

**MINUTES  
CALLED MEETING  
WARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025  
10:00 a.m.**

**The Ware County Board of Commissioners held a Called Meeting, Monday, March 31, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Ware County Commission Chambers, 305 Oak Street, Suite 201, Waycross, Georgia 31501 with Chairman Elmer Thrift presiding.**

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Chairman Elmer Thrift
<b>COMMISSIONERS PRESENT</b>	Commissioner Barry Cox; Commissioner Leonard Burse; Commissioner Timmy Lucas; Commissioner John Tindall
<b>COMMISSIONERS ABSENT</b>	None
<b>STAFF PRESENT</b>	County Manager James Shubert; County Attorney Tony Rowell; Deputy County Clerk Melissa Bennett
<b>PRESS</b>	None
<b>INVOCATION</b>	The invocation was given Commissioner Leonard Burse
<b>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</b>	The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Elmer Thrift

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Burse made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner John Tindall-aye; Commissioner Barry Cox-aye, Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

**GUEST SPEAKER: NONE**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. Consider a Motion to Enter Into Executive Session**

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner John Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye, Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

The Commission entered into Executive Session at 10:19 a. m.

After coming back into chamber, Commissioner Lucas made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Executive Session ended at 12:15 p.m.

**B. Resolution 2025-09: Establish a System of Payment for Services Rendered by the Superior Court Judges of the Waycross Judicial Circuit**

Chairman Thrift asked if there was a motion on this item. Commissioner Tindall made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-09. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion on this item.

Commissioner Tindall explained that this is an opportunity to get some assistance for our sitting judges once the county has some senior judges in place. He stated the idea to help with the back log of cases.

Commissioner Burse stated that the commission has consulted with the county attorney, sheriff, and the judges before making a decision.

Commissioner Tindall stated that HB 85 once approved will end the supplement that the county pays to the judges. This agreement will allow the county to get some services from the judges.

Commissioner Burse stated that judges have to retire and go into senior judge status to receive the salary. He stated that this in option is available for the current sitting Superior Court Judges.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner John Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye, Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

**C. Purchase Request: Five (5) Sheriff's Patrol Vehicles From SPLOST**

Chairman Thrift read the agenda item.

Commissioner Lucas stated that he has reviewed the request and he makes a motion to approve the purchase of the 5 patrol vehicles from the current SPOLST (2022) in the amount of \$297,878.00.

The Commission asked Sheriff James about the purchase.

Sheriff James explained that this request is to purchase 5 2025 Non-Hybrid Ford Explorers. He stated that the price includes the lights and cages. Sheriff James stated that the markings, radios, and camera systems will be installed locally. He stated that the explorers are cheaper than the Tahoe.

Commissioner Burse asked about the previous agreement to purchase 5 patrol cars per year from the 2014 SPOLST.

Mr. Shubert stated that there are no funds for emergency vehicles in the 2014 SPLOST. He stated that the 2014 SPLOST was written as Sheriff's cars, and emergency vehicles, which included ambulances and everything. Mr. Shubert stated that he spoke to Mrs. Yorke and she stated that the funds are available in the 2022 SPLOST. Mr. Shubert stated that the current SPLOST does not include 5 vehicles per year.

Chairman Thrift stated that a motion has been is there a second.

Commissioner Burse seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner John Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye, Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

**D. Resolution 2025-10: Change Banking Card Services to Ameris Bank**

Mr. Shubert explained that this is request to change the purchasing card from Bank of America to Ameris Bank. He stated that Mrs. Yoke is requesting the change because the quality of service from Ameris Bank will be better when addressing issues. Mr. Shubert explained that Mrs. Yorke stated that allocating the card expenses each month will be easier on employees. He stated that there will be no additional cost to the county.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is a motion on this item.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-10 to change P-card vendor from Bank of America to Ameris Bank. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Commissioner Burse stated that he thinks it is a good idea to have everything at one bank.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is any discussion on this item.

There was no discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner John Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye, Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

**E. Declare Items for Surplus**

Vehicle Maintenance Director Michael Carrin explained the request. He stated that the request is to several vehicles and equipment declared surplus. Mr. Carrin stated that the vehicles and equipment are not in service. He stated he would be glad to answer any questions.

Commissioner Burse asked questions about a New Holland Tractor and two school buses.

Mr. Carrin stated that the hydraulic pump has been replaced two times on the tractor. He stated

that the tractor would have to go to a dealer to find out why the pump continues to fail. Mr. Carrin stated that the buses are not needed. He stated that there is a bus available for the prison detail.

Commissioner Cox stated that staff needs to verify that the surplus equipment purchased from other governmental agencies can be sold.

Commissioner Lucas asked staff to consider repairing the New Holland tractor.

Chairman Thrift asked if there is a motion on this item.

Commissioner Lucas made a motion to approve declaring all items for surplus with the exception of tractor and attachments. Commissioner Tindall seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Leonard Burse-aye; Commissioner John Tindall-aye; Commissioner Timmy Lucas-aye, Commissioner Barry Cox-aye; and Chairman Elmer Thrift-aye.

**Manager's Report: None**

**Commission Comments:**

(These are Melissa's notes.) Chairman Thrift asked about the overpass, interest, check on Albany. Commissioner Lucas asked for a moment of silence for those who lost their lives in the wreck at Millwood.

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Burse made a motion to adjourn the Called Meeting at 12:36 p.m. Commissioner Lucas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Date proposed to be approved: July 14, 2025

  
Elmer Thrift, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

  
Melissa Bennett, Deputy County Clerk

7/16/2025  
Date

**[SEAL]**

