



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

25-0088

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

FROM: Susan Grant, Acting City Manager

DATE: February 4, 2025

TITLE: First Reading – An Ordinance of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to create a dependent special district pursuant 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” **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Commission adopt an ordinance to create a dependent special district pursuant 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, and establishing its geographic boundaries, purpose, powers, duties and authority.

Background

During the January 21, 2025 Commission Prioritization Workshop, the City Commission expressed support for the creation of an EMS special district to provide a dedicated funding source capable of addressing the growing demand for comprehensive emergency medical services Citywide. This ordinance aims to establish the framework for levying a dedicated ad valorem millage rate as an alternative funding mechanism for EMS services.

A financial analysis and study was conducted in 2024 by Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (Exhibit 1), which confirmed the feasibility of this approach. The study determined that to be fully cost neutral initially, the revenue requirement for the district would be approximately \$46.7 million. In future years, additional revenue would be required to account for escalating costs, the expiration of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant, and the anticipated operational expenses

associated with the opening of the Heron Garage Fire Rescue Substation.

In creating a dependent special district, Florida Statute 189 requires a local government to adopt an ordinance that outlines the purpose, powers, functions, and duties of the district; the geographic boundary limitations of the district; the authority of the district; an explanation of why the district is the best alternative; the membership, organization, compensation, and administrative duties of the governing body; the applicable financial disclosure, noticing, and reporting requirements; the methods for financing the district; and a declaration that the creation of the district is consistent with the approved local government comprehensive plans.

Staff are taking the necessary steps needed to provide the Commission with the option of a dedicated millage for EMS services in FY 2026. However, the final determination of whether the City will transition to this method is contingent upon the Commission’s approval of an associated maximum millage rate as part of the TRIM (Truth in Millage) in July 2025.

If approved, this ordinance will be sent to the Broward County Property Appraiser, Broward County Tax Collector, and Florida Department of Revenue, in accordance with the Special District Accountability Program. These notifications will formalize the establishment of the new district and its authority to levy, collect, and enforce a dedicated ad valorem millage for EMS-related expenditures.

Resource Impact

In compliance with State Statute Chapter 189 and the Special District Accountability Program, the City will incur an annual fee of \$175 for the operation of the special district. Funding is available in the account listed below:

Source:

<i>Funds available as of November 7, 2024</i>					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME	CHARACTER CODE/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-001-9003-519-30-3299	Other Gen Govt - Leases, Taxes, & Pensions	Services / Materials / Other Services	\$622,237	\$193,627	\$175
TOTAL AMOUNT →					\$175

Strategic Connections

This item is a FY 2025 Commission Priority, advancing the Public Safety Initiative. This item supports the Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029 Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Safety Focus Area, Goal 1: Build a safe community that is proactive and responsive to risks.

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

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Stantec Report

Exhibit 2 – Ordinance

Prepared by: Keith Farrell, Acting Assistant Budget Manager

Acting Department Director: Yvette W. Matthews, Office of Management and Budget