



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2251

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

K9s United is a non-profit organization based in Jacksonville. It was founded by Debbie Johnson in 2015 following the tragic death of Baron, a St. Johns County K-9 Officer. K9s United supports Law Enforcement K-9 units throughout the state by providing much needed equipment and training when there are budget shortfalls within the individual agencies. When a request is made, K9s United goes directly to the vendor to negotiate a discount, purchases the item and donates the equipment directly to the agency. K9s United also provides life-saving first aid training to K-9 handlers and EMS personnel to increase the chance of survival when a K-9 is injured while protecting Florida communities. Additionally, K9s United provides multi-day advanced training seminars for K-9 teams across the state.

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	400,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	400,000

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)	400,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	400,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

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?



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2251

No

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

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)?

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.

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	First Aid Training Seminars, Advanced Training Seminars, Vehicle Heat Alarms, and Bulletproof Vests	400,000
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)		400,000

14. Program Performance

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

1) Provide valuable resources to K-9 units across Florida, such as bulletproof vests, canine medical kits, vehicle heat alarms and door poppers, and vehicle kennels. 2) Conduct multiple first aid seminars for K-9 handlers and EMS personnel throughout the state that provide potential life saving training for K-9s injured while selflessly protecting Florida communities. 3) Conduct multi-day advanced/customized training for K-9 teams across the state.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2251

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

K9s United helps fill budget voids and aid law enforcement agencies to ensure K-9 units have the programs and supplies the dogs and their handlers need most. Specifically, these funds will be used to provide essential equipment, such as bulletproof vests, canine medical kits, vehicle heat alarms and door poppers, and vehicle kennels. The monies will also fund life-saving first aid seminars for K-9 handlers and EMS personnel (topics include: combat injuries, hemorrhage control, airway management, wound management, snake bites, bloat, and other life saving techniques that may be required in an emergency situation.) Additionally, funds will allow us to provide advanced, customized training, such as problem solving, human detection, tracking, building searches, odor and narcotics/explosives detection, criminal apprehension techniques, and scenario-based training.

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

The citizens of Florida are the ultimate beneficiaries of the equipment and additional training provided by K9s United. These K-9 units help get deadly drugs off the streets in Florida communities all over the state of Florida. They find lost children and elderly adults and these K-9 teams put themselves in danger day in and day out as they protect and serve Florida's citizens.

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

There are hundreds of K-9 units across the state of Florida. K9s United wants to be a resource for any local law enforcement agency that is experiencing budget shortfalls and needs assistance equipping their K-9 units with the life saving equipment and training required to protect and serve our communities at the highest level.

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

As a recipient of these funds, K9s United will be able to grow as an advocate for Florida's Law Enforcement K-9s, by providing them with essential equipment, and giving their handlers additional training to help them in their job of protecting and serving the citizens of Florida. As a measurement of success, K9s United is (and will continue to be) in regular contact with the K-9 agencies that we work with to ensure that we are providing the exact resources and support they need.

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?

NA

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)



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2251

- ☐ 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