

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WORK SESSION
Monday, June 22, 2026

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Chairman Bill Slaughter
Vice Chairman Scott Orenstein
Commissioner Joyce Evans
Commissioner Mark Wisenbaker
Commissioner Michael Smith

Commissioner Demarcus Marshall 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 June 8, 2026, and the regular session of June 9, 2026. No revisions were requested.

APPOINTMENT

Lowndes County Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) Board

County Manager, Paige Dukes, presented the item. Mrs. Dukes stated the term of Mr. Raymond Conner expired June 30, 2026. Mr. Conner is interested in being reappointed.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Lowndes County DUI Court FY 27 Grant Award

State Court Judge, Ellen Golden presented the item stating the Lowndes County DUI Court has been awarded a grant for a total of \$162,743.00, with a 15% match requirement by the County in the amount of \$28,719.00. Judge Golden stated Lowndes County DUI Court is requesting a total amount of \$42,404.00 for the 2026-2027 grant period, with the additional amount being primarily for the salary and benefits of the surveillance officer's contract salary. Judge Golden stated the Lowndes County DUI Court began operating in 2017 and there have been 122 graduates from the program. There are 28 active participants in the program with a budgeted capacity of 30 participants. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked if there are graduates that return to the program. Judge Golden responded she believes there have been three (3). Commissioner Smith asked how long the program lasts. Judge Golden answered a minimum of fifteen months. Chairman Slaughter asked what is the number of DUIs needed to be in the program. Judge Golden responded that to be eligible, applicants must be charged with their second DUI in five years or third in ten years, or they could have a substance abuse issue. Judge Golden stated this program is for those who are high-risk offenders being arrested multiple times.