

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Pre-Event Debris Removal Contracts

DATE OF MEETING: June 25, 2024

BUDGET IMPACT: None

FUNDING SOURCE:

Work
Session/Regular
Session

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Award of Pre Event Disaster Debris Removal Contracts

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: Lowndes County recently issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit qualified debris removal contractors. The intent of the RFP is to identify contractors capable of providing debris removal services following a disaster that generates debris that overwhelms local capabilities. Lowndes County has maintained pre-event contracts since 2008 and utilized the contract for the first time following Hurricane Idalia. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends that all local governments maintain pre-event contracts with two to three qualified contractors in advance of a disaster. Having multiple contractors provides backup in case one or more of the contractors is unable to mobilize sufficient resources or otherwise meet the needs of the community. These contracts also allow local governments to lock in the best pricing and mobilize resources much faster versus having to go through an emergency bid process after a disaster.

Lowndes County held a mandatory pre-bid meeting to answer questions from interested contractors and received a total of five proposals meeting the required specifications. An evaluation committee of emergency management and public works staff reviewed the proposals and evaluated them based on the proposing firm's experience, qualifications, fee schedule and the quality of the proposal. All proposals were evaluated on a points system with 100 points being the maximum score. After all evaluations were tabulated, the scores were as follows:

Ashbritt - 94.75
DRC - 94.5
Southern Disaster Recovery - 90.75
Ceres Environmental - 85.75
Custom Tree Care - 83.25

Staff recommends awarding pre-event contracts to the top three scored proposers. In the event of a disaster, Lowndes County would activate the contract of the primary contractor first and if they were unable to fulfill the terms of the contract, then Lowndes County would proceed to the next contractors in order of preference based on scoring.