



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

**#25-1113**

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

**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager

**DATE:** January 6, 2026

**TITLE:** Motion Approving Change Order No. 1 to Emergency Purchase Order No. 10157 for Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. - New Police Department Headquarters - \$321,910 - (**Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4**)

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission approve Change Order No. 1 to Emergency Purchase Order No. 10157, in substantially the form attached, in the amount of \$321,910.00 to continue the requested third-party engineering services for the New Police Department Headquarters Project with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

**Background**

On March 25, 2024, Moss & Associates (General Contractor) issued a Request for Information #435, alerting the City of a deflection issue causing a crack along the support beam discovered at the cantilevered roof slab area of the new Police Headquarters Building. A meeting was held with Building Services for immediate actions. It was determined that no additional work in the area would occur until the completion of a review of inspection reports and material testing reports with solutions to address the deflection issue.

The City subsequently engaged and onboarded Lakdas Yohalem Engineering (LYE) as a third-party structural engineer to review the condition of the building, issue an independent report on the corrective measures taken by AECOM (Architect of Record) and Thornton Tomasetti (Structural Engineer of Record (SEOR)), and provide supplemental recommendations, because a deflection of 3/16 of an inch still occurred after the improvements were implemented.

On June 28, 2024, LYE, AECOM, and Thornton Tomasetti met and came to consensus on how to address the deflection issue. It was decided that remedial actions to meet the design criteria would entail providing upturned beams at the two (2) center girders at the cantilevered portion of the roof slab and strengthening of the foundations and ground floor columns on Grid H and Grid J. This plan was discussed with the City Commission at the July 2, 2024, Commission Conference meeting (Exhibit 5 - CAM #24-0625).

On August 26, 2024, Memorandum No. 24-126 (Exhibit 6) was issued, reminding the City Commission that on May 8, 2024, an emergency purchase was approved for third-party inspection and engineering services. These services, performed by Lakdas/Yohalem Engineering Services (LYE), included structural engineering services to assess, analyze, test, and provide recommendations regarding the roof beam deflection for the New Police Headquarters project. At that time, the City Commission expressed its concerns that an additional peer review should take place, not only in the area of deflection, but of the remaining structure as well to ensure the proposed solution submitted by AECOM/Thornton Tomasetti and LYE will result in a structurally sound and safe building with no defects and maintenance issues for future use.

The City selected Wiss, Janney, Associates (WJE) as the additional third-party engineering firm pursuant to Florida Statutes Sec. 287.055(3)(a), which allows for professional services, such as engineering, to be procured in cases of a valid public emergency certified by the agency head. WJE was selected due to its extensive experience and projects related to structural issues throughout the nation, including two (2) local projects pertaining to Champlain Towers South in the Town of Surfside and the FIU Pedestrian Bridge, both located in our neighboring county, Miami-Dade. On October 9, 2024, WJE was issued Purchase Order No. 10157 in the amount of \$93,000; subsequently, a Notice to Proceed was issued on October 15, 2024, outlining two (2) phases of work. Phase 1 focused on the accuracy of the corrective design and ensuring no other structural deficiencies exist and Phase 2 focused on the remainder of the building.

On December 31, 2024, WJE issued its Phase 1 report regarding the building's structural deflection. The recommendation was to update the drawings and calculations, and other documentation should be provided for review, coordination, approval and record purposes. On April 22, 2025, WJE issued its Phase 2 draft report, which recommended a variety of rectification options that require additional coordination and testing between WJE and Thornton Tomasetti.

Based on these reports and given the City's commitment to ensuring that the corrective actions recommended by the design team were appropriate, the City requested for WJE to continue providing services related to the building beyond the Phase 1 and Phase 2 reports. These services included multiple meetings with City Commissioners, evaluations of rebuttal materials from the SEOR and AOR, Commission Conference presentations, additional engineering modeling and testing, and deeper analyses not included in the original scope.

The process to ensure the structural integrity and safety of the building has extended beyond the original contracted scope of services. Therefore, staff is now requesting additional funding to increase WJE's Emergency Purchase Order No. 10157 by \$321,910 to continue the requested third-party engineering services for the New Police Headquarters project.

### **Resource Impact**

There will be a fiscal impact on the City in the amount of \$321,910.00. Funds for this Change Order are available in the Project fund listed below:

Funds available as of 12/18/2025					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	PROJECT NAME (Program)	CHARACTER/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-352-5999-521-60- 6599-P12573	POLICE HEADQUARTER	CAPITAL OUTLAY/ CONSULTANT ENG FEES	\$161,056,576	\$6,901,329	\$321,910
TOTAL AMOUNT ►					\$321,910

### **Strategic Connections**

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Places Focus Area, Goal 5: Build a beautiful and welcoming community.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are Ready

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040* Comprehensive Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Internal Support Focus Area
- The Capital Improvements Element

Goal 2: Ensure adequate funding for infrastructure and capacity exists concurrent with development or redevelopment.

### **Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – Change Order No. 1

Exhibit 2 – WJE Change Order No.1 Proposal

Exhibit 3 – Phase 1 Report

Exhibit 4 – Phase 2 Draft Report

Exhibit 5 – CAM #24-0625

Exhibit 6 – Acting City Manager's Memorandum No. 24-126

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