



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2527

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This program is designed to provide Florida's law enforcement with state of the art active hearing protection. Hearing loss is a prevalent issue in public safety and law enforcement officers are on the front lines. They deserve to have products that not only provide protection against harmful noises but amplify their situational awareness. Funding now will save the state money in long term health care costs related to the comorbidities to hearing loss.

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	3,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>3,000,000</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)	3,000,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>3,000,000</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	The funds will be utilized to provide law enforcement with state of the art active hearing protection direct from the manufacturer.	3,000,000
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>3,000,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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

Hearing loss leads to significant health complications. These funds will be utilized to provide state of the art hearing protection to Florida's law enforcement officers on a first come first serve basis to protect their hearing and help prevent some of the significant comorbidities that come with hearing loss.

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



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Funds shall be used by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to procure, directly from the manufacturer, a commercial off-the-shelf, multi-use, completely in canal hearing protection product with a minimum noise reduction rating of 25 decibels and a maximum output of 80 decibels, to protect the hearing of law enforcement officers. The hearing protection shall be made available to any agency in the state on a first-come, first-served basis as part of the Law Enforcement Hearing Protection Program.

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

- Noise is a significant workplace hazard for law enforcement officers and first responders.
  - o In a 2018 study, 71% of officers self-reported hearing loss. Compared to just 15% of American adults.
- Limiting the risk of hearing loss and auditory injuries is critical for the health and readiness of America’s law enforcement officers.
- Reducing hazardous occupational and operational noise exposure to personnel will enhance mission readiness, communication, and safety.
- Noise-induced hearing loss, or NIHL, is a common medical concern reported to hospitals and clinics. NIHL can occur gradually over time or with one single exposure. Repeated exposure to loud sounds over a period can cause permanent inner ear damage.
- The electrical components in active hearing protection devices (“AHPDs”) process sound to allow the wearer to hear environmental sounds and conversations when no loud sound is present.

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

Law Enforcement- more than 2,000 officers.

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

- Active hearing protection technology can prevent hearing injury while allowing law enforcement officers to remain cognizant of their operational environment, benefit from improved overall situational awareness, and increase mission effectiveness, safety, and survivability.
  - o In a study, the main concern about wearing hearing protection during the daily duties was overwhelmingly awareness and officer safety and concern about danger if the officer could not hear minor sounds within their surroundings.

**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?**

Financial

**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



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- 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)?**

- 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)



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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

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