



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1467

1. Project Title Wakulla County Fire Rescue Training Burn Tower & Emergency Vehicle Ops Course Facility

2. Senate Sponsor Corey Simon

3. Date of Request 11/10/2025

4. Project/Program Description

Funds are needed to design and construct a live-fire training burn tower and an Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) to train Wakulla County Fire Rescue personnel and regional partners. This multi-faceted, modern facility will provide realistic, state-of-the-art fire and vehicle operation training locally and regionally improving safety, preparedness, and emergency response effectiveness in this Rural Area of Opportunity. Use in pre- and post-disaster recovery response logistical staging for disaster recovery efforts; dual-use EVOC course to serve as critical space for staging first responder operations and coordinating recovery efforts; setup of points of distribution (PODS); essential supplies and services, collaborate with local, state, federal, and regional disaster relief agencies such as FEMA, FDEM, FDLE, National Guard, etc.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Financial Services

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,300,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,300,000

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)	2,300,000	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 2026-2027	2,300,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

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? No

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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

07/01/2027

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

6/30/2028

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

Wakulla County Annual Budget

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.

Wakulla County is both the owner 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	N/A	0
Other Salary and Benefits	N/A	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	N/A	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	N/A	0
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	N/A	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	N/A	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	N/A	0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Contractual preliminary engineering, design, site preparation, engineering during construction, on-site observation, project management, and construction services	2,300,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,300,000

13. Program Performance

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

Goal is to design and construct a premier regional modern Fire Rescue Training Burn Tower Facility to expand regional capacity for live-fire simulation and emergency vehicle operations training, improving response readiness and reducing accidents; educational opportunities for emergency service personnel and first-responders, including a 4-story burn tower and Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC).

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



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To seek contractual services through the County's procurement policies and procedures for preliminary engineering, design, site preparation, engineering during construction, on-site observation, project management, and construction of the 4-story fire training tower and the Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) course.

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

Direct services to citizenry and the community include improved firefighter preparedness and vehicle operator safety delivery faster, more effective emergency response to protect life, health, and property. Improves quality of life for this Rural Area of Opportunity. Coordinated recovery efforts pre & post- disaster events with local, state, federal, and regional disaster relief agencies such as FEMA, FDEM, FDLE, National Guard, and others ensures efficient and effective emergency services regionally.

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

The State of Florida through regional emergency training and preparedness, allows for appropriate facilities to collaborate with local, state, federal, and regional disaster relief agencies such as FEMA, FDEM, FDLE, National Guard, and others. The facility would not only serve Wakulla County but also support neighboring communities during natural disasters; all citizens, visitors, business community and public safety personnel within Wakulla County and regional mutual-aid partners.

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

Improved physical & mental health of first responders/citizenry; enhanced public safety, increased economic self-sufficiency and activity, transportation safety improvements via EVOC course. Measure is implementation and completion of training programs; certifications issued, incident and response records; employment records, and regional use of the facility.

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?

Withhold payments until milestones are met; require corrective action plans for non-performance.

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="Connie Vanassche"/>
b. Firm Name	<input type="text" value="CAS Governmental Services LLC"/>
c. E-mail Address	<input type="text" value="ccvgovser@gmail.com"/>
d. Phone Number	<input type="text" value="(561)512-0089"/>

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