AGENCY Florida A&M University
BUDGET ENTITY SUS
PROJECT TITLE Army ROTC-Howard Hall Re-purpose (Remodel)

PURPOSE, NEED, SCOPE, RELATIONSHIP OF PROJECT TO AGENCY OBJECTIVES

This project is absolutely necessary to allow for the continuation and growth of Army ROTC at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU). The Army ROTC building has not had a major remodel since it was built in 1953. Out of approximately 156 buildings on campus, the Army ROTC building is in the greatest need for renovation and upgrade. The deplorable state of the building detracts from the appeal and mission of the University. Modernizing the facility will be a strong demonstration of the support the University and State of Florida has to our service members and the ROTC program as a whole. As the only host HBCU Army ROTC program in the state, FAMU Army ROTC is of particular importance to the US Army. The appearance of the building must reflect the important place the program holds in the eyes of the students, faculty, and Alumni.

The Army ROTC program has been a foundational program at FAMU since 1948 and has produced over thousands of Officers for the Armed Forces. Countless other students have also been a part of the program and gone on to successful careers outside of the Army. The leadership and dedication instilled in the students provides an added measure of success and lifts the overall graduation rate of the University. Thus, the renovation will likely aid in improving the performance metrics of the institution. The renovation of the building has incorporated students from across campus. The most recent renovation plans were compiled as a project involving the School of Architecture and Engineering Technology and students from the University's School of the Environment. It is anticipated that construction and design of this project will also incorporate students from those departments.

It cannot be understated that current issues with the building inhibit learning, recruitment, and retention for the ROTC program. Despite being located next to the Chiller/Heat plant, the ROTC building operates on inefficient window units for HVAC. Students and employees are often unable to focus due to extreme temperatures in the building. The roof is in constant need of repair, causing water damage to walls and ceilings. Outdated plumbing and electrical fixtures cause require constant maintenance from ROTC instructors, taking away time better spent developing the students. The lack of adequate shower facilities for the Cadets is inhibitive as well. Many Cadets spend 8 hours a day at the building, transitioning from physical training to tactical training to professional instruction. The demands of Army life necessitate a facility with functioning shower/locker space.

The ROTC building is not ADA compliant. There is no elevator or other lift to bring disabled students or Veterans to the second floor where the offices and auditorium are located. The bathrooms and fountains cannot be accessed by wheelchairs. Additionally, the sidewalks and doors will not allow for wheelchair access. The auditorium is a functional space which is not used for events due to the inability to provide access to the elderly relatives or friends of the students who may wish to attend ROTC events.

The ROTC building is located in a prominent location for the University, directly adjacent to Bragg Stadium and the Al Lawson Center. Many visitors come to watch FAMU Athletics or other entertainment events and the exterior of the ROTC Building detracts from that experience and overall University recruitment opportunities. The interior of the building is likewise unattractive and outdated. Many other programs throughout Florida have recently updated their ROTC facilities, so the lack of a modern facility at FAMU makes it harder to attract the best Scholar Athlete Leaders (SALs), who often are able to come to the University with 3 or 4-year national scholarships.

This project supports the following University Strategic Goals: **Goal 1.1: Enhance access to the University; Goal 1.2: Continuous enhancement and assessment of the student experience; Goal 2.2: Enhance and assess employees' experiences; Goal 2.2: Enhance and assess employees' experiences; Goal 4.3: Enhance the services provided to local, state, and national communities; Goal 5.1: Produce diverse and culturally astute graduates for the global workforce**