



**Fire Rescue Advisory Committee
City of Fort Lauderdale
September 8, 2025, 1:00 P.M.
Fire Station #2
528 NW 2 Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311**

Committee Members	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance 1/20/25-12/2026*	
		Present	Absent
William Brown, Chair	P	5	1
Dr. Amanda Chalfant (arr. 1:02pm)	P	5	1
Frederick Nesbitt	P	6	0
Dennis Ulmer, Vice Chair	P	6	0

** Cumulative Attendance reflects meeting participation as of January 2025
(as directed by the Office of the City Attorney)*

City Staff

Stephen Gollan, Fire Chief
Frank Guzman, Public Information Officer
Jason Miller, Fire Marshal
Mike Owen, Assistant Fire Chief
Garrett Pingol, Deputy Fire Chief

Others

Keith Costa, Union President
Carlos Lang
Karen Cruitt, Prototype Inc.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 9, 2025

Motion made by Mr. Nesbitt, seconded by Vice Chair Ulmer, to approve the June 9, 2025 minutes as distributed. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Planning for Future Infrastructure**

Assistant Fire Chief Owen reported there was a fairly good response to the Request for Qualifications phase of procurement for the FS13 and EMS88 projects; he anticipated that those projects would be awarded by the first or second quarter. Chief Owen clarified that applicants would know what funds are budgeted; internal estimated costs would not be shared.

Chair Brown shared that he had been asked about the cost to maintain the FS13 building which is currently being used by Ocean Rescue; it was noted that they are not occupying 100% of that space. Deputy Fire Chief Pingol indicated that the cost is minor for the office space being used on the West side of that building; no renovations had been necessary. Chief Owen added that the majority of the issues had been with the larger East side of the facility, which housed the living quarters and kitchen area. It was noted that FS13 was the last of the bond-funded projects; #88 was not one of them.

Chief Owen clarified that the increased estimated cost for FS13 included inflation which would be larger with four bays, and built on swampland. The designers were able to keep costs down by limiting the structure to one story.

Chief Owen stated that ground had been broken for the new Ocean Rescue headquarters at the Hall of Fame.

Chief Owen advised that they are working through lift station issues for the fire rescue facility planned in the new parking garage which is being built; they are expected to go for permits soon.

Fire Chief Gollan noted that they have not yet staffed for Station 117, which will be a brand new engine company and rescue; he anticipated it being at least two years away, and will impact the 2028 budget.

Chief Gollan acknowledged a need for stations in the Holiday Park and Flagler Village areas due to increased density; both P3s that had been presented included a fire station. Chair Brown recommended planning for a public relations campaign, especially for the Holiday Park parking garage, to educate the public on the need for funding the station well in advance of the 2028-2029 budget year.

Chief Gollan expressed appreciation for the work being done by Committee and provided a Department update which included the following:

- The Department is actively planning for the new activations and anticipated growth, including the Searstown site, the Flagler and 13 Street areas. He highlighted the areas covered by FS3 and FS8; the anticipated FS117 coverage area; and that they are now focused on Flagler Village.

- The new apparatus that is being delivered includes a new ARC truck; new hazmat truck; additional rescues that will go into service in the next couple of months; and three engines are expected by early next year.
- A new training class will start on October 13, 2025, The start date was strategically set so graduates would be ready by the holiday period when overtime peaks. The City Manager allowed utilization of some of the overtime savings for the purchase of needed items; new polo-shirt uniforms will be implemented across the entire organization so Staff will be more easily identifiable and with a more professional appearance.
- The Department is finalizing contract negotiations with Wilton Manors to continue providing service. They have been asked to provide a proposal to Lauderdale by the Sea, and anticipate moving both to the Commission by November 1, 2025.
- In response to a question from Chair Brown, Chief Gollan clarified that the old ARC truck would go to auction; funds from that sale would go back into the Enterprise Fund.
- A grant was approved at the last Commission meeting to purchase equipment for whole blood. They are in active negotiations with Broward Health for an MOU for the initial purchase and a whole blood exchange program.
- The Department is looking at administration of antibiotics in the field as a means to decrease mortality in septic patients.

Chair Brown raised the issue of online comments by those in the community that do not appear to understand how Fire Rescue operates; he recommended the use of social media to educate the public. Chief Gollan commended the work being done in that space by Frank Guzman, and acknowledged that even medical professionals may not fully grasp what happens on rescue trucks; he was hesitant to push information on new developments ahead of a final vote or approval of the Commission.

Mr. Nesbitt suggested another way to reach people could be a half-hour Zoom meeting by Commission district to inform about upcoming projects and stress the importance of Fire Rescue; he envisioned HOAs playing a role in disseminating those videos. Chief Gollan highlighted that the Department is utilizing more media outlets daily than ever before; they welcome the opportunity to speak at HOA meetings or other civic events; and they see a better return on investment from controlled messaging.

○ **Enhancing Community Engagement**

Chief Owen highlighted statistics from the last 90 days which were compiled by Mr. Guzman: 178 posts across 3 platforms generated 733,602 views. There are approximately 54K followers on those channels combined.

The benefits of sharing positive stories was discussed and noted to provide lasting impact. Mr. Guzman provided insight on how he maximizes exposure using posts on Instagram and Facebook.

Chair Brown noted that the August 2025 FLFR At Work statistics indicated that Rescue 2 was the busiest with 352 calls that month. Discussion ensued on workload, utilization, and demand trends in the area; Chief Gollan highlighted that funding was key.

The cost of apparatus and manufacturing time was also discussed. Chief Gollan clarified that leasing was not an option because of the unique equipment required to service this City; at least a two-stage pump is needed to adequately service high rises and many cannot be retrofitted. Chair Brown suggested it may be worthwhile to conduct a blitz on the cost of apparatus, including turn out gear, as a proactive means to educate the public on those costs.

Chief Owen provided an update on plans for a training facility and discussions with the School Board. Pine Ridge School on Davie Boulevard just west of U.S. 441 had been identified the site that would best meet the needs for a joint Police and Fire training facility. Chief Gollan believed that a public safety facility would be beneficial for that area; messaging would be appropriate only when plans are 'fully baked.' Chief Gollan also envisioned potential opportunities for the marine industry and the Explorer youth program. Chief Pingol added that the Department foresees an interdepartmental and regional partnership training facility, with simulation labs, indoor and outdoor training spaces. Cost benefits were discussed and included the elimination of current recurring outsourcing costs.

In response to a question from Chair Brown, Chief Gollan clarified that high school fire academies are operated under the Broward County School Board and include an EMT program for seniors at Fort Lauderdale High School. Fire components are offered at the Broward Fire Academy located in Davie.

- **Strengthening Community Relations**
- **Assessing and Recommending Community Needs**

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Brown encouraged those present to attend the September 11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Fort Lauderdale Fire and Safety Museum.

Data was provided by Chief Owens on cardiac arrests by Planning Zone (station area), and Commission District for the 2025 Fiscal Year to date; this information was reviewed

and discussed. It was noted that cost recovery from recurring, non-emergent calls from assisted living facilities will be evaluated as a means to offset some of the tax burden on the community.

Chief Gollan shared that the Department is gearing up for the Boat Show which will start loading shortly.

Chair Brown recommended that an invitation be sent to the Chair of the Marine Advisory Board as a step towards aligning marine rescue resources. Chief Gollan was in favor; Chief Owen will work with Chief Bacic to extend an invitation. That item will be added as an agenda item for the next meeting..

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.