

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
WORK SESSION  
Monday, April 27, 2026

Chairman Bill Slaughter  
Commissioner Joyce Evans  
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker  
Commissioner Demarcus Marshall  
Commissioner Michael Smith

Vice Chairman Scott Orenstein was not in attendance.

Chairman Slaughter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

## **MINUTES**

The minutes were presented for the work session of April 13, 2026 and the regular session of April 14, 2026. No revisions to the minutes were requested.

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

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

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated the last full revision of the Local Emergency Operations Plan was completed in 2016. While the plan is reviewed annually, a comprehensive revision had not been completed in approximately ten years. He explained the document outlines the county's emergency management practices and is intended to assist outside personnel who may respond during emergencies by providing guidance on procedures and operations. Mr. Tye stated the plan will continue to be revised as new emergencies arise and technologies evolve. The update includes adoption of the Local Emergency Operations Plan along with a Lowndes County Resolution for Emergency Management. Mr. Tye stated that each city has the opportunity to adopt the resolution as well. Commissioner Marshall asked whether reimbursement is available through mutual aid agreements related to fire response. Mr. Tye stated the language is written to allow the county to submit eligible expenses for reimbursement if a federal declaration is in place. Commissioner Marshall clarified that reimbursement depends on when the declaration is made, and Mr. Tye confirmed that is correct. County Manager, Paige Dukes, stated that even with personnel costs and reimbursement opportunities available, the county must still carefully manage resources and remain mindful of the budget. Commissioner Smith asked for an update regarding reimbursement related to Hurricane Helene. Mr. Tye responded that approximately four million dollars in debris reimbursement remains outstanding and is expected to be available within approximately six weeks.