



UNITED FIREFIGHTERS of LOS ANGELES CITY

Local 112 IAFF AFL-CIO-CLC

May 21, 2025

Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson
President
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Council President Harris-Dawson:

On May 14, 2025 we sent a letter to the City Council Budget and Finance Committee and all City Councilmembers regarding the Mayor's proposed FY 2025-26 budget and a number of proposed cuts to the LAFD budget that the Budget Committee was considering. I've re-attached this letter for your reference.

This letter discussed proposed cuts to Homeless Fire Protection and Street Medicine (\$11,202,726), Emergency Incident Technician (EIT) positions (\$7.4 million revised to \$9.2 million), Mechanics and Supply/Maintenance Staffing (\$2,457,265), and various cuts to firefighter safety needs (\$2,957,000). Unfortunately, the Budget and Finance Committee moved forward with implementing these cuts from the Mayor's proposed LAFD budget with the exception of \$1.7 million to hire desperately needed new mechanics and shop workers to maintain our LAFD rigs.

The purpose of this letter is to highlight another critical issue that needs immediate attention.

As of May 4, 2025, the LAFD had 105 Firefighter/Paramedic vacancies. This is an absolute crisis when you consider the fact that our department goes on more than 400,000 EMS calls each year and our Firefighter/Paramedics are the most important component of providing advanced life support for our patients.

There are Firefighter/Paramedic vacancies in every single city council district. Here are just some of the examples:

CD 1 (Hernandez)	FS 12 (Highland Park)	1 FF/PM Vacancy
CD 2 (Nazarian)	FS 89 (North Hollywood)	3 FF/PM Vacancies
CD 3 (Blumenfield)	FS 93 (Tarzana)	6 FF/PM Vacancies
CD 4 (Raman)	FS 35 (Los Feliz)	3 FF/PM Vacancies
CD 5 (Yaroslavsky)	FS 58 (Pico Robertson)	3 FF/PM Vacancies
CD 6 (Padilla)	FS 81 (Panorama City)	5 FF/PM Vacancies
CD 7 (Rodriguez)	FS 7 (Panorama City/Mission Hills)	7 FF/PM Vacancies
CD 8 (Harris-Dawson)	FS 64 (South Los Angeles)	2 FF/PM Vacancies
CD 9 (Price)	FS 33 (South Los Angeles)	5 FF/PM Vacancies
CD10 (Hutt)	FS 26 (West Adams)	3 FF/PM Vacancies



CD 11 (Park)	FS 5 (Westchester)	1 FF/PM Vacancy
CD 12 (Lee)	FS 96 (Chatsworth)	4 FF/PM Vacancies
CD 13 (Soto-Martinez)	FS 52 (Hollywood)	3 FF/PM Vacancies
CD 14 (Jurado)	FS 9 (Skid Row)	4 FF/PM Vacancies
CD 15 (McOsker)	FS 38 (Wilmington)	2 FF/PM Vacancies

We have attached the full list of Firefighter/Paramedic vacancies as of May 4, 2025 to this letter for your reference.

The Mayor's original budget proposal for the LAFD included \$540,000 to send up to 45 firefighters to paramedic training school in the next fiscal year and an additional \$376,961 to send even more firefighters to help close this huge vacancy gap. Unfortunately, the Budget Committee cut this \$376,961 of supplemental funding. With 105 current Firefighter/Paramedic vacancies, cutting this additional funding to send dozens more firefighters to paramedic school will only make this crisis even worse. That's why we are asking the city council to restore full funding for this desperately needed part of the LAFD budget.

It's important to understand that the LAFD has been sending firefighters to paramedic school for decades, with as many as 75 firefighters per year attending school for the past several years. It's also important to know that there is no external pool of paramedics in the public or private sector ready to be called on to help us with this crisis. There is a paramedic shortage throughout the State of California and there is no plan B to address this emergency. The only real, sustainable way to fill our Firefighter/Paramedic vacancies is to continue sending as many LAFD Firefighters as possible each year to paramedic school. Without additional funding to send a minimum of 75 firefighters to school each year, these critical vacancies will continue in fire stations throughout the city.

We know that you have difficult decisions ahead and that this is a terrible budget year. At the same time, there should be nothing more important in our city than the safety of our residents, commuters, visitors, and firefighters. Each one of our budget requests has been presented to you with that in mind.

Thank you for your consideration.

On behalf of the UFLAC Executive Board,



John Bagala
IAFF-112 Conservator

CC: Honorable City Council Members
Mayor Karen Bass
CAO Matt Szabo
Interim Fire Chief Ronnie Villanueva
Board of Fire Commissioners

PRIMARY AND NON-PRIMARY VACANCIES EFFECTIVE MAY 4, 2025

CAPTAIN II	CAPTAIN I	APPARATUS OPERATOR	ENGINEER	FIREFIGHTER/ PARAMEDIC	FIREFIGHTER	SPECIALTY ASSIGNMENTS
1-B	7-A	RMT-A	7-A	2-A	RMT-A	CAPTAIN I
2-C	7-B		7-B	2-C	RMT-B	USR 88-B
12-B	7-C		7-C	3-A	3-A	FF/DIVER
35-B	9-C		11-A	4-A	4-B	49-A
37-B	12-B		33-A	4-B	6-A	110-A
38-C	17-B		57-A	4-C	6-C	
50-C	19-A		77-A	5-A	7-A	
60-B	43-B		80-B	7-A	7-B	
60-C	57-C		93-B	7-A	7-C	
61-C	59-B		102-B	7-B	11-A	
74-B	59-C		103-B	7-B	11-B	
75-C	61-C		106-A	7-B	13-A	
92-A	69-A		114-B	7-C	13-B	
93-C	69-C			7-C	13-C	
105-B	73-A			9-A	14-B	
112-C	75-C			9-A	14-C	
	80-A			9-B	14-C	
	81-C			9-B	27-C	
	82-A			10-A	28-B	
	82-B			10-B	28-C	
	83-A			10-C	33-B	
	83-B			13-C	34-B	
	88-B			14-B	37-B	
	91-B			14-B	37-C	
	98-A			14-C	38-A	
	98-B			15-A	38-A	
	104-C			19-C	43-C	
	107-A			26-A	46-C	
				26-C	48-A	
				26-C	48-C	
				33-A	55-A	
				33-A	57-A	
				33-B	58-B	
				33-B	58-B	
				33-C	62-C	

PRIMARY AND NON-PRIMARY VACANCIES EFFECTIVE MAY 4, 2025

CAPTAIN II	CAPTAIN I	APPARATUS OPERATOR	ENGINEER	FIREFIGHTER/ PARAMEDIC	FIREFIGHTER	SPECIALTY ASSIGNMENTS
				34 - A	66 - B	
				35 - A	67 - A	
				35 - C	67 - C	
				35 - C	74 - A	
				38 - A	74 - B	
				38 - C	74 - B	
				39 - B	74 - B	
				39 - C	74 - C	
				46 - A	78 - C	
				46 - B	81 - A	
				52 - A	81 - B	
				52 - B	81 - C	
				52 - C	85 - B	
				57 - B	89 - A	
				57 - C	91 - B	
				58 - A	92 - C	
				58 - A	94 - B	
				58 - C	94 - C	
				60 - A	96 - A	
				60 - B	101 - A	
				60 - C	103 - C	
				61 - A	114 - A	
				61 - A		
				64 - B		
				64 - C		
				65 - A		
				68 - A		
				71 - A		
				73 - A		
				73 - B		
				73 - C		
				74 - A		
				74 - B		
				75 - A		
				75 - C		

(P) = Primary

(T) = Temporary

PRIMARY AND NON-PRIMARY VACANCIES EFFECTIVE MAY 4, 2025

CAPTAIN II	CAPTAIN I	APPARATUS OPERATOR	ENGINEER	FIREFIGHTER/ PARAMEDIC	FIREFIGHTER	SPECIALTY ASSIGNMENTS
				77 - C		
				79 - A		
				81 - A		
				81 - A		
				81 - B		
				81 - C		
				81 - C		
				82 - A		
				82 - C		
				88 - A		
				88 - C		
				89 - A		
				89 - A		
				89 - C		
				90 - C		
				91 - A		
				91 - B		
				93 - A		
				93 - A		
				93 - B		
				93 - B		
				93 - C		
				93 - C		
				94 - A		
				94 - B		
				94 - B		
				96 - A		
				96 - A		
				96 - A		
				96 - C		
				98 - A		
				98 - C		
				98 - C		
				100 - B		
				105 - B		

(P)= Primary

(T) = Temporary



UNITED FIREFIGHTERS of LOS ANGELES CITY

Local 112 IAFF AFL-CIO-CLC

May 14, 2025

Honorable Katy Yaroslavsky
Budget and Finance Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chairwoman Yaroslavsky:

We are reaching out to you today on behalf of the nearly 3,400 members of United Firefighters of Los Angeles City (UFLAC) regarding the discussions related to the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

As stated in our previous letter dated April 28, 2025, UFLAC understands that the City is facing a major budget deficit and that difficult decisions must be made by our elected leaders. At the same time, the Mayor's proposed LAFD allocation of \$923 million for FY 2025-26 is not enough to sustain a fire department that is tasked with protecting nearly 4 million people and responding to well over 500,000 emergency calls for service each year.

At the City Council Budget and Finance committee meeting on May 8, 2025, several proposed cuts to the current and proposed 2025-26 LAFD budget were discussed totaling \$24.3 million dollars. While it's worth noting that this figure is less than the CAO's proposed \$34.7 million cut in his memo dated May 7, 2025, we want to be clear that a \$24.3 million dollar cut is both unsustainable and unacceptable to the members that we represent.

We would like to explain why each of the major proposed cuts will hurt public safety.

1) Homeless Fire Protection and Street Medicine Program (\$11,202,726)

This expansion of services, including resolution authorities for 67 positions, is critical to properly staff the LAFD when we our firefighters and paramedics are truly on the frontlines of the homeless crisis. In 2024, our members responded to more than 66,446 homeless related emergency calls for service (182 calls per day). In addition, between 2018 and 2024, the LAFD responded to 76,449 homeless related fires (35 per day).

This new funding in the Mayor's proposed budget is designated to staff four LAFD Fast Response Vehicles (FRVs), four Advanced Provider Units (APRUs), two Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulances, and much more.

Our firefighters and paramedics are already stretched to their limits responding to nearly 200 homeless related calls for service every day. These additional positions and resources will allow our members to continue this work and still be able to respond in a timely manner to other medical emergencies and structure fires that happen every day in each council district.

2) Emergency Incident Technician (EIT) Reduction (\$7,418,354)

Eliminating 42 EIT positions will have an immediate negative impact on incident command and management as well as firefighter and public safety at major incidents which happen every single day in our city. EITs play a critical role in managing emergency responses, coordinating resources, ensuring effective communication, and supporting incident commanders. They are highly trained and dedicated firefighters who serve as a



bridge between command staff and the boots on the ground firefighters and paramedics on scene. In fact, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) states that EITs (also known as Fireground Incident Technicians or FITs) are an essential part of the Incident Management System and must continue to be deployed at each emergency incident.

In addition to the immediate impact that the removal of EITs will have on public and firefighter safety in the field, this action would violate the Modified Coverage Letter of Agreement (LOA) in MOU 23 for 2024-2028 which was agreed to by UFLAC and CAO Matt Szabo on November 4, 2024. This LOA states, in part:

“During the term of the current MOU, the Department agrees to not implement any deployment modification which involves scheduled Field Resource closures...any long-term Field Resource closures, or any variation of scheduled closures...Field Resource is defined as any front-line emergency response company or unit assigned to one of the four Geographic Bureaus with personnel assigned to it on a full-time basis and has authorized position authorities assigned to it.”

It's clear that our LAFD Emergency Incident Technicians are a critical front-line emergency response unit with full-time personnel and authorized position authorities assigned. They are in fact a Field Resource as defined in our MOU and removing these positions would violate both the Modified Coverage LOA and the mandate for constant staffing that is guaranteed throughout MOU 23 for firefighter and public safety.

In previous budget deficits, the City of Los Angeles cut EITs with devastating results. We implore you to not make the same mistake and continue the funding for these critical positions.

3) Supply and Maintenance Staffing (\$2,457,265)

For the past several years, the lack of civilian mechanics and trained professionals at our LAFD shops has led to a revolving door of at least 100 fire trucks, engines, ambulances, and special duty vehicles being offline and unavailable to respond to community emergencies. The negative impact of this short staffing was highlighted during the Palisades Fire, but the everyday consequences are even more concerning.

We don't have enough frontline and backup rigs to respond to emergencies as it is. This problem becomes a crisis when dozens and dozens of multi-million-dollar apparatus are stuck at the LAFD Fleet & Maintenance yards because we don't have enough mechanics and related positions (carpenters, welders, painters, sheet metal workers, etc.) to fix them.

Thankfully, Mayor Bass included nine months of funding and resolution authorities for 26 positions in her proposed budget to address this problem. Cutting this desperately needed staffing would be shortsighted and incredibly dangerous as our firefighters responded to 514,211 emergency calls for service in 2024, which is an average of 1,409 calls per day.

4) Assorted Cuts to Firefighter Safety Needs (\$2,957,000)

The Budget & Finance Committee spoke about cutting proposed budget allocations to Firefighter Turnout Maintenance and Repair (\$1.5 million), Voice and Data Communications Equipment (\$1 million), and Fire Station Maintenance (\$457,000). Each of these items are critical for firefighter safety.

With respect to Firefighter Turnout Maintenance and Repair and Fire Station Maintenance, it should be noted that firefighters have a considerably higher rate of cancer than the general public. In fact, the profession of firefighting itself has been classified as a Group 1 Carcinogen that is known to cause cancer and be harmful to humans. Every day, our members are exposed to toxic, cancer-causing chemicals in the air we breathe and the turnouts that we wear. Although there has been a commitment at the national and state level to one day produce firefighter turnouts that don't contain cancer causing Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), this equipment does not exist today. Therefore, regular specialized cleaning of our turnouts and our fire stations where we utilize this gear is essential in our ongoing fight against cancer in the fire service. The money spent on workers comp, disability claims, and death benefits for firefighters who acquire occupational cancer far outweighs any small amount of savings that are achieved through cutting specialized turnout and fire station cleaning.

The money allocated to Voice and Data Communications Equipment is also critical for firefighter and community safety because we need to be able to effectively communicate in all emergency situations. Firefighters need situational awareness at all times, and this comes with reliable communications, especially in the event of a Mayday call or other circumstances where a firefighter or member of the public is in dire risk.

Finally, we want to remind you that LAFD Firefighters and Paramedics have not been properly paid for years. We urge you to find a way to fix this problem which includes nearly \$1.8 million in funding for payroll integration software and staffing.

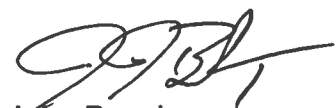
Once again, we understand that the City of Los Angeles is in a budget crisis, but there should be no greater priority in the City's budget than the lifesaving work of the LAFD. At the same time, we understand how important civilian positions are in other LA City departments and we don't want hard working city employees to be laid off.

What then is the answer? As stated in our previous budget letter, a good place to start would be with the hundreds of millions of dollars spent each year on the homeless crisis with very little to show for it. We ask once again, where has this funding gone and what do we have to show for it? What we're doing is not working and we need to completely change the way that we've been approaching the homeless epidemic.

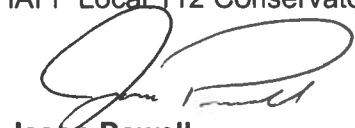
The Mayor's proposed budget took positive steps in the right direction towards funding your LAFD. We're asking you and the members of the B&F Committee to keep this funding intact and not cut the proposed budget.

We thank you for your time and careful consideration of our position on these incredibly important issues.

Sincerely,



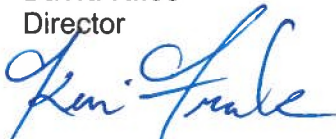
John Bagala
IAFF Local 112 Conservator



Jason Powell
Treasurer



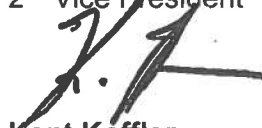
David Riles
Director



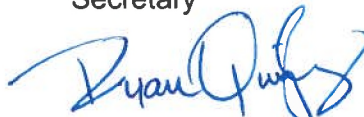
Kevin Frank
Director



Richard Ramirez
2nd Vice President



Kent Koffler
Secretary



Ryan Quigley
Director



Dave Fabela
Director

CC: Budget and Finance Committee Members
Honorable City Council Members
Mayor Karen Bass
CAO Matt Szabo
Interim Fire Chief Ronnie Villanueva
Board of Fire Commissioners