



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2490

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

4. Project/Program Description

In 2018, Hurricane Michael destroyed a significant portion of the water delivery infrastructure for Lighthouse Utilities water system, a private enterprise serving much of the southern portion of Gulf County near the coast. Because of the extent of the damage, Gulf County purchased the utility in order to rehabilitate the system and seek a more suitable location for its wells and other infrastructure. The search for and development of a more inland source of water is supported and partially funded by the Northwest Florida Water Management District. This project will supplement existing funds for the continued construction of the Gulf County Water System in a more inland location. An inland location will help ensure the protection of the Gulf County Water System and a continuity of service to its residents and visitors should Gulf County experience natural disasters (i.e. hurricanes, storm surge) in the future.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	10,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	10,000,000

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)	10,000,000	29%
Matching Funds		
Federal	7,012,869	20%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	10,784,183	31%
Local	50,000	0%
Other	7,053,424	20%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	34,900,476	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes
- If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25	0	1,000,000	2232	No

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.
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The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2490

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

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?

07/01/2025

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?

Gulf County will be responsible for the ongoing operations and maintenance of the system.

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.

Gulf County will own the facility.

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	Funding will be used to supplement construction for the Gulf County Water System and to assist with connecting customers to the new system.	10,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		10,000,000

13. Program Performance

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

A relocated water system to be more inland will protect it from natural disasters, such as hurricanes and storm surges. Moving away from the coastline will also protect it from saltwater intrusion.

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

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The water system will provide a safe drinking water source for the County's residents and visitors that will be more resilient during disasters.

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

An inland water system will provide the citizens with a reliable and safe water source, even during and after disasters.

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

Approximately 16,323 residents of Gulf County as well as visitors that travel to Gulf County.

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

Storm vulnerability analyses were conducted after the devastating impacts of Hurricane Michael left significant portions of the county's residents without a reliable source of water. The analyses call for the securing of the county's drinking water source, and the Northwest Florida Water Management District conducted inland well performance studies and paid for the construction of a production well to help identify and secure a more reliable source than that which was destroyed at the coast. A relocated water system to be more inland will protect it from natural disasters, such as hurricanes and storm surges. Moving away from the coastline will also protect it from saltwater intrusion. An inland water system will make it more resilient to hurricanes and storm surges. Safe and reliable water is a must for any community, especially during disasters.

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?

Failing to meet deliverables or performance measures would impact future funding request.

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#:

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)?



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2490

- 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):

Department of Environmental Protection: Resilient Florida Program

Please complete questions 17 through 21 for Water Projects only.

17. Have you been awarded or applied for alternative state funding for this project?

- Water Quality Improvement Grant Program
- Resilient Florida Grant Program
- Wastewater Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify, ex. Alternative Water Supply Grants)
- N/A

18. What is the population economic status?

- Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- Rural Area of Economic Concern
- Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- N/A

19. What is the status of construction?

Ready

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

0%

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

06/30/2026

22. Requester Contact Information



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2490

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

23. 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.

24. Lobbyist Contact Information

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.