



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

LFIR # 1994

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

4. **Project/Program Description**

Construction of 120 x 50 ft. metal building for use by Veterans Memorial Railroad (VMRR) to store, protect, and preserve the many props and scenes utilized by VMRR in producing two major fundraising events for Halloween and Christmas. Currently, the VMRR utilizes seven off-site storage facilities due to the loss of available space at the railroad from Hurricane Michael. In addition to providing on-site storage in Veterans Memorial Park, it will eliminate the hazards of transporting the materials to off-site locations in Calhoun and Liberty Counties. In addition, this building will provide a safe environment for the volunteers who tirelessly prepare the scenes for the events, often working late into the night. This funding will assist in increasing tourism and economic development for Liberty County as families travel from surrounding counties in the panhandle to enjoy these events. Over 7,000 people attended these events in 2017.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted? Yes No

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="000"/>
Fixed Capital Outlay	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="125,000"/>
Total State Funds Requested	125,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="125000"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="100.0"/> %
Matching Funds		
Federal	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
State (excluding the amount of this request)	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
Local	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
Other	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="00"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="0"/> %
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2020-2021	125,000	100 %

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes No
- If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** Yes No
- If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.



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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Other Salary and Benefits		<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Construction of a metal building 120 x 50 ft. to house and protect the many scenes, lights, and accessories used by VMRR to produce the two major fundraising events, Halloween "Ghost Train" and Christmas "Polar Bear Express." This building would provide on-site storage areas, a restroom, and work room for the volunteers who prepare the scenes for the events and assist in an efficient operation for preparation of the events.	125,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		125,000



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11. Program Performance

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

To eliminate the use of seven off-site storage facilities for props and scenes located in Calhoun and Liberty Counties. The proximity of this building to the event site would eliminate the need to transport offsite, therefore, reducing transportation risks and hazards to public safety. In addition, this building is necessary due to the destruction caused by Hurricane Michael. The on-site storage units were damaged and/or unavailable for use. The funding will assist in increasing tourism and economic development for Liberty County.

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

The use of this building will enable the volunteers for Veterans Memorial Railroad, Inc., to work in a safe environment and enable the Railroad to produce the Halloween and Christmas events for the public. These events attract over 7,000 people coming from neighboring counties throughout the panhandle, as well as local attendees. These events provide wholesome family experiences of viewing artistic displays as well as the experience of riding antique park trains around one mile of two foot gauge track in Veterans Memorial Park in Bristol. The on-site storage building will be a major contribution to the safety of the volunteers, protection of the scenes and props, and efficient operation of the events.

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

The continuation of successful railroad events for the public during the holiday seasons each year. This building would make a monumental contribution to the preparation of these events.

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

This building will have a major impact for the volunteers who produce the events for Veterans Memorial Railroad, Inc. The final target population would be the attendees who will be participating in the events, over 7,000 people, including adults and children from Liberty County and surrounding counties in the panhandle. It would help increase tourism and economic development for Liberty County.

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

Added efficiency and safety in producing the scenes and props for VMRR at an on-site facility will be a major benefit for the volunteers and expedite the preparation process. Also, it will eliminate the hazardous transporting of materials from county to county (Calhoun and Liberty Counties) for storage purposes. The benefits of the on-site facility will help increase tourism and economic development for Liberty County by increasing the number of participants attending each 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?

Veterans Memorial Railroad does not have any suggested penalties.



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12. **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.**

Liberty County

13. **Requestor Contact Information**

- a. First Name Last Name
- b. Organization
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.

14. **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

15. **Lobbyist Contact Information**

- a. Name
- b. Firm Name
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.