

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Lowndes County Responsible Dog Ownership Ordinance

DATE OF MEETING: October 14, 2025

Work  
Session/Regular  
Session

BUDGET IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Lowndes County Responsible Dog Ownership Ordinance

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HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: Lowndes County is required to enforce state laws related to the management of dogs that appear to threaten or harm the public or other animals. There are two processes by which “dangerous” and/or “vicious” dog classifications can be finally determined. Historically, Lowndes County has relied on an appointed citizen review committee. It can be a challenge to keep a variety of qualified citizens active on the board which can extend the time by which cases are reviewed and decided. Further, cases decided through this process may still be appealed to the courts. The law also provides for “dangerous” and/or “vicious” dog classifications to be heard in Probate Court. Approval of the attached ordinance will eliminate the need for the current citizen review board and move the hearing of these cases to Probate Court. Approval of the attached ordinance does not in any way interfere with actions taken by law enforcement when misdemeanor or felony cases are made regarding dog bites or attacks.

OPTIONS: 1. Adopt the ordinance.  
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: County Manager

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Paige Dukes

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: