



## Lee County Medical Center for a Better Lee County

To Our Neighbors and Friends,

Lee County is committed to being one of the best places possible in Georgia to live, work and raise a family. To fulfill this commitment, we know that we must always look for ways to continue building **a better Lee County**.

That's why we are excited to take the important step of filing a Certificate of Need (CON) application with the Georgia Department of Community Health for a new 60-bed general hospital right here in Lee County – **Lee County Medical Center**.

Our Lee County Commissioners are spearheading this process with our community members at the forefront of our minds every step of the way.

### Why We Are Building a New Hospital

- The leaders of our County know how special our community is, and we want to see our area be the best that it can be. We are committed to ensuring that Lee County is as successful as possible – not just today, or five years from today, but for generations down the road.
- That's why we are committed to building a better Lee County. We want to protect what makes us unique, but grow in ways that will help us be strong in the future. And this vision is not just for our County residents, but for all of our neighbors in Southwest Georgia. We know that the more successful we are, the more we will be able to positively impact our surrounding communities, too.
- We are excited about Lee County Medical Center's role in these efforts. The hospital will provide local access to affordable, excellent healthcare, as well as a critical economic boost to our area that has the potential to spur additional growth across many local industries down the road.

### Learn More About Lee County Medical Center

We are making strong progress to develop the hospital. An important next step in the process has been taken with the **filing a Certificate of Need (CON) application** with the Georgia Department of Community Health for a new 60-bed hospital right here in Lee County.

- The CON application includes a variety of specific details about the hospital, including:
  - The **County will provide the land for the hospital**, along with the necessary infrastructure. The County will work with an **experienced developer to construct the hospital and an experienced for-profit hospital operator**, which will operate and manage the hospital. The Development Authority will own the hospital and the operator will operate and manage the hospital pursuant to a lease agreement.



- Expert architects will finalize the **design of a state-of-the-art, 60-bed general hospital** on Grand Island Road.
- The hospital will provide **both acute and emergency care services**, including an ICU, medical/surgical unit, inpatient and outpatient services, MRI and CT scan capabilities, and more.
- The hospital will provide access to great healthcare **for all patients, regardless of their ability to pay**. The hospital projects that it will provide total uncompensated care of nearly \$6 million in the first year of operation and nearly \$12 million in year two.
- The hospital will create **more than 350 good-paying jobs, and will provide important training opportunities for medical and professional students**.
- The hospital will **collaborate with a variety of community partners**, such as Lee County Optical, Lee County Medical Arts Center, Hughston Clinic, Lee County Health & Rehabilitation, and more.

## Next Steps

- The CON application review process will take approximately four months to complete. We will work closely with the state during this time, and if all goes according to plan, we will break ground on the new hospital later this year.
- **We're committed to keeping our community informed as we move through this process, and there will be many opportunities to stay updated along the way.**
  - Coming up on May 25<sup>th</sup>, the Lee County Chamber of Commerce will host an informal "Business After Hours" meeting. From 5-7 p.m., our County leaders will share additional details about Lee County Medical Center and answer any questions that the community may have.
- To learn more about our vision for Lee County Medical Center, see a list of frequently asked questions or sign up for the latest news, **please visit [www.ABetterLeeCounty.com](http://www.ABetterLeeCounty.com)**.

Yours in Service,

Billy Mathis  
Lee County Commissioner

Rick Muggridge  
Lee County Commissioner



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CERTIFICATE OF NEED APPLICATION FILED  
FOR NEW HOSPITAL IN LEE COUNTY**

*Application describes vision for Lee County Medical Center to provide choice in local access to excellent healthcare, economic boost to Lee County and surrounding communities*

**LEESBURG, Ga. (May 18, 2017)** – The Certificate of Need (CON) application related to a proposed new hospital in Lee County was filed today with the Georgia Department of Community Health. The filing is the next step toward seeking approval to build a new 60-bed general hospital in Lee County.

The County Commission has been working for months with a dedicated team of experts, including local physicians, architects, developers and an experienced hospital operator to achieve its vision for the new hospital, which is described in the detailed CON application. Similar to many other states, Georgia requires approval of a CON application to build a new healthcare facility.

“Our number one priority in building this hospital is to ensure that our community has a choice when it comes to accessing the local, excellent healthcare the people in our area deserve,” said Billy Mathis, Lee County Commission Vice Chairman. “Lee County Medical Center will not only provide this high-quality care to the residents of our County, but also to our surrounding neighbors in Southwest Georgia.”

The proposed hospital will be a full-service healthcare provider, offering both acute and emergency care services such as an ICU, medical/surgical unit, inpatient and outpatient services, MRI and CT scan capabilities, and more. The CON application includes a variety of specific details about the hospital, including:

- The County will provide the land for the hospital, along with the necessary infrastructure. The County will work with an experienced developer to construct the hospital and an experienced for-profit hospital operator, which will operate and manage the hospital. The Development Authority will own the hospital and the operator will operate and manage the hospital pursuant to a lease agreement.

- Expert architects will finalize the design of a state-of-the-art, 60-bed general hospital on Grand Island Road.
- The hospital will provide both acute and emergency care services, including an ICU, medical/surgical unit, inpatient and outpatient services, MRI and CT scan capabilities, and more.
- The hospital will provide access to great healthcare for all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. The hospital projects that it will provide total uncompensated care of nearly \$6 million in the first year of operation and nearly \$12 million in year two.
- The hospital will create more than 350 good-paying jobs, and will provide important training opportunities for medical and professional students.
- The hospital will collaborate with a variety of community partners, such as Lee County Optical, Lee County Medical Arts Center, Hughston Clinic, Lee County Health & Rehabilitation, and more.

“We are committed to ensuring that Lee County is as successful as possible – not just today or five years from today, but for generations down the road,” said Winston Oxford, Lee County Chamber of Commerce President. “In addition to providing excellent care to our community, we believe Lee County Medical Center will provide a critical economic boost to our area that has the potential to spur additional growth across many local industries in the future.”

The application review process will take approximately four months to complete, and the County expects to break ground for the hospital later this year.

“We are thankful and humbled by all of the support we have received so far – from local community leaders, physicians, businesses, residents and more. It’s clear to us that our community believes in the vision for the new hospital as much as we do,” said Mathis.

The County is committed to keeping the community informed throughout this process. To learn more about the County’s plans for the hospital, see frequently asked questions, and sign up for the latest updates, visit [www.ABetterLeeCounty.com](http://www.ABetterLeeCounty.com).

On Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, the Lee County Chamber of Commerce will host an informal “Business After Hours” meeting from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. to share additional details about Lee County Medical Center. Additional opportunities will be communicated throughout the coming months.

### **About Lee County**

Lee County, one of Georgia's original 32 counties, is nestled in the heart of Southwest Georgia. A rapidly growing community, we offer a full range of services and amenities while maintaining a hometown atmosphere.

Lee County is a unique blend of residential, commercial and industrial development with a traditional rural flair. Interspersed with creeks, lakes, plantations, and historical sites, the community offers excellent recreational opportunities that take full advantage of the moderate climate and beautiful landscape.

Our warm, friendly population includes many young families attracted by Lee County's award-winning school system. Located within the Albany metro area, Lee County experienced a 12.51% increase in population between 2000 and 2010 and ranks 61st in population out of 159 Georgia counties.

Lee County is dedicated to encouraging a healthy mix of residential, commercial and industrial development while preserving the county's rural setting and heritage. Our community's commitment to quality, well-planned growth ensures Lee County will thrive for years to come.

For more information, please visit [www.lee.ga.us](http://www.lee.ga.us).

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