

MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF DARYL L. OSBY

February 2016



There is no greater force than one fully strengthened by the sum of its team members—the men and women that make us the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

It is incumbent upon each employee to exhibit leadership, our core values and continue the legacy of this great Department. With my Executive Team, we firmly believe in promoting a transparent environment and ensuring you are kept up to date on issues related to the Department. We are one.

In this month's message, I will focus on our recently submitted budget, the current status of the eHR Task Force, the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility gas leak update, and recruitment efforts.

DEPARTMENT 2016-17 BUDGET

In late January 2016, the Department submitted its 2016-17 budget request to the Chief Executive Office (CEO). The budget request is \$1.1 billion, inclusive of 41 additional positions and other critical funding as follows:

- Emergency Medical Services – \$1.637 million and nine positions.

- Emergency Operations – \$5.115 million and 21 positions for the opening of Fire Station 143 in the Santa Clarita Valley, and for staffing a quint at Fire Station 51 in the unincorporated area of Universal City.
- Grants & Cooperative Agreements Division – \$156,000 and one position.
- Recruit classes – \$5.484 million for overtime and services and supplies for four additional firefighter trainee recruit classes in 2016-17 (six classes total).
- Additional support staff – \$1 million and 10 positions.

The budget request also includes:

- Restoration of \$2 million from the County General Fund to restore lifeguard curtailments from previous years.

- Use of \$50.932 million from the Department's reserve funds in order to meet operational needs and bridge the gap between revenues and expenditures.
- An overall increase of \$33.339 million in property tax revenue from the 2015-16 projection.

Submitting the Department's budget is only the first step in the lengthy approval process. Changes, additions and deletions are expected as we draw closer to finalizing and approving the budget. Over the next few weeks, the Department will be working with the CEO staff on gaining approval of our 2016-17 budget request to ensure maintenance, growth and support for the Department's business and emergency operations. It is possible the CEO may not recommend approval of all 41 requested positions.

eHR TASK FORCE UPDATE

As promised, I want to brief you on the latest developments regarding the eHR Task Force assigned to immediately correct eHR system payroll discrepancies. The eHR Task Force met in early February and will meet again



on Monday, Feb. 22, 2016, to discuss alternate timekeeping systems (i.e., replacing IPFIRS) as part of a long-term solution in addressing payroll issues. The process to remedy this situation is steady and deliberate, and the solutions to these issues are being accelerated, properly vetted and dealt with in a positive and productive manner. Each task force member is committed to improving the overall payroll process.

ALISO CANYON STORAGE FACILITY GAS LEAK

On Thursday, Feb. 18, 2016, the California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) confirmed that the gas leak at the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility has been permanently sealed. We will continue to evaluate any potential hazardous emissions.

The Department, Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the Southern California Air Quality Management District continue to provide affected residents with incident updates and timely and accurate information for returning home.

OEM will work with the Los Angeles City Emergency Management Department to establish a Local Assistance Center where residents can obtain information on city services, utilities, insurance and other resources.



I would like to personally thank our personnel who responded as part of the Incident Management Team for their efforts and sacrifices during this incident. I would also like to thank our unified partners and our cooperating and assisting agencies for their leadership, teamwork, and dedication.

RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

The Department's Recruitment Unit has been working diligently to develop new practices as well as improve and grow existing methods to broaden our outreach efforts and diversify our applicant pool. The Recruitment Unit is expanding its focus toward recruiting people interested in dispatch, health hazardous materials, forestry, fire suppression aid and lifeguard careers, in addition to aspiring firefighters.

On Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016, the Recruitment Unit and Los Angeles Women in the Fire Service (LAWFS) collaborated to host an orientation for women in the Los Angeles County area who are interested in becoming firefighters. LAWFS is an association

representing female firefighters in the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD).

Department Fire Captains Brent Burton and Jasmine Segura, along with LAFD Battalion Chief Alicia Welch and Captain Tammy Chick, welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the upcoming Women's Fire Prep Academy (WFPA). The WFPA is an eight-weekend program designed to prepare and assist individuals interested in a career in fire service; participants will learn about physical fitness, fire department operations, use of tools and equipment, and the functions of fire apparatus.

The WFPA is open to anyone. If you are interested in participating in an upcoming WFPA or need additional information on this program, please contact Fire Captain Burton at brent.burton@fire.lacounty.gov.

Thanks to the coordinated effort between the Department and LAFD, more than 110 women attended the orientation, and 60 will participate in the next WFPA scheduled to begin Saturday, Feb. 20, 2016.

As we go about our daily duties and responsibilities, let our core values guide us along the way. Thank you for upholding our reputation, standards and legacy of caring and dedicated public service.

