



**2007 Legislative Program**

**December 2006**

necessary to maintain treatment of full wastewater flow as the existing treatment plant facilities are upgraded to advanced treatment capabilities.

In recognition of its leadership role in environmental stewardship in the Big Bend area, the City of Tallahassee will explore partnerships with Leon County, surrounding counties (Wakulla, Jefferson, and Gadsden), and individual cities (e.g., Havana) to develop regional wastewater treatment and disposal facilities. Moreover, due to the magnitude of the proposed CIP and the potential impact on the ratepayers, the City will be aggressively seeking funding assistance from existing FDEP and NFWFMD programs, perhaps jointly applying with other local governments in development of potential regional facilities.

**Homeless Program**

**Funding Request: \$350,000**

**Summary:** Funding is requested to support the Big Bend Homeless Coalition in the provision of services to individuals experiencing homelessness and those who have recently achieved independent living in the community. It is estimated that 8750 units of service in twelve months will be provided, serving an additional 168 clients per week. Direct services will be provided to this population and funding will be used to meet durable needs of HOPE Community, a transitional housing program for men, women and children.

**Performing Arts Center**

**Funding Request: \$5 M**

**Summary:**

In 2005 the Tallahassee Cultural Resources Commission engaged Theatre Consultants Inc. to conduct a feasibility study for development of a Performing Arts Center. The study concluded that there was a high level of demand for such a facility in Tallahassee. The consultants recommended a 242,000 square-foot facility that would include a 2,200 seat performance and a 700-seat multipurpose theatre. The estimated cost for the proposed facility is \$114,000,000. In 2005 the Leon County Commission approved a one-cent increase in the bed tax to support the Performing Arts Facility. The County Commission is considering an additional one-cent increase in 2006 to support the project. These two pennies of the bed tax will generate approximately \$1.5 million annually to support the Performing Arts Center. The City has reserved a 2.5 acre site, which it recently purchased from the State (Johns Building) to house the facility. Florida is the only state in the US whose capital city does not have a performing arts center. This project is therefore important to both the City and the State. The proposed performing arts center will be located downtown and is critical to the City's downtown revitalization efforts.