

ORDINANCE NO. C-25-

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, TO CREATE A DEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICT PURSUIT TO SECTION 189.02, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO BE KNOWN AS FORT LAUDERDALE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT AND PROVIDING FOR THE CODIFICATION OF THE SAME THROUGH THE AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 13 - FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, BY SPECIFICALLY CREATING ARTICLE VI. OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO BE ENTITLED THE "FORT LAUDERDALE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) DISTRICT"; PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF THE DISTRICT; ESTABLISHING BOUNDARIES COTERMINOUS WITH THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; SETTING FORTH PURPOSE, POWERS, DUTIES, AND AUTHORITY OF THE DISTRICT; PROVIDING AN EXPLANATION OF WHY THE DISTRICT IS THE BEST ALTERNATIVE; PROVIDING THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION SHALL COMPRISE THE GOVERNING BODY OF SAID DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR FISCAL MANAGEMENT OF THE DISTRICT; AUTHORIZING LEVY OF AN AD VALOREM TAX NOT TO EXCEED ONE DOLLAR PER THOUSAND DOLLARS OF NON-EXEMPT ASSESSED VALUATION; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR MODIFICATIONS THAT MAY ARISE FROM CONSIDERATION AT A PUBLIC MEETING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

---

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida ("City") is a municipal corporation of the State of Florida ("State") duly organized and operating under the Constitution and laws of the State; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VII, Section 10 of the Florida Constitution and Chapter 166, Florida Statutes and Chapter 189, Florida Statutes (2024) the City is authorized to form a dependent special district; and

CODING: Words, symbols, and letters ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words, symbols, and letters underlined are additions.

WHEREAS, at its January 21, 2025 Commission Prioritization Workshop, the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, expressed support for the creation of an Emergency Medical Services (“EMS”) special district to provide a dedicated funding source capable of addressing the growing demand for comprehensive emergency medical services Citywide; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale has determined that the creation of a special taxing district is the best alternative available for providing dedicated funding source for the delivery said emergency medical services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. RECITALS. The above recitals are hereby incorporated into this Ordinance as if restated herein.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY. Florida Statutes Chapter 189; and other applicable law, authorizes the City to adopt by ordinance the charter of the dependent special district.

SECTION 3. That Chapter 13 - “Fire Prevention and Protection” shall be amended to establish a new Article VI entitled “Fort Lauderdale Emergency Medical Services District” as set forth below:

ARTICLE VI. – FORT LAUDERDALE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT

Sec. 13-200. District created.

In order to effectuate the intent and purpose of this ordinance, which is to provide a means of delivering emergency medical services as hereinafter defined, the Fort Lauderdale Emergency Medical Services District is hereby created and established.

Sec. 13-201. Boundaries.

The boundaries of said District shall be coterminous the boundaries of the corporate limits of the City of Fort Lauderdale as they now exist or as hereafter amended.

CODING: Words, symbols, and letters ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words, symbols, and letters underlined are additions.

Sec. 13-202. Definition.

“Emergency Medical Services” means basic and advanced life support services further defined as the activities or services to prevent or treat a sudden critical illness or injury and to provide emergency medical care and prehospital emergency medical transportation to sick, injured, or otherwise incapacitated persons in this District.

Sec. 13-203. Purpose.

The purpose of the District shall be to provide, by whatever means is deemed most appropriate by the Board of Commissioners, emergency medical services within the boundaries of the District and by contract outside the boundaries of the District where such contracts are deemed by the Board of Commissioners to be in the best interest of the District.

Sec. 13-204. Powers, duties, and authority of district.

(a) General. The Fort Lauderdale Emergency Medical Services District constitutes a public body corporate and politic, exercising public powers, and such district and the governing board thereof shall have the usual powers and duties incident to such bodies, and also the following powers, in addition to all other granted in other sections of this article provided, however, that in the exercise of any of the powers and duties authorized under this article, the district may undertake only such activities as are consistent with the City of Fort Lauderdale comprehensive plan adopted by the city:

(1) To sue and be sued in the name of the district, to adopt and use a seal and authorize the use of a facsimile thereof, and to make and execute contracts and other instruments necessary or convenient to the exercise of its powers.

(2) To provide for a pension or retirement plan for its employees. In accordance with s. 215.425, Florida Statutes (2025), the board may provide for an extra compensation program, including a lump-sum bonus payment program, to reward outstanding employees whose performance exceeds standards, if the program provides that a bonus payment may not be included in an employee’s regular base rate of pay and may not be carried forward in subsequent years.

(3) To contract for the services of consultants to perform planning, engineering, legal, or other professional services.

CODING: Words, symbols, and letters ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words, symbols, and letters underlined are additions.

(4) To borrow money and accept gifts, to apply for and use grants or loans of money or other property from the United States, the state, a unit of local government, or any person for any district purposes and enter into agreements required in connection therewith, and to hold, use, sell, and dispose of such moneys or property for any district purpose in accordance with the terms of the gift, grant, loan, or agreement relating thereto.

(5) To adopt resolutions and procedures prescribing the powers, duties, and functions of the officers of the district; the conduct of the business of the district; the maintenance of records; and the form of other documents and records of the district. The board may also adopt resolutions that are necessary to conduct district business, if such resolutions do not conflict with any ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the local general purpose government within whose jurisdiction the district is located.

(6) To maintain an office at places it designates within the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida and appoint an agent of record.

(7) To acquire, by purchase, lease, gift, dedication, devise, or otherwise, real and personal property or any estate therein for any purpose authorized by this act and to trade, sell, or otherwise dispose of surplus real or personal property. The board may purchase equipment by an installment sales contract if funds are available to pay the current year's installments on the equipment and to pay the amounts due that year on all other installments and indebtedness.

(8) To hold, control, and acquire by donation or purchase any public easement, dedication to public use, platted reservation for public purposes, or reservation for those purposes authorized by this act and to use such easement, dedication, or reservation for any purpose authorized by this act consistent with applicable adopted local government comprehensive plans and land development regulations.

(9) To lease as lessor or lessee to or from any person, firm, corporation, association, or body, public or private, any facility or property of any nature for the use of the district when necessary to carry out the district's duties and authority under this act.

(10) To borrow money and issue bonds, revenue anticipation notes, or certificates payable from and secured by a pledge of funds, revenues, taxes and assessments, warrants, notes,

CODING: Words, symbols, and letters ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words, symbols, and letters underlined are additions.

or other evidence of indebtedness, and mortgage real and personal property when necessary to carry out the district's duties and authority under this act.

(11) To charge user authorized by resolution of the board, in amounts necessary to conduct district activities and services, and to enforce their receipt and collection in the manner prescribed by resolution and authorized by law.

(12) To exercise the right and power of eminent domain, pursuant to chapter 73 or chapter 74, over any property within the district, except municipal, county, state, special district, or federal property used for a public purpose, for the uses and purposes of the district relating solely to the establishment and maintenance of fire stations and fire substations, specifically including the power to take easements that serve such facilities consistent with applicable adopted local government comprehensive plans and land development regulations.

(13) To cooperate or contract with other persons or entities, including other governmental agencies, as necessary, convenient, incidental, or proper in connection with providing effective mutual aid and furthering any power, duty, or purpose authorized by this act. The district has, and the board may exercise, all powers and duties provided in s. 163.01, chapter 189, and this chapter, including such powers within or without the district's boundary, in cooperation with another governmental agency when such agency shares such powers in common with the district.

(14) To assess and impose upon real property in the district ad valorem taxes and non-ad valorem assessments as authorized by the Uniform Special District Accountability Act, chapter 189, Florida Statutes (2024), and other applicable law.

(15) To impose and foreclose non-ad valorem assessment liens as provided by the Uniform Special District Accountability Act, chapter 189, Florida Statutes (2024), or to impose, collect, and enforce non-ad valorem assessments pursuant to chapter 197.

(16) To select as a depository for its funds any qualified public depository as defined in s. 280.02, which meets all the requirements of chapter 280 and has been designated by the Chief Financial Officer as a qualified public depository, upon such terms and conditions as to the payment of interest upon the funds deposited as the board deems just and reasonable.

CODING: Words, symbols, and letters ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words, symbols, and letters underlined are additions.

(17) To provide adequate insurance on all real and personal property, equipment, employees, volunteer firefighters, and other personnel.

(18) To organize, participate in, and contribute monetarily to organizations or associations relating to the delivery of or improvement of fire control, prevention, emergency rescue services, or district administration.

(19) To coordinate activities that may be exercised by the district pursuant to this Section 13-204, when necessary, with the City of Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, the State of Florida, Federal government or any of their agencies or any other entity.

(b) Special powers. - The district shall provide for emergency medical services by establishing and maintaining or contracting for the use of EMS stations, EMS substations, or EMS components to fire stations or fire substations and acquiring and maintaining such emergency medical services equipment deemed necessary to provide emergency medical services. All construction undertaken by the District shall be in compliance with applicable state, regional, and local regulations, including adopted comprehensive plans and land development regulations. The board shall have and may exercise any or all of the following special powers relating to facilities and duties authorized by this act:

(1) Establish and maintain emergency medical response services and acquire and maintain medical, and other emergency equipment, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 401, Florida Statutes (2024), and any certificate of public convenience and necessity or its equivalent issued thereunder.

(2) Engage, whether as employees, independent contractors, or pursuant to an interlocal agreement, train, and equip such personnel, and train, coordinate, and equip such volunteer personnel, as are necessary to accomplish the duties of the district. The compensation and other conditions of employment of the officers and employees of the district shall be provided by the board.

(3) Adopt hazardous material safety plans and emergency response plans in coordination with the county emergency management agency as provided in chapter 252.

(4) Contract with the City of Fort Lauderdale, the general purpose local government, for emergency management planning and services.

CODING: Words, symbols, and letters ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words, symbols, and letters underlined are additions.

Sec. 13-205. An explanation of why the district is the best alternative.

The creation of a dependent special taxing district for emergency medical services is the best alternative available for providing dedicated funding source for the delivery said emergency medical services.

Sec. 13-206. Governing body. The membership, organization, compensation, and administrative duties of the governing body.

The Board of Commissioners of the District shall be the governing body of the District and shall exercise the powers granted to the District under this Ordinance.

- (a) The Board of Commissioners of the District shall consist of the members of the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale who shall serve ex-officio. The terms of the Board shall coincide with the terms of the City Commission.
- (b) The Mayor of the City of Fort Lauderdale shall serve as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the District. The City Manager of the City of Fort Lauderdale shall be ex-officio the Chief Executive Officer of the District. The Finance Director of the City of Fort Lauderdale shall be ex-officio the Treasurer of the District. The City Clerk of the City of Fort Lauderdale shall be ex-officio the Clerk of the District. The Clerk shall keep a permanent record book in which shall be recorded minutes of all meetings, resolutions, proceedings, and any and all official acts. Such record book shall be kept at the office of the City Clerk of the City of Fort Lauderdale.
- (c) The members of the Board shall serve without additional compensation, and unless otherwise approved by the City Commission, no reimbursement of expenses in connection with duties performed pursuant to this article shall be made. The chief executive officer, treasurer, clerk and general counsel shall receive no additional compensation for the performance of their duties to the District.
- (d) Rules of procedure for meetings of the Board of Commissioners of the District shall be as set forth in the Charter and Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale or as otherwise adopted by the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale for conduct of meetings of the City Commission.

CODING: Words, symbols, and letters ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words, symbols, and letters underlined are additions.

Sec. 13-207. The methods for financing the district.

- (a) The City Commission shall annually adopt a budget for the district in accordance with the procedures prescribed by Chapter 189, Florida Statutes, and any and all other statutes for the adoption of budgets by municipalities.
- (b) The district shall comply with applicable financial disclosure, noticing, and reporting requirements in accordance with Chapter 189, Florida Statutes, and any and all other statutes applicable to the operations of a special district.

Sec. 13-208. Taxes; non-ad valorem assessments; impact fees and user charges.—

(a) AD VALOREM TAXES.—The board may levy and assess ad valorem taxes on all taxable property in the district to construct, operate, and maintain district facilities and services, to pay the principal of, and interest on, general obligation bonds of the district, and to provide for any sinking or other funds established in connection with such bonds. An ad valorem tax levied by the board for operating purposes, exclusive of debt service on bonds, may not exceed 1.00 mills, subject to the limitations imposed by Florida Statutes and City ordinance. Nothing in this act shall require a referendum on the levy of ad valorem taxes in an amount previously authorized by special act, general law of local application, or county ordinance approved by referendum. Such tax shall be assessed, levied, and collected in the same manner as county taxes.

(b) USER CHARGES.

- (1) The board may provide a reasonable schedule of charges for special emergency services occurring in or to structures outside the district, motor vehicles, marine vessels, aircraft, or rail cars, or as a result of the operation of such motor vehicles or marine vessels, to which the district is called to render such emergency service, and may charge a fee for the services rendered in accordance with the schedule.
- (2) The board may provide a reasonable schedule of charges for responding to or assisting or mitigating emergencies that either threaten or could threaten the health and safety of persons, property, or the environment, to which the district has been called.
- (3) The district shall have a lien upon any real property, motor vehicle, marine vessel, aircraft, or rail car for any charge assessed under this subsection.

CODING: Words, symbols, and letters ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words, symbols, and letters underlined are additions.



Sec. 13-209. - Declaration of Consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

The City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida hereby finds and declares that the creation of the Fort Lauderdale Emergency Services District is consistent with the approved City of Fort Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan.

Sec. 13-210. - Fiscal Management.

- (a) The Fiscal Year of the District shall coincide with that of the City of Fort Lauderdale.
- (b) All funds of the District shall be received, held, and secured as other public funds by the appropriate fiscal officers of the City of Fort Lauderdale. The funds of the District shall be maintained under a separate account, shall be used only for the purpose herein authorized and shall be appropriated only by direction of or with the approval of the Board of Commissioners of the District.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or if any portion of this Ordinance is found for any reason to be inoperative, invalid, void or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion of the Ordinance shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of any remaining portions hereof.

SECTION 5. CODIFICATION AND SCRIVENER'S ERRORS. The City intends that this Ordinance will be made part of the Code of Ordinance; and that sections of this Ordinance can be re-numbered or re-lettered and that the word "ordinance" can be changed to "section", "article" or some other appropriate word or phrase to accomplish codification and, regardless of whether this Ordinance is ever codified, the Ordinance can be re-numbered or re-lettered and typographical errors that do not affect the intent can be corrected with the authorization of the City Manager, or his designee, without the need for a public hearing.

SECTION 6. MODIFICATIONS THAT MAY ARISE FROM CONSIDERATION AT A PUBLIC MEETING. It is the intent of the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida that the provisions of this Ordinance may be modified as a result of considerations that may arise during the public meeting. Such modifications will be incorporated into the final version.

CODING: Words, symbols, and letters ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words, symbols, and letters underlined are additions.

SECTION 7. That if any clause, section, or other part of this Ordinance shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby, but shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 9. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon final passage.

PASSED FIRST READING this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

PASSED SECOND READING this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

---

Mayor  
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

ATTEST:

---

City Clerk  
DAVID R. SOLOMAN

CODING: Words, symbols, and letters ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words, symbols, and letters underlined are additions.