



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2303

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Taylor County (County) requests funding for the construction of a hurricane rated structure for Steinhatchee Fire Rescue, EMS, and public safety services. Due to the current facility being flooded in recent rain and tropical events - which caused crews to wade through water before responding and the relocation of the ambulance - the base elevation of the structure will be elevated. The facility will serve as a recovery staging area in the event of a disaster, coastal storm event, and flooding. Steinhatchee is more than 37 miles from any other emergency support and public safety services; having a resilient, adequate facility for emergency services and first responders is critical to the welfare of Steinhatchee and the south end of the County. The facility will provide emergency services to an approximately 400 sq. mile area of Taylor County, as well as mutual aid to adjacent Dixie County, the community of Jena, and Lafayette County which also borders the south end of the County.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,000,000	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 2023-2024	2,000,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

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

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? No

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.

The County received \$3.7M which was used for public safety payroll costs and the purchase of PPE and associated supplies. The County will be receiving America Rescue Plan funds and anticipates using those funds for critically needed stormwater projects.

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

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.

Taylor County Board of County Commissioners will own, operate and maintain the facility. The Taylor County Board of County Commissioners will be providing the land the facility will be located on.

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		0
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	All funds will be used for the construction of the Fire Rescue, EMS, and public safety facility. Taylor County will be providing the land and all project management services.	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000

14. Program Performance

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



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The goal is to provide a full-service emergency response facility in Steinhatchee which will also serve the south end of Taylor County and the counties mutual aid is frequently provided to. The building will house Fire Rescue, EMS, and serve as a disaster recovery staging area. Steinhatchee is more than 37 miles from the nearest emergency support services and having a resilient emergency response center is critical for public welfare in Steinhatchee and the outlying areas. The structure will be constructed to hurricane rated standards as well as elevated to ensure for continuity of operations.

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

The building will serve as a public safety facility with the primary use being Fire Rescue services. EMS will be co-located in the facility. The site will serve as a disaster recovery staging area.

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

Direct services will include fire protection services with reduced emergency response times, EMS services, and disaster recovery services. The new facility will be able to provide the community of Steinhatchee as well as the south end of Taylor County and the adjacent community of Jena in Dixie County much needed public safety services. In addition to providing direct services on a daily basis, the new facility will ensure for the continuity of operations in the event of a disaster and/or coastal weather event. Again, Steinhatchee is more than 37 miles from other emergency support and response services.

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

The target population is the community of Steinhatchee and the south end of the County which encompasses approximately 400 sq. miles. Many of the roads in the south end of the County are unpaved making it even more difficult to provide emergency services. In addition, the County frequently provides mutual aid to adjacent Dixie County and the community of Jena. More than 10,000 residents will be served by the facility as well as the many visitors and tourists to the area a large portion of the year for recreational fishing and boating. Taylor County also provides mutual aid to Lafayette County.

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

The project will provide a hardened, resilient structure which will enable Fire Rescue to provide emergency services in all types of weather events and situations. EMS will be co-located in the facility which will also serve as a disaster recovery staging area. As there will be adequate parking for response vehicles and storage area for equipment and apparatus, emergency response times will be substantially reduced. With an elevated base, the facility will be protected from flooding. Equipment and vehicles will have an extended life span with protection from the weather elements.

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?

Taylor County (County) is ready to move forward with the project immediately and all deliverables and performance measures will be met as per contract timelines and requirements. The County already owns the land where the structure will be located. The County will be providing all project management services.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County



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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