

EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER  
FIRST DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT  
AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
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THE BUDGET

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The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for a Glynn County Emergency Operations Center in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Glynn County Board of Commissioners, located at 1725 Reynolds Street, Suite 300, Brunswick, Georgia 31520.

The funding would be used to build a Public Safety Multiuse facility. This building will be three stories wherein the first and second floors will be EOC related activities, while the third floor will be dedicated for E911 operations. Glynn County Board of Commissioners is respectfully requesting \$2,140,00 of the total project cost of \$13,803,900. Glynn County was able to secure the \$11,663,900 via a 2022 local SPLOST. The requested funds will solely be dedicated to the first and second floors of the EOC operations.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the community of Glynn County and the surrounding areas face a number of serious threats to their residents and critical infrastructure. These threats, such as terrorism and natural disasters require the County's Emergency Management Agency's members to be constantly prepared for any critical incident that may occur in the area.

One of the most imminent and ever-present threats to Glynn County is its coastal location and vulnerability to coastal hazards. Over the last 21 years, Glynn County has faced over 13 hurricane related events, most recently with Hurricanes Matthew and Irma in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Hurricane Matthew hit Glynn County area as a Category 3 storm and caused 7-11" of rain, storm surge along the islands between 3 – 6 ft., and severe coastal erosion and widespread flooding. Not even a year later on September 11, 2017, Hurricane Irma, a Category 2 storm, affected this community with widespread flooding, power outages, and additional localized coastal erosion. Hurricane Irma caused massive flooding due to the elevated water levels of 1-2 ft. above normal tidal that occurred for several tidal cycles before Irma's surge and rainfall. Repairs and debris collection related to both storms totaled over twenty million dollars.

The 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan for Glynn County predicts that the probability of a reoccurrence of a similar storm is 30% during any given year. This plan is currently undergoing its five-year update and preliminary data analysis supports that the probabilities of a similar storm reoccurring to be between 30-35% during any given year.

The threat of a reoccurrence is not the only issue, but the steep increase in wind intensity and water elevations has tripled in the last seven years for areas along the east coast. The combination of these two factors is of great concern to local officials as future storms may completely destroy local infrastructure and incapacitate local officials to adequately respond to severe disasters.

In addition to natural disasters, Glynn County is also exposed to man-made or terroristic threats. The County is home to substantial critical logistic infrastructure that includes the Georgia Ports Authority's three terminals at the Port of Brunswick, and Colonels Island Marine Port which ranks among the largest auto facilities and deepest Agri-bulk operations in the nation, and serves as a specialized distribution hub for forest and solid wood products. Other industrial plants that call Glynn County home are Georgia Pacific Paper Mill, Renessenz Chemical Plant, Georgia Power Plant McManus, and Georgia Natural Gas pumping stations. Other critical infrastructure to the region includes three airports, arterial Interstate 95, four US highways (US 17, US 25, US 341 and US 82), two Class I railroads, several bridges, and eight motor freight terminals. The County is also home to over a half dozen office and industrial business parks and chemical facilities such as the Pinova wood resin production plant. Lastly, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) headquarters, a 1,600-acre area that trains over 20,000 students annually is in Glynn County, in addition to the College of Coastal Georgia with a capacity of 3,500 students, and a public-school system with 12,800 youth. Glynn County also has the largest medical health care system in southeast Georgia, the Southeast Georgia Health System, which has over 500 beds and recently inaugurated the Wolfson Children's Center and oncology facilities on their main campus with over 1,200 employees.

Unfortunately, terrorist groups may see Glynn County as a prime location to interrupt not just local government functions, but also the state's economy, by jeopardizing any of its critical logistical infrastructures (ports, highways, intestates, etc.) that are located within Glynn County. To better help the area prepare for and respond to terroristic or natural threats, Glynn County plans to build a Public Safety Multiuse facility.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 614 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196c), as amended by section 202 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (9/11 Act).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress