



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1907

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Bluford Avenue is one of Ocoee's three primary north-south arterials, a designated evacuation route, and the corridor that serves the City's Emergency Operations Center, City Hall, and Ocoee Middle School, an emergency shelter during storm events. To date, the City has self-funded \$9 million in improvements to over the half-mile of Bluford Avenue. Before the project can be started, existing above ground power needs to be moved underground as part of ongoing resiliency initiatives for the City to serve this critical area and evacuation route

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	1,785,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,785,000</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)	1,785,000	50%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,785,000	50%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>	<b>3,570,000</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?

01/01/2026

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

01/01/2027

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

City funds approved with the FY 25-26 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.

Duke Energy will continue to own its Utility in the City ROW through a mutual agreement.

#### 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	Planning and Design for Phase 1 is complete, and Phase 2 is approaching completion. All funding request is solely for relocation of the Power transmission lines.	1,785,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,785,000</b>

#### 13. Program Performance

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

The Bluford Ave. project brings improved roadway, pedestrian, stormwater and underground utilities to the City of Ocoee downtown area. The requested funds are specifically for moving existing overhead power lines underground, which will provide a more storm resilient corridor while also improving the aesthetics of the downtown area. Bluford Ave. is critical to the City's storm response, as it serves as a designated evacuation route, the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and services an emergency storm shelter at Ocoee Middle School.

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



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Bluford Avenue is one of Ocoee's three primary north-south arterials, a designated evacuation route, and a vital roadway serving both the City's Emergency Operations Center and Ocoee Middle School, which functions as an emergency shelter during storm events.

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

Improved sidewalks and bike lanes in the area serving a middle and elementary school enhance public safety and ensure ADA compliance, which in turn boosts both roadway safety and economic growth. The underground infrastructure improvements also include expansion of the City's reclaimed water and sewer systems to reach a greater portion of the population.

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

Bluford Avenue is the primary roadway connecting the City of Ocoee's downtown area, serving all approximately 50,000 residents of Ocoee and individuals from surrounding areas.

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

The Bluford Avenue Project directly serves the City's downtown area by providing improved and enhanced roadway and underground infrastructure to encourage economic development and investment.

**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?**

The city maintains a robust inspection program which includes an inspector to observe, document (daily log and pictures), and oversee testing construction. Monthly recorded meetings are performed and pay applications are approved by the Inspector, City Engineer, and Director. Deliverables are outlined in the contract documents in accordance with state and City guidelines. Failure to meet deliverables or performance measures may lead to delayed disbursements and/or non-payment.

**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#:**

**b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:**



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**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**

**a. Name**

**b. Firm Name**



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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.*