

Letter of Understanding for
Interlocal Agreement for Fire Suppression and Emergency Medical Services

Martin County and the City of Stuart entered into an Interlocal Agreement for Fire Suppression and Emergency Medical Services (ILA) on _____, 2026 to provide automatic and mutual aid assistance within Martin County, and its contracted areas, and the City of Stuart, and its contracted areas. The parties desire to establish a mutual aid and automatic aid partnership built on closest-unit response principles and equitable operational balance between Martin County Fire Rescue (MCFR) and City of Stuart Fire Rescue (SFR).

Dispatching

Martin County provides the 911 Communications Center (Dispatch) for both Martin County Fire Rescue (MCFR) and City of Stuart Fire Rescue (SFR). Dispatch's Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) system utilizes Emergency Medical and Emergency Fire Dispatching for call prioritization, classification, unit assignments and prearrival instructions for 911 calls. Martin County will continue to use a recognized system for classifying calls and assigning units. Both parties agree that for all emergency dispatch categories, the CAD system shall assign the closest available unit regardless of jurisdictional boundary using the CAD Unit Locator (AVL/GPS) to determine geographic proximity in real time. Unit selection shall prioritize proximity and availability over jurisdictional assignment. The on-duty Stuart Fire Rescue Battalion Chief shall be notified of any Martin County unit dispatched into the City's Primary Response Jurisdiction. The on-duty Martin County Fire Rescue Battalion Chief shall be notified of any City of Stuart unit dispatched into the County's Primary Response Jurisdiction.

Department-specific response criteria (CAD determinants) shall be maintained for the system's call types. The response criteria will be updated as needed to keep the CAD current. Prior to any changes to a department's response criteria (CAD determinants), 14 days written notice of the proposed change must be provided to the Fire Chief of the other department.

Emergency Obstetric (OB) Interfacility Transport for Cleveland Clinic Martin North: In the event an obstetric patient presents at the Cleveland Clinic Martin North Emergency Department and is determined by the attending physician to require immediate or emergent transport to a hospital with obstetric (labor and delivery) capabilities, the following shall apply:

1. Primary Response Assignment: MCFR shall be designated as the primary responding and transport agency for this specific call type.
2. Dispatch Protocol: Requests for service shall be initiated through the 911 Communications Center. Dispatch shall assign MCFR units as the primary transport resource consistent with established CAD determinants and this agreement.
3. Support Response: SFR units may respond in a support role as needed, consistent with automatic and mutual aid practices, or closest unit response when applicable.

4. Transport Destination: MCFR personnel shall transport the patient to the most appropriate receiving facility with obstetric capabilities, in accordance with established medical protocols and patient condition.

Applicability: This provision applies solely to emergent obstetric transport requests originating from the Emergency Department and shall not apply to non-emergent, scheduled, or routine interfacility transports.

Closest Unit Response — All-Hazards

Pursuant to the requirements of the ILA, closest unit response (CUR) shall apply universally to all emergency dispatch types, including but not limited to fire suppression, emergency medical services, technical rescue, hazardous materials support, and all other emergency call types dispatched through the Martin County 911 Communications Center.

Unit availability and geographic position—as tracked in real time by the CAD Unit Locator—shall be the sole criteria for initial unit assignment. Both MCFR and SFR commit to maintaining accurate AVL/GPS unit positioning data within the CAD system to ensure proper closest-unit identification. The responding unit shall follow its own department’s policies, procedures, and operational standards once dispatched.

Jurisdictions

The Primary Response Areas for MCFR and SFR for the provision of Fire Suppression and Emergency Medical Services are designated in the Primary Response Jurisdictions Map, attached as Exhibit 1. The jurisdictional map shall continue to serve as a reference for administrative, investigative, and Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) purposes. Jurisdictional boundaries shall not restrict emergency unit deployment; the CAD system’s closest-unit logic shall govern all emergency dispatch assignments.

Special Operations/Hazmat and Aeromedical transport services are provided by MCFR throughout the County, including municipalities within its boundaries.

For the purposes of fire investigations and inspections, the geopolitical boundaries are to be observed for purposes of law enforcement actions and authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) responsibilities.

Fees for First Due Suite

The City shall pay to the County \$6,000 annually for utilization of the First Due Suite pre-fire planning software program shall remain in effect unless otherwise mutually agreed upon in writing by both Fire Chiefs.

This Letter of Understanding is agreed upon by the parties through their duly authorized representatives this _____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF STUART

MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____

Michael Giardino
City Manager

By: _____

Don G. Donaldson, PE
County Administrator

Vincent Felicione
Fire Chief
City of Stuart Fire Rescue

Chad Michael Cianciulli
Fire Chief
Martin County Fire Rescue