

### **FY2027 Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Application**

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant provides funding for Functional Family Therapy (FFT), which has been implemented since 2014. Mr. Tye stated this program is similar to the Strengthening Families Program (SFP), which is group-based; however, FFT provides one-on-one counseling services within the home for youth and their families. By the end of June, services had been provided to 54 youth and their families. This grant renewal requests funding to serve 59 families during the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Commissioner Marshall asked for clarification regarding the statement about reducing new instances of secure detention. Mr. Tye answered that the purpose of this program is to reduce the number of juveniles placed in youth detention centers. Mr. Tye stated that in 2014, the General Assembly recognized it was more cost-effective to require families to participate in intervention programs such as FFT rather than placing juveniles in secure detention facilities. Commissioner Marshall asked whether participation is determined based on financial need. Mr. Tye answered that certain criteria must be considered for participation in the program.

### **Renewal of Disaster Related Debris Contracts**

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated on June 25, 2024, the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners awarded pre-event contracts for disaster-related debris removal services. Contracts were executed with Ashbriitt 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 four (4) years. This will be the second renewal and the third year of the contracts. 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 approved a 1.9% price increase for Ashbriitt Environmental, based on the Consumer Price Index in effect at the time of renewal and consistent with the terms of the initial contract. This year neither Ashbriitt Environmental, DRC Emergency Services nor Southern Disaster Recovery (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. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if a price decrease could be requested. Mr. Tye answered that he would ask. Commissioner Smith asked if the contracts included a retainer. Mr. Tye responded that there is no retainer and that costs are only incurred if work begins.

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

EMA Director, Ashley Tye, presented the item. Mr. Tye stated in 2019, the Board approved a hazard mitigation application to FEMA on behalf of Pruitt Health. In January 2025, that application was approved, and Pruitt Health engaged an engineer to evaluate their facilities and determine what improvements were needed. A detailed specification was issued as part of the RFP process. Mr. Tye stated that in February 2026, the Board approved and awarded the project to Current Edge Solutions based on the determination that the company submitted the most responsive proposal. One requirement of the project was the submission of shop drawings for engineering review. During that review, engineers identified two deviations from the specifications: the bid documents required an aluminum enclosure, while the proposal specified a steel enclosure, and the specifications required a powder-coated finish while the proposal included enamel paint. Mr. Tye stated staff returned to the vendor for clarification, and the vendor advised they could not meet the specifications at the awarded