



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#26-0556

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: June 2, 2026

TITLE: Motion Approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of
Fort Lauderdale and the Florida Airports Council for the Fort Lauderdale
Executive Airport to Host the Florida Airports Council 2026 Annual
Conference and Exposition - \$50,000 - **(Commission District 1)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Fort Lauderdale (City) and the Florida Airports Council for Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) to host and sponsor the Florida Airports Council (FAC) 2026 Annual Conference and Exposition to be held on Sunday, July 26 through Wednesday, July 29, 2026 at the Omni Fort Lauderdale Hotel.

Background

The Florida Airports Council (FAC) is a Florida-based not for profit corporation that holds an annual conference and exposition to provide educational opportunities to its membership. The organization began in October 1969 as the Florida Airport Managers Association (FAMA) and was formed in South Florida when a group of public airport executives realized they needed strength in numbers to face the major challenges of the aviation industry at that time and into the future.

Florida's 129 public airports are the backbone of a thriving aviation industry that generates \$336 billion in economic activity and supports 1.4 million jobs. As international gateways and local economic hubs, these airports connect Florida's communities to the world, enabling tourism, commerce, and job creation. FAC is dedicated to the growth and success of Florida's aviation industry and empowers its members to achieve excellence in airport management and operations.

The annual conference and exposition brings together airport executives, industry professionals, and corporate partners to discuss innovations, operational strategies, and regulatory updates in aviation. Attendees participate in educational sessions, networking opportunities, and an exposition showcasing the latest airport technologies and services, which helps equip members with the tools to meet today's challenges and prepare for industry evolution.

The City of Fort Lauderdale, via the Airport Director, is represented on the FAC Board of Directors, and in this role, shares responsibility with other FAC Board members for overseeing the business of the FAC as well as planning and execution of the annual conference and exposition. FAC is requesting sponsorship of up to \$50,000 to contribute to the cost of the annual conference and exposition. The sponsorship request is consistent with funding amounts provided by the City in 2019 when Fort Lauderdale hosted the fiftieth anniversary of the FAC Annual Conference and Exposition.

In return for being a host sponsor, the City of Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport will be recognized in the conference logo, the conference website, marketing emails, social media, and the conference app. Additional recognition will be provided near the registration deck, within the onsite medial slide deck displayed at the conference, and as the Monday night event sponsor. Sponsor benefits also include two (2) complementary full conference registrations, a fifty percent (50%) discount on all other full conference registrations, and benefits for conference volunteers provided by FXE as a host airport.

Staff requests approval of the MOU between the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Florida Airports Council for Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport to host the Florida Airports Council 2026 Annual Conference and Exposition.

Resource Impact

There will be a fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$50,000. Funds for this agreement in the amount of \$50,000 are available in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Budget in the account listed below.

Funds available as of May 14, 2026					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	PROJECT NAME (Program)	ACCOUNT/ACTIVITY NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-468-8501-542-40-4207	Executive Airport/ Administration	Other Operating Expenses/ Promotional Contributions	\$3,647,227	\$2,502,100	\$50,000
				TOTAL ►	\$50,000

Strategic Connections

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

- The Infrastructure and Resilience Focus Area, Goal 4: Facilitate an efficient, multimodal transportation network
- The Business Growth and Support Focus Area, Goal 6: Build a diverse and attractive economy

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

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

- The Business Development Focus Area
- The Economic Development Area
- Goal 3: Recognize and include in economic development planning the role of Port Everglades and the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and Fort Lauderdale Executive Airports.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Memorandum of Understanding

Prepared by: Rufus A. James, Director – Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport

Department Director: Rufus A. James, Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport