

1 Introduced by Council Member Diamond and Co-Sponsored by Council  
2 Members Amaro, Arias, Boylan, J. Carlucci, Carlucci, Carrico, Clark-  
3 Murray, Freeman, Gaffney, Jr., Gay, Howland, Johnson, Lahnen, Miller,  
4 Peluso, Pittman, Salem and White and amended by the Finance Committee  
5 and amended on the Floor of Council:  
6  
7

8 **ORDINANCE 2026-186-E**

9 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$314,900 FROM THE  
10 GENERAL FUND OPERATING CIP DEBT SERVICE  
11 REPAYMENT - ISA-DEBT MANAGEMENT FUND-PRINCIPAL  
12 ACCOUNT TO THE FRFO ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES -  
13 FIRE CONTROL - SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT ACCOUNT, TO  
14 PROVIDE FUNDING TO THE JACKSONVILLE FIRE AND  
15 RESCUE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURCHASE AND  
16 INSTALLATION OF INFANT SAFETY DEVICES COMMONLY  
17 REFERRED TO AS "BABY BOXES" AT 14 FIRE STATIONS  
18 THROUGHOUT DUVAL COUNTY; PROVIDING FOR CARRYOVER  
19 TO FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027; PROVIDING FOR  
20 OVERSIGHT BY THE JACKSONVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE  
21 DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, in 2000 the State of Florida enacted the "Safe Haven  
24 law", codified as Section 383.50, *Florida Statutes*, to allow for 24/7  
25 anonymous, legal surrender of newborn babies; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the law authorizes hospitals, emergency medical  
27 services stations, or fire stations that are staffed 24 hours per day  
28 to use an infant safety device, commonly known as a "Baby Box", to  
29 accept surrendered infants aged 30 days or younger; and

30 **WHEREAS**, each Baby Box is required to be temperature controlled  
31 and ventilated, installed to be physically part of the hospital,

1 emergency medical service station, or fire station where it is  
2 located, equipped with a dual alarm system which automatically  
3 triggers an alarm inside the building when an infant is placed in the  
4 Baby Box, and equipped with a surveillance system that allows  
5 employees of the hospital, emergency medical services station, or  
6 fire station to monitor the inside of the Baby Box 24 hours per day;  
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, Baby Boxes have been installed in numerous locations  
9 throughout Florida, traditionally on the exterior walls of fire  
10 stations, and since the Safe Haven law went into effect more than 414  
11 newborns have been safely surrendered at a safe haven in Florida; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the City Council finds it in the best interests of the  
13 public to provide parents with a safe, secure and compassionate  
14 alternative to surrender a newborn child with complete anonymity; now  
15 therefore

16 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

17 **Section 1. Appropriation.** For the 2025-2026 fiscal year,  
18 within the City's budget, there is hereby appropriated the indicated  
19 sum(s) from the account(s) listed in subsection (a) to the account(s)  
20 listed in subsection (b):

21 (The account information is attached hereto as **Revised Exhibit 1**,  
22 labeled as "Revised Exhibit 1, Rev B.T., April 7, 2026 - Finance" and  
23 incorporated herein by this reference)

- 24 (a) Appropriated from:
- 25 See **Revised Exhibit 1** \$314,900
- 26 (b) Appropriated to:
- 27 See **Revised Exhibit 1** \$314,900

28 (c) Explanation of Appropriation:  
29 The funding above represents an appropriation of \$314,900  
30 from the General Fund Operating CIP Debt Service Repayment  
31 - ISA-Debt Management Fund-Principal account to the FRFO

Administrative Services - Fire Control - Specialized Equipment account to provide funding to the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department for the purchase and installation of infant safety devices, commonly referred to as "Baby Boxes", at 14 fire stations throughout Duval County as more fully described herein.

**Section 2. Purpose.** The purpose of the appropriation in Section 1 is to provide funds for the purchase and installation of Baby Boxes at fire stations throughout Duval County. The Baby Boxes will be placed in one fire station within each Council District at the locations more fully described in **Exhibit 2**, attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference. The Baby Boxes are intended to provide a safe, secure location where parents may anonymously surrender a newborn infant aged 30 days or younger in keeping with Section 383.50, *Florida Statutes*, also known as Florida's "Safe Haven" law.

**Section 3. Carryover.** The funds appropriated herein shall not lapse but shall carryover to Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

**Section 4. Oversight Department.** The Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department shall have oversight of the project described herein.

**Section 5. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective without the Mayor's signature.

Form Approved:

/s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Mary E. Staffopoulos