

JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
FOR
Consultant Services for Development of
Community and Economic Resilience Implementation Plan
RFP 2026-14**

RFP ADVERTISE DATE: September 23, 2026

RFP RELEASE DATE: September 23, 2026

RESPONSES DUE DATE AND TIME: October 14th @ 3:00 P.M.

MAIL OR DELIVER RESPONSES TO:

(hand-delivery or express mail services)

Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners

ATTN: RFP 2026-14

435 W Walnut St

Monticello, FL 32344

Contact:

Jenny Tuten, Assistant County Manager

435 W Walnut St

Monticello, FL 32344

850-342-0287

jtuten@jeffersoncountyfl.gov

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INTENT AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Jefferson County, Florida, through Requests for Proposals No. 2026-14, is soliciting proposals from firm or individual with the required expertise and capability to develop a Community and Economic Resilience Implementation Plan (“the Services”). The specific elements are included in the Scope of Services, Section 3.0, of this RFP.

Firms interested in preparing a response for this RFP must complete the requirements set forth in this RFP, its attached documents and documents incorporated by reference (collectively referred to as the “RFP”). Under the proposal process of Jefferson County, the conditions set forth herein are binding on the Proposer as confirmed by the signature of a person with legal authority to bind the Proposer on the cover letter transmitting its Proposal to the County in response to this RFP.

If this RFP is amended, the County Manager’s Office will issue an appropriate addendum to the RFP. If an addendum is issued, all terms and conditions of this RFP that are not specifically modified in the addendum shall remain unchanged. An addendum to this RFP will be issued if any of the dates and/or times change. Specific dates/time will be determined at each phase.

It is understood and the Proposer hereby agrees to be solely responsible for obtaining all materials and determining the best methods that will be utilized to meet the intent of the specifications of this RFP. Failure by the Proposer to acquaint themselves with the available information will not relieve them from responsibility for estimating properly the difficulty or cost of successfully performing the Work. Proposers are expected to examine the specifications and all instructions pertaining to the required commodities/services. Failure to do so will be at Proposer’s own risk.

The County reserves the right to reject any Proposal found to be non-responsive, vague, or non-conforming. The County also reserves the right at any time to withdraw all or part of this RFP in order to protect its best interests. The County is not liable for any costs incurred by the Proposer in preparing its response, nor is a response an offer to contract with any Proposer. Pursuant to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes (FS), all responses are subject to Florida’s public records laws.

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of information in the RFP, it is recognized that the information may not be complete in every detail and that all work may not be expressly mentioned in the RFP. It is the responsibility of the Proposer to include in its Proposal all pertinent information in accordance with the objectives of the RFP.

Proposers interested in the Work are instructed to submit **one (3) original hard copy and one (1) electronic copy** (USB flash drive) of its **complete** Proposal in accordance with this RFP, no later than **October 14, 2026 @ 3:00 P.M.**, unless otherwise changed through an addendum to this RFP, to the Annex at 435 W Walnut St., Monticello, FL 32344. (Microsoft Word versions of all appendices can be requested from the County Manager’s Office.) Proposals received after this date and time will not be considered and shall be returned unopened.

- **Jefferson County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**
- **MBE/WBE businesses are encouraged to participate.**
- **Jefferson County strictly enforces open and fair competition.**

ADA – Special Accommodations: Any person requiring accommodations by the County due to a disability should call the County Manager’s Office at 850-997-3083 at least five (5) working days prior to any pre-response Conference, response opening, or meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the County Manager’s Office by the Florida Relay Service, which can be reached at 1-800-955-8771 (TTY).

The RFP and any addenda issued are available on the Jefferson County website at <http://www.jeffersoncountyfl.gov> or by contacting the County at 850-342-0287. All questions pertaining to this RFP should be submitted in writing in accordance with Section 1.1 of the RFP.

SECTION 1.0 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Failure to comply with this or any other paragraph of this RFP shall be sufficient reason for rejection of the Proposal.

All times listed in the Schedule of Events are Eastern Standard Time (EST).

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>
Proposal Advertisement Date	September 23, 2026
Release of Request for Proposals	September 22, 2026
Questions Due from Prospective Bidder	October 5, 2026
Responses to questions due	October 8, 2026
PROPOSALS DUE TO BOCC	October 14, 2026 @ 3:00 P.M.
Posting of Notice of Intended Award	Late October, 2026
Board Consideration of Intended Award	November, 2026
Posting of Notice of Award	November, 2026

- 1.1 All inquiries and questions concerning this RFP must be in writing (e-mail is acceptable), received in accordance with Section 1.0 Schedule of Events, and must be directed to: Jenny Tuten, Assistant County Manager, at jtuten@jeffersoncountyfl.gov.

Questions and responses will be posted on the County’s Website and, if necessary, an Addendum or Addenda will be issued.

- 1.2 Proposers will be notified of the County’s desire to enter additional discussions and hear an oral presentation of proposed solutions, if necessary.

SECTION 2.0 CONE OF SILENCE

- 2.1 A Cone of Silence will be in effect for this RFP beginning with the advertisement date of **September 23, 2026** and will terminate upon issuance of Notice of Award. A violation of the “Cone of Silence” renders any award voidable at the sole discretion of the County Manager

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with approval from the Board of County Commissioners and may subject the potential Proposer/Consultant or representative to debarment.

- 2.2 The prospective Proposer shall not have any communication with any County officers, agents, or employees regarding this RFP or project. No interpretation of the meaning of the plans, specifications or RFP shall be made to a Proposer orally. Any such oral or other interpretations or clarifications shall be without legal effect.
- 2.3 All requests for interpretations or clarifications shall be in writing, addressed to the contact person as shown in Section 1.0, Schedule of Events. All such request for interpretations or clarifications must be received in writing in accordance with Section 1.0, Schedule of Events. Any and all such interpretations and supplemental instructions shall be in the form of a written addendum which, if issued, shall be posted on the County's website on the date indicated in Section 1.0, Schedule of Events. Such written addenda shall be binding on the Proposer and shall become a part of the RFP Document(s)

SECTION 3.0 SCOPE OF SERVICES (SOS) / SCOPE OF WORK (SOW)

3.1 FloridaCommerce has awarded Jefferson County \$65,000 in Community Planning Technical Assistance (CPTA) grant funding to develop a Community and Economic Resilience Implementation Plan. The Plan will organize the County's economic development, workforce, infrastructure readiness, site readiness and community resilience priorities into a single practical framework — clarifying what each project still needs, identifying the right partners, identifying any policy updates and mapping funding pathways to pursue as opportunities arise.

SCOPE OF WORK AND TIMELINE

Deliverable	Tasks	Due Date*	Not to Exceed
1. Establish Stakeholder Group	Compile stakeholder list (local/regional gov., utility, workforce and econ. partners); hold at least three stakeholder meetings; prepare summary of input received.	Nov 30, 2026	\$13,000
2. Assess Priorities and Plan Alignment	Review comprehensive plan, capital improvements planning, regional site readiness work and County-provided materials; identify existing priorities, readiness needs and potential partners; summarize key findings and any policy considerations.	Feb 28, 2027	\$10,000
3. Identify Priority Projects and Pathways	Refine priority projects, sites and initiatives; define implementation considerations (partners, readiness factors, sequencing, coordination); identify potential funding pathways for the coming years.	Apr 30, 2027	\$18,000
4. Prepare the Implementation Plan	Draft plan for County staff, stakeholder group and elected official review; finalize based on comments; deliver final plan covering priority projects,	Jun 30, 2027	\$24,000

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Deliverable	Tasks	Due Date*	Not to Exceed
	implementation considerations and planning/policy recommendations.		
Total	Consultant services for stakeholder engagement, document review, project identification, implementation planning and funding pathway analysis.		\$65,000

**Due dates above were included in the grant application. However, these dates can be adjusted with the County's consent and approval from Florida Commerce.*

SECTION 4.0 PROPOSAL RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 The use of the terms "shall," "must," or "will" (except to indicate simple futurity) in this RFP indicates a mandatory requirement or condition. The words "should" or "may" in this RFP indicate desirable attributes or conditions, but are permissive in nature. Deviation from, or omission of, such a desirable feature will not by itself cause rejection of a Proposal.
- 4.1.2 Proposals not meeting all material requirements of this request or which fail to provide all required information, documents, or materials such as request forms, bonds, etc., will be rejected as non-responsive. Material requirements of the Proposal are those set forth as mandatory, or without which an adequate analysis and comparison of replies is impossible, or those which affect the competitiveness of replies or the cost to the County. A Proposer whose Proposal, past performance, or current status that does not reflect the capability, integrity or reliability to perform fully and in good faith the requirements of the Contract may be rejected as non-responsible.
- 4.1.3 The County reserves the right to determine which Proposals meet the material requirements of the RFP and which Proposals are responsible and/or responsive. Further, the Board of County Commissioners may reject any and all Proposals and seek new Proposals when it is in the best interest of the County to do so.
- 4.1.4 A Proposal by a corporation shall be executed in the corporate name by the president or a vice-president or other corporate officer accompanied by evidence of authority to sign. The corporate seal shall be affixed and attested by the secretary or an assistant secretary. The corporate address and state of incorporation shall be provided on the Proposal Form, for a Proposal by a/an:

- a. Partnership shall be executed in the partnership name and signed by a partner (whose title must appear under the signature), accompanied by evidence of authority to sign. The official address of the partnership shall be provided on the Proposal Form.
 - b. Limited liability company shall be executed in the name of the firm by a member and accompanied by evidence of authority to sign. The state of formation of the firm and the official address of the firm shall be shown.
 - c. Individual shall show the Proposer's name and business address.
 - d. Proposal by a joint venture shall be executed by each joint venture member in the manner indicated on the Proposal form. The official address of the joint venture must be provided on the Proposal Form.
- 4.1.5 All names shall be printed in ink below the signatures.
- 4.1.6 The Proposal shall contain an acknowledgment of receipt of all Addenda, the numbers and dates of which shall be filled in on the Proposal form.
- 4.1.7 The postal and email addresses and telephone number for communication regarding the Proposal shall be shown.
- 4.1.8 A Proposer seeking to do business with the County shall, at the time of submitting a Proposal, be appropriately registered with the Department of State in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 605, 607, 617, or 620 Florida Statutes, as applicable. For further information on required filing and forms, please go to the following sites: <http://sunbiz.org/index.html> or <http://www.dos.state.fl.us/doc/index.html>.

The Proposal shall contain evidence of Proposer's authority and qualification to do business in the state or locality where the Project is located or Proposer shall covenant in writing to obtain such qualification prior to award of the Contract and attach such covenant to the Proposal. Proposer's state contractor license number, if any, shall also be shown on the Proposal Form.

SECTION 5.0 PROPOSAL OPENING

- 5.1 All Proposals will be opened on the date and time indicated in **Section 1.0, Schedule of Events** (i.e., date Proposals are due) or as modified by Addendum.

SECTION 6.0 EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS AND SELECTION PROCESS

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- 6.1 Proposals submitted to this RFP that satisfy the required qualifications and are deemed to be submitted by responsive and responsible Proposers shall be ranked by a Selection Committee authorized by the County Manager.
- 6.2 The County reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals, including without limitation, nonconforming, nonresponsive, unbalanced or conditional Proposals. The County further reserves the right to reject the Proposal of any Proposer whom it finds, after reasonable inquiry and evaluation, to be non-responsible. The County also reserves the right to waive all informalities not involving price, time or changes in the Services and to negotiate contract terms with the Successful Proposer.
- 6.3 More than one Proposal for the same Services from an individual or entity under the same or different names will not be considered. Reasonable grounds for believing that any Proposer has an interest in more than one Proposal for the Services may be cause for disqualification of the Proposer and the rejection of all Proposals in which that Proposer has an interest.
- 6.4 The County may conduct such investigation as it deems necessary to establish the responsibility, qualifications, and financial ability of Proposers, proposed subcontractors, suppliers, individuals or entities to perform the Services in accordance with the Contract document.
- 6.5 In ranking Proposals the Selection Committee shall evaluate the Proposals on the basis of the information provided by the Proposer, and rank each Proposal for compliance with the qualifications of each Proposer and compliance with the mandatory requirements of the RFP. The County reserves the right to award to more than one Proposer.
- 6.6 The selection committee will evaluate the Proposals that are responsive to the requirements of this RFP using the following weighted criteria listed in order of importance:

6.7	CRITERIA		Score
	1. Understanding of Services to be Provided		10
	2. Minority Owned Business		10
	3. Relevant Firm Experience		30
	4. Quality of References		15
	5. Familiarity with Jefferson County		20
	6. Cost Proposal		15
	7. Oral Presentation (if required)		10
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS			110 (100 if no Interviews)

At the option of the County, Proposers may be selected for interviews or oral presentations (shortlisted). The County makes no commitment to any Proposer to this RFP beyond consideration of the written response to this RFP. All Proposers will be notified of the shortlisted and non-shortlisted Proposers as well as the date, time and

location of interviews and/or oral presentations. If oral presentations are conducted, selection committee will score criteria 7. Following conclusion of the oral presentations. Additionally, following conclusion of the oral presentations, all selection committee members may also adjust points previously awarded for the other scoring criteria listed above.

- 6.8 The Proposal deemed best by the selection committee shall be presented by the County Administrator in the form of an Agenda Request to the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners, who shall either accept or deny the recommendation of the selection committee as presented by the County Manager.

SECTION 7.0 INTENT TO AWARD AND CONTRACT EXECUTION

- 7.1 The County reserves the right to incorporate the successful Proposal into the Contract. Failure of a Proposer to accept this obligation may result in the cancellation of the award.
- 7.2 The construction, interpretation, and performance of this RFP, and all transactions under it shall be governed by the laws of the State of Florida and Jefferson County. The Contract shall include all terms and conditions of this RFP, any addenda, response, and the County's contract issued as a result of this RFP.
- 7.3 The County reserves the right to make award(s) by individual item, group of items, all or none, or a combination thereof. The County reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals or to waive any minor irregularity or technicality in the Proposals received. Award will be made to the lowest responsible and responsive Proposer(s) within the category chosen for basis of award. The County reserves the right to award to one or multiple Proposers at its discretion.
- 7.4 The Successful Proposer will be required to assume responsibility for all services offered in the Proposal. The County will consider the Successful Proposer to be the sole point of contact with regard to contractual matters, including payment on any or all charges.
- 7.5 After successful posting of the award for 72 hours, the Successful Proposer will be required to enter into the Contract with the County.

SECTION 8.0 STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS (STAC)

- 8.1 Definitions
- 8.2 Florida Public Records Law and Confidentiality
- 8.3 Procurement Challenges
- 8.4 Construction and Venue
- 8.5 Contract
- 8.6 Term of the Contract and Termination
- 8.7 Insurance Requirements and Bond Requirements

8.1 Definitions

General terms used throughout this RFP are provided below. Additional definitions may be provided as applicable to a specific section or subject matter.

Award means the determination of a successful Proposer(s) in response to this RFP, resulting in an offer of a Contract to perform the services pursuant to the RFP and their Proposal.

County means the Jefferson Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and its employees.

Contract means the legally enforceable document agreed to and signed by the County and successful Proposer(s) (collectively referred to as the “Parties”), a draft Contract is attached hereto as Appendix B and incorporated herein.

RFP means this document, its attachments and any document hereinafter incorporated by reference.

Proposer or Firm means any firm, individual or organization submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP.

Successful Proposer means a Proposer who is Awarded a Contract as result of the Proposal submitted in response to this RFP.

Work or SOW or Services means the scope of work and/or services.

8.2 Florida Public Records Law and Confidentiality

- 8.2.1. By submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP, a Proposer acknowledges that the County is a governmental entity subject to the Florida Public Records Law (Chapter 119, Florida Statutes). The Proposer further acknowledges that any materials or documents provided to the County may be “public records” and, as such, may be subject to disclosure to, and copying by, the public unless otherwise specifically exempt by Law.
- 8.2.2 Should the Proposer provide the County with any materials which it believes, in good faith, contain information that would be exempt from disclosure or copying under Florida Law; the Proposer shall indicate that belief by typing or printing, in bold letters, the phrase “PROPRIETARY INFORMATION” on the face of each affected page of such materials. The Proposer shall submit to the County both a complete copy of such material and a redacted copy in which the exempt information on each affected page, and only such exempt information, has been rendered unreadable. In the event a Proposer fails to submit both copies of such material, the copy submitted will be deemed a public record subject to disclosure and copying regardless of any annotations to the contrary on the face of such document or any page(s) thereof.
- 8.2.3 Should any person request to examine or copy any material so designated, and provided the affected Proposer has otherwise fully complied with this provision, the County, in

reliance on the representations of the Proposer, will produce for that person only the redacted version of the affected materials. If the person requests to examine or copy the complete version of the affected material, the County shall notify the Proposer of that request, and the Proposer shall reply to such notification, in writing that must be received by the County no later than 4:00 p.m., EST, of the County business day following Proposer's receipt of such notification, either permitting or refusing to permit such disclosure or copying.

- 8.2.4 Failure to provide a timely written reply shall be deemed consent to disclosure and copying of the complete copy of such material. If the Proposer refuses to permit disclosure or copying, the Proposer agrees to, and shall, hold harmless and indemnify the County for all expenses, costs, damages, and penalties of any kind whatsoever which may be incurred by the County, or assessed or awarded against the County, in regard to the County's refusal to permit disclosure or copying of such material. If litigation is filed in relation to such request and the Proposer is not initially named as a party, the Proposer shall promptly seek to intervene as a defendant in such litigation to defend its claim regarding the confidentiality of such material. This provision shall take precedence over any provisions or conditions of any Proposal submitted by a Proposer in response to this RFP and shall constitute the County's sole obligation with regard to maintaining confidentiality of any document, material, or information submitted to the County.

8.3 Construction and Venue

The validity, construction, and effect of this RFP and subsequent Contract shall be governed by the Laws of the State of Florida. The provisions of the RFP, Successful Proposer's Proposal and subsequent Contract shall be complied with by the Parties, but only to the extent they are consistent with applicable law and the Contract. In the event of an inconsistency, the Order of Precedence shall be followed:

- a. Laws of Florida and Contract
- b. RFP and all of its addendums and attachments
- c. Successful firm's Proposal

Venue for all actions arising under the RFP and subsequent Contract shall lie in Jefferson County, Florida, United States.

8.4 Contract

- 8.4.1 The Successful Proposer will be required to enter into the Contract with the County and will be required to perform the Work in accordance with the Contract terms and conditions. The Draft Contract is attached hereto as Appendix B and incorporated herein by reference.
- 8.4.2 Any exceptions to the proposed Contract must be noted in proposal response in Form No. 2 – Comments on Proposed Contract. The County is under no obligation to modify the proposed Contract to conform to the Successful Proposer's Contract exceptions. Contingent Proposals will not be accepted. If acceptance of the Contract Award is

contingent on an exception and modification to the Contract, the Proposer must provide this information to the County at the time of submission of technical questions, as outlined in the Schedule of Events in order to obtain a determination from the County regarding the proposed exception. If a Proposer's exception and modification are rejected by the County during the technical question portion of the Proposal process and the Proposer later submits a Proposal, Proposer shall be deemed to have accepted this Contract provision.

8.5 Term of the Contract and Termination

- 8.5.1 The term of the Contract shall begin no sooner than the later of the dates executed by both Parties and shall be effective for a three-year, unless the County desires a different term.
- 8.5.2 The County may, at any time, without cause, order Proposer in writing to suspend, delay or interrupt the work in whole or in part for such period of time as the County may determine, or to terminate all or a portion of the Contract for the County's convenience. Upon such termination, the Contract Price earned to the date of termination shall be paid to Proposer, but Proposer waives any claim for damages, including loss of profits arising out of or related to the early termination. Those Contract provisions which by their nature survive final acceptance shall remain in full force and effect. If the County orders a suspension, the Contract price and Contract time may be adjusted for increases in the cost and time caused by suspension, delay or interruption. No adjustment shall be made to the extent that performance is, was or would have been so suspended, delayed or interrupted by reason for which Proposer is responsible; or that an equitable adjustment is made or denied under another provision of this Contract.

8.6 Insurance Requirements and Bond Requirements

- 8.6.1 Insurance Verification Requirements – See Appendix B, Section 4.
The insurance required shall be written for not less than the following, or greater if required by law and shall include Employer's liability with limits as prescribed in this contract:
- General Liability \$1M each occurrence/\$2M aggregate, additional insured, waiver of subrogation
 - Professional Liability \$1M each occurrence/\$2M aggregate
 - Auto Liability \$500,000 combined single limit, additional insured, waiver of subrogation
 - Workers Comp per statute, waiver of subrogation

All insurance policies required by this Section shall be underwritten by insurers having a Best's Rating of A and Financial Size Category of VIII or higher, or by such other insurers as shall be acceptable to the Company in its sole discretion. In addition, a certificate of the issuance of each

such insurance policy shall be delivered to the County prior to the commencement of performance of any Work. Such certificate shall contain an agreement by the insurance company issuing the policy that the policy will not be canceled, terminated or modified without thirty (30) days' prior written notice to the County. At least two weeks prior to the expiration of the original policy or any renewal thereof, a new certificate of the renewal of such insurance shall be delivered to the County.

8.6.2 Bond Requirements – there are no bonding requirements.

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 2026-14

**FOR:
Consultant Services for Development of
Community and Economic Resilience Implementation Plan
and
Notice of Selection Committee Meeting**

Advertisement Begin Date: September 23, 2026

Bids Due Date/Time: October 14, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. EST

Selection Committee Meeting: October 14, 2026 at 3:30 p.m. EST

Location: 435 W Walnut St. Monticello, FL 32344

Jefferson County (the “County”) is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to develop a Community and Economic Resilience Implementation Plan. The Plan will organize the County’s economic development, workforce, infrastructure readiness, site readiness and community resilience priorities into a single practical framework — clarifying what each project still needs, identifying the right partners, identifying any policy updates and mapping funding pathways to pursue as opportunities arise.

Sealed proposals for the above-described services will be received at Jefferson County Administration, 435 W Walnut St. Monticello, FL 32344 on October 14, 2026, at 3:00 PM Eastern Standard Time, at which time the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Proposals received after said time will be returned unopened.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal, you **must** obtain the complete solicitation package, which contains additional information regarding this solicitation and instructions related to submitting a bid, from the Jefferson County website at www.jeffersoncountyfl.gov or by contacting the County Manager’s Office at:

Jenny Tuten jtuten@jeffersoncountyfl.gov (850) 342-0287

All inquiries and requests for clarification concerning the solicitation shall be submitted in writing and in accordance with the solicitation. Verbal clarifications will not be provided.

The County reserves the right to waive informalities in any bid; reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part; re-bid a project, in whole or in part; and to accept a proposal that in its judgment is the lowest and best bid of a responsible bidder. The

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County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, marital status and disability/handicapped status in employment or provision of service.

Additionally, the County announces a public meeting of the RFP 2026-14 Selection Committee to which all interested persons are invited to attend and participate. The purpose of the meeting will be to review, discuss, and/or make recommendations regarding proposals received by the County in response to RFP 2026-14, and conduction such other business as may come before the Committee. The meeting will take place at the following date, time and location:

**435 W Walnut St
Monticello FL 32344**

If any person decides to appeal any decision made by the Selection Committee with respect to any matter considered at the above-described public meeting, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings, is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

ADA – Special Accommodations: Any person requiring accommodations by the County due to a disability should call the County Manager’s Office at (850) 342-0287 at least five (5) days prior to any pre-response conference, response opening, or meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the County Manager’s Office via the Florida Relay Service, which can be reached at 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

