

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE September 8, 2023

Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee
TO Cara Mendelsohn (Chair), Kathy Stewart (Vice Chair), Tennell Atkins, Jesse Moreno
Gay Donnell Willis

SUBJECT **Dallas Fire-Rescue's Fleet Maintenance Update**

Dallas Fire-Rescue (DFR), in order to provide excellent service delivery to the residents of the City of Dallas, strives to maintain adequate resources to allow for efficient and effective emergency response. Please accept this memorandum as an update to the status of the DFR emergency fleet.

The status of emergency apparatus, as of September 8th, 2023, is as follows:

UNIT	OPTIMAL	CURRENT	RESERVE	REPAIR*	ON ORDER**
ENGINE	58	53	0	25	13
TRUCK	23	23	1	12	2
RESCUE	47	47	2	18	8
SQUADS***	6	5	n/a	1	0

**Repairs are apparatus currently out of service and being repaired*

***Orders are apparatus expected to be delivered by end of CY23*

****Squads are only in service when Engines or Trucks are out of service*

To address potential apparatus shortages and minimize negative effects on departmental operations, DFR has developed and deployed various strategies. The utilization of rental agreements has provided additional resources. The Squad Program places personnel assigned to heavy apparatus (engines and trucks) which are out of service for repairs on light weight vehicles with a modified response plan to mitigate gaps in emergency response coverage. In the very near future, a Medic Squad program will be launched, which will be similar in design to the Squad Program for heavy apparatus: Lightweight vehicles will be staffed by personnel assigned to Rescues out of service for repairs with modified response plans to mitigate gaps in emergency response coverage.

Additional programs launched by DFR include a more aggressive and comprehensive preventative maintenance plan for all apparatus, a stronger driver safety program, and the deployment of three grant-funded blocker vehicles (anticipated in October '23) to increase safety on incidents occurring on major thoroughfares.

Optimally, DFR strives to maintain not only a full fleet of front-line apparatus, but also a minimum 15% reserve fleet for each unit type. Unfortunately, DFR's Fleet Maintenance Division has been severely challenged to meet this goal due to a myriad of obstacles including global supply chain

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issues for both repair parts and replacement units, motor vehicle collisions involving apparatus, and maintenance staffing vacancies.

To address staffing concerns, DFR has strengthened its mechanic technician recruitment and retention through expanded recruitment sources and partnerships, improved salary scales, improved training, and a robust succession plan.

DFR anticipates that through the above plans and programs, any negative operational effects from fleet shortages will be avoided. It is our expectation that the resulting improved operational, training, and staffing plans will aid in further protecting the status of our emergency fleet for years to come.

Should you have questions, or need additional information, please contact Fire Chief Dominique Artis at Dominique.artis@dallasfire.gov.



Jon Fortune
Deputy City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manger
Tammy Palomino, Interim City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Deputy City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Assistant City Manager
Dr. Robert Perez, Assistant City Manager
Carl Simpson, Assistant City Manager
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer
Genesis D. Gavino, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Directors and Assistant Directors