

# **Board of County Commissioners**

Leon County, Florida

## **Workshop on 2006 State and Federal Legislative Priorities**

November 22, 2005

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Leon County Board of County Commission Chambers  
Leon County Courthouse, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

## **Board of County Commissioners**

### **Workshop Item**

**Date of Meeting:** November 22, 2005

**Date Submitted:** November 16, 2005

**TO:** Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

**FROM:** Parwez Alam, County Administrator  
Vincent Long, Assistant County Administrator 

**SUBJECT:** Workshop on 2006 State and Federal Legislative Priorities.

#### **STATEMENT OF ISSUE:**

To conduct a workshop with the Board on the state and federal legislative priorities to guide the County's lobbying efforts for the 2006 state legislative session and the second session of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Historically, the Board has conducted a workshop with staff on legislative priorities to guide the County's lobbying efforts. In recent years, staff has utilized this forum to receive Board direction on and approval of priority legislative issues to guide the County's lobbying efforts at both the state and federal level.

#### **ANALYSIS:**

Upon the close of the state legislative session each year, staff solicits legislative appropriations and policy requests from the County's departments. A follow-up working session is conducted with staff to compile a proposed list of new policy issues and appropriations requests, as well as others sought in previous sessions, for Board consideration. Staff has identified 12 appropriation requests for the 2006 state and federal legislative cycles. (please see Attachment #1). Additionally, staff has identified 14 policy statements for the 2006 state legislative session (please see Attachment #2).

Rather than ask the Board to rank projects in priority order, staff is seeking Board assent to the state and federal substantive and appropriations issues presented here to be included in the County's 2006 State and Federal Legislative Programs. Upon Board approval, staff and contract lobbyists will pursue all of the legislative issues approved by the Board, and in so doing, place appropriate priority on the issues given the opportunities that arise during the legislative process. Notwithstanding this, staff will assign priority to any issue that the Board directs to receive a special level of attention in 2006. Staff would also like to welcome the addition or deletion of issues that the Board deems appropriate for our 2006 legislative efforts.

It is important to note that in addition to the specific Leon County issues identified by staff, much of the County's legislative efforts each session are focused on statewide issues in conjunction with the Florida Association of Counties (FAC). FAC will finalize their 2006 Legislative Program during their legislative conference on November 30, 2005. These issues are often times the most critical issues facing the County during the State legislative session.

**PROPOSED LEON COUNTY 2006 STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION:  
Appropriation Requests**

*(Please Note: For complete information on each, see Attachment #1)*

The Board of County Commissioner's practice of retaining professional contractual lobbying services, at both the state and federal levels, is based primarily on increasing the County's chances of obtaining legislative appropriations. Staff works throughout the year to identify County projects for which to submit state and federal appropriations requests. Attachment #3 illustrates the County's state and federal appropriations since 2002. The 2006 appropriation requests identified, below, cover significant County initiatives ranging from increased funding for stormwater projects to transportation funding. During the 2005 legislative workshop, the Board directed staff to submit each appropriation request at both the state and federal levels to improve the County's chances of receiving an appropriation. Aside from the specific grant program requests, the 2006 appropriation requests listed below will be submitted at both the state and federal levels.

One of the most important appropriation requests that the County has targeted for state funding is the Mahan Drive (US 90) road widening project from Dempsey Mayo Road to I-10 (Significantly, this was also a priority set by the Board during FY 2004/05. Leon County, the City of Tallahassee, Blueprint 2000, and the Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) have also been working with FDOT to get this project qualified for the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) transportation funding program. SIS was created in 2003 to ensure adequate planning and funding of transportation systems that connect airports, seaports, bus terminals, and major highways. Mahan Drive is expected to be recognized as a SIS "intermodal connector" between I-10 and the and the Greyhound bus terminal located on Tennessee Street (US 90) this spring. In addition, the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) was created in 2005 to improve regional transportation facilities through a partnership of local governments, the state, and the private sector. Under TRIP, FDOT may provide up to 50 percent of project costs for regional projects such as Mahan Drive. The County has had success during the past month in securing SIS and TRIP funding for priority projects, including \$42.6 million for right of way purchase along Capital Circle SW through SIS and \$4.3 million for Capital Circle SE through TRIP. The County will now seek state funding under both TRIP and SIS as part of the 2006 legislative cycle, as well as seeking federal funding for Mahan Drive.

The appropriation requests include targeted grant requests for two significant projects. The first grant funding request is under the State Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Water Quality Grant Program. Staff and administrators from the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) have recommended the Lake Jackson/Roden Cove and Lexington flood mitigation projects for legislative consideration in the year ahead under this grant. This is primarily due to the advanced stage of the projects and the fact that they have been top ranked projects by NFWFMD for several years. In 2005, the County was awarded a Department of State Public Library Construction Grant of \$500,000 for construction of the Lake Jackson Branch Library. For 2006, staff has included a library construction grant application for the Apalachee Parkway Branch Library to the Department of State. That request will be considered as part of the FY 06/07 Public Library Construction Grant Program by the 2006 State Legislature.

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The other projects listed below, from the Killlearn Lakes Sewer Project to the Wakulla Springs Aquifer Protection Project, provide staff and the County's contract lobbyists with the opportunity to identify and advocate for funding of Board priorities that match with state and federal objectives, during the legislative process. The following is the proposed Leon County 2006 State and Federal appropriation requests:

<u>Mahan Drive</u> Dempsey Mayo Rd. to I-10 - Construction	\$24,000,000
<u>Capital Circle SW (intermodal Connector)</u> Orange Ave to Crawfordville Highway - Planning/Design	\$1,500,000
<u>Wakulla Springs Aquifer Protection Project</u> Planning/Design	\$250,000
<u>Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)</u> 175 AEDs to equip all Sheriff's vehicles (150) and County facilities (25)	\$175,000
<u>Killlearn Lakes Sewer Project</u> Design/Construction	\$5,000,000
<u>Frenchtown Primary, Specialty &amp; Mental Health Clinic</u> Siting/Planning/Construction	\$3,000,000
<u>Harbinwood Estates Sewer Retrofit Project</u> Design/Construction	\$8,000,000
<u>Lake Jackson/Lexington Flood Mitigation/Water Quality Retrofit</u> Land acquisition and construction	\$750,000*
<u>Lake Jackson/Rhoden Cove Flood Mitigation/Water Quality Retrofit</u> Land acquisition and construction	\$750,000*
<u>J. Lewis Hall, Sr. Park in Woodville (FRDAP)</u> Renovation of playground equipment & restrooms	\$112,500#
<u>Apalachee Parkway Branch Library (Public Library Construction Grant)</u> Construction of new County branch library	\$500,000**
<u>Lake Jackson Ecopassage</u> Design	\$500,000

\* DEP Water Quality Program Grant to be submitted, requires 2006 legislative approval

\*\* Department of State Public Library Construction Grant to be submitted, requires 2006 legislative approval.

# FDEP Innovative and FRDAP grants require 2006 state legislative approval.

## PROPOSED LEON COUNTY 2006 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### Policy Requests

*(Please Note: For complete information on each, see Attachment #2)*

Like most legislation, much of the County's legislative efforts are incremental and are focused on issues that are built upon throughout several sessions. However, each year staff evaluates the trends and issues affecting all County programs and services to identify potential policy or "substantive" legislative issues. Significant substantive issues that have been identified for County participation range from protection of the state workforce to the reducing the jail population; from continued state funding for waste tire grant programs to increased funding for mental health services. The impact of state violators of probation (VOPs) on the county jails is an issue that burdens most Florida counties, including Leon County, which FAC intends to address at its annual legislative conference on November 30, 2005.

In addition to the substantive issues identified by the County, staff works daily with FAC and the Florida Association on Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR) to identify developing issues that effect counties during session's quick pace. In many cases, the County joins FAC and FAIR members to advocate for or against initiatives that would substantially impact counties (*Please note: FAIR members are representatives of local governments from across the state.*). The 2006 Legislature may consider a local issue regarding Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH). TMH is currently undergoing the application process to become a recognized trauma center under state law. During the 2006 legislative session, TMH plans to request approximately \$500,000 from the Legislature as a start-up cost for the trauma center. Based upon Board direction, staff will monitor and support this issue of regional importance throughout session.

On December 5, 2005, the Leon County Legislative Delegation will hold a public hearing in the Leon County Commission Chamber to discuss legislative issues for the 2006 legislative session. Please find, below, a listing of the proposed Leon County 2006 state legislative session policy requests. Each request provides a brief overview of the issue and indicates the specific legislative action recommended:

### Section I. Finance and Tax

#### **State Cost-shift opposition**

**Issue:** The 2004 Legislature passed a bill shifting \$90 million in state costs for the predisposition of juvenile offenders to counties. This move impacted Leon County by approximately \$1.4 million annually. In 2005, the Legislature upheld the cost shift despite counties' strong opposition. Additional legislation related to Medicaid funding could negatively impact counties this year. Please note that the Governor has called a Special Session for the purpose of Medicaid Reform for the week of December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

**Action:** Support the continued state funding of state programs and oppose any cost shifts to counties, including modifications to the Medicaid program.

### **Budget Adoption**

**Issue:** Florida Statutes requires county budget officers to submit the tentative budget no later than 15 days after the certification of value. This makes it extremely difficult to get the budget document finalized for distribution to county commissioners.

**Action:** Support efforts to extend deadline to submit the tentative budget from 15 to 21 days after the certification of value.

## **Section II. Growth Management, Environment, Transportation & Infrastructure**

### **Growth Management Reform**

**Issue:** The 2005 Legislature passed Senate Bill 360, including significant growth management reforms ranging from school planning to water supply funding. State legislative staff is preparing a "glitch bill" to further modify the comprehensive legislation passed last year. It is anticipated that this glitch bill will also address numerous issues impacting local government.

**Action:** Continue to monitor growth management issues and advocate county position.

### **SIS Funding**

**Issue:** Legislators created the new Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) in 2003 to improve the system by which state road projects are prioritized for funding. During the 2004 regular session, a funding mechanism for this system was designated. Significantly, ongoing County efforts to include Mahan Drive as a "connector" roadway on the SIS have been successful. In 2005, FDOT awarded \$42.6 million in SIS funding for the advanced right of way purchase for the widening of Capital Circle SW. For 2006, staff will continue to work with key decision makers to place priority County transportation projects on the SIS and enhance the potential for state funding of these County projects.

**Action:** Monitor this issue and advocate County position.

## **Section III. Health and Social Services**

### **Health Care**

**Issue:** Indigent Care Surtax

**Action:** Support legislation authorizing counties to impose the Indigent Care Surtax by an extraordinary vote of the Board of County Commissioners. Current law authorizes counties with a population of 800,000 or more to levy the Indigent Care Surtax by an extraordinary vote of the governing body.

**Mental Health**

Issue: Improve the shortage of local treatment opportunities and reduce the number of mentally ill in the county jail.

Action: Support expanded funding for mental health services across the region and state.

**Section IV. Public Safety**

**County Jail**

Issue: Jail Overcrowding

Action: Support the Florida Association of Counties and the Florida Sheriff's Association in their efforts to reduce county jail population, including state Violators of Probation (VOP) inmates in county jails. On November 1, 2005, the Public Safety Coordinating Council recommended that the County pursue all means to reduce the jail population. FAC is expected to address specific VOP issues during the upcoming legislative conference on November 30, 2005.

**Probation**

Issue: Jail Overcrowding

Action: Monitor any changes affecting house arrest and support its expanded allowable use as a condition of probation in misdemeanor and traffic offenses.

Issue: Pretrial Release

Action: Monitor any changes to statutes affecting pretrial release and advocate continued support for program.

Issue: Juvenile Justice Funding

Action: Monitor funding levels and the potential reduction of local alternative and prevention programs to ensure that no further burden for treatment and prevention of juveniles is not shifted to counties (a \$90 million cost shift to counties for DJJ costs was approved in 2005).

## **Section V. General Government and Libraries**

### **Libraries**

Issue: State aid for libraries

Action: Continue to support full or expanded funding for State Aid to Libraries

## **Section VI. Statewide Issues**

### **Protection of State Workforce**

Issue: State workers comprise a substantial percentage of Leon County's population, contributing to our community, economy and diversity. Recent executive and legislative actions have reduced the number state workers and, have placed numerous others at risk. Future actions impacting state workers are anticipated.

Action: Monitor this issue and advocate for the continued protection of our state workforce.

### **FRS Reclassification of Probation & Pre-Trial Release Employees as Special Risk**

Issue: The nature of the work performed by Probation Officers and Supervised Pre-Trial Release Specialists is comparable to the tasks performed by law enforcement officers. Probation Officers and Pre-Trial Specialists have daily contact with offenders who often have lengthy criminal histories that may include charges of a violent nature.

Action: Support Florida Association of Community Corrections efforts to pursue the reclassification of Probation and Pre-Trial employees as special risk.

### **Florida Association of Counties (FAC) Issues**

Issue: FAC represents 67 counties at the Legislature on issues that have broad statewide appeal, such as the opposition of unfunded mandates or cost shifts to counties (similar to the \$90 million DJJ cost shift that was passed in 2004) to supporting the reconciliation of any outstanding "glitch" issues to fully implement of Revision 7 to Article V (state funding of state court costs). FAC will finalize their 2006 legislative program during their legislative conference in December, 2005.

Action: Support the 2006 FAC legislative program unless specific issues conflict with the County's issues.

**Waste Tire Grant Fund Distribution**

Issue: In recent years, the Legislature approved Waste Tire Grant Program funding at various levels.

Action: Monitor this issue and advocate for continued funding of the Waste Tire Grant Program with county allocations based upon an equitable population based formula.

**Emergency Medical Services Employees**

Issue: The 2005 Legislature passed a bill that provides individuals the authority to use deadly force or cause great bodily harm to someone who unlawfully enters a dwelling. An exemption is provided for law enforcement officers entering a dwelling in accordance with his/her official duties. However, an exemption does not exist for EMS personnel.

Action: Support the changing of the exemption language to include all public safety officials and first responders.

Issue: Florida Statutes exempts all police, firefighters, jail workers, and judges from having their names, addresses, and families' personal information from being disclosed publicly.

Action: Support legislation that would add EMS and paramedics to the exempt list for public records.

**FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:**

The second session of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress is expected to begin in early January of 2006. The Board of County Commissioner's practice has been to focus the County's federal legislative program on appropriations issues. At the Board's request, the federal appropriation requests have been combined with the state appropriations request (Page #3 of the Analysis Section). Attachment #3 illustrates the County's state and federal appropriations since 2002. Any substantive issues that the County has at the federal level are coordinated through our National Association of Counties (NACO) representation.

Staff continually works with the County's federal contract lobbying firm, Patton Boggs, throughout the year, to advocate for the County's targeted appropriation requests. Staff coordinates weekly with Patton Boggs by phone and e-mail to strategize on key federal budget issues and to identify new federal grant funding that could potentially fund County project requests. In addition, Patton Boggs has been submitting monthly memoranda to update the Board on their federal lobbying activities in order to further improve communication between the Board and their federal lobbying firm.

Recent federal appropriation cycles have yielded some positive outcomes for County funding

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requests. Significantly, Congress passed the long awaited re-authorization of the Safe, Accountable,

Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) during the past year, which provides \$16.1 million for right of way and construction of Capital Circle NW. Congress is still working toward completing this year's budget but is expected to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) beyond the current November 18, 2005 deadline. It is expected that this year's appropriation package, including the County's pending requests, will be approved prior to the winter recess. Previously, the 2003 federal budget included two significant appropriations for Leon County, including \$1 million for the widening of Capital Circle NW/SW from I-10 to the Airport and \$375,000 for new equipment at the Ft. Braden Branch Library.

During the previous year, Patton Boggs has also worked with the County to identify additional grant sources such as for the County's EMS and Housing programs. Patton Boggs has also assisted in coordinating federal outreach on county projects such as for the proposed women's health center. In addition to supporting the County's federal appropriation requests, these activities have been very beneficial to the County. Similar to previous years, staff recommends that the Board approve the continuation of these ongoing federal lobbying efforts.

Please note that the contract with the current County Federal Lobbyist, Patton Boggs, is scheduled to end on December 31, 2005. Based upon their performance during the past year, staff is preparing an agenda item for the Board's regular meeting on December 13, 2005, recommending an extension of the contract with Patton Boggs for federal lobbying services.

**OPTIONS:**

1) Approve the 2006 state legislative issues and 109<sup>th</sup> Congress (2<sup>nd</sup> session) federal legislative issues as presented.

2) Approve the 2006 state legislative issues and 109<sup>th</sup> Congress (2<sup>nd</sup> session) federal legislative issues as amended by the Board.

3) Provide Staff other direction

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Option #1

**Attachments:**

#1: 2006 State and Federal Legislative Session Appropriation Request Forms and Related Materials

#2: 2006 State Legislative Session Policy Request Forms and Related Materials

#3 Leon County State and Federal Appropriations: 2002-2005

PA/VL/BHP/KM

## 2006 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation:  X  State Appropriation:  X

Department/Division: Public Works/Engineering Services Contact: Tony Park/Leigh Root

Phone: 606-1500 Fax: 606-1501 E-Mail: rootl@leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: **Mahan Drive (Phase II).**

1. Project Description: This capital project will provide for funding to the Department of Transportation (FDOT) for right-of-way acquisition and reconstruction of the portion of Mahan Drive (US 90 East) from Dempsey Mayo Road to Interstate 10. Leon County has advanced funded a portion of the project for FDOT construction with funds to be returned on an agreed payment plan.

The reconstruction portion of the project will include expanding the number of lanes, from two to four, on this portion of Mahan Drive as well as provide bike lanes and sidewalks.

2. Purpose of project and outcome expected: The purpose of the project is to widen and make improvements to Mahan Drive (US 90 East). The project is important to meet the anticipated traffic load for the east side of the County for the next 20 years. In addition, the road serves as a part of the County's evacuation plan in the event of an emergency.
3. Service Provided/Benefit to State: This is truly a regional roadway serving Jefferson and Leon Counties. In addition, it serves as a main artery for evacuations. Furthermore, it should be considered that this roadway is the gateway to the state capital from Interstate 10, particularly for those traveling from the east.
4. Population Served: Over 300,000. Mahan Drive serves Jefferson and Leon Counties and is the main artery to and from the City of Tallahassee for evacuations to I-10.
5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation: The County has planned to advance fund (16.5 million) to the FDOT in FY 2009. However, it has recently been determined that even the amount of funds in Leon County's budget designated for advance funding will be insufficient. The total project is now anticipated to cost \$24 million.
6. Funding:  
Federal Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$24 million**  
State Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$24 million**  
Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county): **\$16.5 million of advanced funding through 2009.**

**NOTE:** Please attach backup materials.

Approved by:

Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_ County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2006 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation:  X  State Appropriation:  X

Department/Division: Public Works

Contact: Tony Park

Phone: 891-8600

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: TonyP@Leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: Capital Circle Southwest PD&E

1. Project Description:

Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study of a segment of Capital Circle SW, from Orange Avenue to Crawfordville Highway.

2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:

Capital Circle is a major arterial roadway circling the Tallahassee urban area. It links a major expressway (Interstate 10) with US 27 and US 90, and US 319. Segments of Capital Circle have been widened with a significant portion of the improvements being either directly funded or advance-funded by the City of Tallahassee or Leon County.

3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:

There are a number of benefits derived from this project. The Tallahassee and Leon County Commissions through their "Southern Strategy" initiative are attempting to spur economic growth in the southern areas of the City and County with a combination of roadway improvements, sector-planning efforts, growth management and economic incentives. Targeted is the southwestern quadrant, an area serviced by Capital Circle Southwest. The Florida State University has announced plans to expand their campus from the current 600 acres to 1500 acres.

Capital Circle Southwest is a critical transportation link needed to facilitate the growth and development of these areas. This project is also important for the efficient emergency evacuation of residents of low-lying or vulnerable coastal areas. The primary evacuation routes from the central coastal panhandle are US 319 and SR 20, and both of these roads intersect with Capital Circle on the south and west side of Tallahassee.

4. Population Served:

The segment of Capital Circle (SR 263) under application is the segment from Orange Avenue to Crawfordville Highway (with a re-evaluation of SR 20 to Orange Avenue). A portion of this segment is a critical intermodal link from the Tallahassee Regional Airport to Interstate 10. All regional customers of the Airport and coastal residents of neighboring counties will benefit from this project because Capital Circle Southwest serves as the primary evacuation route for several coastal counties.

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:

The project is scheduled to begin as soon as funds are available.

6. Funding:  
Federal Funding Requested (as applicable): \$1,500,000  
State Funding Requested (as applicable): \$1,500,000  
Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county/Blueprint 2000): \$1,500,000  
(50%) of the estimated project cost.

**NOTE:** Please attach backup materials.

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Approved by:

Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_

County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2006 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: X State Appropriation: X

Department/Division: Public Works/Engineering Services Contact: Tony Park/Joe Brown

Phone: 606-1500 Fax: 606-1501 E-Mail: TonyP@leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: **Wakulla Springs Aquifer Protection Project**

1. Project Description: This project is a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study for the purposes of providing sewer service to approximately 1,432 homes or properties located within the Woodville area of Leon County. These homes are located upstream to Wakulla Springs and threaten one of the world's largest and deepest freshwater springs.
2. Purpose of project and outcome expected: Providing sewer service will eliminate the need for septic tanks which, in the event of failure, can cause environmental concerns and impacts.
3. Service Provided/Benefit to State: Leon County Comprehensive Plan Objective 1.1:(SS) provides that all waste water is to be treated and disposed of in a manner that protects natural resources and public health. (Note: The State of Florida has acquired more than half of the 6,500 acre buffer zone around Wakulla Springs acknowledging the importance of preserving this natural habitat).
4. Population Served: Approximately 1,500 homes directly impacted in Leon County. Wakulla Springs is also home to a state park that has thousands of visitors each year.
5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation: Due to the time necessary for the studies, project design, and right-of-way acquisition, the construction is anticipated to begin in FY08.
6. Funding:  
Federal Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$250,000**  
State Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$250,000**  
Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county): \$500,000 over the next five years for construction of a sewer system.

**NOTE:** Please attach backup materials.

Approved by:  
Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_ County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ken Morris at 488-9962.\*\***

## 2006 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: \_\_\_\_\_ State Appropriation: X

Department/Division: EMS

Contact: Mac Kemp

Phone: 606-2114 Fax: 606-2101

E-Mail: Kempm@leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: **Funding for Automated External Defibrillators for all Sheriff's Vehicles and County Facilities.**

1. Project Description:

The County request funding to equip all Sheriff's vehicles and County facilities with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:

AEDs have proven to save lives by giving the heart a controlled electric shock, forcing all the heart muscles to contract at once and jolting it back into a regular rhythm. The County hopes to equip all Sheriff's vehicles (150) and County facilities (25) to improve the survival chances of a heart attack victim.

3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:

This is a life saving public service. Victims of heart attacks and heart failure can only survive for a few short minutes before their body completely shuts down. A nearby AED can save a heart attack victim by rejuvenating a heart beat until EMS personnel arrive.

4. Population Served:

All Leon County residents, tourists, and individuals in the vicinity of a County facility or Leon County Sheriff's vehicle would be served by this request.

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:

The County would immediately purchase the AEDs upon receipt of appropriations.

6. Funding:

Federal Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$175,000**

State Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$175,000**

Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county): \$75,000 from the local chapter of the American Heart Association.

**NOTE:** Please attach backup materials.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_

County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2006 Appropriation Request Form

Attachment # 1  
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Please Check: Federal Appropriation X State Appropriation X

Department/Division: Public Works Contact: Joe Brown

Phone: 488-8003 Fax: 488-1260 E-Mail: joebr@leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: Killearn Lakes Units 1 and 2 Sewer Retrofit Project

1. Project Description:  
Project proposes to install municipal sanitary sewer service to these residential subdivisions thereby allowing existing septic tanks to be abandoned.
2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:  
Existing septic systems are failing to provide sewer treatment and pose risks to human health and safety as well environmental damages to nearby water bodies. Purpose of project is to provide an acceptable municipal sanitary sewer system such that the septic systems can be abandoned.
3. Services Provided/Benefit to State:  
Services will include sewer service to residential area where existing septic systems have failed and the termination of pollution source that is threatening human health and area water bodies. Benefits will include enhanced health and safety for human population in the immediate area, enhanced water resource protection for area water bodies, protection of wildlife including endangered species, restoration of property values and associated tax base.
4. Population Served:  
Approximately 1,440 homes will receive municipal sewer service and be able to abandon existing septic systems. A Large portion of Leon County will be served by pollution protection, so the entire population of Leon County can be considered served. Due to potential reduction of pollutants to Ochlockonee River, downstream counties may also realize benefits.
5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:  
Construction will be started in the beginning of 2006 and is expected to be complete by the fall of 2006.
6. Funding:  
Federal Funding Requested: **\$5,000,000**  
State Funding Requested: **\$5,000,000**  
Present or Future Funding Sources: \$5 million for construction costs.

**NOTE:** Please attach backup materials.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_ County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*\*For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ken Morris, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962.\*\**

## 2006 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: X State Appropriation: X

Department/Division: Health and Human Services Contact: Joe Sharp

Phone: 488-7790 Fax: 922-4749 E-Mail: Sharpj@leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: *Frenchtown Primary, Specialty & Mental Health Clinic*

1. Project Description:

Land Acquisition, building and equipment for 10,000 sq. ft. clinic for Neighborhood Health Services, Inc., a 501(C)(3) non profit organization delivering primary and specialty healthcare services to the uninsured citizens of Leon and surrounding Florida counties.

2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:

Project will provide adequate space and equipment for expansion of services to meet the growing needs of the uninsured citizens.

3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:

Enhance the quality of life of citizens who receive care and treatment and enhance the economic status of the region by permitting citizens to regain healthy status and attain work; relieve increasing stress on Leon County safety net hospitals Emergency Departments and decrease the amount of uncompensated care provided by local hospitals thus reducing the "invisible tax" on Leon County employers and employed citizens.

4. Population Served:

Leon County Citizens to benefit: 250,000; Surrounding Counties: 95,000

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:

Based upon the approval of funds, the County would begin land acquisition and construction process.

6. Funding:

Federal Funding Requested (as applicable): \$3,000,000

State Funding Requested (as applicable): \$3,000,000

Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county): N/A

**NOTE:** Please attach backup materials.

Approved by:

Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_

County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2006 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation:  X  State Appropriation:  X

Department/Division: Public Works/Eng. Design Svs Contact: Joe L. Brown III, P.E.

Phone: (850) 488-8003 Fax: (850) 488-1260 E-Mail: JOEBR@Leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: Harbinwood Estates Sanitary Sewer Improvements

1. Project Description: Upgrade the Harbinwood Estates Subdivision from individual on-site septic tank systems to a centralized sewage collection and treatment system.
2. Purpose of project and outcome expected: The purpose of the project is to provide a modern system of sewage collection to an area that currently experiences wide spread septic tank failures. The outcome of the project is vastly reduced bacterial contamination of stormwater runoff and a reduction in the nutrient loads reaching Lake Jackson.
3. Services Provided/Benefit to State: Continues the restoration of Lake Jackson, a State designated Outstanding Florida Waterway (OFW). In 1999/2000 a restoration effort was initiated that resulted in the removal and disposal of approximately 2,000,000 cubic yards of accumulated nutrient rich bottom sediments.
4. Population Served: Due to Lake Jackson's direct connection with the regions drinking water source via active sinkholes, this project serves the population Leon County as well as several surrounding counties.
5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:
6. Funding:  
Federal Funding Request: **\$8,000,000**  
State Funding Requested: **\$8,000,000**  
Present or Future Funding Sources: \$500,000 over the next five years.

**NOTE:** Please attach backup materials.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_ County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ken Morris, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962.\*\***

## 2006 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: X State Appropriation: X

Department/Division: Public Works/Eng. Design Svs Contact: Joe L. Brown III, P.E.

Phone: (850) 488-8003 Fax: (850) 488-1260 E-Mail: JOEBR@Leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: Lake Jackson, Lexington Branch Regional Stormwater Treatment Facility

1. Project Description: Construction of a large regional wet detention stormwater treatment facility to provide water quality treatment to a portion of the Lake Jackson Watershed that was developed prior to adoption of comprehensive stormwater management regulations.
2. Purpose of project and outcome expected: The purpose of the Lexington Branch facility is to address long standing stormwater quality and roadway flooding problems in the Fords Arm Lexington Branch of Lake Jackson. The outcome of the project is the overall reduction in the nutrient and sediment loads reaching Lake Jackson along with enhanced roadway safety during adverse weather conditions.
3. Services Provided/Benefit to State: Continues the restoration of Lake Jackson, a State designated Outstanding Florida Waterway (OFW). In 1999/2000 a restoration effort was initiated that resulted in the removal and disposal of approximately 2,000,000 cubic yards of accumulated nutrient rich bottom sediments.
4. Population Served: Due to Lake Jackson's direct connection with the regions drinking water source via active sinkholes, this project serves the population Leon County as well as several surrounding counties.
5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:
6. Funding:  
Federal Funding Request: **\$750,000**  
State Funding Requested: **\$750,000**  
Present or Future Funding Sources: \$3.2 million planned funding for 2008.

**NOTE:** Please attach backup materials.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_ County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ken Morris, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962.\*\***

## 2006 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: X State Appropriation: X

Department/Division: Public Works/Eng. Design Svcs Contact: Joe L. Brown<sup>III</sup>, P.E.

Phone: (850) 488-8003 Fax: (850) 488-1260 E-Mail: JOEBR@Leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: Lake Jackson, Rhoden Cove Regional Stormwater Treatment Facility

1. Project Description: Construction of a large regional wet detention stormwater treatment facility to provide water quality treatment to a portion of the Lake Jackson Watershed that was developed prior to adoption of comprehensive stormwater management regulations.
2. Purpose of project and outcome expected: The purpose of the Rhoden Cove facility is to address long standing stormwater quality and roadway flooding problems in the Fords Arm Overstreet Branch of Lake Jackson. The outcome of the project is the overall reduction in the nutrient and sediment loads reaching Lake Jackson along with enhanced roadway safety during adverse weather conditions.
3. Services Provided/Benefit to State: Continues the restoration of Lake Jackson, a State designated Outstanding Florida Waterway (OFW). In 1999/2000 a restoration effort was initiated that resulted in the removal and disposal of approximately 2,000,000 cubic yards of accumulated nutrient rich bottom sediments.
4. Population Served: Due to Lake Jackson's direct connection with the regions drinking water source via active sinkholes, this project serves the population Leon County as well as several surrounding counties.
5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:
6. Funding:  
Federal Funding Requested: **\$750,000**  
State Funding Requested: **\$750,000**  
Present or Future Funding Sources: \$2.4 million planned funding for 2008.

**NOTE:** Please attach backup materials.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_

County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ken Morris, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962.\*\***

**2006 Appropriation Request Form**Please Check: Federal Appropriation: \_\_\_\_\_ State Appropriation: XDepartment/Division: Public Works Parks & Rec Contact: J Pat PlocekPhone: 488-0221 Fax: 414-0177 E-Mail: plocekp@leoncountyfl.govProject Title: **J. Lewis Hall, Sr. Park Renovation**

1. Project Description:  
DEP Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program grant for the renovation of J. Lewis Hall, Sr. Park (Woodville). The grant will provide 75% funding for the renovation of playground equipment, restroom renovations, and trail construction.
2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:  
This project will upgrade the playground equipment to meet all safety and ADA requirements. The grant will provide the necessary funding to renovate this equipment and make a safe environment for the children to play on.
3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:  
The playground will provide a safe area for the children to play on. This project will also connect the State trail system to the trail system in the National Forest.
4. Population Served:  
This park serves the citizens in the Woodville area of the County.
5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:  
Based upon grant approval, construction will begin and be completed in the fall of 2006.
6. Funding:  
Federal Funding Requested (as applicable):  
State Funding Requested (as applicable): DEP Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program \$112,500  
Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county): \$37,500 in County funds.

**NOTE:** Please attach backup materials.

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Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_ County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2006 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation: \_\_\_\_\_ State Appropriation: X

Department/Division: Public Service/Library Contact: Helen Moeller

Phone: 487-2665 Fax: 487-1793 E-Mail: helenm@leoncountyfl.gov

Project Title: **State Public Library Construction Grant for Southeast Branch of the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System**

1. Project Description:

State Construction Grant for Southeast Branch Library of the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library. The grant would fund \$500,000 toward construction of a new Southeast Branch Library in Leon County.

2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:

The 12,000 square foot new branch library will serve the large population residing in the Southeast sector of Leon County. This area is anticipated to serve approximately 40,000 residents with full library services. Library services assist people of all ages through programs, books, media, computer classes, literacy classes and other educational services. Library services can improve educational attainment, retention, and provide and economic benefit to the community.

3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:

Library services to the public have a positive impact on education and the economy. A recent statewide study showed that every dollar invested in public libraries returned a benefit of \$6.54. The LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library participates in Ask-A-Librarian, the statewide 24/7 reference service. The LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System lends over 3,000 materials a year to other libraries in the state, a value of \$90,000. The library is open to all residents of Florida for Internet service, computer use, and all programs. Location in the capital city of Florida brings many statewide visitors who are welcomed to the library to use computers, attend programs, use research services and the Internet.

4. Population Served:

267,900 – The entire population of Leon County will benefit from the State Construction Grant through its 6 library facilities, bookmobile, and outreach services.

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:

The branch library could be completed by June 2008 if funding was awarded in August 2006 through this grant award.

6. Funding:

Federal Funding Requested (as applicable):

State Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$500,000**

Pending Funding Sources (including county): **\$3.3 million**

**NOTE:** Please attach backup materials.

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Approved by:  
Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_ County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2006 Appropriation Request Form

Please Check: Federal Appropriation:  X  State Appropriation:  X

Department/Division: Capital Region TPA

Contact: Jack Kostrzewa

Phone: 891-8600

Fax: 891-8734

E-Mail: Kostrzej@talgov.com

Project Title: Lake Jackson Ecopassage

1. Project Description:

Lake Jackson is a 4,000-acre sinkhole lake in northwestern Florida located seven (7) miles north of Tallahassee, Florida in the Ochlockonee River basin and is considered one of Leon County's most precious natural resources and is designated as an Aquatic Preserve by the State of Florida. Having a rich variety of wildlife is an integral part of Lake Jackson's ecosystem and should be protected in standing with Lake Jackson's designation as Florida's only lake aquatic preserve. This ecosystem was designated in 1974 as the Lake Jackson Aquatic Preserve "for the primary purpose of preserving and maintaining the biological resources in their essentially natural condition."

The water level of Lake Jackson fluctuates widely and is controlled naturally by rainfall and by two primary sinkholes (Porter Hole and Lime Sink). During drought conditions, a lowering of the water table causes leakage into the groundwater through the sinkholes and most of the lake bottom dries, an event that occurred eight (8) times during the 20th century (1907, 1909, 1932, 1935, 1936, 1957, 1982, and 1999) and once during the 21st century (2002), drying on average every 12.5 years. Normal annual water level fluctuations and periodic natural dry-downs cause wildlife to attempt to migrate across the road.

During the drought of 1999-2000 in North Florida, Lake Jackson dried completely causing a mass exodus of thousands of animals that attempted to migrate to Little Lake Jackson which is directly across North Monroe Street (US 27). Since February of 2000 over 9,200 vertebrate animals of 57 different species (not including birds) have been documented attempting to cross the 3/4-mile section of North Monroe Street (US 27) at Lake Jackson.

In order to prevent a massive road mortality of migrating animals, a temporary fence using silt fence material was constructed that directed animals into an existing culvert under the road. A 3,000-foot fence along North Monroe Street (US 27) north was completed in April 2000 and has been monitored 2-4 times per day since construction. A second fence, (2,000 feet in length) was constructed along North Monroe Street (US 27) south to intercept animals that attempted to migrate across the road when Lake Jackson refilled. It too has been monitored 2-4 times per day since construction. Animals were hand-collected as they moved along the fences, measured, transported by hand across the highway, and released into the water. In 33 months, over 8,000 reptiles and amphibians were saved from a potential deadly situation trying to cross North Monroe Street (US 27) by these temporary fences. However, more than 600 reptiles and amphibians were still road-killed during this period.

North Monroe Street (US 27) is a four-lane road that was built directly across a 3/4-mile portion of northwest Lake Jackson, isolating part of the lake to the west now known as Little Lake Jackson, and creating a barrier to movements of a wide range of wildlife. This road connects North Florida and South Georgia to Interstate 10 and into Tallahassee and points south with approximately 23,000 vehicles per day utilizing the corridor in the study project area. The project area is defined as a 4,000-foot section of US 27 that was built across the Lake Jackson basin including adjacent wetland and upland habitats.

2. Purpose of project and outcome expected:

To address the wildlife mortality, habitat fragmentation, and traffic safety concerns, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has provided the funding to prepare a Lake Jackson Ecopassage Feasibility Study to lay the groundwork (including conceptual plans) for the development of an ecopassage where North Monroe Street (US 27) crosses the Lake Jackson basin.

The intention of the Feasibility Study Project is not to single out a specific species of animals for which to provide a mitigative action(s), but to study the existing conditions of animal and vegetative habitats, hydrological conditions, and roadway conditions. The types of mitigative action(s) that may result from the Lake Jackson Ecopassage Feasibility Study may range from the construction of animal tunnels to a wildlife wall (a wall that prevents animals from crawling over onto the road and attempting a crossing), or a combination of both.

Additionally, the project will provide the necessary documentation to the FDOT and Federal Highway Administration, which ensures this project complies with all Florida and Federal codes and regulations as they pertain to environmental, transportation, and public involvement. The project will require coordination between several Federal, State and local agencies and departments to adequately address the needs of interested parties to the fullest extent possible.

3. Service Provided/Benefit to State:

The Lake Jackson ecosystem is a valuable biological, aesthetic and recreational resource of Leon County and the State of Florida. This ecosystem was designated as the Lake Jackson Aquatic Preserve for the primary purpose of preserving and maintaining the biological resources in their essentially natural condition. The expansive freshwater marshes and native submerged vegetation provide exceptional fish, waterfowl and wading bird habitat. Lake Jackson is internationally known for sport fishing and its trophy largemouth bass. In addition, the lake generates several million dollars annually for the Tallahassee and Leon County area.

The completion of this project allows for Lake Jackson to continue as an aquatic preserve through the preservation of the wildlife that assists in maintaining the ecosystem.

Additionally, wildlife "trespassing" on to US 27 represents a major threat to motorist safety. For example, many adult turtles weigh at least 5 to 10 pounds and are essentially "rocks in the roadway". When turtles are hit they can act as dangerous projectiles, causing serious damage to vehicles and injury to occupants. Without a proper guide-wall to keep wildlife off of the highway, there is serious potential for vehicle accidents on a stretch of highway with

21,500 vehicles per day. The construction of the ecopassage will provide for the safety of the traveling human public

4. Population Served:

From a transportation perspective, on a daily basis there are 21,500 vehicles on the road at this location. If each car has 1.5 people (on average) that population reaches 32,250 people per day just for motorists.

From an environmental perspective, the entire community (255,000+) benefits from having a healthy lake system that feeds directly into the Florida Aquifer. From a recreational perspective there are several thousand people that utilize the lake for fishing, boating, and swimming purposes.

5. Projected Dates for Construction/Operation:

Based upon the acquisition of funding, the County is scheduled to move forward with the design of the ecopassage.

6. Funding:

Federal Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$500,000 for design.**

State Funding Requested (as applicable): **\$500,000 for design.**

Present or Pending Funding Sources (including county):

**NOTE:** Please attach backup materials.

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Approved by:

Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_

County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

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*\*\*For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ken Morris at 488-9962.\*\**

**2006 State Legislative Session**  
**Legislative Proposal**

Department / Division: Administration Contact Person: Vincent Long or Ben Pingree

Phone: 488-9962 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail : Pingreeb@Leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: State Cost Shifts to Counties

**Problem/Need**

During a special session in 2004, the Legislature passed a bill shifting \$90 million in state costs for the predisposition of juvenile offenders to counties. Upheld by the Legislature in 2005, this move impacted Leon County by \$1.4 million last fiscal year. Additional legislative proposals passed during the 2005 regular session related to growth management. Funding was provided for the growth management legislation but a glitch bill is expected to be considered during the 2006 legislative session that may have a fiscal impact on counties. The Legislature also established requirements for local governments to comply with the new Florida Voter Registration System in conjunction with the Help America Vote Act of 2002. Local governments continue to improve voting systems and election administration to comply with state and federal law, with related cost shift.

**Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):**

Monitor the state funding of all state programs, including Medicaid and growth management legislation, and oppose any state unfunded mandates or cost shifts to counties.

**NOTE:** Please attach backup materials.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_ County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*\* For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ken Morris, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962.\**

2006 State Legislative Session  
Legislative Proposal

Department / Division: OMB Contact Person: Alan Rosenzweig  
Phone: 606-5110 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail : RosenzweigA@Leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: Budget Adoption

Problem/Need

Florida Statutes requires county budget officers to submit the tentative budget no later than 15 days after the certification of value. This makes it extremely difficult to get the budget document finalized for distribution to county commissioners.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):

Change ss. 129.03(3), F.S., to read:

*No later than 21 15 days after certification of value by the property appraiser pursuant to s. 200.065(1), the county budget officer, after tentatively ascertaining the proposed fiscal policies of the board for the ensuing fiscal year, shall prepare and present to the board a tentative budget for the ensuing fiscal year for each of the funds provided in this chapter, including all estimated receipts, taxes to be levied, and balances expected to be brought forward and all estimated expenditures, reserves, and balances to be carried over at the end of the year.*

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

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Approved by:  
Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_ County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

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\*\* For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ken Morris, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962.\*\*

**2006 State Legislative Session**  
**Legislative Proposal**

Department / Division: Administration Contact Person: Vincent Long or Ben Pingree  
Phone: 488-9962 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail : Pingreeb@leoncountyfl.gov  
Topic: Growth Management Reform

**Problem/Need**

The 2005 Legislature passed significant growth management reform ranging from school planning to water supply funding. Due to the magnitude of the legislation, a glitch bill will very likely be considered during the 2006 legislative session.

A number of interim reports are scheduled to be presented to the Legislature prior to the start of the 2006 regular session to address modifications to the growth management glitch bill. Staff will continue to monitor growth management and coordinate efforts through the Florida Association of Counties and County's Planning Department.

**Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):**

Continue to monitor growth management issues and advocate county position.

**NOTE: Please attach backup materials.**

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_ County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ken Morris, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. \*\***

**2006 State Legislative Session**  
**Legislative Proposal**

Department / Division: Administration                      Contact Person: Vincent Long or Ben Pingree  
Phone: 488-9962                      Fax: \_\_\_\_\_                      E-Mail : Pingreeb@leoncountyfl.gov  
Topic: Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Funding

**Problem/Need**

The 2003 Legislature created the new Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) to improve the system by which state road projects are prioritized for funding. The 2004 Legislature provided a state funding mechanism for SIS that uses State Transportation Trust Fund dollars to be used, in part, for projects on the SIS, requiring the FDOT to allocate at least 50 percent of any new discretionary highway capacity funds for SIS. Since the 2004 Legislative Session, the CRTPA has developed transportation programs and plans for the metropolitan area in cooperation with the state and with emphasis on all SIS and "emerging" SIS facilities, such as the Capital Circle and Mahan Drive projects.

On November 2, 2005, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) announced that \$42.6 million in SIS funding was awarded for the advanced right of way purchase for the widening of Capital Circle SW.

Staff will continue to work with key decision makers to place priority County transportation projects on the SIS and enhance the potential for state funding of these County projects.

**Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):**

Monitor this issue, advocate the County's position, and support SIS funding for qualifying roads in Leon County.

**NOTE: Please attach backup materials.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved by:

Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_                      County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*\* For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ken Morris, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. \*\**

2006 State Legislative Session  
Legislative Proposal

Attachment # 2  
Page 5 of 15

Department / Division: Health and Human Services Contact Person: Joe Sharp

Phone: 488-7790 Fax: 922-4749 E-Mail: sharpj@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: Indigent Care SurTax

Problem/Need

Current law authorizes counties with a population of 800,000 or more to levy the Indigent Care Surtax by an extraordinary vote of the governing body at a rate of up to 0.5 percent. Leon County supports amending section 212.055(7), F.S., to authorize counties with a population less than 800,000 people, to impose the Indigent Care Surtax by an extraordinary vote of the Board of County Commissioners.

This action could, with an extraordinary vote of the BOCC, continue the County's efforts for a broad range healthcare plan of the uninsured and medically poor citizens of Leon County. In addition, the surtax could provide funding for Tallahassee Memorial Hospital should the Board choose to support its efforts in becoming a certified trauma center.

Such a change to the Indigent Care Surtax statutes would not preclude the Board from addressing this issue by referendum. This action would simply align the authority of the Board with counties of at least 800,000 people.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):

Amend Section 212.055(7) by inserting the following language to section (7)(a)(1) in line three thereof after the words, "approval by a", "super majority of the Board of County Commissioners or"

**NOTE:** Please attach backup materials.

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Approved by:

Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_ County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ken Morris, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. \*\***

**2006 State Legislative Session**  
**Legislative Proposal**

Department / Division: Administration      Contact Person: Vincent Long or Ben Pingree  
Phone: 488-9962      Fax: \_\_\_\_\_      E-Mail : Pingreeb@leoncountyfl.gov  
Topic: Mental Health Services

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**Problem/Need**

Despite additional funding of the Apalachee Center for Human Services, Inc., there is still a local need to treat mentally ill individuals. The Leon County jail houses many mentally ill inmates who burden the jail with escalating pharmaceutical costs.

The Board has continued to express interest in expanded funding for mental health care services across our region to serve this population.

**Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):**

Support efforts in 2006 to address the above issues.

**NOTE:** Please attach backup materials.

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Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_      County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

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**\*\* For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ken Morris, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962.\*\***

**2006 State Legislative Session**  
**Legislative Proposal**

Department / Division: Probation Contact Person: Ken Morris  
Phone: 487-3563 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail : MorrisK@leoncountyfl.gov  
Topic: Jail Overcrowding, Pre-trial release, Probation and Juvenile Justice funding issues.

**Problem/Need**

The Board established jail issues as one of its top priorities in 2005 and has continued to discuss concerns on inmate overcrowding.

**Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):**

- 1) **VOPs in the County Jail:** The Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) met on November 1, 2005, to discuss the burden of violators of probation (VOP) in the county jail. The PSCC recommended that the Board support the Florida Association of Counties and the Florida Sheriff's Association in their efforts to reduce county jail population. Specifically, this may include supporting the reduction of state VOP inmates overcrowding county jails; Supporting the state funding of state prisoners in county jails; and, supporting legislation requiring state inmates to be housed in state facilities.
- 2) **Expanded Use for House Arrest:** Monitor any changes affecting house arrest and support its expanded allowable use as a condition of probation in misdemeanor and traffic offenses.
- 3) **Pre-trial Release Program:** Monitor any changes to statutes affecting pretrial release and advocate continued support for program. There has been a national push to eliminate the use of public money for pretrial release programs.
- 4) **Juvenile Justice Funding:** Monitor juvenile justice funding levels and the potential reduction of local alternative and prevention programs to ensure that additional burdens for juvenile treatment and prevention is not further shifted to counties (As you may recall, a \$90 million cost shift to counties for predisposition costs of juvenile offenders was approved by the Legislature in 2005).

**NOTE:** Please attach backup materials.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved by:  
Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_ County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ken Morris, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. \*\***

**2006 State Legislative Session**  
**Legislative Proposal**

Department / Division: Public Services/Library      Contact Person: Helen Moeller  
Phone: 487-2665      Fax: 487-1793      E-Mail: helenm@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: State Aid to Libraries

Problem/Need

The previously inherent incentive of the State Aid to Libraries program has succeeded in enhancing local library services by increasing local expenditures. This resulted in a corresponding increase in state dollars. However, the incentive no longer exists. The State Aid allocations to Leon County have declined through the years even though local expenditures for library service have increased. The Operating Grants for State Aid to Libraries have declined from a state match of \$10.63 on the local dollar to \$6.46 from the state for every local dollar from 2001 – 2005.

Every year Leon County has increased its expenditures for the library system by a minimum of five percent. Dollars received from State Aid have decreased from a high in 2001 of \$405,019 to the current projection of \$278,315 if State Aid remains the same.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):

Leon County recommends a \$10 million increase in the total statewide appropriation for State Aid to Libraries. This is an increase from \$31.8 million to \$41.8 million. Public libraries in the state of Florida serve all residents of Florida. Public libraries bridge the digital divide by providing computers, Internet connections, online reference service 24/7, costly specialized databases, books in multiple formats to meet the changing needs of the public. Public libraries provide after school programs and summer reading programs that supplement the state educational system. Many public libraries have strong adult literacy programs and family literacy programs that meet the Governor's goals.

Public libraries are essential for an educated and economically sound population. \$41.8 million is \$2.28 for every citizen in Florida; a small amount to provide such an enormous wealth of services, materials and benefits.

**NOTE:** Please attach backup materials.

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Approved by:

Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_ County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

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*\*\* For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ken Morris, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. \*\**

**2006 State Legislative Session**  
**Legislative Proposal**

Department / Division: Administration Contact Person: Vincent Long or Ben Pingree

Phone: 488-9962 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail : Pingreeb@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: Protection of the State Workforce

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**Problem/Need**

Recent executive and legislative actions have reduced the number state workers and have placed a significant number of others at risk for reduction. For example, the 2003 Legislature approved a budget that included a reduction of 1,700 positions (attributed largely to retiring and vacant position reductions).

For several years now, the State has made efforts to privatize and out source jobs that effect the local state workforce. State workers comprise a substantial percentage of Leon County's population, contributing to our community, economy and diversity. Protecting the jobs of these workers has always been a top priority of the Board during the legislative cycle.

**Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):**

Monitor this issue, and advocate for the continued protection of our state workforce.

**NOTE: Please attach backup materials.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved by:

Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_

County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**\*\* For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ken Morris, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. \*\***

**2006 State Legislative Session**  
**Legislative Proposal**

Department / Division: Mgmt. Svcs./Probation Contact Person: Wanda Hunter

Phone: (850)606-5627 Fax: (850)606-5601 Email: wandah@leoncountyflorida.gov

**Topic: *Reclassification of County Probation Officer and Supervised Pre-Trial Release Specialists as Special Risk for purposes of the Florida Retirement System and Other Associated Benefits***

**Problem/Need**

The nature of the work performed by Probation Officers and Supervised Pre-Trial Release Specialists is comparable to the tasks performed by law enforcement officers. Probation Officers and Pre-Trial Specialists have daily contact with offenders who often have lengthy criminal histories that may include charges of a violent nature. In addition, based on the recently adopted "Jessica Lunsford Act," the officers and specialists' role has expanded to include the monitoring of sex offenders and sexual predators. In light of the changing demands on criminal justice supervising agencies, The Florida Association of Community Corrections is expected to consider this issue at the state level, and to support the reclassification of Probation Officers and Supervised Pre-Trial Release Specialists as "Special Risk" employees. Upon legislative approval, Leon County's Probation Division will pursue the requisite qualifications that would allow all staff responsible for managing and supervising offenders to meet the minimum standard for the special risk classification.

Should this legislative proposal pass, the impact to the County would be an additional 10.7% increase in Probation and Supervised Pre-Trial Release salaries.

**Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):**

Leon County supports an amendment to section 121.0515, F.S., which speaks to "Special Risk Membership" and all benefits associated with the County's employees' membership in this class.

**NOTE: Please attach backup materials.**

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Approved by:

Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_ County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

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**\*\* For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ken Morris, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. \*\***

**2006 State Legislative Session**  
**Legislative Proposal**

Department / Division: Administration Contact Person: Vincent Long or Ben Pingree

Phone: 488-9962 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail : Pingreeb@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: Florida Association of Counties

**Problem/Need**

FAC represents all 67 counties at the Legislature on issues that have broad statewide appeal, such as the opposition of unfunded mandates or cost shifts to counties (such as the \$90 million DJJ cost shift that was passed in 2005) to supporting the reconciliation of any outstanding "glitch" issues to fully implement of Revision 7 to Article V (state funding of state court costs), growth management, annexation, revenue-sharing, and water management. FAC will finalize their 2006 legislative program during their legislative conference in early December.

**Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):**

Support the 2006 FAC legislative program unless specific issues conflict with Leon County's interests.

**NOTE: Please attach backup materials.**

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_ County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ken Morris, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. \*\***

**2006 State Legislative Session**  
**Legislative Proposal**

Department / Division: PW / Solid Waste Contact Person: Nancy Paul

Phone: 414-9346 Fax: 414-9353 E-Mail : pauln@mail.co.leon.fl.us

Topic: *Program Continuation/Change in allocation of Solid Waste Management Trust Funds*

Problem/Need

Waste Tire disposal fees are currently collected at the retail level for each new tire purchased. The tire disposal fees generated in Leon County are being used as grants to small counties to fund their recycling and solid waste program. This allocation of fees generated in larger counties for use in small counties (less than 100,000 population) is creating a financial burden on Leon County's Solid Waste Department. Currently, a disproportionate share of these fees are directed toward smaller counties. In 2001, when FDEP Waste Tire Grants were eliminated, we raised the tipping fees for tires from \$57/ton to \$100/ton. Although the state has since replaced some funding for this program during the 2002 and 2003 state legislative sessions, there is still a significant gap between the funds Leon County receives from the state and the processing and disposal costs associated with waste tires.

In recent years, the Legislature approved Waste Tire Grant Program funding at various levels. The 2004 Legislature's budget included \$2.64 million for Waste Tire Grant Programs in counties with a population over 100,000, but was vetoed by Governor Bush. The impact of this veto action to Leon County was \$35,000.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):

We recommend continuation of funding for the Waste Tire Grant Program at the state level.

We further recommend supporting that Waste Tire Disposal Fees collected be allocated to counties based on a normal population distribution scale. This is a fairer distribution and affords all Florida residents a more equitable distribution of this Fee. The more populated counties have more drivers who purchase the majority of automobile tires in our state. Residents who pay Waste Tire Fees have a reasonable expectation to benefit from the State's dispensation of these funds.

**NOTE:** Please attach backup materials.

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Approved by:

Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_ County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ben Pingree, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. \*\***

**2006 State Legislative Session**  
**Legislative Proposal**

Department / Division: Public Service / EMS

Contact Person: Tom Quillin

Phone: 606-2100

Fax: 606-2101

E-Mail: quillint@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: Home Protection – Justifiable Use of Force Chapter 776, F.S.

Problem/Need

Section 776.013, F.S., provides the authority to use deadly force or cause great bodily harm to an individual who unlawfully enters a dwelling, residence, or vehicle with the intent to harm or kill. Section 776.013 also provides exemptions for authorized use of deadly force, specifically when a law enforcement officer enters the dwelling, residence, or vehicle on official duty. However, this section does not include EMS personnel or any other public safety official.

Paragraph 776.013(2)(d), F.S., reads:

*The person against whom the defensive force is used is a law enforcement officer, as defined in s. 943.10(14), who enters or attempts to enter a dwelling, residence, or vehicle in the performance of his or her official duties and the officer identified himself or herself in accordance with any applicable law or the person using force knew or reasonable should have known that the person entering or attempting to enter was a law enforcement officer.*

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):

Change the language to include EMS and other public safety officials/first responders.

**NOTE:** Please attach backup materials.

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Approved by:

Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_ County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

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**\*\* For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ken Morris, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. \*\***

**2006 State Legislative Session**  
**Legislative Proposal**

Department / Division: EMS Contact Person: Mac Kemp

Phone: 606-2114 Fax: 606-2101 E-Mail: kempr@leoncountyfl.gov

Topic: Add EMT's and Paramedics to the list of people exempt from records disclosure.

Problem/Need

Under current Florida law all police, firefighters, jail workers, and judges, are exempt from having their names, addresses, and families' personal information from being disclosed publicly. EMT's and paramedics are currently not on that list and appear to be the only public high risk workers excluded from this protection.

Recommended County Position, Recommended Change in Florida Statutes (Include Florida Statute reference, if known):

Amend subsection 119.071(4), F.S., by adding EMT's and Paramedics to the exempt list for public records.

Proponents: The Florida Association of Professional EMT's and Paramedics

NOTE: Please attach backup materials.

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Approved by:

Group Director: \_\_\_\_\_ County Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_

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**\*\* For any questions regarding this form, please contact Ken Morris, Special Projects Coordinator at 488-9962. \*\***

## Leon County State and Federal Appropriations 2002-2005

### State Funding 2002-2005

<i>Year</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>
2005	Capital Circle SW (SIS)	\$42,624,000
	Capital Circle SE (TRIP)	\$4,337,000
	Lake Jackson Library Construction (Grant)	\$500,000
	Harbinwood/Lake Jackson Water Quality Treatment Facility	\$500,000
2004	N/A	
2003	N/A	
2002	Ft. Braden Library Construction (Grant)	\$300,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>48,261,000</b>

### Federal Funding 2002-2005

<i>Year</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Funding Amount</i>
2005	Capital Circle NW (SAFETEA-LU)	\$16,100,000
2004	N/A	
2003	Capital Circle NW/SW	\$1,000,000
	Ft. Braden Library Equipment	\$372,563
2002	N/A	
<b>Total</b>		<b>17,472,563</b>