

to apply for. Chief Young stated Lowndes County Fire Rescue has been awarded a grant, and he wanted to commend Captain Garren and introduce him. Chief Young also wanted to thank Ms. Black and her team for their help providing documents as well. Chief Garren stated the goal was to help find money to offset some of the equipment that Lowndes County Fire Rescue needed. Mr. Garren stated they applied for numerous grants, one of which was the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant. Lowndes County Fire Rescue was one (1) of seventy-six (76) departments nationwide that were awarded. The Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant awarded a total of \$1.8 million dollars and Lowndes County Fire Rescue was awarded a total amount of \$32,146.00 with that money being used to purchase new extrication tools for Twin Lakes. There is zero cost to the county and the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will purchase the equipment outright for Lowndes County Fire Rescue.

Mrs. Dukes asked EMA Director, Ashley Tye, to update the commission with recently received information. Mr. Tye stated the contract just approved will prove to be beneficial. Mr. Tye stated GEMA notified the county office last week regarding policy changes with FEMA as it relates to disaster recovery centers. FEMA will no longer provide that service and if a local government opens a disaster recovery center, everything will fall to the local jurisdiction to maintain and supervise. In addition, there will be no door-to-door communications as provided in the past by FEMA. The only DSA (direct survivor assistance) teams will be provided upon request and they will consider going to festivals or large gatherings. Commissioner Wisenbaker asked whether the county had conducted door-to-door communications in the past. Mr. Tye responded no. Commissioner Orenstein asked if we could have a message prepared to notify the citizens of this new information. Mr. Tye responded yes, that our Public Information Officer, Meghan Barwick sends messaging and updates. Mr. Tye stated this information was received last week and time is needed to evaluate and determine the best course of action. Chairman Slaughter stated it is the County's responsibility to maintain a strong fund balance because any funding shortfall would fall on Lowndes County. Lowndes County will be responsible for ensuring essential services continue to be provided to the community.

Mrs. Dukes stated regarding the data centers, there is still not a data center project, no one has come in to our office and met with Lowndes County, and there are no locations to discuss other than the rezoning that everyone is aware of. Lowndes County is still in the process of gathering information to move forward to develop a draft ordinance related to data centers. There is no additional information from staff to provide.

CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD

Kat Meyers, 1307 Williams Street, addressed the commission regarding updating the animal control ordinance. Ms. Meyers also asked that the county allocate resources to make spay/neuter programs available as well as public education.

Mary Beal, 4841 Oak Arbor Drive, addressed the commission regarding her opposition to data centers in our community. Ms. Beal shared her concern regarding additional water use and asked why the commission would consider a data center in Valdosta.

Lauren Linn, 4039 Foxborough Blvd., addressed the commission regarding her opposition to data centers in our community. Ms. Linn stated that the issues of concern are industrial noise, water, light pollution, decreased home value and possible sinkholes. Ms. Linn asked that the commission choose the families who have invested their lives here.