

## **FIRE USE ASSISTANCE – Burn Permits**

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, Lowndes County Clerk/Tower Operator Beadie Carter issued 1,113 burn permits to include Land-clearing, Agriculture and Silviculture burns totaling 9,455.6 Acres.

The local GFC unit also strives to uphold the local county burn ordinances, and assist in the correct use of permits. In accordance with Lowndes County ordinances, certain land-clearing operations require site inspection and approval by the Lowndes County Fire Department. These inspections ( to meet Lowndes County Ordinance) determine if an Air Curtain Destructor (ACD) is needed, or if the operation is able to be burned on top of the ground before obtaining a permit through GFC ( to meet State Requirement).

A list of land-clearing operations that have been approved for burning is shared with our Southern Response and Central Response Centers. This eliminates duplication of inspection requests for the County Fire Department should local unit phones be rolled over to the 24-hour call centers. During FY24, numerous site inspections were performed by LCFR that resulted in land-clearing pile permits obtained through GFC.

In addition, residents who request yard debris burn permits are informed of any known county restrictions in their area before the appropriate permitting system is utilized. This is one example of the symbiotic relationship between Georgia Forestry and Lowndes County Fire.

## **FIRE USE ASSISTANCE – Plow/Harrow/Burn Services**

The GFC provides fire use assistance to any landowner who requests such a service. Pre-suppression firebreaks are essential when performing prescribed burns, and are invaluable to protect timber stands from the ongoing threat of wildfire. The fee for pre-suppression plowed firebreaks is \$205-140 per hour, which is billed in accordance with the hours that are placed on the tractor/plow unit. Price range is dependent on the amount of Hours the tractor/plow is used.