

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



June 16, 2026

JAIME E. MOORE
FIRE CHIEF

June 1, 2026

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 26-024

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Jaime E. Moore, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: IN-KIND DONATION FOR DRONE AS A FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM

FINAL ACTION: Approved Approved w/Corrections Withdrawn
 Denied Received & Filed Other

SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Fire Foundation has graciously donated \$500,000.00 to the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) to support the initiation of the Drone as a First Responder (DFR) program. This generous contribution will fund the acquisition of critical drone equipment, training, operational infrastructure, and integration capabilities necessary to launch this innovative program. The DFR initiative will enable rapid aerial assessment of emergency scenes, provide real-time intelligence to incident commanders, and significantly enhance the Department's ability to respond effectively to fires, medical emergencies, hazardous materials incidents, and other critical events across the City of Los Angeles.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

1. Receive this report regarding the in-kind donation by the Los Angeles Fire Foundation for the items listed above, valued at \$500,000.00, 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

The Los Angeles Fire Foundation has offered a \$500,000.00 donation to launch the Department's Drone as a First Responder program. This funding will support the purchase of advanced drone systems, pilot training and certification, secure data

transmission infrastructure, and necessary software for real-time video streaming and mapping integration.

By establishing this program, the LAFD will gain the ability to deploy drones within minutes of an emergency call, delivering live aerial imagery and situational awareness that can dramatically improve decision-making, resource allocation, and responder safety. The DFR program represents a forward-thinking approach to modern emergency management, allowing the Department to better serve the community through faster, more informed responses while minimizing risks to personnel.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the Department's budget associated with the acceptance of this donation. Ongoing operational costs, maintenance, or future program expansions that meet City specifications and Fire Department business needs may be covered by the General Fund, subject to budgetary constraints.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Drone as a First Responder program aligns directly with the Department's strategic goals of leveraging cutting-edge technology to enhance service delivery, improve firefighter and public safety, and increase operational efficiency. This initiative will strengthen real-time incident management, support data-driven decision-making, and position the LAFD as a leader in innovative emergency response practices.

CONCLUSION

The Los Angeles City Fire Department benefits tremendously from the gracious donations and support provided by the Los Angeles Fire Foundation. The LAFD acknowledges the Foundation for its generosity and commitment to advancing public safety in Los Angeles.

Board report prepared by Richard Thompson, Captain II, Joint Hazard Assessment Team Unit / Homeland Security Section.