

price. Staff then worked with the Finance Department and Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency to ensure compliance with federal procurement and FEMA policies. Based on those findings, staff recommended the proposal from Current Edge Solutions be deemed non-responsive and that the contract instead be awarded to Cowart Electric in the amount of \$1,845,280.00. Funding for the project includes \$1,088,903.00 from FEMA, \$145,187.00 from GEMA, and \$611,190.00 from Pruitt Health. Mr. Tye stated there is no budget impact to Lowndes County. Commissioner Smith asked whether there were any concerns regarding the Cummins generators, and Mr. Tye responded there were no concerns. Mr. Tye also stated that Lowndes County has a strong history with Cowart Electric and stated that Pruitt Health would benefit from having local service support. Commissioner Smith also asked about the installation timeline, and Mr. Tye stated he is optimistic the project can be completed by the end of the year.

### **VAWA Continuation Grant Application**

The Solicitor General's Office, Victim Services Director, Karen Hayes, presented the item. Ms. Hayes stated 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; \$79,112.00 in Federal funds and \$26,371.00 in matching funds by the County. The performance period for this grant runs from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. The Solicitor General's Office requests acceptance of the award and activation of the award packet which requires that the Chairman sign the award documents.

### **Opioid Litigation - Six (6) Remnant Defendants**

Assistant Finance Director, Rachel Bowen, presented the item. A settlement agreement has been reached by six (6) Remnant Defendants to provide financial resources to combat the opioid epidemic across the United States. Special Counsel has advised Lowndes County to participate in this settlement to receive funds to abate the opioid crisis. Mrs. Bowen stated as a reminder, the funds received from these litigation settlements must be used for treatment, prevention, recovery support or other strategies aimed at addressing the opioid crisis. In order to participate in the settlement, Board approval is requested to authorize the Chairman to execute the documents. Commissioner Smith asked when these funds come in will it be voted on as to which program will be used. County Manager, Paige Dukes, answered our first recommendation would be the intervention and positive impact on recidivism numbers that Lowndes County Probation works through with misdemeanor probation.

### **Potable Well Testing**

Utilities Director, Steve Stalvey, presented the item. Mr. Stalvey stated that 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.