



2019-2020 Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Public Infrastructure Grant Proposal

Proposal Instructions: The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Proposal (this document) must be completed by the governmental entity applying for the grant and signed by either the chief elected official, the administrator for the governmental entity or their designee. Please read the proposal carefully as some questions may require a separate narrative to be completed. If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.

Governmental Entity Information

Name of Governmental Entity: City of DeFuniak Springs

Government Federal Employer Identification Number: [REDACTED]

Primary Contact Name: Mell Smigielski

Title: City Manager

Mailing Address: 71 US HWY 90 West

DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

Phone Number: (850) 892-8500

Email: citymanager@defuniakspings.net

Secondary Contact Name: Matthew Overton

Title: Airport Director

Phone Number: (850) 892-8500

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.

The project will include the widening and extension of the primary runway at the DeFuniak Springs Municipal Airport from its current length of 4,146 feet to 5,004 feet to accommodate a wider range of general aviation aircraft. Additional information can be found in Attachment 1.

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

1931 US HWY West, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435 (54J) in Walton County.

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.

City of DeFuniak Springs

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.

See Attachment 2.

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.

The proposed commencement date is August, 2024.

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

1. Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) ERP permit.
 2. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Environmental Assessment.
-

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?

1. Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) ERP permit has not been secured and typically takes 3 months to procure.
2. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Environmental Assessment is expected to be received soon.

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?

Yes, this will be light industrial.

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.

This is part of a much larger project that includes a runway extension and widening, access road relocation, and a runway and taxiway reconstruction that totals \$7,929,321.

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

See Attachment 3.

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** \$ 2,500,000
 Florida Job Growth Grant Fund

A. Other Public Infrastructure Project Funding Sources:

City/County \$ *The city owns the land.
 Private Sources \$ 0.00

Other (grants, etc.) \$ 0.00
Total Other Funding \$ 0.00

Please Specify: _____

B. Public Infrastructure Project Costs:

Construction \$ 2,302,856
 Reconstruction \$ N/A
 Design & Engineering \$ 505,504
 Land Acquisition \$ N/A
 Land Improvement \$ N/A

Other \$ _____
Total Project Costs \$ 2,808,360

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.**

The total project cost is \$7,929,321.76. The City is requesting \$2,500,000 in grant funds and the project is eligible for both FDOT and FAA funding. FDOT has included funding in their 5-year work program and could start as early as July 2022 and if FAA funding is approved, it could start as early as August 2022.

General Conditions accounts for \$210,000 of the total project cost. Land Preparation accounts for \$440,300 of total project cost. Asphalt Paving and Markings accounts for \$890,000 of the total project cost. And Runway and Taxiway Edge Lighting accounts for \$800,000 of total project cost.

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)?**

The City of DeFuniak Springs Council has made the airport widening and extension one of their top priorities including formally ranking their priorities at the October 14, 2019 Council meeting.

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

See Attachment 4.

- 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.

i. January 6 & 20, 2020; February 10 & 24, 2020; March 9 & 23, 2020; April 13 & 27, 2020; May 11 & 25, 2020; June 8 & 22, 2020.

ii. Yes, with a six-hour public notice.

- 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.**

See Attachment 4.

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: City of DeFuniak Springs

Name and Title of Authorized Representative: Mell Smigielski, City Manager

Representative Signature: *Mell Smigielski*

Signature Date: 1-15-20

City of DeFuniak Springs



FLORIDA JOB GROWTH GRANT FUND
PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROPOSAL

Runway Widening and Extension at the DeFuniak Springs Municipal Airport (54J)



Prepared By:

City of DeFuniak Springs

January 2020



**ATTACHMENT 1
FLORIDA JOB GROWTH GRANT FUND
PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROPOSAL**

Provide a title and detailed description of the public infrastructure improvements.

Title: Runway Widening and Extension at the DeFuniak Springs Municipal Airport

Description: This project will consist of a proposed widening and extension of the primary runway at the DeFuniak Springs Municipal Airport to accommodate a wide range of general aviation aircraft, including business jets. The primary runway at the DeFuniak Springs Municipal Airport, Runway 9-27, is currently 4,146 feet in length and 60 feet in width which is insufficient to accommodate larger business jets as well as attracting aerospace industries. The proposed project is to lengthen the runway to 5,004 feet in length and 75 feet in width. Project scope and deliverables will include engineering, grading, storm water improvements, taxiway and aircraft apron improvements, airfield pavement markings, and runway and taxiway edge lighting.

The objective of the runway extension is to accommodate documented demand for additional runway take-off length at the Airport to support growth and development to remain economically competitive and to further community economic development goals. Remaining economically competitive requires the ability to provide aviation facilities needed to retain current tenants and users and to attract new tenants and users. **The Airport was recently considered by a prospective aerospace company seeking to expand their business of producing small, two-seater, electric planes that are used for flight training. This company would have created 115 jobs and pay an average wage of \$52,280 at its new aerospace assembly facility. Unfortunately, they were unable to submit a proposal since the company stated they would require a runway of at least 5,000 linear feet.**

The DeFuniak Springs Airport is owned and operated by the City of DeFuniak Springs. The airport serves the general aviation transportation needs of the City and Walton County. In addition to private and recreational flying, the airport also supports commercial and corporate aviation functions. The airport is situated on 462 acres of land located approximately 2.5 miles west of the City's Central Business District. According to the Walton County Property Appraiser's Online Database, the subject property is referenced with Parcel IDs 28-3N-19-19000-05-000, 29-3N-19-19000-001-0000, and 29-3N-19-19000-009-0020.

The City of DeFuniak Springs has partnered with Gulf Power to certify a Florida First Site at the municipal airport (<http://www.floridafirstsites.com/defuniak-springs-municipal-airport.html>). The City was successful in obtaining certification by McCallum Sweeney Consulting for 56 certified acres within a 350-acre industrial park.

The City presently has several aviation businesses located at the DeFuniak Springs Municipal Airport which would benefit directly by a runway extension up to 5,000 feet. Moreover, it is the opinion of the Airport Advisory Council that additional businesses will locate at the airport with the runway project completed.

Lengthening and widening the runway will have the added benefit of incentivizing the FAA to add greater capability to the local airspace environment by installing a "precision" aircraft approach. Over 5,000 feet of runway being a typical prerequisite. Thereby attracting even more business to the area.

**ATTACHMENT 2
FLORIDA JOB GROWTH GRANT FUND
PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROPOSAL**

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

DeFuniak Springs is the rural county seat of Walton County, Florida and is located in the northern portion of the county. City limit's population, as determined by the US Census in 2010 was 5,175. The unemployment rate in DeFuniak Springs, FL is 4.1% according to the Florida Agency for Workforce innovation. Over the course of the last 10-15 years, employment in DeFuniak Springs has been adversely impacted by the closing of the City's largest employers which included Perdue Farms and Lewis Bear Company. The closing of two of DeFuniak Springs' largest employers caused a ripple effect which resulted in the loss of almost 900 jobs and 40 million dollars to the local economy according to a University of Florida economic impact study

In, 2008, businesses in Walton County suffered another major economic downturn due to the bottoming out of the real estate market.

In 2010 the Gulf Coast Region was impacted by the worst petroleum disaster in US history, the Deep Water Horizon oil spill. The BP oil spill marred local beaches, caused immeasurable harm to the environment, and devastated local economic industries. Many businesses were forced to close, while others downsized. Thousands of Walton County residents were left without a job and very little in the way of new business came back to the region since.

The median household income (MHI) for DeFuniak Springs is \$28,675 or only 60% of the Florida MHI of \$47,507. Per capita income for DeFuniak Springs is \$17,698 or 62% of Florida's \$26,829. According to the US Census Bureau 19.9% of the residents of DeFuniak Springs income's fall below the poverty level as compared to 15.7% overall for the State of Florida.

Ultimately, the depressed economic condition of North Walton County caused by years of decline or stagnation of local trade and industries led to the Executive Order by Governor Rick Scott designating the area as a Rural Area of Economic Opportunity in August of 2017. DeFuniak Springs is also considered a Small Business Administration (SBA) HUBZone area. (See Attachment 3)

The Road to Recovery

Given the economic base of the City of DeFuniak Springs and north Walton County, modern and efficient airport facilities are a critical component of developing the area's transportation network (e.g., improve regional and national access) which, in turn, supports efforts to attract new industry to the area, diversify the local economy, and improve employment opportunities. Improved airport facilities are important to local economic development efforts as they better allow people and corporations to fly directly to and from the City of DeFuniak Springs and the surrounding area.

The DeFuniak Springs Airport runway widening and extension will continue to provide support for several commercial businesses located at the airport, including Gulf Coast Aeronautical Services (GCAS). GCAS is a Veteran-owned small business at the DeFuniak Springs Airport that provide a wide variety of training services to include flight training operations and maintenance for both manned and unmanned aircraft, transient alert services, deployed operations, flight training, and numerous administrative support services to include professional and clerical support services.

The Airport was recently considered by a prospective aerospace company seeking to expand their business of producing small, two-seater, electric planes that are used for flight training. This company would have created 115 jobs and pay an average wage of \$52,280 at its new aerospace assembly facility. Unfortunately, they were unable to submit a proposal since the company stated they would require a runway of at least 5,000 linear feet.

Businesses that have communicated the strongest interest in moving into the DeFuniak Springs Airport, contingent upon improvements to site infrastructure, will create new jobs for area residents in the following sectors:

- Aerospace and Defense
- Commercial Pilot and Aviation Support Services
- Flight Training
- Aircraft Repair Station
- Passenger Car Rental and Leasing

Florida Occupational Employment Statistics on average median wages for jobs in the above reference occupational sectors are as indicated below:

Aircraft Maintenance- \$26.69 per hour	Professional Pilot- \$142,000 annually
Avionics Technicians- \$28.04 per hour	Sales and Related Workers- 16.69
Aerospace Engineer- \$51.88 per hour	Painter-Aircraft- \$18.52 per hour

Reference: [2017 Florida OES Data](#)

Additional letters of support and commitments to future job creation by existing airfield operators will also be made available upon request. As other businesses locate at the airport, it is expected that existing businesses at the airport will increase their employment numbers also. Current airfield operators include the following commercial tenants:

1. Monarch Aviation – Certified 145 Avionics Repair Station
2. Monarch Aviation Maintenance – Fixed wing and Rotor wing aircraft A&P maintenance.
3. Gulf Coast Aeronautical Services - The primary objective will be to establish both a 141 Certified Flight School and Flight Simulation Training Facility.
4. City of DeFuniak Springs – Airport administration, airfield maintenance, Fixed Base Operator.

Current and Forecasted Employment Numbers for Existing Airport Business Only

	2018	2022	2025
City of DFS	4	6	8
Monarch Aviation	4	6	9
Monarch Maintenance	3	5	7
Gulf Coast Aeronautical	3	6	12
		New Jobs Created	22

Quantitative performance measures to assess the effectiveness of the industrial park development program will consist of aviation fuel sales, job creation numbers, aircraft operations, based aircraft counts, and airport revenues.

When the upgrades to airport infrastructure conditions are complete, the DeFuniak Springs Airport will provide much needed job opportunities and economic recovery to North Walton County. The City of DeFuniak Springs has designated Airport Director Matthew Overton as the Airport Manager and Administrator for this project and has selected a professional airports engineering firm, AVCON, Inc., to provide industrial park design, bid, award, and construction inspection services.

Economic Diversification

The DeFuniak Springs Municipal Airport’s strategic effort to attract commercial businesses in the Aerospace, Defense, and Aviation industries will provide added value and diversity to the Walton County and DeFuniak Springs job markets. The Walton County business community is diverse and expanding. However, the majority of local economic activity is focused on industries located in the south end of the County, unrelated to the State of Florida Target Trade Sectors.



Top 5 Growing Industries

INDUSTRY	NET JOB CREATION
1. Educational Services	1,290
2. Retail Trade	650
3. Accommodation and Food Services	338
4. Administrative, Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services	71
5. Health Care and Social Assistance	63


Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Labor Market Statistics Center, LEHD State of Florida County Reports Quarterly Workforce Indicators 2010-2011.



Largest Industry Sectors by Employment

INDUSTRY SECTORS	% OF WORKFORCE
1. Leisure and Hospitality	23.8%
2. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	20.9%
3. Education and Health Services	10.4%

Source: Enterprise Florida



Major Private Sector Employers

EMPLOYER	BUSINESS LINE	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
1. Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort	Resort	1,800
2. Sacred Heart on the Emerald Coast	Healthcare	261
3. ResortQuest	Resort/ Property Management	250
4. Publix	Retail	140
5. Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa	Resort	128

Source: Enterprise Florida

Walton County is in urgent need of jobs focused in the State of Florida Target Trade Industries job sectors. The DeFuniak Springs Airport expansion project will provide enhancement in Walton County’s ability to attract the Aerospace, Defense, Aviation and Manufacturing trade industries and diversify employment opportunities for area residents.

Economic Enhancement of a Targeted Industry

City of DeFuniak Springs anticipates the airport expansion project will be **a major contributing economic factor to Walton County and surrounding areas**. Northwest Florida, a global leader in the Aerospace, Aviation, and Defense sectors, is home to six major military bases, five of which are aviation related. The unique concentration of military bases has attracted many of the largest U.S. defense contractors, many international companies, and multiple commercial aviation businesses to the Northwest Florida area.

Target industries for the DeFuniak Springs Airport include Aerospace, Engineering, Defense, Aviation, and Manufacturing. The strong military and educational presence has helped develop a skilled and underutilized workforce in Northwest Florida, factors which further enhance the economic benefits and opportunities for airpark industrial tenants.

For example, Gulf Coast Aeronautical Services (GCAS) is a Veteran-owned small business relocating to the DeFuniak Springs Airport. GCAS provides a wide variety of training services to include flight training operations and maintenance for both manned and unmanned aircraft, transient alert services, deployed operations, flight training, and numerous administrative support services to include professional and clerical support services. **The primary objective for the DeFuniak Springs Airport facility is to establish both a 141 Certified Flight School and Flight Simulation Training Facility.** The airport operations center will also serve as corporate headquarters for the growing company, where project managers administer federal defense contracts and manage over 100 employees working at various locations across the United States and abroad. Gulf Coast Aeronautical Services' goals and objectives cannot be met if the City of DeFuniak Springs fails to improve the deficient conditions of the airport's facilities and site infrastructure.

The City of DeFuniak Springs is currently in negotiations with multiple other prospective airport tenants, which will further enhance and diversify the local job market. The airport expansion project will attract jobs classified under the following **NAICS codes**.

- Aircraft Repair Station **423860**
- Flight Training **611512**
- Office and Administrative Services **561110**
- Flight Testing **488190**
- Aviation Research and Development **541712**
- Professional Pilot and Aviation Support **481190**
- Administrative Management **541611**
- Passenger Car Rental and Leasing **532111**
- Other Airport Operations **488119**
- Other Non-scheduled Air Transportation **481219**

Conclusion

The City of DeFuniak Springs has made significant investments in the development of the DeFuniak Springs Airport to propel the vision of economic recovery forward. An approved infrastructure improvement project for site development and access roadways would ignite economic development locally and provide the necessary means for greater prosperity within the county and region. As the **only airport in Walton County**, the vision of the DeFuniak Springs Airport is to create a favorable environment for Aviation, Aerospace, Defense, and Transportation trade industries to succeed in the mission of enhancing Florida's economy and intermodal transportation system capabilities. Indirectly as the airport expands, business, leisure travelers, and private pilots would have the means to visit DeFuniak Springs and explore its natural historic value in education (Chautauqua Hall) and Walton County Library (*oldest Library in Florida*), and transportation (L&N Railroad, historic train depot), to include its historic "Main Street", as well as some of the best National Parks within the State.



X:\Projects\DeFuniak_Springs_Airport\12009469\Applications\mxd\Figures\Figure 1-1_Airport Location Map.mxd (rde, 8/02/10)

Legend

- DeFuniak Springs Airport
- Runway
- Interstate
- U.S. Road
- State Road
- Airport Property
- Municipality
- County

Sources:
 - POOT, 2009; URS, 2010
 - ESRI Streetmap, 2009

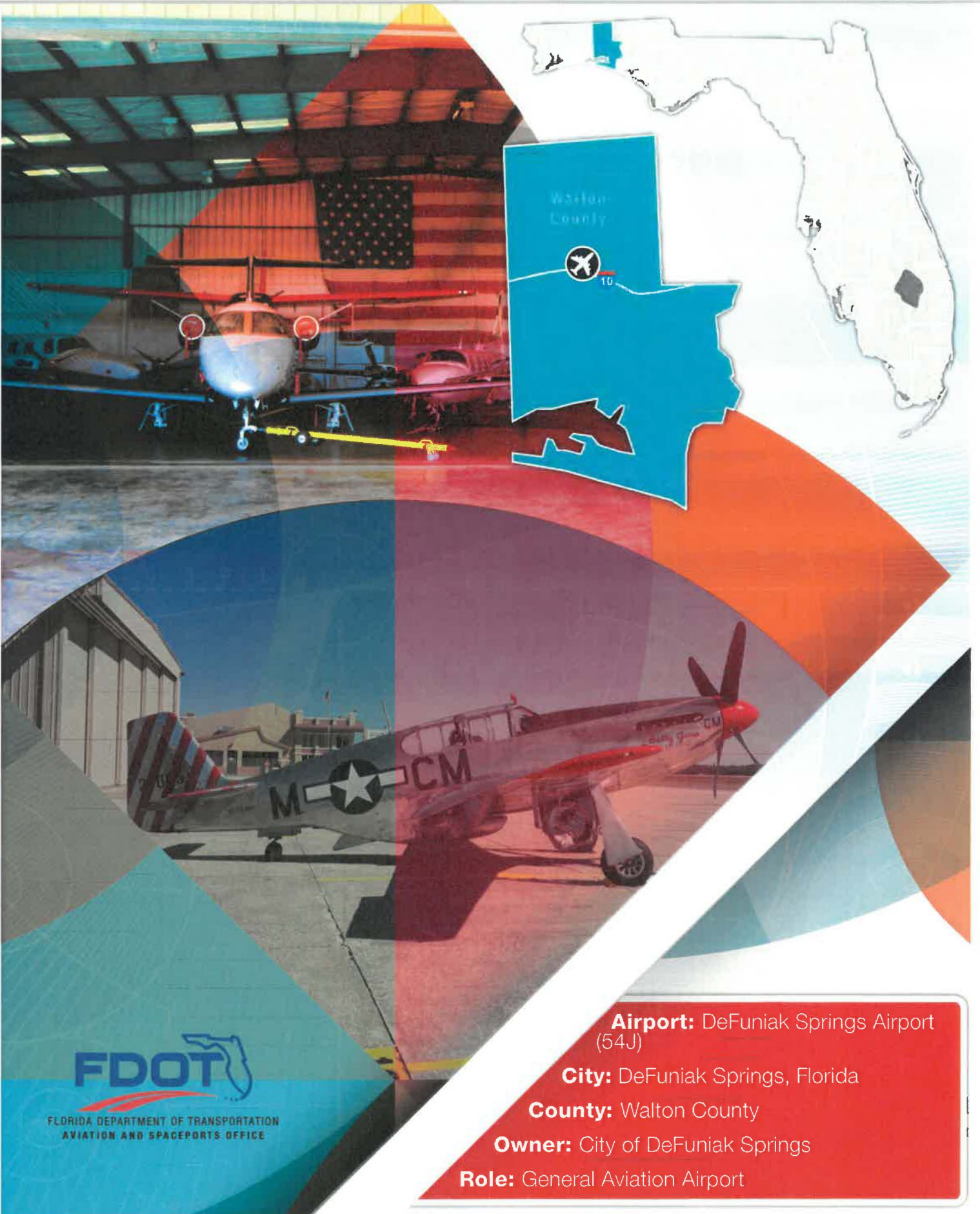


**DEFUNIAK
 SPRINGS AIRPORT**
 Airport Master Plan Update

AIRPORT LOCATION MAP

**FIGURE
 1-1**

Defuniak Springs Airport



FDOT
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AVIATION AND SPACEPORTS OFFICE

Airport: DeFuniak Springs Airport (54J)
City: DeFuniak Springs, Florida
County: Walton County
Owner: City of DeFuniak Springs
Role: General Aviation Airport

Located in Walton County, approximately two miles west of DeFuniak Springs, DeFuniak Springs Airport serves many types of general aviation activities. With its two runways, the longest of which is 4,146 feet, the airport can accommodate multi-engine and small general aviation business jet aircraft.



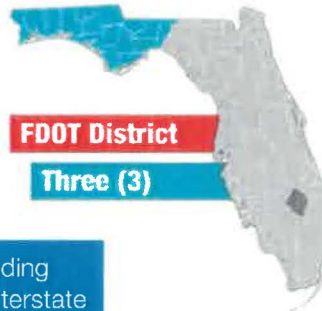
Existing Facilities

DeFuniak Springs Airport is served by two runways, runway 09/27 and runway 18/36. Runway 09/27 is asphalt and measures 4,146 feet by 60 feet. It has RNAV GPS instrument approaches and is equipped with medium intensity runway edge lights and precision approach path indicators. Runway 18/36 is dirt, marked with white reflectors, and measures 2,700 feet by 60 feet. The airport has 100LL fuel and Jet-A fuel available 24 hours a day for local and transient aircraft. Other facilities at the airport include a fixed base operator that provides services such as mechanical and electronic repair.

For more information, please visit 54J's website at: www.flydefuniakspings.com



Airport Classification



FDOT District
Three (3)



CFASPP Region
Northwest



FEDC Region
Northwest

Local airports serve communities by providing access to primarily intrastate and some interstate markets. There are 1,261 Local Asset airports nationwide and 30 within Florida, including DeFuniak Springs Airport. More information can be found in the Federal Aviation Administration's ASSET Studies at https://www.faa.gov/airports/planning_capacity/ga_study/.





Florida by the Numbers

Approximately half of all visitors arrive by air

- Florida's airports are often the first and last impression of our state

20 commercial service airports

- 4 large hubs; more than any other state
- Florida ranked second in the nation (2016) for airline passenger volume
- Serves approximately 10% of national passengers

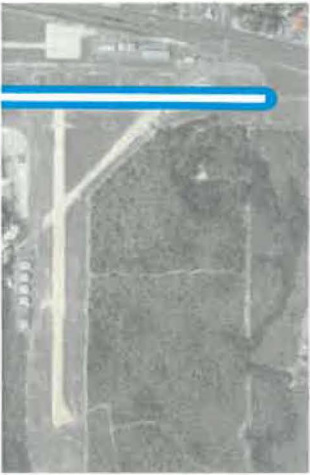
109 general aviation airports

- 9 national ASSET airports
- 6% of general aviation aircraft fleet
- Leading number of pilot certificates in 4 categories

Largest U.S. gateway for Latin American air cargo

Home to the **SUN 'n FUN International Fly-in Expo**, one of the **largest general aviation expos in the world**

Community Service

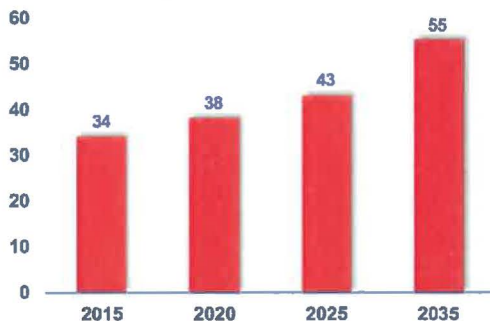


DeFuniak Springs Airport accommodates GA aircraft and serves the GA needs of local and visiting users. The main activities that occur at the airport include recreational flying, flight training, and business activity. For the 12-month period ending on March 14, 2017, approximately 62 percent of all operations were attributable to local aircraft. The flight school located at the airport contributes to the large amount of flight training operations that take place. Recreational flying and sport aircraft operations are also common at the airport. Corporate activity is another frequent use of the airport due to its location near major roadways and the growing construction industry in Walton County. The airport currently accepts small jet business travel to accommodate this corporate activity. There is a flying club, defense contractor, and several aviation related maintenance and repair shops located at the airport. There is also an industrial park at the airport which offers a business environment and the opportunity to expand. There are no based military aircraft at the airport but operations due to transient military aircraft account for about 6 percent of the annual operations.

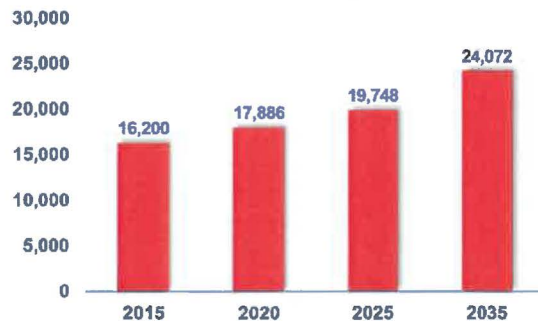
Current and Forecast Demand

DeFuniak Springs Airport plays an important role in serving all facets of GA. As of 2018, there was a total of 41 based aircraft. Of the total based aircraft, the majority are single-engine airplanes with the remaining being multi-engine airplanes, jet airplanes, helicopters, and ultralights. The current Airport Reference Code for the airport is B-II which includes aircraft such as the Cessna Citation Mustang, Beechcraft King Air 90, and Piper Cheyenne. Historic and forecast FDOT aviation activity information on file for the DeFuniak Springs Airport follows:

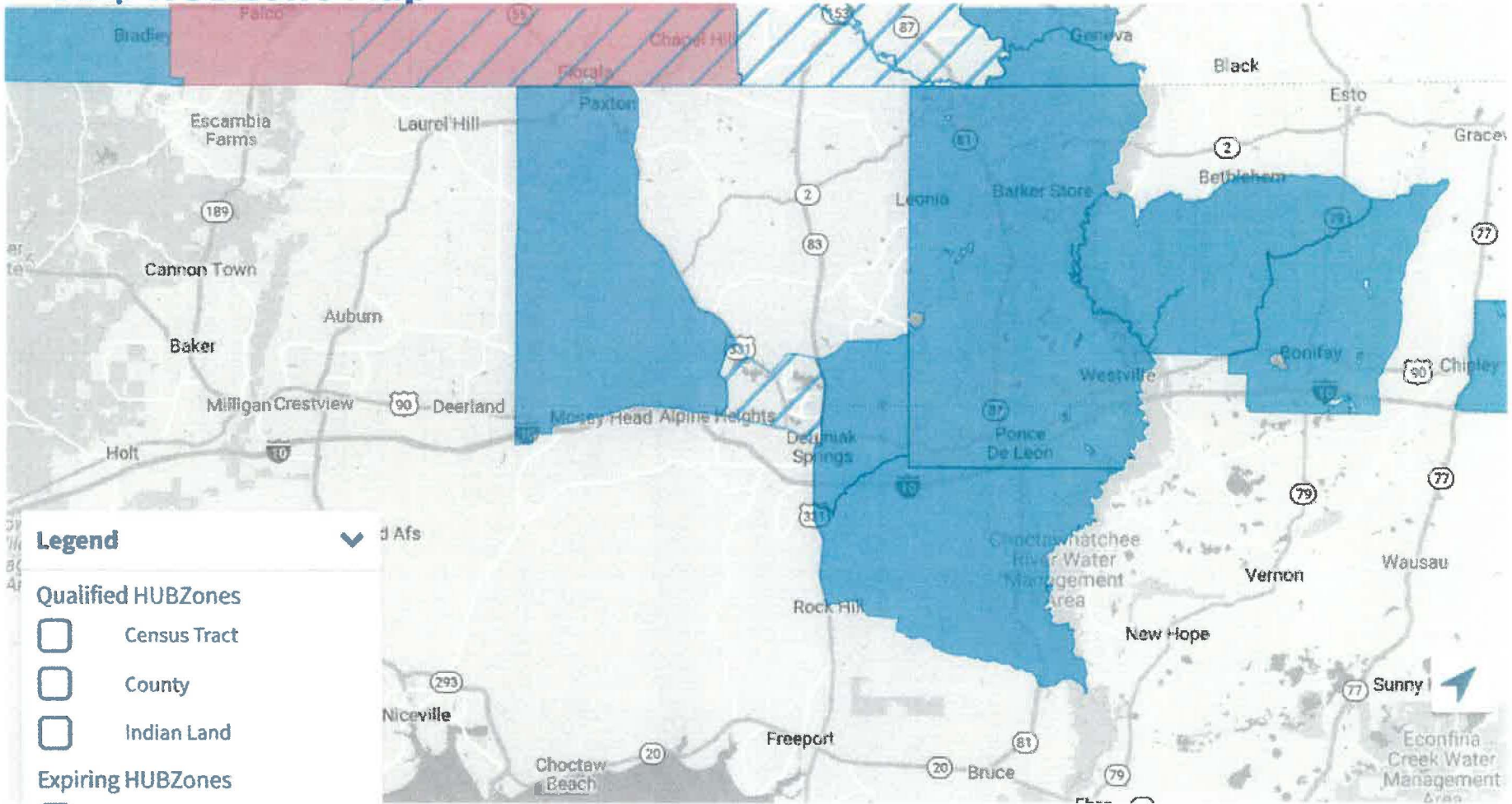
Based Aircraft



General Aviation Operations



SBA HUBZone Map



Legend

Qualified HUBZones

- Census Tract
- County
- Indian Land

Expiring HUBZones

- Redesignated
- Disaster Area
- Closed Base Area

Google



Gulf Coast Aeronautical Services

A Gulf Coast Based, Worldwide Aviation Training Solution

December 20, 2019

**Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001**

Ref: DeFuniak Springs Airport (54J) Runway Expansion Support

Dear Governor DeSantis:

As the owner and operator of a Flight Training Center newly based at the DeFuniak Springs airport, I would like to add my full-throttle support of the expansion of the runway complex at the DeFuniak Springs airport. The overall improvement of the airport complex is long overdue.

The DeFuniak Springs airport is perfect not only for flight training but has the potential to support the needs of business jet and large turboprop operations with the expansion of the runway complex.

The increase of tourism and other industry in the Walton and Okaloosa counties have reached or exceeded capacity at the Destin Airport (KDOTS). The Destin Airport has several drawbacks for expansion with limited land-use areas, and man-made obstructions that limit the operations of Title 14CFR§25 certified aircraft at optimum gross weights departing on the south runway at Destin. Not to mention some of the airspace constraints imposed by the Hurlburt Field and Eglin AFB operations and 14CFR§93 airspace rules.

Walton County has a diamond in the rough with the DeFuniak Springs airport and its infrastructure and runway expansion plans. There is a great deal of potential for making 54J airport the preferred airport of Business and Air Taxi operators for the vacation locations in South Walton County.

Expediting the runway expansion project and overall improvements to the airport with the Florida Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration is imperative to both the private and commercial pilots and Air Taxi operators

This improvement would also be a boost to the local community and would improve commerce to the local North Walton County area in general.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. If you have any questions or further clarifications for my support of the DeFuniak Springs runway expansion project, please call me at 1-850-368-5800.

Best Regards,

Robert "Gib" Minor, President
gibm@737gca.com

Monarch Aviation, Inc.

FAA Certified Repair Station

627 Air Park Road,

V9MR 280Y

DeFuniak Springs, Florida, 32425

1-850-951-0900.

To whom it may concern,

Monarch Aviation has been in business for twenty years and for the majority of that time, Monarch Aviation has been operating at DeFuniak Spring 54J airport. When Monarch Aviation originally came to Defuniak Springs airport, the airport was an airport in name only. The only hangar was damaged and barely useable (with a previous tenant trying to burn the hangar down). The 'offices' were termite infested and at best, difficult to use. Time passes and the transformation of the DeFuniak Springs airport has been incredible. The airport now has parallel taxi ways, five dedicated aircraft maintenance hangars, new Avgas and Jet A self-serve fuel tanks, a Jet A fuel truck, and over fifty T-hangars. The airport is completely enclosed with several 'key-pad' controlled access gates. Monarch Aviation is certified to install avionic equipment on all classes of aircraft, but our limitation is the length and width of the current runway. Larger aircraft are limited by their insurance coverage to the minimum runway length for their aircraft type. With the improved runway, DeFuniak Springs airport would attract the larger traffic away from Destin due to their airport fees and no aviation services and away from Crestview because of its geographic location in regards to the beaches. With the increased traffic at the DeFuniak Springs Airport, the Air Park would also see an increase of specialized aviation based business opportunities. These opportunities would include specialized aircraft system services, catering, air freight operation, aircraft valeting/detailing, additional car rental services, and aviation based vacation holiday rental services. The opportunities are endless, but the proposed runway improvements at DeFuniak Springs airport needs to happen for this vision to become a reality.

Sincerely,

Carl Everitt

Monarch Aviation, Inc.

monarchav@aol.com.



DeFuniak Springs Airport (54J)
1931 US HWY 90 W
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433-1475
Tel: 850-892-2000

January 14, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor
State of Florida
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis,

DeFuniak Springs Municipal Airport (54J), is applying for a Public Infrastructure Grant from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) “Triumph”, in the amount of approximately \$3,254,862. The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund has the potential to support critical public infrastructure projects at (54J) that would bring economic prosperity to the underserved and underutilized Florida Panhandle Region.

Over the past several years, Walton County and DeFuniak Springs have seen unprecedented growth. Our municipal airport, while beautifully positioned to service many of our sister regions, has not been given the funding necessary to keep up with the General Aviation demands that have been placed upon it.

In order for the Walton County region to fully realize its public service potential, aviation support infrastructure is critically needed. Grant moneys awarded to (54J) would enable us to begin a successful transformation into a regionally recognized General Aviation municipality owned airport hub. There are “shovel ready” expansion projects for a New Passenger Terminal, Aviation Industrial Park, Commercial Park, and Aviation Training Center, which are all extremely dependent on the *planned* runway expansion project. Major monies from various funding sources have already been allocated to the development, but the lynchpin for all airport projects is the runway expansion and improvement.

The money awarded through this grant will allow for the runway expansion and improvement to take place; thereby allowing the rest of the construction and development funding to flow through. Immediate initiation of this airfield improvement will facilitate Walton County in realizing the full impact of the economic benefits soon to take place.

This plan will successfully attract, retain and grow, desperately needed highly skilled jobs for our Florida Panhandle region. Support for our airport (54J) is critical for the public good; and failure to act on this initiative will lead to an opportunity cost loss for Florida that can not be overstated.

Sincerely,



Matthew L. Overton
Airport Director
DeFuniak Springs Airport (54J)



**ATTACHMENT 4
FLORIDA JOB GROWTH GRANT FUND
PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROPOSAL**

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

DeFuniak Springs Municipal Code

Sec. 2-1. - Purchases and contracts.

(a)

The procedures for purchases and the awarding of contracts shall be governed by the city purchasing policy and procedures manual which shall be approved by the city council.

(b)

The city council may amend and/or modify the purchasing policies and procedures manual at such times as it deems necessary.

(c)

The city council may from time to time designate the mayor, city manager or assistant city manager to execute contracts on behalf of the city after all applicable purchasing rules and procedures have been followed.

(Ord. No. 423, §§ 1—3, 5, 3-25-74; Ord. No. 450, 5-22-78; Ord. No. 494, §§ 1—4, 10-12-81; Ord. No. 523, 9-22-86; Ord. 654, 3-8-99; Ord. No. 656, 2-14-2000; Ord. No. 657, 2-14-2000; Ord. No. 789, 7-26-2010)

Editor's note— Ord. No. 789, adopted July 26, 2010, changed the title of [§ 2-1](#) from purchases and contracts; requirements for advertising and receiving of bids to purchases and contracts.

DIVISION 3. - CITY MANAGER

Sec. 2-45. - Duties.

(a)

The city manager shall attend all meetings of the city council, with the right to participate and discuss but not to vote.

(b)

The city manager shall advise the mayor and city council on a monthly basis, of the current conditions and status of all departments and function of the city, including the financial condition and the future needs of the city and make such recommendations he/she deems necessary.

(c)

The city manager shall prepare and submit the annual budget for the ensuing fiscal year to the mayor and city council on or before July 31 of each year, and be responsible for its proper administration and revisions after adopted.

(d)

The city manager shall present adequate financial and activity reports, as deemed necessary and advisable or as may be required by the mayor and city council.

(e)



The city manager shall arrange for an annual audit by a certified public accountant, the selection of whom shall be approved by the city council.

- (f) The city manager shall prepare job descriptions for all employees, and recommend salaries and salary increases in accordance with personnel policies.
- (g) The city manager shall, through the supervisors and/or leaders, determine the day-to-day work schedules of the city personnel, to include all departments of the city. Employees of the city clerk's office and police department shall be included to the extent that the city manager is aware of the work schedules of such employees as presented to him/her by the city clerk and city marshal and approves of same. Any differences of opinion between the city manager and the clerk or city marshal shall be presented to the council.
- (h) The city manager shall supervise the receiving, logging and responding to complaints related to city services and other matters. The city manager will respond to the requests and where possible develop a solution. If the problem or complaint is not resolved, the matter will be referred to the mayor and city council for their consideration and action.
- (i) The city manager shall acquire, prepare and preserve in a permanent file all maps, surveys and plats of city streets and utilities, a complete description of all city properties and improvements located thereon, and a complete annual inventory of all city personal properties, including all furniture, fixtures, equipment, motor vehicles, etc.
- (j) The city manager shall coordinate maintenance and care of all city property, monitor with each agency that uses city property and maintenance and care of said property and report to the mayor and city council any discrepancies.
- (k) The city manager shall confer with the city attorney concerning all leases, contracts and other agreements subject to approval by the council and make recommendations pertaining thereto.
- (l) The city manager shall recommend to the city council persons eligible for hire as city employees when there are vacancies or new positions are created. The recommendation for the hiring of any city employee by the city manager shall be done only after the city manager has followed the prescribed rules and regulations in the personnel policies with regard to hiring.
- (m) The city manager shall have the power to recommend to the city council the suspension or termination of any city employee when the city manager has determined that said suspension or termination is necessary.
- (n) The city manager shall see that all laws, ordinances, policies and acts of the mayor and city council, subject to his/her discretion and supervision, are faithfully executed.
- (o) The city manager shall sign and execute contracts on behalf of the city, after approval by the mayor and city council.
- (p)



The city manager shall hold meetings with the supervisors and/or department heads on a monthly basis.

(q)

The city manager shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be prescribed by the mayor and city council.

(Ord. No. 506, 2-13-84; Ord. No. 743, 4-23-2007; Ord. No. 816, 6-11-2012; Ord. No. [810](#), 11-14-2011)

DeFuniak Springs Municipal Code may be viewed online at:

https://library.municode.com/fl/defuniak_springs/codes/code_of_ordinances