

CONSENT AGENDA

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

TO: Members of the Board of County Commissioners

DATE: May 23, 2024

THROUGH: John A. Titkanich Jr., County Administrator

FROM: Kristin Daniels, Director, Office of Management & Budget

SUBJECT: Tourist Development Council 2024/2025 Budget Recommendations

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS

On May 22, 2024, the Tourist Development Council (TDC) reviewed budget requests for fiscal year 2024/2025 to be paid from Tourist Tax revenues. The budget requests are listed in the table below. File copies of the applications for each agency are available in the Budget Office for review.

**Table 1
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AGENCY REQUESTS
Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Funding Applications**

Organization	2023/2024 Funding	2024/2025 Request	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
Indian River County Chamber of Commerce	\$932,170	\$926,748	(\$5,422)	-0.6%
Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce	\$212,530	\$252,143	\$39,613	18.6%
Cultural Council	\$65,000	\$70,000	\$5,000	7.7%
Historical Society	\$32,000	\$50,000	\$18,000	56.3%
Treasure Coast Sports Commission	\$280,000	\$280,000	\$0	0.0%
Vero Heritage	\$34,000	\$30,600	(\$3,400)	-10.0%
Coastal Connections	\$15,000	\$16,000	\$1,000	6.7%
Sub Total	\$1,570,700	\$1,625,491	\$54,791	3.5%
Reserve for Contingency	\$108,081	\$128,081	\$20,000	18.5%
Grand Total	\$1,678,781	\$1,753,572	\$74,791	4.5%

Funding and Analysis

Staff estimates total funding of \$1,703,572 available for distribution to tourism development agencies in FY 24/25. As of the most recent April 2024 monthly report, Tourist Tax revenues are down when compared to last year’s collections by 8.1% or \$243,508; however, they are exceeding budgeted estimates by 12.9% or \$315,084. Because Tourist Tax revenues have been declining and continue to align closer to budgeted projections over the past fiscal year, Staff proposes the budget be increased by 1.5%, or \$24,791, leaving Tourist Tax revenues flat, increasing the budget to reflect the rise in interest income, and utilizing \$2,941 in cash to balance (as requested by the TDC).

On February 2, 2021 the Board of County Commissioners approved allocating 1/3rd of the half-cent of Tourist Tax revenue proceeds made available from funding the Jackie Robinson Training Complex, to the Tourism Development Fund. Furthermore, a Reserve for Contingency was set up to earmark 75% of the additional funding per Board direction. The Reserve for Contingency account is budgeted at \$128,081, which is intended to fund any mid-year adjustments or unanticipated funding opportunities that may arise over the upcoming budget.

The funding amounts agreed to at the TDC meeting, following completion of scoring sheets by TDC members, are summarized in Table 2 below. Following a motion made by Mrs. Bates and seconded by Mrs. Smalley, the funding levels were approved with a 6-0 vote, utilizing \$2,941 in cash to balance the request.

**Table 2
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Fiscal Year 2024/2025 TDC’s Funding Recommendation**

Organization	2023/2024 Funding	2024/2025 Recommendation	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
Indian River County Chamber of Commerce	\$932,170	\$926,748	(\$5,422)	-0.6%
Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce	\$212,530	\$252,143	\$39,613	18.6%
Cultural Council	\$65,000	\$40,000	(\$25,000)	-38.5%
Historical Society	\$32,000	\$45,000	\$13,000	40.6%
Treasure Coast Sports Commission	\$280,000	\$270,000	(\$10,000)	-3.6%
Vero Heritage	\$34,000	\$30,600	(\$3,400)	-10.0%
Coastal Connections	\$15,000	\$11,000	(\$4,000)	-26.7%
Sub Total	\$1,570,700	\$1,575,491	\$4,791	0.3%
Reserve for Contingency	\$108,081	\$128,081	\$20,000	18.5%
Grand Total	\$1,678,781	\$1,703,572	\$24,791	1.5%

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve the funding amounts recommended by the Tourist Development Council as shown in Table 2 for a total allocation of \$1,703,572 and authorize the County Attorney to prepare standard grant agreements for all funding recipients.