



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1568

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The scope of work is the construction of a steel covering for a 150 x 250 outdoor arena to serve as an Agriculture Center. The covering is essential for converting the arena into a facility that has unlimited potential to host agricultural, livestock, festivals, and entertainment events. Being located on the grounds of Forest Capital Hall which hosts numerous festivals and events through the year, the Ag Center is in an ideal location to promote tourism and economic development. The scope of work also includes the installation of a covered seating area with fans at the Heritage Pavilion also located at the Park.

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<br>(YYYY-YY) | Amount    |              | Specific<br>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?

10/01/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

04/30/2027

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

Taylor County owns, operates and maintains all facilities located at Forest Capital Park. Taylor County Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism Development Council provides assistance in procuring and hosting events at the 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.

Taylor County owns, operates, and maintains Forest Capital Park and all facilities on the grounds.

### 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                      | Funds received will be used for the construction of a steel covering over the arena for the facility to serve as an Agriculture Center. A covered seating area at the Heritage Pavilion located in the Park will also be constructed. | 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?



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The Florida agriculture and related industry generates over \$182.6 billion in revenue annually with the equine industry generating \$12.8 billion. With this, there is definitely a need for Agriculture Centers in the state with an emphasis on the showing of livestock. The addition of a covered seating area at the Heritage Pavilion will enable the County to host events in inclement weather. The County will have the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Development to bring multi-day events to a fiscally constrained area.

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

The County will be working with Taylor County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Development to bring multi-day events to the Center and Heritage Pavilion. As the County is rural and the economy being largely based on agriculture, there is a great deal of interest in hosting events at the Park. The Park improvements will enable multiple events over multiple days to be hosted thus promoting tourism and economic development.

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

Direct services will provide the opportunity for all ages and abilities to participate in or spectate agricultural, livestock, and entertainment events in a safe, family friendly environment. The Ag Center will provide the County the facility and resources needed to host multi-day events and activities. The covered seating area at the Heritage Pavilion will also encourage multi-day events thus increased tourism development opportunities.

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

The target population is citizens who participate or enjoy being spectators at agriculture and livestock activities as well as entertainment events. Quite a few local children participate in 4-H and showing livestock and as there are no facilities available in the County at this time, they must travel outside the County to participate in these events and activities. The County's primary goal is to host multi-day agriculture, livestock, and entertainment events and shows to promote tourism and economic development.

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

The outcome will be the ability to host multi-day agricultural, livestock, and entertainment events. With the steel covering, over the arena and covered seating at the Heritage Pavilion, inclement weather will not have a negative impact on events hosted at the facility. As a fiscally constrained County which has suffered catastrophic losses from Hurricane's Idalia and Helene and the loss of the two primary employers, tourism and economic development is critical for the 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?**

Taylor County is committed to developing the arena in to an Agricultural Center. All performance measures and deliverables will be met within the funding contract guidelines. Taylor County received a \$200,000 FRDAP grant in 2024 to completely rehabilitate the arena and this will be complete prior to installation of the steel covering. Covered seating at the Heritage Pavilion will allow for increased events and tourism opportunities at the Park.

**14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?** ☐ No

**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?**



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- ☐ 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

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

☐ For Profit Entity

☐ Non Profit 501(c)(3)

☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)

☒ Local Entity



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☐ 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.*