

Approval of the Solicitor General's FY26 VAWA Continuation Grant Application

Solicitor General's Office Representative, Karen Hayes, presented the item. Ms. Hayes stated the Solicitor General's Office has been a recipient of the VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) Grant since 2018. This grant funds a specialized prosecutor that handles Family Violence and Violence Against Women Crimes. This is a continuation grant application and the request for federal funding is in the amount of \$79,112.00 and the county will be responsible for the amount of \$26,371.00 in matching funds. Ms. Hayes stated the performance period of this grant runs from January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026. The Solicitor General's Office is requesting the Board's approval to submit the VAWA Continuation Grant Application for FY2026.

REPORTS - County Manager

Extension Office Update by Joshua Dawson (Work Session)

County Manager, Paige Dukes, introduced Josh Dawson, Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent with the Lowndes County Extension Office. Mr. Dawson thanked the Commissioners for their support and presented a brief update for the 2025 year.

American Red Cross Update by Jacqueline Shoemaker

County Manager, Paige Dukes, introduced Jackie Shoemaker, the Executive Director of the South Central Georgia Chapter of the American Red Cross. Ms. Shoemaker stated she covers twenty-five counties in South Central Georgia, and she resides in Lowndes County. Ms. Shoemaker gave the Commission an update of the work the American Red Cross has done within Lowndes County and the surrounding areas for the year 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting, seconded by Commissioner Smith. Chairman Slaughter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 a.m.