



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 2501

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This request is for project management, engineering and construction to create a Fire/Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Station to provide services for an area in dire need, located in the State designated Rural Area of Opportunity (RAO). Within 5 miles, you can find the Spring Lake community (which includes 3,750+ residents/land owners), Sebring Regional Airport & Multimodal Logistics Center (1.8M sq. ft. of office/warehouse space), Sebring International Raceway, and surrounding agricultural and farmland properties. Since 2012, the Spring Lake / Sebring Airport area has been in discussions with federal and state elected officials to find solutions for this issue regarding the needs for increased fire and emergency medical services (EMS) support in the area, but to no avail. As the area population grows at an exponential rate, the need to address this safety issue is now too important to delay to protect the surrounding citizens, airport and raceway staff and customers.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	3,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	3,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	3,000,000	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 2022-2023	3,000,000	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.



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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.

Highlands County Board of County Commissioners received CARES funds (\$18.5M) and ARPA funds (\$20.6M), but these funds would not qualify for this type of infrastructure project, as it does not qualify as an eligible expense per the federal guidelines.

11. 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	Contractual Project management and construction services	3,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,000,000

12. Program Performance

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

Currently, the distance to the closest Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) station is below the industry standard. This new station will lead to faster response time, leading to better outcomes for the citizens, less loss of life and property, increased safety outcomes for the airport area, decreased liability on the county and passed onto the tax payers.

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

Fire & Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for the Spring Lake community (which includes approximately 3,750 residents/land owners), Sebring Regional Airport & Multimodal Logistics Center (1.8M sq. ft. of office/warehouse space), Sebring International Raceway, and surrounding agricultural farms and properties.

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

The primary service will be fire and emergency medical services (EMS), but along with those services come a large number of ancillary benefits. Faster response times for fire and EMS calls to a critical service area of concern, resulting in less loss of life and better health outcomes. In addition, this station will provide as an additional location for a "Safe Haven for Newborns", a law allowing babies less than three days old to be dropped off safely to fire stations without repercussions. In addition, funds requested will allow for fire/rescue teams to respond to mental health calls quickly, getting the patient to the appropriate facility to treat their individual mental health needs during times of crisis.

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



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The target population will be the general public, but will specifically be meaningful to homeowners and landowners in the direct vicinity, Sebring Regional Airport & Multimodal Logistics Center and its' tenants, Sebring International Raceway and its tenants, surrounding agricultural properties and farms. In total, appropriately 10,000 individuals will be directly affected by this fire/EMS station being constructed in this vicinity.

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

Construction of the facility will result in reduced fire/emergency medical services (EMS) response times, and the methodology will be to track those adequate response times, with a direct benefit of improved response times, resulting in better health outcomes and less loss of life.

In addition, construction of the facility will allow for decreased response times to respond to acute mental health crises and a reduction in the number of self injurious events.

The current service area rests outside of the five-mile radius used in the Insurance Service Organization (ISO) rating system, which therefore places these locations at the highest insurance rates. Having this station will result in a positive impact on thousands of residential and commercial business ratings, resulting in reduced insurance rates throughout the community.

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?

Contractual milestones established throughout project, implementation of corrective action plan, non-payment of invoices until milestones completed.

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.

The owners of the facility and the entity will be one and the same. The fire/rescue station will be owned and operated by the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners, and will be built on property that is currently owned by such.



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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