

March 3, 2026

# LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



JAIME E. MOORE  
FIRE CHIEF

February 2, 2026

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
FILE NO. 26-012

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Jaime E. Moore, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF FY 2024 STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE (SAFER) GRANT AWARD EMW-2024-FF-  
01743

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 Withdrawn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

On September 24, 2025, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) was notified that its application for the Fiscal Year 2024 Staffing for Adequate Fire Emergency Response (“SAFER 24”) grant was approved in the amount of \$6,817,969 (\$3,949,774 for salaries and \$2,868,195 for benefits) for the addition of 12 new Firefighters over a three-year performance period from March 23, 2026, through March 22, 2029. Ultimately, this grant will enable LAFD to staff a new resource, Engine 200, at Fire Station 100 (West Van Nuys/Lake Balboa area), a critical need identified in standards of cover assessments.

The objective of the SAFER program is to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities in order to respond to emergencies, and assure that communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. The grants are offered to support projects to hire new, additional firefighters to improve staffing levels, thus enhancing the ability of local fire departments to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

The SAFER 24 grant has a cost share requirement of 25% for the First and Second year, and 65% for the Third year. The Federal share for the three-year period is \$4,204,414. Combined with a City match requirement of \$2,613,555, the total consideration is \$6,817,969. The City is also responsible for any costs that exceed or are excluded from grant funding, including the cost of apparatus (typically MICLA-funded) and costs to upgrade positions to align with an Engine resource staffing configuration.

With implementation beginning in the current fiscal year for partial coverage of a recruit

class commencing in June 2026, salary expenditures of \$206,524 are anticipated which are subject to reimbursement. The grant does not allow assignment of recruits to a previously budgeted training class. LAFD will address these requirements by the Year-End Financial Status Report.

SAFER 24 had an acceptance deadline of January 31, 2026 by FEMA. However, LAFD was unable to bring the matter forward due to pending litigation with DHS/FEMA grants. At this time, FEMA has expressed some interest in extending the acceptance to March 22, 2026. Pending a final decision from FEMA, LAFD has moved forward with a report to enable a full review by the Board, Mayor, Council and City Administrative Officer.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The SAFER program has approved a grant of \$6,817,969 to cover the cost of 12 new Firefighters over a three-year performance period. The award is comprised of \$4,204,414 as the Federal share with a City match contribution of \$2,613,555. The disbursements under the SAFER Grant will be based on actual salary and fringe benefit costs and reimbursed on a bi-weekly to monthly basis.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Board:

1. Approve and transmit to the Mayor and City Council for consideration and approval pending a decision from FEMA for a grant acceptance deadline extension to March, 22, 2026, or as otherwise indicated:
  - a. Acceptance to spend up to the FY 2024 SAFER Grant amount total of \$6,817,968.72 in accordance with the grant award agreement, in addition to further City costs necessary to fully implement an Engine at FS 100, as necessary;
  - b. Submit grant reimbursement requests during the grant award period of March 23, 2026 through March 22, 2029 to FEMA and deposit grant funds received into LAFD Grants Fund 335, Department 38, Account to be determined;
2. Authorize the Controller to:
  - a. Transfer appropriations up to \$4,204,414.04 from Fund 335/38, account number TBD, to Fund 100/38, Account 001012, Salaries Sworn, or Account 1030, Sworn Bonuses, upon submission of proper documentation by LAFD, subject to approval of the City Administrative Officer (CAO), of direct costs incurred during the grant performance period; and,
  - b. Transfer FY 2024 SAFER Grant funds from Fund 335/38 to Fund 100/38, Revenue Source Code 5346, Reimbursement of Grant Related Costs, for fringe benefits and related costs upon submission of proper documentation by LAFD,

subject to CAO approval, of related costs incurred during the grant performance period;

3. Authorize the LAFD and Controller, based on LAFD submissions to the CAO of grant budget modifications approved by FEMA, to transfer funds, as needed, between Fund 335/38 and Fund 100/38 for implementation of the FY 2024 SAFER Grant; and,
4. Authorize LAFD to prepare Controller instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to CAO approval, and authorize the Controller to implement the instructions.

Board report prepared by Meritxell Capdet Karapetian, Management Analyst, Grants Section, Administrative Operations Bureau.