

Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority

Valdosta Regional Airport is owned and operated by the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport Authority. This six-member authority was established in 1987 and is comprised of three appointees from the city and three appointees from the county. The full-time staff of the Airport Authority is comprised of the executive director/airport manager and 5 additional staff members. The following personnel are members of the Airport Authority:

Steve Everett - Chairman

Wayne Edwards – Vice Chairman

Nathaniel Haugabrook

Dr. James Sinnott

Anthony Payton

Jane Shelton

Jim Galloway - Executive Director/Airport Manager

The basic responsibility of the authority is to construct, own, maintain, expand and operate any and all public airports in the County of Lowndes. The authority is charged with establishing, maintaining and operating a unified and coordinated airport system for the public welfare, safety and convenience.

How the Airport Authority Serves the Community Today:

In addition to the Airport Authority, other airport businesses include Atlantic Southeast Airlines, Transportation Security Administration, Valdosta Fire Department, Advanced Air Traffic Control (ATC), Hertz, Avis, and four businesses in General Aviation totaling 52 full-time employees, 40 part-time employees and 10 part time contracted employees.

The Airport Authority partnered with Advanced ATC to operate the Air Traffic Control Tower and conduct on the job training for control tower students. This allows students to move from the advanced simulator facility at Wiregrass Technical College to live aircraft traffic. Through this program, Valdosta is able to bring students in from all over the U.S. for this special training.

The Airport Authority has met TSA mandates making our airport more secure in general aviation and commercial travel. This is attractive to prospects looking to secure their aircraft in one of our hangars, and reinforces security for our public sector traveling in and out of our airport.

Enplanements have increased year over year since 2008. We continue to promote the Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport as a safe and convenient option for travel into and out of Valdosta with free parking. We work to educate the public on benefits to make Valdosta-Lowndes County Airport their first choice for their travel needs.

To support the Industrial Authority in attracting Corporations to the Valdosta-Lowndes County area, the Airport Authority has recently built new hangars, including 6 corporate hangars.

Airport Authority Plans Over Time:

Four major projects are planned over the next several years:

- Airfield Drainage project nearing \$2M
- Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting building & vehicle replacement at just over \$2M
- Control Tower replacement at \$2.5M
- General Aviation Terminal replacements \$4.2M

A new Security Command Post inside the airport terminal should be operational soon.

Fourth flight to Atlanta or flight going west is desired.