



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1504

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Franklin County is requesting funding to provide the 50% non-Federal cost share for a shoreline modeling and sediment transport study focused on Bob Sike's Cut and surrounding areas of St. George Island. This project is being advanced through a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under its Planning Assistance to States program. The County seeks to procure professional engineering services to generate science-based data that will improve understanding of shoreline erosion, sediment movement, and inlet dynamics. These insights are critical for guiding future restoration, storm protection, and beach management strategies. The scope of work for this effort has been formally approved by USACE's division office, ensuring technical rigor and alignment with Federal planning standards.

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	300,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	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)	300,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	300,000	50%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	600,000	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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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?

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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Procure professional engineering services to provide science based information to help understand shoreline erosion and sediment transport along St George Island in the vicinity of Bob Sike's Cut and the coastal community of St George Island.	300,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		300,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The primary objective of this project is to develop a regional sediment budget and modeling tool to better understand inlet morphology and shoreline change affecting Franklin County's barrier islands. These coastal systems are dynamic and vulnerable to erosion, storm impacts, and sea level rise. The total project budget is \$600,000, structured as a 50/50 cost share between Federal and non-Federal sources. This funding will support all study phases, including data collection, modeling, analysis, and documentation. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will lead the technical effort, providing deliverables that include detailed modeling outputs, sediment transport analysis, and shoreline change projections. Upon completion, USACE will furnish comprehensive documentation of the modeling development and findings, which will inform future coastal restoration, inlet management, and hazard mitigation strategies.

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

The main tasks are listed below:

1. Gather and assess existing information in the area, including native sediment characteristics, topographic and hydrographic surveys, shoreline positions, hydrodynamics and existing numerical modeling tools.
2. Develop updated shoreline changes and sediment budgets.
3. Determine approximate modeling suite and domain setup.
4. Calibrate and validate using historical data (waves, water levels, shoreline change and observed sediment transport).
5. Hindcast modeling of the system to evaluate shoreline changes, sediment fluxes and morphological changes.
6. Document the analysis and modeling tool development in a written report.

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

This project will provide citizens with improved coastal protection by supporting data-driven shoreline management and erosion mitigation. Residential development on St. George Island began in the 1980s, roughly two decades after the construction of the St. George Island Channel, which continues to influence sediment movement and shoreline vulnerability. In 2024, a restoration feasibility study was completed to address long-term erosion, enhance storm protection, preserve natural resources, and guide future beach management. The modeling tool funded by this appropriation will build on that foundation, helping safeguard homes, infrastructure, and recreational assets from coastal storm impacts.

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

Franklin County - 13,330 county residents

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 a scientifically validated understanding of sediment transport, shoreline change, and inlet dynamics affecting St. George Island and adjacent coastal areas. This will directly inform erosion mitigation, storm protection, and long-term beach management strategies. The methodology centers on the development and application of the Coastal Modeling System (CMS), which will simulate how sediment particles move within the system. Modeling inputs will include hydrodynamics, existing bathymetry, native sediment characteristics, and historical hydrologic data. The model will be calibrated and validated using historical shoreline change and sediment transport records, then used to conduct hindcast simulations. Outcomes will be measured by the successful development of a regional sediment budget, the accuracy and reliability of the CMS model, and the production of a final summary report.

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?

- ☐ 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?

not started

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

0

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/31/2026

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



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f. Phone Number

Ext.

24. 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.