

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: FY 2016 HEAT Grant

DATE OF MEETING: April 13, 2015

BUDGET IMPACT: Reimbursed 100%

FUNDING SOURCE

- Annual Splost
 Capital GOHS
 N/A

- Regular Meeting
Work Session
Recommendation
Policy/Discussion
Report
Other

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED: Approval for Sheriff's Office to provide a High Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic (HEAT) Team

HISTORY, FACTS, AND ISSUES: The certified Lowndes County fatality rate: 2006-14, 2007-14, 2008-19, 2009-16, 2010-18, 2011-15, 2012-11, 2013-7, 2014-14, 2015-7. Any traffic fatality in Lowndes County is too many. For numerous years, the county has been plagued with an unacceptable fatality rate. Consistently for five years between 2006 and 2011 we suffered with as much as nineteen people dying annually in crashes. In April 2012 the Sheriff created the SPEED team which joined forces with the Valdosta Police HEAT team. Together both agencies diligently fought to reduce the fatality rate. In 2013, Lowndes County recorded an unprecedented rate of seven fatalities. Soon after, the police department lost their HEAT team which contributed to a 200% fatality increase in 2014. In 2015 we are on track to have at least one person die on a road in Lowndes County every two weeks. This is unacceptable and the Governor's Office of Highway Safety can answer everyone's prayers. GOHS has been granted funds from NHTSA to implement an innovative program to address highway safety. Our answer is a Lowndes County HEAT team. With the Board's blessing, the Sheriff's Office desires to apply for a grant from GOHS to create a HEAT team. This year, GOHS will award only one agency in the entire state of Georgia with a HEAT grant. During the three year grant, the funds will be 100% reimbursable the first year, 80%-100% the second year, and 60%-80% the third year. The fatality rate is what will determine the percentage of reimbursable funds. In the first year, the grant will provide for three Deputies and their fringe benefits (\$145,366.08), three patrol vehicles (\$85,446) with all equipment (\$56,835), three radio systems (\$28,026), and three body cams (\$2,721) totaling \$318,394.08. The second and third year will be percentages of the Deputies salary and fringe benefits.

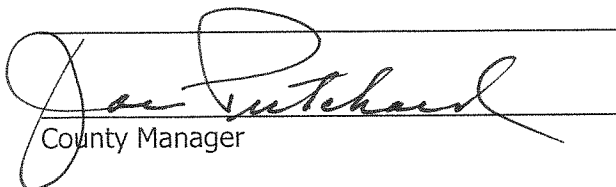
OPTIONS: Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure

DEPARTMENT: Sheriff's Office

Department Head: Chris Prine

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION:


County Manager

Action Taken By Board: _____