

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.

Lowndes County Accountability Court Grant Approval and Cash Match

Lowndes County Accountability Court Representative, Jennifer Fabbri, presented the item. Mrs. Fabbri stated the Lowndes County Accountability Court is funded through a reimbursable state grant in which they have to secure a cash match, which is fifteen percent, from Lowndes County, in the amount \$32,459.00, for fiscal year 2027. Mrs. Fabbri stated the county match did decrease from last year and there are sixty-seven (67) graduates to date and this program was started in 2016. She also recognized Judge Voyles for being named Star Judge for the State of Georgia at last year's conference. Mrs. Fabbri stated the Lowndes County Accountability Court was given a federal grant (which is separate from this grant) of \$45,000.00, to extend their peer program. This program allows Accountability Court graduates to return and work as a mentor within the program.

Lowndes County Juvenile Accountability Court Grant Approval and Cash Match

Lowndes County Accountability Court Representative, Jennifer Fabbri, introduced Ms. Jalisa Davis, Program Manager for the Lowndes County Juvenile Accountability Court. Mrs. Fabbri stated Ms. Davis started out as an intern from Valdosta State University, and she was hired to work as Program Manager in Thomas County and, since Mr. Geoffrey Martin left, she is transitioning to run the Lowndes County Juvenile Accountability Court program. Mrs. Fabbri presented the item stating the Lowndes County Juvenile Accountability Court is funded through a reimbursable state grant in which they have to secure a cash match, which is fifteen percent, from Lowndes County, in the amount of \$12,773.00, which is \$600.00 higher than last year. Mrs. Fabbri stated there are twenty-one (21) graduates to date and the Lowndes County Juvenile Accountability Court received full certification from the Council of Accountability Court Judges (CACJ) in June 2026. Mrs. Fabbri stated that Ms. Davis proposed expanding this program to include a mental health component in addition to its existing substance abuse disorder services. Commissioner Smith asked the ages this program serves. Ms. Davis responded ages 15-17 years old.

Acceptance of Infrastructure for Camelot Crossing Commercial Development

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated Camelot Crossing Commercial Development is located off of North Valdosta Road at the end of the existing Camelot Crossing Road. There are a total of three (3) roads that are shown highlighted on the attached drawing as roads 1, 3, and 4. Road 1 is 1,281.76' long which is an extension of Camelot Crossing Road. Road 3 is 250' long and Road 4 is 100' long. All construction and paperwork have been completed and Engineering and Utilities staff have conducted the final inspection of the construction. The developer has requested Lowndes County to accept the infrastructure, which includes right of way, roads, stormwater structures within the right of way, and water & sewer infrastructure.

Email Software License

ITS Director, Aaron Kostyu, presented the item. Mr. Kostyu stated Lowndes County has been using the current on-premise exchange model since 1999. Mr. Kostyu explained that Microsoft has found a way to do away with that on-premise model, so now the best option is their online hosted model. Mr. Kostyu stated this item has been budgeted, and the requested funding covers one year of service.

2026 Lowndes County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance

Finance Director, Stephanie Black, presented the item. Ms. Black stated that following the board's direction, there is a new resolution to amend a portion of the Lowndes County Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance regarding the distances for the sale of distilled spirits. Section 4-3(b) has been amended to change the distance for a church to six hundred (600) feet for distilled spirits and four hundred (400) yards for a school building. Ms. Black stated article 13 was added to this to handle establishments

that are currently within or meet the distance requirements that would be outside the distance requirements under the new ordinance. As long as the use is continued, those establishments would still be eligible to participate. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked why is one distance in feet and one is yards. Ms. Black responded that they follow the state law. Additionally, Ms. Black stated the ordinance will be amended again, possibly next year. Commissioner Smith asked to verify if this is dealing with distilled spirits on-premise and off-premise consumption, doubling the distance between churches and schools, and grandfathering those locations of the already established businesses. Ms. Black responded yes, as long as the current use continues. Chairman Slaughter asked if the grandfathering in applies to a new licensee. County Manager, Paige Dukes, responded as long as the use stays the same.

REPORTS - County Manager

There was no additional information to report.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting, seconded by Commissioner Smith. Chairman Slaughter adjourned the work session meeting at 8:44 a.m.