

committee reviewed the proposals and scored each proposer on the specific information requested. The Design-Build firm of Kellerman Construction, Inc. lead all firms in scoring from the scoring committee. The breakdown of the contract is \$450,000.00 for sitework, \$4,050,000.00 for construction, \$200,000.00 for contingency, and \$300,000.00 for Architectural & Engineering. If approved, the design process will begin immediately and the Design-Builder will submit a final proposal for construction to Lowndes County for approval in April 2026. Mr. McLeod stated this is a design build in which a contractor is going to be hired, if the board approves, then the contractor hires the architect and begins the design process. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve Kellerman Construction, Inc. as the Design-Build contractor, second by Commissioner Marshall. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Quit Claim Deed (QCD) for Navigable Waters, LLC at 4939 Bemiss Road

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Parcel 0145B 185B, owned by Navigable Waters, LLC on Bemiss Road, shows a drainage easement on plats dating back to 1968. Lowndes County does not have any record of any rights to the drainage easement. The owner has requested a Quit Claim Deed from Lowndes County stating that Lowndes County has not had or claimed, and does not now have or claim, any interest in said described property, including any interest in the "25' drainage easement." Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the item as presented, second by Commissioner Evans. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

Adoption of 2027 Budget Calendar

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the proposed budget calendar for fiscal year 2027. Ms. Black stated the Commission is required to adopt a balanced budget by June 30, 2026, adding the other dates are presented as guidelines for the process. Commissioner Wisenbaker made a motion to adopt the fiscal year 2027 budget calendar, second by Commissioner Smith. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

2026 Public Defender Contracts

Chairman Slaughter presented the item stating the Commission heard from Mr. Wade Krueger during the work session meeting and there are no changes to the contracts. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the contracts as presented, second by Commissioner Wisenbaker. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

2026 ACCG Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal

Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the item. Mr. Beals stated the 2026 renewal premium for Lowndes County is \$301,680.00. Due to a dividend credit of \$21,228.00, the total premium due is \$280,452.00. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the renewal as presented, second by Commissioner Wisenbaker. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.

2026 Stop Loss Insurance Coverage Renewal

Human Resources Director, Kevin Beals, presented the annual Stop Loss coverage related to Lowndes County's self-insured employee insurance plan. Mr. Beals stated that EPIC Brokers & Consultants represents Lowndes County as our health insurance broker and Swiss Re is currently offering the lowest available rates for the upcoming 2026 plan year at a spec coverage level of \$150,000.00. Vice Chairman Orenstein made a motion to approve the 2026 Stop Loss Insurance Coverage renewal as presented, second by Commissioner Marshall. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.