

Agenda Item:

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Meeting Date:

October 6, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: City Commission

Through: Jennifer K. Bramley, City Manager

From: Nicole Delfino

Date: 2026-10-06

Subject: Grants Update

Presenter(s): Nicole Delfino, Strategy & Sustainability Manager

Staff Recommendation: Review of Grants Program & Awards to Date

Strategic Themes: Good Governance

Boards & Committees: N/A

Budget Impact: Revenue secured through the grant specialist position and Division of Strategy and Sustainability supports various projects and programs throughout the organization.

Past Action: Annual Review of Grant Program

Next Action: Grant Administration & future Grant Program Updates

Attachments: [A. 2026 Grant Update Presentation.pdf](#)
[B. Grant Administration and Tracking.pdf](#)

Background: During the FY2024/2025 Budget process, Commission approved the addition of a Grant Specialist position. The position, to be housed in the City Manager's Office in the Division of Strategy & Sustainability, was posted in fall of 2024 and filled by mid December 2024.

The Grant Specialist position was tasked with developing and enhancing the City's grant program including: meeting with all department staff to understand their capital and funding needs; becoming familiar with City programs, the Capital Improvement Plan, the Business Plan, and the City's Budget; joining and becoming involved in local grant-related organizations; developing an internal grant application process and database, and review and update the City's grant policy. The Strategy & Sustainability Division continually work with all City Departments

to identify funding gaps and matching current or anticipated projects with funding opportunities. Consistent conversations between these groups fosters communication and collaboration for awareness of future projects and identifying the best grant funding opportunities.

In FY 2024-2025, there were 19 grants applied for throughout the City, 12 applications completed by the Grant Specialist. The total grant value applied for was \$19,353,522.86. Of the applications, 6 grants were awarded, equating to a total grant value of \$7,063,266.50. There remain 3 outstanding grants awaiting determination in the amount of \$4,443,801.36.

In FY 2025-2026, there were 24 grants applied for throughout the City, 21 applications completed by the Grant Specialist. The total grant value applied for was \$19,399,936.12. Of the applications, 6 grants were awarded, equating to a total grant value of \$3,265,590.44. There remain 6 outstanding grants awaiting determination in the amount of \$15,131,060.01.

The total grants award for the FY 2025 and FY 2026 is \$10,328,856.94 with a required matching funds for these awards in the amount of \$115,155.00.

Key grants completed and closed out during this time period include:

1. \$11,660 AARP Senior Plant Oats program funding a year of Technology Classes at the Hale senior Center;
2. \$250,000 Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program (HLMP) to fund building hardening (windows and doors) at the Water Treatment Plant Admin building;
3. \$10,000 Florida City Management Association (FCCMA) Next Gen Intern Award for a summer administrative intern.

Grants currently in process include:

1. \$6,566,890.05 USDA Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) for debris removal from Jerry Branch and gabion repairs;
2. \$520,000 FDEP Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Mitigation Program for replacement of two Class 7 vehicles;
3. \$21,915.56 FDEP Clean Vessel Act (CVA) for a new pumpout unit at the Dunedin Marina.

Projects awarded, but not yet executed or started include:

1. \$800,000 FDEP Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Mitigation Program for replacement of two Class 8 vehicles;
2. \$178,239 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for hardening of the second floor of the wastewater treatment plant admin building;
3. \$14,000 FDOT Stormwater Education Program for stormwater education.

Several active and open applications include Public Safety equipment replacement (Firehouse Subs grant of \$39,030 for extrication equipment and Florida Firefighter Cancer Decontamination of \$30,030 for a new PPE carcinogen extractor); Gulf Coast Resilience Program grant of \$2,300,000 to install the Weaver Park Living Shoreline); Resilient Florida of \$460,000 for the rehabilitation of Lift Station #5; and United States Tennis Association of \$140,000 for refurbishment of the Highland Park Tennis Courts.

Two additional Hazard Grant Mitigation Program applications also remain open and awaiting FEMA feedback and approval for: \$1,253,042.36 for rehabilitation of Lift Station #8 and \$2,212,324 for replacement and construction of Cedar Creek Gabion.

Additionally, Legislative Appropriations once approved by the legislature and signed into the budget by the Governor are shifted through to State agencies and processed as grants. In FY 25, two appropriations were awarded and advanced to FDEP as a grant for the award of \$1,500,000 for Marina Repairs (grant completed in August 2026) and \$850,000 for Gabion repairs that is pending design and construction. In FY 26, three appropriations were awarded and advanced as a grant for the awards of \$3,000,000 with FDEP for Marina Repairs for resiliency and replacement of docks A & B; \$1,500,000 with FDEP for the Bayshore Water Main; and \$200,000 with Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement for acquisition of a high water rescue vehicle.

In March 2026, City staff brought forward an award of bid for RFP 25-2535 to manage Loan-Grant Administration and Compliance. Three firms were put on a continuing contract, Cohn Reznick, Colliers, and Witt O'Brien, to provide services for administration as needed for grants or loans. No outside services have been used on current grants to date. Given the complexity of potential grant awards outside the ability of staff to manage, any future administration requests will be handled with the best qualified firm via an issued task assignment.