



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2310

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Taylor County Board of Commissioners in partnership with the Perry-Taylor County Chamber of Commerce and local businesses is spearheading a project to rehabilitate Forest Capital Park into a premier multi-use space. This revitalization effort will modernize infrastructure and parking facilities, enhance visitor amenities, and ensure the Park remains a cornerstone for economic development through tourism, events, and community engagement.

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	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	550,000
Total State Funds Requested	550,000

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)	550,000	92%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	50,000	8%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	600,000	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		

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2310

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)? Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction? 01/01/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 06/30/2026

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

Taylor County owns and maintains Forest Capital Hall as well as Forest Capital Park. The Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Development Council also provide operational and maintenance assistance.

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.

Taylor County Board of Commissioners owns and operates Forest Capital Park, Forest Capital Hall and the Heritage Pavilion which is also located in the immediate area.

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		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	The funding will be used for much needed parking facility improvements, electrical upgrades, improvement and expansion of waterlines, infrastructure needed to provide Wi-Fi access , and enhanced and improved park amenities.	550,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		550,000

13. Program Performance

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

The goal of the project is to attract more visitors and businesses and by creating a well-maintained event facility that can accommodate the thousands of people which attend events at Forest Capital Park annually. The Park will serve as a regional tourism and event center with the ability to host large scale festivals, concerts, and cultural events which will encourage visitors to stay multiple days in the community and Big Bend region.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2310

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

The project will provide for much needed park improvements and infrastructure upgrades which will include but not be limited to parking facility improvements, and electrical and waterline upgrades. All funding will be used for upgrades and enhancements to the Park to promote tourism and economic development. The Tourism Development Council will be providing a \$50,000 match for the project through "in kind" services and TDC funding.

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

Improved infrastructure and amenities will increase tourism and economic development opportunities by attracting more events, festivals, and entertainment activities. This will bring in more visitors who will stay in hotels and spend tourism dollars in local restaurants and retail outlets. The added revenue will support job creation and stability in the hospitality and service industries.

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

The target population is Taylor County (21,582) however, tourism benefits the entire state in particular the Big Bend region which as a whole is a fiscally constrained area.

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

The increase in tourism opportunities will have a positive economic impact on the entire community. In a study completed by the University of Florida, events such as the FBA BBQ Competition has an economic impact of over \$1.8M on the local economy. This is just one of many events hosted at Forest Capital Park. The benefit will be increased "bed tax" revenue in addition to all of the local businesses which will benefit from events and festivals at Forest Capital Park.

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 design and engineering for the parking improvements is complete and the project is ready to be bid out. Quotes are being obtained for the other improvements in the scope of work such as electrical upgrades. Once funding is secured, the County with the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Development Council will be able to move forward with the project immediately. All timelines outlined in a grant contract agreement will be met.

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#:



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2310

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2310

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.