



United Firefighters of Los Angeles City

Local 112, International Association of Fire Fighters

April 26, 2021

Honorable Paul Krekorian
Chairman
City Council Budget and Finance Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chairman Krekorian:

As you know, Mayor Garcetti recently released his proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22. LAFD Management and the United Firefighters of Los Angeles City (UFLAC) Local 112 have reviewed the budget proposal carefully and we have come to a shared consensus on our priorities for requests for budget add-backs and priorities for the Department.

The last 12 months have been arguably the most strenuous and consequential period in LAFD history that we can recall. Our firefighters have stepped up at every opportunity to lead the efforts to fight against this global pandemic – even as we have continued to respond to hundreds of thousands of non-coronavirus-related calls. We have done this as our staffing numbers continue to decline and the workload on our firefighters and paramedics has been more intense than ever.

With that in mind, this priority list has been carefully crafted and each item is essential to help us further our mission to protect the people of the City of Los Angeles.

Priority 1: Incident Command Support - One Emergency Incident Technician (EIT) - \$187K - Position was deleted from Batt. 14 "A" for unknown reason in FY 20/21 Budget. Each of the fourteen Battalions on all platoons have an EIT position filled except for this one. For this reason, this is our top priority.

Priority 2: Regulation 4 Unit Staffing - One Inspector II - \$118K - Reg 4 Unit currently has one position used to maintain compliance of 76,000 life safety systems at over 26,000 occupancies. An additional Inspector will enable the Department to keep up with the growing workload. Annual inspections of life safety alarm systems reduce false

alarms and increase availability of firefighters for other emergency incidents, thereby improving response times. Fire alarm testing industry representatives have attended multiple Fire Commission meetings and have been very collaborative and supportive of the Reg 4 Unit and this request. This new position will assist in the transition to a new fee system anticipated to generate approx. \$1.5M per year. **This program is fee supported.**

Priority 3: Extractor Installation - \$250,000. The LAFD needs special washing machines – known as “extractors” to clean our Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and remove cancerous materials from our work clothing. There are brand new extractors that have been on a waiting list to be installed pending additional funding. Therefore, numerous fire stations are operating without any functional extractors, leaving our firefighters without any means to clean cancer causing materials from their PPE. This is a top priority for the health and safety of our firefighters.

Priority 4: False Fire Alarm Program - 1 Senior MA Analyst, 1 Accountant, 1 Accounting Clerk \$195K. Patterned after the LAPD False Alarm Program. The primary objective with these positions is to reduce responses to false fire alarms through the establishment of a false alarm fee. This will have the effect of increasing the availability of our firefighters for other emergency calls, thereby improving response times. The estimated annual revenue is \$1.7M. We are requesting that \$195K be placed in UB account pending approval of the Council Report.

Priority 5: Hardware and Software Support - \$475K. This funding is essential to supporting our ongoing technology subscription needs including the increased usage of cloud-based systems, data analytic systems for Firestat, and increased basic licensing costs that support our CAD. One-time funding was provided in FY 20/21.

Priority 6: Telecom Recurring Cost - \$250K. This funding is urgently needed to offset increased usage of broadband and other telecom services that support field operations. Our entire fleet of emergency vehicles is being upgraded with broad band to facilitate greater situational awareness, for example real time mapping, drone livestreaming, apparatus availability, and much more.

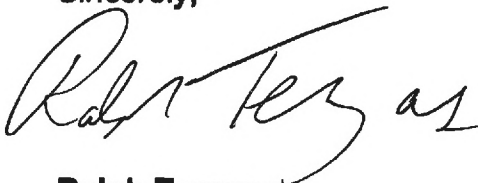
Priority 7: Early Intervention Treatment Program (EITP), One Athletic Trainer - \$82,500 on Contract Funding. This has been the first meaningful LAFD effort to address rising Work Compensation costs. Since October of 2020, the EITP athletic trainer has served 334 members and performed 782 treatments. The early data in reducing workers comp injuries and keeping our members healthy has been extremely promising. We are currently projecting a 9% conversion rate. This rate is the reduction of WC injuries when treated by the EITP trainer. The initial funding came through the Innovation Commission, but additional funding is needed to keep the EITP Trainer in place.

Los Angeles City Firefighters and Paramedics are the best, most highly trained and experienced first responders in the country. For decades we have dealt with stagnant or even decreases in staffing even as our city's population has grown and our emergency calls for service increase each year.

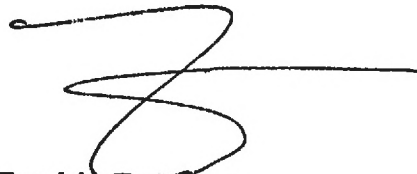
A great deal of thought was put in to each one of these additional priority requests and they have been jointly agreed to by labor and management. We ask that you and the members of the Budget and Finance Committee make these requests a high priority for the public safety of millions of Angelenos that we come into contact with and serve each year.

Thank you in advance for your careful consideration and thank you for your ongoing support of our Fire Department and our Firefighters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph Terrazas", written in a cursive style.

Ralph Terrazas
LAFD Fire Chief

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Freddy Escobar", written in a cursive style.

Freddy Escobar
President, UFLAC Local 112

CC: Honorable Members of the Budget and Finance Committee
 Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council
 Mayor Eric Garcetti
 CAO Richard Llewellyn