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INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA  
M E M O R A N D U M

**TO:** Honorable Board of County Commissioners

**THROUGH:** John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator

**THROUGH:** David Johnson, Director of Emergency Services

**FROM:** David Rattray, Fire Chief  
David Kiernan, Deputy Fire Chief  
Sean Gibbons, Deputy Fire Chief

**DATE:** February 12, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Florida Inland Navigation District - Waterways Assistance Grant

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It is respectfully requested that the information contained herein be given formal consideration by the District Board of Commissioners at the next scheduled meeting.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) is a special State taxing district for the continued management and maintenance of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (ICW), commonly referred to as M-95 marine highway. FIND was created by the Florida Legislature in 1927 to be State local sponsor for the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. This act authorized the purchase of the existing East Coast Canal, constructed by private interests, which ran from Jacksonville to Miami. Today, the Navigation District consists of the twelve (12) counties along the East Coast of Florida from Nassau through Miami-Dade.

**DESCRIPTIONS AND CONDITIONS:**

The Waterway Assistance Program is a grant program established by the Florida Legislature and the District for the purpose of financially cooperating with local governments to increase public access associated with the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and associated waterways within the District. The program is authorized by Section 374.976, Florida Statutes, and is administered under the provisions of Chapter 66B-2, Florida Administrative Code. Eligible local governmental agencies include municipalities, counties, port authorities and special taxing districts within the twelve counties of the District.

This funding opportunity is a 50% cost share to be used to improve the dock at Fire Station 2. The project objective is to enhance the current public safety dock from the original and current "4" configuration to a "T" configuration. The project construction will utilize updated heavy timber, composite fiberglass grated decking, and stainless-steel hardware creating a more durable product. The proposed fiber grate decking will allow water to move freely during unpredictable rise of tides

if submerged. The new composite decking, heavy PT timber, and stainless-steel hardware will be able to withstand the harsh effects of our coastal environment and increase the serviceability of our maritime response.

The award of this grant is contingent upon completion of obtaining a site-specific survey and study, along with permits, by September 2024. Approval for this prerequisite is in a separate item to be presented to the Board.

**FUNDING:**

This project is included in Fiscal Year 2024/2025 in the current Capital Improvements Element of the Capital Improvements Plan that was approved by the Board on February 6, 2024, for a total of \$185,000. This grant will reimburse the County for up to 50%, or \$92,500, of costs incurred. This project will be budgeted in the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 budget, in the amount of \$185,000, in the Optional Sales Tax/Fire Rescue/Fire Station #2 Dock account, number 31512022-066510-24015.

<b>Account Name</b>	<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Optional Sales Tax/Fire Rescue/Fire Station #2 Dock	31512022-066510-24015	\$185,000

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Board authorize the submission of the Application for the Florida Inland Navigation District, Waterway Assistance Grant.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Grant Application
- IRC Grant Form
- Station 2 Preliminary Drawing