



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 2530

1. **Title of Project:** Hurricane Michael - Liberty County - Veterans Memorial Railroad

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Bill Montford

3. **Date of Submission:** 03/06/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Veterans Memorial Railroad, Inc., (VMRR) has been providing educational, cultural, and other special public events at Veterans Memorial Park in Liberty County for the past 17 years. VMRR's Halloween and Christmas events attract tourists, train enthusiasts, and students from throughout the Panhandle of Florida, neighboring states, and other countries. VMRR suffered significant irreparable damage and economic loss due to Hurricane Michael. The goal is to restore VMRR and its events to their pre-hurricane condition so that VMRR can continue its operations and events in 2019.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds :** Department of Economic Opportunity  
State Agency Contacted? No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	120,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	55,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>175,000</b>

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	175,000	62.37%
Federal		0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)		0.00%
Local	27,600	9.84%
Other	78,000	27.80%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020</b>	<b>105,600</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** No

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

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** No

10. **Details on how the requested state funds will be expended**

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		



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Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
<b>Operational Costs:</b>		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Repair and replace permanent props which were destroyed during Hurricane Michael. Replace decorations and props for 18 Halloween and 28 Christmas scenes; economic loss from cancellation of all events. The funds generated each year provide funding for the next fiscal year.	120,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Repair over 1 mile of 2' guage track including ballast in Veterans Memorial Park. Repair 1 mile of asphalt walking trail.	55,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>175,000</b>

**11. Program Performance:**

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

VMRR will be in a position to re-open and continue operations of the trains for the public in fiscal year 2019-20.

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

VMRR will schedule and provide free public run days (monthly), church and school field trips, as well as the Halloween and Christmas events.

**c. What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?**

The events provided by VMRR throughout the year provide a unique family experience that is educational and preserves the historic significance of trains in the history of local and US industry.

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

VMRR serves people of all ages and backgrounds. VMRR provides educational rides and presentations for school aged children, incarcerated youth, youth in mental health programs, and other citizens throughout Northwest Florida as well as citizens from other states and countries. VMRR serves over 10,000 tourists annually.

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

Three main expected benefits or outcomes are: a. Improve mental health by uniting families and creating a positive environment for children and adults. b. Enrich cultural experiences by displaying artistic scenes which depict traditional holiday appropriate themes. The trains are equipped with music to match each of the scenes for both major events. The musical selections are traditional Halloween and Christmas songs. c. Improve the



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quality of education by introducing students to three different types of train engines and their operations, i.e. coal fired steam engine, diesel, and propane, as well as the historic significance of the economy and the development of the US. Outcomes will be measured by surveys of participants and, for students, lessons and written assignments will be provided after the event.

**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?**

Standard contract penalties are sufficient.

**12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.**

Veterans Memorial Railroad, Inc., is located in Veterans Memorial Park which is owned by Liberty County Board of County Commissioners. VMRR operates under contract with the board. All fixed capital outlay funding will be under the ownership of the county for the sole use of VMRR operations.

**13. Requestor Contact Information:**

- a. **Name:** Donnie Read
- b. **Organization:** Veterans Memorial Railroad, Inc.
- c. **E-mail Address:** dread@twinoaksfl.org
- d. **Phone Number:** (850)643-7698

**14. Recipient Contact Information:**

- a. **Organization:** Veterans Memorial Railroad, Inc.
- b. **County:** Liberty
- c. **Organization Type:**
  - For Profit
  - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
  - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
  - Local Entity
  - University or College
  - Other (Please specify)
- d. **Contact Name:** Donnie Read
- e. **E-mail Address:** dread@twinoaksfl.org
- f. **Phone Number:** (850)643-7698

**15. Lobbyist Contact Information**

- a. **Name:** None
- b. **Firm Name:** None
- c. **E-mail Address:**
- d. **Phone Number:**