

FOR CONSIDERATION

2026 Comprehensive Plan Technical Assistance Contract

County Planner, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated this is an agreement for technical assistance services between the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners and the Southern Georgia Regional Commission. A scheduled kick-off meeting will be held August 12, 2025. Mr. Dillard stated this is a fourteen-month process to update the comprehensive plan. Chairman Slaughter asked if the Service Delivery Strategies (SDS) agreement coincides with the comprehensive plan. County Attorney, Walter Elliott, responded that the comprehensive plan is updated every five years. Additionally, Mr. Elliott stated there is a link between this comprehensive plan update and the SDS agreement.

FY 2026 Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Grant Application

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated this is a continuation of a grant that Lowndes County has received for the fifth year. Mr. Tye stated this is continuation funding of \$50,000.00 to continue the Strengthening Families Program (SFP) which is group family therapy designed for lower category offenses. Mr. Tye stated each cohort is graduating approximately ten families in September. Commissioner Marshall asked what is considered family classification, single parent versus parents (mother and father), Mr. Tye answered that classification does not matter as far as eligibility; the eligibility is determined by the youth that commits the offense. Commissioner Marshall asked what percentage of participants are coming from a single family home, Mr. Tye answered that is not tracked. Commissioner Orenstein voiced his concerns regarding grants being negatively impacted.

Acceptance of FY2026 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Award

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated in April of this year a grant application was submitted to continue the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant which provides Functional Family Therapy (FFT) services. Mr. Tye stated that with FFT the therapist goes into the home and there is one-on-one counseling with the family. This grant has been implemented since 2014. Lowndes County has been awarded \$325,000.00 for FY2026 and this will support 50 youth and their families. Commissioner Smith asked if this grant requires a match, Mr. Tye answered there is no match, it is administered on a reimbursement basis. Commissioner Orenstein asked if every county in Georgia has this opportunity, Mr. Tye answered yes.

Blue Lake Lift Station Pump Repair

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated the Blue Lake lift station is a duplex lift station on our main trunk line. This station is currently running on one pump. A quote was received from Xylem, Inc. with a cost of \$44,661.00 to repair and \$62,714.00 to purchase a new pump. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if this would be an 'in house' installation or was this included in the cost, Mr. Stalvey responded this was included in the cost. Commissioner Smith asked where Blue Lake is located. Mr. Stalvey answered exit 13.

Blue Lake Lift Station Control Panel

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated the control panel at Blue Lake lift station was damaged beyond repair due to Hurricane Helene. Mr. Stalvey stated quotes were received by three vendors to replace the control panel. Cowart Electric, Applied Industrial Controls and Xylem, Inc. Staff recommends the low bidder, Cowart Electric in the amount of \$43,615.00.