

10. Managing or supporting grant programs and compliance requirements related to emergency management.

## **SECTION X – DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY**

Pursuant to the authority granted under the Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981 and other applicable laws, the Chairman of the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners is hereby designated as the authorized official to declare and execute a local state of emergency on behalf of Lowndes County.

Such declaration may be issued when an actual or imminent emergency or disaster exists which endangers the lives, health, property, or safety of the citizens of Lowndes County.

The Chairman is further authorized to:

1. Activate the Lowndes County Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP);
2. Implement emergency protective measures;
3. Coordinate with municipal, state, and federal agencies; and
4. Exercise such powers as permitted under applicable law to respond to and recover from the emergency.

Any such declaration shall be presented to the Board of Commissioners for ratification at the earliest practical time, if required by law or local policy.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Board of Commissioners to declare, continue, or terminate a local state of emergency.

## **SECTION XI – MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS**

Pursuant to the Act:

1. The local director of the Agency, in collaboration with other public and private agencies within this state, may develop, or cause to be developed, mutual aid agreements for reciprocal emergency management assistance in the event of an emergency or disaster that exceeds local capabilities. Such agreements shall be consistent with the state emergency management plan and program and may include participation in the Georgia Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement. During an emergency, each participating organization shall render assistance in accordance with such agreements.
2. The local director of the Agency, subject to the approval of the Governor, may enter into mutual aid agreements with emergency management agencies or organizations in other states for reciprocal assistance in the event of an emergency or disaster exceeding local capabilities, consistent with applicable interstate mutual aid agreements, including the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.