



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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: March 19, 2026

TITLE: First Reading – Ordinance Amending Section 13-151 – Ambulance Transport User Fees, of the Code of Ordinances to Modify Emergency Medical Service (“EMS”) Transport User Fees for Basic Life Support (“BLS”), Advanced Life Support Level 1 (“ALS1”), and Advanced Life Support Level 2 (“ALS2”) - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt an ordinance amending Section 13-151 of the Code of Ordinances to modify Emergency Medical Services (EMS) transport user fees for Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Life Support Level 1 (ALS1), Advanced Life Support Level 2 (ALS2), and per-mile charges, effective October 1, 2026.

Background

The City of Fort Lauderdale provides emergency medical transport services through its Fire Rescue Department. The fees charged for EMS transport are evaluated periodically to ensure alignment with operational costs and regional benchmarks. The current EMS transport fees were last increased in 2017 and have remained unchanged since that time. The proposed adjustments to the EMS transport fee structure will position the City to be in line with other municipalities in Broward County. The recommended changes are based on a ten percent (10%) increase as described in the Fee Analysis (Exhibit 1) and outlined below.

Charge Type	Fort Lauderdale Current Rate	FY 2026 Fort Lauderdale Proposed Rate
BLS	\$950.00	\$1,045.00
ALS1	\$950.00	\$1,045.00
ALS2	\$1,000.00	\$1,100.00
Mileage	\$13.00	\$14.30

Due to the nature of EMS revenue collections, several considerations affect how much additional revenue can be collected from the proposed fee increase.

- Approximately 47% of all EMS transports are categorized as Commercial and Self-Pay and that sector will be the only ones impacted by this increase.
- The remaining 53% are covered by Medicare and Medicaid, which are reimbursed based on federal or state-mandated rates and would be unaffected by the proposed fee changes.
- The collection rate for Commercial and Self-Pay accounts is markedly lower compared to that of insured patients.
- The City anticipates retaining approximately 90% of total EMS revenue after accounting for refunds and contractual payments.

The recommended rate adjustments are designed to progressively align the City of Fort Lauderdale’s EMS charges with regional benchmarks, enhance cost recovery, and support the long-term sustainability of service delivery.

Resource Impact

If approved, the ten percent (10%) EMS Transport fee adjustment is projected to generate approximately \$300,000 in additional revenue annually. The revenue would be generated in Fiscal Year 2027.

Strategic Connections

This item is a 2026 Commission Priority, advancing the Public Safety initiatives.

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

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

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

Attachments

- Exhibit 1 – Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue Fee Analysis
- Exhibit 2 – Broward County EMS Transportation Rates
- Exhibit 3 – Business Impact Estimate
- Exhibit 4 – Ordinance

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