



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2026

CAPPING RSW AIRPORT PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BANKED LEAVE AT 60 HOURS SAVES \$2.47 MILLION AND PROTECTS AVIATION SAFETY

LEE COUNTY, FL — TripleDippers.org released a comprehensive forensic audit of the Regional South West International Airport (RSW) operated by Lee County Port Authority (LCPA) employees' leave banks and compensation rosters, revealing that capping employees' banked leave at 60 hours—down from the current "sky's the limit" unlimited policy—would immediately save taxpayers and air passengers **\$2,475,100**. The forensic analysis exposes dozens of airport employees hoarding hundreds—and in some cases nearly two thousand—hours of unused leave, driving up airport overhead and worsening the regional affordability crisis. See: <https://tripledippers.org/fl-2026-july-lee-county-government/>

Currently, total accrued leave liabilities across LCPA employees reach **\$3,410,940**. By replacing the current unchecked payout system with a standard 60-hour cap, LCPA operations would eliminate nearly **\$2.48 million** in bloated financial liabilities.

Although the Lee County Port Authority's operational budget is supported by airline landing fees, passenger ticket revenues, and terminal concessions, these exorbitant leave stockpiles inflate airport overhead. This drives up travel costs, parking rates, and vendor prices, shifting the cost of government leave hoarding directly onto local residents and visitors traveling through Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW).

Furthermore, refusing to take routine days off poses a direct safety risk to the air flying public, fellow co-workers, and the employees themselves. In high-stakes aviation roles—such as Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF), airport policing, airfield maintenance, and operations—fatigue and burnout compromise response times, situational awareness, and split-second decision-making.

The Lee County Port Authority is governed directly by the Lee County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), which serves as the Port Authority Board. The BOCC holds full authority to reform airport personnel policies, restrict leave hoarding, and enforce fiscal discipline across RSW and Page Field operations.



<https://TripleDippers.org> | <https://www.facebook.com/tripledippers> |
<https://USATaxFighters.org>





"By capping banked leave at 60 hours—mirroring private sector standards—we immediately save taxpayers and travelers nearly \$2.5 million while ensuring employees take necessary time off for mental health, rest, and quality family life," stated Dave Jaye, Chairman of the Lee County Taxpayers Association and Lead Researcher at TripleDippers.org. "Ending this 'sky's the limit' policy safeguards the flying public, protects co-workers from burnout, and eliminates artificial travel cost inflation for our residents and visitors." TripleDippers.org has been documenting and exposing Florida politician and bureaucrat pension bonus abuses since 2018. See the full sortable list for Lee County Government banked hours hoarding and pension bonuses at: <https://tripedippers.org/fl-2026-july-lee-county-government/>

"This taxpayer and traveler burden is compounded by a stark economic disparity: 85% of private-sector workers do not have a traditional pension, yet taxpayers and consumers are forced to finance guaranteed public employee pension bonuses and life-long pensions," added Dave Jaye.

To restore accountability, safeguard public safety, and protect mental health and quality family life, TripleDippers.org is proposing two critical fiscal reforms:

1. **Enforce a strict 60-hour cap on banked leave**, saving \$2.47 million and requiring staff to take time off to prevent burnout and mitigate safety risks to co-workers and passengers.
2. **Mandate that all banked leave be paid out at the salary rate in effect when the hours were earned**, eliminating the practice of cashing out accumulated time at inflated final-year career salaries.

The Problem: Multi-Thousand-Hour Stockpiles and Aviation Safety Risks

In the private sector, companies enforce strict use-it-or-lose-it policies or modest carryover limits (typically 40 to 80 hours) to encourage work-life balance, reduce fatigue, and control financial liabilities. In stark contrast, public records reveal extreme leave hoarding across LCPA departments, with public safety and emergency personnel stockpiling up to 1,961 hours—nearly a full year of unused time off.



<https://TripleDippers.org> | <https://www.facebook.com/tripedippers> |
<https://USATaxFighters.org>

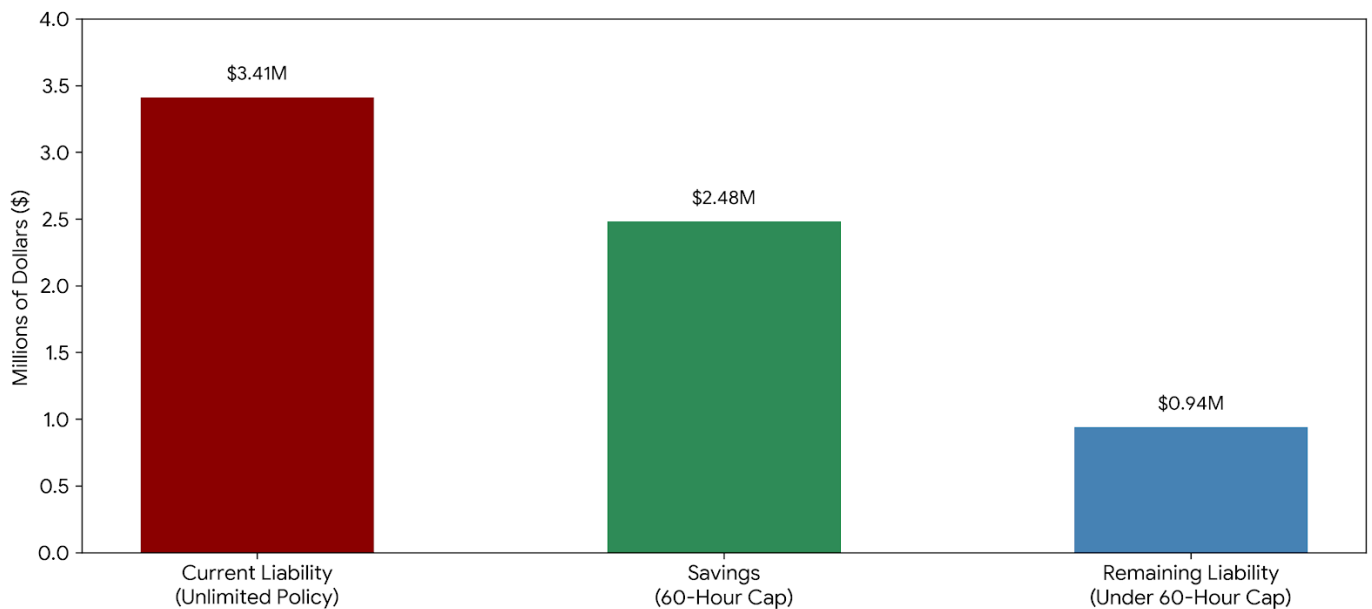




CAPPING RSW AIRPORT PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BANKED LEAVE
SAVES TAXPAYERS & PASSENGERS \$2.47 MILLION



Lee County Port Authority (Operator of RSW International Airport)
Banked Leave Liability & Proposed Savings





The following **"Dirty Dozen"** list exposes top Lee County Port Authority employees hoarding massive balances of banked leave:

Name	Title	Salary	Banked Hours	Value of Banked Hours
Bell, John O	ARFF Technician	\$113,114	1,803	\$98,050
Price, Douglas Wayne	ARFF Technician	\$113,114	1,775	\$96,528
Sitts, Brian C	ARFF Battalion Chief	\$133,579	1,339	\$85,991
Garcia, Henry Johnny	ARFF Technician	\$113,114	1,383	\$75,210
Overbee, Jaron Daniel	ARFF Captain	\$108,847	1,404	\$73,472
Brennan, Patrick M	ARFF Technician	\$113,114	1,220	\$66,346
Magoon, Matthew James	ARFF Technician	\$113,114	1,062	\$57,753
Johnson, Reed M	Senior Tradesworker	\$59,316	1,961	\$55,922
Syvret, David Nathan	ARFF Technician	\$105,148	1,089	\$55,051
Davis, Nicholas E	ARFF Technician	\$110,437	1,028	\$54,581
Spiller, Matthew Gordon	ARFF Technician	\$96,205	1,142	\$52,820
Jones, Edward James	ARFF Captain	\$104,595	1,039	\$52,247



<https://TripleDippers.org> | <https://www.facebook.com/tripledippers> |
<https://USATaxFighters.org>





RSW Airport Public Employee Pension Bonus Participants

The fiscal burden expands when senior airport officials participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP), where accumulated payouts stack on top of lucrative pension bonuses. Below are the Port Authority employees participating in the DROP pension bonus program who were not satisfied with a 5-year pension bonus and demanded and received 8-year pension bonuses:

Name	Title	Salary	Value of Banked Hours	8-Yr Pension Bonus	5-Yr Pension Bonus
Moran, David C	ARFF Captain	\$114,160	\$50,329	\$989,046	\$618,154
Rimes, Joshua L	ARFF Battalion Chief	\$133,579	\$32,560	\$963,129	\$601,956
Brennan, Patrick M	ARFF Technician I	\$113,114	\$66,346	\$797,319	\$436,134
Giovannelli, Craig R	Police Commander	\$149,631	\$14,531	\$540,365	\$294,107
Forgays, Gilbert J III	Director, Operations & Safety	\$179,862	\$11,933	\$455,647	\$246,694
Fox, Ann Marie	Coordinator, Page Field	\$79,968	\$10,111	\$269,350	\$168,344
Obermeier, Carol L	Director, Air Service Development	\$179,862	\$2,248	\$238,660	\$149,162

Action Required by the Board of County Commissioners

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), serving as the governing body of the Lee County Port Authority, must immediately mandate healthy work-life boundaries, mitigate safety risks at RSW, and protect consumers and taxpayers.

Lee County policy must change to impose strict limits: capping banked leave at 60 hours for staff, mandating that personnel take off time to prevent fatigue, and prohibiting the terminal cash-out of bloated leave reserves at peak career salaries.

“Florida’s public pension bonus system has created a \$39 billion unfunded state pension liability—approximately \$1,725 to be paid by every Florida resident,” concluded Dave Jaye. “Eliminating unchecked leave cash-outs and saving \$2.47 million at LCPA will protect public safety and help lower living and travel costs for everyone.”



<https://TripleDippers.org> | <https://www.facebook.com/tripledippers> |
<https://USATaxFighters.org>





Stay tuned for investigative reports regarding the Lee County Port Authority, RSW, Lee County elected officials, the Lee County school district, fire districts, and municipal governments at <https://tripedippers.org/>

**Dave Jaye, Chairman Lee County Taxpayers Association & Lead Researcher,
TripleDippers.org**

(586) 488-5177 | dave.jaye55@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/LeeCountyTaxpayersAssociation>

<https://www.facebook.com/tripedippers>

TRIPLEDIPPERS.org



Exposing Public Corruption and Wasteful Spending

Dave Jaye [Researcher] (586) 488-5177
dave.jaye55@gmail.com ★ [Facebook.com/tripedippers](https://www.facebook.com/tripedippers)



<https://TripleDippers.org> | <https://www.facebook.com/tripedippers> |
<https://USATaxFighters.org>

