



## 2021-2022 Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Public Infrastructure Grant Proposal

Proposal Instructions: Please read this document carefully and provide the information requested below. Some questions may request that a separate narrative be completed. If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.

### Governmental Entity Information

Name of Governmental Entity: Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners

Government Federal Employer Identification Number: ██████████

Primary Contact Name: Randy Harris

Title: Suwannee County Administrator

Mailing Address: 13150 80th Terrace  
Live Oak, FL. 32060

Phone Number: 386-364-3400

Email: randyh@suwcountyfl.gov

Secondary Contact Name: Shannon Roberts (shannonr@suwcountyfl.gov)

Title: Content Mgt/Admin Associate

Phone Number: 386-590-0732

### Public Infrastructure Grant Eligibility

Pursuant to section 288.101, F.S., the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund was created to promote economic opportunity by improving public infrastructure and enhancing workforce training. Eligible entities that wish to access this grant fund must submit public infrastructure proposals that:

- Promote economic recovery in specific regions of the state, economic diversification or economic enhancement in a targeted industry. ([View Florida's Targeted Industries here.](#))
- Are not for the exclusive benefit of any single company, corporation or business entity.
- Are for infrastructure that is owned by the public and is for public use or predominately benefits the Public.

**1. Program Requirements:**

(If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.)

Each proposal must include the following information describing how the project satisfies eligibility requirements listed on page 1.

**A. Provide a detailed description of the public infrastructure improvements.**

Please see Attachment 1 FL Job Growth Grant App -Project Summary 5-23-2022.pdf

**B. Provide location of public infrastructure, including physical address and county of project.**

Suwannee County Catalyst Site area; and parcels adjacent to and in the vicinity of 17391 Rail Road St, Live Oak, FL 32060; and southeast down US90 East to the Interstate-10/US90 interchange including the surrounding areas on the south and southeast sides.

**C. Is this infrastructure currently owned by the public?**  Yes  No

If no, is there a current option to purchase or right of way provided to the County?

**D. Provide current property owner.**

Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners

**E. Is this infrastructure for public use or does it predominately benefit the public?**  Yes  No**F. Will the public infrastructure improvements be for the exclusive benefit of any single company, corporation, or business entity?**

Yes  No

G. Provide a detailed description of, and quantitative evidence demonstrating, how the proposed public infrastructure project will promote:

- Economic recovery in specific regions of the state;
- Economic diversification; or
- Economic enhancement of a Targeted Industry ([View Florida's Targeted Industries here.](#))
  - Describe how the project will promote specific job growth. Include the number of jobs that will be retained or created, and in which industry(ies) the new net jobs will be created using the North American Industry Classification System ([NAICS](#)) codes. Where applicable, you may list specific businesses that will retain or create jobs or make capital investment.
  - Provide a detailed explanation of how the public infrastructure improvements will connect to a broader economic development vision for the community and benefit additional current or future businesses.

Please see Attachment 2 FL Job Growth Grant App -1G Qualitative Evidence 5-26-2022.pdf

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## 2. Additional Information:

(If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.)

A. Provide the proposed commencement date and number of days required to complete construction of the public infrastructure project.

Proposed duration of the project is 24 months after award and/or receipt of fully executed grant agreement. Project duration is contingent upon delays that could be created by inclement weather and supply chain disruption.

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B. What permits are necessary for the public infrastructure project?

FDOT permits for directional boring under Interstate 10; DEP permitting to extend and operate distribution system;

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- C. Detail whether required permits have been secured, and if not, detail the timeline for securing these permits. Additionally, if any required permits are local permits, will these permits be prioritized?

Permits have not been secured and will be obtained within 9 months of project start and is contingent on Florida FDOT and FDEP responsiveness to processing permit requests

- D. What is the future land use and zoning designation on the proposed site of the infrastructure improvements, and will the improvements conform to those uses?

Business and commercial; yes, infrastructure improvements will conform and support those land uses/zoning designations

- E. Will an amendment to the local comprehensive plan or a development order be required on the site of the proposed project or on adjacent property to accommodate the infrastructure and potential current or future job creation opportunities? If yes, please detail the timeline.

Yes  No

- F. Is the project ready to commence upon grant fund approval and contract execution? If no, please explain.

Yes  No

- G. Does this project have a local match amount?  Yes  No

If yes, please describe the entity providing the match and the amount.

Suwannee County is a rural county of critical economic concern and will contribute a \$100,000 local match amount

- H. Provide any additional information or attachments to be considered for this proposal. Maps and other supporting documents are encouraged.

Please see Attachment 3 Suwannee Co Public Infrastructure Project Water Transmission Project Area.pdf

### 3. Program Budget

(If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.)

**Estimated Costs and Sources of Funding:** Include all applicable public infrastructure costs and other funding sources available to support the proposal.

1.) **Total Amount Requested**      \$ 1,901,000.00  
 Florida Job Growth Grant Fund

**A. Other Public Infrastructure Project Funding Sources:**

City/County                      \$ 100,000.00

Private Sources                 \$

Other (grants, etc.)            \$ 1,300,000.00

**Total Other Funding**        \$ 1,400,000.00

DEP/DWSRF  
 Please Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Public Infrastructure Project Costs:**

Construction                    \$ 2,732,000.00

Reconstruction                \$ 0.00

Design & Engineering        \$ 569,000.00

Land Acquisition               \$ 0.00

Land Improvement             \$ 0.00

Other                              \$ 455,000.00

**Total Project Costs**         \$ 3,301,000.00

Contingency  
 Please Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** The total amount requested must be calculated by subtracting the total other public infrastructure project funding sources in A. from the total public infrastructure project costs in B.

- C. Provide a detailed budget narrative, including the timing and steps necessary to obtain the funding and any other pertinent budget-related information.

Please see Attachment 4 FL Job Growth Grant App -3C Project Budget Narrative 6-1-2022.pdf

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#### 4. Approvals and Authority

(If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.)

- A. If the governmental entity is awarded grant funds based on this proposal, what approvals must be obtained before it can execute a grant agreement with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (e.g., approval of a board, commission or council)?

Approval from Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners

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If board authorization is not required, who is authorized to sign?

Franklin White, Chairman

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- B. If approval of a board, commission, council or other group is needed prior to execution of an agreement between the governmental entity and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity:

- i. Provide the schedule of upcoming meetings for the group for a period of at least six months.
- ii. State whether entity is willing and able to hold special meetings, and if so, upon how many days' notice.

Suwannee County Board meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, the Board would hold a special meeting for approval if necessary.

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- C. Attach evidence that the undersigned has all necessary authority to execute this proposal on behalf of the governmental entity. This evidence may take a variety of forms, including but not limited to: a delegation of authority, citation to relevant laws or codes, policy documents, etc.

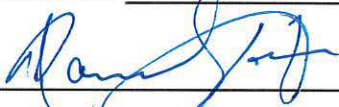
Please see Attachment 5 Suw Co BCC Resolution 2022-37 Authorization to Sign-Submit 5-24-2022.pdf

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I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have express authority to sign this proposal on behalf of the above-described entity and to the best of my knowledge, that all data and information submitted in proposal is truthful and accurate and no material fact has been omitted.

Name of Governmental Entity: Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners

Name and Title of Authorized Representative: Randy Harris, Suwannee County Administrator

Representative Signature: 

Signature Date: 6/1/2022

# 2021-2022 Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Application: Suwannee County Project Summary

Program Requirements Question 1A Response:

Suwannee County has experienced the unique convergence of several economic development opportunities in close proximity to the Suwannee County Catalyst Site. To maximize the opportunities and greatly increase the likelihood new companies will relocate here, the County seeks to obtain grant funding to implement the necessary improvements to the water infrastructure at the Catalyst Site and surrounding area. The improvements will expand the scope of existing drinking water utilities to facilitate the economic growth within the regional area. The infrastructure expansion will be publicly owned and benefit various potential new businesses and commercial endeavors in the affected project area.

Suwannee County intends to utilize grant funding to promote economic diversification future growth in the regional area as leaders pursue five separate opportunities to bring new business into the area. These opportunities add to the growing base of business requiring water services for drinking and fire suppression. The existing water treatment plant and transmission lines were built close to the Suwannee County Catalyst Site and serve all the current businesses within the complex. Since the funding to build the original water treatment plant was limited, the transmission lines associated with the initial buildout was also limited. This new phase of economic opportunity and diversification is driving the demand for additional funds for the next step in expanding infrastructure to construct and extend transmission lines for these endeavors.

With this project, the County desires to expand the water distribution infrastructure for the existing Suwannee County Catalyst Site water treatment plant and extend the infrastructure to the Interstate-10 interchange that lies a short distance to the south. The high-level project includes construction of more than 16,000 feet of water main extensions into the surrounding area to support business development efforts. Most of the water main piping to be deployed delivers 12-inch flow capacity but 8-inch and 6-inch piping is included in the project as well. Trenching, backfilling will be necessary for the deployment of the water supply piping. Some directional boring is required to extend water mains under Interstate-10 within the project area. Fire hydrants, valves and other appurtenances will be included in the project as specified by engineering designs.



## Attachment 2

# 2021-2022 Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Application: Suwannee County Project Quantitative Evidence

### Program Requirements Question 1G Response:

Suwannee County intends to utilize grant funding to promote economic diversification supporting future growth in the regional area as County leaders pursue five (5) separate opportunities to bring new business into the area. These opportunities add to the growing base of business demands requiring water services for drinking and fire suppression. The existing water treatment plant and transmission lines were built within the Suwannee County Catalyst Site and serve all the business within the area. Since the funding to build the original water treatment plant was limited, the transmission lines associated with the initial buildout were also limited. This new phase of economic opportunity and diversification is driving the request for additional funds for the next step in expanding infrastructure to construct and extend water transmission lines to fully support these endeavors.

The proposed infrastructure expansions contemplated are associated with economic development initiatives that promote job growth in the region and county area. The individual business opportunities also represent potential capital investments within project area along with the creation of new jobs in sufficient numbers to support their underlying plans and objectives. Generally speaking, the new economic opportunities align with Florida's Targeted Industries for manufacturing and clean-tech industries. The new business endeavors support the original growth plans for the Suwannee County Catalyst Site envisioned years ago and the infrastructure expansion creates a compounding effect of attractive conditions that will directly meet the need of future businesses desiring to relocate or establish new ventures in Suwannee County.

County economic development leaders have already entered into non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) with new companies. The NDA protects the company sensitive plans but also limits the amount of information the County can share/publicize. In an effort to provide reasonable information describing these economic opportunities, the following descriptions with fictional project names is offered below to quantify job creation and capital investments.

- **Job Creation:** Binderholz (opportunity #1) currently operates with 175 fulltime employees. The company is creating/adding a new log line. When that new line is established, Binderholz will **add 75 new**

## Attachment 2

### 2021-2022 Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Application: Suwannee County Project Quantitative Evidence

**employees** which expands the sawmill workforce to 250 **within 12 months of the project completion.**

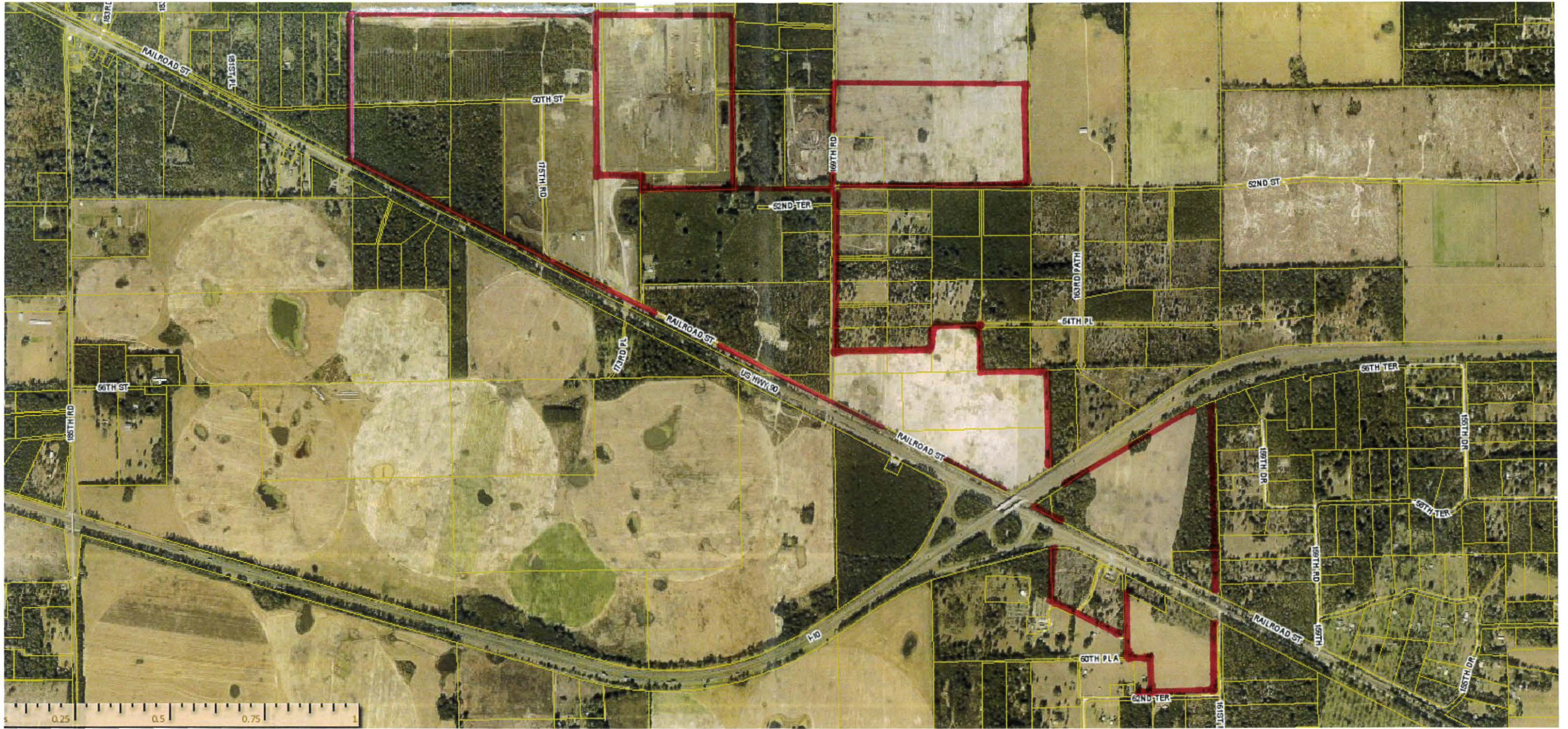
- **Job Creation:** Binderholz (opportunity #2) is still considering the CLT facility in 2024 and if that moves forward it will require creation of approximately **100 new employees within 12 months of the project completion** to support the business/work.
- **Job Creation:** Project Shark is anticipating establishing **53 jobs within 12 months of the project completion** and then **create an additional 22 more jobs within 24 months.** Total job creation over the period is 75 jobs by year three.
- **Job Creation:** Project Skywalker is anticipating establishing **110 jobs within 12 months of the project completion** and then **create an additional 23 more jobs within 24 months.** Total job creation over the period is 133 jobs by year three.
- **Job Creation:** Project Finn is anticipating establishing **10 jobs within 12 months of the project completion.**

## Attachment 2

### 2021-2022 Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Application: Suwannee County Project Quantitative Evidence

The table below summarizes the job creation metrics associated with the economic opportunities that are driving the request for grant funding to execute plans for water transmission line expansion:

<b>Job Creation Metrics for Suwannee County Catalyst Site Water Plant Infrastructure Expansion</b>			
<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>Jobs Within 12mos Project Completion</b>	<b>Jobs Within 24mos Project Completion</b>	<b>Jobs Within 36mos Project Completion</b>
Binderholz Opportunity #1	75		
Binderholz Opportunity #2		100	
Project Shark	53	12	12
Project Skywalker	110	11	12
Project Finn	10		
Job Creation Total Per Year	<b>248</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>24</b>
Job Creation Total Over 3 Years	<b>395</b>		



PROJECT AREA IN RED

ATTACHMENT 3  
Suwannee County Public Infrastructure Grant Proposal Project: Water Transmission  
Infrastructure Expansion (6-1-2022)

## ATTACHMENT 4

### 2021-2022 Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Application: Suwannee County Budget Narrative

Program Requirements Question 3C Response:

#### Probable Cost

Suwannee County engaged North Florida Professional Services to develop an engineer's opinion of probable cost for the water transmission infrastructure expansion project. The table below indicates the cost estimate details:

Suwannee County Catalyst Site - Water Distribution Preliminary Opinion of Probable Costs* Phase 1 (Years 1thru 3)					
Item	Description	Unit	Quantity	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
1	Mobilization, etc.	LS	1	\$ 297,000.00	\$ 297,000.00
2	6" Water Mains	LF	1,600	\$ 35.00	\$ 56,000.00
3	8" Water Mains	LF	2,700	\$ 60.00	\$ 162,000.00
4	12" Water Mains	LF	12,000	\$ 90.00	\$ 1,080,000.00
5	Fittings, Valves, Hydrants, etc.	LF	1	\$ 129,800.00	\$ 130,000.00
6	12" HDD (w/o Casing)	LF	700	\$ 120.00	\$ 84,000.00
7	12" HDD (w/ 20" Casing)	LF	700	\$ 260.00	\$ 182,000.00
8	Restoration, etc.	LS	1	\$ 285,600.00	\$ 286,000.00
				Subtotal	\$ 2,277,000.00
				<b>Construction Contingency</b>	\$ 455,000.00
				<b>Construction Total</b>	\$ 2,732,000.00
				<b>Engineering/Survey/Permitting/Construction</b>	\$ 569,000.00
				<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,301,000.00</b>
<p>*NOTES: 1. Costs do not include infrastructure within development parcels            2. Costs do not include expansion of wells or WTP            3. All costs are estimated and subject to change over time</p>					

#### Funding Sources

Based on the cost factors listed above, the County is submitting a request for grant funding from the 2021-2022 Florida Job Growth Grant Fund in the amount of \$1,901,000. The balance of the funding

required to complete the project will be based on two sources. The first source is a \$100,000 contribution from Suwannee County. A second source of funding for \$1,300,000 is being pursued through a grant request from the DEP/Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for \$1,300,000. The total amount of funding for the project, from all sources, is \$3,301,000.

### **Timing of Funding**

The County has launched simultaneous but separate efforts to submit funding requests from the 2021-2022 Florida Job Growth Grant Fund and the DEP/Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The County does not have a clear understanding of the turn around time for a decision regarding the grant application submittal from the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund. The County estimates that the application processing and decision time frame for the DEP/DWSRF response will require approximately 90 days.

If the County receives approvals for both funding requests, an additional 90-120 days is required to administratively process and approve the associated grant agreements by all parties depending on when each agency delivers the draft agreement to the County. Conceptually, when grant agreements are finalized, the County will launch the procurement process to obtain the necessary design, construction inspection and construction services from qualified vendors which requires 30-45 days. When the procurement process is completed, the services agreements between the necessary sub-contractors and the County will be formulated and approved requiring an estimated 30-45 additional days. In summary, once both funding requests are approved, the County estimates approximately 4-6 months of time to finalize grant and contract agreements before actual project work will begin.

SUWANNEE COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2022-37

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ADMINISTER THE 2021-2022 FLORIDA JOB GROWTH GRANT FUND FOR PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND SIGN ALL ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS.

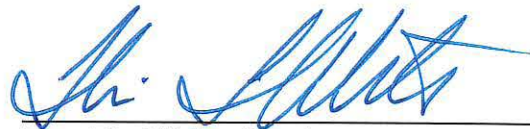
**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned grant is for the purpose of facilitating economic development and job creation within Suwannee County; and

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:** by the Board of County Commissioners for Suwannee County, Florida, that:

The County Administrator is authorized to administer and sign all associated documents related to the 2021-2022 Florida Job Growth Grant Fund for Public Infrastructure on behalf of Suwannee County, Florida.

**PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED**, this 24th day of May 2022.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**



Franklin White, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barry A. Baker, Clerk of Circuit Court