


LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

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FIRE CHIEF

April 22, 2024

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS FILE NO. 24-042
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TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Kristin M. Crowley, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: UPDATES FROM STORM DAMAGE, FIRE FACILITIES REPAIRS AND
THE NEED FOR IMPROVEMENTS

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 Withdrawn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

In response to a motion enacted by Council District 11 (Council File Number 24-0251), the Fire Facilities Section of the Fire Department (“Department” or “LAFD”) is providing a report outlining the status of life/safety repairs that resulted from the February 2024 winter rainstorms, along with other improvements that need funding.

Due to the February 2024 winter rainstorms, the Department received repair requests from over 50 fire stations concerning water intrusion and damage. Among the most prevalent of the issues reported were roof leaks, which have been addressed by the General Services Department.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:
Receive and transmit this report to the City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT

Extensive damage to several Department fire stations necessitates comprehensive repairs, with some involving external vendors. Addressing these damages will require additional expenditures impacting the General Fund and other funding sources.

DISCUSSION

Rainfall often triggers multiple repair requests for roof leaks and other water-related intrusions at fire stations. In the case of the February 2024 rainstorms, nearly 50% of the Department’s fire stations were affected, causing water intrusion through roofs, ceilings, walls, windows, even causing some flooding. A large part of this can be attributed to the aging infrastructure of the Department’s fire stations as among the 106 fire stations, 53 are over 50 years old.

Damages Incurred

The following table categorizes the different types of damages that were reported:

Damage Type	Number of Incidences Reported
Roof Leaks	34
Flooding	4
Water Intrusion (window leaks)	17
Damage to Property	1 (Boat house window at Fire Station 49 broken due to wind/rain)

Status of Repairs

The Department works heavily with the General Services Department’s Building Maintenance Division (“GSD BMD” or “GSD”) to evaluate and maintain its fire stations, relying on their specialized expertise. GSD BMD assists in assessing and repairing roofs, ceilings, windows and overall building structure. While GSD provides numerous repairs and maintenance at no additional cost to the LAFD, some of the roof repairs and replacements made necessary by the February rainstorms require additional funding, for which the Department currently lacks allocations.

To further illustrate, following the rainstorms, the Department’s Fire Facilities Section received 60 total repair requests through GSD’s repair request portal. LAFD is monitoring the progress of the damage and repairs. The table below illustrates the status of the damages and progress towards complete resolution, 48 of which have been addressed by GSD BMD as of March 20, 2024:

Number of Requests	Status
18	Resolved
7	In Progress with GSD BMD
15	Beyond GSD BMD’s scope of work; requires external vendor and additional funding.
8	Assessed
7	Assigned to staff
5	“New” – not assigned yet
Total: 60	

As can be seen from the table above, as of March 20, 2024, 18 of the fire station requests have been resolved, 22 are in progress, and 5 are new reports. However, 15 of the requests were due to more extensive damage and need to be outsourced to a vendor for resolution. Such repairs will most likely need additional funding to proceed with work.

Fire Station 109

Further, while the majority of repair requests amidst the rainstorm were a result of anticipated leaky roof issues, Fire Station 109 encountered more extraordinary damage. A significant mudslide incident impacted not only the road but also the station's premises, including its lot, walls and entire apparatus floor (photos are attached for reference). To further describe the incident, the mudslide had moved onto the property, obstructing drains and resulting in a flood of mud and water onto the apparatus floor.

In response to the incident, GSD BMD assessed the moisture levels in the station's walls, disinfected the entire station, and cleared its drains. As of February 29, 2024, GSD BMD has reported that the moisture readings in all of the walls are now within normal/acceptable ranges. GSD BMD is now currently devising a schedule for the reinstallation of the base cover to further complete restoration efforts.

Ongoing Needs

Because GSD staff regularly assesses the fire stations' roofing due to the amount of related repair requests, roof replacements are prioritized by GSD. However, as previously mentioned, such projects are often dependent on the availability of funds.

Prior to the February 2024 rainstorm, a survey conducted by the Department had identified 22 fire stations already in need of roof repairs or replacements. The recent three-day rainstorm has further emphasized the necessity for better maintenance and upgrades across the Department's fire stations.

Other Critical Areas

In addition to roofing, other critical areas requiring funding for fire station improvements include apparatus door replacements, HVAC replacements, security enhancements, flooring replacements, interior and exterior painting, significant concrete repairs, tree trimming and electrical upgrades.

Funding for 12 security enhancement projects had been allocated and was recently released to the Department in April 2024. As the Fire Facilities Section had already acquired cost estimates from GSD prior to the funds' arrival, the Department, along with GSD, is now poised to advance with these crucial projects.

Request and Reporting Process

For any high priority incident occurring during normal hours of operation, fire station personnel are able to submit a request through the GSD Portal (gdserviceportal.lacity.org), as is done for any repair request. Essential details regarding the request can be entered in the "Extra Description" section, along with a statement that the request is an "Emergency Request." Additionally, photos can be attached to ensure GSD BMD staff are adequately prepared before arriving at the facility. To expedite critical requests, a follow-up call can be placed to the Fire Facilities Section at (213) 202-3455. Outside of regular hours, LAFD personnel can immediately contact the GSD Emergency Phone Number at (213) 978-3247 to initiate an emergency request. Whether through the GSD portal or by calling the emergency line, this initial

step triggers the creation of a work order.

CONCLUSION

Building and maintenance challenges are largely due to insufficient funding allocated for the upkeep and preservation of fire stations. This poses a challenge in effectively planning for the maintenance needs of these stations. There are 106 fire stations in total, half of which are over 50 years old. The General Services Department, Building Maintenance Division faces constraints in the assistance and funding it can offer. The combination of aging facilities and insufficient funding have resulted in deteriorating infrastructure and the compromised health and safety of its members. Without adequate funding for necessary repairs and improvements, the current conditions of these aging stations will only deteriorate further over time.

Board report prepared by Martin Mullen, Battalion Chief, Fire Facilities Section, Training and Support Bureau.













