



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

**#26-0501**

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

**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager

**DATE:** July 2, 2026

**TITLE:** Preliminary Rate Resolution for the Fire Assessment Establishing the  
Estimated Fiscal Year 2027 Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Rate and  
Authorizing a Public Hearing on September 14, 2026 - **(Commission  
Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt a preliminary rate resolution setting the Non-Ad Valorem Fire Assessment Fee at \$444 per residential dwelling and establish the date of September 14, 2026 at 5:01 P.M. to hold a public hearing at the Fort Lauderdale Police Department Headquarters, 1300 West Broward Boulevard, Community Room No. 1004, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312 to consider public comments.

**Background**

The City Commission authorized the creation of the Fire Assessment Program to fund the fire services, facilities, and/or programs that will benefit the City in its entirety, such as facility improvements, special equipment, and cost of fire suppression operations on June 15, 1999 (Ordinance No. C-99-49). Annually, the City establishes an assessment rate to fund continued fire services and operations for the upcoming year.

The City's Fire Assessment Fee is a critical, recurring funding source that supports eligible personnel, equipment, and facility costs for fire protection services. Based upon Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget information, full cost recovery for the residential rate is \$444 per unit dwelling, an increase of \$41 from the current rate of \$403. For FY 2027, the proposed assessment is \$72,950,932, which is estimated to generate \$70,032,894 in revenue to the General Fund. Based on historical information, staff project a ninety-six percent (96%) collection rate.

The additional \$8.4 million in projected revenue will allow the City to expand critical emergency services infrastructure and address growing service demands. The Proposed Budget and Capital Improvement Plan include \$7.8 million in funding to support the construction of a new full-service Fire Rescue Station in Holiday Park, strategically located to improve response times in this high-demand area; \$1.1 million in increased vehicle

replacement costs; and \$560,000 for fire station surveillance and backup power modernization.

These capital investments, along with increased costs for wages and benefits, underscore the need to increase the fire assessment fee.

The Fire Assessment includes an exemption for service-connected honorably discharged veterans who have a total and permanent disability and an exemption for surviving spouses of veterans who died from service-connected causes while on active duty and based upon requirements outlined in the attached resolution.

The City Manager is required, per Section 197.3632 (5)(a), Florida Statutes, to certify the non-ad valorem assessment rate to the Broward County Tax Collector no later than September 15, 2026.

**Resource Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. The revenue estimate is included in the FY 2027 proposed budget.

**Strategic Connections**

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

- Guiding Principle: Fiscal Responsibility

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

**Attachments**

Exhibit 1 - FY 2027 Fire Assessment Rate Schedule

Exhibit 2 - FY 2026 Comparable City Fire Assessment Rates

Exhibit 3 - Fire Updated Assessment Program Memorandum

Exhibit 4 - Resolution

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