



**Fire Rescue Advisory Committee
City of Fort Lauderdale
Fire Station #2
528 NW 2 Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311**

May 11, 2026, 1:00 PM

Committee Members	Attendance	Present	Cumulative Attendance As of 01/12/26 Absent
William Brown, Chair	P	3	1
Irene Costa	P	4	0
Frederick Nesbitt	P	4	0
Dennis Ulmer, Vice Chair	P	4	0

City Staff

Robert Bacic, Deputy Fire Chief (Liaison)
Jason Miller, Assistant Chief, Fire Marshal
Mike Owen, Assistant Fire Chief
Frank Guzman, Public Information Officer
Chris Partridge, EMS Chief

Others

Keith Costa, Union President
Karen Cruitt, Prototype Inc.

Communication to the City Commission

Motion by Vice Chair Ulmer, seconded by Mr. Nesbitt, that the Fire Rescue Advisory Committee recommend that the City Commission continue being open to exploring potential sites for a dedicated public safety training facility. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brown at 1:00 PM. Roll was called, and a quorum was determined to be present.



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ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brown at 1:00 PM. Roll was called, and a quorum was determined to be present.

Chair Brown invited Chief Partridge to speak then to accommodate his schedule.

Chief Partridge provided an update on key EMS developments, this included:

- Whole Blood. Since March 10, 2026, through a partnership with Broward Health, whole blood had been successfully administered to 12 persons; all had arrived alive at the ER; the four that passed away within the first 24 hours of transport were considered trauma codes so did not have a strong probability of survival. He highlighted that the improved survivability rates were the result of giving blood right away; it saved lives and significantly reduced the amount of transfused blood needed in the hospital. Members were reminded that the equipment was funded by a State grant; the O-positive blood supply is replenished every 14 days by Broward Health. Chief Partridge clarified that the supply is strategically placed in coolers onboard all three Battalion Chief vehicles; additional distribution is through Broward County Air Rescue 85; Sunrise EMS 39; Dania EMS 17; and Weston EMS 55. In response to an inquiry from Chair Brown regarding Oakland Park, Chief Partridge clarified that his team would only respond with blood within the City; exceptions would be made if a Fort Lauderdale team were scene outside of that boundary.
- Return to Spontaneous Circulation. The Chief outlined new protocols that were implemented at the beginning of the year. ROSC rates increased to an average of 40%, as compared to the previous range between 17% and a high of 35%.
- Termination of Resuscitation. The new protocol was being implemented after 20 minutes if crews were unable to successfully resuscitate cardiac arrest patients, or where patients are deemed to be non-viable on scene.

Chair Brown raised the issue of CPR and AED education in high schools. Chief Bacic outlined the programs being provided by the School Board, and noted the Department did not have sufficient resources for community education.

Mr. Nesbitt noted that the AED-CPR training program at Galt Mile had been successful and would end the following day. Enhancements to the program were discussed and Narcan would be made available to those buildings later that week. Chief Partridge highlighted that the Department was focused on survivability in cases with Narcan; they had seen a 100% survival rate on the beach during Spring Break.

Mr. Nesbitt cited an incident in which a security guard did not know what to do during a recent EMS call. Chief Partridge stated his team would provide a checklist that was in development.

Chair Brown noted that Fort Lauderdale should be leading Broward County in EMS, and encouraged Chief Partridge to return if there was any opportunity for the Committee to champion programs in the future.

Chair Brown noted that the Retirement Ceremony for Deputy Fire Chief Chantal Botting was that day, and wished her the best of luck on behalf of the Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 9, 2026 Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Nesbitt, seconded by Ms. Costa, to approve the March 9, 2026 minutes as distributed. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- Discussion in the areas of Planning for Future Infrastructure, Enhancing Community Engagement, Strengthening Community Relations, Assessing and Recommending Community Needs.

Assistant Fire Chief Owen provided the following fire station updates:

- FS13 and FS88. The contract was voted in by the City Commission at their last Tuesday meeting. Staff was working on the Notice to Proceed. He clarified that FS88 would be a two-bay station. Both stations would be built concurrently by CORE Construction. Chief Bacic clarified that all stations are dual purpose, with both Fire and EMS disciplines.

In response to an inquiry from Chair Brown regarding the potential for FDOT construction delays with the Sunrise bridge, Chief Owen stated that he had already discussed the need for a very robust Plan B and Plan C with CORE given the proximity of the Galleria project.

Chief Owen continued with the fire station updates:

- FS117. The project was going through permitting. Sewer, lift station and fire station items were among the pending issues.
- FS118. This station was moving very quickly and already ahead of FS117. He clarified that the estimated timeline was 13 months from the Notice to Proceed with construction; he believed it would be done one to two months after the Holiday Park parking garage. Chair Brown inquired whether the Department had sufficient resources in the interim; Chief Owen believed there were despite a current shortage of bunk rooms; the station was expected to be completed by Summer 2028. After Chair Brown noted there had been a small outcry regarding placement at the park, the many benefits of that needed resource was discussed. Chief Owen indicated that he would attend neighborhood association meetings as needed.
- Ocean Rescue Headquarters. This facility was expected to be turned over by July 1, 2026.
- Fire and Police Training Facility. The Department was still seeking a re-purposed campus from Broward Schools, and assessing the actual amount of land needed; the available space at Seagull School was not expected to work. Funding, and the need to support a training facility were discussed.

Motion by Vice Chair Ulmer, seconded by Mr. Nesbitt, that the Fire Rescue Advisory Committee recommend that the City Commission continue being open to exploring potential sites for a dedicated public safety training facility. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion followed regarding plans for the land occupied by the former FS46. Chief Bacic believed there would be a need for another station in that area in seven to ten years based on the anticipated growth.

Mr. Guzman provided a recap of recent social media highlights:

- The cat rescue on Andrews Avenue went viral with half a million views; it was also picked up by Channel 7.
- The video that highlighted a police canine release from the hospital generated 120,000 views.
- The clip of Fire Explorer Darius Brown getting a car from the Union garnered around

44,000 views.

- For the period March 9, 2026 through the prior week, there were 1.6 million impressions across all platforms; 146 posts were made; and the Department gained 3,000 followers.
- The media event planned for the following week on boating safety would include a patient reunion with the two boys and their mother that were badly burnt in the boat explosion involving 11 patients.
- Medals Day was scheduled for May 30, 2026. Plans included patient reunifications, videos of two recent fires, and of the woman rescued from a canal by Mr. Keith Costa while off duty in Pompano Beach.

Mr. Guzman was commended for his work over the past two years.

Chief Bacic advised that a new-hire recruiting class was scheduled to begin in June 2026; 20 new fire fighters were expected to participate. Discussion ensued on filling the staffing gaps that were anticipated due to the high number of retirements in the next several years, and moves to other municipalities such as Deerfield Beach.

Assistant Chief Jason Miller highlighted that Prevention recently had two positions opened for the first time; there were three candidates in the system. He noted that his team was monitoring BDA compliance progress; a list of seven steps to demonstrate progress towards compliance for sprinkler retrofit buildings and BDA was being distributed. It was clarified that enforcement was the responsibility of the Fire Department.

Chief Miller agreed to provide a recap at the next meeting of the number of fire code cases that had been sent to the Special Magistrate, and the number that went to the Lien Amnesty Program. Later in the meeting, it was agreed that that information should be emailed to members.

Chief Owen stated that the Emergency Operations Center was the sole recipient through the State of Florida for a FEMA Grant. A firm had been selected the week prior to design the building at FXE. Staff was working to finalize the contract, and negotiate an extension beyond the July 2026 deadline.

NEW BUSINESS -

o Summer schedule discussion

Chief Miller was asked to provide the statistics that were requested earlier in the meeting via email. Chair Brown stated that he would ask the OMB to provide a copy of the budget decision packet for the Fire Department for distribution to Members.

Motion by Mr. Nesbitt, seconded by Vice Chair Ulmer, that the Fire Rescue Advisory Committee does not meet in June, July, and August 2026; instead, it would be subject to a call for a meeting by the Chair if an issue arises that needed to be considered. The motion passed unanimously in a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.