



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3148

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

4. Project/Program Description

The Wakulla Springs Basin, a tourism and water resource for District 3, faces increasing pressure from development and environmental changes. This project will address this challenge by creating a comprehensive geospatial map (GIS) of over 45 miles of subsurface underwater cave system. This detailed map will provide essential data for effective water resource management, targeted environmental protection efforts, and informed land use planning by counties in District 3. The project will utilize cutting-edge underwater drone technology, integrate existing historical data with newly collected data, and incorporate scientific research to develop a publicly accessible GIS database of the Wakulla Springs Basin. This project will safeguard the long-term health and sustainability of this delicate subterranean ecosystem to support the District 3 economic development. The total project cost is \$9,688,738 over four years.

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

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	2,576,697
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	2,576,697

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,576,697	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 2025-2026	2,576,697	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?
- If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future-year 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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Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

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?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. 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.

12. 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		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Funding for equipment and data collection: 1) two autonomous underwater drones with inertial measurement units, doppler velocity sensor, sonar sensors, navigation cameras, nitrate sensor, temperature and conductivity sensors, global navigation satellite system, and autonomy software. 2) one year of data collection expenses, travel and supplies	1,657,274
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Three contracted services: contract 1) geospatial contract for 25% progress to create a public GIS database; assist in data collection; convert legacy data and incorporate new data into the GIS database. contract 2) research contract for 25% progress to develop risk maps based on the GIS database. contract 3) research contract for 25% progress to develop a modeling tool to predict future basin changes using the GIS data	919,423
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,576,697

13. Program Performance



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

The Wakulla Basin GIS Mapping Initiative aims to protect the ecological integrity of Wakulla Springs by developing a comprehensive geospatial database. This will involve using advanced underwater drone technology to create precise 3D maps of the extensive underwater cave system that feeds the springs. These maps will help with land-use decision making, environmental conservation, scientific research, economic benefits, and technological advancements.

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

The Wakulla Basin GIS Mapping Initiative will provide four activities and services to meet its intended purpose. 1) Mapping the Wakulla cave system using advanced underwater drone technology to collect high-resolution 3D mapping data, water quality data, and conduct scientific surveys within the cave system; 2) Integrating historical data collected by scientific divers with new project data; 3) Developing a public GIS database that will be accessible to state agencies, researchers, and other stakeholders and 4) Conducting scientific research that studies the spatial characteristics of karst conduits, including conduit sizes, lengths, spacing, density, and connectivity using new data collected.

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

Citizens of Leon, Wakulla, Gadsden, and Jefferson counties will directly benefit from this project through: 1) access to groundwater quality and quantity data for community involvement in water resource management; 2) a publicly available GIS database of the Wakulla Basin Cave System; 3) public risk assessment studies for community planning and safety; and 4) a data collection service supporting scientific research on the Wakulla Springs Basin's long-term health.

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

The direct target population are the citizens of Leon, Wakulla, Gadsden and Jefferson (392,000). The indirect target population are visitors driven by business and tourism of Leon, Wakulla, Gadsden and Jefferson.

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 deliver two key benefits: Sustainable Economic Growth - By providing geospatial and water quality data, the project will guide development within the Wakulla Springs Basin towards areas with lower ecological sensitivity and higher economic potential. Success will be measured by the number of new buildings within designated development zones, alongside the acreage of preserved land. Improved Water Quality -The project will identify pollution high-risk areas by collecting and analyzing geospatial and high-resolution water quality data. Success will be measured by miles of water quality geospatial survey conducted in Wakulla Springs and associated streams.

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?

Return a portion, or the entirety, of the allotted funds to the state.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied



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- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

18. 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



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Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.