



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2050

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This proposed project will renovate a public structure at the Bartow Executive Airport and install the first International Remote Air Traffic Control Center in the world at the Bartow Airport and the first Remote Air Traffic Control Tower at Winter Haven Regional Airport. These public structures will support the attraction of the first public Remote Air Control Traffic Facility to be located within the United States along with the first Traditional and Remote Air Traffic Control Training Academy which will be operated in partnership with Traviss Technical College. Finally, Frequentis, an Austrian Company that is a global supplier of communication and information systems for control centers, will locate their U.S. Center of Excellence for Remote Towers in Bartow, FL as a result of this project and The Washington Consulting Group will locate their commercial air traffic control training operations at the Airport.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	210,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,100,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,310,000

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)	2,310,000	38%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	3,700,000	62%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	6,010,000	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.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2050

The Bartow Airport Authority applied for Florida Job Growth Grant Funding for this project. However, following Hurricane Ian, the funding was diverted to address the great needs of Southwest Florida. This is a time sensitive request and funding is needed quickly to secure the job creator for the project.

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

Yes

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

All airports across the nation were automatically granted a set amount funding based on their size. The Bartow Airport received \$151,000. This funding was used to cover payroll during the pandemic which offset the cost to the airport of additional sanitation, personal protective equipment and a two-week COVID-specific sick leave allowance that allowed employees to take the time needed to recover without using annual leave.

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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

9/31/2023

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/31/2024

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.

The facility and simulation equipment will be located at the Bartow Executive Airport will be owned by the Bartow Airport Authority.

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	This includes simulation equipment which will allow students to practice their air traffic control skills while at the Academy including visual database, supporting panels, and example content both standard and customized to the location.	210,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2050

Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:

Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering	This includes design services for the rehabilitation of the facility and parking lot as well as the actual construction costs for renovations. The renovations will include: roof replacement, floor coverings, new restrooms, doors/frames/hardware replacement, window replacement, exterior paint, a new HVAC system, all new electrical, back up power generator and parking lot expansion.	2,100,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,310,000

14. Program Performance

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

As a result of this project, the first International Remote Air Traffic Control Center in the world will be located at the Bartow Airport and the first Remote Air Traffic Control Tower will be located at the Winter Haven Regional Airport. This public structure will support the attraction of the first public Remote Air Traffic Control Training Academy, which will provide career opportunities for Polk County students without a college degree. This project will directly create 168 - 226 high-skilled/high wage jobs over a ten-year period and be a game changing capital investment within Polk County.

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

These funds will renovate an existing structure at Bartow Executive Airport which will in return attract a new aviation and aerospace job creator to the area. In addition, it will allow for the purchase of simulation equipment to support the Remote Traffic Control Training Academy that will be operated in partnership with Travis Technical College and Polk County Schools.

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

Citizens in Polk County and around the State will be able to get licensed as a Control Tower Operator, a high-skilled, high-wage job that does not require a college degree. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics the average annual wage for an air traffic controller is \$127,920. With no formal college education required, this means that a recent graduate can enter a high-demand, high-wage field approximately one year after high school graduation. Currently there are only two pathways into this career: 1) Through the Federal Aviation Administration's Control Tower Operator Certificate Program or 2) Through training provided by the U.S. Military. This training will be offered through the public school system, providing a more accessible option for citizens.

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

The target population for this project includes local residents but the project is expected to have statewide, nationwide and international impacts. In fact, the Florida Department of Transportation recognized this project as a Strategic Funding Initiative due to its statewide impact. It is expected that the Air Traffic Control Training Academy will attract students from around the nation and even internationally as it will be the only facility of its kind in the U.S. where individuals can be licensed in Remote Air Traffic Control. Each year, the training academy will be able to produce 64 licensed CTOs through the facility at the Bartow Executive Airport.

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

This project will result in the renovation of a facility and purchase of equipment to support the Remote Air Traffic Control Training Academy. The final outcome will be the completion of construction and opening of the Air Traffic Academy. The opening of this one-of-a-kind facility will be the measurement to gauge the outcome of the project.

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?

The Bartow Airport Authority suggests a percent-based penalty for failure to meet each deliverable without securing a contract amendment in advance.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2050

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)
- 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