

Bid for Quantity of 60 SCBA Cylinders for the Fire Department

Finance Director, Stephanie Black presented the item. Ms. Black stated Lowndes County solicited bids for the replacement of 60 SBCA Cylinders for the Fire Department. She further stated this is approximately one third of those that have a life cycle that will expire in the next three (3) years. Ms. Black mentioned that the County received three bids and the low bid is from Fisher Scientific in the amount of \$76,200.00. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to approve, Commissioner Evans second. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS - County Manager

County Manager, Paige Dukes thanked Chief Young and Chairman Slaughter for their energy and effort being at Miller Hardware at 7:00 a.m. Saturday to prepare the smoker and ribs for Lowndes County to bring home the trophy. Lowndes County won the cookoff for the Boys and Girls Club. Mrs. Dukes went on to say that Commissioner Evans always comes out to support and she is on the Boys and Girls Club Board as well. Mrs. Dukes thanked Commissioner Evans for her time and resources and thanked the Board of Commissioners for allowing Lowndes County to participate. Mrs. Dukes encouraged everyone to go to the event next year.

Chairman Slaughter stated the event was a lot of fun and friendly competition between first responders. Chairman Slaughter mentioned that they had a great cook on the team, and they did an excellent job.

Mrs. Dukes stated on April 1, 2024, Lowndes County will have their one-year celebration and ribbon cutting at Quiet Pines at 9 a.m. She went on to say that there was no official ribbon cutting when the County took over Quiet Pines a year ago. In addition, Mrs. Dukes stated Quiet Pines is cleaned up, and it has been a labor of love by all departments. She thanked them for the time and resources put into Quiet Pines. Mrs. Dukes also mentioned that she hopes everyone can make it to the ribbon cutting on April 1st, and it is open to the public.

Mrs. Dukes stated Mr. Derrick Dawson will be holding the Freedom to Grow Conference again this year at the Civic Center on April 2-4, 2024. Public Information Officer, Meghan Barwick is partnering with him on this initiative. Mrs. Dukes further stated this is an effort to expose high risk youth in our community to farming. She is asking everyone to support Mr. Dawson and his efforts. She went on to say this is a grassroots initiative that Mr. Dawson is doing a phenomenal job with.

Mrs. Dukes stated that on April 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. one of our Lowndes County Fire Fighters will be honored by the Elks Lodge for their Public safety Award Ceremony. If anyone is interested in attending let her know.

Mrs. Dukes mentioned that on April 6, 2024 at 7:00 a.m. they will step off at Grassy Pond for the Bataan Death March Tribute that is sponsored by Lowndes County Sheriff's Office. This was started by the Sheriff's office four years ago. She mentioned that Lieutenant Dukes has finished the 29 mile hike through parts of Cypress Lakes, Grassy Pond, and the spray field area all four years. Mrs. Dukes also mentioned that it is not mandatory to complete all 29 miles. She invited everyone to attend.

Mrs. Dukes stated all budgets are in and she and Ms. Black will be scheduling departmental meetings soon. They will have draft numbers for the commissioners on the budget.

Mrs. Dukes reminded everyone that Offices are closed Friday, March 29, 2024 in observance of Good Friday.