



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2658

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This project will build a new 10-mile wastewater pipeline to connect the City of Mary Esther to Okaloosa County's wastewater treatment plant. This connection will allow the City to shut down its old treatment plant, improve its wastewater management, and lower long-term operating costs. In addition, Hurlburt Field may also join this project and send its wastewater to the County's facility. This potential partnership would reduce costs and improve efficiency for both the City and Hurlburt Field.

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	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,000,000

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)	1,000,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,000,000	50%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	2,000,000	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.

Future funding is not anticipated for design and engineering; however, the City of Mary Esther and our project partners plan to pursue multiple local, state, and federal funding sources for construction.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2658

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?

07/01/2027

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/31/2028

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

Utility revenues will be used to fund the operation and maintenance of lift stations. The ongoing maintenance of the pipeline will be managed by Okaloosa County.

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.

The City of Mary Esther will receive engineering funding.

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 City of Mary Esther, in coordination with project partners, will procure design and engineering services to complete plans for the 10-mile wastewater pipeline, including pump stations, to connect the City wastewater facility to the Okaloosa County Arbennie Pritchett Plant.	1,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,000,000

13. Program Performance

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2658

The City's wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) requires a significant upgrade, estimated at \$12-15 million. A consent order from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) mandates that the City either renovate the existing WWTF or connect to Okaloosa County's system. This request advances the engineering for a new pipeline to connect to Okaloosa County's system and ensures the project can proceed quickly upon Hurlburt Field's decision to partner in Summer 2025.

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

The funds will support the project design and engineering, including developing construction plans and specifications, preparing permit applications and securing necessary approvals.

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

While this request focuses on engineering, the overall project will ultimately provide residents and businesses with improved wastewater treatment services, leading to enhanced environmental protection and public health. Additionally, it is expected to reduce the City's long-term operating costs, leading to more stable utility rates.

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

The City of Mary Esther has an estimated population of 4,496 residents. This includes 1,671 residential and 274 commercial wastewater connections. This project also has the potential to benefit Hurlburt Field, including wastewater connections that serve military, civilian personnel, contractors and visitors.

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

This funding request will accelerate the completion of a critical wastewater infrastructure project in Mary Esther, enabling the City to comply with an FDEP consent order. By advancing the engineering design now, the project can proceed quickly upon Hurlburt Field's partnership decision, fostering collaboration and ensuring efficient project delivery.

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 City will consider a provision for liquidated damages for delays and early completion bonuses for the project engineer.

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 # 2658

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):

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?

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2658

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

22. Requester Contact Information

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.