

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, October 27, 2025

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Chairman Bill Slaughter
Commissioner Scott Orenstein
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker
Commissioner Michael Smith

Vice Chairperson Joyce Evans and Commissioner Demarcus Marshall were not in attendance.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

MINUTES

The minutes were presented for the work and regular session of October 14, 2025. No revisions to the minutes were requested.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Beer & Wine License - Tara Kay Middleton of RaceTrac Inc, DBA RaceTrac #2666, 4541 North Valdosta Road, Valdosta, GA

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item stating this request is for a beer and wine license for consumption off the premises. This is a new establishment located on North Valdosta Road and all requirements have been met.

Section 125 Plan Document Renewal for 2026

Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the item. Mr. Beals stated that approval of the plan would allow qualifying employee deductions to be withheld on a pretax basis, in accordance with the IRS guidelines. Commissioner Wisenbaker inquired who serves as the County's agent for the plan. Mr. Beals responded that the plan is administered through Taylor Insurance.

GEFA Loan for Lift Station Bypass Pumps

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated that Lowndes County has been preselected to receive a GEFA loan in the amount of \$2,812,500.00, which includes \$703,125.00 in principal forgiveness, for the installation of bypass pumps at lift stations currently lacking back-up capabilities. This project will provide redundant (back-up) pumping capacity at all county lift stations. Although the County has also applied for FEMA mitigation funding, accepting the GEFA loan will allow the County to lock in current pricing and potentially install equipment prior to the next hurricane season, enhancing system reliability during severe weather events. Commissioner Smith requested a description of a bypass pump. Mr. Stalvey explained that a diesel-powered pump has a suction hose that drops into the lift station wet well and the discharge hose ties into the bypass valve that goes back into the main line. These pumps are utilized if something happens to the electrical grid. Mr. Stalvey mentioned that the advantage of bypass pumps over generators is the bypass pumps turn on and off with floats as needed, while the generators run continuously.