

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: High Enforcement of Aggressive Traffic (HEAT)

DATE OF MEETING: September 13, 2016

BUDGET IMPACT: Reimbursed 100%

FUNDING SOURCE

- Annual Splost
 Capital GOHS
 N/A

- Regular Meeting (X)
Work Session (X)
Recommendation ()
Policy/Discussion ()
Report ()
Other ()

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED: Approval for continuation of 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, 2015-19. As of March 29, 2016 there have been four traffic fatalities in the County. Any traffic fatality in Lowndes County is too many. For numerous years, the county has been plagued with an unacceptable fatality rate. Consistently for ten years between 2006 and 2016 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 lowest rate of the decade with seven fatalities. Soon after, the police department lost their HEAT team which contributed to a 200% fatality increase in 2014. 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. This year, GOHS has offered to continue the grant. This year the grant reimburses 100% for the Deputies and their fringe benefits that Lowndes County provides.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE CHANGE: Lowndes County is proud of the work the HEAT Unit achieves and the community education it provides. We would like to see these efforts continued. Should the grant no longer be available; the County would work to preserve as much of the program as possible given budget priorities and constraints.

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: _____