



Florida
TaxWatch



2015
Budget Turkey
Watch Report

*An analysis of the transparency and
accountability of the budget process*

JUNE 2015

The *2015 Budget Turkey Watch Report: An analysis of the accountability and transparency of the budget process* is the result of an annual independent review of Florida's new budget by Florida TaxWatch. This report promotes additional oversight and integrity in the state's budgeting process based on the principle that, because money appropriated by the Legislature belongs to the taxpayers of Florida, the process must be transparent and accountable, and every appropriation should receive deliberation and debate.

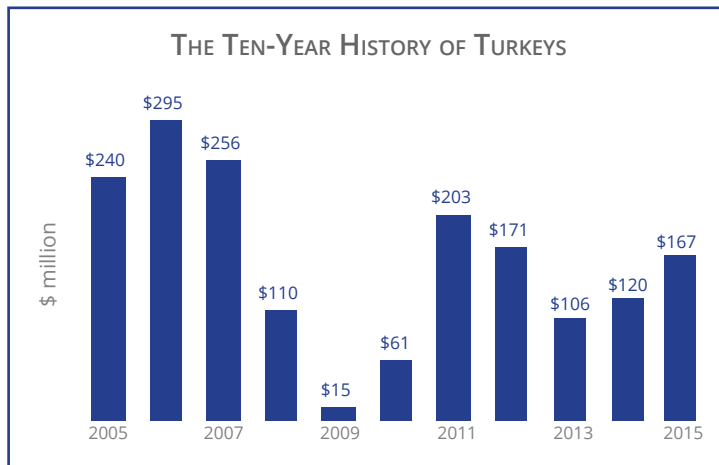
The budget review identifies appropriations that circumvent transparency and accountability standards in public budgeting. Each appropriation is scrutinized against a set of clearly defined criteria established by Florida TaxWatch.

Each year, the Budget Turkey Report consists of only a very small percentage of the state budget, and this year represents less than one-quarter of one percent. The \$78.7 billion budget passed by the Florida House and Senate in Special Session on June 19, 2015 contains 188 appropriations items worth \$166.3 million qualifying as Budget Turkeys.

WHAT IS A BUDGET TURKEY

Budget Turkeys are individual line-items and accompanying proviso language that are appropriated without being subject to a thoughtful and thorough budget process.

The "Budget Turkey" label does not signify judgment of a project's worthiness. Instead, the review focuses on the Florida budget process, and the purpose of the "Budget Turkey" label is to ensure that all appropriations using public funds are subject to public scrutiny.



The annual Budget Turkey Report spotlights legislative projects placed in the budget without proper opportunity for public review and debate

CRITERIA

The Florida TaxWatch Budget Turkey criteria are clearly defined. Appropriations must violate sound budgeting practices in at least one of these ways to be designated as a Budget Turkey.

- A project that circumvents established review and selection processes or has completed the established process but is funded ahead of much higher priority projects (as determined by the selection process).¹
- Appropriations that are inserted in the budget during conference committee meetings, meaning they did not appear in either the final Senate or House budgets.
- Appropriations from inappropriate trust funds; duplicative appropriations; and appropriations contingent on legislation that did not pass.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BUDGET TURKEY REPORT

Florida TaxWatch identifies Budget Turkeys to promote transparency in public budgeting, encourage meaningful legislative review of all appropriations, and facilitate the checks and balances within the budget process that are granted by the Constitution.

1. Promote transparency in public budgeting

Projects first appearing in the budget process during conference are identified by Florida TaxWatch to expose the lack of transparency that occurs during the conference process. Projects that are added during conference are added to the budget without public debate, scrutiny, or vote—even by those Legislators who sit on the conference committees.

2. Encourage meaningful legislative review of all appropriations

All appropriations should be subject to adequate public review, debate, and scrutiny, which requires that all legislators have the opportunity to review proposed appropriations. When projects are added during conference, they have bypassed the normal appropriations subcommittee and committee process. The only legislators that have the ability to publicly vet these expenditures to any degree are those who sit on conference committees, shielding those appropriations from scrutiny by every member.

¹ Examples of projects that have an established budget review process include: the transportation work program, education facilities construction (PECO), local parks (FRDAP), aquaculture, beach renourishment; and historical preservation, arts and cultural grants.

After the conference process, the full legislative body cannot adjust individual appropriations, they can only vote the entire budget up or down. Because the relative amount of total appropriations added in conference is such a small percentage of the Florida budget, few, if any, lawmakers will vote the budget down because of projects added in conference.

3. *Facilitate the checks and balances within the budget process that are granted by the Florida Constitution*

The Florida Governor's line-item veto authority is a protection afforded by the Florida Constitution as one of the checks and balances that allows for proper distribution of power in state government. However, another crucial element is the right and responsibility of Florida taxpayers to hold their elected officials accountable for budgeting decisions. Though all budget documents are available to the public, the complicated budget process creates a barrier that prevents all taxpayers from understanding this information. The Budget Turkey Report is intended to show taxpayers the result of this complicated process, where not all decisions are made in the sunshine.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE 2015 BUDGET PROCESS

As the eyes and ears of Florida's taxpayers, Florida TaxWatch staff attended every appropriations subcommittee meeting, every appropriations meeting, and each budget conference meeting of the 2015 Florida Legislature. While appropriations issues were generally questioned and debated in subcommittee and committee hearings, most conference committee meetings lasted less than 20 minutes (often much shorter) and included few questions and little or no debate. More often than not, the only individuals speaking during these conference committee meetings were the subcommittee and committee chairs, who accepted budget offers after committee staff read them aloud—usually with no explanation. At some meetings the lists were not even read.

BUDGETING WITHOUT DISCIPLINE

Just as the Rule of Law is critically essential in a civil society, so is the integrity, transparency and accountability of the budget process to ensure the highest and best use of the taxpayers' hard earned money.

The lack of transparency within these conference committee meetings should be a clarion call for increased accountability in Florida's budgeting process. For example, though conference committee meetings are required to have a one-hour meeting notice, materials were sometimes unavailable to the public until after the meeting already began. At some meetings, legislative staff refused to provide documents to members of the public.

During these brief and largely symbolic meetings, the state budget grew by \$2.5 billion over the total appropriated by the House budget. Because the Senate budget had more than \$4 billion in federal health care dollars that the House did not accept, the Senate budget was bigger than the final budget. However, state General Revenue spending increased by \$664 million over the Senate budget and almost \$1 billion over the House. New projects were added during the conference, and were often mentioned during the reading of an offer, but were not always noted as being new. Sometimes these projects were not even mentioned. Very few new issues were explained, discussed, questioned, or debated.

As was the case in recent years, at the end of the conference process, just before the budget was finalized, two supplemental funding lists totaling more than \$300 million were introduced. These lists, one from the House and one from the Senate, contained increased "supplemental" funding for existing, already-vetted items, many new items that were not part of any previous conference offers, committee or subcommittee debate, and some which had been previously taken out in conference. Some of the funding was recurring, making it more likely the projects would continue to be funded in the future.

These lists were not read and no project was mentioned. It was only mentioned that each chamber had an available supplemental funding list, and the supplemental lists were then accepted by the corresponding chair without debate.

This is not meant to condemn the budget conference process. Every dollar and every word in the budget must be agreed upon by both chambers. Such a process is necessary, for without some negotiation or discussion behind closed doors, the budget would likely be very difficult to finish. Further, legislators and appropriations staff work very hard for incredibly long hours—including nights and weekends—to reach a budget compromise.

But decisions are still made behind closed doors. Due to this lack of open public debate, the conference process should be used exclusively to compromise when the two chambers disagree on funding levels and to decide whether an item funded by only one chamber should be included in the final state budget. Budget conference should not be the time to fund new items.

LAWMAKERS MAKE THE CASE FOR BUDGET INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

During the 2015 Regular Session, there seemed to be a renewed focus on transparency and accountability in the appropriations process. Beginning at the subcommittee level, some lawmakers made a concerted effort to embrace responsible public budgeting standards. Senator Jack Latvala, chairman of the Senate Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee, held an “open-mic” meeting to hear requests for public funds or “member projects.” Senators Don Gaetz and Bill Montford, chairman and vice-chairman of the Senate Education Appropriations subcommittee, sent letters to each local educational entity that received funds in the current fiscal year asking for information to help determine how to best allocate resources in the upcoming year.

Representative Richard Corcoran, chairman of the House Appropriations committee, asked members to submit an application for their local projects. While the push for more transparency is welcomed and appreciated by Florida taxpayers, much of that good work was undone during the conference committee. The last minute addition of over \$300 million in increased spending on supplemental funding lists from both chambers, without explanation or debate, resulted in objections from legislators and the media.

Taxpayers have a right to clearly understand what is happening while the legislature is appropriating their money, and there is much more to be done to increase accountability and transparency in Florida’s budget process. Some lawmakers even directly called for increased transparency, citing budget values embraced by Florida TaxWatch.

Senator Tom Lee, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations committee, said, “The lack of transparency is troubling to me.” He also added, “I think there are plenty of opportunities for reform. I’m really interested in transparency to the maximum extent possible.”

Lawmakers have recognized the need for more transparency and accountability in the budget process, and should be applauded for their efforts. Several lawmakers advanced ideas to insert more protections, which would result in more sound budgeting practices.

During debate on the Senate floor prior to a vote on the budget, Senator Jack Latvala commented on the need to reform the conference process.

“The Senate rules were changed a few years ago...specifically with regard to conference committees. There was a rule that the Senate had that said that in a conference committee you are restricted to dealing with the differences between the bills of the two chambers...Maybe this is the year we ought to look at that and say there was too much stuff put in after the budgets went to conference. That is a rule change that could be made. That specifically would be a way to assist us in the future on that issue.”

ENCOURAGING FAIRNESS IN THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Budget turkeys are also unfair to organizations and legislators who follow proper appropriations procedures. Some organizations that pursued funding through established grant application processes and had their allocation approved saw their funding reduced as new projects were added late in conference. In addition, some members who got their projects into either the House or Senate budget early saw their projects removed during conference, with a lack of available revenue often cited as the reason. Later, many projects, some that had never been publicly discussed before, were added to the final budget.

“Public money ought to be touched with the most scrupulous conscientiousness of honor. It is not the produce of riches only, but of the hard earnings of labor and poverty.”

Thomas Paine

This breach of transparency and responsible budgeting principles was highlighted in an exchange on the House floor while members were asking questions about the budget.

Representative David Richardson asked the House budget chair:

“When I read through the budget there were 13 items here that were not part of the proposal that was made to the Department of State. I’ve had a call from a constituent that asked me...why is it that they’re not going to get full funding, but we have all these special projects that did not go through the process – they weren’t evaluated, they weren’t scored – and they asked me why that is because they feel like it’s unfair. And I want an answer. What do I say to the people that went through the process?”

Chair Corcoran responded:

“I agree with your constituent wholly...And I’d be glad to work with you – with your suggestions – on how we can, moving forward in the years to come, protect those systems that are in place for that specific purpose – that you don’t have somebody that has clout or power that can just come up here and start picking and choosing what gets funded when you have a whole system that works well and has the input from all stakeholders across the state.”

MOVING FORWARD

Florida TaxWatch is encouraged that the Legislature has identified many of our longstanding and mutual concerns regarding appropriate budget integrity processes, and it is our hope that lawmakers will continue implementing additional budget integrity protections in coming years.

FY 2015-16 Florida TaxWatch Turkey List

ITEM #	DESCRIPTION	\$ GR	\$ TF	COUNTY	COMMENTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION					
20	Santa Fe College - Blount Center Expansion		2,000,000	Alachua	Not in the Division of Colleges PECO Request. Added very late in conference (House supplemental list).
20	Tallahassee Community College - Wakulla Environmental Inst. - Land		1,230,000	Wakulla	Not in the Division of Colleges PECO Request. Added very late in conference (House supplemental list).
20	Hillsborough Community College - South Shore Campus		3,000,000	Hillsborough	Not in the Division of Colleges PECO Request.
21	Florida State University - Physicians for Rural and Underserved Areas		3,000,000	Leon	Not on the Board of Governors PECO Request.
21	Florida International University - Biscayne Bay Mold Remediation	3,000,000		Miami-Dade	Not on the Board of Governors PECO Request. Added very late in conference (House supplemental list).
22	Jackson School Construction		8,841,768	Jackson	Added late in conference (Senate supplemental list). 8 other projects were funded. 7 are projects already underway, and one is the #1 priority for new construction. Jackson is the last of 5 on the new construction priority list. It is also the most expensive, and is expected to cost \$57 million.
26B	First Coast Technical College		600,000	Putnam	Fixed Capital Outlay for private university added very late in conference (House supplemental list).
65C	Southeastern University Simulation Laboratory	500,000		Polk	Fixed Capital Outlay for private college added in conference. \$250,000 added in House supplemental list.
81	Contract - language development and literacy intervention		3,500,000	Statewide	Contract for private vendor added in conference.
89A	Harlem Academy Childcare	135,000		Statewide	Fixed Capital Outlay for non-state building added in conference.
105	Standard Student Attire Incentive Fund	10,000,000		Statewide	Added in conference. \$6.8 million added in supplemental list. Subject of legislation that did not pass.
106	Alternative Foreign Language Curriculum Pilot Project	100,000			
106	AMI kids	2,000,000		Gadsden	
106	City Year of Florida	1,000,000			The items that are on this list were added in conference. Most of these projects will bypass a competitive contracting process. In the budget this year, 47 projects (in this line item) were funded at a cost of \$29.7 million, but projects in the Governor's recommended budget and projects that appeared in either the House and Senate budget are not on the Turkey list. A competitive selection process for School and Instructional Enhancement programs should be established by the Legislature. There is no systematic review for these projects although the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Education requested justification information from current recipients. A formal competitive process should be established for these "School and Instructional Enhancements." The Governor has vetoed many of these projects, citing some for not providing a core state function and others for not contributing to a uniform state system. He also rightly points out that school districts have the flexibility to purchase curriculum and other services based on their priorities.
106	Communities in Schools	152,000			
106	CPR in Schools	200,000			
106	Florida Afterschool Network/Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida	200,000			
106	Neighborhood Initiative Summer Job Program	100,000			
106	Pine Ridge High School Advanced Manufacturing Program	284,000		Volusia	
106	Pioneer Settlement	100,000			
106	Thumbelina Learning Center Afterschool Program	249,956		Miami-Dade	
109A	Educational Aerospace Partnership Center	1,000,000			Fixed capital outlay funding added in conference.
130	Contract - assess school district digital readiness	3,000,000		Statewide	Contract for private vendor added in conference.
138	FAMU - plan to improve graduation rates	1,000,000		Leon	Added in conference.
138	Florida Polytechnic University - anti-hazing course	1,000,000		Polk	Added in conference. Other universities have been funded to develop similar programs.
AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION					
170	MCNA Dental - pay federal taxes	53,494			Added in conference. This would pay this private entity's federal taxes related to the Affordable Care Act.
182	contract for Medicaid fraud prevention services		250,000	Miami-Dade	Florida TaxWatch supports increased fraud efforts, but this was added in conference. Could be duplicative.
242A	Ch. 400 facility - capital improvements, upgrades or equipment	200,000		TBD	Fixed capital outlay for unnamed non-state facility. Added in conference.
AGENCY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES					
250	Area Stage Company - Theater Program for Children	150,000		Miami-Dade	
250	JAFCO Children's Ability Center	500,000		Broward	These six organizations may well provide valuable services, but their appropriations were added late in the process, during the budget conference. Specifying a provider in the budget bypasses the competitive contracting process. This line-item includes another \$6.6 million for services to the disabled that were either recommended by the agency or vetted in either the House or Senate. JAFCO was added very late in conference (Senate supplemental list). Noah's landing was added on the House supplemental list.
250	Operation Grow - Work Opportunity Program	323,060		Seminole	
250	Sabrina Cohen Foundation - Accessible Beach Access	65,000		Miami-Dade	
250	ARK of Nassau		90,000	Nassau	
250	ARC Jacksonville Village and the Villages at Noah's Landing	783,000		Duval, Polk	

253A	ARC Village in Jacksonville		500,000		Duval	Fixed Capital Outlay for non-state building added in conference.
253B	ARC of Broward County - Culinary Program		250,000		Broward	Fixed Capital Outlay for non-state building added in conference.
312	Children of Inmates, Inc.		350,000		Duval	Of the \$3.6 million in contracts in this line-item, this was the only one added in conference.
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES						
365	Eckerd and Brevard C.A.R.E.S. - homeless programs		500,000		Hills, Brevard Leon	These two projects were added late in conference (H supplemental). DCF distributes millions of dollar for homeless services and several more providers were added by the House or Senate earlier in the process.
365	Comprehensive Emergency Services Center in Tallahassee		100,000			
377H	Crisis Center of Tampa Bay		150,000		Hillsborough	Added in conference. This line-item has more than \$200 million for community health services statewide.
377J	First Step of Sarasota		278,100		Sarasota	These two projects were added in conference. This line-item still provides has more than \$225 million for community substance abuse services statewide.
377J	Here's Help, Inc.		200,000		Miami-Dade	
377M	Vincent House		250,000		Pinellas	
377M	Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc		410,000		N. Central Fla	These well-intentioned organizations were awarded contracts very late in the budget conference. There was another \$13.6 million in contracted services in this line-item that was recommended by the agency or vetted through the House and Senate appropriations process. Specifying a provider in the budget bypasses the competitive contracting process.
377M	Directions for Living		400,000		Pinellas	
377M	Nassau Alcohol Crime Drug Abatement Coalition		50,000		Nassau	
377M	Specialized Treatment, Education and Prevention Services, Inc.		935,871		Multiple	
377V	Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc - facility renovations		90,000		Alachua	Fixed capital outlay for a private facility added in conference.
DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS						
394	AAA Meals		400,000		Nassau, Duval	New program added very late in conference (Senate supplemental list).
400A	Violeta Duenas Senior Center		500,000		Miami-Dade	Fixed Capital Outlay for non-state building added in conference.
400A	Community Life Center Nassau County Council on Aging		250,000		Nassau	Fixed Capital Outlay for non-state building added in conference.
400A	Pasco Elderly Nutrition Kitchen		250,000		Pasco	Fixed Capital Outlay for non-state building added in conference.
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH						
441	Center for Haitian Studies		50,000		Miami-Dade	
441	Howard Phillips Center - Teen Xpress Program		350,000		Orange	Of the \$31.6 million in this line-item for aid to local governments for the primary care program, these four projects were added in conference. Florida TaxWatch is very supportive of increasing telemedicine in Florida, but that item was added very late in conference (House supplemental list). Manatee ER was added very late (Senate supplemental list).
441	Manatee ER Diversion		500,000		Manatee	
441	North Brevard Hospital District - Telemedicine Initiative		121,629		Brevard	
448	Doctor's Memorial Hospital - Bonifay		417,000		Holmes	This item was added very late in the conference with no mention or explanation (Senate supplemental list).
454	Scripps Research Institute		1,000,000		Palm Beach	This item was added very late in the conference with no mention or explanation (House supplemental list).
461A	Banyan Maternal and Child Health Center		200,000		Miami-Dade	Fixed Capital Outlay added in conference.
461A	Mount Sinal Medical Center		4,000,000		Miami-Dade	FCO-\$100,000 in House budget - taken out in conference then \$4 million added in Senate supplemental list.
497	Health Council of South Florida		500,000		Miami-Dade, S. FL	Added in conference. This council singled out for additional funding.
530	Easter Seals		100,000		Volusia, Flagler	Added in conference. Governor's Office says this is duplicative of other state programs.
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS						
720A	Escambia Booking and Detention Facility		1,000,000		Escambia	Added in conference. Fixed capital outlay for a county government building.
766	WestCare Foundation - Prisoner Reentry Initiative		100,000		Pinellas	Florida TaxWatch is very supportive of effective re-entry programs. However, these two contracts were added in conference. We commend the Legislature for the accountability language for the other funded contracts.
766	SOAR Outreach Program		97,000		Duval	
771	Salvation Army - Ft Myers Non-secure Treatment Program		164,250		Lee	Of the \$23.2 million in this line-item for drug treatment/rehabilitation contracts, these three projects were added in conference. Specifying a provider in the budget bypasses the competitive contracting process.
771	Salvation Army - Bob Janes Triage and Low Demand Center		250,000		Lee	
771	Northside Mental Health Center		500,000		Hillsborough	
JUVENILE JUSTICE						
1203	Family Impressions Foundation - Youth Success 101		200,000		Miami-Dade	Part of a \$20 million line-item for child delinquency prevention and diversion contracts, added in conference.

LAW ENFORCEMENT						
1259	El Portal Police Dept - purchase of devices, vehicles, radios, laser devices	150,000	Miami-Dade	These three items, funding things that are generally the responsibility of local governments, were added in conference.		
1259	Medley Police Dept - Explorers Program and purchase equipment	150,000	Miami-Dade			
1259	Jacksonville Sheriffs Office - Community Oriented Policing - new officers	250,000	Duval			
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE						
1464	Promotion of beef and beef products	1,000,000	Statewide	This new promotion campaign was added very late in the conference (House supplemental). Recurring.		
1474B	Arcadia Rodeo	250,000	De Soto			
1474B	Franklin County Agricultural Facility	250,000	Franklin	These four projects did not go through the statutory competitive evaluation process for agriculture education and promotion facilities which ranks applicants based on criteria in law. Ten other facilities that did go through the process are being funded.		
1474B	Sarasota County Agricultural Fair Association	500,000	Sarasota			
1474B	Timer Powers Park	100,000	Martin			
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION						
1561	Potential purchase of additional lands for Gasparilla Island State Park	1,000,000	Charlotte/Lee	Funding for assessment and evaluation added very late in the conference (House supplemental).		
1571A	Helena Run Preserve	600,000	Lake	Land acquisition for local government added in conference.		
1571B	Howell Creek Wetlands Acquisition, Preservation, Enhancement	2,000,000	Orange	Land acquisition for local government added in conference.		
1582	Mobile vessel pump-out service - Marine Sewage Pilot Program	100,000	Monroe	Added in conference.		
1616B	Design new linear park - New River - City of Lauderdale	850,000	Broward	The state has grant programs for funding local parks. Under the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP), DEP creates a priority list of grant applicants. These local parks circumvent that competitive process. \$750,000 added to Lauderdale park very late (Senate supplemental list).		
1712A	Spring Park in the City of Green Cove Springs	400,000	Clay			
172A	Orange City Mill Lake Park - adult outdoor fitness equipment	50,000	Volusia			
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION						
1871	Fort Lauderdale Airport Terminal	1,000,000	Broward			
1871	Commercial Jet Aviation Training Center	3,000,000	Hendry	These four projects were added in conference. They also circumvent the aviation grant evaluation process which is funded at \$299 million this year.		
1871	Brooksville - Tampa Bay Regional Airport	3,000,000	Hernando			
1871	Pensacola International Airport	3,000,000	Escambia			
1894	Quiet Zone Improvement - new grant program	10,000,000	Statewide	Circumvents the transportation work program process.		
1906	Pilot Program - Pre-combustion contact catalyst	250,000	TBD	Circumvents the transportation work program process. Added in conference.		
1916	Winter Garden Franklin Street Trail	250,000	Orange			
1916	Village of Tequesta Transportation Alternatives	200,000	Palm Beach	These seven trail-specific projects were added in conference to the Department of Transportation's funding for Arterial Highway Construction. This circumvents the state transportation work program planning process. This Special Session, passed a bill that distributes more of the \$225 "new wheels fee" to the State Transportation Trust Fund. Part of this new money will fund the Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail (SunTrail) network and DOT will have to begin allocating \$50 million annually for Sun Trail. Two other projects were presented to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development. Because of this, and because of the new money for trails, they are not included here.		
1916	Black Creek Trail Segment B	200,000	Miami-Dade			
1916	James A King Jr. Recreational Trail	200,000	Putnam			
1916	Terry Street Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements - Bonita Springs	200,000	Lee			
1916	Biscayne-Everglades Park-to-Park Greenway Trail	1,500,000	Miami-Dade			
1916	Orchard Pond Parkway Trail	400,000	Leon			

2233A	Oviedo Amphitheater				400,000	Seminole	<p>This year 76 Community Development and Economic Development projects were funded, at a cost of \$64.7 million. These projects are almost exclusively local member projects. Any projects that were added during conference received the Turkey designation. Because there is no established process for selecting these types of projects, and due to the focus of the Governor and Legislature on economic development and job creation, projects that surfaced earlier in the process are not designated turkeys. Still, a better process is needed. Florida TaxWatch has been calling for such a process for several years, and the number of projects funded in these line-items continues to grow, with many projects added very late in the budget process. These line-items have also become a sort of "catch-all" place for member projects. Cultural projects, parks, historic properties, homeless services, education projects and other projects that probably should seek funding through other areas of the budget, have all found their way into these line-items. In fact, some appeared in other parts of the budget earlier in the process. Florida TaxWatch is recommending that the Governor, along with the DEO and Enterprise Florida, make an assessment of all funded projects. Florida TaxWatch further recommends that the Legislature create a competitive selection process for these projects, to determine whether they are consistent with the goals of the state economic development program, that there is a reasonable assurance that they will provide new jobs and a positive return on investment, and that there are accountability and performance measures in place to safeguard the taxpayers' investment. Some of these projects were added very late in the conference on the Senate and House supplemental lists. IMG had \$2 million added.</p>
2233A	FOIL Corridor Project			1000,000		Escambia	
2233A	FIND Waterfront Access Study			70,000		Miami-Dade	
2233A	Palmetto Bay Park Girls Softball Field		250,000			Miami-Dade	
2233A	Tallahassee Regional HazMat Response Team Equipment		495,000			Leon	
2233A	Margate Fire Rescue Autopulse Device Replacement		34,000			Broward	
2233A	IMG Academy Campus Expansion		2,050,000			Manatee	
2233A	Fort Walton Beach Homeless Center		150,000			Okaloosa	
2233A	Veterans Homes Renovation - Pembroke Pines		250,000			Broward	
2233A	Rapid Bus Transit - Hillsborough		600,000			Hillsborough	
2233A	East County Service Center - Hillsborough		500,000			Hillsborough	
2233A	Bergeron Rodeo Arena Refurbishment - Town of Davie		100,000			Broward	
2233A	Fort Myers Sesquicentennial Foundation, Inc.		190,000			Lee	
2233A	US Space Walk of Fame Foundation		200,000			Brevard	
2233A	The Range Regional Training Complex - City of Palm Bay		800,000			Brevard	
2233A	Maitland Jewish Community Campus Infrastructure Improvements		500,000			Orange	
2249A	Marco Island Multipurpose Veterans Community Service Center		2,000,000		500,000	Collier	
2249A	White Springs ED 1-75/CR 136 Mixed Use Site Development Plan		250,000			Hamilton	
2249A	Pine Hills Community Redevelopment Master Plan		50,000		100,000	Orange	
2249A	Capital Region YMCA Family Recreational Complex		75,000			Leon	
2249A	Florida Venture Forum		200,000			Hills/Statewide	
2249A	Urban League of Broward County		2,000,000		500,000	Broward	
2249A	Space Coast Economic Development Commission		596,000			Brevard	
2249A	Treasure Coast Research Park		450,000			St. Lucie	
2256	FIT - research on commercial space transportation		500,000			Brevard	
DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES							
2857A	Purchase of Replacement Radios for Law Enforcement System		7000,000			Statewide	
DEPARTMENT OF STATE							
3092A	William Weech American Legion Post 168 - Key West				154,000	Monroe	
3092A	Restoration of St. Marks Lighthouse				250,000	Wakulla	
3092A	St. Augustine Historic Properties - University of Florida				500,000	St. Johns	
3092A	Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church Restoration				240,956	Pinellas	
3092A	Fulford Fountain				112,500	Miami-Dade	
3092A	Ponce de Leon Hotel Restoration - Flagler College				2,000,000	St. Johns	
3092A	Holocaust Memorial - Miami Beach		300,000			Miami-Dade	

Recurring project added in conference.

Added in late in the conference (House supplemental list).

Last year, the Legislature fully funded the Dept. of State's approved historic, library and cultural grants lists. They also added 37 member projects, but because all organizations that went through the grant process received full funding, any project that appeared in either the House or Senate budget was not put on the turkey list. Only six projects that were added in conference were. This year, some grant list were fully funded, some were not. For example, the historic property Small Matching Grant list was fully funded, but only 63% of the Special Category Grants list was funded, meaning recipients will get less than two-thirds of what they were approved for. Therefore, all the projects that bypassed the competitive evaluation process in this line-item are included on the list. The largest project (\$2 million) was added in conference.

311B	Navy SEAL Museum		250,000		St. Lucie	
311B	Florida Orchestra Residency Program		225,000		Pinellas	
311B	Museum of Contemporary Arts		49,000			
311B	Bay of Pigs Museum		150,000		Miami-Dade	
311B	Audio Guide Plantation Historical Museum - City of Plantation		3,000		Broward	
311B	Historic St. Augustine Educational Material - Univ. of Florida		500,000		St. Johns	
311B	Community Theater of Miami Lakes		40,000		Miami-Dade	
311B	Adrienne Arsht Center		150,000		Miami-Dade	
311B	Jake Gaither House Museum		125,000		Leon	
311B	Nelson Poynter Memorial Library Digital Collection		100,000		Pinellas	
311B	Charles Evans - Franklin Building House		75,000		Leon	
311B	University of Tampa - Plant Museum		61,366		Pinellas	
311B	Orlando Repertory Theater, Inc.		150,000		Orange	
311B	Miami Contemporary Dance Company	200,000			Miami-Dade	
3123A	Seminole Theater - City of Homestead		250,000		Miami-Dade	
3123A	Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts - Orlando		5,000,000		Orange	
3123A	Heritage Park Cultural Center		250,000		Okaloosa	
3123A	Boynton Woman's Club - Repairs and Restoration		140,000		Palm Beach	
STATE COURTS						
3169	Florida Partners in Crisis		100,000		Statewide	
BACK OF THE BILL						
Sec. 78	Be Safe, Inc.'s headquarters			200,000		
<p>GR - \$77,155,726 TF - \$89,183,074</p> <p>188 Items Total - \$166,338,800</p>						

This year, the Legislature approved less than 50% of the \$27 million requested by the Dept. of State for organizations that were approved through the General Program Support grant program. These 14 projects, worth \$2.4 million, were added by the Legislature, bypassing the grant review process. The last 8 projects were added in the conference. Some of these projects will receive funding through other grant programs. Some of these projects were added very late in the conference on the House and Senate supplemental lists.

The Legislature fully funded the Cultural Facilities grant list. Therefore, only the projects that were added in conference are included here. There were 17 other projects that were vetted in either the House of the Senate and several were included in both budgets. Some of these projects will receive funding through other grant programs. After being added in conference, the largest project had an additional \$3 million added at the very end of the conference in the Senate Supplemental list, bringing its appropriation to \$5 million.

This line-item contains \$10.9 million in contracted services for very worthwhile programs such as drug courts, veterans courts and court ordered drug treatment. This one contracted was added in conference.

Reversion of unspent money appropriated for a local park in the current year, reappropriated for Be Safe, Inc.

FY 2015-16 Florida TaxWatch Turkey List by County

ITEM #	DESCRIPTION	\$GR	\$TF	COUNTY
20	Santa Fe College - Blount Center Expansion		2,000,000	Alachua
377V	Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc - facility renovations	90,000		Alachua
1927	Port of Panama City Industrial Basin Improvements - Bay		1,000,000	Bay
1927	Max Brewer Causeway Beautification - Brevard		600,000	Brevard
2233A	US Space Walk of Fame Foundation	200,000		Brevard
2233A	The Range Regional Training Complex - City of Palm Bay	800,000		Brevard
2249A	Space Coast Economic Development Commission	596,000		Brevard
2256	FIT - research on commercial space transportation	500,000		Brevard
441	North Brevard Hospital District - Telemedicine Initiative	121,629		Brevard
250	JAFCO Children's Ability Center	500,000		Broward
253B	ARC of Broward County - Culinary Program	250,000		Broward
1616B	Design new linear park - New River - City of Lauderdale	850,000		Broward
1871	Fort Lauderdale Airport Terminal		1,000,000	Broward
1927	Southwest Ranches Guardrail Improvements - Broward		362,250	Broward
1927	Dixie Hwy Roadway Improvements - Broward		650,000	Broward
1927	SR 7 Pedestrian Lights - City of West Park - Broward		650,000	Broward
1927	University Drive N Resurfacing - Broward		250,000	Broward
1927	17th Street Roadway Reconstruction/N Lauderdale - Broward		500,000	Broward
1927	N Lauderdale Street Resurfacing - Broward		350,000	Broward
1927	Southwest Ranches Streetlights - Broward		200,000	Broward
1927	Sidewalk Safety Project - Lauderdale Lakes		350,000	Broward
2233A	Margate Fire Rescue Autopulse Device Replacement	34,000		Broward
2233A	Veterans Homes Renovation - Pembroke Pines	250,000		Broward
2233A	Bergeron Rodeo Arena Refurbishment - Town of Davie	100,000		Broward
2249A	Urban League of Broward County	2,000,000	500,000	Broward

3118	Audio Guide Plantation Historical Museum - City of Plantation		3,000		Broward
1927	Burnt Store Road - Charlotte			1,000,000	Charlotte
1561	Potential purchase of additional lands for Gasparilla Island State Park		1,000,000		Charlotte/Lee
1712A	Spring Park in the City of Green Cove Springs		400,000		Clay
2249A	Marco Island Multipurpose Veterans Community Service Center		2,000,000	500,000	Collier
1474B	Arcadia Rodeo		250,000		De Soto
253A	ARC Village in Jacksonville		500,000		Duval
312	Children of Inmates, Inc.			350,000	Duval
766	SOAR Outreach Program			97,000	Duval
1259	Jacksonville Sheriffs Office - Community Oriented Policing - new officers		250,000		Duval
1927	St. Johns River Ferry Phase II - Duval			1,000,000	Duval
250	ARC Jacksonville Village and the Villages at Noah's Landing		783,000		Duval, Polk
1871	Pensacola International Airport			3,000,000	Escambia
1927	Muskogee Road Freight Corridor - Escambia			1,000,000	Escambia
2233A	FOIL Corridor Project			1,000,000	Escambia
720A	Escambia Booking and Detention Facility		1,000,000		Escambia
1474B	Franklin County Agricultural Facility		250,000		Franklin
106	AMI kids		2,000,000		Gadsden
2249A	White Springs ED 1-75/CR 136 Mixed Use Site Development Plan			250,000	Hamilton
1927	Industrial Park Rail Spur - Hardee			1,000,000	Hardee
89A	Harlem Academy Childcare		135,000		Hendry
1871	Commercial Jet Aviation Training Center			3,000,000	Hendry
1871	Brooksville - Tampa Bay Regional Airport			3,000,000	Hernando
1927	City of Sebring US 27 Lighting - Highlands			1,000,000	Highlands
365	Eckerd and Brevard C.A.R.E.S. - homeless programs		500,000		Hills, Brevard
2249A	Florida Venture Forum			200,000	Hills,/Statewide
20	Hillsborough Community College - South Shore Campus			3,000,000	Hillsborough
377H	Crisis Center of Tampa Bay		150,000		Hillsborough

771	Northside Mental Health Center					Hillsborough
2233A	Rapid Bus Transit - Hillsborough		500,000			Hillsborough
2233A	East County Service Center - Hillsborough		600,000			Hillsborough
448	Doctor's Memorial Hospital - Bonifay		500,000			Hillsborough
22	Jackson School Construction		417,000			Holmes
1571A	Helena Run Preserve			8,841,768		Jackson
1927	Citrus Grove Rd from US 27 to Turnpike - Lake			600,000		Lake
1927	CR 466A Phase 3 Right of Way - Lake			1,000,000		Lake
771	Salvation Army - Ft Myers Non-secure Treatment Program		164,250			Lee
771	Salvation Army - Bob Janes Triage and Low Demand Center		250,000			Lee
1916	Terry Street Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements - Bonita Springs			200,000		Lee
1927	Big Carlos Pass Bridge Project Development & Environ. Study			1,000,000		Lee
2233A	Fort Myers Sesquicentennial Foundation, Inc.		190,000			Lee
21	Florida State University - Physicians for Rural and Underserved Areas			3,000,000		Leon
138	FAMU - plan to improve graduation rates		1,000,000			Leon
365	Comprehensive Emergency Services Center in Tallahassee		100,000			Leon
1916	Orchard Pond Parkway Trail			400,000		Leon
2233A	Tallahassee Regional HazMat Response Team Equipment		495,000			Leon
2249A	Capital Region YMCA Family Recreational Complex			75,000		Leon
3118	Jake Gaither House Museum		125,000			Leon
3118	Charles Evans - Franklin Building House		75,000			Leon
1927	Port Manatee Security Improvements			300,000		Manatee
2233A	IMG Academy Campus Expansion		2,050,000			Manatee
441	Manatee ER Diversion		500,000			Manatee
1474B	Timer Powers Park		100,000			Martin
1927	Britt Road Bridge Replacement Project - Martin			1,500,000		Martin
21	Florida International University - Biscayne Bay Mold Remediation		3,000,000			Miami-Dade
106	Thumbelina Learning Center Afterschool Program		249,956			Miami-Dade

182	contract for Medicaid fraud prevention services				Miami-Dade
250	Area Stage Company - Theater Program for Children	150,000		250,000	Miami-Dade
250	Sabrina Cohen Foundation - Accessible Beach Access	65,000			Miami-Dade
377J	Here's Help, Inc.	200,000			Miami-Dade
400A	Violeta Duenas Senior Center	500,000			Miami-Dade
1203	Family Impressions Foundation - Youth Success 101	200,000			Miami-Dade
1259	El Portal Police Dept - purchase of devices, vehicles, radios, laser devices	150,000			Miami-Dade
1259	Medley Police Dept - Explorers Program and purchase equipment	150,000			Miami-Dade
1916	Black Creek Trail Segment B			200,000	Miami-Dade
1916	Biscayne-Everglades Park-to-Park Greenway Trail			1,500,000	Miami-Dade
1927	NE 163rd Str/NE 35th Ave Texas U Turn - North Miami Beach			1,000,000	Miami-Dade
1927	174th Street Pedestrian Bridge, Sunny Isles - Miami-Dade			1,000,000	Miami-Dade
1927	Intelligent Transportation System - City of Miami Beach			100,000	Miami-Dade
2233A	FIND Waterfront Access Study			70,000	Miami-Dade
2233A	Palmetto Bay Park Girls Softball Field	250,000			Miami-Dade
3092A	Fulford Fountain			112,500	Miami-Dade
3092A	Holocaust Memorial - Miami Beach	300,000			Miami-Dade
3118	Bay of Pigs Museum	150,000			Miami-Dade
3118	Community Theater of Miami Lakes	40,000			Miami-Dade
3118	Adrienne Arsht Center	150,000			Miami-Dade
3118	Miami Contemporary Dance Company			200,000	Miami-Dade
3123A	Seminole Theater - City of Homestead	250,000			Miami-Dade
441	Center for Haitian Studies	50,000			Miami-Dade
461A	Banyan Maternal and Child Health Center	200,000			Miami-Dade
461A	Mount Sinai Medical Center	4,000,000			Miami-Dade
497	Health Council of South Florida	500,000			Miami-Dade, S. FL
1582	Mobile vessel pump-out service - Marine Sewage Pilot Program	100,000			Monroe
3092A	William Weech American Legion Post 168 - Key West			154,000	Monroe

377M	Specialized Treatment, Education and Prevention Services, Inc.		935,871		Multiple
2196A	Pilot - contract to provide employment assistance to the disabled			600,000	Multiple
377M	Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc		410,000		N. Central Fla
250	ARK of Nassau			90,000	Nassau
377M	Nassau Alcohol Crime Drug Abatement Coalition			50,000	Nassau
400A	Community Life Center Nassau County Council on Aging			250,000	Nassau
1927	City of Fernandina Beach - N. Fletcher Road			1,000,000	Nassau
1927	Widening Old Dixie Highway - Nassau County			1,488,600	Nassau
394	AAA Meals		400,000		Nassau, Duval
2233A	Fort Walton Beach Homeless Center		150,000		Okaloosa
3123A	Heritage Park Cultural Center		250,000		Okaloosa
1571B	Howell Creek Wetlands Acquisition, Preservation, Enhancement		2,000,000		Orange
1916	Winter Garden Franklin Street Trail			250,000	Orange
2233A	Maitland Jewish Community Campus Infrastructure Improvements		500,000		Orange
2249A	Pine Hills Community Redevelopment Master Plan		50,000	100,000	Orange
3118	Orlando Repertory Theater, Inc.		150,000		Orange
3123A	Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts - Orlando		5,000,000		Orange
441	Howard Phillips Center - Teen Xpress Program		350,000		Orange
1927	Independence Parkway Interchange - Wellness Way			2,500,000	Orange, Lake
1916	Village of Tequesta Transportation Alternatives			200,000	Palm Beach
1927	Lake Worth Park of Commerce - Palm Beach			3,500,000	Palm Beach
1927	City of Belle Glade Gateway Redevelopment Roadway Imp.			506,000	Palm Beach
1927	Glades Area Street Resurfacing/Reconstruction Phase 2			1,000,000	Palm Beach
1927	Broadway Corridor/15th St/Infrastr/Beautification - Riviera Beach			500,000	Palm Beach
3123A	Boynton Woman's Club - Repairs and Restoration			140,000	Palm Beach
454	Scripps Research Institute		1,000,000		Palm Beach
1927	US 19 Revitalization Program - Pasco			500,000	Pasco
400A	Pasco Elderly Nutrition Kitchen			250,000	Pasco

377M	Vincent House			250,000	Pinellas
377M	Directions for Living			400,000	Pinellas
766	WestCare Foundation - Prisoner Reentry Initiative		100,000		Pinellas
1927	Clearwater SR 60 Alternative Water Transportation			300,000	Pinellas
2196A	Louise Graham Regeneration Center		250,000		Pinellas
3092A	Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church Restoration			240,956	Pinellas
3118	Florida Orchestra Residency Program		225,000		Pinellas
3118	Nelson Poynter Memorial Library Digital Collection		100,000		Pinellas
3118	University of Tampa - Plant Museum		61,366		Pinellas
65C	Southeastern University Simulation Laboratory		500,000		Polk
138	Florida Polytechnic University - anti-hazing course		1,000,000		Polk
26B	First Coast Technical College			600,000	Putnam
1916	James A King Jr. Recreational Trail			200,000	Putnam
377J	First Step of Sarasota		278,100		Sarasota
1474B	Sarasota County Agricultural Fair Association		500,000		Sarasota
2196A	Loveland Village Job Training Program			675,000	Sarasota
250	Operation Grow - Work Opportunity Program		323,060		Seminole
2233A	Oviedo Amphitheater			400,000	Seminole
3092A	St. Augustine Historic Properties - University of Florida			500,000	St. Johns
3092A	Ponce de Leon Hotel Restoration - Flagler College			2,000,000	St. Johns
3118	Historic St. Augustine Educational Material - Univ. of Florida		500,000		St. Johns
2249A	Treasure Coast Research Park		450,000		St. Lucie
3118	Navy SEAL Museum		250,000		St. Lucie
81	Contract - language development and literacy intervention			3,500,000	Statewide
105	Standard Student Attire Incentive Fund		10,000,000		Statewide
130	Contract - assess school district digital readiness		3,000,000		Statewide
1464	Promotion of beef and beef products		1,000,000		Statewide
1894	Quiet Zone Improvement - new grant program			10,000,000	Statewide

2857A	Purchase of Replacement Radios for Law Enforcement System	7,000,000	Statewide
3169	Florida Partners in Crisis	100,000	Statewide
242A	Ch. 400 facility - capital improvements, upgrades or equipment	200,000	TBD
1906	Pilot Program - Pre-combustion contact catalyst	250,000	TBD
106	Pine Ridge High School Advanced Manufacturing Program	284,000	Volusia
1712A	Orange City Mill Lake Park - adult outdoor fitness equipment	50,000	Volusia
1927	Williamson Blvd Road - Volusia	2,500,000	Volusia
530	Easter Seals	100,000	Volusia, Flagler
20	Tallahassee Community College - Wakulla Environmental Inst. - Land	1,230,000	Wakulla
3092A	Restoration of St. Marks Lighthouse	250,000	Wakulla
106	Alternative Foreign Language Curriculum Pilot Project	100,000	
106	City Year of Florida	1,000,000	
106	Communities in Schools	152,000	
106	CPR in Schools	200,000	
106	Florida Afterschool Network/Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida	200,000	
106	Neighborhood Initiative Summer Job Program	100,000	
106	Pioneer Settlement	100,000	
109A	Educational Aerospace Partnership Center	1,000,000	
170	MCNA Dental - pay federal taxes	53,494	
2196A	National Cyber Partnership	450,000	
2200A	Business Partnerships/Skill Assessment and Training	3,500,000	500,000
3118	Museum of Contemporary Arts	49,000	
Sec. 78	Be Safe, Inc.'s headquarters	200,000	

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ABOUT FLORIDA TAXWATCH

As an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit taxpayer research institute and government watchdog, it is the mission of Florida TaxWatch to provide the citizens of Florida and public officials with high quality, independent research and analysis of issues related to state and local government taxation, expenditures, policies, and programs. Florida TaxWatch works to improve the productivity and accountability of Florida government. Its research recommends productivity enhancements and explains the statewide impact of fiscal and economic policies and practices on citizens and businesses.

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This independent *Report* was made possible by the generous financial support of Florida TaxWatch donors.

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