

Legislative Issue

FY 24/25

Hernando County Emergency Operations Center

Funding Request: \$12,000,000

Action

The County has 60 acres of land currently designated to build the location of an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The design and construction of an EOC is needed to fit Hernando County's needs.

Background

An EOC is a central command and control system responsible for carrying out the principles of emergency management for a jurisdiction to plan for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate itself from natural or man-made disasters. It is a location from which governmental, non-governmental, and private sector leaders can coordinate both resourceful and informational support to its community and first responders. It also serves as a location for continuity of governmental services for the public should a natural or man-made disaster affect a governmental entity.

The current Emergency Operations Center central command and control principal system has been outgrown and Hernando County is in need for a larger, stronger, and more robust EOC to be able to perform the necessary emergency management functions to meet the needs of this community.

State Interest

Each county is required to have an Emergency Management program through Florida State Statute. The local Emergency Operations Center is that conduit between local government and either Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), or both, at the time of a natural or man-made disaster. A new EOC for Hernando County will allow local government to respond to the needs of the community more effectively and fit the staff needed to respond efficiently during a disaster.