

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, September 22, 2025

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Chairman Bill Slaughter  
Commissioner Scott Orenstein  
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker  
Commissioner Demarcus Marshall  
Commissioner Michael Smith

Vice Chairperson Joyce Evans was not in attendance.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of September 8, 2025, and the regular session of September 9, 2025. No revisions to the minutes were requested.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Opioid Litigation - Secondary Manufacturers**

Assistant Finance Director, Rachel Bowen, presented the item. Mrs. Bowen stated a settlement agreement has been reached by several secondary opioid manufacturers to provide financial resources to combat the opioid epidemic across the United States. We have been advised by special counsel for Lowndes County, Cale Conley, to participate in this settlement to receive funds aimed at addressing the opioid crisis. To participate, the County must agree to the terms set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and authorize the Chairman to sign the MOU, Subdivision Participation Form, and Release Form. Commissioner Marshall inquired about percentage breakdowns and potential dollar amounts which might be received, Mrs. Bowen answered at this time, for this specific settlement, the funds haven't been released. To date, Lowndes County has received approximately \$600,000.00 from all combined opioid settlements. Commissioner Orenstein asked where these funds are held, Mrs. Bowen responded the funds are placed in an intergovernmental grant fund, which is kept in a deferred revenue account, pending decisions on their use. The primary purpose will be opioid abatement efforts. Commissioner Smith asked about the timeline for receiving funds from the new settlement, Mrs. Bowen indicated that funds are expected between spring and summer of 2026. Chairman Slaughter noted that the final amount received will depend on the number of participants in the litigation. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked where the current funds are being held, Mrs. Bowen confirmed they remain in the intergovernmental grant fund and are not yet allocated for specific use, which will require Commission approval.