



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

#26-0366

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: April 21, 2026

TITLE: Motion Authorizing Settlement of Workers' Compensation Claims for
Martha Massarelli v. City of Fort Lauderdale, Case Numbers 24-011149IF
and 24-011150IF – \$275,000 – **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve, as provided for by Sec. 2-151, Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the settlement of workers' compensation claims for *Martha Massarelli v. City of Fort Lauderdale*, Case Numbers 24-011149IF and 24-011150IF, by paying the amount of \$275,000.

Background

Martha Massarelli, a retired Fire Captain with the Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue Department, filed workers' compensation claims for injuries that occurred on August 31, 2020, and June 08, 2023, which were accepted as compensable under Chapter 440, Florida Statutes.

Pursuant to Sec. 2-151, Code of Ordinances, the claims were reviewed, and a settlement was recommended by the City's Risk Management Committee on December 23, 2025. Staff and defense counsel's evaluation of the potential financial exposure to the City determined that a settlement would provide the most cost-effective outcome. Through negotiations, a settlement was reached in the amount of \$275,000, subject to the approval of the City Commission.

Resource Impact

If approved, there will be a fiscal impact to the City in the amount of \$275,000 which is available in the City's self-insurance fund account listed below.

Funds available as of March 24, 2026

ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME (Program)	CHARACTER/ACCOUNT NAME	AMOUNT
10-544-9060-519-50-5125	Self-Insurance Claims – Workers Comp	Non-Operating Expenses / Work Comp Claims	\$275,000
TOTAL AMOUNT ►			\$275,000

Strategic Connections

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

- Guiding Principles, Fiscal Responsibility

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

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

- The Internal Support Focus Area
- Implementation Element
- Goal 1: The Fort Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan shall accomplish the City’s Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan regarding the City’s future growth and the six Cylinders of Excellence and shall be the City’s primary policy document to guide all of its activities and development.

Prepared by: Matthew Heminger, Claims Analyst, Human Resources
Guy Hine, Risk Manager, Human Resources

Department Director: Jerome Post, Human Resources