

FOR CONSIDERATION

2024 Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) Application

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated as a part of the Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance and Improvement (LMIG) Grant Program, Lowndes County has been allocated \$1,337,694.10 for fiscal year 2024. Additionally, Mr. McLeod stated Lowndes County would be responsible for a minimum ten percent match in local funding. Vice Chairman Marshall asked when will work begin on River Road? Mr. McLeod answered there is not a contract yet for River Road; this is the application and if the application is approved, the money will be received and the project will be put out to bid for this summer. Chairman Slaughter stated the ten percent match is due to the eighteen counties passing the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) referendum.

Arglass Road Extension - Engineer Selection

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the Valdosta Lowndes County Development Authority (VLDA) will be requesting an EIP Grant to extend Arglass Road. The grant request will come at a later date as a request to Lowndes County to be the applicant. Mr. McLeod stated Lowndes County has to procure an engineer and a RFP for engineers was solicited with three bids being received. Lovell Engineering Associates, PC receiving a score of 67, Carter and Sloope Consulting Engineers received a score of 64 and AE Engineering, Inc. received a score of 58. Based on the scoring criteria, staff recommends Lovell Engineering Associates, PC to be approved as the professional engineer.

Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant Application

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated in February 2022 the most recent Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved and is set to expire January 2027. Mr. Tye stated after Hurricane Idalia, GEMA has access to hazard mitigation grant funding. Due to the grant process taking a year, it takes a year plus to complete the update. This is a grant application to hire a consultant to facilitate the plan update process with the total cost of the project being \$36,268.00 with a cost share of 12.5%, which is normally 25%, but since this is disaster related funding, there is a decrease. Mr. Tye stated since the time staff spends in attending meetings and participating in plan development as an allowable expense, Lowndes County's cost share can be met by documenting this time and submitting it as part of the reimbursement process of the grant. This will allow Lowndes County to meet the terms of the grant guidance without a cash match being required.

2024 Public Defender Contracts

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the contract. Mrs. Dukes stated this is an ongoing renewal of the current contract required by the state for the public defender services and administration of operating expenses contract for the Valdosta office; adding there are no changes to the contract. Vice Chairman Marshall asked regarding compensation, if this office had increases in their salaries? Mrs. Dukes answered yes, this is determined by the General Assembly with a local supplement increased last year, to their office.

Approval of Solicitor General's FY24 VOCA Grant Award

Solicitor General's Office, Victim Services Director, Karen Hayes, presented the item. Ms. Hayes stated the Solicitor's Office has been a recipient of Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds since 2014 and this grant funds two full-time victim advocates. The Federal Crime Victims Fund that supports this