented the item. Mrs. Bates stated in the adoption of the administrative procedures, a portion of that is adopting a fee schedule for permits and this is obtained from the building codes; this is also based on evaluation. Mrs. Bates stated this is the same fee schedule which was used prior to going live in July. Commissioner Orenstein asked how is the value determined? Mrs. Bates answered the applicant identifies and our office verifies internally.

**BID**

**Exit 13 Touchton Road Water Main Extension**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated this project will tie North Lowndes and South Lowndes water systems together, providing redundancy and additional capacity at Exit 11 and 13 areas, which are experiencing residential and commercial growth. Mr. Stalvey stated two bids were received Legacy Water Group, LLC submitted a bid in the amount of \$9,754,718.88 and TB Landmark Construction, Inc. submitted a bid in the amount of \$10,489,762.50. Staff recommends approval of the low bidder Legacy Water Group, LLC in the amount of \$9,754,718.88. Mr. Stalvey mentioned that Legacy Water Group, LLC also did a

project for the County on Coleman Road. Chairman Slaughter asked if this project was being funding through SPLOST? Mr. Stalvey responded, no sir, it is being funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

### **REPORTS - County Manager**

County Manager, Paige Dukes, deferred her report until tomorrow evening.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Vice Chairman Wisenbaker second. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 8:46 a.m.