



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 3557

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Hardee County (County) requests funds to be used for the design and construction of a multi-story Fire Rescue Training Tower at Fire Station #1. This facility will provide realistic, life-saving, hands-on training opportunities for local and regional first responders, as well as future students. Training will include hose advancement, fire attack, search and rescue, ventilation, flowing water, and live burn exposure. The Training Tower will improve firefighter readiness, disaster response capabilities, and overall emergency preparedness while also improving ISO ratings, which help stabilize or reduce property insurance costs. This project enhances public safety, protects property and the environment, and provides critical career training opportunities in a designated Rural Area of Opportunity (RAO).

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	2,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,500,000

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)	2,500,000	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	2,500,000	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?

07/01/2027

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

06/30/2028

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

General Revenue

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.

Hardee County Board of County Commissioners 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		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		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Contractual services for engineering design, permitting, bidding, project management/ administration, construction observation, engineering during construction, and construction.	2,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,500,000

13. Program Performance

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

Goal is to design and construct a multi-story Fire Rescue Training Tower that enhances local and regional first responder capabilities through realistic, hands-on training. The project will strengthen public safety, protect lives and property, improve disaster readiness, and contribute to better ISO ratings for Hardee County. Improves the quality of life in this Rural Area of Opportunity.

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



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Procurement of design, engineering, permitting, bidding, and construction services for the Training Tower. Professional services and construction will ensure the facility meets safety standards and is equipped to deliver effective training in search and rescue, hose advancement, ventilation, fire attack, and live burn scenarios.

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

Improving firefighter preparedness, reduce response times, and provide safer and more effective emergency response. Citizens benefit from lower risk of property loss, reduced insurance costs from improved ISO ratings, and a stronger, better trained first responder presence across Hardee County and the surrounding Heartland Region.

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

Hardee County and the Heartland Region, which are financially disadvantaged communities (ch. 62-552, F.A.C.) located in a Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes), citizenry, visitors, tourists, business community and surrounding areas. Greater than 27,000 expected to be served.

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

Benefits include improved readiness and response times, reduced insurance premiums through ISO improvements, and safer emergency operations. Outcomes will be measured through monitoring of training programs and events, number of attendees, CEUs awarded, certifications achieved, facility usage logs, staff and trainee feedback, and emergency response performance data.

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?

Contracts will include milestone-based deliverables. Failure to meet these requirements may result in corrective action plans with defined timelines, suspension or withholding of payments, or contract termination for persistent non-performance, ensuring accountability and timely completion.

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



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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.