



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LFIR # 1738

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The Forest Capital Hall (FCH) Improvement Project includes electrical, sound system, and lighting improvements to the auditorium and stage area at the heavily used facility. The current electrical system, dating back to 1964 with the old fuse system, is insufficient for current needs and is potentially a fire hazard. FCH is the only public facility with an auditorium in the county and is used for numerous community events including but not limited to: music concerts, theatrical events, pageants, sporting events, conventions and regional gatherings, 4-H and the Extension Office, and disaster recovery and sheltering. Taylor County is one of critical economic concern and is a designated RAO and REDI area. Events at FCH have a tremendous economic impact on the community and having adequate infrastructure is critical for continued use and growth of events and activities at the facility.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?**

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2021-2022**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	81,675
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>81,675</b>

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	81,675	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2021-2022</b>	<b>81,675</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2016-17		152,327	3108A	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.**
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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.

The county received \$3,763,624 which was used for payroll costs for public safety personnel and Small Business Assistance Grants. \$166,582 in Florida Housing Finance SHIP funds was used for mortgage and rental assistance as well as utility assistance.

#### 11. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Electrical upgrades (\$34,600), lighting upgrades (\$20,975), and sound system and acoustic upgrades (\$26,100).	81,675
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>81,675</b>

#### 12. Program Performance

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

The project will provide for much needed electrical upgrades as well as sound system and lighting upgrades and improvements. Many of the larger events held at FCH have a significant economic impact on the community, bringing visitors into the area from throughout the south east for multi-day events and festivals. The State of Florida Bluegrass Festival and the Florida Forest Festival bring in thousands of visitors, with both being multi-day events benefiting hotels, restaurants, and retail outlets. In addition to the many visitors, FCH has been the heart of the community for over 50 years hosting a wide array of activities, events, and festivals and even serving as a place of shelter in times of need and disaster recovery.

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

As the only facility with a public auditorium, FCH is heavily used for a vast array of public events and needs. The improvements will enable the county to continue to host numerous recreational, entertainment, community service, educational, and cultural events and programs. Many of the events such as the State of Florida Bluegrass Festival and the Florida Forest Festival draw in large numbers of visitors from around the region which has a tremendous economic impact on the community. It is anticipated with the improvements, more of these type of events will be hosted at FCH, thus benefiting the local economy and tourism development.

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

The auditorium provides numerous services for citizens ranging from 4-H and educational programs, to sports and entertainment, to disaster recovery. For large events, lighting and sound equipment is often leased at a cost of approximately \$13,000 per year. Many events have distorted or muted sound and poor lighting if leasing equipment is not a feasible or an affordable option. Due to the serious need for electrical upgrades, most events have extension cords running along the floor throughout the facility which has the potential to create safety hazard as well as the potential fire hazard of the outdated electrical wiring.



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

FCH is a multi-use, multi-generational facility. With that, the target population is all citizens of the county. Numerous events ranging from 4-H events with very young children to veterans events which often have a older group of citizens, FCH is used by all. Well over 25,000 citizens will benefit from the proposed improvements to FCH. As FCH is the only public facility in the county with an auditorium and stage, all ages and abilities benefit from improvements to FCH.

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

The benefits will be an improved and much safer electrical system in the auditorium area of FCH and an improved sound and lighting system in the auditorium and stage area. Not only is the electrical system dating back to 1964 a potential safety hazard, the use of numerous extension cords throughout the facility for power is also a potential safety issue. The improvements will save an estimated \$13,000 per year in the rental of equipment needed to host entertainment, recreational, educational, cultural events, and festivals. The project will support and benefit current needs for a high usage-multi-use public facility.

**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?**

Considerable planning has been put into the upgrades as well as obtaining numerous quotes to have an accurate funding request. All deliverables and performance measures will be met by the county in a timely and efficient manner.

**13. 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.**

Taylor County Board of Commissioners owns, maintains, and operates Forest Capital Hall.



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#### 14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name  Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 15. 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

#### 16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number