



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 26-00099

Agenda Date: 1/27/2026

Agenda Item Name:

Request to Approve the FY26 Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant Awards

Presenter:

Jordan Shepherd, Tourism Grants Coordinator (352) 374-5260

Description:

Request to Approve the FY26 Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant Program Funding Awards

Recommended Action:

Approve the four Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant funding awards as recommended by the Grant Scoring Committee. Approve the agreement template and authorize the County Manager to execute agreements that are substantially consistent with the template for each grantee; with all grant awards to be payable on a reimbursement basis. Make the legislative factual determination that the events, venues, and activities recommended for funding have as one of their main purposes the attraction of tourists as evidenced and as set forth in their respective applications, and that each grant award is primarily related to the advancement and promotion of tourism.

Prior Board Motions:

On August 26, 2025 the Board of County Commission approved the Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant funding application.

Fiscal Note:

Local Sports Destination Enhancement grants are funded by the third penny of Tourist Development Tax collections. The total award amount for the FY26 grants is \$147,356.89.

1. Easton Sports Development Foundation \$46,856.89
2. Gator Water Polo, Inc. \$40,000.00
3. High Springs BMX, Inc. \$10,500.00
4. National Hot Rod Association (GatorNationals) \$50,000.00

Sufficient funds exist in the Tourist Development Grants Fund to cover these awards:
005.45.4530.552.82.62

Strategic Guide:

Social and Economic Opportunity

Background:

On January 12, 2026, the Local Sports Destination Enhancement Grant Scoring Committee met in a public meeting to discuss their independent scoring, resulting in the recommended funding awards.

In accordance with §125.0104, Florida Statutes, and in order to support and enhance tourism in Alachua County, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners has allocated a portion of Tourist Development Tax revenue to aid in the operations and promotions of sports activities, services, venues, and events that have as one of their main purposes the attraction of tourists as evidenced by the advertising and marketing of the activity, service, venue or event to tourists.