



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2950

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Town of Grand Ridge requests debt forgiveness for an existing loan that was used to build the town's wastewater treatment system. Following Hurricane Michael in 2018, the town spent thousands of dollars on repairs to serve its citizens, and during COVID, the town once again experienced financial hardships that they are working diligently to overcome. The forgiveness of the remaining loan would enable the town to make the needed repairs, which are slated to cost considerably more now because of the increase of costs in parts and labor.

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	650,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	650,000

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)	650,000	65%
Matching Funds		
Federal	106,125	11%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	235,000	24%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	991,125	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.

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

Yes



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

The Town of Grand Ridge received received \$436,000 in ARPA funding: \$200,000 has been earmarked to extend sewer to the I-10 and Hwy 69 interchange. \$106,125 of the remaining funding will be applied to the current debt.

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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Debt payment on SRF loan repayment for construction of a wastewater treatment plant	650,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		650,000

14. Program Performance

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



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The Town of Grand Ridge is requesting debt forgiveness to pay the remaining principal of an interest bearing loan with DEP that was used to build the town's original wastewater treatment center. The cost of repairs needed on the system have increased dramatically because of the rise in cost of goods and services. Debt forgiveness would enable the town to make the repairs and avoid raising utility rates for the citizens during the current economy. The Town of Grand Ridge (GR) is a small rural community with a population of 800 and Median Household Income of \$32,375 per 2020 census. Grand Ridge is located within the Fiscally Constrained County of Jackson as defined by Florida Statutes and is part of a Rural Area of Opportunity formerly Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern.

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

The wastewater treatment plant is over ten years old and will soon need major repairs. Maintaining the water treatment system to protect the health and welfare of the residents and to protect the many springs located throughout Jackson County is a top priority. Because of the downturn in the economy, the town's escrow account did not perform as expected for several years resulting in a loss and will be depleted in 2024.

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

The Town of Grand Ridge will be able to provide wastewater services to its residents without rates, which would create a financial hardship on the families of the community.

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

The residents of Grand Ridge and Jackson County along with tourists and evacuees that will use Interstate 10, Highway 69, and Highway 90. 2020 Census - 800 population; tourists, evacuees, indeterminate number.

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

The funds will be used to offset debt incurred and allow the Town to maintain their current utility rates, which provides more money in the pockets of the residents and tourists. The funds saved from future payments will fund the increase of the cost of repairs and maintenance that have been impacted by inflation.

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?

Penalties will be outlined in contract between requester and State Agency.

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

c. Organization Type

For Profit Entity

Non Profit 501(c)(3)

Non Profit 501(c)(4)



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- 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

Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only.

18. Have you applied for alternative state funding?

- Waste Water Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify) Spoke with SRF about reduction in interest and principal, but they could not help us any further.
- N/A

19. What is the population economic status?

- Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Rural Area of Economic Concern
- Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- N/A

20. What is the status of construction?

21. What percentage of the construction has been completed?



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22. What is the estimated completion date of construction?