



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1074

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The enhancements will include a comprehensive safety solution to protect 400,000 visitors, 100+ staff, and 500+ animals. This will involve a mass notification system, access controls, security cameras, lighting, fencing, and a fiberoptic network for improved monitoring and communication. Additionally, funding will be used to reduce stormwater runoff, restore wetlands, and support natural resource conservation.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	237,500
Fixed Capital Outlay	712,500
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>950,000</b>

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	950,000	50%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	950,000	50%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>1,900,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

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

9. Is future-year 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.

Donors to the Zoo will be the source of funding outside state funding.

### Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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**10. 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?**

**e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?**

Ongoing operations and maintenance for the project will be funded through Palm Beach Zoo's regular earned revenue.

**11. 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.**

Margo McKnight, President and CEO of Zoological Society of the Palm Beaches Inc.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Replace outdated systems with new cameras that are cloud based. Add Automated Access Control. Create a Monitoring Base (security office equipment).	137,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Hydrology reports, lake water quality assessments and samplings, storm water sampling, lake life support and filtration design work, wetlands preparations, bathymetry reports	100,000
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Provide for infrastructure Improvements, perimeter fencing and piping for wetlands structure.	712,500
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>950,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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

The funding will enhance animal well-being and staff safety. Funding will be used to reduce stormwater runoff, restore wetlands, and supporting natural resource stewardship. It will also improve safety for 400,000 visitors, 100+ staff, and 500+ animals through a mass notification system, access controls, security cameras, lighting, fencing, and a fiberoptic network for enhanced monitoring and communication.

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



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The funding will enhance security systems to ensure a safe experience for guests, staff, and animals, while enabling the Zoo to continue serving the communities of Palm Beach, Broward, Martin, and St. Lucie with educational programs, recreational activities, and tourism opportunities.

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

The funding will be used to enhance the safety and security of both visitors and staff at the zoo, as well as to support the ongoing operation of the zoo.

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

Visitors of the Palm Beach Zoo, 400,000.

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

Enhanced security measures, including real-time monitoring, digital access controls, and automated gates, will ensure the safety of guests, staff, and animals. Improved communication systems will address safety concerns like severe weather. Water quality improvements in Baker Lake and stormwater runoff will reduce phosphorus and bacteria, increase dissolved oxygen, and support healthier aquatic life. These efforts will improve safety, reduce injuries, and promote a sustainable, healthy environment for both zoo animals and visitors.

**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?**

The penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures would be the forfeiture of some or all of the appropriation funds.

**14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?**  No

**a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?**

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

**b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):**

**15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?**

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:**

**b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:**

**16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?**



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- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):**

Applied for DEP grant and requested similar appropriations in 2024-25 funding year.

**17. Requester Contact Information**

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

**18. 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**  **Ext.**

**19. Lobbyist Contact Information**

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



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*The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.*