

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



JAIME E. MOORE
FIRE CHIEF

January 20, 2026

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 26-010

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Jaime E. Moore, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: IN-KIND DONATION OF TABLET COMMAND SOFTWARE TO THE LAFD

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|---------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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 Withdrawn |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

The Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation (LAFDF) has graciously donated a one-year subscription for Tablet Command software to the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD). Tablet Command is a cloud-based incident management and situational awareness platform. The value of this donation is estimated at \$467,000.00.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

1. Receive this report regarding the in-kind donation by the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation for the items listed above, valued at \$467,000.00, 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.

FINDINGS

Tablet Command is a modern, tablet-based incident management platform used by fire departments to manage emergency incidents more safely, efficiently, and accurately. The system replaces traditional paper notes, whiteboards, and legacy mobile data tools with a digital interface that allows fire officers to organize and track critical incident information in real time. Tablet Command provides a single, integrated view of an emergency scene, helping commanders understand what resources are assigned, where they are located, and what actions are underway.

Using Tablet Command, fire officers can assign and track units on a digital map,

monitor incident progress, and automatically document key decisions and actions as they occur. This improves situational awareness, enhances personnel and equipment accountability, and supports firefighter safety by ensuring commanders have accurate, up-to-date information during rapidly evolving incidents. Because all actions are time-stamped and recorded electronically, the system also supports after-action reviews, reporting, and operational analysis without relying on manual note-taking. Overall, Tablet Command helps standardize incident management, improves coordination among responding units, and allows the Fire Department to operate more effectively during emergencies that impact the public.

APPLICATION OF LESSONS LEARNED: PALISADES FIRE AFTER-ACTION REVIEW

The use of Tablet Command directly addresses several key issues identified in the Palisades Fire After-Action Review (AAR), particularly related to personnel and equipment tracking, maintaining situational awareness, ensuring continuity of command, and improving communication.

During the Palisades Fire, one of the most significant challenges was accurately tracking firefighting resources as the incident rapidly evolved. Supervisors often had difficulty knowing which crews and equipment were assigned to them due to heavy radio traffic, limited visibility of operations, and reliance on paper-based tracking methods. Tablet Command resolves many of these challenges by providing a real-time, shared digital system that allows commanders at all levels to see where resources are assigned and how they are being used. This improves accountability, enhances firefighter safety, and reduces dependence on radio communications.

The After-Action Review also found that senior officers who used digital tools had better awareness of fire conditions and operational progress. Tablet Command provides live maps, status updates, and standardized checklists that help commanders clearly understand what is happening on the incident and make better-informed decisions, even in areas with limited connectivity.

Another issue identified in the AAR was the frequent relocation of the Incident Command Post and leadership changes, which disrupted operational continuity. Tablet Command helps prevent information loss during these transitions by automatically synchronizing all incident data across user devices. This ensures that critical operational information remains available and consistent, regardless of where command is located or who is in charge.

The review also highlighted coordination challenges between the Los Angeles City Fire Department and partner agencies such as CAL FIRE. Tablet Command supports shared digital operations and data integration, enabling multiple agencies to work from a single operational picture. This improves coordination and reduces confusion during large, multi-agency incidents.

Additionally, the Department Operations Center (DOC) lacked real-time visibility into fire operations until well after the incident began. Tablet Command addresses this gap by transmitting live operational data from the field directly to Department and City emergency leadership, enabling faster, better-informed decision-making and stronger coordination between field operations and executive leadership.

Finally, the After-Action Review recommended that the Department adopt digital tools to improve accountability and operational efficiency. Tablet Command fulfills this recommendation by providing a standardized, Department-wide incident management system that improves resource tracking, enhances coordination, and supports post-incident review and accountability.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the Department's budget associated with the acceptance of this donation. The Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation will fund the first year of the Tablet Command subscription. The Los Angeles City Fire Department will fund years two through five, subject to future budget appropriations. Donations provide the necessary items to meet the needs of the respective fire stations or administrative sections. Replacement or repair of items that meet City specifications and Fire Department business needs may be borne by the General Fund, subject to budgetary constraints.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

This initiative directly supports the LAFD's strategic goals by leveraging technology to improve operational efficiency, communication, and safety. Specifically, it contributes to delivering exceptional emergency services through faster response times and effective incident management, promotes firefighter safety through enhanced accountability and reduced radio traffic, and integrates innovative technologies that strengthen field operations and command support.

CONCLUSION

The Los Angeles City Fire Department benefits tremendously from the gracious donations and support provided by the LAFD Foundation. The LAFD acknowledges the LAFDF for its generosity.

Board report prepared by Scott La Rue, Assistant Chief, Metropolitan Fire Communications (MFC) Division.