

ALABAMA TOURISM DEPARTMENT

2026 Legislative Event Grant Application

House Member Holk-Jones

1. **Name of Applicant Organization** (as registered in STAARS) _____

City of Foley, AL

Please check one of the following as it pertains to this organization:

Not-for-Profit as Registered with the Secretary of State of Alabama

For Profit

2. **STAARS Vendor Customer Number** VC000111371 (MANDATORY)

To register in STAARS - <https://procurement.staars.alabama.gov/> If you have any questions, or need assistance, please call the STAARS support line at (334) 353-9000.

3. **Mailing Address** (Must match STAARS "Payment" address)

Street PO BOX 1750

City FOLEY State AL Zip 36536

4. **Event Director** Leslie Gahagan

Telephone 251-269-1224 Email lgahagan@cityoffoley.org

5. **Individual Responsible for Signing Legal Documents for the Applicant Organization**

(only if different than Event Director) Ralph Hellmich

Telephone 251-943-1545 Email rhellmich@cityoffoley.org

All correspondence for this grant program will be via Email. List any **additional email addresses** you would like included _____

6. **Event Name** Graham Creek Haunted Forest & Spooky Express

7. **Event Date** (Restricted to 2026 Calendar Year) 10/9,10,17,23,24,28/26

8. **Total Event Budget** \$24,500 (Must attach copy of budget breakdown)

9. **Event Description** Foley's Graham Creek Haunted Forest is a city event hosted the last three weekends in October.

This unique event is designed for older audiences to explore a haunted 0.5 mile trail through the Graham Creek Nature Preserve.

The event also includes a family friendly attraction nearby. The Spooky Express is a large golf cart ride through seasonal displays with lights and music.

Local Economic Impact:

A. Advertising Reach and Exposure

1. Approximately how many attendees do you anticipate will attend this event?
3500

2. Approximately how many visitors will come from outside Alabama? 500

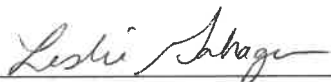
B. Benefit to Community

1. What benefits will this event bring to your community?

This unique attraction provides a Halloween event for teens and adults to be scared. The Spooky Express is an affordable night time attraction which draws families regionally. Both events raise awareness to the nature preserve while providing families and adults with activities.

2. Provide any additional comments that support the economic impact of this event.

Over the past few years, there have been an increased following of the Haunted Forest & Spooky Express with guests visiting from around the region. There is a large following for our unique haunted attraction, and it has continued to bring travelers to the event for the experience. The last two years even saw some international visitors. The community continues to market the event through social media drawing even more crowds from outside the area.

Event Director's Signature 

Title Natural Resources Director

Date 03/30/2026

Send **Complete** Application Packets **ONLY** – **Application, Event Budget Breakdown, and Legislative Support Letter** to:

Email (preferred): grants@tourism.alabama.gov

or mail to: Alabama Tourism Department
Attn: Grant Coordinator
PO Box 4927
Montgomery, AL 36103-4927

Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2026
Incomplete application packets will NOT be accepted

HAUNTED FOREST & SPOOKY EXPRESS BUDGET 2026

	Description	Amount		
EXPENSES				
	Event Insurance	\$1,500.00		
	Supplies	\$7,500.00		
	Tools	\$7,500.00		
	Managing Volunteers	\$3,000.00		
	Promotional Materials	\$3,500.00		
	Advertising	\$1,500.00		
Total		\$24,500.00		
REVENUES				
	General HF Tickets	\$55,000.00		
	VIP HF Tickets	\$5,000.00		
	Spooky Express Tickets	\$5,000.00		
Total		\$65,000.00		