

## Chapter 7

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS INCENTIVES

#### Sec. 7-1. Purpose.

(a) It is the intent of the Lake County Board of County Commissioners to create and broaden a sound business and industrial tax base in Lake County and which tax base shall benefit all residents in Lake County by better distributing the burden of taxes. This is accomplished by attracting targeted business/industries to locate within the county and through retention and expansion of existing targeted businesses. Furthermore, this can be realized by attracting, expanding and retaining those businesses/industries that pay greater than the average annual wage in the county.

(b) It is the intent and purpose of this chapter to provide the authority and mechanisms within the parameters of judicial, federal, state and local laws for such promotions and to allow the expenditure of public funds for such purposes.

(Ord. No. 2009-26, § 3, 5-26-09)

#### Sec. 7-2. Definitions.

As used in this section:

*Average annual wage* means the annual average wage paid to workers in Lake County as published by Enterprise Florida, Inc. and compiled by the State of Florida, Agency for Workforce Innovation, Labor Market Statistics, for the most current year published.

*Building permit fees* means those fees charged by Lake County, or municipalities, for construction, erection, modification, repair and demolition activities within the county which are governed under the Florida Building Code and charged pursuant to the Florida Statutes and as outlined in the Lake County Fee Schedule adopted annually by resolution.

*Development costs* means building permit fees, impact fees or infrastructure improvement costs as defined herein.

*Employee* means those individuals working for targeted businesses/industries in positions that are covered under and included on Florida Department of Revenue, Employer's Quarterly Report.

*Impact fees* means those impact fees charged by Lake County, and municipal impact fees if applicable.

*Infrastructure improvement costs* means those costs required for extension of or upgrades to infrastructure, including but not limited to water and sewer facilities or roadways that may be required to serve the proposed business or industry expansion, location or relocation within Lake County.

*Jobs* means full-time positions where the employee is paid a minimum of one hundred fifteen (115) percent of the average annual wage in Lake County, and are offered benefits.

*Promotion* means to encourage the existence or growth of targeted business/industry within Lake County, Florida.

*Qualified target industry (QTI)* means those companies that provide high wage jobs in value-added industries as identified by the State of Florida and published by Enterprise Florida pursuant to Florida Statutes.

*Targeted business/industry* means those business and industry categories described in Lake County's Economic Development Strategic Plan and businesses and industries classified as Qualified Target Industries (QTI) by the State of Florida as published by Enterprise Florida.  
(Ord. No. 2009-26, § 3, 5-26-09)

### **Sec. 7-3. General authority and administration.**

(a) The Lake County Board of County Commissioners may budget funds for business or industry promotion purposes pursuant to the provisions of F.S. Chs. 125 and 129.

(b) The county manager, or his/her designee, may approve expenditure of award funds to qualified applicants when award amounts do not exceed his/her established expenditure limits. Approval to expend award funds in excess of the county manager's expenditure limits must be approved by majority vote of the Lake County Board of County Commissioners.

(c) The Lake County Board of County Commissioners hereby authorizes the county manager, or designee, to administer the Lake County Economic Development Code and associated programs with the following stipulations:

- (1) Applications shall require business/project specific information as applicable to the requested business development program, as determined by the county manager, or designee.
- (2) Following submittal of a complete application, a recommendation shall be provided within five (5) working days. A recommendation for approval may be followed by an incentive award, or the request will be scheduled for consideration by the Lake County Board of County Commissioners, in accordance with the general authority of this chapter.
- (3) Applications shall be accepted while funds are available. Due to budget constraints, awards offered herein may be reduced or unavailable.

(Ord. No. 2009-26, § 3, 5-26-09)

### **Sec. 7-4. Business development programs.**

(a) *Financial incentives.*

(1) *Business assistance program.*

- a. To encourage the location or expansion of targeted business/industry this program provides matching funds to new and expanding business to offset development costs. The applicant must share fifty (50) percent of the costs, with the maximum grant amount limited to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00), unless otherwise approved by the Lake County Board of County Commissioners.
- b. To qualify, the business must create a minimum of five (5) new jobs that pay no less than one hundred fifteen (115) percent of the average annual wage for Lake County.
- c. Successful applicants shall enter into a business assistance program agreement with Lake County to include a provision for repayment of funds if the business fails to retain the qualifying jobs for two (2) years.

(2) *High value job creation program.*

- a. To encourage the location or expansion of targeted business/industry that offer significant economic benefit and create high-value jobs, this program provides a cash award for job creation.
- b. To qualify, new businesses must create a minimum of ten (10) jobs and existing businesses must create five (5) jobs that pay no less than one hundred fifteen (115) percent of the average annual wage for Lake County.
- c. Per job bonuses shall be as follows, unless otherwise approved by the Lake County Board of County Commissioners, and shall be paid at the time the positions are filled:  
  
Two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) for jobs paying a minimum of one hundred fifteen (115) percent of the average annual wage for Lake County;  
  
Three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for jobs paying a minimum of one hundred fifty (150) percent of the average annual wage for Lake County;  
  
Four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) for jobs paying a minimum of two hundred (200) percent of the average annual wage for Lake County.
- d. Successful applicants shall enter into a business assistance program agreement with Lake County to include a provision for repayment of funds if the business fails to retain the qualifying jobs for two (2) years.

(3) *Artist relocation program.*

- a. To encourage arts and culture in downtown districts, this program provides matching funds to new or relocating businesses to offset building improvement costs. The applicant must share fifty (50) percent of the costs with the maximum grant amount limited to two

thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00), unless otherwise approved by the Lake County Board of County Commissioners.

- b. To qualify, the business must be located within a designated downtown community redevelopment area within the county. The artist must be the owner or occupant of a live/work structure and the artist must manufacture and sell art from that location.

(4) *Business association sponsorship program.*

- a. To encourage business development programs offered by businesses or professional organizations in Lake County, this program offers assistance with event sponsorship.
- b. To qualify, the event must provide businesses and business owners with information or training. Organizations may apply bi-annually with the maximum grant amount limited to four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) per event.
- c. Sponsorship funds must be used for expenses directly related to the business event, and Lake County must be a recognized sponsor. Lake County must also be granted booth/table access for marketing of county programs.

(b) *Other incentives.*

- (1) *Expedited permitting.* The county manager or designee shall insure that qualified projects are processed as expeditiously as possible. The county manager is authorized to issue procedures governing the timing of review of such projects, so long as any such procedure is consistent with the land development regulations.

- (2) *Transportation impact fee deferral.* In accordance with Chapter 22, section 22-10 of the Lake County Code of Ordinances, the Lake County Board of County Commissioners may waive, reduce or permit deferral of impact fees.

(c) *State of Florida incentives.* The Lake County Board of County Commissioners recognizes programs offered by the State of Florida, through Enterprise Florida, and shall give consideration to providing assistance to qualified applicants by adopting resolutions, providing a twenty (20) percent local match, or processing applications as applicable to each program.

(d) *United States Federal Government incentives.* The Lake County Board of County Commissioners recognizes programs offered by the United States Federal Government and shall give consideration to providing assistance to qualified applicants by adopting resolutions as applicable.

(e) *Workforce Florida incentives.* The Lake County Board of County Commissioners recognizes programs offered by Workforce Florida, and shall support qualified applicants by offering information regarding the programs.

(Ord. No. 2009-26, § 3, 5-26-09)