



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2937

1. Project Title Military History Museum Building Expansion - Osceola

2. Senate Sponsor Victor Torres

3. Date of Request 03/07/2023

4. Project/Program Description

The Veterans Tribute and Museum of Osceola County, Inc., (VTM) was founded in 2004 and moved into its current facility in 2012. The VTM owns the 10,300 sq. ft. facility on Highway 192 located less than 4 miles from the main entrance to Walt Disney World. VTM currently has approximately 8,500 sq. ft. of exhibit space located on the first floor. The building is configured to allow for an internal buildout of the second floor. This second-floor buildout will double the exhibit space thereby allowing the museum to display more of the artifacts that are currently stored in archives. It will also allow the museum to expand the display space for each period of U.S. military history thereby providing a greater opportunity to educate the public on the sacrifices made by the military veterans in each conflict from the Revolutionary War to the Greater War on Terror.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of State

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	765,000
Total State Funds Requested	765,000

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)	765,000	83%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	160,000	17%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	925,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2022-23	0	675,000	3200	Yes

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?



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Yes

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

PPP funding of \$28,200 from the SBA on May 1, 2020. This funding was used to pay salaries during the COVID shutdown in the summer of 2020.

EIDL Advance and Supplemental Advance grant of \$15,000 awarded in December 2021. This funding was used to cover part of the \$82,000 cost to replace the roof on the building in March 2022.

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?

11/2023

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

5/2024

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.

Veterans Tribute and Museum of Osceola County, Inc., will receive the funds and owns the facility that will be upgraded.

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	Buildout of the 2nd floor including, floor and support beams; installation of an elevator and stairwell; buildout of bathrooms for 2nd floor; air conditioning upgrades for 2nd floor; expansion of fire suppression system for 2nd floor.	765,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		765,000

14. Program Performance



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

Funding is requested to complete the buildout of the second floor of the museum. This will double the amount of exhibit space available to display artifacts in honor of our military veterans. By expanding the exhibit space, the museum will be able to display artifacts that are currently in its archives which are unable to be displayed due to space constraints. It will allow the museum to expand the displays for each period of military history which will enhance the education and experience of the visitors to the museum, thereby honoring the sacrifices made by veterans.

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

The buildout of the second floor will include adding the floor and supporting beams, elevator, stairwell, bathrooms, air conditioning, and fire suppression system. VTM has a local architecture firm that has provided it with the needed plans. VTM has also secured the services of a construction management firm to serve as general contractor for the project.

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

The 2nd floor build out will allow VTM to nearly double the display space available for public viewing. It will allow the museum to display many artifacts that are currently being stored in archives. By expanding the exhibit space, it will allow for the public to learn more about the sacrifices made by veterans and gain a deeper understanding of the role of the military in U.S. history. It will also allow VTM to highlight the stories of individual veterans from Florida in the planned Florida Hall of Heroes display.

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

The general public has access to the museum 6 days a week from 10 am to 6 pm. The museum hosts numerous school field trips from schools around the state that visit each year. VTM holds a minimum of 10 events throughout the year to honor our veterans such as Pearl Harbor Day, Veterans Day, Flag Day, Memorial Day, POW Day, etc. VTM makes sure to invite local veterans to attend these events and the museum is open free of charge for any member of the public on the day of the event. With the expansion of the 2nd floor, VTM plans to increase the number of these events by honoring veterans of additional conflicts. VTM also plans to work with local historians to provide lectures on topics throughout the year.

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

The expected outcome is the completion of the 2nd floor buildout. The methodology by which the outcome will be measured is by the completion of the 2nd floor buildout. It will further be measured by the additional numbers of artifacts that will be on display instead of stored in archives.

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?

If VTM is unable to meet the deliverables, it would expect to have to repay the agency for whatever funding had been received to date plus a penalty. However, VTM is certain that it will not fail to meet the deliverables.

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



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c. Organization Type

- ☐ For Profit Entity
- ☐ Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- ☐ Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- ☐ Local Entity
- ☐ University or College
- ☒ Other (please specify) 501 (c) (19) Non Profit Veterans Organization

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