



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2639

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

4. Project/Program Description

The Washington County (County) Board of County Commissioners are requesting consideration for appropriations for the Washington County Sunny Hills area Fire Station. Washington County will enhance public safety by improving emergency response times, increasing firefighter preparedness, and ultimately leading to improved Insurance Services Office (ISO) ratings for residents. By providing state-of-the-art training opportunities and strategically positioning resources, the fire station will enable firefighters to respond more efficiently and effectively to emergencies. A better ISO rating can result in lower insurance premiums for homeowners and businesses, reflecting the county's commitment to fire prevention and protection. This investment in infrastructure underscores Washington County's dedication to safeguarding lives and property while promoting community resilience.

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	2,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,500,000

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)	2,500,000	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	2,500,000	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.



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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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

10-01-2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

10-01-2027

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

The County would pay all operating and management costs once construction is completed using the designated 1/2 mil.

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.

Washington County would own, maintain and staff the new facilities.

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	Construction of new fire station. Architecture and engineering design, survey, permitting, and administration services.	2,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,500,000

13. Program Performance

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



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Washington County (County) is seeking appropriations funding for the construction of a new fire station to enhance public safety and improve the county's Insurance Services Office (ISO) ratings. This new facility will reduce emergency response times, increase firefighting capabilities, and ensure more efficient service for residents and businesses. Improved ISO ratings can lead to lower insurance premiums for property owners, reflecting the strengthened fire protection measures in place. Additionally, the fire station will provide essential resources and training opportunities for Washington county fire fighters, further improving the county's emergency preparedness. This investment in public safety infrastructure is critical to protecting residents and fostering a more resilient community, and we respectfully request funding support to make this project a reality.

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

As Sunny Hills continues to grow, this facility will ensure safety to that community. The requested structure would provide fire protection services and ems services to the Sunny Hills area and the surrounding regions of the County. The fire station would also provide support in the aftermath of disasters and accidents along the SR 77 corridor. Washington County is a fiscally constrained county that doesn't otherwise have the funds to address this major need.

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

A new fire station would provide significant benefits to the citizens of Washington County, particularly as a fiscally restrained county facing challenges in maintaining and improving public safety services. By strategically enhancing emergency response capabilities, the fire station would reduce response times, improve fire suppression efforts, and ensure better coordination among first responders. This would lead to improved Insurance Services Office (ISO) ratings, which can lower property insurance costs for homeowners and businesses providing direct financial relief to residents. Additionally, a modern fire station would optimize resource allocation, improve training for emergency personnel, and enhance disaster preparedness, ensuring that Washington County maximizes efficiency while working within budgetary constraints. Investing in this infrastructure through appropriations funding would allow the county to improve public safety.

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

The construction of a new fire station in Washington County would directly benefit its approximately 35,000 residents by enhancing emergency response capabilities across the entire community. With improved infrastructure, first responders would be better equipped to handle fires, medical emergencies, and natural disasters more efficiently, reducing response times and increasing overall public safety. The fire station would ensure that fire and emergency personnel have the necessary resources to provide high-quality services county-wide. Additionally, by improving the county's Insurance Services Office (ISO) ratings, property owners throughout Washington County could see reduced insurance costs, creating financial benefits for homeowners and businesses alike. As a fiscally restrained county, this investment would ensure that all residents receive improved emergency services while maximizing efficiency.

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

The construction of a new fire station in Washington County will enhance public safety by improving emergency response times, increasing firefighting capabilities, and providing modern training resources for first responders. These improvements will contribute to better Insurance Services Office (ISO) ratings, which can lower insurance costs for homeowners and businesses. As a fiscally restrained county, this investment will maximize resources while strengthening community resilience and safety shown in more rapid response times, fewer injuries, and improved ISO ratings..

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 Auditor General conducts audits for both City and State agencies.

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)



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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)?

- 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



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- 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

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.