
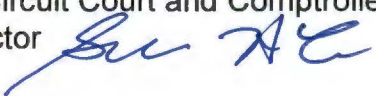




**CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER**  
**David R. Ellspermann**

**To:** Board of County Commissioners, individually  
Mounir Bouyounes, County Administrator

**FROM:** David R. Ellspermann, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller   
Sachiko H. León, Internal Audit Director 

**DATE:** April 13, 2020

**RE:** Report No. 2020-02: Economic Development Financial Incentive Grant  
Compliance Review: **FedEx Ground Package System, Inc.**

**Purpose and Objective**

Internal Audit performed a compliance review of the performance measures for the FedEx Ground Package System, Inc. (grantee) required annual report, pursuant to the Economic Development Financial Incentive Grant (EDFIG) Agreement (agreement).

The objective was to determine if the County Administration's assessment of the Grantee for the following requirements was reasonable and supported by sufficient documentation:

- Maintaining at least 165 Full Time Equivalent Employees (FTE) at an average annual wage of \$31,536 at the Ocala facility from January 1 – December 31, 2019.
- Meeting the March 1, 2020 performance reporting due date for Calendar Year (CY) 2019.

**Results**

**Our opinion is that** the County Administration's assessment was reasonable and supported by sufficient documentation. We agree that the grantee timely submitted the required reports and exceeded the minimum FTE requirements at the Ocala facility. The grantee is due a grant payment of \$40,000 for CY 2019.

**Scope and Approach**

The scope included verifying the achievement and compliance with the agreement's employment and reporting requirements for CY 2019.

Internal Audit performed analytical procedures to independently determine the number of FTE using the CY 2019 Multiple Worksite Report received by County Administration on February 28, 2020.

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**Marion County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller**

## **Background**

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The Board of County Commissioners awarded the grantee an Economic Development Financial Incentive Grant in the total amount of up to \$1,078,722.59 on February 5, 2013. This consisted of \$579,722.59 in the form of a waiver for all county transportation impact fees; \$400,000 for the gas line relocation shortfall to the grantee, payable over 10 years in equal installments of \$40,000; and \$99,000 as the county's match for the State of Florida's Qualified Target Refund Program (QTI). Our audit scope was limited to the county grant only. The Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) performs audits related to the QTI including the county's match.

The grantee was to construct a 383,161 square foot facility at a cost of at least \$75 million and equip the facility with machinery and equipment at a cost of at least \$38 million. The grantee provided sufficient documentation to show compliance with the capital improvement requirements. These requirements were satisfied.

The grantee was to occupy the premises and utilize the facility by the first of January that immediately follows the substantial completion date (Feb. 10, 2016) and employ up to 165 FTE by a date (the "Achievement Date") that was on or before December 31, 2018 with an average annual wage of \$31,536. This requirement was met.

The grantee shall continue to employ, at the facility, at least 165 FTE per year for a term of 10 years in order to qualify for an annual EDFIG grant payment.

## **Acknowledgement**

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We would like to thank the representatives of the County Administration and FedEx Ground Package System, Inc. for their cooperation during our review.

This review was conducted by Aracelis Maldonado, Andrew Gibb, and Sachiko H. León.

**Report Distribution List**

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