

# LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT




KRISTIN M. CROWLEY  
FIRE CHIEF

January 22, 2024

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
FILE NO. 24-013

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Kristin M. Crowley, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: IN-KIND DONATION OF AIRCRAFT TOW BARS FROM LEONARDO HELICOPTERS

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

## SUMMARY

Leonardo Helicopters is hosting the Helicopter Association International (HAI) HELI-EXPO on February 26-29, 2024, in Anaheim, CA. The theme of Leonardo's HAI event this year is "Public Service" aircraft and missions. It was requested that one of the Los Angeles City Fire Department's (LAFD) AW139 aircraft be used for a display at this event. Leonardo is requesting to partner with customers who serve the public in a multi-faceted manner to illustrate the operational capacities of the AW139. For agencies that provide aircraft for the event, Leonardo Helicopters is offering customer credit that can be used for training and purchase of spare parts/labor for upcoming inspections. The intended use of the credit is for five tow bars. The value of the credit or donation to the LAFD is estimated at \$150,000.00.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

1. Receive this report for the In-Kind Donation by Leonardo Helicopters for the items listed above, valued at approximately \$150,000.00 to the Los Angeles City Fire Department.
2. Request the Commission Executive Assistant to transmit this report to the Mayor's Office in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3 and to City Council in accordance with the Los Angeles Administrative Code, Ordinance 15514, Article 12, Section 5.111.4, for consideration and approval.
3. Approve the utilization of the AW139 aircraft for HAI 2024.

## FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact on the Department's budget from the acceptance of this donation. Donations provide the necessary items to meet the needs of the respective fire stations or administration sections. Replacement or repair of items meeting City specifications and Fire

Department business needs may be bore by General Fund, subject to budgetary constraints.

### **DISCUSSION**

This event presents the LAFD with the unique opportunity to maximize collaboration with worldwide aerial firefighting and search & rescue professionals while displaying our AW139 multi-mission medium-duty helicopter.

The Los Angeles City Fire Department's (LAFD) Air Operations Section has utilized the Leonardo AW139 medium-duty helicopter for over 15 years as a multi-operational aircraft for public safety missions. The AW139 helicopter mission profile includes aerial firefighting, search & rescue, hoist rescue, river rescue, large animal rescue, reconnaissance, and mapping. The LAFD fleet comprises five (5) AW139 helicopters at nearly 20 million dollars per unit. The AW139 has proven to be a versatile and reliable platform for providing public safety to the citizens of Los Angeles.

HAI 2024 will take place on February 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> and would require the LAFD aircraft to be in Anaheim for five days. During this time, the aircraft will not be available for response within the city. The minimum LAFD aircraft availability is three medium-duty aircraft and one light-duty aircraft for emergency response. With the commitment of one AW139 to HAI, the LAFD would still have three to four medium-duty aircraft for response during this time frame, not considering any unforeseen maintenance/repairs.

Aircraft transportation costs will be paid by Leonardo Helicopters. Additionally, the aircraft will be covered under the Leonardo Helicopters Insurance certificate during transport and exhibition. The coverage will meet the limits required by the City. (The aircraft will be under the complete control of the Leonardo Tech Rep team and will be responsible for the movement/placement during the entirety of the show.)

For agencies that provide aircraft for the event, Leonardo Helicopters is offering customer credit that can be used for training and purchase of spare parts/labor for upcoming inspections. In addition, Leonardo will cover the event fees and hotel accommodations for up to five LAFD personnel to attend and provide information and training about the use of the aircraft for LAFD missions.

### **CONCLUSION**

While year after year, LAFD Air Operations team makes meaningful connections within this exclusive community, this year, the Department is in a position to display our state-of-the-art rescue helicopter. Our team intends to capitalize on these connections to validate that our current policies and procedures meet or exceed industry standards within the public safety community. The potential critical feedback and the opportunity to share our operating procedures, equipment, and safety program through training and education will ultimately benefit the public and other first responders. The Department will also benefit tremendously from the donation and support provided by Leonardo Helicopters. Aircraft components are extremely expensive due to their FAA compliance requirements, so this estimated parts credit will be extremely beneficial to LAFD Air Ops.

Board report prepared by Brett Willis, Battalion Chief, Battalion 5.

Attachments



Beatris (Betty) Bonada <betty.bonada@lacity.org>

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## Fwd: HAI - LAFD Insurance

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**Brett Willis** <brett.willis@lacity.org>

Fri, Jan 19, 2024 at 2:08 PM

To: "Beatris (Betty) Bonada" <betty.bonada@lacity.org>, Linda Nguyen <linda.n.nguyen@lacity.org>, Carlos De La Guerra <carlos.delaguerra@lacity.org>, Tyler Dixon <tyler.dixon@lacity.org>

Here is the email that preceded the one with the total cost.

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### ***Brett R. Willis***

Battalion Chief, Battalion 5, B Platoon

Los Angeles *City* Fire Department

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Downs Jason** <[Jason.Downs@leonardocompany.us](mailto:Jason.Downs@leonardocompany.us)>

Date: Fri, Jan 19, 2024 at 8:15 AM

Subject: RE: HAI - LAFD Insurance

To: Brett Willis <[brett.willis@lacity.org](mailto:brett.willis@lacity.org)>

Brett,

I've passed along the insurance requirements to accompany the indemnity language. Our general counsel is out until mid-week next week so I'm trying to see if I can get his junior attorney to give us the go ahead.

Each tow bar has a value of \$29,610.78 before tax.

Attached is the Ops manual for fly-in and fly-out of the convention center. I'll let you decide who on your end needs to receive it.

[Quoted text hidden]

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 **HE24 Flight Ops and Pilot Safety Handbook.pdf**  
4392K

