



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUSINESS PLAN

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Approved By

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Director

A handwritten date '3/13/21' in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Date

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1. Organizational Chart

Fire Rescue Department

FY 2026 Adopted Budget Organizational Chart

Total FTEs - 548*

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF - 101

Chief - Fire Rescue	1
Deputy Fire Rescue Chief	3
Fire Marshal	1
Assistant Fire Rescue Chief	3
Battalion Chief	3
Fire Captain (637)	4
Fire Safety Captain	6
Fire Lieutenant (667)	2
Program Manager II	1
Community Health Coordinator	1
Administrative Aide	3
Administrative Assistant	3
Administrative Supervisor	1
Beach Lifeguard	36
Beach Patrol Lieutenant	8
Billing Specialist	1
Fire Equipment Aide	1
Fire Inspector I (641)	5
Fire Inspector II (642)	5
Fire Logistics Specialist	1
Fire Logistics Supervisor	1
Ocean Rescue Chief	1
Paramedic/Firefighter (640)	1
Public Safety Administrator	1
Senior Accounting Clerk	1
Senior Administrative Assistant	4
Senior Assistant to the Director	1
Senior Financial Administrator	1
Senior Management Analyst	1

FIRE RESCUE - 447

Assistant Fire Rescue Chief	3
Assistant Fire Marshal	1
Battalion Chief	15
Fire Captain (632)	77
Fire Captain (637)	1
Fire Lieutenant (666)	32
Fire Lieutenant (667)	1
Driver-Engineer (631)	77
Firefighter (630)	39
Firefighter (635)	18
Paramedic/Firefighter (640)	167
Paramedic/Firefighter (646)	16

The positions included in this chart are reflected of the FY 2026 Adopted Budget; however, reporting roles may vary based on operational needs.

2. Department Overview

Fire Rescue Department Description

Since 1912, Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue has been dedicated to saving life and property, providing fire prevention, preparedness, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue preserves life and property with an exceptional response to calls for emergency assistance within its jurisdiction and partners with neighboring agencies, as part of Broward County's Fastest Unit Response (FUR) program. Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue engages with the City's community and operates within the highest accreditation standards. The Department holds several accreditations, including the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS), Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP), and Insurance Services Office (ISO).

Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue promotes public safety by educating and engaging the communities of Fort Lauderdale, Wilton Manors, and the Village of Lazy Lake. The dedication of firefighters and paramedics to fire rescue and emergency services supports an efficient response approach to neighbors, property owners, businesses, and visitors. Fire Rescue operates 12 fire stations and responds to over 54,000 calls annually. Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue continues to be one of the busiest fire departments within Broward County.

Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue trains, certifies, and deploys the following Special Operations teams: Hazardous Materials (HazMat), Technical Rescue (TRT), Marine Rescue, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Medics, and Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF). The Special Operations teams are geared toward incidents requiring a unique skill set and certifications across the City.

The Department has 548 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) and a budget of \$130,747,166.

Office of the Chief Description

The Office of the Chief encompasses the administrative personnel in the Department, including all sworn non-operations staff, Ocean Rescue, Accreditation, Fire Logistics, Fire Training, Emergency Management, Fire Prevention, and Administrative Support teams. This Division supports Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue with administrative decision-making, policies, procedures, payroll and timekeeping, data collection, data analysis, community engagement, and risk reduction.

The Division has 101 FTEs and a budget of \$23,530,610.

Fire Rescue Description

Operations staff are actively deployed field personnel ranging from the rank of Assistant Chief to Firefighter/Paramedic. Operations staff are the front-line members who ride on each emergency unit and rotate on a three-day shift cycle of 24 hours, 365 days per year.

The Division has 447 FTEs and a budget of \$107,216,556 which includes funding from the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant.

3. Performance Measures

Strategic Goal	Performance Measure	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Projected	FY 2026 Target	FY 2027 Target	
Goal 1: Be a safe community that is proactive and responsive to risks	Residential fire response time ERF 16	11:44	14:21	*	≤10:20	≤10:20	
	Commercial fire response time ERF 22	19:38	13:56	*	≤14:20	≤14:20	
	EMS Response Time ¹	EMS ERF 2 Low Risk	9:02	8:20	*	≤6:00	≤6:00
		EMS ERF 3 Low Risk	9:29	8:23	*	≤6:00	≤6:00
	EMS Turnout Time ¹	EMS ERF 2 Low Risk	2:05	2:01	*	≤1:00	≤1:00
		EMS ERF 3 Low Risk	2:05	2:01	*	≤1:00	≤1:00
	EMS Travel Time ¹	EMS ERF 2 Low Risk	6:29	6:44	*	≤4:00	≤4:00
		EMS ERF 3 Low Risk	7:00	6:59	*	≤4:00	≤4:00
	Percent of EMS responses on scene within 6:00 minutes	67.6%	62.9%	72.5%	≥90.0%	≥90.0%	
	EMS responses per 1,000 of population served	139.7	147.1	144.0	≤137.4	≤137.4	
	EMS transport refusal rate	19.1%	19.1%	19.1%	≤15.0%	≤15.0%	
	Fires confined to structure of origin ²	96.0% ²	95.8%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	
	Fire inspections and re-inspections performed	16,262	17,202	15,465	≥15,740 ³	≥15,465 ³	
Percent of required FEMA ICS NIMS certifications completed by City staff	91%	92%	92%	≥95%	≥95%		

*A projection for FY 2026 is not currently available due to a transition from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) to the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS)





¹EMS times use methodology from Center for Public Safety Excellence Standards of Cover 2025 Public Model /encompass all signal types

²Fires confined to structure of origin² measures the “extent of flame damage” and may be affected by various factors not including suppression activities; the extent of flame damage may be accelerated by structure size, proximity, and building materials

³The total inspections target is based on a three-year moving average of historical data

4. SWOT Matrix

The table below identifies the Department’s most significant strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) that affect service delivery for the key interested parties.

HELPFUL		HARMFUL	
R a n k	 <p>Strengths (Internal Factors)</p>	R a n k	 <p>Weaknesses (Internal Factors)</p>
	1 Field-proven professional staffing		1 Training infrastructure limitations
	2 Upgraded technology and software		2 Limited technical redundancy
	3 Highly trained specialists		3 Insufficient training instructors
	4 In-house certified instruction		4 Outdated Emergency Operations Center (EOC) technology
	5 Rapid in-house fire investigations		5 Aging high-cost marine assets
R a n k	 <p>Opportunities (External Factors)</p>	R a n k	 <p>Threats (External Factors)</p>
	1 Cultivate strategic medical partnerships		1 Operational unit availability strain
	2 Expand grant-funded capabilities		2 Increasing complexity of regional response coverage
	3 Integrate interagency training integration		3 External call-processing constraints
	4 Create sustainable/consistent training materials		4 Escalating incident complexity
	5 Strengthen community engagement and public education efforts		5 Increase in demand for services

4.1 SWOT Resolution Strategies (“What Keeps You Up At Night?”)

Operational Unit Availability Strain

Operational unit availability impacts system performance by increasing concurrent call conflicts and response delays, limiting the fire service’s ability.

Action: Mitigate the risk

The strategy used to mitigate the risk of unit availability focuses on balancing demand with capacity through data-driven deployment, resiliency, and system redundancy rather than relying on single-unit performance. This includes continuously monitoring call volume, unit hour utilization, and concurrent call frequency to proactively adjust staffing models, station coverage, and peak-hour deployment. The approach emphasizes maintaining capacity to ensure that no single company or battalion operates at prolonged strain, while using dynamic redeployment and priority-based dispatching to preserve coverage for high-acuity incidents. Long-term risk mitigation is achieved by aligning population growth, land-use changes, and service demand forecasts with incremental investments in personnel, apparatus, and facilities, ensuring that operational availability remains reliable even as call complexity and concurrency increase. These planning efforts are already underway with the addition of Fire Station #117 (i.e., the Heron Garage), Fire Station #88, as well as the planned inclusion of a future fire facility in the Holiday Park Parking Garage.

Training Infrastructure Limitations

Limited training facilities constrain skill development and proficiency, and potentially degrading consistency in service delivery.

Action: Mitigate the risk

To manage the threat of limited training facilities, the mitigation strategy centers on maximizing training capacity through flexible delivery models, regional collaboration, and prioritization of high-risk competencies. This approach emphasizes distributed and modular training, using on-shift, scenario-based drills, mobile training props, and simulation technology to reduce dependence on fixed facilities while maintaining proficiency in critical skills. Partnerships with neighboring departments, colleges, and regional training centers are leveraged to share specialized venues and instructors, while a structured training calendar prioritizes mandatory, high-risk, and perishable skills to ensure operational readiness without overextending resources. Over the long term, training demand is aligned with workforce growth and accreditation requirements to support phased facility expansion or capital planning, mitigating operational risk while sustaining consistent and compliant training outcomes.

Limited Technical Redundancy

Limited technical redundancy and aging apparatus reduce service reliability by increasing system downtime and out-of-service units. When network connectivity in emergency vehicles fails and no backup connection is available, fire and medical crews cannot complete required incident reports in real time, delaying documentation, quality assurance, and regulatory compliance. Dispatch operations are also disrupted because Mobile Data Terminals depend on continuous internet access to receive emergency calls, assignments, and updates, which hinders response coordination. Loss of connectivity further disables Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) data, preventing dispatchers from accurately identifying the closest available unit and weakening the Fastest Unit Response process. Overall, a single network outage reduces situational awareness, interrupts communication between field units and the communications center, and negatively affects response times and service delivery to the community.

Action: Mitigate the risk

To mitigate the combined risks of limited technical redundancy and aging apparatus, the organization pursues a resilience-based strategy focused on cross-coverage, planned redundancy, and lifecycle management. For continuity of information technology, this includes cross-training personnel on core systems, documenting critical processes, implementing shared administrative access controls, and leveraging managed services or interdepartmental support agreements to ensure coverage during absences or critical incidents. Parallel to this, apparatus risk is mitigated through a structured fleet replacement and maintenance strategy that prioritizes high-utilization units, aligns capital planning with service demand forecasts, and incorporates preventive maintenance analytics to reduce unplanned downtime. Together, these measures reduce single-point-of-failure vulnerabilities, stabilize operational availability, and ensure that both technology-dependent functions and frontline response capabilities remain reliable, sustainable, and aligned with service level expectations.

5. FY 2026 Major Anticipated Accomplishments

Office of the Chief:

- Award a design/build contract for Fire Station 88 and a contract for Fire Station 13
- Solicit and award a design contract for a new Emergency Operations Center hurricane safe room and upgraded generator as part of an approved State of Florida Division of Emergency Management grant
- Complete Accreditations with the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) and Emergency Management Accreditation Program
- Explore opportunities to extend the American Red Cross program for displaced neighbors who are victims of fire catastrophes
- Provide fire inspectors with digital database access to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes, offering a quick reference guide for compliance verification
- Graduate nine (9) probationary firefighters, to fill vacancies from retirements while strengthening staffing levels and supporting operational readiness across the Department
- Complete construction of the new Ocean Rescue Headquarters at the International Swimming Hall of Fame
- Continue the high-rise sprinkler retrofit initiative to ensure ongoing compliance with state regulations and NFPA codes, improve building safety, and help lower master hazard insurance premiums
- Continue to conduct two (2) four-week training classes for new lifeguards to ensure proficiency in ocean safety, rescue techniques, and emergency response in alignment with United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) standards
- Replace two (2) aging lifeguard towers with new aluminum stainless-steel structures designed to better withstand strong winds and provide improved vantage points for lifeguards
- Conduct a 10-week Cadet training academy for new hire firefighters

Fire Rescue:

- Re-engineer the Tablet Command mobile operations platform, which serves as a real-time Incident Command board, to enhance data accuracy and reduce delays in location tracking data
- Refine dispatch operations supporting the Fastest Unit Response (FUR) program and strengthening regional coordination with 911 call-taking centers to improve response efficiency

- Conduct an annual in-house United States Lifesaving Association Personal Rescue Watercraft Operator (USLA PRWC) Class, ensuring Personal Rescue Watercraft (PWC) towers are staffed with a certified operator
- Participate in mutual aid training with the Maritime Incident Response Team (MIRT), coordinated by the Broward County Sheriff's Office, to train and respond to large scale water emergencies
- Host the 2026 United States Lifesaving Association National Championships, bringing together approximately 1,000 lifeguards from across the country to showcase their professional lifesaving skills and promote ocean safety
- Implement a Whole Blood Program in partnership with Broward Health, allowing trained EMS Personnel to administer whole blood to trauma patients in-route to the hospital

6. FY 2027 Key Strategic Plan and Commission Priority Initiatives

6.1 Increase Coverage with the Construction of Fire Stations 13 and 88

This initiative supports Strategic Plan Goal 1 to be a safe community that is proactive and responsive to risks by prioritizing the design and construction of two (2) new fire stations, Station 13 and Station 88, to enhance emergency response capabilities and improve coverage in high-demand areas of Fort Lauderdale.

Funding	
This initiative will require additional funding in FY 2027 to advance:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Milestones	Anticipated Completion
Finalize architectural design and secure permits	April 2026
Complete Solicitation Phase	April 2026
Complete Construction	December 2027

6.2 Enhance the City’s Emergency Operations Center which serves as a Central Hub for Response and Recovery

This initiative directly supports Strategic Plan Goal 1 to be a safe, proactive, and responsive community, by strengthening the City’s centralized emergency management and coordination capabilities. The initiative includes building a hurricane safe room, as well as upgrading critical technology and communication systems within the existing EOC. Enhancements include replacing legacy audio systems, adding wireless presentation capabilities, and improving video conferencing infrastructure to ensure operational continuity during emergencies.

Funding	
This initiative will require additional funding in FY 2027 to advance:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Milestones	Anticipated Completion
Complete Request for Quote (RFQ) solicitation for design	March 2026
Advance design firm negotiations and proceed with contract award	June 2026
Complete design	December 2026
Proceed with advertising for the construction phase upon release of grant funding for the build phase	March 2027

6.3 Enhance Readiness for High Rise Fire & Incident Command Training

The Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program (AFG) High Rise and Incident Command project is a grant-funded initiative designed to enhance Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue’s operational readiness for high-rise fire incidents and complex incident command scenarios. This project focuses on specialized training and procedural improvements to ensure rapid, coordinated, and effective response during high-rise emergencies and directly supports the City’s Strategic Plan Goal 1 to be a safe community that is proactive and responsive to risks. The training will leverage advanced command strategies and integrate best practices for firefighter safety and community protection.

Funding	
This initiative will require additional funding in FY 2027 to advance:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Milestones	Anticipated Completion
Establish grant fund tracking needs for compliance	March 2026
Complete design phase for training modules and curriculum	June 2026
Acquire equipment and stage training props	September 2026
Finalize scheduling and logistics	December 2026
Initiate training sessions	March 2027
Complete training sessions	September 2027