

TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC. PRE-APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Name of Individual/Entity/Organization: Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners

Brief Description of Background of Individual/Entity/Organization: Local Government

Contact Information:

Primary Contact Information: Sheree T. Keeler

Title: Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1263, Crawfordville, FL 32327

Telephone Number: 850-926-0919 x 705 (office) 850-228-5526 (cell)

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Website: www.mywakulla.com

Names of co-applicants, partners or other entities, organizations that will have a role in the proposed project or program: Wakulla County Sheriff's Office

REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Wakulla County is seeking \$3 million in Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. (Triumph) funds to purchase a county-wide first responder communication system to be used by first responders, i.e., Wakulla County Fire and Rescue (WCFR) and the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office (WCSO).

This project can be implemented quickly and efficiently, provides a regional impact and does not duplicate any other existing programs or projects. We feel this project is an allowable use of Triumph funds pursuant to section 288.8017, (1)(d) - "Grants to local governments in the disproportionately affected counties to establish and maintain equipment and trained personnel for local action plans of response to respond to disaster, such as plans created for the Coastal Impact Assistance Program.

This project was recommended to Triumph for funding by the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) (see Attachment #1). Wakulla County is a designated Rural Economic Opportunity Area.

Summary of Project and Need

WCFR and WCSO are using communication devices that are aging, incompatible and inoperable with communications systems used by several federal, state and many other local public safety agencies. The system and devices used are based on a microwave system installed in 2001. This situation creates serious gaps in our coverage footprint causing safety issues and concerns of putting citizens and property at risk during emergencies, and/or multi-jurisdictional situations if WCSO nor WCFR cannot receive or transmit calls with other public safety agencies within or outside Wakulla County.

During emergencies, disasters and/or accidents WSCO and WCFR work closely with the Florida Highway Patrol, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, State Forestry Service, National Forest Service, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge (SMNWR) and other local public safety agencies. This is in part due to the fact that Wakulla covers 736 square miles and is the first responder for 911 calls or for mutual aide, especially within the following areas:

- The coastline running from Taylor County to Franklin County and four major rivers: Ochlockonee, St. Marks, Wakulla and Sopchoppy; or approximately 129 square miles of water.
- Approximately 552 square miles of either state forest/park, national forest or SMNWR.
- Approximately 165 miles of state owned roads.
- Franklin, Liberty, Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson and Taylor counties are either contiguous or within close proximity to Wakulla County.

Major Concerns with the Existing System:

- No redundancy, if the current system becomes inoperable all communication within the County is lost and for an indeterminate period.
- ***Federal Narrow banding*** essentially reduced the coverage areas in Wakulla County leaving some areas without any coverage except landlines.
- Is not secure, information is not encrypted putting confidential and sensitive information at risk.
- Easily disrupted.
- Wakulla County cannot communicate with or receive communications with several federal, state, or other local public safety agencies.

Note that the County did explore building its own system with multiple towers as well as the Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS), and found it be neither economical or feasible without further exploration of other systems. It is anticipated that a consultant will be hired to assist the County evaluate its current needs and the different P25 compliant digital radio systems, and make recommendations for a system that meets the following needs, at a minimum:

- + Improved communication with partner agencies.
- + Secure (encrypted - it is not able to be scanned), keeping law enforcement and patient information confidential.
- + Dual-band radios that can also operate on the RDSTF Grant 700 MHz System when equipped with P25 software.
- + Improved coverage area.
- + Provides redundancy, multiple towers so the loss of one site will not render communications fully inoperable.
- + Provides current technology and equipment that can be serviced, repaired and/or replaced, keeping with current technology and first responder requirements.

Wakulla County's population according to 2017 estimates is 31,909, and it is expected to increase to 35,367 by 2025, an increase of 3,458 citizens. While this growth may not seem significant to more populous counties, it has a major impact on the County's strained resources and adds to the chances of more auto crashes, residential and business fires, and emergency calls for law enforcement or medical assistance. Additionally, US 319 and US 98 offer the only north-south bound highways in and out of Wakulla County from Leon County to Franklin County. These highways experience extremely heavy traffic congestion during peak hours Monday-Friday due to residents traveling to and from Tallahassee where most of our population works. During holidays and weekends these same two highways experience congestion due to not only our citizens using them for local commutes, but due to those traveling to the area for outdoor recreational activities and those that are passing through to neighboring panhandle counties and beaches. These factors make it even more critical that Wakulla County has a current, dependable first responder communication system.

In order to remain competitive with other counties and cities, Wakulla must constantly improve on services and infrastructure. If we cannot meet demands of current citizens, especially with response and preparedness to emergency/disaster events, we will certainly fall short of meeting demands of potentially new or expanding businesses or individuals looking to relocate. To transform from a rural area dependent on day visitors, locally caught Gulf seafood and outdoor recreation we must provide emergency/disaster response in a manner and timeframe that is congruent with increased population and business growth.

Wakulla County is seeking \$3 million in funding to purchase a system that meets the County's needs and provides a full coverage footprint, redundancy, and interoperability for the safety and welfare of its citizens.

Project Timeline: Procure and implement new system within 12 months of award.



November 6, 2017

**BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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District 5

J. David Edwards
County Administrator

Heather J. Encinosa
County Attorney
(850) 224-4070

Mr. Alan Bense, Chairman
Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
Post Office Box 12007
Tallahassee, Florida 32317

Dear Chairman Bense,

The Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners (Board) held a workshop on October 30, 2017, for the purpose of discussing Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. (Triumph) funds, project criteria, and to provide a venue for our boards of elected officials and citizens to present projects for Board consideration and recommendation to Triumph pursuant to statute.

We were very appreciative of Jason Shoaf and Scott Remington taking time to attend our Workshop. Their input and response to questions certainly exceeded expectations and contributed to the success of our Workshop.

The Board met on November 6, 2017, to finalize its initial list of recommended projects for Triumph funding and identified five priority projects that can be implemented quickly and provide optimum results for the funding being requested. The County's five priority projects below align with existing local strategic and planning documents and the Great Northwest Florida Forward strategic plan.

1. Wakulla Career and Technical Education Center
2. Wakulla County Learning Center
3. First Responder Communication System
4. New County Library
5. ADA Compliant Kayak/Canoe Launch – St. marks City Park

Summary information on each project is provided in the enclosed list of Board recommended projects for Triumph funding as of November 6, 2017. The forth coming Pre-Screening Application for each of the projects will provide further information.

It is anticipated that the Board will update its list of recommended projects from time to time as projects are funded or as priorities shift

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Mr. Alan Bense
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to reflect current needs and conditions. Your consideration of each of our projects is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to hosting the November 8th Triumph Board meeting in Wakulla County. Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ralph Thomas", written over a horizontal line.

Ralph Thomas
Chairman

RT/stk

Enclosure

Cc:

Mr. Bobby Pearce, Wakulla County School Board

Ms. Gail Gilman, City of St. Marks

Ms. Dana Peck, Wakulla Commercial Fishermen's Association

Mr. Bob Ballard, WEI

WAKULLA COUNTY LIST OF RECOMMENDED PROJECTS FOR TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC. FUNDING

November 6, 2017

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Project Title/Brief Description</i>	<i>Est. Project Cost</i>	<i>Board Priority</i>
Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners	<p>First Responder Communication System: Replace existing aging and unrepairable first responder communication system with one that can communicate with all federal, state and local first responder agencies as well as extending the range of communication within the County, i.e., national/state forest, metal building, etc. Our County is working with other 7-counties for potential regional project – with each County submitting their own application.</p>	\$2 M	#3
	<p>New Library: Construct a new, larger more centrally located library at the community center to meet the growing demands for new programs and provide space for participation at current and new events. The existing library will be repurposed and used for a much-needed Fire/EMS station in the Medart area, south of Crawfordville. A new library also has the potential to provide virtual classes not provided elsewhere in the County and could target underprivileged populations needing workforce skills. The County owns the property. Funds are needed for design, permitting, construction and furnishings.</p>	\$3.5 M	#4
	<p>Medart Rec Park Improvements: Improve the parking lot, restroom and concession facilities, and sports fields of Wakulla County's only recreation park for organized outdoor youth and adult sports. The County owns the Park. Funds are needed for any design, permitting and construction.</p>	\$2.0 M	
	<p>Realignment of County Road 61/Shell Point: The County has only two north-south bound highways from Capital Circle (Leon County) to US 98 (Wakulla County): US 319 is on the eastern side of the County and US 27 is on the western side. High traffic on both of these highways is attributed mainly to travelers working in Tallahassee and living in Wakulla. Internal arterial roads off of these highways leading to residential areas become clogged at peak times creating extremely hazardous conditions. Additionally, these highways provide the only access to Wakulla's coast, rivers, forest, etc. creating heavy traffic conditions on weekends and holidays. This proposed realignment would provide a north-south bound County Road centrally located in Wakulla County and would ease congestion and increase safety conditions. Funds are needed for design, permitting and construction.</p>	\$2.5 M	
	<p>Camp Indian Springs Campground Partnership: This project proposes a partnership with Department of Environment Protection (DEP), in the event they purchase the Camp Indian Springs Property. The County proposes seeking funds for the improvement of existing buildings on the Camp Indian Springs Campground property and the design, permitting and construction of a RV/Tent camp ground.</p>	TBD	
	<p>New Rec Park – US 319: The County is in need of land to design, permit and construct a larger outdoor multi-use recreational Park on the north side of the County. This park has the potential to serve the region for youth and adult outdoor sports, i.e., softball tournaments, soccer tournaments, etc. Funds are needed for land acquisition, planning, design, construction and furnishings.</p>	\$20 M	

WAKULLA COUNTY LIST OF RECOMMENDED PROJECTS FOR TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC. FUNDING

November 6, 2017

<p>Wakulla County School Board</p>	<p>Wakulla Career and Technical Education Center: This project would provide training and job skills for the non-degree seeking student for emerging or high-demand jobs. WCSB owns the property and will staff the center once constructed. Funds are requested for design, permitting, construction and furnishings.</p> <p>Wakulla County Learning Center: This project proposes a partnership with TCC for a campus in Wakulla County where students and adults may pursue an AA degree. WCSB owns the property and will staff the center once constructed in partnership with TCC. Funds are requested for design, permitting, construction and furnishings.</p>	<p>\$5.7 M</p>	<p>#1</p>
<p>City of St. Marks,</p>	<p>ADA Compliant Kayak/Canoe Launch: To provide kayak/canoe access to the Wakulla River via the City Park. Increase recreational opportunities and enhanced visitor experience. Will also relieve kayak/canoe launching at the St. Marks Boat Ramp. The City of St. Marks owns the property. Funds are requested for design, permitting and construction.</p> <p>St. Marks WWTP – Conversion of Grinders to Gravity Sewer: First a feasibility study (i.e., preliminary engineer report) will need to be conducted to determine if conversion is feasible and probable cost. Funds are needed for feasibility study/preliminary engineering report.</p> <p>St. Marks Board Walk: Construct a boardwalk that will connect to the terminus of the St. Marks Bike Trail and provide an off-road multi-use pedestrian to the Fort, St. Marks Board Ramp, and back to the St. Marks Bike Trail terminus. The City of St. Marks own the property and the project is designed and permitted. Funds are requested for construction.</p>	<p>\$3.4 M</p>	<p>#2</p>
<p>Wakulla Commercial Fishermen's Assoc, Inc.</p>	<p>A Partnership Reviving Apalachee Bay Oyster Reefs: Shoreline restoration on oyster reefs to enhance commercial and recreational fishing; provide tidal, storm surge and coastal erosion protection, improve water quality; strengthen economy, social and environmental capital. Funds are requested for all stages of the project.</p>	<p>\$65 K</p>	<p>#5</p>
<p>Wakulla Environmental Institute</p>	<p>Marine Manufacturing Training Center: A state of the art multi-purpose facility that will function as an auditorium, conference center, manufacturing center, oyster seed hatchery and commercial kitchen for processing local Gulf Coast seafood products. WEI owns the property. Funds are needed for design, permitting, construction and furnishings. Total estimated project cost is \$22.7 M, seeking \$15M Triumph funds.</p>	<p>\$350 K</p>	
		<p>\$900 K</p>	
		<p>\$2.6 M</p>	
		<p>\$15 M</p>	