

# FRANKLIN COUNTY

REPLY TO:  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
33 MARKET STREET, SUITE 203  
APALACHICOLA, FL 32320  
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REPLY TO:  
PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT  
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## TRIUMPH GULF COAST, INC PRE-APPLICATION FORM

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

**Name of Individual/Entity/Organization:** Franklin County Board of County Commissioners

**Proposal Title:** First Responder Communication System

**Amount of Triumph Funds Requested:** \$ 9,200,000

**Total Estimated Project Cost:** \$ 10,720,000

**Brief Description of Individual/Entity/Organization:** Franklin County, a local government, located in Florida's Northwestern Panhandle and is one of the eight counties negatively impacted by the 2010 Gulf Oil Spill. Franklin County's two municipalities include Apalachicola and Carrabelle with each having its own government and providing city services such as police and zoning protection. The county is comprised of 545 square miles and 348,000 acres, serving more than 11,000 residents.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Primary Contact:** Erin Griffith  
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### REQUIRED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Franklin County is requesting \$9,200,000.00 in funding from the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. grant program, to replace the county-wide aged Radio Communication network. The current communication system is very dated, incompatible, and inoperable. The project will be broken into two phases. The first phase will be for the preliminary design, bid specifications and a consultant to analyze the needs of the various first responders for the radio system. The second phase will be to procure and install the necessary equipment. Franklin County has agreed to allocate \$20,000 of county funds for implementation of Phase I and will utilize the

\$1,500,000.00 that the legislature is providing to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to purchase radios as a match for Phase II.

Secured radio communications are critical during natural disasters, emergencies, and all other 911 dispatch information to be received by the appropriate response teams across the county. Also, during statewide emergencies, disasters, and/or accidents, Franklin County works closely with state and federal agencies in response to emergencies. This proposed project is eligible for use of Triumph Gulf Coast funds pursuant to section 288.8017, (l)(d), FS, "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."

The county is currently operating on two separate systems (Sheriff's Office and EMS are utilizing the state's 800 system and the remaining first responder entities are operating on the county's aged VHF system). First responders are the primary users of the proposed system including the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Franklin County EMS and Fire Departments, Franklin County Road Department, WEEMS Hospital, Carrabelle Police Department, and Apalachicola Police Department. A portion of the requested funds will be used to secure a radio consultant to conduct a thorough needs assessment, identify system and procurement options, and participate in the selection of a qualified radio communication vendor to build out the new system. The majority of the awarded funds will be used to procure equipment and expertise to build out the new system through testing and final acceptance. The county plans to issue a competitive procurement for both the consultant and the radio system vendor.

While this project does not directly propose new businesses or job creation, law enforcement and first responder's ability to ensure safe communities for existing and new businesses and tourists is critical to creating an environment for economic development. While monetary returns on investment are often hard to calculate, investments in public safety infrastructure have been shown to reduce the risk of lives lost, injuries, time without necessities, property damage or loss, business losses, and quality of life. Without enhanced emergency response preparedness and infrastructure, the County would be at risk of not meeting the growing demands of the current population, tourism, and expanding business growth within the county.

Franklin County anticipates that both Phase I and Phase II could be completed within 18 months of award.

**PROPOSAL'S ELIGIBILITY CATEGORY:**

- Grants to local governments in the disproportionately affected counties to establish and maintain equipment and trained personnel for local action plans of response to disasters, such as plans created for the Coastal Impacts Assistance Program.

**PRIORITIES THIS PROPOSAL'S OUTCOMES WILL ACHIEVE:**

- Partner with local governments to provide funds, infrastructure, land, or other assistance for the project.
- Provide measurable outcomes.
- The project is recommended and supported by the Board of County Commissioners of Franklin County.