



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

LFIR # 2378

1. **Project Title** 2. **Senate Sponsor** 3. **Date of Request** 4. **Project/Program Description**

Our goal with this project is to build a fire station in Dixie County and expand our Emergency Operations Center in the process. Our current Operations Center was designed with a future expansion concept for a station with living quarters when constructed in 2009. Since then we have added staff in our Fire Service. Our current EMS station and temporary fire station are not compliant with today's codes. They are too small for today's current staffing needs and definitely will not accommodate growth. We are not able to add apparatus or staff to meet the need due to lack of space. Our Emergency Operations Center is in need of additional office space as well. This project would accommodate both needs and allow our department to move forward as the community continues to grow.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds** State Agency contacted? ☒ Yes ☐ No6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	<input type="text" value="000"/>
Fixed Capital Outlay	<input type="text" value="1,347,500"/>
Total State Funds Requested	<input type="text" value="1,347,500"/>

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	<input type="text" value="1347500"/>	<input type="text" value="100.0"/> %
Matching Funds		
Federal	<input type="text" value="00"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/> %
State (excluding the amount of this request)	<input type="text" value="00"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/> %
Local	<input type="text" value="00"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/> %
Other	<input type="text" value="00"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/> %
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2020-2021	<input type="text" value="1,347,500"/>	<input type="text" value="100"/> %

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.



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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Funding for this project would include the addition of an approximate 7700 square foot addition of a Fire station with full living facilities as well as additional office space for our Emergency operations center. The station will be added directly to our current Emergency Operations Center and will be designed to meet current wind load/storm requirements. The construction will match our current ICF construction for the Emergency Operations Center, so as not to degrade its capabilities.	1,347,500
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,347,500



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11. Program Performance

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

This project will allow us to house all staff in this district together in a modern, safe facility designed for such use. Due to housing and apparatus storage limitations our EMS and fire crew are housed separate. Both buildings are old and not designed as fire stations. This causes safety concerns for our crews. Trucks are stored in temporary shelters with no wind protection. We see the need to add an engine but do not have room to house it or staff for it. The current facilities have no storm protection or back-up power, so we have to move staff to a shelter during significant weather. This causes response delays. We need more office space in our EOC, as we have added staff, but are forced to have them share offices. This project would allow for more space for the additions as well as future needs in both our daily crew assignments as well as enhance response from the EOC daily and during storm events.

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

With these funds, we will build a new Fire station to serve the central part of our County and the Town of Cross City with EMS and Fire response to about 75% of the County population and 100% of the Town. It will directly support our volunteer fire response to the town of Jena and the Town of Horseshoe Beach and all primary EMS response for both. With the station being built on site with our EOC, it will provide additional space for Emergency Response for disasters that the office must deal with, as well as additional support for daily functions of the office. It will provide office space for our Prevention Bureau and allow us to move all prevention staff to our administrative office. It will reduce liability to our County by providing a building designed to function safely as a fire station with proper exhaust systems and back-up power supplies and provide safe housing for staff and apparatus during emergency situations.

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

Direct services to the citizens will be seen in a more reliable response of Fire and EMS crews and a more reliable, safe housing and storage area for our crews and apparatus. This project will replace two buildings with one facility. It will reduce utility costs and improve efficiency to save money. It will allow for the addition of a County fire engine that is currently not present due to an inability to house it and the crew. It will greatly increase the fire response to a large area of the County. It will allow for the addition of another ambulance, that currently, we do not have room for as there is no safe parking or living quarters that are adequate at our current facility. It will improve the overall response that we are able to provide to our citizens. It will allow for staffing increases due to the proposed toll road that is projected to come through our County. Currently we are unprepared for this growth due to our lack of facilities.

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

The population served by this station is 50% of our County for primary response. It will incorporate the Town of Cross City. Due to the close proximity of the Town, the station will be offered to them for housing of their apparatus, as we currently share the existing station in Town and it is in need of replacement. This station is the primary County station for the Town of Horseshoe Beach who currently contracts with us for coverage. The two Cities are the only incorporated towns in our County. This station is the primary response for the coastal community of Jena. These two municipalities, the Jena community and outlying County areas that the facility would serve would incorporate about 50% of the County population. The remainder is served by our station in Old Town, but due to staffing, most calls require the assistance of the station that we are looking to replace, so this proposal would directly affect 100% of the County for fire response and approximately 50% for EMS response.

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

The benefit of this project will be in allowing for the safe housing of our fire staff and providing for growth that is currently needed and for further growth in the future. It will allow for increased response times that can be measured from past calls. It will allow for increased capability in our EOC by providing space to eliminate the current overcrowding issues and allow for future expansion in this facility. It will provide additional staffing for this office as the crews will be available to assist with many details when not on calls. It will prevent removing crews from service or calling in additional staff. This will be observed by comparing staffing cost and unit availability within dispatch records. It will provide offices for Fire Inspections that is accessible to all. The overall positive outcome will be easily measure by the increased staffing on calls, thereby increasing the on-scene safety. It will allow for overall better service to the citizens that we serve.

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 in the contract?

Failure of our Department to move forward with station replacement will cause our current crews to continue to have to run more emergency calls without additional resources because of the lack of ability to expand our department. We are seeing our staff turnover rates increase due to burnout. This has been a progressive increase in the past 5 years and now we are at a point that we can no longer keep up with filling vacant positions. Much of this is due to our inability to increase our response capabilities. We can't house additional crews. Our only solution to allow for more expansion is build a larger facility and we do not currently have the funding to do this. With the discussion of the new highway coming through our County, we expect an increase in response needs. Without additional facilities we will not be able to meet the need. The negative impacts will be seen in larger loss of life and property to our citizens and the thousands that will be traveling through our County.



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12. **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 owner of the facility is the requesting entity, Dixie County Board of County Commissioners

13. **Requestor Contact Information**

- a. First Name Last Name
- b. Organization
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.

14. **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

15. **Lobbyist Contact Information**

- a. Name
- b. Firm Name
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.