

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 5, 2023

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the Public Safety Committee  
Adam McGough (Chair), Cara Mendelsohn (Vice Chair), Tennell Atkins, Jesse Moreno  
Jaime Resendez, Casey Thomas, Gay Donnell Willis

SUBJECT **Dallas Fire Rescue's Fleet Status 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 of the recent efforts to improve the overall maintenance of the DFR emergency fleet and operations.

The status of emergency apparatus, as of May 1, 2023, is as follows:

UNIT	OPTIMAL	CURRENT	RESERVE
ENGINE	58	53	0
TRUCK	23	23	1
RESCUE	46	46	0
PEAK**	5	5	0
SQUADS***	0	5	0

**\*\*Peak rescues are in service 10a-10p**

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

To address current shortages apparatus, 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. Special Event ambulances are being utilized to cover for front-line Rescues. 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 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

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Division has been severely challenged to meet this goal due to a myriad of obstacles including global supply chain issues for both repair parts and replacement units, motor vehicle collisions involving apparatus, and maintenance staffing vacancies.

Currently, DFR and its contract repair partners continue to work diligently to complete outstanding repair projects. DFR has 13 fire engines, 5 fire trucks, and 10 rescues that are currently out for long-term repairs.

DFR has placed orders for and is awaiting delivery of replacement units for all types of front-line apparatus. These orders have various delivery dates beginning in June, and include a total of 17 fire engines, 4 fire trucks, and 46 Rescues.

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, this temporary fleet shortage will soon be over. 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](mailto:Dominique.artis@dallasfire.gov).



**Jon Fortune**  
**Deputy City Manager**

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