



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2671

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

4. Project/Program Description

Okaloosa County plans to construct a new elevated storage tank in their western service area to include Florosa and unincorporated City of Mary Esther. The West County public water supply wells were taken out of service due to concern for the Floridan Aquifer cone of depression and long-term concerns of saltwater intrusion. A new elevated storage tank is needed in order to provide sufficient water available for all existing and future uses of the system. The service area is composed of approximately 3,500 service connections and receives 100% of its potable water from a County transmission main from the east. In order to strengthen the County's critical infrastructure, enhance resiliency, prepare for future supply demand, and be equipped for emergencies, a second elevated tank is needed for additional storage, fire protection, and sustaining system pressure.

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	1,800,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,800,000

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)	1,800,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,800,000	50%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	3,600,000	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.**
-



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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?

06/01/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/31/2027

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

Okaloosa County Water and Sewer maintains a yearly budget for maintenance and rehabilitation of county-owned potable water tanks.

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.

Okaloosa County Water & Sewer
Okaloosa County Local Government

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	1,800,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,800,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The West County public water supply wells, located in the Water Resource Caution Area, were taken out of service out of concern for the Floridan Aquifer cone of depression and long-term concerns of saltwater intrusion. This water system has only one elevated storage tank, making it more vulnerable during storm events and major emergencies, such as water main breaks and fires. A new elevated storage tank is needed in order to have sufficient water available for all existing and future uses of the system. This tank will provide additional storage, fire protection, and pressure/flow during emergencies. It will also leave Okaloosa County better poised for the future 6-laning of Highway 98. This project is an investment in infrastructure and is critical for the quality of life in this portion of Okaloosa County.

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

The funds will be used for the construction of a new elevated storage tank to provide additional potable water storage capacity in a low lying coastal area prone to tropical weather events, increased fire protection capacity, and sustained pressure to the customers in the West County Service area in Okaloosa County.

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

The direct services of more than doubling the elevated potable water storage capacity for County West customers includes increased fire protection capacity, sustained pressure during main breaks and fires (reducing the inconvenience of boil water notices), as well as enhanced resiliency during the period immediately following tropical events with major power outages.

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

All population of West Okaloosa County Water and Sewer service connections. Currently, there are approximately 3,500 connections to the system with an average of 2.6 person per connection for an approximate population of 9,100 residents.

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

Protect the general public health from harm, improve ground water quality, improve drinking water quality, and enhance, preserve, and improve environmental quality by boosting efficiency of water resources. This project will reduce the reliance on the coastal portion of the Floridan Aquifer while adding system interconnections and water storage capacity. Currently, Okaloosa County is within Region II of the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWM). Since Region II is the largest and fastest growing water supply planning region in the District, a regional water supply plan is released yearly to evaluate the conditions of operations. The outcome will be measured by the following:

- Direct increase in water supply capacity;
- Sustainability of water pressure and flow into the West County Service area;
- Reduction of Water Boil Notices; and
- Positive changes in hydrologic data (rise in potentiometric surface of the local Floridan Aquifer, etc.)

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?

Standard contract penalties and/or revocation of grant funds to be considered for failing to meet deliverables or performance standards.

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)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):



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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):

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)



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- 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?

Not Ready

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

0

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 12/31/2027

22. Requester Contact Information

- a. First Name Michael Last Name Hackett
- b. Organization Okaloosa County Water and Sewer
- c. E-mail Address mhackett@myokaloosa.com
- d. Phone Number (850)651-7172 Ext.

23. Recipient Contact Information

- a. Organization Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners
- b. Municipality and County Okaloosa
- 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 Michael Last Name Hackett
- e. E-mail Address mhackett@myokaloosa.com
- f. Phone Number (850)651-7172 Ext.

24. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. Name Sarah Busk Suskey



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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.