



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1276

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

State funding will support Seminole County's implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) by accelerating the transition to a modern, data-driven water system. This technology will enhance operational efficiency, improve leak detection, reduce unaccounted-for water loss, and empower customers to better manage their usage, promoting long-term water conservation. These improvements directly align with state and regional goals for resource conservation, resiliency, and infrastructure modernization.

The project includes replacing more than 8,000 water meters connected to potable water systems that influence the minimum flows and levels (MFLs) of Wekiwa Springs, an Outstanding Florida Spring, as well as the Little Wekiva River, the Wekiva River, and Lake Sylvan. The importance of water conservation in these sensitive areas is underscored by Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, which establishes the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,000,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,000,000	50%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	2,000,000	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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The County will continue replacing aging water meters as local enterprise funds, grants, and other resources become available. State support will help expedite this critical modernization effort. Across the system, approximately 50,000 meters require replacement, with the total project cost estimated at up to \$12 million.

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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

10/1/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

4/1/2027

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

Seminole County Utility Enterprise Fund

The program does not require new construction. Once funding is secured, the County will engage a qualified subcontractor to expedite meter replacements. The project is expected to take approximately six months to complete following receipt of funds and execution of the subcontractor agreement.

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.

Seminole County Government

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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Purchase of 8,000 Advanced Water Meters	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

13. Program Performance



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

State funding will help close the remaining financial gap, enabling Seminole County Utilities to accelerate the upgrade of its metering infrastructure technology. This investment will allow approximately 8,000 utility customers to proactively monitor and address leaks, promoting water conservation, reducing water loss, protecting the Upper Floridan Aquifer and Outstanding Florida Springs, improving operational efficiency, and mitigating financial impacts on the utility and its customers.

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

Installation of upgraded meter reading technology and 8,000 water meters for residential and commercial use within Seminole County's utility service area.

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

The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project will provide direct benefits to approximately 8,000 Seminole County utility customers by enabling real-time monitoring of water usage through upgraded smart meters. This technology empowers residents to:
Detect and address leaks quickly, reducing costly water loss and property damage.
Track daily water consumption through user-friendly digital tools, allowing for more informed conservation practices.
Receive timely notifications and billing accuracy, improving customer service and transparency.
Support long-term water sustainability, protecting the Upper Floridan Aquifer and Outstanding Florida Springs that serve as vital community resources.

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

The primary population served by this project includes Seminole County Utility customers connected to the County's potable water system. The project will directly benefit approximately 8,000 residential and commercial utility customers through the installation of upgraded smart meters. Indirectly, the entire Seminole County community, more than 475,000 residents, will benefit from improved water conservation, enhanced resource protection, and greater operational efficiency within the County's utility system.

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

The primary outcome of this project is the modernization of Seminole County's water metering infrastructure, resulting in improved operational efficiency, enhanced water conservation, and increased customer engagement.

Project success will be measured using both quantitative and qualitative performance indicators, including:
Leak detection and response metrics, reduction in average leak duration and volume of unaccounted-for water.
Customer participation and behavior data, percentage of customers accessing usage data and reducing consumption.

Water conservation outcomes, measurable decrease in per-capita water demand across the utility service area.
Operational efficiency metrics, reduction in manual meter reads, maintenance hours, and billing discrepancies.

These outcomes will be monitored through the County's AMI data management platform, annual performance reports, and comparisons against baseline water-use and loss data collected prior to project implementation.

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 of funds to FDEP

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)



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- ☐ 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
- ☐ 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):

Please complete questions 17 through 21 for Water Projects only.

17. Have you been awarded or applied for alternative state funding for this project?

- ☐ Water Quality Improvement Grant Program
- ☐ Resilient Florida Grant Program
- ☐ Wastewater Revolving Loan
- ☐ Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- ☐ Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- ☐ Other (please specify, ex. Alternative Water Supply Grants)
- ☒ N/A



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18. What is the population economic status?

- ☐ Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- ☐ Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- ☐ Rural Area of Economic Concern
- ☐ Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- ☒ N/A

19. What is the status of construction?

Meters will be purchased upon receipt of funds.

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

0

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

4/1/2027

22. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

23. 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 Ext.



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24. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name	George Oscar Anderson
b. Firm Name	The Southern Group
c. E-mail Address	anderson@thesouthernngroup.com
d. Phone Number	(850)671-4401

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