

DeSoto County Board of County Commissioners
201 East Oak Street, Suite 201
Arcadia, Florida 34266
863-993-4800

DeSoto County Designations:

- **Rural Area of Economic Opportunity**
- **Fiscally Constrained County**
- **Small County**

General Operating Millage: 7.9048

Law Enforcement Millage: 2.4399

State Legislative Priorities / 2024-2025:

Full Funding of Advalorem offsets for Fiscally Constrained Counties

Continue to fully fund the offset of the impacts of Amendment 1 and subsequent homestead exemption amendments. (2nd and 4th \$25,000 homestead exemptions)

Preservation of Home Rule Authority

Request for support of the preservation of Home Rule Authority, which enables the Board to govern at the local level to the service of its constituents. Home Rule Authority is a crucial element of the County's ability to be responsive and adaptive to local needs.

Opposition to Unfunded Mandates

The Board strongly opposes State Legislation that mandates the delivery of costly services or processes absent the resources to fund them. Respectfully ask for actively engagement with the affected entities in the legislative process to measure and consider the impacts of such mandates.

State Aid to Libraries:

Maintain State Aid to Libraries funding

Affordable Housing:

Maintain funding of Florida's affordable housing programs, specifically the SHIP program funding. Support utilizing the full established trust fund for its intended purposes.

Small County Road Programs (SCRAP/SCOP)

Support full funding the FDOT for the FY 2022-23 workplan project requests for SCRAP and SCOP projects.

Health Department Funding

Maintain funding for health departments providing primary health care and dental services and protect them from state budget reductions. Small County (State) Health Departments serve a critical role in community health in service to the medically underserved communities.

Legislative Project Requests

Wastewater Disposal

\$10,500,000

Request represents 70% of project costs to construct a deep injection well at an estimated costs of \$15,000,000. The effluent disposal solution is necessary absent availability of additional spray field irrigation land area at the County's wastewater treatment facility. There is significant demand for wastewater capacity that is limited by effluent disposal. The balance of the project will be funded through capital charges, capital reserves, and other non-state funding. Resolving the effluent disposal challenge will allow the County to move forward with treatment capacity expansion to serve the residential and commercial demand in a manner that does not encourage the installation of septic systems in dense housing developments and/or the construction of numerous package plants throughout the County.

County Road 769 ROW Acquisition/Utility Relocation

\$6,000,000

FDOT and the County are working together to fund approximately 2.2 miles, adding an additional 2 lanes, to the southern portion of CR 769 (Kings Highway). Design is underway and programmed at approx. 3.4 million. The County is in the process of negotiating stormwater property within the 1st mile of the project. We have broken the project into two phases based on funding feasibility. The request will be used for utility relocation and right-of-way acquisition. The County and the FDOT have collectively identified about 15.5 Million in constructing funding in addition to the 3.4 Million in design funding. All sources have been

local and/or Federal. This project will provide design integration with the portion of Kings Highway that Charlotte County is doing and will provide relief to the heavy congestion of this portion of the roadway.

- CR 769 leads directly to I-75 and is the only local road designated as an Evacuation Route
- Priority Project of the Heartland Regional Transportation Organization
- Connects Interstate to State Road system (SR 72 and US 17/SR 35)
- This segment of roadway is currently over capacity
- Strong State/Local partnership

Fire Training Facility / Tower

\$1,000,000

Financial assistance request to construct a fire training facility on County property to provide live firefighting and rescue for 1st responders. Total estimated cost 1.5-2M including site work.