

# 2024 FLORIDA FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE SESSION FINAL REPORT

REPORT PREPARED BY: FLORIDA FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

### **Overview**

The 2024 Florida Legislative Session was far less contentious, and the Association faced fewer negative bills than in years past. The 2024 Regular Session came to an official end at 2:25 p.m. on Friday, March 8 as legislators approved a \$117.4 billion budget for the coming year. Along with the state's budget for the upcoming fiscal year, more than 300 bills were approved by both chambers and will be sent to Governor Ron DeSantis for his signature. Focus now will shift to Governor Ron DeSantis and whether he will sign or veto the bills passed by lawmakers and if and how he will exercise his line-item veto power on items in the budget.

### "The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association is the voice of the fire service in Florida."

The conclusion of the 2024 session marks the end of the two-year term for presiding officers Senate President Kathleen Passidomo (R-Naples) and House Speaker Paul Renner (R-Palm Coast). The Senate will elect Senator Ben Albritton (R-Bartow) to serve as President and the House will elect Representative Danny Perez (R-Miami) to lead as Speaker of the House for the 2024-2026 term.

The FFCA Government Relations Committee monitored over 80 bills during the session, with some passing and many failing to gather enough votes to become law. Unlike most years past, there were only 7 bills that we opposed during the session, with 4 of those bills passing both chambers (3 of which were special district bills). There were 26 bills we supported, with 9 of those bills passing both chambers. Most of the bills we were just monitoring was to ensure that there were no changes or amendments that could harm the Florida fire service. The FFCA was closely aligned with our friends at the Florida Professional Firefighters, and we support their priority issues during the session.

### **Bills that Passed**

#### HB 989 - Chief Financial Officer (SUPPORT)

This bill clarifies the benefits due to firefighters undergoing cancer treatment. The bill specifies that leave time and employee retention benefits equivalent to those provided for other injuries or illnesses incurred in the line of duty must be afforded to firefighters who are diagnosed with one of the covered cancers. The bill requires that the State Fire Marshal cannot adopt an accessibility code, as accessibility is already addressed within the Florida Building Code's Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility provisions. Additionally, the bill mandates DFS to establish consistent fire safety standards for both mobile food dispensing vehicles and energy storage systems.

**TAKEAWAY FOR FIRE CHIEFS**: The application of leave time for firefighters who qualify as having been diagnosed with a covered cancer has been inconsistent across the state. This legislation aims to ensure that firefighters who qualify as having been diagnosed with a covered cancer are not required to use sick, personal, or vacation days for time off for treatment or because of illness from the cancer. Firefighters who qualify as having been diagnosed with a covered cancer are entitled to receive compensation if they must miss work due to the cancer treatments or the cancer illness. In addition, if an employee is unable to return to work due to their covered cancer, the fire department is generally required to hold their job until the doctor releases them to return.

#### HB 151 - Florida Retirement System (SUPPORT)

This bill allows FRS retirees to receive both compensation from an employer that participates in the FRS and retirement benefits, provided the retiree is not reemployed within 6 months following the date of retirement. This was a priority issue for the FFCA in our efforts to address workforce recruitment challenges.

**TAKEAWAY FOR FIRE CHIEFS**: You can now hire an FRS retiree after they have been retired for 6 months without that retiree having their pension benefits reduced.

#### HB 267 - Building Regulations (OPPOSED)

The bill amends and revises Florida statutes to update building regulations, supports certification paths for building inspectors, and puts in place strict timelines for the issuance of building permits by local governments. The bill requires a local government to approve, approve with conditions, or deny a complete and sufficient permit application within the following timeframes:

- 30 business days for applicants using local government review for certain structures less than 7,500 square feet, previously set at 120 days;
- 60 days for the following applicants using local government review, previously set at 120 days:
  - Certain structures more than 7,500 square feet,
  - o Signs,
  - Nonresidential buildings that are less than 25,000 square feet;
  - Multifamily residential, not exceeding 50 units;
  - Site-plan approvals and subdivision plats not requiring public hearing or notice; and
  - Lot grading and site alteration.
- 12 business days for applicants for a permit under an already-approved master plan permit, currently dependent on the local program, or 30 days for single-family residential dwellings;
- 10 business days for applicants for a single-family residential dwelling for a property owner who participates in a Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery program, previously set at 15 days; and
- 10 business days for applicants using an engineer or architect private provider who affixes his or her professional seal, previously set at 120 days;

The bill requires a local government to determine if a building permit application is complete within 5 business days of receiving the application, and if incomplete, to inform the applicant of what information is needed to complete the application. If the local government fails to provide written notice to the applicant within the 5-day window, the application is deemed to be properly completed.

TAKEAWAY FOR FIRE CHIEFS: While this is a building code bill, the bill language requires the "local government" to determine if a permit application is complete and to issue building permits within a very specific amount of time. This likely means that the fire prevention plan review process must be completed within those same timeframes. In some cases, failure to provide written notice to the permit applicant identifying the specific plan features that do not comply with the applicable codes or failure to issue the building permit within the timeframes will cause the permit application to be deemed approved as a matter of law, and the local building official must issue the permit on the next business day. It is essential that your fire marshals become familiar with the requirements of HB 267 and that they work with their local building officials on ensuring that these requirements can be met. In some cases, this may require additional resources. Building permit fees currently can be used for costs related to fire inspections associated with new construction. This bill expands on this to allow building permit fees to be used to upgrade technology hardware and software systems to enhance service delivery.

#### SB 7016 - Health Care (Monitor)

The bill creates Emergency department diversion requirements for hospitals and Medicaid managed care plans. All hospitals with emergency departments (ED), including hospital-based off-campus EDs, must submit a Nonemergent Care Access Plan (NCAP) to the AHCA for assisting a patient with gaining access to appropriate care settings when the patient presents at the ED with nonemergent health care needs or indicates when receiving a medical screening examination, triage, or treatment at the hospital that he or she lacks regular access to primary care. An NCAP must include at least one of the following: (1) A partnership agreement with one or more nearby federally qualified health centers or other primary care setting; or (2) the establishment, construction, and operation of a hospital-owned urgent care center co-located in or adjacent to the hospital ED. The bill requires each hospital that maintains a certified electronic health record technology to make available its admit, transfer, and discharge data to the FHIE program for the purpose of supporting public health data registries and patient care coordination. SIGNED BY THE **GOVERNOR.** 

**TAKEAWAY FOR FIRE CHIEFS:** The State is placing significant emphasis on unnecessary emergency room visits and encouraging nonemergency patients to be treated at an alternative site or setting. This is a huge opportunity for the fire service to develop their own programs or to partner with health care facilities to help them accomplish these new statutory mandates. Likewise, opportunity exists for fire departments to contribute to health information exchanges and to use data from health information exchanges.

#### SB 7018 - Health Care Innovation (Monitor)

The bill creates the Health Care Innovation Council, a 15-member council within the Department of Health (DOH) to facilitate public meetings across the state to lead discussions with innovators, developers and implementers of technologies, workforce pathways, service delivery models, or other solutions. Based on the public input and information gathered at public meetings, the bill requires the council to create best practice recommendations and focus areas for the advancement of the delivery of health care in Florida, with an emphasis on:

- Increasing efficiency in the delivery of health care;
- Reducing strain on the health care workforce;
- Increasing public access to health care;
- Improving patient outcomes;
- Reducing unnecessary emergency department visits; and
- Reducing costs for patients and the state without reducing the quality of patient care.

The bill creates a revolving loan program within the DOH to provide low-interest loans to applicants to implement one or more innovative technologies, workforce pathways, or service delivery models. **SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.** 

**TAKEAWAY FOR FIRE CHIEFS:** There is tremendous opportunity for the fire service to play a role in the development and implementation of technologies, innovative service delivery models, workforce recruitment and development solutions, or other solutions that make health care delivery in Florida better and more efficient.

#### HB 7013 - Special Districts (OPPOSED)

The bill establishes a term limit of 12 years for members of an elected body governing an independent special district unless the district's charter provides for more restrictive terms of office. Any term of office that commenced before November 5, 2024, does not count towards the limitation created by the bill. The bill provides that the boundaries of an independent special district may only be changed by general law or a special act. The bill requires each special district must establish goals and objectives for each program and activity undertaken by the district, as well as performance measures and standards to determine if the district's goals and objectives are being achieved by October 1, 2024, or the end of the first full fiscal years after its creation, whichever is later. Each district is required to prepare an annual report by December 1 of each year thereafter describing the goals and objectives achieved by the district, as well as performance measures and standards used by the district to make this determination and any goals or objectives the district failed to achieve. The bill requires all independent special fire control districts to report to the Division of State Fire Marshal whether each district's volunteer firefighters have completed the required training and certifications established by the division.

**TAKEAWAY FOR FIRE CHIEFS:** Florida's special fire districts faced tough scrutiny from the State legislature this session. This bill started out much worse than it ended up. Fire Districts need to work hard now to develop relationships with their local legislators to stave off any further challenges next session.

#### **SB 280 - Vacation Rentals (Monitor)**

The bill provides local governments with the ability to require vacation rental properties to be registered with the local government. In addition, the bill provides that a local government may charge a reasonable fee for inspections of vacation rentals for compliance with the Florida Building Code and the Florida Fire Prevention Code, described in 553.80 and 633.206, respectively.

**TAKEAWAY FOR FIRE CHIEFS:** Many communities throughout the state are facing challenges with the regulation of vacation rentals. As a result of this bill, it is likely that communities will want vacation rentals to undergo annual fire inspections and to charge a fee for such inspections.

#### SB 184 - Impeding, Threatening, or Harassing First Responders (SUPPORT)

The bill creates a new statute that prohibits approaching first responders with the intent to impede their efforts after being warned not to. The bill defines "first responder" to include law enforcement officers, correctional probation officers, firefighters, and emergency medical care providers. The bill defines "harass" as intentionally causing substantial emotional distress to a first responder without a legitimate purpose. The bill prohibits individuals from knowingly and willfully approaching or remaining within 25 feet of a first responder with the intent to impede, threaten physical harm, or harass after a verbal warning.

**TAKEAWAY FOR FIRE CHIEFS:** Firefighters will need to be apprised of this new legislative protection and what firefighters need to do if they believe that someone is impeding their efforts to do their job on an emergency scene.

#### HB 1577 - Midway Fire District, Santa Rosa County (OPPOSED)

This bill repeals the Midway Fire District's authority to levy ad valorem taxes, and it sets maximum rates for non-ad valorem assessments.

**TAKEAWAY FOR FIRE CHIEFS:** Florida's special fire districts faced tough scrutiny from the State legislature this session. This bill reduces the Midway Fire District's ability to fund their services by over \$600,000 and because non-ad valorem assessments do not increase with property values, future revenue growth is significantly limited. Fire Districts need to work hard now to develop relationships with their local legislators to stave off any further challenges next session.

HB 1573 - Pace Fire Rescue District, Santa Rosa County (OPPOSED) This bill repeals the Pace Fire District's authority to levy ad valorem taxes, and it sets maximum rates for non-ad valorem assessments.

**TAKEAWAY FOR FIRE CHIEFS:** Florida's special fire districts faced tough scrutiny from the State legislature this session. This bill reduces the Pace Fire District's ability to fund their services by over \$600,000 and because non-ad valorem assessments do not increase with property values, future revenue growth is significantly limited. Fire Districts need to work hard now to develop relationships with their local legislators to stave off any further challenges next session.

#### HB 1574 - Avalon Beach-Mulat Fire Protection District, Santa Rosa County (OPPOSED)

This bill repeals the Avalon Beach-Mulat Fire Protection District's authority to levy ad valorem taxes, and it sets maximum rates for non-ad valorem assessments.

**TAKEAWAY FOR FIRE CHIEFS:** Florida's special fire districts faced tough scrutiny from the State legislature this session. This bill reduces the Avalon Beach-Mulat Fire Protection District's ability to fund their services and because non-ad valorem assessments do not increase with property values, future revenue growth is significantly limited. Fire Districts need to work hard now to develop relationships with their local legislators to stave off any further challenges next session.

#### <u>SB 718 - Exposures of First Responders to Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogs</u> (SUPPORT)

The bill creates criminal penalties for exposing first responders to fentanyl and fentanyl analogs resulting in overdose or serious bodily injury. The bill states that persons 18 and older, who unlawfully possess fentanyl or fentanyl analogs and recklessly expose first responders, leading to their overdose or serious injury, commit a second-degree felony. **SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.** 

**TAKEAWAY FOR FIRE CHIEFS:** Fentanyl and fentanyl analogs are increasingly being abused and used as recreational drugs. These drugs present a hazard to firefighters who may be exposed to these drugs. Firefighters will need to be made aware of this new legislative protection.

#### <u>SB 808 - Treatment by a Medical Specialist</u> (SUPPORT)

This bill permits firefighters, law enforcement, correctional officers, and correctional probation officers to be treated by a medical specialist for presumptive medical illnesses including tuberculosis, heart disease, or hypertension. The bill requires these professionals to notify their workers' compensation carrier, self-insured employer, or third-party administrator when selecting a medical specialist, unless in an emergency. The bill mandates that the selected medical specialist be authorized within 5 business days, with an appointment scheduled within 30 days. The medical specialist will be reimbursed at no more than 200 percent of the Medicare rate.

**TAKEAWAY FOR FIRE CHIEFS:** Firefighters with claims related to the Heart/Lung bill were frequently having difficulty finding a specialist to review their case because of the low worker's compensation reimbursement rate. This bill aims to correct that problem.

HB 463 - Lights Displayed on Fire Department Vehicles (SUPPORT) This bill authorizes the display of blue emergency lights on the rear of government-owned fire department vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 24,000 pounds. This is voluntary at the written discretion of the fire chief. SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR.

**TAKEAWAY FOR FIRE CHIEFS:** Operating at roadside emergencies poses a significant risk for firefighters. Multiple studies have looked at the effectiveness of emergency lighting when responding to or operating an emergency scene. These studies concur that blue and red emergency lights are rated as the most visible colors, with red lights being most visible in the daytime and blue lights being most visible at night. Blue emergency lighting has higher contrast and brightness, increasing the visibility and recognition of fire vehicles in low-light conditions. Blue emergency lights can also reduce the glare and confusion caused by red lights from other sources, such as traffic signals and brake lights. These studies recommend that emergency vehicles use a combination of red and blue lights to maximize visibility under all ambient lighting conditions. This bill now provides fire departments with the option to install blue emergency lighting on the rear of fire apparatus.

## **General Appropriations Act (Budget)**

#### HB 5101 - Education (SUPPORT)

This bill creates the Florida First Responder Scholarship Program addressing one of FFCA's Legislative Priorities related to Workforce Shortages. Beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year, the Florida First Responder Scholarship Program is created to assist in the recruitment of law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and firefighters within the state by providing financial assistance to trainees who enroll in an approved training program. The Department of Education shall administer the scholarship program, in consultation with the Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of Health, and the Department of Financial Services, as applicable, according to the rules and procedures established by the State Board of Education. The scholarship shall be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, based on the date the department receives each completed application. The Legislature has appropriated \$10,000,000 for this program. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules necessary to administer this program.

**TAKEAWAY FOR FIRE CHIEFS:** The fire service is facing workforce shortages and challenges in recruiting people to become firefighters and paramedics. This scholarship program, shared with law enforcement, will help reduce the financial hurdles that may keep someone back from pursuing this career. Because it is a first come, first serve scholarship, fire departments should do their best to get the word out to their communities about this opportunity.

#### HB 5003 - Implementing the 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act (SUPPORT)

This bill adds fire service providers, ambulance crews, or other first responders to the State's drone replacement program. The bill amends paragraph (f) of subsection (7) of section 934.50, Florida Statutes, to allow fire service providers, ambulance crews, or other first responders that turn in drones that are not in compliance with state law to receive grant funding for the replacement of these non-compliant drones. To be eligible, the drone must have not reached its end of life and must still be in working condition. Funds shall be provided per drone based upon the drone's replacement costs current value. Grant funds may only be used to purchase drones that are in compliance with this section. The funds shall be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, determined by the date the department receives the application.

**TAKEAWAY FOR FIRE CHIEFS:** This first come, first serve grant program can help fire department replace their non-compliant drones.

#### HB 5001 - General Appropriations Act (SUPPORT)

This is the State's general appropriations act, or budget bill. It provides moneys for annual period beginning July 1, 2024, ending June 30, 2025, with supplemental appropriations for period ending June 30, 2024 to pay salaries and other expenses, capital outlay - buildings and other improvements, and for other specified purposes of various agencies of state government.

**TAKEAWAY FOR FIRE CHIEFS:** These proposed budget appropriations all have the potential for a Line-Item Veto by the Governor. Fire Chiefs should be working closely with the Governor's Office to ensure your projects are not vetoed.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Firefighter Assistance Grant Program to improve the	\$1,000,000
emergency response capability of volunteer fire departments	
and combination fire departments.	
Development and implementation of a demonstration project	\$500,000
using innovative technologies for the removal and destruction	
of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) from ground	
water or wastewater at the Florida State Fire College.	
Florida State Fire College building repair, code correction,	\$7,000,000
and other fixed capital outlay projects. A five-year capital	
improvement plan detailing the building repair, code correction,	
and other fixed capital outlay projects, including all high priority	
deficiency issues and all issues affecting life, health, and safety	
must be developed. The funds shall be held in reserve and the	
Department of Financial Services is authorized to request the	
release of funds.	

University of Miami - Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer	\$3,500,000
<b>Center</b> for the purpose of Firefighter Cancer Research. The	ψ0,000,000
funds shall be utilized to expand firefighters' access to cancer	
screenings across the state; enable prevention and earlier	
detection of the disease; identify exposures that account for	
increased cancer risk; and field test new technology and	
methods that measure exposure in the field.	
First Responder Electroencephalogram Pilot Program to	\$10,000,000
establish an Electroencephalogram Combined Transcranial	\$10,000,000
Magnetic Stimulation Treatment Pilot Program for Veterans and	
First Responders.	
Bradford County Fire Rescue New Fire Apparatus	\$475,000
Carr/Clarksville VFD Fire Engine	\$60,000
Crystal River Ladder Truck	\$350,000
Dalkeith Volunteer Fire Department - Tanker Fire Apparatus	\$600,000
Davie Fire Rescue Ambulance	\$637,500
Gainesville Regional Mobile Command/HazMat Asset	\$350,000
Gretna Fire & Rescue Service Mini Pumper	\$235,000
Key Largo Fire Rescue Marine Emergency Response Vessel	\$300,000
Live Oak E-One Fire Truck	\$732,811
Marathon Fire Rescue Marine Emergency Response Vessel	\$150,000
Mental Health Services for Police Officers and Firefighters	\$250,000
(Dade County Fire Fighters Insurance Trust Plan)	
Miami Beach Fire Department Ladder Truck Replacement	\$417,500
Miami-Dade Fire Rescue - Telehandler Replacement	\$87,500
Midway Volunteer Fire Department Fire and Hazmat Response	\$1,000,000
Vehicle	
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Water Vessels for Hazard	\$385,000
Mitigation	
Polk County Firefighter/EMS Rehab Apparatus/Unit	\$562,500
Baker Fire District Air Compressor/Purifier	\$70,000
Baker Fire District Tanker	\$250,000
Brooker New Fire Apparatus	\$662,500
Broward County Sheriffs - Secondary Set of Firefighter Turnout	\$228,092
Gear (Cancer Prevention initiative)	
Broward Fire Rescue Regional Simulation Labs at the Sheriff's	\$476,995
Office Research, Development & Training Center Expansion	
Clewiston Replacement Fire Truck	\$1,400,000
Cudjoe Key Marine Emergency Response Vessel	\$150,000

Delray Beach Emergency Response Mobile Traffic Barrier and	\$306,000
First Responder Protection	
Fort Meade Fire Command Vehicle	\$200,000
Fort Meade Fire Department Safety Equipment	\$250,000
Graceville Fire Truck and Equipment	\$880,000
Gretna Fire Rescue Department Rapid Response	\$239,000
Hamilton County Fire Equipment Upgrade	\$470,000
Hardee County Fire Rescue Self-Contained Breathing	\$550,000
Apparatus	
Hardee County Fire Rescue Tanker Truck	\$950,000
Islamorada Fire Rescue Marine Emergency Response Vessel	\$300,000
Marco Island Fire Rescue Vessel	\$345,000
Margate Front Line Rescue and Aerial Truck	\$372,007
Miami-Dade Fire Rescue - Electric Vehicle Fire Suppression	\$82,063
Specialized Equipment	
Miami-Dade Fire Rescue - Urban Search and Rescue	\$240,500
Preparedness and Equipment	
North America Vehicle Rescue Association - Florida Challenges	\$450,000
Ocean City Wright Fire Control District Aerial Firefighting	\$1,500,000
Apparatus	
Sneads - Fire Apparatus	\$674,633
St. Pete Fire Ladder Truck Replacement	\$300,000
Sunrise Fire Rescue Regional Highway Response Equipment	\$400,000
Suwannee County Fire/Rescue Ladder Truck	\$1,900,000
Apalachicola Fire Hydrant Replacement Phase III (Final Phase)	\$275,000
Baker County Fire Rescue Training Facility	\$450,000
Brooker New Fire Station	\$506,096
Clay County Fire Station #15	\$750,000
Clay County Fire Station #21	\$750,000
Crescent City - Fire/Ambulance/Law Enforcement Station	\$1,000,000
Dunedin EOC & North County Fire Training Center: Phase II	\$850,000
Fort Myers Fire Station 18	\$1,500,000
Historic Fire Service Training Tower Restoration	\$327,000
Lauderdale By The Sea Public Safety Facility Design	\$1,000,000
Lauderdale Lakes Fire Station Walk-in Triage Phase	\$389,000
Madison County Fire Rescue Station #4	\$850,000
Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department Eureka Station 71	\$500,000

Riviera Beach Design and Demolition of existing Fire Station on	\$500,000
Singer Island	
Seminole County Fire Station 28 Apparatus Bay Door	\$600,000
Steinhatchee Fire Rescue & Public Safety Facility	\$500,000
Wakulla County St. Marks Fire Rescue Facility	\$2,100,000
West Palm Beach Fire Department - Contaminant Reduction	\$116,000
Project	
West Tampa Fire Rescue Station Upgrades	\$500,000
Boynton Beach 911 Communications Center Generator	\$600,000
Replacement	
Brevard County SW Public Safety Complex and Emergency	\$588,000
Operations Center	
Collier County Fire EMS Station	\$3,646,613
Everglades Fire Station 106 Apparatus and Airboat Storage	\$580,500
Facility	
Fort Meade Fire House Construction & Rehab & Hardening	\$1,500,000
Hardee County Fire Rescue Station No. 1 and Training Facility	\$7,500,000
Hernando Public Safety Training Center	\$1,000,000
Havana Public Safety Upgrades	\$1,000,000
New Port Richey Fire Station #2 Construction Project	\$1,120,000
North Lauderdale Regional Training & Emergency Operations	\$250,000
Center	
North Palm Beach Public Safety Resiliency	\$255,000
Okeechobee Public Safety Facility Improvements	\$1,200,000
Orange City Fire and Rescue Station	\$975,000
Palm Harbor Fire Rescue Emergency Generators	\$200,000
Parkland Fire Rescue and Alarm Control Panel Improvements	\$250,000
Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue Station #27	\$1,000,000
Ponce Inlet Fire Station Backup Power Generator Replacement	\$35,000
Port St. Joe - Fire and Police Public Safety Facility as part of	\$500,000
the New Government Complex	
Sanibel - Fire Station 172 Reconstruction - Post-Hurricane Ian	\$2,100,000
South Trail Fire & Rescue District Station #65	\$3,250,000
St Johns - All Hazards Training Facility and Unified Command	\$7,500,000
Center - Phase I	
St Johns - Central Public Safety Station	\$7,500,000
St. Petersburg Public Safety Training Complex	\$500,000
Union County Fire Rescue Station	\$2,250,000
Wakulla County Shell Point-US 98 Fire Rescue Facility	\$2,100,000
	t updated: 04/08/2024

Deltona New Fire Station (HF 2760) (SF 1826)	\$375,000
Dixie County Critical First Responder Communications	\$1,600,000
Pasco Fire Portable Radio Replacement	\$540,000

#### **EDUCATION**

Florida First Responder Scholarship	\$10,000,000
Big Bend Technical College Firefighter EMT/Public	\$2,965,223
Telecommunications and Commercial Vehicle Building &	
Program Expansion	
Daytona State College Fire Fighting Training Program	\$541,000
Breathing Apparatus	
Northwest FL College - Remodel Building 510-First Responder	\$8,570,517
& Public Safety Training Center-Niceville	
University of South Florida Veterans, Military Families & First	\$10,000,000
Responder Service Complexes	
University of Central Florida Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	\$875,000
Clinic for Florida Veterans & First Responders	

#### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Statewide Expansion of the Hope Line for First Responders	\$1,000,000
---	-------------

#### AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

<b>Public Emergency Medical Transport program (PEMT)</b> The Agency for Health Care Administration is authorized to expend funds from the Grants and Donations Trust Fund and the Medical Care Trust Fund for a certified public expenditure program for Emergency Medical Services. The agency is authorized to submit a budget amendment pursuant to chapter 216, Florida Statutes, requesting spending authority to manage the program. Payments to providers under this section of proviso are contingent upon the nonfederal share being provided through intergovernmental transfers in the Grants and Donations Trust Fund.	FUNDING WILL BE DONE BY LEGISLATIVE BUDGET REQUEST BY AHCA
<b>Ground Ambulance Emergency Medical Transportation</b> <b>Medicaid rate increase</b> effective October 1, 2024. Health plans that participate in the Statewide Medicaid managed Care program must pass through the fee increase to Ground Ambulance Emergency Medical Transportation providers.	\$5,520,753

Air Ambulance Emergency Medical Transportation	\$374,651
Medicaid rate increase effective October 1, 2024. Health	
plans that participate in the Statewide Medicaid Managed	
Care program must pass through the fee increase to Air	
Ambulance Emergency Medical Transportation providers.	

#### FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hazmat Sustainment	\$1,030,975
Community-Based Stop the Bleed Training	\$299,800
USAR Sustainment	\$1,287,069
USAR Training	\$784,615
Hazmat Training	\$21,320
Miami/Ft. Lauderdale Urban Areas Security Initiative	\$13,802,313
Orlando Urban Area Security Initiative	\$4,386,782
Tampa Urban Area Security Initiative	\$3,610,000
Jacksonville Urban Area Security Initiative	\$1,425,000



### Florida Fire Chiefs' Association Government Relations Committee



Eric Prutsman, Lead Lobbyist, Johnson and Blanton eric@teamjb.com

Darrel Donatto, Fire Chief, Town of Jupiter Fire Rescue – Chair DarrelD@Jupiter.FL.US

Harold Theus, Fire Chief, Alachua County Fire Rescue – Board Member hmt@AlachuaCounty.US

Michael Choate, Fire Chief, Immokalee Fire Control District – Board Member <u>mchoate@immfire.com</u>

Carlos Aviles, Fire Chief, St. Augustine Fire Department – Board Member <u>caviles@citystaug.com</u>

Greg DeWitt, Fire Chief, Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District – Board Member dewitt@bonitafire.org

Brady Rigdon, Fire Chief, Nassau County Fire Rescue – Board Member Brigdon@nassaucountyfl.com

Michael Johansmeyer, Fire Chief, Lake Mary Fire Department – Board Member mjohansmeyer@lakemaryfl.com

Ty Silcox, Fire Chief, Fernandina Beach Fire Department – Past President tsilcox@fbfl.org

Jim Millican, Fire Marshal, Lealman Fire District jmillican@lealmanfire.com

Ben Rigney, Fire Chief, West Manatee Fire & Rescue District Ben.Rigney@WMFR.ORG

Eloy Ricardo, Fire Chief, North Collier Fire Control & Rescue District <u>eRicardo@northcollierfire.com</u>