



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1611

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

4. Project/Program Description

This project requests a H145 helicopter which will increase HCSO's ability to aid wildfire cessation, post-hurricane relief, and rescue operations, while also increasing the number of specialty team members, such as SWAT Operators and Bomb Technicians, and their specialized equipment, which can be transported directly to locations where they are needed to respond throughout the State of Florida. This aircraft's safety features, reliability, and maintenance cost make it both practical and effective addition to HCSO's fleet.

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	7,750,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	7,750,000

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)	7,750,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	7,750,000	100%

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		
2024-25	0	7,750,000	1290	No

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.

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
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		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Complete purchase of an Airbus H145, a twin-engine helicopter to increase HCSO's abilities to aid wildfire cessation, hurricane relief, and rescue operations, while increasing the number of specialty team members and their equipment, which can be transported directly to locations throughout Florida.	7,750,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		7,750,000

13. Program Performance

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

This aircraft will increase HCSO's ability to aid wildfire cessation, post-hurricane relief, and rescue operations, while also increasing the number of specialty team members, such as SWAT Operators and Bomb Technicians, and their specialized equipment, which can be transported directly to locations where they are needed to respond throughout the State of Florida. This aircraft's safety features, reliability, and maintenance cost make it both practical and effective addition to HCSO's fleet.

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



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HCSO will complete procurement and put into service the requested aircraft and maintain it in good working order. HCSO will respond with the requested aircraft to calls for service including wildfires, requests for post-hurricane supplies and/or personnel, rescue operations to extract victims from remote areas, and calls for the deployment of specialty team members with their equipment.

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

HCSO will respond to calls for service using the requested aircraft, which provides increased capabilities for responding to wildfires, requests for post-hurricane supplies, rescue operations for ambulatory or non-ambulatory victims in remote areas, and calls for service for specialty team members, such as SWAT Operators and/or Bomb Technicians, with their equipment.

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

The target population are the citizens of and visitors to Hillsborough County, which has a population of approximately 1.5 million people. The aircraft would be deployable to assist throughout the State of Florida which would allow this project to have a much larger impact, particularly during wildfires or after disasters such as hurricanes.

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

This aircraft will increase HCSO's ability to aid wildfire cessation operations by more than doubling the potential capacity of the water delivery via bambi bucket from the current 140 gallons to 320 gallons, which decreasing the amount of time and resources required to extinguish wildfires and minimize resulting loss of life and property. HCSO's ability to respond throughout Florida, including providing supplies post-hurricane, rescue victims from remote areas, and deliver specialty team members and their equipment to critical operations would increase. Records for operations of this aircraft can be provided, including details of services provided, agencies assisted, equipment utilized, and deployment times.

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?

Standard contract penalties are sufficient.

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#:



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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

a. Name



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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.