



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2712

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

4. Project/Program Description

The proposed project is the rehabilitation of the Horsemen's Arena to be able to host larger scale multi-discipline equestrian events including rodeo's. The project will provide for numerous outdoor recreational opportunities as well as provide tourism and economic development opportunities. The improvements include: rehabilitation of the arena to a 150 x 250 regulation size facility including 6-foot arena paneling, gates, chutes, and back pens; spectator seating improvements including shade coverings; handicap accessible viewing area; restroom improvements; security lighting; parking improvements; 50-amp RV/Camping hook ups; new picnic facility; and, new playground area. The existing panels at the arena will be repurposed to serve as horse stalls in the future. The Horsemen's Arena is the only public equestrian arena and facility in the County. As a rural community whose economy has been dependent on agriculture there is a substantial number of equestrians in the area.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	200,000
Total State Funds Requested	200,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	200,000	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 2024-2025	200,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future 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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As a fiscally constrained County which suffered catastrophic loss during Hurricane Idalia, the County has no funding available for the proposed project. Taylor County is a designated RAO and REDI community.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

The County received \$3.7M which was used for public safety payroll costs and the purchase of PPE and associated supplies. The American Rescue Plan funds are designated for critically needed stormwater facilities.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. 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?

12. 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.

Taylor County Board of Commissioners own, operate, and maintain the arena and associated grounds.

13. 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: Other		
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	All funding will be used for the arena facility improvements and upgrades as well as the addition of a playground and picnic area. The Horsemen's Arena site is owned by the County. The County will provide all project management services.	200,000



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Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)	200,000
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14. Program Performance

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

The purpose of the proposed project is the complete renovation of the arena to enable the County to host larger scale multi-discipline events including rodeo's as well as provide outdoor recreational opportunities to local citizens. The arena was originally constructed to host events targeted more to children and youth. Over the years the arena has accommodated all ages but there are limitations to the types of equestrian activities that can be safely hosted at the arena With Florida being "The Horse Capital" the County is currently missing out on many equestrian related tourism and economic development opportunities.

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

The Arena project will include the complete renovation of the arena to a regulation size arena. Improvements will be made to support facilities including seating, handicap accessibility, restroom improvements, parking upgrades, and security lighting. The new playground and picnic area will provide for additional recreational opportunities for spectators or children who may not participate in equestrian events. The RV/Camper hook ups will allow for concession or show vendors to provide additional amenities to spectators and participants.

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

Direct services will include providing the facilities needed to participate in equestrian events in a safe and accessible facility. The project also includes rehabilitating the arena into a regulation size facility which will be able to offer multi-discipline equestrian events. As a rural, fiscally constrained County, the arena will provide much needed tourism and economic development opportunities. In addition, Forest Capital Hall is located on the same grounds of the arena and currently hosts numerous festivals through out the year. With the arena improvements, it will enable the County to host multi-day events and encouraging visitors to the area to stay for longer periods of time to enjoy and participate in events at both facilities.

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

The target population is equestrians however, the key reason for the improvements at the arena is the promotion of tourism and economic development benefits of equestrian activities. The Florida horse industry has an economic impact of \$6.8 billion on the State and with the arena being centrally located , the County is missing out on economic benefits and opportunities related to equestrian activities.

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

The expected outcome is increased use of the facility and the ability to host multi-discipline, multi-day events at the arena. As a fiscally constrained County which recently lost the County's largest employer (Georgia-Pacific) tourism and economic development opportunities are critical to the County. Total employment figures for the horse industry in Florida is 244,200 and the arena has the potential to add jobs to Taylor County where jobs and economic opportunities are desperately needed.

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 the contract?

The County is committed to the project and will meet contract performance measures and deliverables.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**



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16. 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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number