



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2176

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The City of Lakeland's treatment wetland system has been in operation for more than thirty years before opening to the public for passive recreation and environmental education. This facility will help educate the general public about water resources, and provide training and class space to professionals for certifications and to K-12 students for future employment opportunities.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	950,000
Total State Funds Requested	950,000

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)	950,000	79%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	250,000	21%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	1,200,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	5,000,000	1755A	Yes

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

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?

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



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\$350,000 for PPE, \$396,162 for Airport Operations, \$1,214,658 for housing, and \$22.7M from the ARPA for various projects including \$17.8M for sewer pipe replacement

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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

12/31/2023

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/30/2025

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.

City of Lakeland Water Utilities owns the facility.

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	Constructing the Water Utilities Education Center	950,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		950,000

14. Program Performance

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

The requested funds will be used to open a Water Utilities Educational Center to further statewide citizen engagement and outreach programs by focusing on Florida's water and environmental resources.

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



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The Educational Center will increase access to water quality programs as well as access to nature, wide-open spaces, and activities like outdoor photography and bird watching with groups like the Audubon Society. It will use innovative teaching techniques, like outdoor learning and integrating technology, to improve the quality of education for all visitors. It will partner with research universities and other school programs to increase future employees and create skilled laborers.

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

Many direct services will be provided to citizens including; diverse educational programs, outreach events, and outdoor recreation activities- including meeting goals established by the State of Florida Outdoor Recreation Plan. The outreach and education efforts will increase the conservation of water resources and offer access to rebate programs that directly save individuals money.

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

Polk County Citizens. 10,000/year+

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

There will be many benefits, including but not limited to; promoting Florida water resources, improving physical and mental health for visitors, enriching cultural experiences, improving and promoting environmental education, enhancing fish and wildlife habitat, improving economic activity and increasing tourism, and creating immediate job opportunities. Outcomes will be measured by tracking visitor statistics and educational program participants.

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?

Funds would be withheld by the State of Florida from the City of Lakeland.

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)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)



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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)
- 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?

22. What is the estimated completion date of construction?