



LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PROPOSED AGENDA
WORK SESSION, MONDAY, APRIL, 27, 2026, 8:30 AM
REGULAR SESSION, TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026, 5:30 PM
327 N. Ashley Street - 2nd Floor

1. **Call To Order**
2. **Invocation**
3. **Pledge Of Allegiance To The Flag**
4. **Minutes For Approval**
 - a. Work Session - April 13, 2026 & Regular Session - April 14, 2026
Recommended Action: Approve
Documents:
5. **For Consideration**
 - a. Adoption of the Lowndes County Resolution for Emergency Management and Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP)
Recommended Action: Adopt
Approve
Documents:
 - b. FY2027 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Application
Recommended Action: Board's Pleasure
Documents:
 - c. Renewal of Disaster Related Debris Contracts
Recommended Action: Approve
Documents:
 - d. Consideration of Procurement Determination Declaring Initial Proposal Non-Responsive and Award of Contract to Cowart Electric
Recommended Action: Board's Pleasure
Documents:
 - e. VAWA Continuation Grant Application
Recommended Action: Option 1
Documents:
 - f. Opioid Litigation - Six (6) Remnant Defendants
Recommended Action: Option 1
Documents:
 - g. Potable Well Testing
Recommended Action: Approve
Documents:

6. **Reports - County Manager**
7. **Citizens Wishing To Be Heard - Please State Your Name and Address**
8. **Adjournment**

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.

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.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve the Resolution for Emergency Management, adopt the Lowndes County Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP), and authorize the Chairman to execute the Resolution, LEOP, and any associated documents.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt
Approve

DEPARTMENT: Emergency Management

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Ashley Tye

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

**RESOLUTION
FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly has enacted the Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981 (the “Act”);

WHEREAS, the Act authorizes the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners (the “Board”), as the governing authority of Lowndes County, to establish and maintain a local organization for emergency management;

WHEREAS, the Board passed a Resolution on December 14, 2004, establishing the Lowndes County Emergency Management Agency;

WHEREAS, the Board desires to continue and reaffirm the Lowndes County Emergency Management Agency and to update the prior resolution governing its operation;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that emergencies and disasters may impact multiple jurisdictions within Lowndes County and that effective preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation require a coordinated, multi-jurisdictional approach among the County and its municipalities;

WHEREAS, the Lowndes County Emergency Management Agency coordinates emergency management activities in accordance with the Lowndes County Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP), as updated and amended;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED and it is resolved by the Board:

SECTION I – DEFINITIONS

As used in this Resolution, the term “emergency management” shall have the same meaning as set forth in the Act.

SECTION II – POWERS OF THE BOARD

The Board shall have all powers and authority granted under the Act and other applicable laws, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. To appropriate and expend funds, execute contracts, and obtain and distribute equipment, materials, and supplies for emergency management purposes.
2. To provide for the health, safety, and welfare of persons and property, including emergency assistance to victims of natural or manmade disasters or enemy attack, and to direct and coordinate the development of emergency management plans and programs in accordance with applicable federal and state guidance.
3. To appoint, employ, remove, or otherwise provide, with or without compensation, emergency management personnel, including chiefs of services, warning personnel, rescue teams, auxiliary fire and police personnel, and other workers.

4. To establish and maintain a primary and one or more secondary control centers to serve as command posts during an emergency or disaster.
5. Subject to the order of the Governor or the chief executive of the political subdivision, to assign and make available for duty the employees, property, and equipment of the subdivision for emergency management purposes, both within and outside the territorial limits of the subdivision.
6. In addition to the heretofore stated powers and authorities, to acquire, temporarily or permanently, by purchase, lease, or otherwise, sites required for installation of temporary housing units for disaster victims; and to enter into whatever arrangements, including purchase, of temporary housing units and payment of transportation charges, which are necessary to prepare or equip such sites to utilize the housing units.
7. To coordinate emergency management activities with municipal, regional, state, and federal partners, and to support a multi-jurisdictional, all-hazards approach to emergency management.

SECTION III – LOWNDES COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Pursuant to the Act, the Board, as the governing authority of Lowndes County, hereby continues and reaffirms the Lowndes County Emergency Management Agency (the “Agency”) as the local organization for emergency management, in accordance with the state emergency management plan and program.

SECTION IV – FUNCTIONS OF THE AGENCY

Pursuant to the Act, the Agency shall perform emergency management functions within the territorial limits of Lowndes County and may conduct such functions outside those limits as authorized under Articles 1, 2, and 3 of Chapter 3, Title 38 of the Official Code of Georgia.

SECTION V – PARTICIPATION BY CITIES

As provided by the Act, the Agency shall include participation by each municipality within Lowndes County unless the governing authority of any such municipality elects to establish its own organization for emergency management, and shall support a coordinated, multi-jurisdictional approach to emergency management.

SECTION VI – AGENCY OFFICE

Pursuant to the Act, the Board designates that the office of the Agency shall be located within Lowndes County, currently at the Lowndes County Emergency Operations Center, 250 Douglas St, Valdosta, Georgia, or at such other location as may be designated by the Board.

SECTION VII – DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The Agency shall be organized and operate in coordination with existing County departments, participating municipalities, and external partner agencies, each of which shall be responsible for emergency management functions consistent with its respective authorities and capabilities.

Emergency management functions shall be assigned and carried out in accordance with the Lowndes County Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP), which establishes a coordinated, multi-jurisdictional, all-hazards framework for preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.

All participating departments and agencies shall support the Agency and shall maintain appropriate plans, procedures, and capabilities necessary to fulfill their assigned roles.

The Agency shall request and maintain Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), or equivalent operational documents, from participating departments and agencies as necessary to support implementation of the LEOP.

SECTION VIII – LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Agency shall develop, maintain, and periodically update a local emergency management plan (the “Plan”), also referred to as the Lowndes County Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP), which shall be consistent with and meet the requirements of the Act and applicable state and federal guidance.

SECTION IX – LOCAL DIRECTOR

Pursuant to the Act, the Board, as the governing authority of Lowndes County, shall nominate a local director to the Director of the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, who shall have the authority to make the appointment.

The local director shall have direct responsibility for the organization, administration, and operation of the Agency, subject to the direction and control of the Board, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. The director shall meet all qualifications and perform all duties as specified in the Act.

The duties of the director shall include:

1. Representing the Board and participating municipalities on matters pertaining to emergency management;
2. Assisting the Board and participating municipalities in organizing and maintaining emergency management capabilities;
3. Overseeing the development, maintenance, and implementation of the Plan;
4. Administering the Agency;
5. Submitting reports as required by the Board and the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency;
6. Coordinating the emergency management activities and response efforts of public and private agencies and organizations;
7. Maintaining availability for emergency response and coordination beyond normal working hours;
8. Attending training, exercises, and meetings as required by the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency and other relevant agencies;
9. Coordinating preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities in accordance with the Plan;

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.

SECTION XII – LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Pursuant to the Act, and to the extent funds are appropriated for such purpose by the General Assembly, the Board shall be eligible to receive funding if the Agency meets all applicable state and federal requirements to qualify as an emergency management organization, including:

- 1. Legal establishment by local ordinance or resolution;
- 2. A legally appointed local director;
- 3. An approved emergency and disaster plan, including all applicable annexes; and
- 4. An approved fiscal year program paper and other required compliance documentation.

SECTION XIII – IMMUNITY OF STATE AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

Lowndes County, as a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, together with its officers, employees, agents, and representatives, shall be entitled to all immunities and protections provided under O.C.G.A. § 38-3-35 and other applicable laws.

SECTION XIV – LIBERALITY OF CONSTRUCTION

This Resolution shall be liberally construed to effectuate its purposes and to ensure the effective coordination and implementation of emergency management within Lowndes County.

SECTION XV – EFFECTIVE DATE; RESCISSION OF EXISTING LOCAL LAWS

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

All prior resolutions or parts of resolutions of Lowndes County relating to emergency management that are in conflict with this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SO RESOLVED, this ___ day of _____, 2026.

Bill Slaughter, Chairman
Lowndes County Board of Commissioners

Attest: _____
Belinda Lovern
County Clerk

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: FY2027 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Application

DATE OF MEETING: April 28, 2026

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$374,205.14 - All expenses will be fully reimbursed through the grant

FUNDING SOURCE:

- CJCC Funding
- \$374,205.14
- Capital
- N/A
- SPLOST
- TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Authorization to submit FY 2027 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Application

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES:

Since 2014, Lowndes County has received annual funding through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) to support the Juvenile Court in implementing community-based services designed to divert youth offenders from secure detention and commitment. Functional Family Therapy (FFT) has been the primary evidence-based program delivered under this initiative and has consistently demonstrated strong outcomes, including high program completion rates and reductions in recidivism.

For FY 2027, the Lowndes County Juvenile Court proposes to continue this successful intervention by applying for additional CJCC funding through the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program. If awarded, Evidence Based Associates (EBA) will continue to serve as the managing entity, overseeing program implementation, performance monitoring, and compliance with all state reporting requirements, in partnership with Grace Harbour, Inc. as the service provider.

County staff and program stakeholders recently reviewed historical performance data, current referral trends, and caseload projections to assess ongoing service needs. Based on this analysis, maintaining FFT at a similar service level remains the most effective and appropriate strategy for serving Lowndes County's medium-to-high-risk youth population.

Accordingly, staff recommends submission of a grant application requesting \$374,205.14 through the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program to serve 59 youth and their families during FY 2027 (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027). This is a fully reimbursable grant that requires Lowndes County to initially cover program costs and receive 100% reimbursement for all eligible expenditures.

OPTIONS: 1. Authorize the Chairman to sign application documents, including a Memorandum of Understanding with Evidence-Based Associates, and for staff to submit the completed application

to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure

DEPARTMENT: Emergency Management

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Ashley Tye

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Program

- a. State the selected evidence-based program.

In its commitment to delivering the most effective and appropriate evidence-based interventions, Lowndes County will implement Functional Family Therapy (FFT) to serve eligible youth and families during the FY2027 grant period. The Lowndes County Juvenile Court will partner with Evidence Based Associates (EBA) to provide FFT as a well-supported, evidence-based diversion program for medium- to high-risk youth who are at risk of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

FFT was selected based on its strong alignment with the needs of Lowndes County's justice-involved youth population and its demonstrated effectiveness in reducing delinquency, recidivism, and reliance on out-of-home placement. As a family-focused, community-based intervention, FFT addresses the underlying drivers of delinquent behavior by improving family functioning, strengthening communication, and increasing youth accountability.

The model's flexible service delivery, including in-home sessions and scheduling that accommodates family needs, has consistently resulted in high engagement and completion rates. By implementing FFT with fidelity, Lowndes County will provide a cost-effective alternative to secure detention and commitment, improving outcomes for youth while enhancing public safety.

2. Statement of Need/Summary

- a. Provide a clear and concise statement of need, including the following:
- i. At-risk population = **26,602**
 - ii. New instances of secure detention (RYDC) = **94**
 - iii. Cases resulting in commitment to DJJ = **13**
 - iv. New instances of confinement in secure juvenile correctional facilities (YDC) = **1**
 - v. Adjudicated Offenses = **111**
 - vi. PDRA Scores = **106**
- b. Brief description of the activities requiring CJCC funds.

Lowndes County continues to experience a steady volume of justice-involved youth, many of whom present moderate to high criminogenic risk factors that, without intervention, increase the likelihood of deeper system involvement, including secure detention and commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). During the most recent reporting period, the County recorded 94 instances of secure detention (RYDC), 13 commitments to DJJ, and 111 adjudicated offenses, reflecting a sustained demand for effective, community-based interventions. Additionally, 106 youth were assessed using the Pre-Disposition Risk Assessment (PDRA), further demonstrating the prevalence of youth requiring structured supervision and targeted services.

Without appropriate intervention, these youth are at significant risk of continued system involvement, which carries both public safety implications and substantial financial costs associated with detention and residential placement. Evidence-based diversion programs are critical to interrupting this cycle by addressing the underlying drivers of delinquent behavior while maintaining youth safely in the community.

To address this need, the Lowndes County Juvenile Court is requesting funding to serve 59 youth and families through Functional Family Therapy (FFT) during the FY2027 grant period. FFT is a well-supported, evidence-based intervention designed for youth ages 11–18 who present with behavioral challenges such as delinquency, substance abuse, and family conflict. The model focuses on five structured phases—engagement, motivation, relational assessment, behavior change, and generalization—each designed to address specific risk factors and improve family functioning.

FFT is delivered primarily in the home, allowing therapists to engage families in their natural environment and reduce barriers to participation. Services are flexible, culturally responsive, and tailored to the needs of each family, resulting in high engagement and completion rates. Youth typically receive between 15 and 30 sessions over a three- to four-month period, with frequency adjusted based on risk level and treatment phase.

Over three decades of research, including multiple randomized clinical trials, have demonstrated FFT's effectiveness in reducing recidivism, improving family relationships, and decreasing reliance on out-of-home placement. By investing in FFT, Lowndes County is able to provide a cost-effective alternative to detention and commitment, improving outcomes for youth while reducing the long-term burden on the juvenile justice system.

Absent continued CJCC funding, Lowndes County would face a significant reduction in its ability to provide these evidence-based diversion services, likely resulting in increased reliance on secure detention and higher long-term costs to the State.

3. Target Population

- a. Provide a detailed description of the clearly defined target population to be served in the grant period, include the following:
 - i. Explain how and why the target population was selected, including any risk factors.

The target population as described above in part 2.a includes an at-risk population of 26,602 youth. In accordance with the intent of the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program, the Lowndes County Juvenile Court is choosing to prioritize the target population of youth determined to be medium to high-risk offenders as assessed using the Pre-Disposition Risk Assessment (PDRA). The demographics and referral behaviors of the youth served in the Functional Family Therapy program are likely to reflect similar demographics as youth in the County juvenile justice system. The majority of referrals to Lowndes County Juvenile Court are male and African American. Reducing reliance on residential placement for these priority populations is consistent with the Court's mission to safeguard both long-term public safety

and youth development outcomes and provides a research-based low-cost, high benefit intervention for improving outcomes for Lowndes County youth.

- ii. County or counties to be served (please only apply for counties you are able to serve).

Youth and families will be served in Lowndes County.

- iii. State number of youth served and/or cohorts. This should be by program if an applicant plans to implement more than one program.

Lowndes County will partner with Evidence Based Associates and Grace Harbour, Inc to provide FFT to 59 youth and families during this grant period.

- iv. List assessment instruments to be used for selected target population and how they will be used to screen youth. Applicants should include a detailed description of how the DJJ's DAI and PDRA will be utilized to ensure consistency and uniformity in decision-making. Please include any needs assessments conducted for participants.

In accordance with the intent of this CJCC funding opportunity, only those youth assessed as medium to high risk on the Pre-Disposition Risk Assessment (PDRA) tool and their families will be eligible for referral to FFT. This evidence-based program will serve male and female youth and families referred to the Lowndes County Juvenile Court scoring 2 or higher on the Pre-Disposition Assessment Instrument.

4. Methods and Procedures

- a. Fully describe the intake and referral process for a youth receiving services. This should go through all decision points (from charge to disposition and when a youth is referred into services).

Lowndes County DJJ will administer the Pre-Disposition Assessment Instrument (PDRA) to all youth referred to the Court for consideration of appropriate disposition. Only youth scoring medium to high risk of this validated risk assessment instrument will be eligible for consideration for referral and enrollment into the FFT program. Intake Officers are required to complete the DJJ Detention Assessment Instrument in accordance with DJJ policy. Training on proper utilization of the assessment tool is provided along with written instructions. Based on the Assessment Score, the recommendation is made to either detain the offender or release with conditions. PDRA is also conducted on each committed, probated, or superior court youth to support decision making and case planning within the Juvenile Court system. This tool is used to assess criminogenic risk factors, which is useful in determining the appropriate course of action based on the identified needs.

Once it is determined that the offending youth meets the criteria for FFT referral and it is deemed appropriate by the judge for their particular case, the Juvenile Probation Officer will complete the referral form and send it to EBA.

For eligible youth and families, a standardized referral form is completed for the identified program and submitted to the provider, Grace Harbour, for review and acceptance. If there are no concerns about case appropriateness, the FFT therapist contacts the probation officer to inform him/her of the assignment and to discuss the needs and goals of probation. The first attempt to contact the family is made within 24 hours of receiving the referral, and the goal is to schedule the first session to occur within 72 hours. Grace Harbour conducts an initial risk assessment within the first 2 visits to the home to determine the need for an immediate safety plan.

If there is a concern with case appropriateness at the time the referral is received, the FFT therapist and/or Supervisor will meet with the family to gather more information and complete the intake paperwork. If there is still a question or concern, a case staffing will occur within 24 hours with the assigned therapist, supervisor, program manager and model expert to determine next steps. The probation officer will be notified of the concern and the team will work together to come to a resolution. Any decision regarding case appropriateness must be made within 7 days of opening a case. In the event the referral is deemed inappropriate, it will be returned to the probation office with full explanation.

- b. List the criteria to determine which individuals will be offered program services.

All youth receiving services from this grant must have a delinquent adjudication, score medium to high on the PDRA, and be appropriate for the selected evidence-based program.

FFT focuses on treating families with youth aged 11-18 ranging from at-risk preadolescents to youth with very serious problems such as conduct disorder, violent acting-out, and substance abuse. Few youth are ineligible for FFT services other than primarily youth with severe mental or physical handicaps.

- c. Describe, if any, any educational support identified for youth. This would include how the support service works within the program, how it addresses an identified gap, and how it positively affects youth outcomes. Please state if these services will be funded via the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant.

N/A

- d. Describe, if any, mental health support identified for youth. This would include how the support service works within the program, how it addresses an identified gap, and how it positively affects youth outcomes. Please state if these services will be funded via the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant.

N/A

- e. Describe, if available, any other additional services youth served in the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant receive if not already listed.

N/A

- f. Please list any transportation services or assistance needed. If requesting funds to allocate for transportation services, grantees must include the vehicle cost (i.e. estimated rental cost) along with estimated cost of vehicle maintenance and projected cost for fuel as part of their budget.

N/A

- g. State which entities (e.g., service providers, contractors, county staff), if identified, will provide program services.

The implementing agency is the Lowndes County Juvenile Court. The Court is responsible for hearing cases involving juvenile offenders and to make determinations regarding the most appropriate disposition balancing issues of both public safety and individual treatment needs of the young offender. The applicant and the fiscal agent is the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners.

Lowndes County will contract with Evidence Based Associates (EBA) for the role of Managing Entity, and EBA will sub-contract with Grace Harbour, Inc. to deliver FFT services.

Please see attached MOU with EBA.

- h. Confirm if policies that ensure appropriate relationships between youth and adults, including any mandated reporting requirements are in place. If awarded, grantees will be expected to show said policy during the fiscal review.

EBA's Maintaining Appropriate Professional Relationships Policy provides guidance and expectations to EBA employees and contracted service provider agency employees regarding appropriate and professional relationships between adults and clients. The primary responsibility of all persons involved with service delivery is to respect the dignity and promote the welfare of clients.

- i. Describe the primary roles and responsibilities for each grant-funded position and explain the plan for orientation and training of grant-funded staff. Attached a job description for each grant-funded position under the "Budget Forms - Personnel" page.

N/A

5. Goals, Objectives, and Evaluation

- a. List the required program goals as outlined in the RFP. List any additional program goals in a clearly defined and measurable manner.

The Lowndes County Juvenile Court will implement Functional Family Therapy (FFT) with a focus on achieving measurable reductions in juvenile justice system involvement while improving outcomes for youth and families. FFT will be provided with the following goals:

1. Reduce felony commitments to DJJ and STP admissions in Lowndes County.
2. Increase the use of evidence-based practices in Georgia's juvenile justice system by initiating community-based juvenile justice programs.
3. Reduce the recidivism rate of youth involved with Georgia's juvenile justice system.
4. Reduce the annual secure detention rate of Lowndes County.
5. Reduce the annual secure confinement rate of Lowndes County.
6. Demonstrate a cost-savings to Georgia citizens through provision of research-informed services to youth in the juvenile justice system.

Additionally, FFT program goals include increasing family engagement, reducing negative peer association, increasing prosocial activities, and leveraging the support of the community.

- b. List the required program objectives as outlined in the RFP. List any additional program objectives in a clearly defined and measurable manner.

To achieve these goals, the program will adhere to clearly defined performance objectives aligned with CJCC requirements, to include:

1. The DAI and PDRA will be used on all youth considered for grant funding with all scores reported in JTS or the Juvenile Data Exchange (JDEX).
2. All participants will score medium to high on the PDRA.
3. At least 75% of participants will complete program requirements.
4. At least 55% of youth completing services will not re-offend as calculated using this recidivism definition below: A new charge (within three years of the initial post-adjudication community placement) which results in a juvenile court delinquency adjudication OR adult criminal court conviction.
5. Each project will report cost-savings per youth by calculating average cost to provide targeted intervention subtracted from average cost to detain youth.

- c. Explain fully how all stated goals and objectives will be reached and evaluated.

Lowndes County Juvenile Court will achieve these goals through the implementation of Functional Family Therapy (FFT) in partnership with Evidence Based Associates (EBA) and Grace Harbour, Inc. Services will be targeted to medium- and high-risk youth, consistent with the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model, ensuring that interventions are matched to each youth's level of risk and specific criminogenic needs.

FFT is delivered as a structured, phase-based intervention that addresses key drivers of delinquent behavior, including family conflict, negative peer influence, and poor behavioral regulation. By engaging families in their home environment and tailoring interventions to

their unique needs, FFT promotes high levels of participation and successful program completion.

Program success will be driven by a combination of high-fidelity implementation, rapid engagement, and continuous performance monitoring. Youth and families referred to the program will be contacted within 24 hours, with services initiated as quickly as possible to reduce the likelihood of further system involvement during critical periods following referral.

Evaluation of program performance will be conducted in partnership with EBA using EBAnalytics™ and EBAccountability™ systems. These systems provide a structured, data-driven approach to monitoring program implementation and outcomes, allowing stakeholders to assess performance at the program, team, and individual therapist levels.

Data collected through these systems will be used to:

- Conduct ongoing evaluation of treatment outcomes and public safety measures,
- Identify strengths and areas for improvement in service delivery, and
- Develop and implement targeted improvement plans when performance benchmarks are not met.

Through continuous collaboration with service providers and ongoing review of performance data, Lowndes County Juvenile Court is committed to meeting and exceeding CJCC performance expectations while improving long-term outcomes for youth and families.

d. Explain how you currently collect data on youth served.

Lowndes County Juvenile Court utilizes EBAnalytics™, a comprehensive system of web-based dashboards, data management tools, and performance applications that support the collection, analysis, and reporting of program data.

This system enables EBA, Grace Harbour, Inc., and the Juvenile Court to:

- Monitor referral trends, service utilization, treatment duration, and program completion rates in real time,
- Track key performance indicators including recidivism, family engagement, and model fidelity, and
- Ensure transparency and accountability through regular reporting to stakeholders.

By leveraging real-time data and performance analytics, the program is able to quickly identify and address potential challenges, ensuring continuous quality improvement and adherence to evidence-based practices. This data-driven approach supports informed decision-making and ensures that program goals and objectives are consistently evaluated and achieved.

6. Sustainability

- a. List the community partners and their description and contribution, if any, to the proposed program.

The Lowndes County Juvenile Court currently partners with several community partners to provide programs that will serve to supplement the program proposed in this application. Among the primary partners are the Department of Juvenile Justice, Behavioral Health Services, Peaceway Counseling Centers, Pathway to Hope, Southwest Keys Program, Lowndes Drug Action Council, and Choices for Life. Community partners directly associated with the FFT program include Evidence Based Associates and Grace Harbour, Inc.

For the past two decades, EBA has been actively helping states and other public systems on these transformational activities – namely, to identify, adopt, and implement high-quality (i.e., Well-Supported) EBPs for children, youth, young adults, and families at highest risk of serious system consequences such as child removal or incarceration (i.e., in the juvenile or criminal justice systems). Utilizing its scientifically grounded implementation support tools and resources, EBA guides states and large systems through stages of exploration, preparation, implementation, and sustainability that address barriers to achieving optimal program quality, clinical and programmatic fidelity, and positive outcomes. By focusing exclusively on implementation support (i.e., not engaging simultaneously in the delivery of clinical services), EBA is able to focus on the key systemic factors that drive successful and high-fidelity EBP implementation.

EBA and Grace Harbour are currently serving youth and families in Lowndes County and throughout Georgia and are prepared to start services immediately upon contract award.

- b. Describe the specific activities that will take place during this upcoming grant period to ensure sustainability, including any barriers for the program and how the organization intends to address said issues.

Lowndes County and the Court will work to make sure that the programs implemented realize cost savings greater than the current detention rates making the program cost effective enough to allow the legislature to allocate funds for the continuation of the diversionary programs implemented. Based on current economic and budgetary constraints, it is doubtful that these programs will continue without continuation of funding.

Lowndes County Juvenile Court staff work with countywide community providers to ensure program sustainability. Efforts to sustain the initiative will be largely driven by the collaboration between the Lowndes County Juvenile Court and local community providers that are capable partners in providing adjunct services to FFT, including mental health, substance abuse, life skills, educational, vocational, and mentoring needs of the youth and family members.

Monthly staffing with the evidence-based program provider, use of the Detention Assessment Instrument, Pre-Dispositional Risk Assessment, submission of a Monthly Data report to The Carl Vinson Institute of Government, and Recidivism Reports have all supported the provision of evidence-based services in Lowndes County.

In addition, as part of their service as Managing Entity, EBA includes a FFT Hiring Manual and dedicated Human Resources staff to support the provider agency with solicitation, screening, interviewing, and selection of FFT therapists whenever there is a need (e.g. in response to turnover or program growth). This additional support is critical for ensuring ongoing sustainability of these services and limits any gaps in service or the need for waitlists due to understaffing.

A project timeline is presented as **Attachment A** which highlights specific activities throughout the grant period that supports program success and sustainability, to include ongoing case review and supervision, booster training, fidelity monitoring, and support from EBA and model experts.

- c. List the current juvenile related funding sources (state, federal, and/or private) and amount of funding for your organization.

Lowndes County Juvenile Court currently has an annual operating budget of \$245,000 from local funding sources. Additionally, the Court received \$375,000 in Federal funding for evidence-based programs in FY2026.

- d. Identify potential state, federal, and/or private funding streams for program support.

The Lowndes County Juvenile Court continues to research all funding opportunities. Support from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council will be utilized if and when such funds become available. For FY2027, Lowndes County is requesting a total of \$374,205.14, an increase from the amount awarded by CJCC for FY2026. Federal grant opportunities will be diligently monitored by court direction.

There are multiple other potential funding streams that will continue to be explored by Lowndes County staff. Notably, many of the youth and families to be served in this program are also likely to be 'cross-over youth' involved with other public systems such as child welfare (Department of Families and Children) as well as the Juvenile Court.

7. Previous Accomplishments

- a. Provide a detailed description of any previously successful interventions or grant funding received for similar programs. Applicants who received an Incentive Grant in previous years should include their accomplishments from this program.

Applicants must include a detailed summary of activities:

- i. FY26 projected youth served compared to the final number/percent of youth served to date.

As of Feb 2026, total youth served in the FFT program is 42, with an expected prorated utilization of 63 youth, or 107% of target this fiscal year (FY2026).

- ii. Supporting data to demonstrate whether or not the project objectives and goals were met.

Since the inception of the grant in FY2014 through last fiscal year (FY2024), the successful discharge rate for families being served via the funding provided by the incentive grant has averaged 91% for Lowndes County families receiving FFT, which exceeds the target of 75% and exceeds the state average. The current (FY 2025-2026) rate of successful discharge for Lowndes County families stands at 86% for FFT, continuing to exceed the target set by the grant.

Please refer to the scorecard attached in **Exhibit A** for additional outcomes seen among Lowndes County youth and families receiving FFT. Utilization, Short-term Recidivism, and Placements also exceeded the target set by the grant for the reported period.

- b. If problems were encountered in previous grants or objectives were not fully achieved, please provide a full description detailing both the issues and corrective action(s) taken.

Overall, the FFT services provided to youth and families in Lowndes County this year have been successful with no barriers. FFT referrals have increased as a result of EBA and the FFT therapist attending court.

Attachment A. Program Timeline

Applicant Agency: Lowndes County Juvenile Court

Month	Grant Activities
Jul 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement an evidence-based program plan for Lowndes County • Identify any new key jurisdiction stakeholders and implement a stakeholder education and training plan • Renew contract with Grace Harbour as the preferred qualified service provider to continue serving youth and families with the FFT program • Ensure referral eligibility criteria and process for new and ongoing services are in place • Support staff member to assist county personnel in the administration of the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program
Aug 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize service contract with Grace Harbour with outcome, service, organizational, and accountability provisions; review comprehensive readiness assessments; and implement EBAssets™ solutions to help providers establish required policies, structures, and procedures needed to implement selected programs with fidelity; • Coordinate with model dissemination organizations to arrange for licensure of providers, training for staff supervisors, and ongoing consultation with providers to ensure fidelity to proven program models • Provide ongoing training on selected evidence-based programs to probation and other case stakeholders and develop joint case policies and collaboration structures • Finalize EBA administrative structures and stakeholder data-sharing agreements and implement EBAnalytics™
Sep 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue established referral protocols • Closely monitor initial cases to ensure appropriate and sufficient referrals, stakeholder buy-in, and model fidelity • Produce and disseminate the first quarter outcome report summarizing qualitative and quantitative progress towards expected outcomes • Review the FFT TYPE report and plan for quality improvement • Conduct recidivism analysis for completers through 8/2025
Oct 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuously monitor and support stakeholder engagement to ensure service utilization and satisfaction, and implement remediation strategies as needed • Rigorously monitor and manage provider model fidelity, utilization, service, and public safety outcomes, and implement improvement plans, peer learning and mentoring, and accountability measures as part of the EBAccountability™ oversight package.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuously monitor and adjust initiative policies and procedures, referral criteria, stakeholder engagement, and system barrier remediation strategies, outcome targets, and service management as needed to produce expected outcomes
Nov 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to identify systems and service monitoring and quality assurance activities, and implement improvement strategies as needed Produce and disseminate second-quarter report, conduct semi-annual process and outcome evaluation of progress to date; convene stakeholders; meet with FFT program provider to share findings and identify strengths and weaknesses; adjust service, referral, and systems strategies to stay on track to meet or exceed outcome target
Dec 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to identify systems and service monitoring and quality assurance activities, and implement improvement strategies as needed Develop a funding sustainability and program expansion plan and implement action steps
Jan 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to identify systems and service monitoring and quality assurance activities, and implement improvement strategies as needed Administer file review of open and closed files to ensure contract compliance as part of EBAccountability™ package. Conduct on-site supervisor observation and evaluation to support the FFT program's fidelity monitoring. Review the FFT TYPE report and plan for quality improvement Conduct recidivism analysis for completers through 12/2026
Feb 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to identify systems and service monitoring and quality assurance activities, and implement improvement strategies as needed Produce and disseminate third quarter outcome report summarizing qualitative and quantitative progress towards expected outcomes
March 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to identify systems and service monitoring and quality assurance activities, and implement improvement strategies as needed Review Placement data from Vinson and plan accordingly for referrals
April 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to identify systems and service monitoring and quality assurance activities, and implement improvement strategies as needed
May 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to identify systems and service monitoring and quality assurance activities, and implement improvement strategies as needed Review the FFT TYPE report and plan for quality improvement Conduct recidivism analysis for completers through 4/2027

June 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct year-end process and outcome evaluation to determine progress towards meeting final target benchmarks, including service, diversion, and cost savings; convene stakeholders as well as meet with provider directors to share findings; identify project successes, challenges, and lessons learned; and implement an improvement plan for the next year, assuming continued funding
----------------------	---

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding is executed by and between Evidence Based Associates, LLC, a limited liability corporation authorized to do business in Georgia (hereinafter referred to as "EBA"), and the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners, a local governmental entity (hereinafter referred to as "County").

EBA is an experienced and successful partner with many governmental entities across the United States. EBA serves as a managing entity on behalf of these governmental agencies to analyze the current investment in services for youth involved in or at risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system. EBA serves as the entity for the delivery of therapeutic services to juveniles and their families, resulting in significantly reduced recidivism while optimizing governmental resources.

To this end, EBA and *the County* have agreed to work together in assembling a proposal to obtain grants for the implementation of juvenile justice system reforms. EBA brings to this effort a vast delivery of services, web-based performance tracking tools, grant writing resources, an array of evidence-based service options, valuable performance metrics, and a validated risk assessment tool that will result in a well-designed and well-implemented program, thereby significantly increasing *the County's* chances of successful selection as a recipient of grant funds.

Based upon *the County's* ability and willingness to follow key EBA recommendations regarding program selection, service delivery procurement and contracting, and staffing, EBA will also collaborate closely with county juvenile court officials in meeting the goals of the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program.

Upon receipt of grant funds, it is the intent of *the County* to move forward with EBA as a partner to implement evidence-based programs, with EBA serving as the managing entity. EBA will assist with the selection and oversight of service providers, manage the training and quality assurance of the direct service providers, provide reports showing the results of the programs, and meet the goals established by the State and the County for the performance and delivery of services to the families.

Upon selection of grant recipients, EBA and *the County* will execute a contract for Managing Entity Services and immediately commence management of the Grant to meet grant deadlines and provision of services.

Executed this 9th day of March 2026.



Evidence-Based Associates, LLC
As its: Authorized Agent

Lowndes County Board of Commissioners
As its: Chairman

GEORGIA



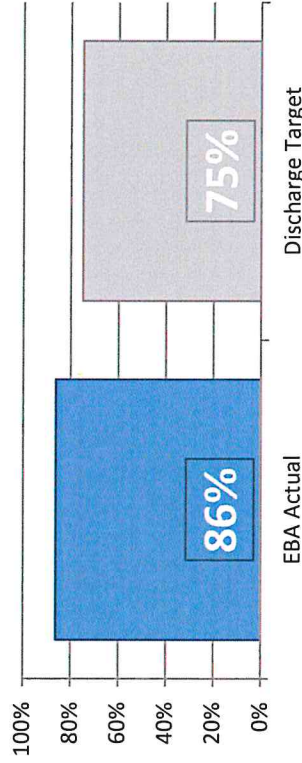
evidence-based
associates

An Empower Community Care Company

LOWNDES CO. SCORECARD

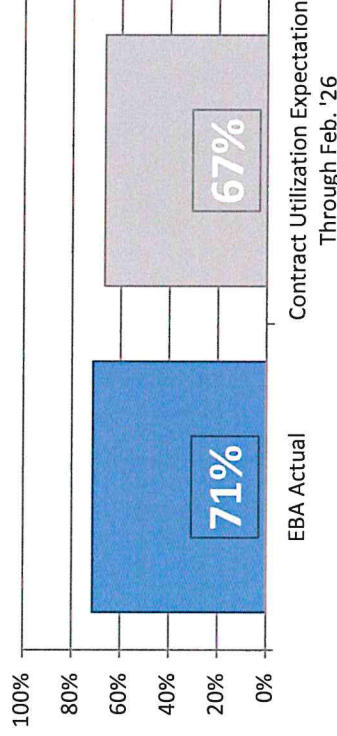
Georgia's Reform Efforts Lead to Improvements

Successful Discharge %



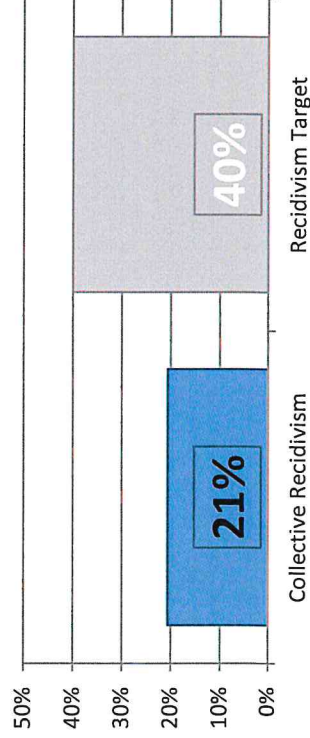
Actual Preferred to be **HIGHER** Than Target
FY26 Thru February 2026

Utilization %



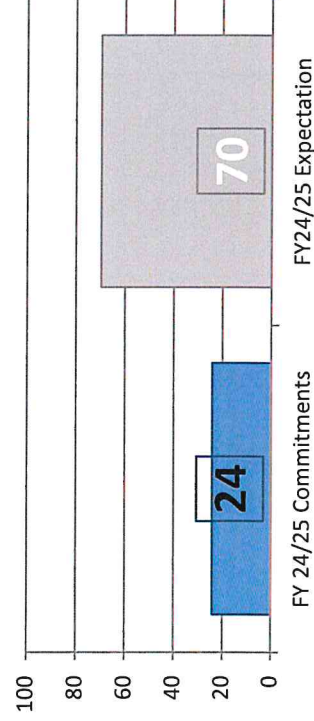
Actual Preferred to be **EQUAL TO** or **ABOVE** the Target
FY26 Thru February 2026

Short-Term Recidivism %



Actual Preferred to be **LOWER** Than Target
FY26 Thru December 2025

Placements



Actual Preferred to be **LOWER** Than Target
FY24/25

A-6 Budget Narrative

Lowndes County will continue its contractual relationship with Evidence-Based Associates to serve as Managing Entity providing Functional Family Therapy (FFT) to 59 youth and families in FY27 at a case rate of \$6,342.46/youth and family.

Lowndes County's total grant request for direct services is \$374,205.14.

This request for subcontracted services includes no increase from last year despite increasing costs associated with staffing and overall inflation.

70/30 Breakdown

Below is the case rate breakdown:

EBA FFT Case Rate Breakdown		
	Case Rate	%
County	\$6,342.46	
Subcontracted Provider Agency (Grace Harbour)	<u>\$4,566.57</u>	72%
FFT Training and Licensing	<u>\$317.12</u>	7%
FFT Quality Assurance	<u>\$317.12</u>	7%
Project Management	<u>\$507.40</u>	4%
Travel	<u>\$253.70</u>	6%
Project Administrative	<u>\$380.55</u>	4%
Total	\$6,342.46	100%

EBA will sub-contract with Grace Harbour, Inc. as direct service provider of FFT in Lowndes County.

Grace Harbour FFT		
	Case Rate	%
Case Rate	\$4,566.57	
Direct Clinical Services	<u>\$3242.26</u>	71%
Admin & Related Expenses	<u>\$410.99</u>	9%
Therapist Travel (Mileage Reimburse)	<u>\$913.32</u>	20%
Total	\$4,566.57	100%

							\$0.00
							\$0.00

Mileage						
Purpose of Travel	Staff member	Location or Coverage Area	Cost per mile	Miles per grant year	Total Cost	
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
TRAVEL TOTAL						\$0.00

C. Equipment-- List non-expendable items to be purchased. Applicants should analyze the benefit of purchased versus leased equipment, especially high cost and electronic or digital items. Explain how the equipment is necessary for the success of the program. Show the budget calculation. Attach a narrative describing the procurement method to be used. Please note that all items must be at least \$5,000 per unit to be considered equipment. Otherwise please list items in "Supplies."

Equipment Item	Cost per Unit	# Items	Vendor	Cost
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
EQUIPMENT TOTAL				\$0.00

D. Supplies-- List items by type (e.g. office supplies, postage, copier usage, training supplies, publications, audio/video (batteries, film, CD/DVD's, etc.), office furniture, computer software, educational/therapeutic supplies, uniforms, weapons (law enforcement and prosecution units only). Show budget calculation. For example, where an item is office supplies, enter \$100 for cost per unit; "month" for define unit; 12 for # units, and Office Palooza for Vendor. Leave "define unit" blank if not applicable.

Item	Cost per unit	# Units	Vendor	Cost
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
SUPPLY TOTAL				\$0.00

E. Printing-- List items by type (e.g. letterhead/envelopes, business cards, training materials). Show budget calculation. For example, where an item is business cards, enter \$15 for cost per unit; "box" for define unit; 2 for # units, and Print Mania for Vendor. Leave "define unit" blank if it is not applicable.

Item	Cost per unit	# Units	Vendor	Cost
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
PRINTING TOTAL				\$0.00

F. (1) Other Costs-- List items by type (e.g. real property lease, repairs/maintenance, utilities, copier rental/lease, postage meter, insurance & bonding, dues & subscriptions, advertising, registration fees, film processing, notary services, public relations, communication services - indicate if DOAS is provider). Show budget calculation. For example, provide the office space square footage and the lease rate or provide the monthly lease amount and the number of months leased. For unit enter time period as applicable (i.e., "month" for utility costs) or leave blank for items such as registration that require a one-time fee.

Item	Cost per unit	# of Units	% Charged to Grant	Vendor	Cost
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
F. (1) Subtotal					\$0.00

F. (2) Consultant Fee: Enter the name, if known, and service to be provided. Show the budget calculation; for example, the hourly or daily rate (8 hours) multiplied by the estimated number of units (eg., 1 hour of therapy).

Name of Consultant	Service Provided	Cost per unit	Define Unit of Service	# Units	Cost
Evidence-Based Associates	FFT Implementation Support	\$6,342.46	Youth	59.00	\$374,205.14
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
F. (2)Subtotal					\$374,205.14

F. (3) Contracts: Provide a description of the product or service to be procured by contract and a cost estimate. Applicants are strongly encouraged to use a competitive procurement process in awarding contracts. A separate justification must be provided for sole source contracts in excess of \$100,000.

Name of Consultant	Service Provided	Cost per unit	Define Unit of Service	# Units	Cost
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
					\$0.00
F. (2)Subtotal					\$0.00

F. OTHER TOTAL **\$374,205**

Budget Summary--When you have completed this budget worksheet, the totals for each category will transfer to the spaces below. The total costs and total project costs will be computed via Excel formula. Indicate the amount of grant funds requested and the amount of non-grant funds that will support the project.

Budget Category	Amount
A. Personnel and Fringe	\$0
B. Travel	\$0
C. Equipment	\$0
D. Supplies	\$0
E. Printing	\$0
F. Other	\$374,205
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$374,205

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Renewal of Disaster Related Debris Contracts

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: Renewal of Disaster-Related Debris Removal Services
Contracts

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: On June 25, 2024, the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners awarded pre-event contracts for disaster-related debris removal services. Contracts were executed with Ashbritt Environmental, DRC Emergency Services, and Southern Disaster Recovery (SDR). The initial contracts were for one-year terms with the option to renew for up to an additional 4 years. The Board of Commissioners exercised that option in 2025, renewing the contracts for all three vendors through June 24, 2026. As part of that renewal process, the Board of Commissioners approved a 1.9% price increase for Ashbritt, based on the Consumer Price Index in effect at the time of renewal and consistent with the terms of the initial contract. Neither DRC nor SDR requested a price increase.

All three vendors have expressed their desire to renew their contracts with Lowndes County for an additional one-year term, effective from June 25, 2026, through June 24, 2027. None of the vendors are requesting a price increase as part of this renewal.

OPTIONS: 1. Authorize the Chairman to execute the renewal agreements with Ashbritt, DRC Emergency Services, and Southern Disaster Recovery.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Emergency Management

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Ashley Tye

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

**AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT FOR DISASTER
DEBRIS REMOVAL, REDUCTION AND HAULING SERVICES**

This Amendment to the Contract for Disaster Debris Removal, Reduction and Hauling Services ("Amendment") is entered into and effective as of this 28th day of April, 2026, by and between AshBritt, Inc., a Florida corporation whose address is 565 E. Hillsboro Blvd., Deerfield Beach, Florida 33441 (hereinafter referred to as "Contractor"), and Lowndes County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, whose address is 327 North Ashley Street, Valdosta, GA 31601 (hereinafter referred to as "County").

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, Contractor and County entered into a Contract for Disaster Debris Removal, Reduction and Hauling Services effective June 26, 2024 (the "Contract"), with respect to debris recovery, remediation, and disposal within the corporate limits of the County; and

WHEREAS, Section 6.1 of the Contract provides for an initial term of one (1) year with four (4) one-year renewal options; and

WHEREAS, the Contract was previously renewed for the period of June 25, 2025 through June 24, 2026, which included a 1.9% increase in costs in accordance with the U.S. Department of Labor Consumer Price Index; and

WHEREAS, Contractor and County now desire to renew the Contract for an additional one (1) year term; and

WHEREAS, the parties agree that this renewal shall be executed with no increase in pricing, and all rates shall remain unchanged from the immediately preceding contract term;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing recitals and the mutual covenants and conditions contained herein, the receipt, sufficiency, and adequacy of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. The parties acknowledge that the Contract was previously renewed for the period of June 25, 2025 through June 24, 2026, which included a 1.9% increase in costs.

2. The Contract is hereby renewed for an additional one (1) year term effective June 25, 2026 through June 24, 2027.


3. No increase in pricing shall apply to this renewal term, and Contractor's fees shall remain unchanged from those in effect during the immediately preceding contract period.

4. Except as expressly modified herein, all definitions, terms, and conditions contained in the Contract shall remain in full force and effect and unmodified.

5. This Amendment may be executed simultaneously in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original. Electronic, facsimile, or scanned signatures shall be deemed valid and binding for all purposes, including the filing of any claim, action, or suit in the appropriate court of law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Second Amendment to be executed as of the date set forth below.

AshBritt, Inc.

By: 

Name: Dow Knight

Title: President

Date: 04/13/2026

Lowndes County

By: _____

Name: Bill Slaughter

Title: Chairman

Date: 4/28/2026



111 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Suite 1420, Metairie, LA 70005
TTY: 888-721-4DRC • Phone: 504-482-2848 • Fax: 504-482-2852
www.drcusa.com

April 2, 2026

Ashley Tye, Emergency Management Director
Lowndes County
250 Douglas Street
Valdosta, GA 31601
Phone: (229) 671-2790
Email: ashley.tye@lowndescounty.com

Re: Contract Extension between DRC Emergency Services and Lowndes County for
Debris Removal Services

Dear Ms. Tye:

The Lowndes County contract expires on June 24, 2026. DRC Emergency Services, LLC would like to take this opportunity to offer the County an extension to the contract between DRC Emergency Services, LLC, and Lowndes County dated June 25, 2024, for a period of one (1) year. The pricing, terms and conditions in the original contract will remain in effect for the duration of this contract expiring June 24, 2027.

If this offer of renewal is acceptable to you, please execute below and fax or email it to my attention to (504) 482-2852 or (lwalsh@drcusa.com). Also, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to continuing our relationship with you and Lowndes County.

Sincerely,

Lisa Walsh

Lisa Walsh
Contracts Manager
Cell: (504) 715-9052

Agreed and Accepted By:
Lowndes County

Authorized Signature

Chairman
Title

4/28/2026
Date

AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT FOR DISASTER DEBRIS REMOVAL, REDUCTION AND HAULING SERVICES

This Amendment to the Contract for Disaster Debris Removal, Reduction and Hauling Services ("Amendment") is entered into and effective as of this 28th day of April, 2026, by and between SDR, a South Carolina corporation (hereinafter referred to as "Contractor"), and Lowndes County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, (hereinafter referred to as "County").

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, Contractor and County entered into a Contract for Disaster Debris Removal, Reduction and Hauling Services effective June 26, 2024 (the "Contract"), with respect to debris recovery, remediation, and disposal within the corporate limits of the County; and

WHEREAS, Section 6.1 of the Contract provides for an initial term of one (1) year with four (4) one-year renewal options; and

WHEREAS, the Contract was previously renewed for the period of June 25, 2025 through June 24, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Contractor and County now desire to renew the Contract for an additional one (1) year term; and

WHEREAS, the parties agree that this renewal shall be executed with no increase in pricing, and all rates shall remain unchanged from the immediately preceding contract term;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing recitals and the mutual covenants and conditions contained herein, the receipt, sufficiency, and adequacy of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. The parties acknowledge that the Contract was previously renewed for the period of June 25, 2025 through June 24, 2026, which included no increase in costs.

2. The Contract is hereby renewed for an additional one (1) year term effective June 25, 2026 through June 24, 2027.

3. No increase in pricing shall apply to this renewal term, and Contractor's fees shall remain unchanged from those in effect during the immediately preceding contract period.

4. Except as expressly modified herein, all definitions, terms, and conditions contained in the Contract shall remain in full force and effect and unmodified.

5. This Amendment may be executed simultaneously in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original. Electronic, facsimile, or scanned signatures shall be deemed valid and binding for all purposes, including the filing of any claim, action, or suit in the appropriate court of law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Second Amendment to be executed as of the date set forth below.

SDR

Lowndes County

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: Bill Slaughter

Title: _____

Title: Chairman

Date: _____

Date: 4/28/2026

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Consideration of Procurement Determination Declaring Initial Proposal Non-Responsive and Award of Contract to Cowart Electric

DATE OF MEETING: April 28, 2026

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$1,845,280.00 - Lowndes County to receive 100% reimbursement

FUNDING SOURCE:

- (X) FEMA Funding - \$1,088,903
- (X) GEMA Funding - \$145,187
- (X) Pruitt Health - \$611,190
- () SPLOST
- () TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Declaring Initial Proposal Non-Responsive and Award of Contract to Cowart Electric

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES:

On February 10, 2026, the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners awarded a contract to Current Edge Solutions for the installation of emergency backup generators on five Pruitt Health facilities in Lowndes County. This award was based on the proposal submitted by Current Edge in response to a Request for Proposals for the project, which is to be funded through Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding awarded to Lowndes County on behalf of Pruitt Health.

Following receipt of proposals and subsequent review of contractor submittals for the above-referenced project, staff conducted a detailed comparison of the selected proposer's proposed equipment and materials against the minimum requirements established in the solicitation and the Engineer's Drawings and Specifications.

This review identified multiple material deviations from the required specifications, including but not limited to:

- Substitution of a steel enclosure in lieu of the specified aluminum enclosure
- Use of enamel paint in lieu of the specified powder-coated finish

These deviations constitute a failure to meet the minimum technical requirements and are considered material, not minor or informal. The contractor has subsequently confirmed in writing that they are unable to provide equipment meeting the specified requirements within their proposed price or schedule.

In accordance with federal procurement standards under 2 CFR §200.320(d), competitive proposal procurement requires that contracts be awarded to the responsible firm whose proposal is most

advantageous to the program, taking price and other factors into account. Compliance with material specifications is a fundamental requirement of responsiveness.

Additionally, under 2 CFR §200.318(k), the County is required to maintain oversight to ensure that contractors perform in accordance with the contract's terms, conditions, and specifications.

Based on these requirements, staff has determined that the selected proposer's submission is non-responsive to the material requirements of the solicitation and that the initial award was made in error due to the inability to fully verify compliance with all material specifications prior to award.

This determination is further supported by the solicitation language stating that specifications represent minimum requirements and that proposals are not to be subject to correction or alteration after submission.

Accordingly, staff finds that the contractor is unable to perform the contract in compliance with the required specifications, and the proposal is deemed non-responsive.

- OPTIONS: 1. Declaring the Initial Proposal from Current Edge Solutions Non-Responsive and Awarding the Contract to Cowart Electric
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure

DEPARTMENT: Emergency Management

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Ashley Tye

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Attachment B

Pricing Proposal

Company: Cowart Electric Inc

Address: 4309 N Valdosta RD Valdosta, GA 31602

Contact Name & Title: Thomas Ley Vice President


Phone / Email: 229-563-0405 / tley@cowart-inc.net

Lump Sum Pricing by Facility

Facility	Bid Price (\$)
PruittHealth – Crestwood	<u>\$303,427.⁰⁰</u>
PruittHealth – Holly Hill	<u>\$316,914.⁰⁰</u>
PruittHealth – Lakehaven	<u>\$457,769.⁰⁰</u>
PruittHealth – Parkwood	<u>\$423,866.⁰⁰</u>
PruittHealth – Valdosta	<u>\$343,304.⁰⁰</u>
TOTAL BID AMOUNT	<u>\$1,845,280.⁰⁰</u>

Completion Timeframe (Calendar Days): 92 days

Additive Alternate for Valdosta Site \$20.50 a Foot

Authorized Signature:  Date: 1-13-26

PROPOSAL

COWART ELECTRIC & INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS, INC

PO BOX 2345

VALDOSTA, GA 31604

229-241-1685/ FAX: 229-245-8438

SUBMITTED TO: <p style="text-align: center;">Pruitt Health</p>	DATE: <p style="text-align: center;">1-16-26</p>
ADDRESS: <p style="text-align: center;">327 North Ashley Street</p>	PHONE/FAX
CITY, STATE, ZIP: <p style="text-align: center;">Valdosta, GA 31601</p>	ATTENTION: <p style="text-align: center;">Amy Woods</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">COWART ELECTRIC & INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS, INC IS PLEASED TO PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING: Pruitt Health Crestwood</p> <p>Supply ,Install ,and Start Up (1) new Cummins, Diesel Powered Generator with the following features and options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250kw, Standby Rated, 120/208 volt, 3 phase, Diesel Generator • Sound Attenuated Level 2, Weather Protective Enclosure, Cummins Sandstone • 100% rated generator breaker, LSI Breaker, 1200 amp • Crane to concrete pad included • Battery (Lead Acid) • 5 year Cummins warranty on Generator • Battery Charger 6 amp • Start up/ with 4 Hour Load Bank • Exciter/Regulator-PMG • Coolant Heater • Cummins PowerCommand 2.3 Controller • Remote E-Stop • Cummins 800 amp, 120/208 volt, SE Rated, Nema 3R, 3 Pole Automatic Transfer Switch • Concrete pad for generator. *96 hour at 75% load diesel belly tank <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Any cost associated with utility companies not included. *Not responsible for damaged unmarked utilities ,water piping ,or conduits. *Removal of landscape hedges and flower beds for generator/ATS not included *Remote annunciator not included. *Removal of existing concrete encased conduits. <p style="text-align: center;">Estimated Lead Times= Generator - 20 Weeks / Transfer Switch - 13 Weeks Add 3% if paying with a credit card</p>	
WE HEREBY PROPOSE TO FURNISH MATERIAL AND LABOR IN ACCORDANCE TO THE ABOVE SPECIFICATIONS. FOR THE SUM OF:	\$ 303,427.00
PAYMENT TO BE MADE AS FOLLOWS: Per stored materials and monthly job progress	
<p style="font-size: small;">All material is guaranteed to be as specified. All work is to be completely in a workmanlike manner according to standard practices. Any alteration or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed upon written change order only and will become an extra charge over and above estimate. All agreements contingent upon strikes, accidents or delays beyond our control. Owner to carry fire, tornado and other necessary insurance. Our workers are fully covered by workers compensation insurance.</p>	AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:
	PROPOSAL VALID FOR: 30 DAYS
	AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:
Acceptance of Proposal:	
The above specifications, prices and conditions are acceptable. I hereby authorize all work as specified. Payment to be remitted as outlined above.	DATE AUTHORIZED:

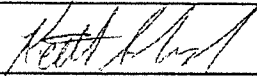
PROPOSAL

COWART ELECTRIC & INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS, INC

PO BOX 2345

VALDOSTA, GA 31604

229-241-1685/ FAX: 229-245-8438

SUBMITTED TO: <p style="text-align: center;">Pruitt Health</p>	DATE: <p style="text-align: center;">1-16-26</p>
ADDRESS: <p style="text-align: center;">327 North Ashley Street</p>	PHONE/FAX
CITY, STATE, ZIP: <p style="text-align: center;">Valdosta, GA 31601</p>	ATTENTION: <p style="text-align: center;">Amy Woods</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">COWART ELECTRIC & INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS, INC IS PLEASED TO PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pruitt Health Holly Hill</p> <p>Supply ,Install ,and Start Up (1) new Cummins, Diesel Powered Generator with the following features and options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250kw, Standby Rated, 120/208 volt, 3 phase, Diesel Generator • Sound Attenuated Level 2, Weather Protective Enclosure, Cummins Sandstone • 100% rated generator breaker, LSI Breaker, 1200 amp • Crane to concrete pad included • Battery (Lead Acid) • 5 year Cummins warranty on Generator • Battery Charger 6 amp • Start up/ with 4 Hour Load Bank • Exciter/Regulator-PMG • Coolant Heater • Cummins PowerCommand 2.3 Controller • Remote E-Stop • Cummins 800 amp, 120/208 volt, SE Rated, Nema 3R, 3 Pole Automatic Transfer Switch • Concrete pad for generator. *96 hour at 75% load diesel belly tank <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Any cost associated with utility companies not included. *Not responsible for damaged unmarked utilities ,water piping ,or conduits. *Removal of landscape hedges and flower beds for generator/ATS not included *Remote annunciator not included. *Removal of existing concrete encased conduits. <p style="text-align: center;">Estimated Lead Times= Generator - 20 Weeks / Transfer Switch - 13 Weeks Add 3% if paying with a credit card</p>	
WE HEREBY PROPOSE TO FURNISH MATERIAL AND LABOR IN ACCORDANCE TO THE ABOVE SPECIFICATIONS, FOR THE SUM OF:	\$ 316,914.00
PAYMENT TO BE MADE AS FOLLOWS: Per stored materials and monthly job progress	
<small>All material is guaranteed to be as specified. All work is to be completely in a workmanlike manner according to standard practices. Any alteration or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed upon written change order only and will become an extra charge over and above estimate. All agreements contingent upon strikes, accidents or delays beyond our control. Owner to carry fire, tornado and other necessary insurance. Our workers are fully covered by workers compensation insurance.</small>	AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:  PROPOSAL VALID FOR: 30 DAYS AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:
Acceptance of Proposal:	DATE AUTHORIZED:
The above specifications, prices and conditions are acceptable. I hereby authorize all work as specified. Payment to be remitted as outlined above.	

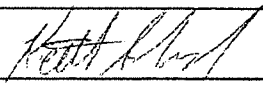
PROPOSAL

COWART ELECTRIC & INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS, INC

PO BOX 2345

VALDOSTA, GA 31604

229-241-1685/ FAX: 229-245-8438

SUBMITTED TO: <p style="text-align: center;">Pruitt Health</p>	DATE: <p style="text-align: center;">1-16-26</p>
ADDRESS: <p style="text-align: center;">327 North Ashley Street</p>	PHONE/FAX:
CITY, STATE, ZIP: <p style="text-align: center;">Valdosta, GA 31601</p>	ATTENTION: <p style="text-align: center;">Amy Woods</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">COWART ELECTRIC & INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS, INC IS PLEASED TO PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING: Pruitt Health Lake Haven</p> <p>Supply ,install ,and Start Up (1) new Cummins, Diesel Powered Generator with the following features and options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250kw, Standby Rated, 120/208 volt, 3 phase, Diesel Generator • Sound Attenuated Level 2, Weather Protective Enclosure, Cummins Sandstone • 100% rated generator breaker, LSI Breaker, 1200 amp • Crane to concrete pad included • Battery (Lead Acid) • 5 year Cummins warranty on Generator • Battery Charger 6 amp • Start up/ with 4 Hour Load Bank • Exciter/Regulator-PMG • Coolant Heater • Cummins PowerCommand 2.3 Controller • Remote E-Stop • Cummins 800 amp, 120/208 volt, SE Rated, Nema 3R, 3 Pole Automatic Transfer Switch • Concrete pad for generator. *96 hour at 75% load diesel belly tank <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Any cost associated with utility companies not included. *Not responsible for damaged unmarked utilities ,water piping ,or conduits. *Removal of landscape hedges and flower beds for generator/ATS not included *Remote annunciator not included. *Removal of existing concrete encased conduits. <p>Estimated Lead Times= Generator - 20 Weeks / Transfer Switch - 13 Weeks Add 3% if paying with a credit card</p>	
WE HEREBY PROPOSE TO FURNISH MATERIAL AND LABOR IN ACCORDANCE TO THE ABOVE SPECIFICATIONS, FOR THE SUM OF:	\$ 457,769.00
PAYMENT TO BE MADE AS FOLLOWS: Per stored materials and monthly job progress	
<small>All material is guaranteed to be as specified. All work is to be completely in a workmanlike manner according to standard practices. Any alteration or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed upon written change order only and will become an extra charge over and above estimate. All agreements contingent upon strikes, accidents or delays beyond our control. Owner to carry fire, tornado and other necessary insurance. Our workers are fully covered by workers compensation insurance.</small>	AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:  PROPOSAL VALID FOR: 30 DAYS AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:
Acceptance of Proposal:	DATE AUTHORIZED:
The above specifications, prices and conditions are acceptable. I hereby authorize all work as specified. Payment to be remitted as outlined above.	

PROPOSAL

COWART ELECTRIC & INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS, INC

PO BOX 2345

VALDOSTA, GA 31604

229-241-1685/ FAX: 229-245-8438

SUBMITTED TO: <p style="text-align: center;">Pruitt Health</p>	DATE: <p style="text-align: center;">1-16-26</p>
ADDRESS: <p style="text-align: center;">327 North Ashley Street</p>	PHONE/FAX:
CITY, STATE, ZIP: <p style="text-align: center;">Valdosta, GA 31601</p>	ATTENTION: <p style="text-align: center;">Amy Woods</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">COWART ELECTRIC & INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS, INC IS PLEASED TO PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pruitt Health Parkwood</p> <p>Supply , Install ,and Start Up (1) new Cummins, Diesel Powered Generator with the following features and options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 450kw, Standby Rated, 120/208 volt, 3 phase, Diesel Generator • Sound Attenuated Level 2, Weather Protective Enclosure, Cummins Sandstone • 100% rated generator breaker, LSI Breaker, 1200 amp • Crane to concrete pad included • Battery (Lead Acid) • 5 year Cummins warranty on Generator • Battery Charger 6 amp • Start up/ with 4 Hour Load Bank • Exciter/Regulator-PMG • Coolant Heater • Cummins PowerCommand 2.3 Controller • Remote E-Stop • Cummins 1200 amp, 120/208 volt, SE Rated, Nema 3R, 3 Pole Automatic Transfer Switch • Concrete pad for generator. *96 hour at 75% load diesel belly tank <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Any cost associated with utility companies not included. *Not responsible for damaged unmarked utilities ,water piping ,or conduits. *Removal of landscape hedges and flower beds for generator/ATS not included *Remote annunciator not included. *Removal of existing concrete encased conduits. <p style="text-align: center;">Estimated Lead Times= Generator - 20 Weeks / Transfer Switch - 15 Weeks Add 3% if paying with a credit card</p>	
WE HEREBY PROPOSE TO FURNISH MATERIAL AND LABOR IN ACCORDANCE TO THE ABOVE SPECIFICATIONS, FOR THE SUM OF:	\$ 423,866.00
PAYMENT TO BE MADE AS FOLLOWS: Per stored materials and monthly job progress	
<small>All material is guaranteed to be as specified. All work is to be completely in a workmanlike manner according to standard practices. Any alteration or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed upon written change order only and will become an extra charge over and above estimate. All agreements contingent upon strikes, accidents or delays beyond our control. Owner to carry fire, tornado and other necessary insurance. Our workers are fully covered by workers compensation insurance.</small>	AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:
	PROPOSAL VALID FOR: 30 DAYS
Acceptance of Proposal:	AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:
The above specifications, prices and conditions are acceptable. I hereby authorize all work as specified. Payment to be remitted as outlined above.	DATE AUTHORIZED:

PROPOSAL

COWART ELECTRIC & INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS, INC

PO BOX 2345

VALDOSTA, GA 31604

229-241-1685/ FAX: 229-245-8438

SUBMITTED TO: <p style="text-align: center;">Pruitt Health</p>	DATE: <p style="text-align: center;">1-16-26</p>
ADDRESS: <p style="text-align: center;">327 North Ashley Street</p>	PHONE/FAX
CITY, STATE, ZIP: <p style="text-align: center;">Valdosta, GA 31601</p>	ATTENTION: <p style="text-align: center;">Amy Woods</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">COWART ELECTRIC & INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS, INC IS PLEASED TO PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pruitt Health Valdosta Site</p> <p>Supply ,Install ,and Start Up (1) new Cummins, Diesel Powered Generator with the following features and options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200kw, Standby Rated, 120/208 volt, 3 phase, Diesel Generator • Sound Attenuated Level 2, Weather Protective Enclosure, Cummins Green • 100% rated generator breaker, LSI Breaker, 200-600 amp • Crane to concrete pad included • Battery (Lead Acid) • 5 year Cummins warranty on Generator • Battery Charger 6 amp • Start up/ with 4 Hour Load Bank • Exciter/Regulator-PMG • Coolant Heater • Cummins PowerCommand 2.3 Controller • Remote E-Stop • Cummins 800 amp, 120/208 volt, SE Rated, Nema 3R, 3 Pole Automatic Transfer Switch • Concrete pad for generator. *96 hour at 75% load diesel belly tank <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Any cost associated with utility companies not included. *Not responsible for damaged unmarked utilities ,water piping ,or conduits. *Removal of landscape hedges and flower beds for generator/ATS not included *Remote annunciator not included. *Removal of existing concrete encased conduits. <p>Alternate of the installation of new conduits to each panel *\$20.50 a foot</p> <p>Estimated Lead Times= Generator - 20 Weeks / Transfer Switch - 13 Weeks Add 3% if paying with a credit card</p>	
WE HEREBY PROPOSE TO FURNISH MATERIAL AND LABOR IN ACCORDANCE TO THE ABOVE SPECIFICATIONS, FOR THE SUM OF:	\$ 343,304.00
PAYMENT TO BE MADE AS FOLLOWS: Per stored materials and monthly job progress	
<p style="font-size: small;">All material is guaranteed to be as specified. All work is to be completely in a workmanlike manner according to standard practices. Any alteration or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed upon written change order only and will become an extra charge over and above estimate. All agreements contingent upon strikes, accidents or delays beyond our control. Owner to carry fire, tornado and other necessary insurance. Our workers are fully covered by workers compensation insurance.</p>	<p>AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: </p> <p>PROPOSAL VALID FOR: 30 DAYS</p> <p>AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:</p>
Acceptance of Proposal:	DATE AUTHORIZED:
The above specifications, prices and conditions are acceptable. I hereby authorize all work as specified. Payment to be remitted as outlined above.	DATE AUTHORIZED:



STATE OF GEORGIA
BRAD RAFFENSPERGER, Secretary of State
Georgia Construction Industry Licensing Board
LICENSE NO. EN216832
Thomas Gregory Ley

4349 McMullen Drive
Valdosta GA 31606

Electrical Contractor- Non Restricted

EXP DATE - 06/30/2026 Status: Active
Issue Date: 12/03/2015

GA #EN002616
GA #LU000581
GA #MO05366
FL EC-13001599
VA#2710041324



AL #01180
SC #M-97404
TN #045271
N.C.#25258-U

ELECTRIC & INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS, INC.
P.O. Box 2345 – VALDOSTA GA. 31604
Phone: 229-241-1685 Fax: 229-245-8438
www.cowart-inc.com
email: cowartec@cowart-inc.net

REFERENCES

Southeastern Grocers
Contact: Lawrence Melvin
Ph 904-545-0755

Lowndes County Schools
Contact: Randy Hughes
Ph 229-300-3718

South Health District
Contact: Lauren Robinson
Ph 229-415-0019

Georgia Department of Transportation
Contact: Jody Baldree
Ph 229-309-0189

Colquitt EMC
Contact: Richard Bushatz
Ph 229-921-7269

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: VAWA Continuation Grant Application

DATE OF MEETING: April 28, 2026

BUDGET IMPACT: \$105,483.00

FUNDING SOURCE:

- Annual \$26,371 Cash Match
- CJCC Funding \$79,112
- N/A

Work
Session/Regular
Session

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Acceptance of Solicitor General's VAWA Grant Award
AW-VAWA-25-013-037

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: On January 27, 2026, the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners approved the application for Continuation Funding available through the VAWA Grant Program. This grant funds budgeted costs associated with a specialized prosecutor to handle Family Violence and Violence Against Women Crimes. We were recently notified that our application was approved at the same amounts as last year; \$79,112 in Federal funds and \$26,371 in matching funds by the County. The performance period for this grant runs from January 1 through December 31, 2026. Acceptance of the award and activation of the award packet requires that the Chairman sign the award documents and they be returned to the CJCC no later than April 30, 2026.

OPTIONS: 1. Accept the Solicitor General's VAWA Continuation Grant Award AW-VAWA-25-013-037 and authorize the Chairman to sign all award documents.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Option 1

DEPARTMENT: Solicitor-General

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Justo C. Cabral, III

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

GRANT AWARD

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL


2025 VAWA Grant Program Continuation Application

SUBAWARDEE:	Lowndes County Board of Commissioners	CFDA NUMBER:	16.588
Employer Identification Number (EIN):		SUBAWARD NUMBER:	AW-VAWA-25-013-037
IMPLEMENTING AGENCY:	Lowndes County Solicitor-General's Office	SUBGRANT PERIOD:	01/01/2026 - 12/31/2026
PROJECT TYPE:	Prosecution	SUB AWARD AMOUNT:	\$79,112.00
AWARD NUMBER:	15JOVW-25-GG-00023-STOP	MATCHING FUNDS:	\$26,371.00
AWARD PERIOD:	07/01/2025 - 06/30/2027	TOTAL FUNDS:	\$105,483.00

Award is hereby made in the amount and for the period shown above for a grant under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) as set out in Title IV, of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, Public Law 103-322. The award is made in accordance with the plan set forth in the application of the Subgrantee and subject to any attached special conditions. The Subgrantee has agreed through the previously executed copy of certified assurances to be subject to all applicable rules, regulations, and conditions of the Violence Against Women Act. This Subgrant shall become effective on the beginning date of the grant period, provided that within forty-five (45) days of the award execution date (below) the properly executed original of this "Subgrant Award" is returned to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

Reimbursement/Payment
Frequency:

Agency Approval



Jay Neal, Director
Criminal Justice Coordinating
Date
4/7/2026

Awardee Approval

Signed Name: _____
Printed Name: Bill Slaughter
Title: Chairman
Date: _____

April 28, 2026

RE: Letter of Authorization

SG's VAWA Grant AW-VAWA-25-013-037

This letter serves as authorization designating Lowndes County Finance Director Stephanie Black and/or Rachel Bowen, Assistant Finance Director as signing authority for all future submissions of forms, documents and reimbursement requests for the above referenced Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant.

Thank You,

Bill Slaughter, Chairman

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Opioid Litigation - Six (6) Remnant Defendants

DATE OF MEETING: April 28, 2026

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: \$-0-

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Approve and authorize Chairman Slaughter to sign the attached Combined Participation Form.

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: A settlement agreement has been reached by six (6) Remnant Defendants to provide financial resources to combat the opioid epidemic across the United States. These defendants are as follows: (1) Associated Pharmacies, Inc. (and American Associated Pharmacies), (2) J M Smith Corporation, (3) Morris and Dickson Co., L.L.C., (4) Louisianca Wholesale Drug Company, Inc. (5) North Carolina Mutual Wholesale Drug Company, Inc., and (6) United Natural Foods, Inc. (and SuperValu). Special counsel for Lowndes County, Cale Conley, recommends Lowndes County participate in this settlement to receive funds to abate the opioid crisis.

To participate in this settlement and receive opioid funds from these Six (6) Remnant Defendants, Lowndes County must execute the Six (6) Defendants Combined Subdivision Participation and Release Form.

OPTIONS: 1. Approve and authorize Chairman Slaughter to sign the attached Combined Participation Form.
2. Redirect

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Option 1

DEPARTMENT: Finance

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Rachel Bowen

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

EXHIBIT G

**Six (6) Remnant Defendants’
Combined Subdivision Participation and Release Form
 (“Combined Participation Form”)**

Governmental Entity: Lowndes County	State: GA
Authorized Official: Bill Slaughter	
Address 1: 327 North Ashley Street	
Address 2:	
City, State, Zip: Valdosta, GA 31601	
Phone: (229) 671-2440	
Email: bill.slaughter@lowndescounty.com	

The governmental entity identified above (“Governmental Entity”), in order to obtain and in consideration for the benefits provided to the Governmental Entity pursuant to the six (6) Remnant Defendants’ Settlement Agreement (“RDSA”), dated February 3, 2026, and described further in Paragraph 1, and acting through the undersigned authorized official, hereby elects to participate in the RDSA, release all Released Claims against all Released Entities, and agrees as follows:

1. The Governmental Entity hereby elects to participate in the RDSA as a Participating Subdivision with each of the following six (6) Remnant Defendants that are parties to the RDSA: (1) Associated Pharmacies, Inc. (and American Associated Pharmacies), (2) J M Smith Corporation, (3) Morris and Dickson Co., L.L.C., (4) Louisiana Wholesale Drug Company, Inc., (5) North Carolina Mutual Wholesale Drug Company, Inc., and (6) United Natural Foods, Inc. (and SuperValu).
2. The Governmental Entity is aware of and has reviewed the RDSA, understands that all capitalized terms not defined in this Combined Participation Form have the meanings defined in the RDSA, and agrees that by executing this Combined Participation Form, the Governmental Entity elects to participate in the RDSA and become a Participating Subdivision as provided in the RDSAs.
3. The Governmental Entity shall promptly, and in any event no later than 14 days after the Reference Date and prior to the filing of the Consent Judgment, dismiss with prejudice any Released Claims that it has filed against any Released Entity in the RDSA. With respect to any Released Claims pending in *In Re National Prescription Opiate Litigation*, MDL No. 2804, the Governmental Entity authorizes the Plaintiffs’ Executive Committee to execute and file on behalf of the Governmental Entity a Stipulation of Dismissal with Prejudice for each of six (6) Remnant Defendants listed in Paragraph 1 above substantially in the form found at <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/additional-settlements/>.
4. The Governmental Entity agrees to the terms of each of the RDSA pertaining to Participating



Subdivisions as defined therein.

5. By agreeing to the terms of the RDSA settlements and becoming a Releasor, the Governmental Entity is entitled to the benefits provided therein, including, if applicable, monetary payments beginning after the Effective Date.
6. The Governmental Entity agrees to use any monies it receives through the RDSA solely for the purposes provided therein.
7. The Governmental Entity submits to the jurisdiction of the MDL Court and agrees to follow the process for resolving any disputes described in the RDSA.
8. The Governmental Entity has the right to enforce the RDSA as provided therein.
9. The Governmental Entity, as a Participating Subdivision, hereby becomes a Releasor for all purposes of the RDSA, including without limitation all provisions related to release of any claims, and along with all departments, agencies, divisions, boards, commissions, districts, instrumentalities of any kind and attorneys, and any person in his or her official capacity whether elected or appointed to serve any of the foregoing and any agency, person, or other entity claiming by or through any of the foregoing, and any other entity identified in the definition of Releasor, provides for a release to the fullest extent of its authority. As a Releasor, the Governmental Entity hereby absolutely, unconditionally, and irrevocably covenants not to bring, file, or claim, or to cause, assist or permit to be brought, filed, or claimed, or to otherwise seek to establish liability for any Released Claims against any Released Entity in the RDSA in any forum whatsoever. The release provided for in the RDSA is intended by the Parties to be broad and shall be interpreted so as to give the Released Entities in the RDSA the broadest possible bar against any liability relating in any way to Released Claims and extend to the full extent of the power of the Governmental Entity to release claims. The RDSA shall be a complete bar to any Released Claim against the Released Entities.
10. The Governmental Entity hereby takes on all rights and obligations of a Participating Subdivision as set forth in the RDSA.
11. In connection with the releases provided in the RDSA, each Governmental Entity expressly waives, releases, and forever discharges any and all provisions, rights, and benefits conferred by any law of any state or territory of the United States or other jurisdiction, or principle of common law, which is similar, comparable, or equivalent to § 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

General Release; extent. A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release that, if known by him or her would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party.



A Releasor may hereafter discover facts other than or different from those which it knows, believes, or assumes to be true with respect to the Released Claims in the RDSA, but each Governmental Entity hereby expressly waives and fully, finally, and forever settles, releases and discharges, upon the Effective Date, any and all Released Claims that may exist as of such date but which Releasors do not know or suspect to exist, whether through ignorance, oversight, error, negligence or through no fault whatsoever, and which, if known, would materially affect the Governmental Entities' decision to participate in the RDSA.

12. The Governmental Entity understands and acknowledges that nothing herein is intended to modify in any way the terms of any of the RDSA, to which Governmental Entity hereby agrees. To the extent this Combined Participation Form is interpreted differently from the RDSA in any respect, the RDSA controls.

I have all necessary power and authorization to execute this Combined Participation Form on behalf of the Governmental Entity.

Signature: _____

Name: Bill Slaughter

Title: Chairman

Date: 04/28/2026



LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Potable Well Testing

DATE OF MEETING: April 28, 2026

BUDGET IMPACT: \$87,820.00

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

Work
Session/Regular
Session

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Approval for Potable Well Testing

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: Due to ongoing issues with water quality at Alapaha Plantation and Stone Creek, staff along with Lovell Engineering Associates met with Scott Sigler, Hydrogeologist with Jim Stidham & Associates of Tallahassee, Florida. Mr. Sigler brings extensive experience working with municipalities in North Florida and South Georgia on well field development and issues related to the Floridan Aquifer. After reviewing test data from two of our wells, Mr. Sigler recommended extensive testing on the Alapaha Plantation Well #3 and the Stone Creek remote well to determine whether these wells can be restored to service. The cost of the recommended services is \$43,910.00, per well. Staff recommends approval of the potable well testing by Jim Stidham & Associates in the total amount of \$87,820.00.

OPTIONS: 1. Approval
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve

DEPARTMENT: Utilities

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Steve Stalvey

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:



Jim Stidham & Associates, Inc.

547 N. Monroe Street, Suite #201, Tallahassee, FL 32301
850-445-2862

Contact: Mr. Jeff Lovell PE

Client Information: Lowndes County, GA
Mr. Steve Stalvey
via: sstalvey@lowndescounty.com; cc: jlovell@lea-pc.com

Project Information: Evaluation of Existing Well Construction at Alapaha

Date: March 31, 2026

Per your request, Jim Stidham and Associates, Inc. (JSA) has developed this proposed scope of work and budget level cost estimate. JSA understands that Lowndes County is seeking hydrogeological support for the evaluation of well construction, hydrostratigraphy, and water quality at the Alapaha Plantation PWS system.

Task 1: Perform Geophysical and Video Inspection of the deep Borehole at Alapaha.

After an initial site visit for familiarity with the access and conditions, JSA will coordinate the video and geophysical logging of the deep Alapaha production well. This information will be used to examine the lithologic stratigraphy and water column stratification of the open borehole in the well. Secondary porosity (conduits and fractures), rock matrix and integrity as well as water column changes will be measured. The geophysical logging will evaluate temperature, conductivity, induction resistivity, gamma radiation and borehole diameter by caliper. Borehole aquifer connectivity will be evaluated under static and dynamic flow conditions by installing a temporary pump. With this information, a determination regarding the depth of possible column isolation can be made. If the conditions are appropriate, discrete samples will be collected from targeted depths for evaluation of variability in the water column. JSA will provide geological oversight and review of the data by a licensed Professional Geologist in the state of Georgia.

Task 2: Set inflatable well packers to isolate the bottom of the borehole from the top.

In a separate event, a temporary well packer will be set at a depth determined by the logging event. A pump will be installed within the packer for the collection of water quality samples from above the packer as well as monitor for pumping influence on the top of the column. Samples to be collected include: Field parameters of pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen with laboratory determined Color, Iron, Total Organic Carbon (TOC), TDS, Chloride, Bromide, and Total Sulfide.

Task 3: Summary Report

JSA will generate a summary report of the investigation's findings with an opinion and recommendations for remediating the water quality issues identified.

Alapaha Hydrogeological Evaluation Scope and Estimate

COST:

1. Geophysical Logging (Static and Dynamic conditions)	\$ 18,155
2. Temporary Packer Install and Isolation Testing	\$ 20,355
<u>Summary Report</u>	<u>\$ 5,400</u>

Projects TOTAL \$ 43,910

The cost estimate provided above is a budget level cost projection based on similar projects under similar conditions. It is assumed that site access and permissions for investigating the well will be provided by the land owner. No guarantees of water quality or aquifer capacity are offered or implied. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact me by mobile phone at (850) 445-2862.

Respectfully,
JIM STIDHAM & ASSOCIATES, INC.



Scott Sigler, MS, PG, CPG, LWC
Vice President and Principal Geologist

Notes:

We assume the well(s) will be open and accessible at the time of our survey work to allow for the unhindered passage of logging tools. If the wells are "capped" via welds or painted bolts, then please remove the cap and provide easy and ready access on the day of logging.
Lowndes County is contracting a pump service to remove the pump from the well separate from this agreement.
Our quote assumes that two days will be required for geophysical logging. After evaluating the logging results, a second event will be scheduled for Task #2.
Please note that the trailer-based logging rig is NOT an off-road capable setup. Access requires that we be able to drive up to and depart from each well under our own power, and we will not attempt to approach a well if in our experienced opinion we would require towing to enter or leave the site.
Logs and/or videos for each well will be provided as .mp4 files, and copied to a USB thumb drive onsite after logging is completed. The video will also be loaded to Dropbox with a link distributed via email or text.
While due care will be exercised in the performance of the proposed measurements and observations, in accordance with methodologies utilized by the general practitioner, JSA can make no representations, warranties, or guarantees with respect to latent or concealed conditions that may exist, which may be beyond the detection capabilities of the methodologies used, or that may extend beyond the areas and depths explored. The geophysical well logs will show subsurface conditions as they exist at the dates and locations explored, and it is not warranted that they will be representative of subsurface conditions at other locations and times. If, at any time subsequent to our work, different subsurface and well conditions from those observed are determined to be present, we must be advised and allowed to review and revise our observations if necessary.



Jim Stidham & Associates, Inc.

547 N. Monroe Street, Suite #201, Tallahassee, FL 32301
850-445-2862

Contact: Mr. Jeff Lovell PE

Client Information: Lowndes County, GA
Mr. Steve Stalvey
via: sstalvey@lowndescounty.com; cc: jlovell@lea-pc.com

Project Information: Evaluation of Existing Well Construction at Stone Creek

Date: March 31, 2026

Per your request, Jim Stidham and Associates, Inc. (JSA) has developed this proposed scope of work and budget level cost estimate. JSA understands that Lowndes County is seeking hydrogeological support for the evaluation of well construction, hydrostratigraphy, and water quality at the Stone Creek community PWS system.

Task 1: Perform Geophysical and Video Inspection of the deep Borehole at Alapaha.

After an initial site visit for familiarity with the access and conditions, JSA will coordinate the video and geophysical logging of the deep Alapaha production well. This information will be used to examine the lithologic stratigraphy and water column stratification of the open borehole in the well. Secondary porosity (conduits and fractures), rock matrix and integrity as well as water column changes will be measured. The geophysical logging will evaluate temperature, conductivity, induction resistivity, gamma radiation and borehole diameter by caliper. Borehole aquifer connectivity will be evaluated under static and dynamic flow conditions by installing a temporary pump. With this information, a determination regarding the depth of possible column isolation can be made. If the conditions are appropriate, discrete samples will be collected from targeted depths for evaluation of variability in the water column. JSA will provide geological oversight and review of the data by a licensed Professional Geologist in the state of Georgia.

Task 2: Set inflatable well packers to isolate the bottom of the borehole from the top.

In a separate event, a temporary well packer will be set at a depth determined by the logging event. A pump will be installed within the packer for the collection of water quality samples from above the packer as well as monitor for pumping influence on the top of the column. Samples to be collected include: Field parameters of pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen with laboratory determined Color, Iron, Total Organic Carbon (TOC), TDS, Chloride, Bromide, and Total Sulfide.

Task 3: Summary Report

JSA will generate a summary report of the investigation's findings with an opinion and recommendations for remediating the water quality issues identified.

Stone Creek Hydrogeological Evaluation Scope and Estimate

COST:

1. Geophysical Logging and Evaluation (Static and Dynamic conditions)	\$ 18,155
2. Temporary Packer Install and Isolation Testing	\$ 20,355
3. Summary Report	\$ 5,400

Projects TOTAL \$ 43,910

The cost estimate provided above is a budget level cost projection based on similar projects under similar conditions. It is assumed that site access and permissions for investigating the well will be provided by the land owner. No guarantees of water quality or aquifer capacity are offered or implied. If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact me by mobile phone at (850) 445-2862.

Respectfully,
JIM STIDHAM & ASSOCIATES, INC.



Scott Sigler, MS, PG, CPG, LWC
Vice President and Principal Geologist

Notes:

We assume the well(s) will be open and accessible at the time of our survey work to allow for the unhindered passage of logging tools. If the wells are "capped" via welds or painted bolts, then please remove the cap and provide easy and ready access on the day of logging.
Lowndes County is contracting a pump service to remove the pump from the well separate from this agreement.
Our quote assumes that two days will be required for geophysical logging. After evaluating the logging results, a second event will be scheduled for Task #2.
Please note that the trailer-based logging rig is NOT an off-road capable setup. Access requires that we be able to drive up to and depart from each well under our own power, and we will not attempt to approach a well if in our experienced opinion we would require towing to enter or leave the site.
Logs and/or videos for each well will be provided as .mp4 files, and copied to a USB thumb drive onsite after logging is completed. The video will also be loaded to Dropbox with a link distributed via email or text.
While due care will be exercised in the performance of the proposed measurements and observations, in accordance with methodologies utilized by the general practitioner, JSA can make no representations, warranties, or guarantees with respect to latent or concealed conditions that may exist, which may be beyond the detection capabilities of the methodologies used, or that may extend beyond the areas and depths explored. The geophysical well logs will show subsurface conditions as they exist at the dates and locations explored, and it is not warranted that they will be representative of subsurface conditions at other locations and times. If, at any time subsequent to our work, different subsurface and well conditions from those observed are determined to be present, we must be advised and allowed to review and revise our observations if necessary.