



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2581

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Sarasota County is in the beginning construction stages of a Regional Fire/EMS Training Academy to support multi-agency training efforts and to provide educational opportunities for technical fire science and emergency medical services at the secondary education, on-going post-employment, and post-secondary education levels. The training facility will allow students who want to become firefighter/EMTs to attend school, receive their certifications, and get hired by regional departments. Since the inception of the project, the construction industry has experienced extensive cost escalation resulting in a total project cost of \$65,000,000 and have a plan for fully funding the project. Requested funding would facilitate the construction of a 20,883 sq ft classroom and administration building (to include five classrooms and a command simulator), which has a total vertical construction cost of \$9.1 million dollars.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,000,000	3%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	2,000,000	4%
Local	44,000,000	80%
Other	7,000,000	13%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	55,000,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	2,000,000	2431A	No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

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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Yes

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

Yes. School Board of Sarasota County has received approximately \$110,000,000 in federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

April 2023

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

January 2025

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.

Sarasota County Government, Sarasota County School District

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
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	Projected total costs are up to \$60,000,000, which includes site design, permitting, and construction. The \$2,000,000 in funding requested from the State will be used to support the construction of the primary classroom facility, which will contain five classrooms, locker rooms, and administration with a total square footage of 20,883.	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000

14. Program Performance

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



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This funding will assist in the construction of a Regional Fire/EMS Training Academy to support multi-agency training efforts and to provide educational opportunities for technical fire science and emergency medical services at the secondary education, on-going post-employment, and post-secondary education levels. The training facility would allow students who want to become firefighters/EMTs to attend school, receive their certifications, and get hired by regional departments.

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

This facility will offer educational and training opportunities to high school students, university/college students, and others interested in pursuing a career as a firefighter/EMT, as well as those currently employed by local public safety entities. Specific training activities include fire props and scenarios, search and rescue, trench rescue, confined spaces, EMS, aircraft and marine rescue.

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

This facility will educate, train, and certify emerging firefighter/EMTs and those currently employed with the Sarasota County Fire Department and other regional fire rescue agencies. In turn, these individuals serve the community and offer direct services to the citizens of the community by providing life safety, fire prevention, fire protection, fire suppression, and emergency medical services.

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

The target population includes high school students, university/college students, and technical school students, as well as those currently employed with SCFD and other fire rescue agencies. The project will serve hundreds of individuals within at least the local four counties and will continue to serve individuals in the target population over many years to come.

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

The outcome is improved quality of education for firefighter/EMTs. Measures include graduation rates, certification rates for firefighters and EMTs, and the percent of certified graduates that obtain employment within the field of study within two years of graduation. This outcome will be measured through partnership with the School District. Performance measures are tracked by data relating to graduation rates, certification rates, and employment within the field of study following graduation. Ongoing evaluation of these measures can lead to modifications in training and education curricula to foster improvements.

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?

Sarasota County contracts penalties could include our standard contract provisions including, liquidated damages; withholding payments and or termination of contract.

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



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- ☐ For Profit Entity
- ☐ Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- ☐ 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