

# Board of County Commissioners

## Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: May 17, 2010

Date Submitted: May 11, 2010

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator  
Timothy P. Barden, Assistant County Administrator  
Eva Thorpe, OMB Analyst

Subject: Request Board Approval to Accept \$19,300 in Grant Funds and Authorization for the Chairman to Execute the Grant Contract with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry (FDACS- DOF), and Request Approval of the Resolution and Budget Amendment

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### **Statement of Issue:**

This agenda item requests Board approval to \$19,300 in grant funds and to authorize the Chairman to execute the Grant Contract documents with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry (FDACS- DOF) (Attachment #1), and approve the Resolution (Attachment #2) and Budget Amendment (Attachment #3) to increase the budget accordingly and establish the proper accounts with the Clerk's Office.

### **Background:**

On February 1, 2010, the Board approved staff to submit an application for \$24,000 to the Florida Division of Forestry under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for funding from the United States Forest Service. This funding is for the purpose of restoring public right-of-ways, parks, public schools and other natural areas, as well as, provides opportunities for tree remediation work which included corrective tree pruning, hazard tree removal and rehabilitation of soil conditions for significant trees. This effort is intended to enable increased employment opportunity for commercial arborists, landscape contractors, nurseryman, consulting arborists, and landscape architects/designers.

Cities, Counties, educational institutions, Native American tribal entities, and non-profit groups throughout the state were eligible to apply for these funds. Priority for funding was given to communities that had the highest unemployment rates in the state of Florida, to blighted neighborhoods or underserved rural population centers.

The amount of funds requested could not exceed \$24,000 maximum and the minimum was \$2,000. This is a cost reimbursement project, which entails the County to front the funds to pay for the costs and then be reimbursed by the FDACS – DOF when the project is complete. There is no match required to be provided by the County.

The County applied under Category 1- Reforestation. This activity is to increase local tree canopy cover, enhance the environmental and health benefits that trees provide to the local community, and to stimulate local economic activity in sectors related to the growing, transportation, and installation of trees. Funds may only be used for purchase and planting of trees or palms and related expenses listed below. Purchase and planting of shrubs and ground covers is not eligible. Additionally, up to 10% of the grant award may be used for the purchase and/or installation of irrigation equipment or an irrigation system, and/or for supplemental watering during the 60-day grow-in period.

**Analysis:**

This grant funding will provide a good opportunity for Wakulla County to perform beautification activities, exercise good environmental stewardship by protecting valuable trees and will enable employment opportunities for local businesses, arborists, landscape architects and others to work with the County to carry out this very worthwhile project. Six sites have been identified to perform tree reforestation (Attachment #4). The grant is effective upon signature by both parties and will extend through July 31, 2011.

In the application the County applied for a total of \$24,000. The funding request was reduced by \$4,700 in the program areas of contractual costs of \$1,800 (originally requested \$2,400), tree costs of \$17,500 (originally requested \$20,350) and equipment use \$0 (originally requested \$1,250).

Ray Gray, Director of Parks and Recreation will perform oversight and ensure tasks under this contract are completed as required in the contract, and the Office of Management and Budget will review and process all eligible related project expenditures and subsequent reimbursements.

The County Attorney has reviewed and approved this contract as well as the resolution and budget amendment.

**Options:**

1. Accept \$19,300 in grant funds, authorize the Chairman to execute the Grant Contract documents, and approve the Resolution and Budget Amendment.
2. Do not accept \$19,300 in grant funds, do not authorize the Chairman to execute the Grant Contract documents, and do not approve the Resolution and Budget Amendment.
3. Board Direction.

**Recommendation:**

Option #1

Request Board Approval to Accept \$19,300 in Grant Funds and Authorization for the Chairman to Execute the Grant Contract with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry (FDACS- DOF), and Request Approval of the Resolution and Budget Amendment

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**Attachment(s):**

1. Contract Documents for Grant Award
2. Resolution
3. Budget Amendment
4. February 1, 2010 Agenda Item

[BHP/TB/EST]