

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Adoption of the Lowndes County Resolution for Emergency Management and Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP)

DATE OF MEETING: April 28, 2026

Work  
Session/Regular  
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: None

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Approval of the Resolution for Emergency Management, adoption of the Lowndes County Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP), and authorization for the Chairman to execute all associated documents.

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HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES:

Lowndes County originally adopted a Resolution for Emergency Management in 2004, establishing the Lowndes County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and the framework for coordinating emergency management activities across the County and participating municipalities. The Resolution has been periodically updated in conjunction with revisions to the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) to ensure continued alignment with current practices and requirements.

Since that time, Lowndes County has experienced multiple emergency and disaster events, including hurricanes, severe weather, and public health incidents, which have provided valuable lessons learned regarding coordination, communication, and operational authority during emergencies.

The current update to the Resolution is intended to modernize the document, maintain consistency with the Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981, and clarify roles and responsibilities, including designation of the Chairman as the authorized official to declare a local state of emergency. These updates do not create new programs or requirements, but instead more accurately reflect current practices and ensure the County is positioned to respond effectively and efficiently to future emergencies.

In conjunction with the Resolution, the Lowndes County Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP) has been updated to reflect a function-based approach that aligns with current emergency management best practices. The LEOP outlines how the County and its partners prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters.

Together, the Resolution and LEOP provide the legal framework and operational guidance necessary to support coordinated, multi-jurisdictional emergency management within Lowndes County and ensure continued eligibility for state and federal emergency management assistance programs.