



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1456

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Gulf County Board of County Commissioners is requesting funding to establish a Regional Firefighting Training Facility designed to serve local fire departments, emergency responders, and mutual aid partners across the region. This facility will provide hands-on training to improve firefighter safety, readiness, and response capabilities. By centralizing training in Gulf County, the program will reduce travel costs for rural departments, standardizes training quality, and enhances regional emergency preparedness.

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	1,200,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,200,000</b>

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)	1,200,000	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 2026-2027</b>	<b>1,200,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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)?

Yes

##### c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

7/1/2026

##### d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

6/30/2027

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

Gulf County will be seeking a combination of local and recurring public-safety funding sources to sustain the ongoing operations and maintenance of the Training Facility.

#### 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.

Gulf County Board of County Commissioners

#### 12. 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</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	Gulf County Board of County Commissioners owns an unused former fire station in Wewahitchka, FL near the current White City Fire Department in Gulf County. The funding request will assist with remodeling and renovation into a fully operational training facility with classrooms, storage, and support spaces.	1,200,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,200,000</b>

#### 13. Program Performance

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

Currently, Gulf County's firefighters must travel significant distances-often out of the county- for essential training, which limits opportunities and coordinated response practice. Smaller volunteer departments in fiscally constrained counties are especially disadvantaged. This local facility will help create a dedicated training site that allows for hands on training for the region. By centralizing training in Gulf County, the program will reduce travel costs for rural departments, standardizes training quality, and enhances regional emergency preparedness.



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

This facility will be dedicated exclusively to the training and certification of volunteer firefighters, beginning with a targeted recruitment and training program for high school seniors in partnership with the Gulf County School Board. Additionally, all nine Gulf County volunteer fire departments will also be able to train new recruits and hold necessary training exercises at the new facility.

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

The establishment of the Gulf County Regional Firefighter Training Facility represents a transformative opportunity to meet a pressing community need with long-term benefits for public safety, youth development, and regional resilience.

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

The entire population of Gulf County will benefit from this training facility as more trained firefighter will benefit the County as a whole. The current population of Gulf County is 16,947. This facility will be dedicated exclusively to the training and certification of volunteer firefighters, beginning with a targeted recruitment and training program for high school seniors in partnership with the Gulf County School Board. Additionally, all nine Gulf County volunteer fire departments will be able to train new recruits and hold training exercises at the new facility.

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

The establishment of the Gulf County Regional Firefighter Training Facility represents a transformative opportunity to meet a pressing community need with long-term benefits for public safety, youth development, and regional resilience. Once operational, the training facility will be sustained through partnerships with local government agencies, volunteer fire departments, and school districts. The initial high school program will serve as a model for expansion into neighboring counties, with the long-term goal of creating a regional training hub for the tri-county area.

**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?**

Failing to meet deliverables or performance measures would impact future funding request.

**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#:**



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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
- ☐ Other (please specify)

d. First Name  Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 19. Lobbyist Contact Information



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a. Name	<input type="text" value="Christopher T. Dawson"/>
b. Firm Name	<input type="text" value="GrayRobinson PA"/>
c. E-mail Address	<input type="text" value="chris.dawson@gray-robinson.com"/>
d. Phone Number	<input type="text" value="(407)843-8880"/>

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