



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3248

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The Community Auditorium is a city owned facility that needs safety-related repairs/renovations to bring it up to current code in order to provide cultural experiences in an undeserved community a safe facility for residents, visitors, the general public, businesses, and the surrounding areas to attend/host local and statewide programs, concerts, performances, cultural events, educational programs, summer camps, etc. Safety improvements include ADA accessibility, fire safety regulations, sprinkler system, fire rated curtain, replacing original rope and weight fly system, electrical & lighting upgrades. Wauchula is a financially disadvantaged municipality located in Hardee County, which is a rural area opportunity, as designated by the Governor in Executive Order No. 11-81 per s. 288.0656, F.S.

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	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? Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25	0	1,000,000	2347A	Yes

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.



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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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

07/01/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/30/2026

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

General Budget

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.

City of Wauchula is the owner 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		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Contractual construction services for safety and code improvements Contractual architectural/engineering & Administrative 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?

To provide cultural experiences in an undeserved community in a safe, up to current code, City owned facility for citizenry, residents, visitors, businesses & surrounding areas to attend/host local & state wide programs/concerts/performances & events, etc. Safety improvements include ADA accessibility, fire safety regulations, sprinkler system, fire rated curtain, replacing original rope and weight fly system, electrical & lighting upgrades, etc. Financially disadvantaged municipality located in a Rural Area of Opportunity.

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



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Seeking contractual services for architectural/engineering, administrative and construction services through the city's procurement policies.

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

Citizens will have a safe place that is up-to-code to host/use/attend cultural art, educational programs, theatre productions, performances, plays, etc. Provides for protection of life, health & safety issues, ADA compliance regulations addressed.

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

Target population in this financially disadvantaged community that is located in a Rural Area of Opportunity to be served includes citizenry, residents, visitors, general public, and the business community. Population expected to be served exceeds 25,000.

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

A safe facility that meets current building and fire safety codes, including ADA compliance requirements; appropriate electrical and lighting improvements to host local theatre productions, cultural events, and activities; and attractions for business community that will enrich cultural experience and promote with education. Improve quality of education by providing youth, students, elderly, general public, residents, and visitors with a venue for educational and informational events by agribusinesses and the community; allows for citizenry, children and youth to experience and participate in arts productions, cultural events, activities, etc.; creates employment opportunity; potential to draw from surrounding communities; region-wide population availability; increase in revenues/tourism. Documentation of performance data, surveys, tracking of rentals, revenues, 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?

Contractual milestones established throughout project, implementation of corrective action plan, non-payment of invoices until milestones completed.

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#:



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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)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name



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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.