

MEMORANDUM

January 23, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Commission

VIA: James Slaton, City Manager

FROM: Jonathan Smith, Fire Chief

RE: Ordinance 2026-02, Amending Chapter 10, Fire Prevention, Lake Wales Code of Ordinances – 1st Reading

SYNOPSIS

The amendment will update Section 1 of Chapter 10 to achieve compliance with State Statute.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Commission approve Ordinance 2026-02 after first reading.

BACKGROUND

Section 10-1 previously adopted a specific edition of a fire prevention code as the minimum fire safety standard for the City. Pursuant to Florida Statute 633.025 and Florida Administrative Code 69A-60.002, the Florida Fire Prevention Code, as adopted by the State of Florida, is the minimum fire prevention code deemed adopted by each municipality, county, and special district with fire safety responsibilities. To maintain consistency with state law, eliminate conflicts between local and state requirements, and ensure enforceability at the local level, Section 10-1 must reflect adoption of the same fire prevention code currently adopted and enforced by the State of Florida. Aligning the City's code with the State's adopted code allows for local enforcement and avoids the need for non-compliance matters to be adjudicated solely through the county court system.

OPTIONS

None. Approval of Ordinance 2026-02 will bring the City into compliance with Florida Statute.

ATTACHED

Ordinance 2026-02