

West Orange Chamber of Commerce 2023 Legislative Position Paper

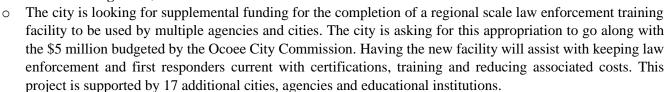


Appropriations

- Town of Oakland
 - o Oakland Water Reclamation Project Amount requested and budgeted: \$2 Million
 - Sewer System: Westside to Eastside needs source for reclaimed water and storm water harvesting. The Town of Oakland has relied on high quality drinking water to meet irrigation demands and is looking for a lower quality water source that will help meet those demands. The Town is developing a project that will harvest storm-water before it would be discharged to Lake Apopka and treating it to use for irrigation. This will ensure that the Town stays in compliance with the current Consumptive Use Permit and the standards of the Central Florida Water Initiative. Seeking for project.

• City of Ocoee

Ocoee Regional Law Enforcement Training Facility. Total requested: \$4 million Amount Budgeted: \$2 million



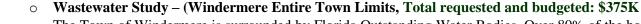
- o Town of Windermere Outcome: Partially Funded; See funding breakdown
 - Windermere Water Master Plan Total requested: \$10.28 million
 Amount Budgeted: Central \$3.081 for Central only. North & South not in budget.
 - The drivers for this project are safety, environmental protection, and reliability. This project will improve safety by providing a monitored, safe drinking water supply and by improving fire protection capabilities. This project will protect the environment by reducing the number of wells around the Town's Outstanding Florida Water Bodies. This project will improve reliability by providing a pressurized system that does not require electricity to operate residential well pumps.
 - o Multi-Modal Trail Total Requested \$1 million and amount Budgeted: Town Square to Windermere Elementary, \$1M
 - The purpose of this request is to accelerate the implementation of projects that support student and pedestrian safety within the Town and to adjacent areas, while improving multi-modal safety. This phase, in particular, will allow residents to safely use the pathways to get to civic, recreational, commercial, and educational facilities. Windermere Elementary Students use this particular area for direct access to the school.
 - Roundabout Improvement/Addition: Total requested: \$5.5 million Partially Funded: See funding breakdown

Amount Budgeted: Windermere Rd/Main \$750,000 and Vetoed: Chase/Main and 6th/Main not in budget.

Continued growth to the southwest of Windermere has increased the cut-through traffic through Town. 75% of the cut-through traffic is generated by neighboring communities. Traffic congestion continues to increase along roads such as 6th Avenue, Main Street, and Chase Road. Congestion has become an unavoidable problem for drivers, particularly during peak hours. The goal of this project will be to reduce the cut-through traffic on local roads and ease the traffic congestion that currently exists.



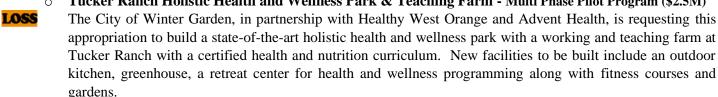




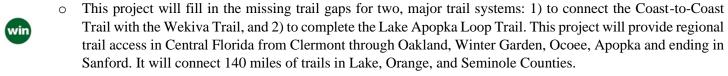


The Town of Windermere is surrounded by Florida Outstanding Water Bodies. Over 80% of the homes both lakefront and in the lake's, basins are on septic. The Town would like to study how to bring in a centralized wastewater system and how this infrastructure would improve the lake's water quality. Windermere Wastewater Study /

- City of Winter Garden Outcome: Not Funded; Not mentioned in the budget.
 - Tucker Ranch Holistic Health and Wellness Park & Teaching Farm Multi Phase Pilot Program (\$2.5M)



Apopka Regional Trails Connections Project (\$8M) Amount requested \$8 million and \$2 million budget.



Education



Support investments in school personnel by increasing Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funding to allow districts flexibility to maintain minimum salary levels, address the impacts of salary compression, and reward experienced employees who demonstrate a sustained level of effectiveness. Categoricals need to be boosted as well as more funding that can be directed to remedy major hiring shortages and retention issues in all areas, especially substitute teachers.

Environment



SB 882 authorizes SJRWMD to purchase environmentally sensitive lands. One of the parcels on this year's list is a 28-acre parcel of wetlands between Magnolia Park and the North Shore Restoration Area. The purchase of this parcel will provide continuity of environmentally preserved tracts. Outcome: Not Funded

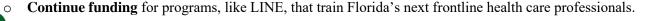
Lake Apopka Hydrilla (FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Budget). Amount Budgeted: \$5 Million

For the 2023 FWC budget, request Central Florida Legislative Delegation ask FWC to propose, plan and treat 8,000 acres of hydrilla in Lake Apopka this year (2023). Last year 14,000 acres of the invasive aquatic weed hydrilla infested the 30,000 acres (approximately 47%) of Florida's 4th largest lake. FWC effectively treated 6,600 acres, but the untreated portion grew dramatically. To contain and curb the spread, FWC will need to treat at least 8,000 acres this year. SJRWMD intends to replace the invasive weed with native aquatic vegetation.

Healthcare Funded in the budget.



Preserve Medicaid hospital reimbursements at their current levels for inpatient and outpatient care, and ensure continuous coverage for eligible families and individuals throughout the Medicaid redetermination process.



Judicial/Legal Passed March 24, 2023 - House Bill 837 "Civil Remedies"

Tort Reform



Florida's bottom-5 legal climate is costing Florida families and local businesses an additional \$5,065 a year in increased costs of goods and services. The WO Chamber partners with the Florida Chamber to support efforts to rein in unnecessary litigation, reduce costs and prevent additional avenues to sue in Florida law. This includes, but is not limited to, addressing inflated medical damages, eliminating Florida's reputation as a haven for "bad faith," and ending the incentive to litigate resulting from Florida's one-way attorney's fees.

Tourism Amount requested and budgeted: \$80 Million

Visit Florida Funding



Increase funding for Visit Florida in the amount of \$100 million. Following Hurricane Ian, funding will be especially important to ensure Florida continues to be top of mind as a leading vacation destination.