



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 25-246

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: December 2, 2025
**SUBJECT: Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport Unleaded Aviation Fuel FY2026
Quarterly Update #1**

On July 2, 2024, the Fort Lauderdale City Commission adopted Resolution No. 24-128 directing the City Manager to implement a program to encourage the sale of unleaded aviation fuel at the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE), reduce lead emissions at FXE, offer incentives to encourage the transition of all general aviation piston-engine aircraft to unleaded aviation fuel by the end of 2030, and apply for grants from the State of Florida or the Federal government to assist with the implementation of the program.

Program Overview & Updates

In April 2025, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) established Grant Assurance 40 (Access to Leaded Aviation Fuel) pursuant to the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024. This assurance prohibits federally funded airports from restricting the sale of 100-octane low-lead (100LL) fuel if it was available at the airport during 2022. Grant Assurance 40 will remain in effect until either an FAA-approved, widely available unleaded alternative fuel meets specified criteria or until December 31, 2030.

Currently, three (3) of the 129 airports in the state of Florida offer GAMI 100-octane unleaded (G100UL) or Swift 94-octane unleaded (UL94) aviation fuel, which are not interchangeable. Despite the efforts of the three (3) airports, the demand for unleaded fuel by aircraft operators remained minimal. Although Swift UL94 is available and approved for many aircrafts, operators have expressed concerns. These include limited engine compatibility, particularly the risk of detonation in higher-performance engines, as well as reduced performance margins for certain aircraft. Operators have also noted challenges related to limited nationwide availability, the fact that UL94 is not interchangeable with other unleaded fuels, and potential cost differences, as UL94 can be more expensive. Additionally, operators have raised questions about possible mechanical impacts and the overall uncertainty surrounding the long-term transition to unleaded aviation fuels.

GAMI 100UL continues to focus on developing a fuel solution that can be safely used across the entire piston-engine fleet. As of May 2025, the FAA has confirmed that no

currently available unleaded fuel meets the legislative criteria established in Section 770 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 for a complete replacement of leaded aviation gasoline (avgas); as a result, Grant Assurance 40 remains in effect.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is facilitating the transition by communicating the benefits of unleaded fuel to pilots and assisting fuel providers in coordinating with fuel producers and distributors. The FAA is funding research to evaluate unleaded fuel options; however, it is not providing grant funding to airports to incentivize or encourage the transition to unleaded fuel.

The City through FXE is dedicated to promoting environmental stewardship and driving innovation in aviation. On September 4, 2025, FXE launched the FXE Eliminate Aviation Gasoline Lead Emissions Program (EAGLE) in support of this industry-wide effort to promote the use of unleaded aviation fuels. The program is designed to educate and encourage pilots and aircraft owners to transition to unleaded aviation fuel options, supporting a cleaner and more sustainable future for general aviation. To further this objective, FXE has implemented the following educational outreach efforts and pilot resources.

Educational Outreach and Pilot Resources

1. Resource Webpage

FXE has developed a dedicated resource webpage providing information on approved unleaded fuels, including UL94 and G100UL, as availability continues to expand. In September 2025, Swift 100-octane unleaded (Swift 100R) became the most recent fuel to receive approval. Pilots and aircraft operators also have access to information regarding Supplemental Type Certificates (STCs) and Approved Model Lists (AMLs), which are required for operating aircraft with unleaded fuels. The site also provides information on workshops, forums, and other fuel-related updates at FXE.

Webpage: <https://www.flyfxe.com/updates/fxe-eagle>

2. Pilot and Operator Education

On August 7, FXE hosted the annual FAA Runway Safety Action Team Meeting and briefed the aviation community, including FXE pilots, fixed-based operators (FBOs), tenant flight schools, the FAA, air traffic control, and other stakeholders, about the EAGLE initiative and the pending launch of the FXE EAGLE program to support Airport operators. On September 7, 2025, the FXE EAGLE Program was launched at the Annual Pilot Forum.

On December 4, 2025, Avfuel Corporation (Avfuel) will present to the City of Fort Lauderdale's Aviation Advisory Board, FXE's FBOs, tenants, and stakeholders. The presentation will address common questions and concerns related to fuel performance, aircraft compatibility, and the transition process. Avfuel is a global supplier of aviation fuel and services. Avfuel supports airports, FBOs, and aircraft

operators by helping expand awareness and availability of approved unleaded fuel options, including UL94 and the emerging G100UL. The company collaborates closely with fuel producers, regulatory partners, and the FAA's EAGLE initiative to promote the adoption of unleaded aviation gasoline throughout the general aviation community.

3. Aircraft Owner Survey

The City of Fort Lauderdale is working to encourage the sale of unleaded aviation fuel and surveyed the aviation fuel providers and aircraft owners who operate at FXE in Quarter 1 of Fiscal Year 2024-2025. The survey results (attached) showed that twenty-five percent (25%) of aircraft operators at FXE are willing to transition to unleaded fuel. The survey results also highlighted the following key areas of concern for respondents: cost-effectiveness (60%), performance and reliability of Swift UL94 fuel (50%), engine compatibility (40%), regulatory compliance and approvals (30%), and availability of UL94 fuel at local airports (20%). At the time the survey was administered, no operators had transitioned to UL94. FXE will administer a second survey in December 2025 to assess operator progress and interest. City staff will continue outreach by phone and in-person visits to encourage participation.

FXE encourages all pilots and aircraft owners to explore the benefits of transitioning to unleaded fuel and is committed to providing the necessary resources and support to ensure this transition is a success, thereby contributing to a more sustainable future for general aviation. The next quarterly update is anticipated to be provided in February 2026.

For additional information, please contact Rufus A. James, Director of Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, at rjames@fortlauderdale.gov or (954) 828-4968.

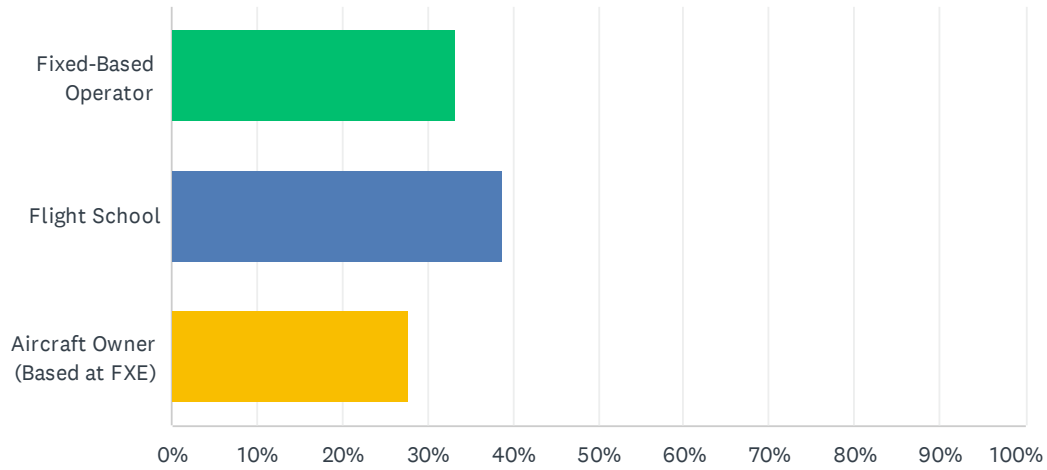
Attachment:

1. FXE Fuel Survey Results

c: D'Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Manager's Office
Department Directors

Q1 Select your business type (select one)

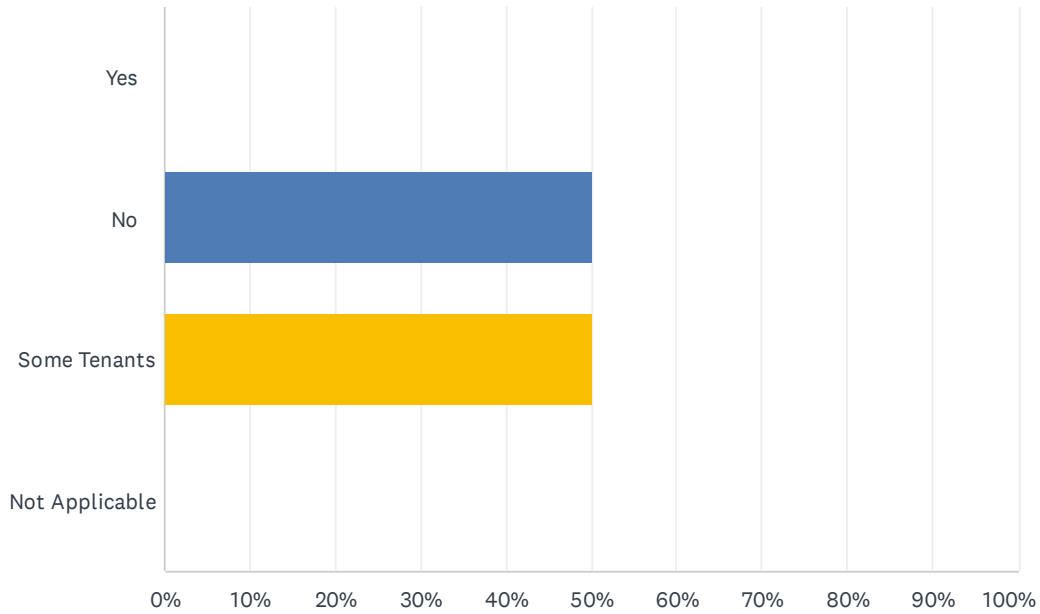
Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Fixed-Based Operator	33.33% 6
Flight School	38.89% 7
Aircraft Owner (Based at FXE)	27.78% 5
TOTAL	18

Q2 Can your tenants aircraft utilize UL94 fuel?

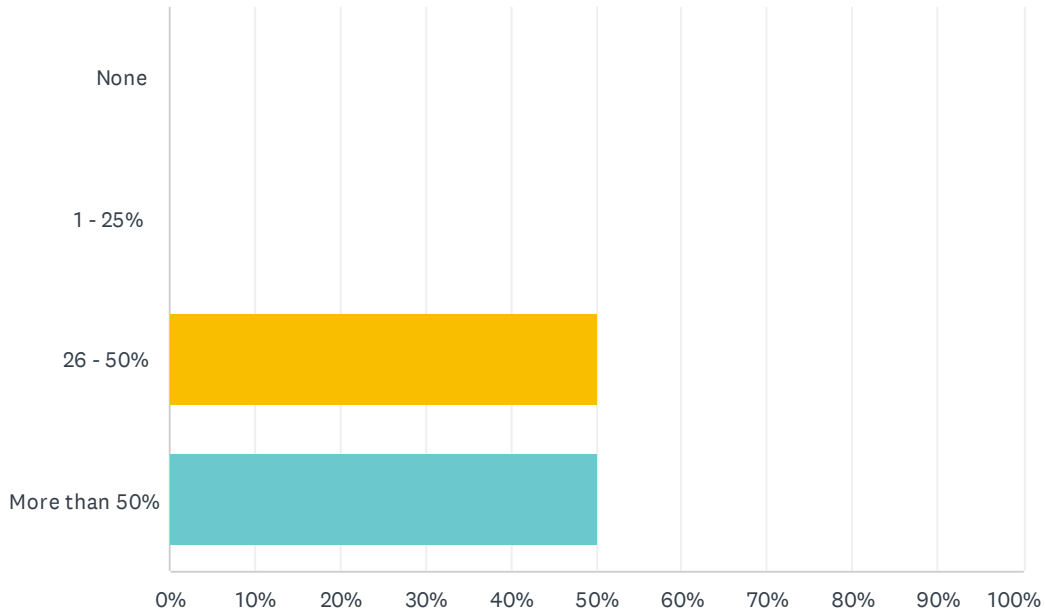
Answered: 4 Skipped: 14



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	0.00% 0
No	50.00% 2
Some Tenants	50.00% 2
Not Applicable	0.00% 0
TOTAL	4

Q3 What percentage of your tenants can utilize UL94?

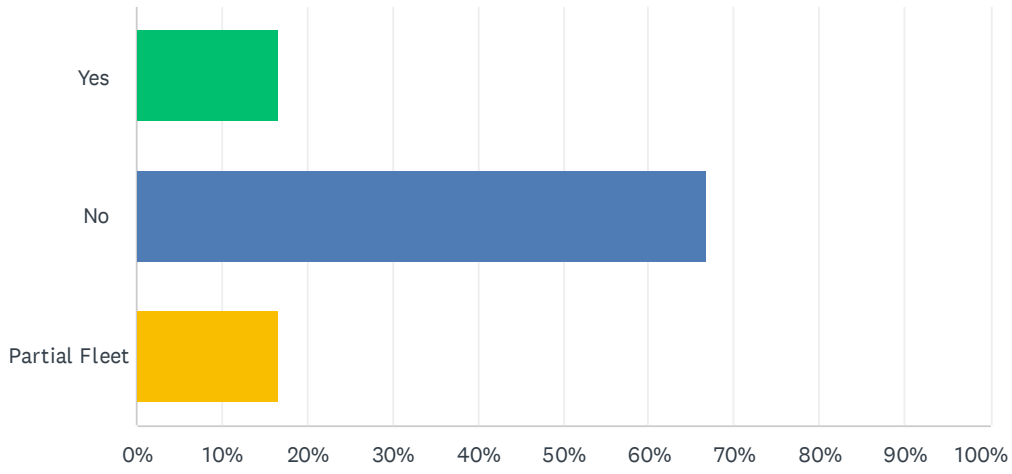
Answered: 2 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None	0.00%	0
1 - 25%	0.00%	0
26 - 50%	50.00%	1
More than 50%	50.00%	1
TOTAL		2

Q4 Can your aircraft utilize UL94 fuel?

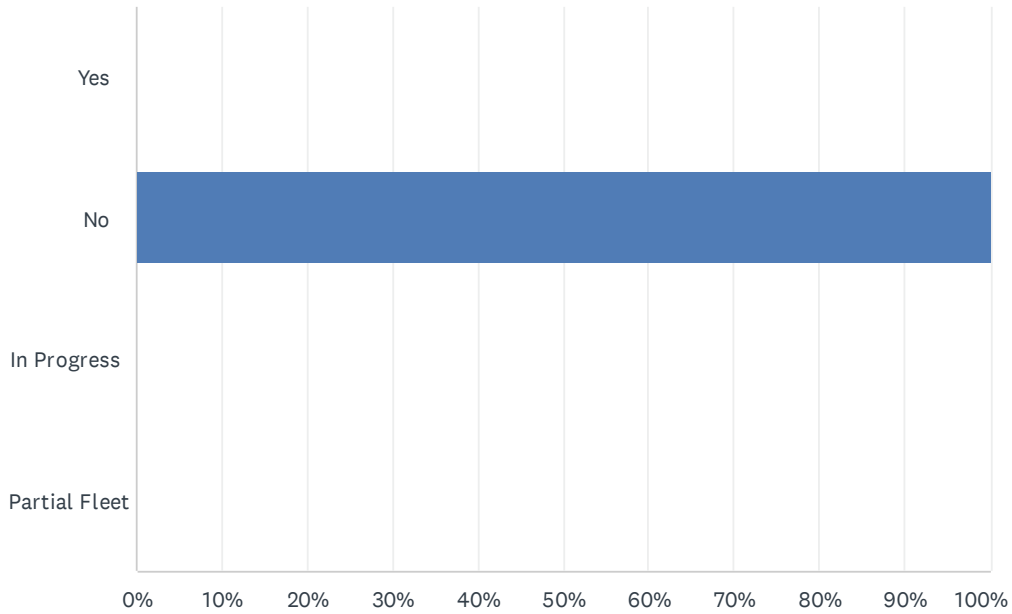
Answered: 12 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	16.67% 2
No	66.67% 8
Partial Fleet	16.67% 2
TOTAL	12

Q5 Did you switch from Avgas 100LL to UL94?

Answered: 4 Skipped: 14



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	0.00% 0
No	100.00% 4
In Progress	0.00% 0
Partial Fleet	0.00% 0
TOTAL	4

Q6 What challenges did you encounter in transitioning to UL94?

Answered: 0 Skipped: 18

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Challenge 1	0.00% 0
Challenge 2	0.00% 0
Challenge 3	0.00% 0

Q7 Have you experienced any aircraft performance or maintenance requirements changes with UL94?

Answered: 0 Skipped: 18

 No matching responses.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	0.00% 0
No	0.00% 0
TOTAL	0

Q8 Please specify the aircraft performance or maintenance requirements changes.

Answered: 0 Skipped: 18

Q9 What factors influenced your decision to change from Avgas 100LL to UL94?

Answered: 0 Skipped: 18

 No matching responses.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Cost-effectiveness	0.00%	0
Environmental considerations	0.00%	0
Performance and reliability of UL94	0.00%	0
Availability of UL94 fuel at local airports	0.00%	0
Regulatory compliance and approvals	0.00%	0
Concerns about engine compatibility	0.00%	0
Recommendations from aviation authorities or peers	0.00%	0
Client request	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 0		

Q10 How would you describe the financial impact of the change?

Answered: 0 Skipped: 18

 No matching responses.

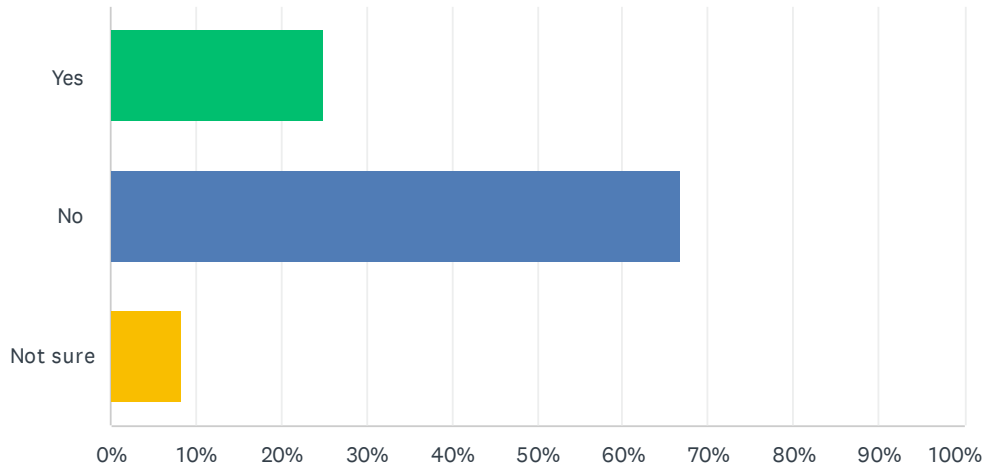
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Low (No adverse effect on operational costs)	0.00%	0
Medium (Somewhat costly)	0.00%	0
High (Very expensive)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		0

Q11 Please share the advantages and disadvantages you (and your tenants, if applicable) have encountered with UL94.

Answered: 0 Skipped: 18

Q12 Would you consider transitioning to UL94 if available at FXE?

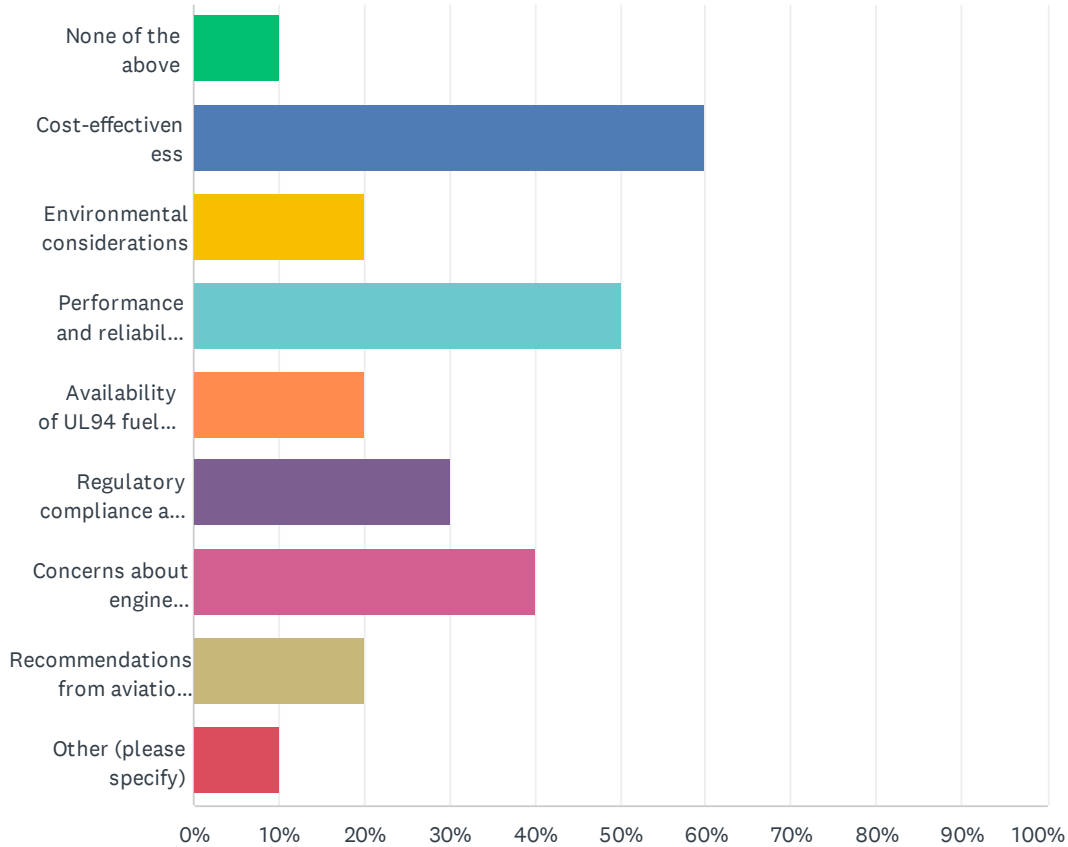
Answered: 12 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	25.00% 3
No	66.67% 8
Not sure	8.33% 1
TOTAL	12

Q13 What factors would influence your decision to transition from Avgas 100LL to UL94?

Answered: 10 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	10.00%	1
Cost-effectiveness	60.00%	6
Environmental considerations	20.00%	2
Performance and reliability of UL94	50.00%	5
Availability of UL94 fuel at local airports	20.00%	2
Regulatory compliance and approvals	30.00%	3
Concerns about engine compatibility	40.00%	4
Recommendations from aviation authorities or peers	20.00%	2
Other (please specify)	10.00%	1
Total Respondents: 10		