

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PROPOSED AGENDA
WORK SESSION, MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024, 8:30 a.m.
REGULAR SESSION, MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
327 N. Ashley Street - 2nd Floor

1. **Call To Order**

2. **Invocation**

3. **Pledge Of Allegiance To The Flag**

4. **Minutes For Approval**

- a. Work Session - December 11, 2023 & Regular Session - December 12, 2023

5. **Appointments**

- a. Appointment To Board Of Tax Assessors

Documents:

[APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS.PDF](#)

6. **For Consideration**

- a. 2024 Georgia Department Of Transportation Local Maintenance And Improvement Grant (LMIG) Application

Documents:

[2024 GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LOCAL MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT GRANT APPLICATION.PDF](#)

- b. Arglass Road Extension - Engineer Selection

Documents:

[ARGLASS ROAD EXTENSION - ENGINEER SELECTION.PDF](#)

- c. Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant Application

Documents:

[HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION.PDF](#)

- d. 2024 Public Defender Contracts

Documents:

e. Approval Of Solicitor General's FY24 VOCA Grant Award

Documents:

[APPROVAL OF SOLICITOR GENERAL FY24 VOCA GRANT AWARD.PDF](#)

7. **Bid**

a. Francis Lake Warehouse Modifications Bids

Documents:

[FRANCIS LAKE WAREHOUSE MODIFICATIONS BIDS.PDF](#)

8. **Reports - County Manager**

9. **Citizens Wishing To Be Heard-Please State Your Name
And Address**

10. **Adjournment**

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Appointment to Board of Tax Assessors

DATE OF MEETING: January 8, 2024

Work Session/Regular Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$ -0-

FUNDING SOURCE:

- Annual
- Capital
- N/A
- SPLOST
- TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Appointments to Board of Tax Assessors

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES:

In December 2023, the Board of Commissioners expanded the Board of Tax Assessors from three to five members. In addition, the initial three-year term of James Puckett ended December 31, 2023. Accordingly, the Board of Commissioners needs to make three appointments to the Board of Tax Assessors:

- one to succeed James Puckett to complete a three-year term ending December 31, 2026
- one to fill a new position to complete an initial three-year term ending December 31, 2026
- one to fill a new position to complete an initial four-year term ending December 31, 2027

David Westberry, Samuel Clemons, Mike Tanner, Lucinda Guess, Mary Ellen Weeks, Elizabeth Highsmith, Sandra Jones, Richard Holcombe, Mary Green, Gene Felts, Amy Carter, and Thomas Reed have all expressed a desire to be appointed to the Board of Tax Assessors.

OPTIONS: 1. Make appointments and approve completion and execution of attached Orders as applicable
2. Board's pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure

DEPARTMENT: County Manager

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Paige Dukes

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: 2024 Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Application

DATE OF MEETING: January 8, 2024

Work Session/Regular Session

BUDGET IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE:

- Annual
- Capital
- N/A
- SPLOST
- TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: 2024 LMIG Application

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: As a part of the Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant Program, Lowndes County has been allocated \$1,337,694.10 for FY 2024. As a part of this grant program, Lowndes County will be responsible for a minimum 10% match in local funding. The grant money is proposed to be used for resurfacing the roads listed in the attachment.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve the Chairman to sign the application.
2. Redirect.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve
Option 1

DEPARTMENT: Engineering

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Chad McLeod

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Arglass Road Extension - Engineer Selection

DATE OF MEETING: January 8, 2024

Work Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: Paid for by Valdosta Lowndes County Development Authority

FUNDING SOURCE:

- Annual
- Capital
- N/A
- SPLOST
- TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Arglass Road Extension

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The Valdosta Lowndes County Development Authority (VLDA) will be requesting an EIP Grant to extend Arglass Road. The grant request will come at a later date as a request to Lowndes County to be the applicant. Lowndes County has to procure an engineer as part of preparation for the grant application to complete preliminary work. The engineer will be paid by the VLDA.

Lowndes County solicited a request for qualifications from Professional Engineers. Staff received 3 proposals from qualifying engineers. A scoresheet was developed, and all three (3) firms were given a total score based on the scoring criteria. The most one firm could score is 72. The firms scored as follows:

Lovell Engineering Associates, PC (3998 Inner Perimeter Road, Valdosta GA) received a score of # 67
Carter and Slope Consulting Engineers (6310 Peake Rd, Macon GA) received a score of # 64
AE Engineering, INC (219 N Newnan St, 4th Floor, Jacksonville FL) received a score of # 58

Based on the scoring criteria, staff recommends Lovell Engineering Associates, PC to be approved as the Professional Engineer.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve Lovell Engineering Associates, PC as the Professional Engineer.
2. Redirect.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Engineering

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Chad McLeod

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant Application

DATE OF MEETING: January 8, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: Total project cost is \$36,268.00. Because Lowndes County's cost share will be met with in kind funding there will be no direct budget impact.

FUNDING SOURCE:

- Annual - \$4,200 (In Kind Funding)
- FEMA - \$27,201
- GEMA - \$4,867
- SPLOST
- TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Approval of Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant Application

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The Lowndes County Hazard Mitigation Plan is currently approved through January 2027. In order to gain funding to assist with the planning and update process, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency has advised Lowndes County to submit an application for funding through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) which was recently made available to eligible counties in Georgia. Normally, under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant program, funding is provided on a cost share basis with the federal share making up 75 percent of the funding and Lowndes County providing the remaining 25 percent. By applying now under the HMGP, we will be able to leverage not only the Federal funding, but also reduce the local cost share due to the State of Georgia's contributions under this particular grant program. As a result, even though the contractual costs are estimated to be higher during the next revision, the local cost share is actually lower. Because the time staff spends in attending planning meetings, gathering information, and otherwise participating in plan development is an allowable expense, Lowndes County's cost share can be met by documenting this time and submitting it as part of the reimbursement process of the grant. This will allow Lowndes County to meet the terms of the grant guidance without an actual cash allocation being required. Once Lowndes County receives notice of funding approval, they can begin the process of selecting a qualified consultant and begin the plan update process to ensure we maintain our compliance status and eligibility for federal disaster related funding in the future.

- OPTIONS: 1. Authorize Chairman to sign the grant application.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Emergency Management

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Ashley Tye

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: 2024 Public Defender Contracts

DATE OF MEETING: January 8, 2024

Work Session/Regular Session

BUDGET IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE:

- Annual
- Capital
- N/A
- SPLOST
- TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: 2024 Public Defender Contracts

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The attached contract for 2024 ongoing public defender services and 2024 administration of operating expenses contract for the Valdosta office are the same as have been presented annually for several years with no changes.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve the request and authorize Chairman to sign both contracts.
2. Board's pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Public Defender

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Wade Krueger

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Approval of Solicitor General's FY24 VOCA Grant Award

DATE OF MEETING: January 8, 2024

Work Session/Regular Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$33,232.00

FUNDING SOURCE:

- Annual \$33,232.00 Cash Match
- Capital
- N/A
- SPLOST
- TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Approval of SG's FY24 VOCA Grant Award

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The Solicitor-General's Office has been a recipient of the Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds since 2014. This grant is vital in sustaining the Victim Services Program as it funds two of the SG's Victim Advocates. Over the last couple of years, the Federal Crime Victims Fund that supports the VOCA grant has declined significantly and the deposits that are currently going into the fund are not expected to sustain awards to states at their current levels. The Prosecuting Attorney's Council (PAC) has informed the Solicitor-General's Office that the FY24 VOCA Award will be in the amount of \$75,020.00, which results in a significant cut in federal funds when compared to previous years. The FY23 VOCA Award was funded at \$98,691.00. This cut in federal funding represents a decrease in the amount of \$23,671.00. The previous cash match required by the County for the VOCA Grant was \$6,000.00. However, due to cuts in funding and in order for the Victim Advocates to receive their raises that have already been accounted for in the County's 2023-2024 FY Budget, the county would be required to provide a cash match of \$33,232.00. The performance period for this grant runs from October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024. The Solicitor General's office requests the board's approval of the FY24 VOCA Grant Award and permission for the Chairman to sign all necessary documents to be included in the award packet.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve SG's FY24 VOCA Grant Award.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Option 1

DEPARTMENT: Solicitor-General

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Justo C. Cabral, III

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Francis Lake Warehouse Modifications Bids

DATE OF MEETING: January 8, 2024

Work Session/Regular Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$397,980.00

FUNDING SOURCE:

- Annual
- Capital
- N/A
- SPLOST
- TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Francis Lake Warehouse

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The project consists of enclosing the open bay of the existing metal building and improvements including a new monorail beam, insulation, lighting, and ventilation. Additional site work includes grading, asphalt paving, a new pump wash basin, a new sanitary drain, and a new pump storage shelter structure. All bidders have acknowledged Addendums and submitted 5% Bid Bonds

Chuck Smith and Son Construction - \$395,980.00

Lift Station +\$1,000.00

Spray Foam +\$1,000.00

3D Construction - \$398,340.00

Lift Station +\$1,500.00

Spray Foam +\$3,600.00

Kellerman Construction, Inc - \$438,328.00

Lift Station +\$3,895.00

Spray Foam +\$3,604.00

Gideon Constructors LLC - \$479,375.00

Lift Station +\$5,162.00

Spray Foam +\$6,125.00

OPTIONS: 1. Approve Chuck Smith and Son Construction as the low bidder and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract.
2. Redirect.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve
Option 1

DEPARTMENT: Engineering

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Chad McLeod

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: