

City of Palm Coast, Florida Agenda Item

Agenda Date: September 8, 2026

Agenda Item: E.3

Department CITY ATTORNEY Division	Amount Org/Account #
Subject: ORDINANCE 2026-XX PROHIBITING THE TRANSFER OF THE CITY OF PALM COAST FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT	
Presenter: Marcus Duffy, City Attorney	
Attachments: 1. Ordinance	
Background: City Council directed the City Attorney to draft an ordinance prohibiting the transfer of the City of Palm Coast Fire Rescue Department which is attached to this item for consideration and direction.	
Recommended Action: FOR PRESENTATION AND DIRECTION	

ORDINANCE 2026-__
PROHIBIT THE TRANSFER OF THE CITY OF PALM COAST
FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM COAST, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PALM COAST, FLORIDA; AMENDING CHAPTER 25 FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION, ARTICLE I IN GENERAL, BY AMENDING SECTION 25-3 (D) FIRE SAFETY AND RESCUE; REQUIRING A SUPERMAJORITY VOTE OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVAL BY A MAJORITY OF ELECTORS VOTING IN A MUNICIPAL REFERENDUM PRIOR TO THE ABOLISHMENT, SALE, LEASE, CONSOLIDATION, TRANSFER, OR RELINQUISHMENT OF CONTROL OF THE PALM COAST FIRE DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 2(b) of the Florida Constitution and Chapter 166, Florida Statutes (the Municipal Home Rule Powers Act), vest comprehensive home rule powers in municipal governments to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions, and render municipal services; and

WHEREAS, chapter 25 of the *City of Palm Coast Code of Ordinances* establishes provisions governing fire prevention, protection, and fire service administration within the City of Palm Coast (“City”); and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Palm Coast finds that maintaining an operational, locally controlled Fire-Rescue Department is vital to protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents and property owners of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish a heightened legislative standard and mandate public voter participation before any proposal to dissolve, sell, transfer, or consolidate the Palm Coast Fire Department with another government entity or private service provider may take effect; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it in the best interest of the community to require both a supermajority vote of the Council and a citywide referendum before approving the sale, transfer, or long-term lease of any City-owned Fire Rescue Department; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it necessary and essential to safeguard municipal

public safety assets and ensure that the Palm Coast Fire Department remains permanently under the jurisdiction and ownership of the City of Palm Coast for the safety and welfare of its residents;

WHEREAS, words with double underlined type shall constitute additions to the original text and ~~strike through~~ shall constitute deletions to the original text, and asterisks (* * *) indicate that text shall remain unchanged from the language existing prior to adoption of this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF PALM COAST, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS. The above recitals (whereas clauses) are hereby adopted as the legislative and administrative findings of the City Council.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 1, SECTION 25-3 (D), FIRE SAFETY AND RESCUE OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES. That Chapter 25, Fire Prevention and Protection, Article I, In General, Section 25-3 (d) & of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Palm Coast are hereby amended to read as follow:

Sec. 25-3. – Fire safety and rescue.

(d) Prohibiting Acts. It shall be unlawful for the City of Palm Coast, to sell, transfer, or long-term lease, the City of Palm Coast Fire Rescue Department, or any substantial operational component thereof, to any other municipality, county government, special district, state agency, or private corporate entity unless the City Council approves such action by a supermajority vote and the action is approved by a majority of electors voting in a Citywide referendum. The City Council's vote shall occur before the referendum is called.

(e) Exclusions. Nothing in this section shall prohibit:

(1) The routine procurement, replacement, surplus disposal, or sale of individual obsolete or decommissioned firefighting vehicles, tools, or equipment in the ordinary course of municipal administration.

(2) Mutual aid agreements, automatic aid agreements, or interlocal agreements entered into with

neighboring municipal, county, or state emergency services for the enhancement of regional public safety and disaster response.

(3) Interlocal agreements for specialized training or shared dispatch services that do not divest the City of Palm Coast of its ultimate ownership, control, and operational authority over its fire department.

* * *

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. CODIFICATION. It is the intention of the City Council of the City of Palm Coast, Florida, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Palm Coast, Florida; that the Sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered to accomplish such intention; that the word, “Ordinance” may be changed to “Section,” “Article,” or other appropriate word.

SECTION 5. CONFLICTS. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

APPROVED on first reading this ____ day of September 2026.

ADOPTED on second reading after due public notice and hearing this ____ day of October 2026.

ATTEST:

CITY OF PALM COAST

KALEY COOK, CITY CLERK

MICHAEL NORRIS, MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

MARCUS DUFFY, CITY ATTORNEY