



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1554

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

Replace facility and habitat maintenance equipment, specifically, two (2) John Deere Gator ATVs, one (1) Bobcat UW56 Tool-Cat including tool attachments, two (2) Central A/C units, two (2) gas powered pressure washers w/100 ft. hoses, 50 long-range 2-way radios. These items are critical to the maintenance of our facility, grounds and animal habitats and necessary to the functioning of our facility, programs and manatee rescue team.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

**State Agency contacted?**  No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	114,831
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>114,831</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)	114,831	82%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	26,026	18%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>140,857</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

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?**  No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of 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?

**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.**

**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	To replace facility and habitat maintenance equipment, specifically, two (2) John Deere Gator ATVs, one (1) Bobcat UW56 Tool-Cat including tool attachments, two (2) Central A/C units, two (2) gas powered pressure washers w/100 ft. hoses, 50 long-range 2-way radios. These items are critical to the maintenance and functioning of our facility, grounds and animal habitats.	114,831
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>114,831</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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

To replace facility and habitat maintenance equipment, specifically, two (2) John Deere Gator ATVs, one (1) Bobcat UW56 Tool-Cat including tool attachments, two (2) Central A/C units, two (2) gas powered pressure washers w/100 ft. hoses, 50 long-range 2-way radios. These items are critical to the maintenance and functioning of our facility, grounds and animal habitats as well as the functioning of our Manatee Rescue Team.

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



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Our facility and natural marine habitat are unique and vital assets for our dolphin and sea lion family, our programs, our community and the state. Maintaining these assets requires that we replace essential equipment as it deteriorates and becomes unusable. This funding will enable DRC to continue to maintain and improve our facility and animal habitats for the benefit of our animals, visitors and students as well as manatees in distress who will be rescued by our Manatee Rescue Team.

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

This funding will enable us to continue to maintain our facility and animal habitats, ensuring our ability to provide memorable, life-changing programs for individuals, families and students from Monroe County, all of Florida, the country, and around the world. It benefits our nation's wounded military veterans and their families who come to DRC to participate in our Wounded Warrior programs. In addition, our Manatee Rescue Team assesses and rescues manatees in distress in our area.

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

Dolphin Research Center is a Florida Keys destination with over 70,000 visitors annually, including individuals, families, veterans and students from all walks of life and all areas of the Keys, the state of Florida, the country and the world.

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

Replacing these critical equipment items will ensure our continued ability to: Provide the best possible home for our dolphin and sea lion family; Continue groundbreaking cognitive and behavioral research with dolphins; Aid manatees in distress through our Manatee Rescue Program; Enhance the lives of children with Special Needs and Make-a-Wish participants through our Dolphin Pathways program; Support Wounded Warrior Soldier visits to Dolphin Research Center to benefit our nation's military men and women and bring much-needed joy into the lives of wounded soldiers and their families. Measured by comments and reviews, and increased number of 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?**

Since the project is being initiated by DRC for facility and habitat maintenance best practices reasons there are no penalties to add to the contract. If we did not receive this appropriation we would have to delay purchase of the equipment, negatively affecting our ability to maintain our facility and animal habitats.

**14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?**

**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#:**



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**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)?**

- 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):**

**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**



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a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

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