



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3006

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Requesting reversion of previous Saint Leo University Arena funding and reappropriation to The Saint Leo University Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Degree Program. Funding is requested to upgrade existing Robotics and AI Lab to supports our Bachelor of Science degree in Robotics. Also hire select staff to prepare graduates for the intersection of electrical, computer, and mechanical engineering grounded in the principles, practices and applications of robotics. This new degree program will prepare students of the Tampa Bay area and other students in the state of Florida for jobs in the fast growing field of robotics and artificial intelligence.

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	2,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

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



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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)?

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
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	2 Robotics Faculty (\$150K each and 36% benefits cost)	408,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Robotics software, hardware, and supporting electromechanical infrastructure. Hardware and software to support robot platforms. Computer hardware - workstations, laptops, mobile devices.	1,592,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000

13. Program Performance

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

Funding is requested to upgrade existing Robotics and AI Lab to supports our Bachelor of Science degree in Robotics. Also hire two qualified faculty to prepare graduates for the intersection of electrical, computer, and mechanical engineering grounded in the principles, practices and applications of robotics. This degree program will prepare students of the Tampa Bay area and other students in the state of Florida for jobs in the fast growing field of robotics and artificial intelligence.



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

Funding is requested to upgrade and modernize our existing Robotics & AI Lab which supports our Bachelor of Science program in Robotics. Also hire two qualified faculty to prepare graduates for the intersection of electronics, computer, and mechanical engineering grounded in the principles, practices and application of robotics.

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

University classes and laboratory to be used for Florida citizens completion of Bachelors Degree in the fields of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence.

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

University/College students; Economically disadvantaged persons; Jobless persons.

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

(1) Improve quality of education - Robotics trained and educated citizens of Florida who will hold Bachelors degrees in Robotics and Artificial Intelligence. Outcome Measure - Number of jobs secured by Saint Leo students in the field of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence.
 (2) Support agriculture through increased use of Robots and technicians trained in Robot operation and maintenance. Outcome measure - Number of graduates who help farmers with robots for agriculture production.

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?

Funding would be returned to the State.

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):

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:



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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)

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



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d. Phone Number

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