

Project Name:

Fires Innovation Science and Technology Accelerator, Campus Modernization and Expansion of the FISTA Innovation Park

Recipient:

FISTA Trust Development Authority, Lawton Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Address of Recipient:

200 C Avenue

P O Box 2883

Lawton OK 73502

Attn: Clarence Fortney, Chairman

Request Amount:

\$3,950,000

SCIF	\$2,200,000
Conference Center	\$1,750,000
Total Request	\$3,950,000

Project Explanation:

The U.S. Army Futures Command challenged its Long Range Precision Fires (LRPF) and Air and Missile Defense (AMD) Cross-Functional Teams (CFTs) based at Fort Sill, as well as their supporting communities and academic institutions, to provide technical innovation, training and higher education, and to sponsor and grow research and development entities in science and technology outside the gates of their installations. Recognizing the opportunity for economic growth, the citizens of Lawton responded by forming the Fires Innovation Science and Technology Accelerator (FISTA). Using its own resources, FISTA purchased Central Mall and there established the FISTA Innovation Park. Central Mall is a commercial center near downtown Lawton that is distressed due to downturns in the brick-and-mortar retail sector and thus experiences high vacancy rates including closures of major retail anchors such as Sears and Dillard’s. FISTA seeks to repurpose the 600,000 square foot structure with an estimated total cost of approximately \$65 million, which is located in a severely distressed census tract, Opportunity Zone (OZ), and new market tax credit (NMTC) zone.

FISTA’s mission is to make investments (over \$15M to date) in industrial development and activities that not only support CFT needs, technology gap fillers, and shortfalls, but that also promote the laying of a foundation for ongoing high-tech job creation and economic growth in

the City of Lawton and surrounding areas. The FISTA Innovation Park has proven that it is attractive to existing business; since inception, twelve major companies and research universities have committed to locate all or part of their operations as well as new jobs there to support the Army's new CFTs. This new influx of talent activity will enable the FISTA Innovation Park to become a center of technological innovation, STEM education, business incubation, and workforce development for the greater region.

Benefits to the Community (Source: FISTA Trust Development Authority):

- 150 – 225 direct \$100,000+ per year jobs created in first 24 months
- 275 ancillary (service/retail/other) jobs
- Redevelop 200-350,000 square feet of vacant commercial retail for active economic use in a distressed Opportunity Zone
- Increases investment in community STEM education and workforce development.
- Supports other adjacent community redevelopment efforts of downtown commercial district
- \$50 Million annual regional economic impact

TOM COLE
4TH DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON RULES
RANKING REPUBLICAN

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
VICE RANKING REPUBLICAN
LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES –
RANKING REPUBLICAN
DEFENSE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

PLEASE REPLY TO:

- 2207 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6165
- 2424 SPRINGER DRIVE
SUITE 201
NORMAN, OK 73069
(405) 329-6500
- 711 SW D AVENUE
SUITE 201
LAWTON, OK 73501
(580) 357-2131
- SUGG CLINIC OFFICE BUILDING
100 EAST 13TH STREET, SUITE 213
ADA, OK 74820
(580) 436-5375

April 4, 2021

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Fires Innovation Science and Technology Accelerator, Campus Modernization and Expansion of the FISTA Innovation Park in Fiscal Year 2022 Transportation, Housing, and Appropriations Bill. The entity to receive funding for this project is the FISTA Development Authority, located at 200 C Avenue, Lawton OK 73502. The funding would be used for the repurposing the FISTA Innovation Park, that is severely distressed due to downturns in the brick-and-mortar retail sector and thus experiencing high vacancy rates. FISTA seeks to repurpose the 600,000 square foot structure. FISTA's mission is to make investments (over \$15,000,000 to date) in industrial development and activities that not only support CFT needs, technology gap fills and shortfalls, but also to promote laying the foundation for ongoing high-tech job creation in Lawton, Oklahoma. The new influx of talent will enable the FISTA Innovation Park to become a center of technological innovation, STEM education, business incubation, and workforce development for the greater region.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Cole".

Tom Cole
Member of Congress