



Phone: (225) 316-1346 Email: jpurpera@bellsouth.net

*“SPECIALIZING IN STATE CAPITAL OUTLAY PROCESS CONSULTING
FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NON-PROFIT ENTITIES”*

STATE CAPITAL OUTLAY NEWSLETTER January – June 2021 FOR LaMATS MEMBERS

“What types of projects qualify for consideration in the State Capital Outlay Program?”

- Eligible projects would include but not be limited to: land acquisition; site development and improvement; acquisition, construction or renovation of buildings; public infrastructure: water, sewer and wastewater, drainage, roads and bridges; recreation; economic development
- Capital Outlay is not for operating or routine maintenance expenses.
- Projects should have an anticipated useful life of 20 years or more.
- Projects must be for a “public purpose”.

“Who can apply for State Capital Outlay funding?”

State Agencies, Local Government Entities, and Non-Profit Organizations are eligible to apply for State Capital Outlay funding.

STATE CAPITAL OUTLAY PROGRAM CALENDAR OF KEY EVENTS January – June 2021

Jan - Feb	Between November 2, 2020 and mid-March 2021, the Division of Administration reviews Capital Outlay Budget Requests and develops recommendations for the Governor. These recommendations become the Capital Outlay Budget Bill (House Bill No. 2).
February 1	Last day for Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay to meet to consider approval of Late Capital Outlay Request submittals. After February 1 st , there is a separate process for Late Approval, but it is limited to “emergency” or “economic development” projects.
April 12	2021 Regular Legislative Session starts.
April 19	Governor submits Capital Outlay Budget Bill (House Bill No. 2) to the Legislature. (8 th day of the Session.)
June 10	2021 Regular Legislative Session ends.

Through an agreement with LaMATS, James Purpera (former State Capital Outlay Budget Analyst) will provide LaMATS members with two Capital Outlay newsletters per year; and will also provide each member with up to one hour of consultation per year by phone or email to answer questions about any part of the State Capital Outlay process.

Additional consulting services, tailored to individual client needs, will be negotiated directly between you and James Purpera. The following resume and testimonial comments from a few full service clients, gives more information about the full range of services available from James Purpera Governmental Consulting.



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RESUME

James Purpera is not a lobbyist, but as a result of 30 years in state government working on the assembly line at every level of the State Budget process for both the Division of Administration and the Legislature; plus working as a private Capital Outlay Consultant since 2008, James Purpera has developed a solid understanding of the process and is equipped to provide valuable advice and assistance to you in your efforts to request and compete for funding in the State Capital Outlay (i.e. construction) Program, and to maneuver through the legislative and bureaucratic process. The State Capital Outlay Program provides funding for State Agencies, Local Government Entities and Non-Profit Organizations “for acquiring land, buildings, equipment, or other permanent properties, or for their preservation or development or permanent improvement”. In addition to advice and assistance provided in response to individual client issues, James Purpera also provides email newsletters and other email and phone updates throughout the annual State Budget process: to provide status reports about what is going on in the Capital Outlay process; to advise and remind clients about what they should be doing at each step in the process to maximize chances for success; and to help clients (and their engineers or architects) understand the technical and paperwork requirements of the process before and after a project is funded. James Purpera’s clients include ports, airports, municipalities, parish governments and other governmental entities, sheriff, fire department, non-profit organizations, engineering firms and lobbyists.

No one can guarantee success but as a former Budget Analyst and Budget Manager in the State Capital Outlay Program, James Purpera understands how and when decisions are made in the State Budget process; understands the bureaucratic process that funded projects have to maneuver through; and as indicated in the testimonial comments below, his clients consider his consulting services to be valuable and useful.

Testimonial Comments from some of James Purpera's Clients

“James Purpera has been a tremendous asset to the Town of St. Francisville with his knowledge of and experience in the capital outlay process. He helped the town obtain funds for several projects. His level of expertise and service has gone beyond our expectations.”

Billy D’Aquila, Mayor, Town of St. Francisville

“The Town of Vidalia has engaged James Purpera’s Capital Outlay services since 2010. Throughout those years, the Town has had success in securing & maintaining funding for Vidalia Industrial Park Development, and for Vidalia Port Development. Both projects are critical to the economic development successes in Concordia Parish; therefore, Concordia Economic Development administers the capital outlay projects for the Town. This has allowed me to work closely with James through the capital outlay process. James Purpera’s knowledge of the Capital Outlay process allows us to stay competitive while seeking and maintaining state funds. He makes the entire process simple for the municipality. He reduces our trips to the State Capital because he serves as your eyes and ears in Baton Rouge. He keeps us up to date on the tone at the Capital and provides guidance on when we should contact our State Senators and Representatives. I never have to worry about missing a deadline or a critical meeting pertaining to our applications/projects because I know James will keep me informed and engaged as needed. We would not have had the success of these projects had it not been for James Purpera’s services. And it is because of that success that we will have an operational port on the Mississippi River and two new manufacturers in the Vidalia Industrial Park.”

Heather L. Malone, Director, Concordia Economic Development

“The Town of Springfield just completed a new water well and water distribution system for our community. Mr. James Purpera has been there since the beginning to guide us through the legislative procedures and has acted as an outstanding liaison throughout our Capital Outlay project. He has provided continuous communication and updates on the progress of our project. He has been our legislative watchdog to keep us abreast of what is done and what needs to be done to move our project forward. Without his assistance this certainly would have been a much more stressful endeavor. We sincerely appreciate his due diligence in helping us through this tedious process.”

Thomas “Tommy” Abels, Mayor, Town of Springfield

“James, thanks for the great work. We are realizing how little we knew of this process and how valuable your services are.”

Michel H. Claudet, (Former) Terrebonne Parish President

“James Purpera has proven to be an expert teacher of the legislature’s budget process and the bond process. His patient guidance and timely information have helped our staff and board. What may seem unusually complex becomes quite clear with James’ updates and suggestions. It has been both a privilege and a comfort to work with him.”

Julia Bland, Executive Director, Louisiana Children’s Museum

The capital outlay process is very complicated and confusing to most but James Purpera has made it simple and successful for the Port Of Terrebonne.

David Rabalais, Executive Director, Terrebonne Port Commission

“James Purpera’s expertise in the Capital Outlay process is invaluable to the Port of South Louisiana’s success in securing funding for infrastructure projects.”

Joel Chaisson, (Former) Executive Director, Port of South Louisiana

“James has been an invaluable asset to the Port in managing the intricacies of the Capital Outlay process and consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty to provide services.”

Wyly Gilfoil, Director, Lake Providence Port Commission

“James Purpera Governmental Consulting has kept our organization up to date on the capital outlay process. His guidance and constant updates on the legislative process have been invaluable.”

Nancy Vinci, President, Julius Freyhan Foundation

“James Purpera was hired on an annual contract during 2008 and has a continuing contract with the Baton Rouge Airport. Mr. Purpera is an expert on State Capital Outlay issues. He is a tremendous asset to our team and we intend on continuing his consulting services.”

Anthony Marino, (Former) Director of Aviation, Baton Rouge Metro Airport

“James Purpera has a long record of providing quality Capital Outlay consulting services for the Baton Rouge Airport. His expertise and guidance on navigating the intricacies of the Capital Outlay process continues to be an asset for our organization.”

Mike Edwards, (Current) Director of Aviation, Baton Rouge Metro Airport

“James Purpera has rendered a valuable service toward the advancement of the multi-million dollar Avoyelles Parish Port project in Simmesport. Mr. Purpera has performed exceptional professional service in identifying funding sources and has skillfully assisted in maneuvering our project funding through the government agencies involved.”

Tommy Maddie, (Former) President/Chairman, Avoyelles Parish Port Commission

The above comments represent a sample of what James Purpera’s clients have said about his services. A complete list of clients/references can be furnished upon request. For additional information, you can phone James Purpera at 225-316-1346; or email him at jpurpera@bellsouth.net.

About James Purpera's Experience and Consulting Services

In 2008, after retiring from the State with more than 30 years of state government experience, James Purpera started a consulting business and is now using his knowledge and solid understanding of the art and science of state government and the political process to assist local government entities and non-profit organizations in their efforts to successfully maneuver through the State Capital Outlay Process.

James Purpera has extensive experience in the State Capital Outlay process having worked for the Division of Administration (Facility Planning & Control) as a Budget Analyst and Budget Manager in the Capital Outlay program, and then having worked for the Legislature as a Budget Analyst for the Ways and Means Committee and the Appropriations Committee.

James Purpera has long been recognized for his expertise in the area of State Budgets, particularly the Capital Outlay Budget. James Purpera has had articles about the Capital Outlay process published in the Louisiana Municipal Review and in the Ports Association of Louisiana newsletter. In addition, he has conducted Capital Outlay instructional classes for various organizations.

James Purpera understands the technical requirements which are essential to make a request, and he understands that "appropriate" follow-up strategy at every step in the process is what gives a request its best chance for funding.

If you have an interest in requesting Capital Outlay funding, but lack the knowledge of the process, staff or time to keep up with the rules, prepare an effective request or follow-up strategy, then James Purpera will be able to assist you.

The Capital Outlay Request is the most straight forward part of the process, so if you have already submitted a request, James Purpera may be able to assist you with tracking and follow-up strategy so that your request does not miss any opportunities for consideration.

If you have a project that has already been funded, but lack the knowledge of the process, staff or time to keep up with the paperwork and other bureaucratic requirements, then James Purpera can help you understand the bureaucracy that funded projects have to maneuver through.

James Purpera's fees for service will vary based on the type of service needed.