

Public Safety Training Institute

Organization & Contact: Charlotte County Fire & EMS, Matthew McElroy, 941-833-5600,
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Area: South County

Location: 26571 Airport Rd. Punta Gorda, FL, 33982

Category: Public Safety

Focus Area(s): Infrastructure

Need: The current training tower is outdated and no longer meets the demands of modern fireground training, lacking essential safety features and flexibility for realistic scenarios. The structure is not compliant with NFPA 1402, and 1403 and cannot safely accommodate live fire evolutions. The current facilities limitations restrict joint training with mutual aid partners, impacting regional readiness and operational consistency.

Purpose: The purpose of the Fire Training Facility is to provide safe, dedicated, controlled, and standardized environment for the delivery of initial, required, and advanced fire training to ensure personnel are operationally ready, compliant with State and National standards, and capable of safely serving the community.

Objectives: Multi-story, multi-burn room training tower, with a component to store fire apparatus, classroom space

Project Cost Prior Funding:	\$0
Project Cost Prior from Sales Tax:	\$0
Total Project Cost:	\$11,850,000
Project Cost Required New Sales Tax:	\$11,850,000
Annual Operating Cost:	\$812,742

Will the project impact public health and safety? If so, how?

Yes, will improve the delivery of Fire and Medical services to our community.

Will the project foster economic development and create long-term jobs? If so, how?

Yes, will accommodate additional staff in support of community growth and demands of emergency services.

Will the project result in decreased, increased, or no operation and maintenance (O&M) costs?

Minimal increase to O&M costs.

Will sales tax allow for application of grant funds from another entity?

Possibly.

Will the project enable furtherance of phased projects from 2014 sales tax extension?

Yes, ARFF project

Is this a joint project with another entity?

No

Will the project meet a community obligation to serve a special needs segment of the County's population, such as: low-income, aged, or minorities?

Yes, by eliminating the cost for those looking to enter the Fire Service, they will be hired and put through the fire academy.

Is the project included in a Master Plan, Comprehensive Plan, or Capital Needs Assessment?

Yes, this would be included to the overall Master Plan due to space allocated to Public Safety needs.

Will the project impact environmental quality of Charlotte County? If so, how?

No.

Will the project improve quality of life in Charlotte County?

Yes, strengthens safety, resilience, workforce stability, and community confidence.

Is the project state or federally mandated?

Yes, we are required to have a facility that meets the state requirements for training.

Is the project dependent upon or connected with the completion of another project?

Yes, the overall expansion of EOC and Public Safety needs.