

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

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

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

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

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

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51 period Accumulated Contributions were withdrawn from the Fund, or the years and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

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

- 70 2. Multiple requests to purchase Credited Service pursuant to this Section may be
71 made at any time prior to Retirement.
- 72 3. Payment by the Member of the required amount shall be made within six (6)
73 months of the request for credit, but not later than the retirement date, and
74 shall be made in one (1) lump sum payment upon receipt of which Credited
75 Service shall be given.
- 76 4. The maximum credit under this Section for service other than with City shall be
77 five (5) years of Credited Service and shall count for all purposes, except vesting
78 and eligibility for not-in-line of duty disability benefits. There shall be no
79 maximum purchase of credit for prior service with the City and such credit shall
80 count for all purposes, including vesting.
- 81 5. In no event, however, may Credited Service be purchased pursuant to this
82 Section for prior service with any other municipal, county fire department, if
83 such prior service forms or will form the basis of a retirement benefit or pension
84 from a different employer's retirement system or plan as set forth in Florida
85 Statutes §112.65.
- 86 6. For purposes of determining credit for prior service as a Firefighter as
87 provided for in this Section, in addition to service as a Firefighter in this State,
88 credit may be purchased by the Member in the same manner as provided
89 above for federal, other state, county or municipal service if the prior service
90 is recognized by the Division of State Fire Marshal, as provided under Chapter
91 633, Florida Statutes, or the Firefighter provides proof to the Board that such
92 service is equivalent to the service required to meet the definition of a
93 Firefighter under Section 70-122, above.

94 **SECTION 3: PURCHASE OF PRIOR FIRE SERVICE**

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

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

98 **SECTION 4: PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION**

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

107 **SECTION 5: PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY,
FLORIDA

Noah E. Walker, Mayor

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

Audrey E. Sikes, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Clay Martin, City Attorney