

Recommendation re: Job Growth Grant Fund with the State of Florida Supporting Development of Cargo Operations at Lakeland Linder International Airport

The Lakeland Linder International Airport (LLIA) had received a Grant in early January from the State of Florida Job Growth Grant Fund in the amount of \$4,692,176 to be used towards the construction of a Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) hangar facility within the Northwest area of the Airport, supporting the Intermodal and Cargo activity. LLIA recently contacted the State and requested a modification to the Scope of the Agreement to utilize the grant award on the horizontal infrastructure needs of the cargo activity instead of the construction of the MRO facility as the infrastructure needs to support cargo had expanded. The State agreed to the modification and has reissued the Grant for execution by LLIA modifying the scope as requested.

The State's Job Growth Grant Fund was established to promote economic opportunity by improving public infrastructure and enhancing workforce training. The grantees who receive a grant from this program have an obligation to provide a return for the State's Investment. The grant issued to LLIA, includes a commitment that this investment by the State will help to generate 750 new jobs and fifty million dollars of private capital investments within the first ten years of the agreement.

The grant award will be used toward funding on the following projects:

- the strengthening and rehabilitation of Runway 9-27
- the upgrading to a CAT II Instrument Landing System (ILS)
- the subsequent upgrading to a CAT III ILS
- other site improvements remaining to be completed

Under the Agreement, LLIA is required to submit updates to the State relating to the progress of the project as well as the job growth and private investments that have been made. In the event the job or investments targets would not be met, then the State would have the ability to request that a portion or all the award be repaid to the State based on the actual results achieved. LLIA however is confident that this will not occur, as the projections included in the grant agreement will be exceeded well before the ten-year period expires.

It is requested that the City Commission authorize the appropriate City officials to accept and execute the Job Growth Grant with the State of Florida in the amount of \$4,692,176 to support the Airport's development of the Intermodal Center and Cargo Operations. No appropriations are being requested at this time to accommodate this request.