



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 3192

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The City of Clewiston (City) is respectfully requesting an appropriation of \$1.8 million to fund the design, construction, and equipping of a three-story Volunteer Firefighter Training Tower in Clewiston, Florida. This facility will serve as a critical training ground for volunteer firefighters, providing safe, realistic, and NFPA-compliant environments to prepare for fire suppression, rescue operations, and emergency response. The facility will serve as a Regional Training Hub, ensuring that the Hendry and Glades County community volunteer firefighters are properly trained.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

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 2026-2027 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,800,000	86%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	288,000	14%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	2,088,000	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.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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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? 01/01/2027

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 06/01/2028

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

City of Clewiston General Funds

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 Clewiston would own, operate and be responsible for ongoing operations and maintenance of the capital improvements constructed with the requested 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	Design and construct a 3-story NFPA-compliant firefighter training tower (approx. 2,500–3,000 sq. ft.), with associated safety systems (sprinklers, ventilation, gas monitoring), training props and equipment.	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?

Currently, no dedicated training tower exists in Hendry or Glades County; volunteers must travel long distances for live-fire or multi-story training, reducing training frequency and increasing costs. The training tower facilities ensure the community's volunteer firefighters are as properly trained as compared to career departments in larger counties.

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



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The training facility will be utilized to train firefighting advanced skills such as: high-rise and multi-story fire suppression, search & rescue in smoke-filled environments, ventilation and ladder operations, confined space and rope rescue and incident command and firefighter survival drills.

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

Investment in this training tower will directly strengthen the safety and resilience of our community while honoring the service of our volunteer firefighters.

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

The Clewiston Fire Department covers both the City of Clewiston and unincorporated Hendry County, responding to approximately 800 calls per year with a limited number of career personnel supported by volunteer firefighters.

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

The project enhances volunteer firefighter readiness and improved firefighter skill and safety. Measurable decreased response times and reduced injuries and property loss will result. A Regional Training Hub will serve surrounding rural communities, lowering costs by eliminating travel to distant facilities.

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?

As these are public investments in infrastructure and provided that the City uses the funds appropriately under state agency oversight, no penalties should be incurred by the responsible local government agency.

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:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?



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- 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

d. Phone Number



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