



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2137

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

The proposed project scope of work is a steel covering for a 150 x 250 arena currently known as the Horsemen's Arena at Forest Capital Hall. The county intends to have the facility serve as an Agriculture and Exposition Center. The steel covering is essential in converting the arena into a center which has the capabilities to host unlimited agricultural and livestock events. Being located on the grounds of Forest Capital Hall which hosts numerous festivals and entertainment events throughout the year, the center is in an ideal location to promote tourism and economic development. The steel covering will provide reliable protection from rain, wind, and lightning. The steel covering will be durable and withstand all types of severe weather, is long lasting, and requires little to no maintenance. The clear span design of the steel covering and tall eave heights ensures for the safety of livestock and show events involving the movement of animals and livestock.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?** Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

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)	1,000,000	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 2024-2025	1,000,000	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.**

As a fiscally constrained rural county, the county has no funds available for the project . The county is a designed RAO and REDI community. The county had a great deal of loss from Hurricane Idalia and recently lost the primary local employer with the closure of GP.



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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 American Rescue Plan funds are designated for critically needed stormwater facilities.

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.

Taylor County owns, operates, and maintains the site as well as the grounds of Forest Capital Hall.

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 received will be used for the construction of a steel covering over the arena for the facility to serve as a Agriculture and Exposition Center located on the grounds of Forest Capital Hall.	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

14. Program Performance

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



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The Florida agriculture industry has an economic impact of approximately \$7.5 billion. The livestock industry contributes over \$1.5 billion annually with the equestrian industry contributing \$6.8 billion. With this, there is definitely a need for Agriculture and Exposition Centers in the state with an emphasis on the showing of livestock. The center will provide Taylor County the facility and resources needed for the promotion of tourism and economic development. The county will have the assistance of the local Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Development Council to bring critically needed multiple day events to a fiscally constrained community.

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 develop the facility into an exposition center with a primary focus on livestock events. As the county is rural and the economy has been largely based on agriculture, there is a great deal of interest in hosting shows and agriculture related events at the center. The facility is located on the grounds of Forest Capital Hall which hosts numerous festivals, and entertainment events throughout the year and the center will enable multiple events to be hosted at the same time thus promoting tourism and multiple day stays in the county. Taylor County 4-H and the extension office is located on the same grounds of the proposed facility.

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

Direct services will be the opportunity for all ages and abilities to participate in or spectate agriculture and livestock events and shows in a safe, family friendly environment. The facility promotes outdoor recreation and enjoyment and a family-centric, healthy lifestyle. The center will provide the county the type of facility needed to host multi-day, multi-activity events. With Forest Capital Hall, the Heritage Pavilion, and the Florida Forest Museum State Park being located in the same immediate area, the center will offer unlimited tourism development opportunities for a fiscally constrained, rural community.

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 agricultural and livestock activities. However, the center will be able to accommodate a wide variety of events including concerts and entertainment events. Forest Capital Hall is located on the same grounds as the proposed center and houses 4-H and the Extension office. Quite a few local children participate in showing cattle, horses, goats, and pigs. As there is no facility in the County at this time to accommodate livestock events, children now travel outside of the county to participate in these activities. The county's primary goal is to host multiple day agriculture and livestock 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 of the project is the ability for the facility to host agricultural and livestock multi-day events including horse shows. With the steel covering, inclement weather will not have a negative impact on hosting events at the center. The clear span design allows for the circulation of air thus keeping spectators, livestock, animals and participants cooler in the humid temperatures. As a fiscally constrained, rural county which recently suffered catastrophic losses from Hurricane Idalia and the closure of the key employer of the county (Georgia Pacific) tourism and economic development is critical for the county.

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 is committed to developing the arena facility into an Agricultural & Exposition Center. All performance measures and deliverables will be met per contract timelines.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**



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16. 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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number