

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PROPOSED AGENDA
WORK SESSION, MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022, 8:30 a.m.
REGULAR SESSION, TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022, 5:30 p.m.
327 N. Ashley Street - 2nd Floor

1. **Call To Order**
2. **Invocation**
3. **Pledge Of Allegiance To The Flag**
4. **Minutes For Approval**
 - a. Work Session - December 13, 2021 & Regular Session - December 14, 2021
5. **For Consideration**
 - a. Set Qualifying Fees

Documents:

[SET QUALIFYING FEES.PDF](#)
 - b. Office Of The Governor Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Accountability Court Lowndes County DUI Court - Law Enforcement
Subgrant– State Court

Documents:

[CJCC ACCOUNTABILITY COURT LOWNDES COUNTY DUI COURT LAW ENFORCEMENT SUBGRANT STATE COURT.PDF](#)
 - c. Office Of The Governor Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Accountability Court Lowndes County DUI Court - Enhancement And
Innovation Subgrant Award – State Court

Documents:

[ENHANCEMENT AND INNOVATION SUBGRANT AWARD STATE COURT.PDF](#)
 - d. Nelson Hill Lift Station Pump Upgrade

Documents:

[NELSON HILL LIFT STATION PUMP UPGRADE.PDF](#)
 - e. Approval Of DA's Federal VOCA/CESF Grant Application Renewal

Documents:

[APPROVAL OF DA FEDERAL VOCA CESF GRANT APPLICATION RENEWAL.PDF](#)

f. **Special Assessment Rate For 2022**

Documents:

[SPECIAL ASSESSMENT RATE FOR 2022.PDF](#)

g. **AT&T Switched Ethernet Circuit Continuation Of Service**

Documents:

[ATT SWITCHED ETHERNET CIRCUIT CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.PDF](#)

h. **GDOT Safety Action Program Loch Laurel Road Project**

Documents:

[GDOT SAFETY ACTION PROGRAM LOCH LAUREL ROAD PROJECT.PDF](#)

i. **FY 2023 Staffing For Adequate Fire And Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Application**

Documents:

[FY 2023 STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE \(SAFER\) GRANT APPLICATION.PDF](#)

j. **Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks And Recreation Authority Sales Tax Exemption**

Documents:

[VALDOSTA-LOWNDES COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORITY SALES TAX EXEMPTION.PDF](#)

k. **Property Purchase – Building Valdosta, LLC**

Documents:

[PROPERTY PURCHASE.PDF](#)

6. **Reports - County Manager**

7. **Citizens Wishing To Be Heard-Please State Your Name And Address**

8. **Adjournment**

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Set Qualifying Fees

DATE OF MEETING: January 25, 2022

Work Session/Regular Session

BUDGET IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Set Qualifying Fees

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: State statute requires the governing authority of any county or municipality, not later than February 1, of any year in which a general primary, nonpartisan election, or general election is to be held, shall fix and publish a qualifying fee for each county or municipal office to be filled in the upcoming primary or election.

County Office: Commissioner

Amount: \$450.00

OPTIONS: 1. Set and publish qualifying fees as required by law and approve the resolution.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure

DEPARTMENT: County Manager

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Paige Dukes

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Accountability Court Lowndes County DUI Court - Law Enforcement
Subgrant– State Court

DATE OF MEETING: January 25, 2022

Work Session/Regular Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$0

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Agreement for Law Enforcement Subgrant

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: This award is made under the Accountability Courts State of Georgia grant program. The Lowndes County DUI Court has been awarded a Local Law Enforcement Subgrant by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for a total of **\$9,195.00**, with no match requirement by the County. This subgrant will help fund the surveillance officer curfew checks, drug and alcohol screens, and surveillance duties for the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 31, 2022.

The Lowndes County DUI Court began operating in January 2017 and currently has a total of 30 active participants in the program and is at maximum capacity.

- OPTIONS: 1. Approve
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: State Court

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Judge Golden

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Office of the Governor Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Accountability Court Lowndes County DUI Court - Enhancement and
Innovation Subgrant Award – State Court

DATE OF MEETING: January 25, 2022

Work Session/Regular Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$0

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Agreement for Enhancement and Innovation Subgrant Award

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: This award is made under the Accountability Courts State of Georgia grant program. The Lowndes County DUI Court has been awarded an Enhancement and Innovation Subgrant Award by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for a total of **\$3,580.00**, with no match requirement by the County. This supplemental grant was requested for GPS Monitors and Document Translations. The Lowndes County DUI Court began operating in January 2017 and currently has a total of 30 active participants in the program and is at maximum capacity.

- OPTIONS: 1. Approve
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: State Court

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Judge Golden

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Nelson Hill Lift Station Pump Upgrade

DATE OF MEETING: January 25, 2022

Work Session/Regular Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$45,742.00

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Nelson Hill Lift Station Pump Upgrade

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: Due to growth in the area, the pumps in the Nelson Hill lift station are at capacity and need to be upsized to handle the flow. To meet the expected capacity, the existing 10hp pumps will be changed to 25hp pumps. Xylem has provided a quote for \$45,742.00 for the two new pumps. Staff recommends approval to purchase two 25hp pumps for the Nelson Hill lift station.

OPTIONS: (1.) Approve purchase of two 25hp pumps for Nelson Hill lift station.
(2.) Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Utilities

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Steve Stalvey

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Approval of DA's Federal VOCA/CESF Grant Application Renewal

DATE OF MEETING: January 25, 2022

Work Session/Regular Session

BUDGET IMPACT: Zero Impact on the County

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: VOCA/CESF Funded VWAP Continuation Grant

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The District Attorney's Office of the Southern Circuit has been a recipient of federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds since 1997. The VOCA funds, combined with the 5% victim fees, provide the financial support for the Victim Services provided by the DA to all five counties. The grant is funneled through Lowndes County, rather than all five counties, for simplification and efficiency purposes. This grant, along with the 5% funds, allow the DA to provide victim services utilizing funds paid by federal and state defendants and not taxpayers. Submission of the application is due in the PAC Office by January 31, 2022. We also request, for efficiency, that the Commission execute a letter allowing the grant funds to be deposited directly to the DA's Office, rather than the funds being deposited to Lowndes County and then a check sent to the DA and also execute a letter authorizing the District Attorney to sign any and all future paperwork pertaining to this VOCA/CESF Continuation Grant. (Sample Letters Attached).

OPTIONS: 1. Approve VOCA/CESF Grant Application of the District Attorney
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Option 1

DEPARTMENT: District Attorney

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Bradfield M. Shealy

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Special Assessment Rate for 2022

DATE OF MEETING: January 25, 2022

Work Session/Regular Session

BUDGET IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Special Assessment Rate for 2022

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The Lowndes County Board of Commissioners is required to set the interest rate for Special Assessments at the beginning of each calendar year. This rate is for all paving and utility assessments that are not paid off within the initial 90-day phase. Unpaid assessments revert to installment agreements which are to be paid over a period of up to ten years. The rate is based on the current prime rate plus two (2) percent. The prime rate is the interest rate charged by banks when they lend money to other banks, or to their "prime" customers. Most American banks and credit unions use this index as the foundation for their loan products. The current prime rate is 3.25%; therefore, the rate for special assessments should be set at 5.25% for 2022. The rate for 2021 was set at 5.25%.

OPTIONS: 1. Approval of the Special Assessment Rate at 5.25% for 2022
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Finance

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Stephanie Black

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: AT&T Switched Ethernet Circuit Continuation of Service

DATE OF MEETING: January 25, 2022

Work Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$1,374.74 - Monthly
\$16,496.88 - Total Annual Cost

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: AT&T Switched Ethernet Circuit Continuation of Service

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: This ASE circuit is the Ethernet circuit that runs from the 911 Center to the main radio tower site on Stewart Street. We bring this before you today to request permission to sign another agreement to keep the pricing at our current rate for the next 36 months. The current price is \$1,374.74 per month for a total annual cost of \$16,496.88.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve Continuation of Service at the current price.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: E911

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Danny Weeks

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: GDOT Safety Action Program Loch Laurel Road Project

DATE OF MEETING: January 25, 2022

Work Session/Regular Session

BUDGET IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: GDOT Safety Action Program Loch Laurel Road Project

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Traffic Management Center Office of Traffic Operations has identified Loch Laurel Road for a possible 2024 Off System Safety Project. The project will be 100% Federally Funded and the plans will be prepared and led by GDOT. The project will begin at SR 31 and end at SR 376. The project includes audible centerline striping and audible edgeline striping. Lowndes County already has audible edgeline striping, so new edgeline striping will be substituted for that item. The County will be responsible for clipping the shoulders ahead of the striping crew. If Lowndes County is interested in participating in this 100% Federally Funded project, the Roadway Project Summary report along with a cover letter signed by the Chairman accepting the project will need to be turned into GDOT by February 4, 2022.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve and authorize the chairman to sign the cover letter accepting the project.
2. Redirect

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Engineering

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Chad McLeod

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: FY 2023 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)
Grant Application

DATE OF MEETING: January 25, 2022

Work Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$1,653,413.31 (100% reimbursed by grant)

FUNDING SOURCE:

- Annual
- Capital
- FEMA Funding: \$1,653,413.31
- SPLOST
- TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: FEMA Grant- SAFER (Staffing For Adequate and Emergency Response)

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: Lowndes County Fire Rescue is requesting approval to apply for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant for nine (9) firefighters. The purpose of the SAFER Grant Program is to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to assist with increasing the number of firefighters to help communities meet industry minimum standards, to attain 24-hour staffing to provide adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards and to fulfill traditional missions of fire departments.

This grant is very competitive, with priority given to those departments that utilize backfill to meet NFPA 1710 standard. This grant requires no matching funds, however, it provides funding for salary and fringe benefits only. The cost of other items such as, entry physical, uniforms, safety equipment, etc. would be the responsibility of Lowndes County. The total for the grant will be \$1,653,413.31.

OPTIONS: 1. Authorize staff to submit FY 2023 SAFER Grant application for nine full time firefighter positions
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure

DEPARTMENT: Lowndes County Fire Rescue

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Lloyd Green

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority Sales
Tax Exemption

DATE OF MEETING: January 25, 2022

Work Session/Regular Session

BUDGET IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority Sales Tax
Exemption

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: When the legislation to create the Valdosta-Lowndes Parks and Recreation Authority (VLPRA) was created, the Authority was not designated as tax exempt. Currently, VLPRA has submitted a request for local legislation to Lowndes County's legislative delegation that would assign tax exempt status to the Authority. Representative John Corbett has requested the attached resolution as a part of moving the Authority's request forward this session.

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure

DEPARTMENT: County Manager

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Paige Dukes

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Property Purchase – Building Valdosta, LLC

DATE OF MEETING: January 25, 2022

Work Session/Regular Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$568,971.00

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Property Purchase – Building Valdosta, LLC

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: At the direction of the Commission, staff has worked with the County Attorney to prepare a purchase agreement that will provide for Lowndes County to purchase 41.543 acres of property on Highway 122 inclusive of development costs incurred by the current owners and as reflected in the agreement, for the purpose of protecting Moody Air Force Base from encroachment.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure

DEPARTMENT: County Manager

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Paige Dukes

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: