



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3297

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Across Highlands County drainage has been an issue for many years. Hurricane Irma in 2017 and Hurricane Ian in 2022 drove home the point that a different focus had to be taken on this continuing issue. If drainage and flooding issues are not corrected they can lead to water quality issues. The quality of our surface water and the water that comes from the aquifer are very important on the sandy soils of the Lake Wales Ridge. Drainage projects and flooding relief are greatly needed throughout the county. Last year a new department was created: Critical Infrastructure. One of the goals of the department is to reduce flooding and improve drainage in water basins throughout the county. Every day we encounter additional drainage issues. With the creation of this new department funding is needed to develop a stormwater master plan for the county.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	500,000	74%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	175,000	26%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	675,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?



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If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

\$18,063,838; Emergency Operations Center Expansion. 911 Operator Dispatch Console upgrades, Special Needs Shelter Expansion, Road & Bridge Facility Expansion, 24-Hour Vending Library, County Jail Body Scanners, Healthy Families Household Assistance, Mail In Elections Upgrades

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

Highlands County Board of County Commissioners

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Director/Project manager - Project management (meetings, research, project coordination, project reporting)	75,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Contracted Services - Project analysis and development - Countywide drainage needs study	425,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

14. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?



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The goal of this project is to evaluate the existing surface water system and develop a surface water management plan and program to improve water quality and reduce potential impacts due to severe weather events (flooding).

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

The funds will be used to contract the development of a comprehensive county-wide storm water master plan which will address appropriate levels of service criteria, minimum water quality standards, inventory of existing assets, areas of need, and a recommended plan for implementation of storm water and water quality improvements.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

The proposed master storm water plan will address water quality and flooding concerns throughout the county which will address and improve water quality as well as help prevent roadway and structure flooding. These benefits will be realized by all citizens of Highlands County.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

General population. The majority of the funds will not benefit no specific group. Over 100,000 people will be assisted.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

Benefits/Methodology:
 A. Reduction in mosquito born disease infection/Lower number of reported mosquito bite related infections
 B. Eliminate or greatly reduce flooding in agricultural areas that can ruin crop yields/Lower reported agricultural lost revenue or crop yield numbers
 C. Reduction of contaminated or low quality water entering natural water bodies/Reduction in fish kills and other wildlife impacts
 D. Reduce roadway flooding during storm events/Reduced number of road closures due to water over the road or road body degradation
 E. Avoid storm water related damages and related economic impacts/Lower reported economic Impacts following major storm events

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?

Contractual milestones established throughout the project, non-payment of invoices until milestones completed

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

For Profit Entity

Non Profit 501(c)(3)



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- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only.

18. Have you applied for alternative state funding?

- Waste Water Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify)
- N/A

19. What is the population economic status?

- Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Rural Area of Economic Concern
- Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- N/A

20. What is the status of construction?

21. What percentage of the construction has been completed?



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0%

22. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/30/2026