



LOS ANGELES  
**FIRE**  
DEPARTMENT  
FOUNDATION

# IMPACT REPORT

# 2024



# A STRONGER, MORE RESILIENT LAFD IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF YOU.

**Three percent** is all that the City's budget offers to cover vital equipment and tools for the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD).

## But what does three percent really mean?

Addressing that three percent gap means keeping your LAFD firefighters safe by purchasing life-saving equipment, ensuring access to robust mental health support, and funding other critical needs that keep them functioning at the highest level.

**All this is possible because of you.** The LAFD Foundation's success is measured by how prepared, equipped, supported, and safe our LAFD firefighters are. Our success over the past year is merely a reflection of the generous outpouring of support from donors like you who believe in the work that we do.

Last year, **the LAFD Foundation fulfilled over \$1,365,881 in LAFD fire station grant requests alone through its Adopt-A-Fire-Station (AAFS) program**, funding everything from fitness equipment to refrigerators. Additionally, when the LAFD's Swift Water Rescue team needed new, up-to-date dry suits and harnesses, **the LAFD Foundation secured funding to replace their dated equipment.** This funding was especially crucial as Angelenos saw record-breaking rainfall during the winter season. From the LAFD's Youth Programs to innovative apparatus like Fast Response Vehicles (FRVs), **the Foundation steps in when the three percent provided by the City's budget falls short.**

**The Foundation thanks you for this and so much more that is not easy to quantify.** Enjoy looking back at all the ways that your contributions have helped equip your LAFD with the tools and equipment they need to continue saving lives and building resilient communities.

Sincerely,



Liz Lin  
LAFD Foundation President



## THE LAFD FOUNDATION MISSION

The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) Foundation provides vital equipment and funds critical programs to help the LAFD save lives and protect communities.

SINCE 2018...

# \$25M+



Provided to LAFD

## WHY WE EXIST

- ▶ **TO FUND**  
cutting-edge technology & tools
- ▶ **TO EQUIP**  
every LAFD firefighter
- ▶ **TO PROVIDE**  
critical support to the LAFD





## YOUR LAFD AT A GLANCE OVER THE PAST YEAR

### DAILY AVERAGES

**+ 1,351**  
Calls for service

**+ 1,209**  
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) calls

**+ 143**  
Non-EMS calls



### FY2023-2024 BY THE NUMBERS

Total calls for service

**509,190**

Total EMS calls for service

**417,306**

Number of new firefighters

**173**

# ADOPT-A-FIRE-STATION

What started as a small effort by LAFD firefighters to raise funds for station essentials has grown into a robust program that helps address pressing needs for all of the LAFD's 106 fire stations.

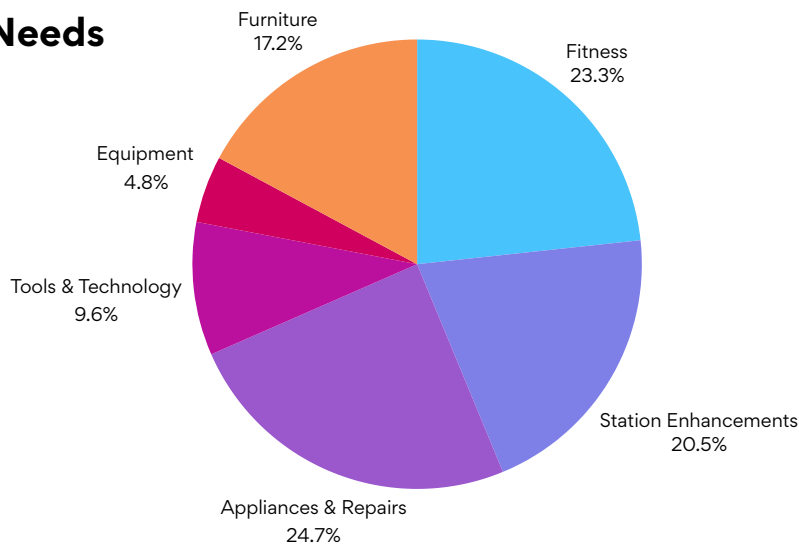
**Over the past year, the LAFD Foundation fulfilled more than \$1.3 million in grant requests, ranging from appliances like refrigerators and extractors to necessary upgrades for aging stations, through the Adopt-A-Fire-Station (AAFS) program.**

At most stations, upwards of 16 firefighters could be sharing a single washing machine, despite having to clean uniforms on an almost daily basis. **One station had a single mini fridge to store groceries for the entire station, across all three shifts.** Fire stations serve as both second homes and workplaces for firefighters, and the frequent use of basic amenities creates a shorter lifespan for everyday essentials.

LAFD Foundation Board Member Dean Ulrich was a captain in the late 1990s who recognized that his station was in dire need of equipment and appliances. He rallied his crew and the local community to raise significant funds that helped improve station life and address funding gaps. This grassroots campaign was the catalyst for the AAFS program.

**Because many stations are more than 50 years old, the AAFS program has become even more critical.** Today, a station that might have been designed for six firefighters could house up to 12, with minimal updates or remodeling changes over the prior years to adjust to the loss of space.

## FY2023-2024 Fire Station Needs



City budget constraints and limited resources result in firefighters frequently shouldering the costs for urgent repairs or replacements of basic items, like washing machines, coffee machines, and ice machines. However, **48% of LAFD fire stations are underserved with less than \$1,000 in their station accounts.** Repairs for a refrigerator or washing machine, and especially replacements, could easily drain these stations' already small budgets.

The LAFD Foundation continues to improve general living and working conditions to support the firefighters who selflessly serve the Los Angeles community every single day.

## Youth Programs Pathway



# LAFD YOUTH PROGRAMS

For more than ten years, the LAFD Foundation has funded four vital youth recruitment and outreach programs administered by the LAFD: Camp S.P.A.R.K. (Service, Professionalism, Attitude, Respect, and Knowledge), the Youth F.I.R.E. (Fire, Instruction, Recruitment, and Education) Program, the Firefighter/EMS High School Magnet Program, and the LAFD Cadets.

The LAFD recognizes that maintaining a pipeline of youth programs is key to identifying talent and nurturing the next generation of firefighters. With the belief that the LAFD should reflect the people it serves, these programs target underserved communities to improve access to growth and enrichment opportunities.

The LAFD's Youth Programs are a school-to-service, multi-tiered pathway that is open and accessible to any student interested in learning about careers in fire. **The LAFD's Youth Programs have provided diverse, creative, fire-centric programming for more than 1,000 students over the past year.**

Though there is an ideal pathway for students to move through each program, participants can choose which track or program most aligns with their personal goals.

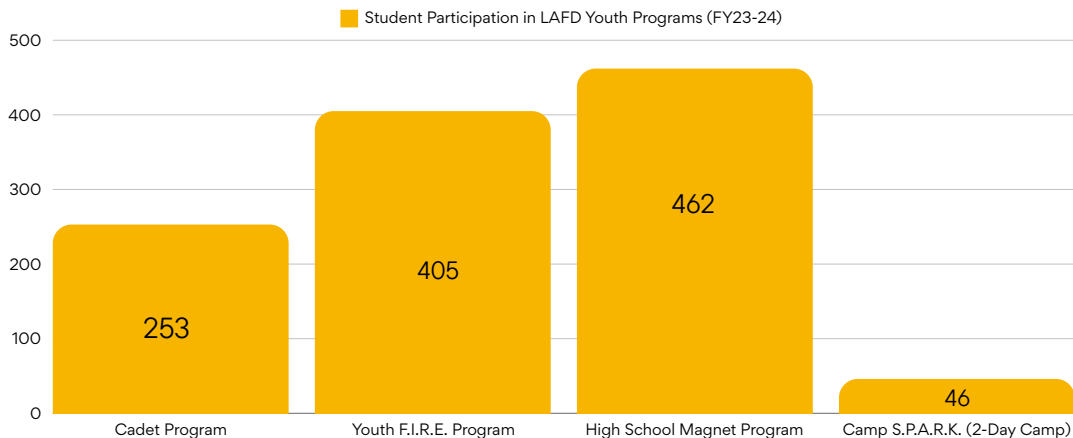
Perhaps the most important outcome of youth programs is the confidence that is instilled in each participant. Whether or not they pursue a career in the fire service, **LAFD Youth Program students walk away with a stronger sense of self, responsibility, and an overall desire to pursue a career that positively impacts the world around them.**



2023-2024 Woodrow Wilson High School Magnet Program Students



# BOLSTERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FIREFIGHTERS



**The LAFD Cadet program** is the highest tier of the progressive pathway to becoming an LAFD firefighter and is designed for youth aged 14-20 who are serious about a career in the fire service. Cadets work side by side with LAFD members to learn the duties and responsibilities of a firefighter and are assigned to an LAFD Cadet Post at a selected LAFD fire station.

**The Youth F.I.R.E. Program** educates, mentors, and teaches life skills to high school students throughout Los Angeles in 8-hour sessions on Saturdays for seven weeks. The program is designed as the next step before registering for the Cadet Program.

## 63%

2024 Cadets who completed the Youth F.I.R.E. Program

**Students participating in the Firefighter/EMS High School Magnet Program** at one of four designated Los Angeles City schools are offered the opportunity to learn about a career in the fire service. The Magnet program provides students with hands-on experience to develop the skills, knowledge, and abilities to prepare for and understand the requirements to become an LAFD firefighter.



**Camp S.P.A.R.K. changed its long-held name, “Girls Camp,” to foster a more gender-inclusive space.**

Participants learn how service, professionalism, attitude, respect, and kindness (S.P.A.R.K.) should be applied to the fire service and in life. The core of the camp’s mission is to introduce young girls to the fire service in an exciting and safe way.



# “

I learned that I love helping others, and want to continue presenting myself properly, showing up, and doing whatever I can to make a difference in other people’s lives.

-- Brendan, graduate of the 2024 Woodrow Wilson High School Magnet Program

# ARSON COUNTER-TERRORISM SECTION (ARSON UNIT)

Arson investigators risk their lives every time they apprehend criminals. Fitted body armor has been required for the Arson Unit for years as part of their standard personal protective equipment (PPE), but over the past year, the existing armor exceeded its shelf life.

The Arson Unit was in dire need of updated, heavier-duty body armor that would continue to ensure their safety.

The LAFD Foundation was able to equip every Arson investigator with new, up-to-date bullet-proof vests. This new and improved body armor not only stops bullets, but is also strike, slash, stab, and special threat-resistant, ensuring a better protected and better equipped Arson Unit.

“These vests are a game-changer for us. We can’t thank [the LAFD Foundation] enough.

-- Chief Thomas Raymond, Arson Unit



## FY2023-2024

Investigations	Arrests	Conviction Rate
1,209	160	95%

# WOMEN’S WELLNESS CONFERENCE

For the third year in a row, the LAFD Foundation partnered with the non-profit Women’s Fire Alliance to build a space where 75 women in fire from Southern California could come together and envision a future where women are defined not by their gender, but by their contributions to the fire service.

Attendees heard powerful messages from LAFD Fire Chief Kristin Crowley, the first female Fire Chief, and keynote speaker Lisa Jaster, the first female reserve soldier to graduate from the Army’s Ranger School.

Breakout sessions discussed topics that men in the fire service do not have to consider, from reproductive health to pregnancy and prenatal care on the job.



“Once you prove that you have the merit, that you have the capability, there is nothing anyone can do to take it away from you.

-- Lisa Jaster, Keynote Speaker



**78%**

Survey respondents “extremely satisfied” with the conference

**22%**

Survey respondents “very satisfied” with the conference

# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM

**The Wilmington explosion that occurred on February 15, 2024, landed nine LAFD members in the hospital with significant injuries** when a CNG tank unexpectedly exploded during a routine truck fire. Fire psychologists noted that 22 members were impacted on both a physical and psychological level.

Over the past year, the LAFD Foundation provided innovative advancements for the Behavioral Health Program to more effectively and proactively respond to Potentially Traumatic Events (PTEs) such as the Wilmington incident. In addition to annual wellness workshops, the LAFD Foundation funded the implementation of virtual reality mindfulness therapy as part of a comprehensive Trauma Response Pilot Program to explore new ways to effectively address the mental health needs of firefighters.

## FY2023-2024

Therapeutic Hours

**1,110**

Therapy Sessions

**712**

Previous/Returning Clients

**55%**

The scope and intensity of the Wilmington incident required an immediate mental health response to address the coping needs of the impacted members. For this and other significant incidents involving LAFD members, LAFD psychologists were deployed to assist crews after each tragedy.

Fire psychologists implement a comprehensive and holistic approach to mental health. Firefighter partners and families all have access to the resources provided through the Behavioral Health Program, ensuring that the whole firefighter is supported as they navigate their on-the-job experiences. **Wellness workshops and fire station visits throughout the year help equip firefighters with the tools they need to better respond to PTEs before they occur.**

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), more than 80% of first responders experience traumatic events on the job, and one in three develop PTSD throughout their careers. These battles with PTSD, depression, and anxiety are often fought silently, especially when exposure to such events is considered part of the job.

**The Behavioral Health Program was launched in 2018 to provide emotional and mental health support to LAFD members for incident-based trauma and long-term behavioral health support.** Success for this program is reflected in the increased number of firefighters who are breaking the stigma around silent stoicism to seek help when they need it.



# INJURY PREVENTION



## FY2023-2024



**5%**

Increase in firefighter injury risk evaluations



**13%**

Increase in continued treatment



**100+**

Firefighters who avoided further injury since 2019

**Firefighters face danger every time they respond to a call, whether entering a burning building or assisting unstable and potentially violent individuals.** More common than the injuries that can be sustained from these incidents, though, are the minor injuries that come from the day-to-day wear and tear of the job.

The LAFD recognized the correlation between these minor injuries and the impact on worker's compensation claims. In 2019, the LAFD developed the Injury Prevention Unit to help reduce the volume of injured firefighters who had to go off-duty due to minor injuries.

The Injury Prevention Unit **provides firefighters with personalized data that optimizes their on-the-job performance and overall physical fitness.**

Beyond reducing minor injuries and worker's compensation cases, **the LAFD Foundation helped ensure that 364 firefighters and paramedics received thorough injury evaluations to improve their physical resiliency, a 5% increase from the previous fiscal year.**

The LAFD Foundation also provided funding for two physical trainers who supported recruits during their initial training, taking a proactive approach to ensuring on-the-job safety.

The funding of rehabilitation equipment, treatment tables, massage guns and rollers, bandage wraps, and kinesiology tape were all made possible through the LAFD Foundation. These tools were instrumental in helping to treat both firefighters and recruits over the past year, **enabling members to return to work and receive long-term care to address physical barriers.**


# FAST RESPONSE VEHICLES (FRVS)

In 2023, after recognizing an increase in calls for emergency medical services (EMS), LAFD Fire Chief Kristin Crowley identified increasing the LAFD's fleet of Fast Response Vehicles (FRVs) as one of her most pressing needs for the coming year. **In response, the LAFD Foundation stepped in to equip the LAFD with two new 24-hour staffed FRVs.**

These multi-mission LAFD resources carry the same equipment and medical supplies as Mobile Intensive Care Units and are equipped with water tanks, **helping them to serve as both fast-response Advanced Life Support Units and fire suppression vehicles.**

**Over the past year, FRV innovation circumvented the use of rescue ambulances and relieved other LAFD resources over 16,000 times,** more than any other year since the program's launch in 2015. FRVs continue to demonstrate the value of supplementing traditional response units, such as ambulances and engines, to improve overall LAFD response times and alleviate call volumes that impact heavier apparatus.

The ability to treat patients on-site and provide referrals that minimize emergency room visits has been invaluable to advancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the LAFD.

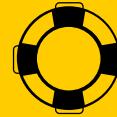
24-Hour Staffed FRVs	Total Incidents	
FRV at Fire Station 9	3,638	
FRV at Fire Station 64	5,964	
FRV at Fire Station 11 (went into service on 4/11/24)	833	
FRV at Fire Station 82 (operates Friday & Saturday)	928	



# SWIFT WATER RESCUE

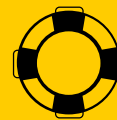


## FY2023-2024



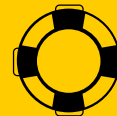
**24**

Deployments for major storms



**12**

911 calls for water rescues



**9**

Lives saved

Rainfall totaled **13.95 inches** across the City, a whopping 98% of the normal seasonal rainfall of 14.25 inches, in the 2023-2024 rainy season.

The **Swift Water Rescue team** is an elite group of **firefighters** who are specially trained to face these unpredictable currents and treacherous waterways to save lives.

In addition to **new harnesses**, the LAFD Foundation secured **dry suits** to outfit the Swift Water Rescue team, which were especially critical this winter. Dry suits are a necessity in cold conditions when normal wetsuit movements can become restricted by temperature. Dry suits also keep water out, which is especially important when the individual or animal being rescued has clothes, fur, or other materials that make them significantly heavier.

When swift water resources are deployed, a four-person all-risk swift water team is staged 24/7 at strategic locations near channels, rivers, tributaries, and small streams that are at risk of rising significantly during particularly rough storms. **The LAFD's Swift Water Rescue team was deployed 24 times during the 2024 storm season.**

In addition to these deployments, the Swift Water Rescue team received 12 911 calls for water-related rescues, and **successfully saved the lives of nine individuals from treacherous waters in 2024.**



“

We wouldn't be able to do what we do without [LAFD Foundation] support. Please tell your donors thank you!

-- Captain Tom Henzgen, Swift Water Program Coordinator



**The funding accomplishments highlighted in this document were made possible through generous contributions (\$1,000+) from loyal friends, foundations, corporate sponsors, and charitable organizations. Thank you for helping to meet the LAFD's most pressing needs.**

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Los Angeles Rams Foundation  
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