

## ORDINANCE NUMBER 2026-2359

### CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA

1        **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA; AMENDING**  
2        **CITY CODE CHAPTER 70, ARTICLE V, FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT,**  
3        **ADDING A NEW SECTION 70-136 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING**  
4        **PRIOR MILITARY SERVICE; ADDING A NEW SECTION 70-137 FOR THE**  
5        **PURPOSE OF PURCHASING PRIOR FIREFIGHTER SERVICE; PROVIDING**  
6        **FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING AN**  
7        **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

8        **WHEREAS**, the City of Lake City desires its firefighters be provided the opportunity to purchase  
9        prior military and prior firefighter service as a recruiting tool; and

10       **WHEREAS**, the ability to purchase service is recognized as permissible in both Chapter 175,  
11       Florida Statutes, and the Internal Revenue Code; and

12       **WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to add these provisions to the City of Lake City Code of  
13       Ordinances (the "Code"); and

14       **WHEREAS**, amending the Code in the foregoing form and substance is in the public interest and  
15       in the interests of the City; now, therefore:

16       **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA:**

17       **SECTION 1. PURCHASE OF PRIOR MILITARY SERVICE**

18       Chapter 70, Article V, Section 70-136 of the City of Lake City Code of Ordinances is hereby  
19       created as follows:

20       **Sec. 70-136. MILITARY SERVICE PRIOR TO EMPLOYMENT.**

21       The years or fractional parts of years that a Firefighter serves or has served on active  
22       duty in the military service of the Armed Forces of the United States, the United  
23       States Merchant Marine or the United States Coast Guard, voluntarily or  
24       involuntarily and honorably or under honorable conditions, prior to first and initial  
25       employment with the District Fire Department shall be added to years of Credited  
26       Service provided that:

- 27       1. The Member contributes to the Fund the sum that he/she would have  
28       contributed, based on his/her Salary and the Member contribution rate in  
29       effect at the time that the Credited Service is requested, had he/she been a  
30       Member of the System for the years or fractional parts of years for which  
31       he/she is requesting credit plus amounts actuarially determined such that the  
32       crediting of service does not result in any cost to the Fund plus payment of

costs for all professional services rendered to the Board in connection with the purchase of years of Credited Service.

2. Multiple requests to purchase Credited Service pursuant to this Section may be made at any time prior to Retirement.
3. Payment by the Member of the required amount shall be made within six (6) months of the request for credit, but not later than the retirement date, and shall be made in one (1) lump sum payment upon receipt of which Credited Service shall be given.
4. The maximum credit under this Section shall be four (4) years.
5. Credited Service purchased pursuant to this Section shall count for all purposes, except vesting and eligibility for not-in-line of duty disability benefits.

## **SECTION 2: PURCHASE OF PRIOR FIRE SERVICE**

Chapter 70, Article V, Section 70-137 of the City of Lake City Code of Ordinances is hereby created as follows:

### **Sec. 70-137. PRIOR FIRE SERVICE.**

Unless otherwise prohibited by law, and except as provided for in Section 1, the years or fractional parts of years that a Member previously served as a full-time Firefighter with the City during a period of previous employment and for which period Accumulated Contributions were withdrawn from the Fund, or the years and fractional parts of years that a member served as a Firefighters for any other municipal, county or state law enforcement department or as a Firefighter for any other municipal, county, state or special district fire department in the State of Florida shall be added to years of Credited Service provided that:

1. The Member contributes to the Fund the sum that they would have contributed, based on his/her Salary and the Member contribution rate in effect at the time that the Credited Service is requested, had he/she been a Member of the System for the years or fractional parts of years for which he/she is requesting credit plus amounts actuarially determined such that the crediting of service does not result in any cost to the Fund plus payment of costs for all professional services rendered to the Board in connection with the purchase of years of Credited Service.
  - a. The member salary used as the initial salary for the projected salary will be the salary for the member for the year preceding each purchase of service credits.
  - b. The calculation of the full actuarial cost will be made using the assumptions used in the actuarial valuation performed prior to the purchase of the service credits.

2. Multiple requests to purchase Credited Service pursuant to this Section may be made at any time prior to Retirement.
3. Payment by the Member of the required amount shall be made within six (6) months of the request for credit, but not later than the retirement date, and shall be made in one (1) lump sum payment upon receipt of which Credited Service shall be given.
4. The maximum credit under this Section for service other than with City shall be five (5) years of Credited Service and shall count for all purposes, except vesting and eligibility for not-in-line of duty disability benefits. There shall be no maximum purchase of credit for prior service with the City and such credit shall count for all purposes, including vesting.
5. In no event, however, may Credited Service be purchased pursuant to this Section for prior service with any other municipal, county fire department, if such prior service forms or will form the basis of a retirement benefit or pension from a different employer's retirement system or plan as set forth in Florida Statutes §112.65.
6. For purposes of determining credit for prior service as a Firefighter as provided for in this Section, in addition to service as a Firefighter in this State, credit may be purchased by the Member in the same manner as provided above for federal, other state, county or municipal service if the prior service is recognized by the Division of State Fire Marshal, as provided under Chapter 633, Florida Statutes, or the Firefighter provides proof to the Board that such service is equivalent to the service required to meet the definition of a Firefighter under Section 70-122, above.

### SECTION 3: PURCHASE OF PRIOR FIRE SERVICE

Chapter 70, Article V, Section 70-138 through Section 70-150 of the City of Lake City Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

**Sec. ~~70-136~~ 70-138 – 70-150. RESERVED.**

### SECTION 4: PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION

It is the intention of the City Council that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made part of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lake City, Florida. The Sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered, re-lettered and the word "Ordinance" may be changed to "Section", "Article" or such other word or phrase in order to accomplish such intention. The correction of typographical errors which do not affect the intent or substance of the ordinance may be authorized by the City Clerk or the City Clerk's designee with the consent of the City Attorney without public hearing, by filing a corrected or re-codified copy of the same with the City.

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**SECTION 5: PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY**

If any clause, section, or other part or application of this Ordinance shall be held in any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, such unconstitutional or invalid part or application shall be considered as eliminated and shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications which shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 6: PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances, resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

**SECTION 7: PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption, unless otherwise provided.

**APPROVED, UPON FIRST READING,** by the City Council of the City of Lake City at a regular meeting on the \_\_\_\_ day of March, 2026.

**PUBLICALLY NOTICED,** in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Lake City, Florida, by the City Clerk of the City of Lake City, Florida, on the \_\_\_\_ day of March, 2026.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED UPON SECOND READING,** by an affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum present of the City Council of the City of Lake City, at a regular meeting this \_\_\_\_ day of April, 2026.

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY,  
FLORIDA

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Noah E. Walker, Mayor

ATTEST, BY THE CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA:

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Audrey E. Sikes, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

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Clay Martin, City Attorney