

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PROPOSED AGENDA
WORK SESSION, MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2025, 8:30 a.m.
REGULAR SESSION, TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025, 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 - August 11, 2025 & Regular Session - August 12, 2025

5. **For Consideration**

- a. Adoption Of The 2025 Millage Rate

Documents:

[ADOPTION OF THE 2025 MILLAGE RATE.PDF](#)

- b. Adoption Of Special District Millage For The Industrial Authority For 2025

Documents:

[ADOPTION OF SPECIAL DISTRICT MILLAGE FOR THE INDUSTRIAL
AUTHORITY FOR 2025.PDF](#)

- c. Adoption Of Special District Millage For The Parks And Recreation
Authority For 2025

Documents:

[ADOPTION OF SPECIAL DISTRICT MILLAGE FOR THE PARKS AND
RECREATION AUTHORITY FOR 2025.PDF](#)

- d. Adoption Of Special District Millage For Fire Services For 2025

Documents:

[ADOPTION OF SPECIAL DISTRICT MILLAGE FOR FIRE SERVICES FOR
2025.PDF](#)

- e. Opioid Litigation - Purdue Pharma

Documents:

[OPIOID LITIGATION - PURDUE PHARMA.PDF](#)

f. Quit-Claim Deed Of Abandoned Section Of Hightower Road

Documents:

[QUIT-CLAIM DEED OF ABANDONED SECTION OF HIGHTOWER ROAD.PDF](#)

g. SPLOST IX

Documents:

[SPLOST IX.PDF](#)

h. TREES Act Resolution

Documents:

[TREES ACT RESOLUTION.PDF](#)

i. AFFF/PFAS Groundwater Claims

Documents:

[AFFF - PFAS GROUNDWATER CLAIMS.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: Adoption of the 2025 Millage Rate

DATE OF MEETING: August 26, 2025

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Adoption of the 2025 Millage Rate

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: The Board of Commissioners is required to set the county-wide millage for 2025. The county-wide millage rate for 2025 should be set at the rollback rate of 5.051 mills. This represents a reduction of 0.232 mills from 2024.

OPTIONS: 1. Adoption of the Millage Rate for 2025 at 5.051 mills
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt

DEPARTMENT: Finance

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Stephanie Black

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Adoption of Special District Millage for the Industrial
Authority for 2025

DATE OF MEETING: August 26, 2025

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Adoption of Special District Millage for the Industrial
Authority for 2025

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: Prior to 2025, the Georgia Department of Revenue required the millage assigned to authorities to be included in the county-wide millage. However, with the adoption of HB 581 and related legislation, millage assessed for authority funding is now considered a special district and is adopted separately. The Industrial Authority rate was set at 1.00 mill since it was first implemented, but was reduced to 0.823 mills in 2024. The proposed millage for 2025 for the Industrial Authority is 1.00 mill.

OPTIONS: 1. Adopt the Special District Millage for the Industrial Authority for 2025 at 1.00 mill.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt

DEPARTMENT: Finance

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Stephanie Black

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Adoption of Special District Millage for the Parks and Recreation Authority for 2025

DATE OF MEETING: August 26, 2025

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Adoption of Special District Millage for the Parks and Recreation Authority for 2025

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: Prior to 2025, the Georgia Department of Revenue required the millage assigned to authorities to be included in the county-wide millage. However, with the adoption of HB 581 and related legislation, millage assessed for authority funding is now considered a special district and is adopted separately. The Parks and Recreation Authority rate was set at 1.25 mills since it was first implemented. The proposed millage for 2025 for the Parks and Recreation Authority is 1.25 mills.

OPTIONS: 1. Adopt the Special District Millage for the Parks and Recreation Authority for 2025 at 1.25 mills.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt

DEPARTMENT: Finance

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Stephanie Black

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Adoption of Special District Millage for Fire Services for
2025

DATE OF MEETING: August 26, 2025

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Adoption of Special District Millage for Fire Services for
2025

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: Following the Board's approval to expand fire services in Lowndes County beginning with the FY 2022 budget, a special fire district was created that includes the unincorporated area of Lowndes County. Fire services was moved into a special fund and is supported by a millage from the special fire district. The Board is required annually to set the millage rate for this fire district. The 2025 rate should be set at 2.50 mills which is no change from the prior year millage.

OPTIONS: 1. Adopt the Special District Millage for Fire Services for 2025 at 2.50 mills.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt

DEPARTMENT: Finance

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Stephanie Black

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Opioid Litigation - Purdue Pharma

DATE OF MEETING: August 26, 2025

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$-0-

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Acknowledgment and Agreement to be Bound by MOU and Settlement Participation Form

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES:

A settlement agreement has been reached by Purdue Pharma (and its affiliated entities, including the Sackler family) through the Purdue bankruptcy process to resolve all pending governmental opioid-related claims. Special counsel for Lowndes County, Cale Conley, recommends Lowndes County participate in this settlement and accept the Purdue Bankruptcy Plan to receive funds from Purdue to abate the opioid crisis. To participate in this settlement and receive opioid funds from Purdue, Lowndes County must approve and agree to be bound by the State of Georgia and Local Governments: Memorandum of Understanding Concerning National Settlement with Purdue and execute the Subdivision Participation and Release Form.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve and Authorize Chairman Slaughter to sign the attached Acknowledgment and Agreement to be bound by Memorandum of Understanding and Subdivision Participation and Release Form.
2. Redirect.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Option 1

DEPARTMENT: Finance

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Rachel Bowen

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Quit-Claim Deed of Abandoned Section of Hightower Road

DATE OF MEETING: August 26, 2025

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON:

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: On May 9, 2023, the County abandoned a section of Hightower Road. The Board's Resolution (with attached drawing and aerial photograph) abandoning the section of the road is attached. This action terminated the County's easement to use the abandoned section of the right-of-way as a county road.

The United States Air Force owns the property on both sides of the abandoned section of the road, and therefore, prior to the abandonment, the Air Force owned the section of the right-of-way subject to the County's easement for use as a county road. Subsequent to the abandonment, the Air Force has owned the abandoned section of right-of-way unencumbered by the County's former easement.

The Air Force has now asked the County for a quit-claim deed of the abandoned section of right-of-way. A proposed quit-claim deed is attached. The referenced plat of the abandoned section of right-of-way is also attached.

- OPTIONS: 1. Approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the attached Quit-Claim Deed.
2. Redirect.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Option 1

DEPARTMENT: Engineering

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Chad McLeod

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: SPLOST IX

DATE OF MEETING: August 26, 2025

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: - 0 -

FUNDING SOURCE:

() Annual

() Capital

(X) N/A

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Resolution Calling for Reimposition of Tax

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: Further to the SPLOST IX Agreement approved by the Board on August 4, 2025, and also thereafter by each of the cities, the Resolution of the Board of Commissioners calling for the tax to be reimposed is attached.

In addition to calling for the tax to be reimposed, this Resolution states the purposes for which the proceeds of the tax may be used, the maximum period of time in calendar years for which the tax may be levied, and the estimated costs of the projects to be funded with the proceeds of the tax.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution as presented.

2. Redirect

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Option 1

DEPARTMENT: County Manager

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Paige Dukes

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: TREES Act Resolution

DATE OF MEETING: August 26, 2025

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: - 0 -

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: TREES Act Resolution

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: OCGA § 48-5-33.1 was enacted effective May 8, 2025. It is known as the Timberlands Recovery, Exemption, and Earnings Stability (TREES) Act.

Subsection (b) of this Act provides that the Board may grant temporary property tax relief from taxes levied for certain eligible standing timber pursuant to OCGA § 48-5-7.5 during the final quarter of 2024 and each quarter of 2025. Subsection (c) provides that to grant such temporary tax relief the Board shall adopt a resolution or ordinance including certain specified provisions.

An Informational Summary of the Act prepared by ACCG is attached.

A proposed Resolution of the Board granting the temporary property tax relief authorized by the Act is also attached.

OPTIONS: 1. Adopt Resolution as presented
2. Redirect

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: AFFF/PFAS Groundwater Claims

DATE OF MEETING: August 26, 2025

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: AFFF/PFAS Groundwater Claims

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: For many years, certain foams known as Aqueous Film-Forming Foams (AFFFs) have been used for extinguishing liquid fuel fires by military bases, airports, fire departments, and industrial operations. These foams contain certain chemicals known as per- or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) which have the potential to contaminate groundwater.

Lawsuits around the country related to AFFF/PFAS claims have been consolidated into one multidistrict litigation (MDL) case. 3M and DuPont recently paid billions of dollars to settle the public water system claims against them. There is now a deadline for local governments to submit claims to recover a portion of the settlement funds.

Even if a local government has not yet incurred expenses related to PFAS contamination, if its groundwater tests positive for PFAS, it can make a claim for a portion of the settlement funds, which are meant to address any future expenses the local government may incur. The amount recovered will depend on the level of contaminants found in the water supply.

Stag Liuzza, a law firm in New Orleans that specializes in representing local governments in the AFFF/PFAA litigation, and Carothers & Mitchell, a law firm in Buford, Georgia, have offered their services to counties in Georgia related to making a claim for a portion of the settlement funds paid by 3M and DuPont. These firms would be paid on a contingency basis, i.e., attorneys' fees and expenses would be taken out of any settlement recovery. If the County recovers nothing, it would pay nothing in fees and expenses to these firms.

There is a deadline of January 1, 2026, for local governments to file a claim related to the 3M and DuPont settlements. To meet this deadline, initial testing of the groundwater would need to begin by about September 1, 2025.

Attached are a proposed Agreement with the two law firms and a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners approving the Agreement.

Assuming the Board approves the Resolution, the law firms would arrange for experts to test the County's

groundwater and obtain certain data from the County. They would then file a claim on behalf of the County for a portion of the settlement funds paid by 3M and DuPont.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve Resolution
2. Redirect

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure

DEPARTMENT: Utilities

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Steve Stalvey

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: