



City of Marco Island Fire Rescue Department

50 Bald Eagle Dr.
Marco Island, Florida 34145

Chris Byrne, Fire Chief

May 9, 2025

To: City Council

From: Fire Chief Chris Byrne

Re: Budget Workshop

Presentation by the Fire Chief to City Council

During the Budget Workshop, the Fire Chief will present information to the City Council to provide an overview of the Fire Department's operations and outline its current and future needs. The objective is to support the City Council in preparing the FY26 budget and facilitating future financial planning.

Introduction

The Fire Chief will discuss the following aspects related to Fire Rescue operations, focusing on opportunities and potential challenges:

- **Recruitment & Retention:** Importance of maintaining a skilled workforce.
- **Department Staffing & Deployment:** Evaluating the current staffing levels and resource allocation.
- **Overview of the Department Fleet:** Current status, maintenance challenges, and modernization needs.
- **Operating Budget:** Financial outlook, key expenditures, and budget priorities.

Identifying Opportunities

- **Updating Fire Fees:** Update the fire fee structure to ensure sustainability prior to FY26.
- **Fleet Replacement Plan:** Developing a plan to replace outdated vehicles by updating the Fire Rescue Pay-Go capital program for fire apparatus.
- **EMS Ambulance Patient Transport :** Consider a comprehensive study of ambulance transport services in the future.
- **Mobile Integrated Health:** Integrating healthcare services to better serve the community.
- **Fire Permit Coordinator:** Introducing the role to streamline permit processes. The Coordinator will oversee the status of existing permits and guide customers through the process. Cost would be covered by fire permit fees.



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Addressing Challenges

- **Incident Overlap:** Multiple simultaneous emergencies.
- **Potential Loss of FEMA Disaster Assistance:** Contingency planning for reduced federal support.
- **Personnel Turnover (Non-Bargaining):** Addressing the risk of turnover among non-union staff.
- **PFAS Contamination in Bunker Gear:** Responding to safety concerns associated with potentially hazardous materials in firefighting gear.

This information is presented to support the City Council in gaining a comprehensive understanding of the Fire Rescue Department's operations and future needs. It aims to facilitate informed decision-making regarding the FY26 budget and guide financial planning for the future.