

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	October 7, 2025	☐ Consent	☒ Regular
		☐ Workshop	☐ Public Hearing
Department:	Fire-Rescue		

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: **Staff requests board direction:** regarding current and future emergency transport collection procedures.

Summary: In December 1994, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) authorized Fire Rescue to transport critically ill/injured patients and bill for those services. The County contracts with a private company for these billing and collection services. The County pays the private company 3.5% of Non-medicaid gross collections for their services. The County does not refer outstanding emergency transport debt to a collection agency or report the same to a credit agency. Since 1998 the BCC has approved the balance to be deemed uncollectable and to be written-off the County's general ledger. Fire Rescue is seeking direction for current and future emergency transport collection procedures. **Countywide (SB)**

Background and Policy Issues: In March 1995, Fire Rescue began transporting patients and charging fees for this service. The law requires that the County makes reasonably diligent efforts to collect monies from all patients regardless of the availability of insurance, to the maximum allowed under Federal and State guidelines and does not allow for the routine waiver of unpaid co-payments or deductibles, unless certain requirements are met. In April 2000, the BCC reviewed Palm Beach County Fire Rescue's collection efforts; at which time, the BCC was satisfied with the collection procedures and did not support a more aggressive collection.

In June 2002, the County's Internal Auditor recommended the County Administrator, and the Fire Rescue Administrator reassess Fire Rescue's procedures for collection of outstanding emergency transport debt and the potential for increased revenues resulting from additional collection efforts. In the event no change was required, the Internal Audit further suggested the Countywide Policy (CW-F-048) be updated to exempt emergency transport revenues. The County Administrator deemed Fire Rescue's efforts adequate and therefore, the exemption was made to the Countywide PPM. The Department has received no direction from the BCC to pursue outstanding balances.

Attachments:

1. Presentation

Recommended by:	 Assistant Fire Chief	9-29-2025 Date
Approved by:	 Fire Rescue Administrator	9/29/2025 Date
Approved by:	 Deputy County Administrator	10/3/25 Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
External Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Program Income (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
In-Kind Match (County)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NET FISCAL IMPACT	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Is Item Included in Current Budget? Yes X No _____
Does this item include the use of Federal Funds? Yes _____ No X
Does this item include the use of State Funds? Yes _____ No X

Budget Account No.: Fund 1300 Dept 440 Unit 4210 Rev Source 4260

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

C. Departmental Fiscal Review: Queen Magnum 9/29/2025

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Development and Control Comments:

Lisa Mark 9/30/2025
OFMB JA 9/30
VS 9/30

Thunde Puch 9/30/25
Contract Development and Control ZG 9.30.25

B. Legal Sufficiency

Amy Ben 9/30/25
Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director