



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING**

#26-0128

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: January 20, 2026

TITLE: Presentation of the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport's (FXE) History, Economic Impact, Revenue, Capital Improvement Plan, and Leasing Policy – **(Commission District 1)**

City Staff will present an overview of the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) including its economic impact, revenue, capital improvement plan, and leasing policy.

FXE is a general aviation airport that is owned and operated by the City of Fort Lauderdale. FXE and its partners provide an array of services including:

- Four (4) Fixed-Base Operators (FBOs) that provide fueling, maintenance, aircraft hangers, and other aviation and related services to aircraft operators and their passengers;
- Twenty-four (24)-hour Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT);
- United States Customs and Border Protection facility;
- Twenty-four (24)-hour Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting services (ARFF);
- Twenty-four (24)-hour Airport Security; and
- City of Fort Lauderdale Police substation.

Airport staff oversee the administration of aviation and non-aviation land leases for properties that are within their portfolio and support the overall operations and sustainability of the Airport. Through lease revenue, fuel flowage fees, and other revenue streams, FXE is self-sustaining and uses these funds for operational costs as well as to leverage federal and state grant funds towards capital improvement projects to enhance and maintain critical airport infrastructure.

FXE ranks in the top five (5) of the busiest general aviation airports in the country with more than 190,000 annual operations, and the busiest U.S. Customs & Border Protection facility for clearing international arrivals of general aviation aircraft and passengers. According to the Florida Department of Transportation's 2022 Statewide Economic Impact Study, FXE supports 22,959 jobs, with a payroll of \$1.2 billion benefiting the local economy, and generates an economic impact of \$3.9 billion annually.

FXE is self-sustaining, and its \$13.7 million budget includes revenues from seventeen (17) aeronautical leases (\$6.1 million), twenty (20) non-aeronautical leases (\$5.9 million), and fuel flowage fees (\$1.7 million). Currently, five (5) vacant undeveloped non-aeronautical parcels are available for development at FXE, and staff is working closely with potential developers and economic development organizations to assist with marketing those properties for their highest and best use.

As part of this presentation, staff will seek City Commission feedback on three (3) key items related to property leases at FXE.

- Creation of a formal lease policy
- Initiation of a lease and rate policy
- Structure of a lease transaction fee

If the City Commission directs staff to move forward with the policy documents, staff will move forward with the drafting process that will include the Aviation Advisory Board providing a recommendation to the City Commission in advance of Commission action.

FXE's past seventy-eight (78) years is an example of exceptional airport development. From its historical, patriotic beginnings to becoming one of the country's premier general aviation facilities, FXE will continue to invest in and maintain its self-sustaining airport system to ensure it continues to meet the region's demand for air transportation. Additionally, FXE will continue to serve as an economic development engine for aviation-related business, promote opportunities for the general aviation community, and uphold its position as a valued community asset well-positioned to meet the demands of the future.

Resource Impact

No fiscal impact.

Strategic Connections

This item is a Fiscal Year 2026 Commission Priority advancing the Bolster Thriving Communities Initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing the Business Growth and Support Focus Area—Goal 6: Build a Diverse and Attractive Economy.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We are Prosperous.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – FXE Presentation

Rufus A. James, Executive Airport Director

Charter Officer: Rickelle Williams, City Manager