



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1497

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Franklin County is requesting funding to support a down payment for the replacement of the St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department's (SGI VFD) aging aerial apparatus, which has been in service for over 25 years and has reached the end of its reliable operational life. The proposed replacement, a 2029 E-One 100' RM Aerial Platform, represents a modern, National Fire Protection Association-compliant ladder and tower truck designed to enhance emergency response capabilities, improve firefighter safety, and ensure continued operational readiness for the island's volunteer fire service. This investment will directly support life safety, structural fire suppression, and rescue operations in a geographically isolated coastal community, where reliable equipment is critical to protecting residents, visitors, and property.

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
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,000,000</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)	1,000,000	48%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	1,100,000	52%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>	<b>2,100,000</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.



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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
<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	Down payment for a 2029 E-One 100' RM Aerial Platform on a Typhoon chassis	1,000,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,000,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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



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The specific purpose of the requested funds is to provide a down payment for the replacement of Ladder 7, the St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department's 25-year-old aerial apparatus, which has reached the end of its reliable service life. The proposed replacement—a 2029 E-One 100' RM Aerial Platform—will ensure continued operational readiness, enhance firefighter safety, and bring the department into compliance with current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. This investment directly supports the department's ability to respond effectively to structural fires, rescue operations, and life safety emergencies in a remote coastal community where dependable equipment is essential.

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

To meet the intended purpose of replacing the St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department's aging aerial apparatus, the requested funds will support the following activities and services:

- Procurement Coordination: Initiating the purchase process for the 2029 E-One 100' RM Aerial Platform, including securing the down payment and finalizing vendor agreements.
- Compliance Assurance: Ensuring the new apparatus meets current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards for aerial equipment, firefighter safety, and operational readiness.
- Operational Integration: Preparing the department for deployment of the new unit, including training, equipment transfer, and readiness testing.

These activities will directly support public safety and emergency preparedness for residents and visitors of St. George Island.

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

The 2029 E-One 100' RM Aerial Platform truck is essential to meeting both the current and future operational needs of the St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department. This modern aerial apparatus will significantly enhance the department's ability to respond effectively to emergency situations, particularly in a community where 96% of single-family dwellings (1,539 out of 1,602) are two stories or taller. St. George Island's unique vertical residential profile demands specialized equipment capable of reaching elevated structures quickly and safely. The new aerial platform will ensure timely access for fire suppression and rescue operations, improve firefighter safety, and maintain compliance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, ultimately safeguarding lives and property in this geographically isolated coastal community.

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

The St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department serves a year-round population of approximately 1,100 residents and over 20,000 annual tourists, providing critical emergency response services in a geographically isolated coastal community. Franklin County has only two aerial apparatus units—one operated by SGI VFD and the other by Carrabelle VFD. If either unit is out of service, the county must rely on mutual aid from neighboring jurisdictions, which significantly increases response times and reduces fire ground efficiency. Replacing SGI's aging aerial truck with a modern, NFPA-compliant apparatus will ensure uninterrupted service, enhance firefighter safety, and maintain rapid, effective emergency response capabilities for the thousands of individuals who live in or visit the island each year.

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

The expected outcome of this project is the successful acquisition and deployment of a modern, NFPA-compliant aerial apparatus that replaces the aging Ladder 7 unit and restores full operational readiness to the St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department. This will improve emergency response times, enhance firefighter safety, and ensure reliable service for the island's 1,100 residents and 20,000+ annual visitors. Success will be measured through completion of the purchase, compliance verification, operational testing, reduced reliance on mutual aid, and documented improvements in incident response capability.

**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?**

Franklin County will work with the contracting agency to determine applicable measures should funding be made available.

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

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



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- ☐ 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)?**

- ☐ 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**



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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

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