



Fire Rescue Advisory Committee
City of Fort Lauderdale
February 9, 2026, 1:00 P.M.
Fire Station #2
528 NW 2 Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

Cumulative Attendance
As of 01/12/26

Committee Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
William Brown, Chair	P	2	0
Frederick Nesbitt	P	2	0
Dennis Ulmer, Vice Chair	P	2	0
Irene Costa	P	2	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

Others

Keith Costa, Union President
 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 – January 12, 2026

Motion made by Vice Chair Ulmer, seconded by Ms. Costa, to approve the January 12, 2026 minutes as distributed. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Deputy Fire Chief Bacic provided a brief update during which he highlighted the following:

- The next five-year term of the contract with the medical director was being finalized, and subject to approval at the next Commission meeting. The director will be invited to attend the next FRAC meeting.
- The acting captain of the SWAT Medic Team would be invited to attend the March or April FRAC meeting.
- He was unable to obtain a legislative update; more information will be provided at a later date.
- The Lauderdale by the Sea Town Commission was expected to review proposals from the BSO and Fort Lauderdale Police the following day.

Chief Bacic clarified that some terms, benchmarks and performance metrics of the contract with the medical director were being modified slightly.

Discussion ensued on new medical modalities and protocols being rolled out, particularly for cardiac arrest; the risks sometimes associated with movement during critical transport; and determination of death in the field. Chief Bacic noted that the Department had seen a 20% increase in positive outcomes from stabilizing patients on-scene for 20 minutes after the first month of doing this. Those results were considered encouraging; supported the data that guided protocol to increase ROSC rates; and reflective of an active and engaged medical director.

Chief Bacic confirmed the Department would continue to roll out whole blood.

Mr. Frank Guzman, Public Information Officer, noted that in January 2025 the team had worked 26 total codes; they achieved ROSC in 12 of cases, or 46%. He noted that was almost double the statewide average of approximately 26%.

Chair Brown highlighted that representatives from Fire and Police were scheduled to give a presentation at the Council of Civic Associations meeting the following night to educate those community leaders. Chief Bacic was receptive to participation by the Department at other association meetings.

Discussion returned to determination of death in the field. Chief Bacic provided additional insight on the new protocols. There was general agreement that, when appropriate, that protocol would relieve unnecessary financial burden for families.

Mr. Nesbitt expressed a desire to find a way to efficiently educate residents on the Galt on why patients are sometimes treated in the controlled environment of a rig, as opposed to being immediately rushed to a medical facility. Chief Bacic requested that Mr. Nesbitt provide a list of key questions that could inform a fact sheet or brief video. Chair Brown also suggested that Mr. Nesbitt consider inviting condominium building residents to a meeting at the Beach Community Center with Department representatives; he suspected the majority of questions would be EMS-related. Mr. Nesbitt agreed to provide a list of four or five common questions.

Chief Bacic provided an overview of efforts to provide access to Narcan in strategic locations throughout the community. Roll-out would be in time for Spring Break with updates forthcoming through Strategic Communications. Assistant Fire Chief Owen clarified that the Police Department would also distribute Narcan.

Assistant Fire Chief Owen provided a brief fire station update which included the following:

- FS13 and FS 88. The RFP process to complete the design and build for both ended on January 28, 2025. There were three companies in the second round and the evaluation committee was scheduled to meet on February 12, 2026; it was expected to go before the City Commission in April 2026. Chair Brown inquired whether the Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Blue Ribbon Committee would be sunset given that FS13 was the last station under the bond. Chief Owen and Chief Bacic believed that it was likely that committee would no longer be needed once that station was complete.

- Holiday Park. Chief Owen clarified for Chair Brown that the designation was yet confirmed; it would likely be separate and to the side of the garage, with a drive-through bay and space for technical rescue team drills.
- FS117. This project was still in the permitting process; Chief Owen would be meeting with the developer soon to fine-tune the time line.
- Negotiations had not yet begun with the School Board regarding Seagull School; he and Chief Gollan had toured the facility recently and confirmed it would be beneficial for both Police and Fire, subject to resolving the financial details.

In response to a previous inquiry regarding social media demographics from the Committee, Mr. Guzman reported that just under half of the Facebook followers were from Fort Lauderdale, with the remainder from the general South Florida market. The majority of Instagram followers that listed a home base listed Fort Lauderdale; that information was not available from Twitter. A total of 562 followers had been added since January 1, 2026 across the three platforms.

Mr. Guzman highlighted that upcoming campaigns included messaging on the high ROSC rate; a reunion/media event with a school district employee and Spring Break. He added that they would be working on the presenting the opioid initiative to the Commission and a boating safety piece on preventing fires. He then fielded questions on call volume data that had been distributed, and noted the methodology had changed slightly as part of a national initiative.

Assistant Chief Miller stated that another 38-story building had been added to the Galleria project, and provided a brief overview of the ten buildings planned for that property. Another Live Local project was recently approved within the City. Chief Miller expressed concern keeping pace from a fire prevention personnel standpoint at the current rate of growth; additional plan reviewers were needed as he had only one instead of six recommended in NFPA standards.

Chair Brown reminded Members that the Lifeguard Tower 11 artwork dedication was scheduled for the following afternoon at Terramar Street and A1A.

Keith Costa, Union President, invited Members to attend the Firefighters Remembrance Ceremony at the museum that Saturday; the event would be attended by about 60 family members to recognize retirees that passed away in the past year.

NEW BUSINESS

The next meeting was scheduled for March 9, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Nesbitt shared that he had read in the Orlando Sentinel that the president of the State Senate indicated that property tax reform may be delayed until 2027.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.