



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 1684

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

West Palm Beach Fire Department will use the funds for the purchase of equipment to decrease firefighter gear and equipment contaminants exposure. There are several fire stations that still do not have equipment washers. As a result, they have to drive to another station to wash their air tanks, masks, helmets, gloves etc. in a comprehensive manner. Gear extractors and SCBA washers allow firefighters to wash their gear and equipment after a fire or other contamination. A gear extractor is similar similar to an industrial strength washing machine, front loading with high-speed spin, and an SCBA washer is similar to an industrial dishwasher. These industrial washer/ extractors deep clean using high speed programmable G-Force settings and low water consumption. The SCBA washer completes a deep clean cycle in as little as 7 minutes, significantly faster and more thoroughly than hand cleaning. They do not require extensive infrastructure to install.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	116,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	116,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	116,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	116,000	50%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	232,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future 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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10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

\$28,041,517 ARPA and Cares act grants, which were used for: Personnel costs for Staff members administering the ARPA funds; premium pay for non remote workers during pandemic; First responder; Public Works and Parks & Rec vehicle & equipment replacements; Pedestrian sidewalk upgrades, and CARES Act housing incentives.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. 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?

12. 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.

13. 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	Gear Extractors are estimated at \$23k each with approximately \$3k in shipping and installation costs (plumbing and electrical). Extractors are needed at Fire Stations 1 and 6. (\$26k x 2 = \$52k) SCBA Washers are \$33k each and approximately \$3k in shipping and installation costs (plumbing and electrical). SCBA Washers are needed at Fire Station 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8. (\$36k x 5 = \$180k) Project total \$232,000	116,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
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		0



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Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)	116,000
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14. Program Performance

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

The goal of this project is to reduce the amount of contaminants that are present in and on the firefighters' gear and equipment, in turn reducing the exposure to these harmful toxins. Our purpose is to reduce firefighter death and disease. Firefighters are at an increased risk of cancer. Firefighters have a 9% increase in cancer diagnosis and a 14% increase in cancer deaths compared to the average American. This is due to their exposure to carcinogens in smoke and fire debris. Cancer caused 66% of career firefighter deaths from 2002-2019. Firefighters are also at risk of respiratory problems. Exposure to smoke and other irritants can cause asthma, bronchitis, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Other health problems associated with firefighter exposure to PFAS include: cardiovascular, reproductive, neurological and skin problems. By reducing their exposure to contaminants, firefighters can protect themselves from these and other health issues.

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

After installation of the machines, firefighters will be able to wash their gear and equipment as needed. Once the power switch is turned on, there will be an immediate impact on the health and safety of our firefighters. Following any contamination or as a routine practice, the firefighters would have immediate access to machine. At present, not every station is equipped, and firefighter have to drive to other stations to decontaminate.

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

Citizens will have the benefit of clean gear as well. Not only will the firefighter have less exposure to the PFAS and other contaminants, but so will the patients they serve. Firefighters will be in clean gear using clean equipment when they enter the homes of the citizens. In the State of Florida, for each cancer diagnosis, a firefighter receives a lump sum payment of \$25k per Florida Statute 112.1816. Further, the employer must provide coverage within an employer-sponsored health plan or through a group health insurance trust fund. The employer must timely reimburse the firefighter for any out-of-pocket deductible, co-payment, or coinsurance costs incurred due to the treatment of cancer. Preventing cancer saves an indeterminate amount of money as it relates to the costs of the prevention measures.

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

The target population of this project are both the firefighters and citizens of the City of West Palm Beach. There are 294 firefighters in the City and over 120k citizens.

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

A retrospective look at firefighter cancer in the West Palm Beach Fire Department includes cases of thyroid, liver, skin, bladder, lung, prostate, pancreas, leukemia, lymphoma, stomach and other cancers. Going forward, a prospective cohort study would be used to track new cases of firefighter cancer.

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 the contract?

Revocation of funding to the State.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

16. Recipient Contact Information



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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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number