



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1387

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The requested funds will be used to purchase three drones and provide any officer training. The goal of the drone purchase and training will be to enhance public safety throughout the City of Sarasota by providing aerial support for critical incidents, support tactical operations, assist with marine water rescues, traffic incidents, and disaster response. The drones would be deployed remotely from the Sarasota Police Department's Realtime Operations Center (ROC).

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	1,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
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	80%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	250,000	20%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	1,250,000	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.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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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	Purchase of three drone equipment and any needed officer training.	1,000,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

13. Program Performance

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

The requested funds will be used to purchase three drones and provide any officer training. The goal of the drone purchase and training will be to enhance public safety throughout the City of Sarasota by providing aerial support for critical incidents, support tactical operations, assist with marine water rescues, traffic incidents, and disaster response. The drones would be deployed remotely from the Sarasota Police Department's Realtime Operations Center (ROC).

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

Purchase of three drones to enhance public safety throughout the City of Sarasota by providing aerial support for critical incidents, support tactical operations, assist with marine water rescues, traffic incidents, and disaster response. The drones would be deployed remotely from the Sarasota Police Department's Realtime Operations Center (ROC).



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

The drones will be used to assist residents and citizens during a natural disaster for search and rescue services, delivery suppliers and other similar services.

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

The target population serviced by this project will be approximately 57,000 residents of the City of Sarasota.

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

The expected benefit or outcome will include: (1) enhance/preserve/improve environmental/fish/wildlife quality by using the equipment during marine events and marine recreational uses to spot various vulnerable wildlife areas; (2) protect the general public from harm by assisting in criminal investigations, traffic incidents, search and rescue missions during natural disasters and marine area search and rescue. Drones would also reduce response time in critical incidents and disaster response; (3) improve transportation conditions by improving response to traffic incidents and tracking/reporting other traffic and pedestrian patterns on city roadways, which data may be used to better protect drivers and pedestrians. The methodology to measure the outcomes will include, monitoring improvements through police and safety reports filed with the Sarasota Police Department.

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?

Penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures would include: a) a return of funding and, b) a report explaining why the deliverables or performance measures were not met.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

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
- ☐ 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)?



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- ☐ 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
- ☐ 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



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