

FIRE DEPARTMENT

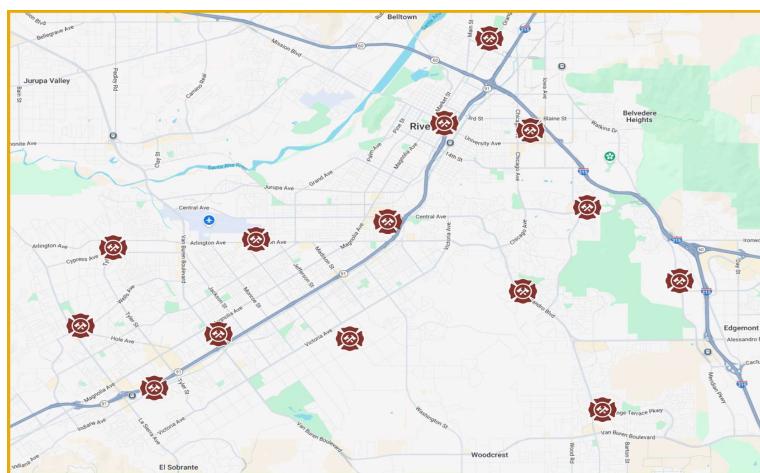
Fire Chief Steve McKinster

City Council
January 13, 2025

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CURRENT STATION COVERAGE AND SYSTEM DEMAND



Current System Baseline (2025)

- 14 Stations
- 20 Staffed Units
- 225 Firefighters
- 325,000 Residents
- 47,000 Calls for Service

**Station location alone
does not determine response
performance.**

**Unit availability and staffing
levels drive response times
and overload conditions.**



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EXPANDED CALLS FOR SERVICE



Calls for Service
2024: 44,670
2025: 47,000+

**Equals 1 Call
every 11
minutes**

**35% Increase
in Fire Calls for Service since 2015**

**New State Fire Map Adds
13,356 Riverside Parcels into High-Risk Fire Area**

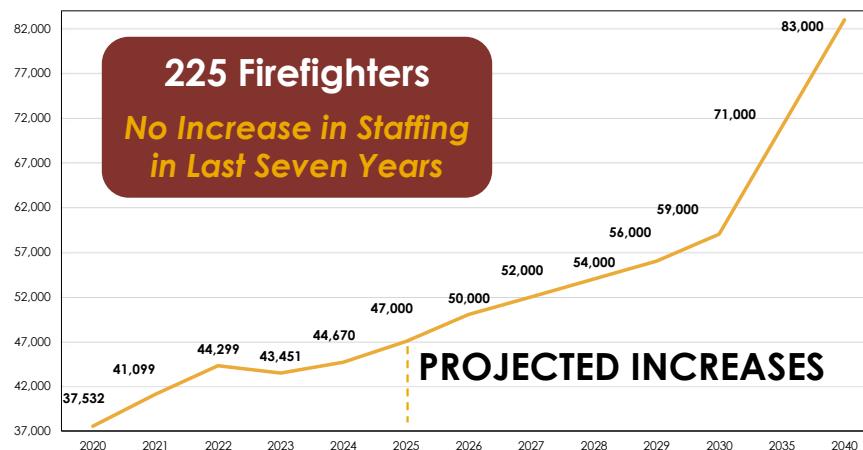


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SERVICE DEMAND IS GROWING FASTER THAN CAPACITY



Service Demand

**Since Last New
Station (2007)
+72% INCREASE**

**Since
Last Staffing
Increase (2018)
+26% INCREASE**



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AP TRITON LLC.



- **Leading Public Safety Consulting Firm**
- **Expertise across Fire Service, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Law, and life-safety programs.**
- **Proven experience in Master Plans, Strat Plans, SOC/CRA, and EMS analysis.**



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KEY FINDINGS FROM MASTER PLAN STUDY



- ⌚ **Response Times** are Longer Than Accepted Performance Targets
- ❗ **Service Demand** Is Growing Faster Than Capacity
- 📞 **High Call Concurrency** Creates System Overload
- 👤 **Current Staffing Levels** Are Insufficient to Meet Service Demand
- 🏠 **Fire Station Infrastructure** Must Expand and Modernize

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RESPONSE TIMES ARE LONGER THAN ACCEPTED PERFORMANCE TARGETS

WHY TIMING MATTERS? – STRUCTURE FIRES

| Current Average Response Time | Goal Average Response Time |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 7:18 | 6:00 |

Fires DOUBLE in size every minute



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RESPONSE TIMES ARE LONGER THAN ACCEPTED PERFORMANCE TARGETS

| Current Average Response Time | Goal Average Response Time |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 7:18 | 6:00 |

WHY 6 MINUTES MATTERS? – EMS

It aligns with the **biological limits of survivability**, not arbitrary policy goals.

CARDIAC ARREST

- Brain injury begins at **4–6 minutes without oxygen**
- Survival **decreases 7–10% per minute** without intervention
- Early arrival **improves defibrillation success and neurologic outcomes**

STROKE

- Every untreated minute **destroys approximately 1.9 million neurons**
- Earlier intervention significantly **improves long-term function and survivability**

SEVERE TRAUMA

- **Mortality increases** by approximately **4% for every minute of delay**
- Early stabilization **reduces complications and length of hospital stay**

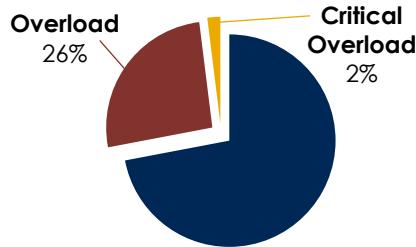


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HIGH CALL CONCURRENCY CREATES SYSTEM OVERLOAD

2024 Load Conditions



OVERLOAD

Overload occurs when simultaneous emergencies exceed normal response capacity, reducing response reliability across the city.

- Begins at 4–6 concurrent incidents
- Few units remain available for new emergencies
- Response times increase and coverage gaps emerge
- A single wildland fire or complex incident can trigger overload

CRITICAL OVERLOAD

Critical overload occurs when available emergency resources are effectively depleted, leaving little to no immediate response capability

- Occurs at **7+ concurrent incidents**
- **Most or all frontline units** are committed
- New emergencies face **significant delays or require outside assistance**
- A single structure fire can place the system into **critical overload**



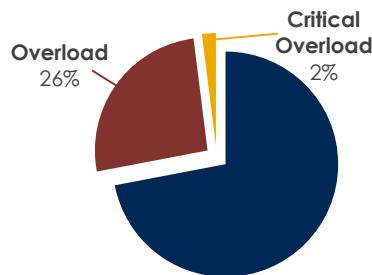
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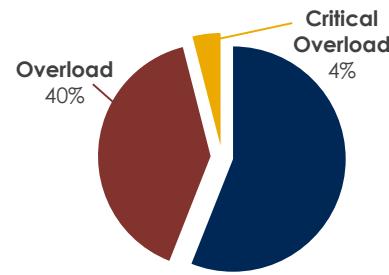
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HIGH CALL CONCURRENCY CREATES SYSTEM OVERLOAD

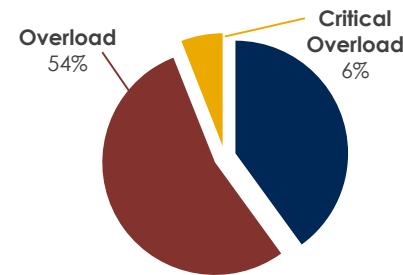
2025
47,000 Calls



2035
71,000 Calls



2040
83,000 Calls



Without staffing increases, rising call volume will push the Fire Department into sustained overload, increasing response times and risk to residents and firefighters.



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CURRENT STAFFING LEVELS ARE INSUFFICIENT TO MEET SERVICE DEMAND

Firefighter Staffing Levels Compared to Regional Peers

| City | Firefighters | Population | Ratio (per 1,000) |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Glendale | 267 | 197,000 | 1.35 |
| Pasadena | 160 | 138,000 | 1.16 |
| Long Beach | 400 | 449,000 | 0.89 |
| L.A. City | 2,700 | 4,100,000 | 0.89 |
| Anaheim | 270 | 350,000 | 0.77 |
| Corona | 129 | 170,000 | 0.74 |
| Riverside | 225 | 325,000 | 0.69 |

Maintaining approximately **0.95 firefighters per 1,000 residents** is critical to reducing overload conditions, meeting response-time standards, and preparing the Fire Department for continued growth.

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STUDY RESULTS – RIGHT SIZING STAFFING

| Current Staffing Levels | Year | Population | Ratio (per 1,000) | Firefighters | Current Response Time |
|-------------------------|------|------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | 2025 | 325,000 | 0.69 | 225 | 7:18 |

Phase 1: Correct Current Response Deficit (Immediate Need)

| Year | Population | Ratio (per 1,000) | Firefighters | Staffing Increase | Projected Response Time |
|------|------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 2025 | 325,000 | 0.95 | 309 | +84 | 6:00 |

Phase 2: Maintain Response Performance as the City Grows (Sustained Growth)

| Year | Estimated Population | Ratio (per 1,000) | Firefighters | Incremental Staffing Increase | Projected Response Time |
|------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2030 | 345,500 | 0.95 | 328 | +19 | 6:00 |
| 2035 | 366,000 | 0.95 | 348 | +20 | 6:00 |
| 2040 | 386,500 | 0.95 | 367 | +19 | 6:00 |



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FIRE STATION INFRASTRUCTURE MUST EXPAND AND MODERNIZE

Phase 1 (2025): Correct Current Response Deficit and Support Added Units (Immediate Need)

| Stations Requiring Remodel or Relocation | New Stations Required |
|--|---|
| Station 4 - Rebuild / Relocate to accommodate additional unit | Station 15 – New Station in Ward 4 |
| Station 8 – Rebuild / Relocate to accommodate additional unit | Station 16 – New Station in Ward 1 |
| Station 10 - Rebuild / Relocate due to facility condition / location | |
| Station 12 - Rebuild / Relocate to accommodate additional unit | |
| Equipment Required | |
| | 7 additional Engines, Trucks, or Squads |

Phase 1 corrects existing infrastructure and equipment shortfalls, allowing the City to deploy added staffing, reduce overload conditions, and improve response times immediately.



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FIRE STATION INFRASTRUCTURE MUST EXPAND AND MODERNIZE

Phase 2: Maintain our Response Capability (Sustained Growth)

| Year | Station | Needs |
|------|---------|---|
| 2028 | 7 | Phase 2 - Rebuild / Relocate to accommodate additional unit |
| | 2 | Renovate |
| 2031 | 9 | Phase 2 - Rebuild / Relocate to accommodate additional unit |
| | 3 | Renovate |
| 2034 | 11 | Phase 2 - Rebuild / Relocate to accommodate additional unit |
| | 5 | Renovate |
| 2037 | 6 | Phase 2 - Rebuild / Relocate to accommodate additional unit |
| | 13 | Renovate |
| 2040 | 14 | Phase 2 - Rebuild / Relocate to accommodate additional unit |
| | 1 | Renovate |



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SUMMARY OF RESOURCES REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN EMERGENCY RESPONSE STANDARDS

| Year | Estimated Population | Annual Calls (Projected) | Total Firefighters | New Firefighters Added | Equipment Needs | Facilities Needs |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Phase 1: Correct our Response Capability (Immediate Need) | | | | | | |
| 2025 | 325,000 | 47,000 | 309 | +84 | 4 Engines 3 Squads | 2 Stations 4 Rebuilds |
| Phase 2: Maintain our Response Capability (Sustained Growth) | | | | | | |
| 2030 | 345,500 | 59,000 | 328 | +19 | 2 Engine or Truck | 2 Rebuild 2 Renovate |
| 2035 | 366,000 | 71,000 | 348 | +20 | 2 Engine or Truck | 2 Rebuild 2 Renovate |
| 2040 | 386,500 | 83,000 | 367 | +19 | 1 Engine or Truck | 1 Rebuild 1 Renovate |

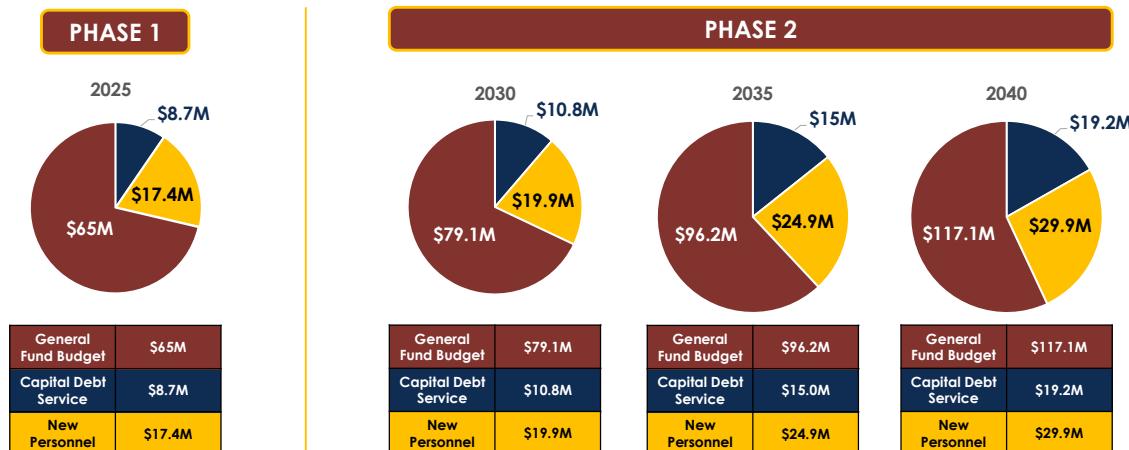


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FUNDING STRATEGY TO SUSTAIN EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERFORMANCE



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WHAT CAN BE COVERED BY MEASURE Z?

| YEAR | MEASURE Z AVAILABLE | NEEDED | UNFUNDED NEED |
|---|---------------------|--------|---------------|
| Phase 1: Correct our Response Capability (Immediate Need) | | | |
| 2025 | Fully Committed | \$26.1 | \$26.1 |
| 2026 | Fully Committed | \$26.1 | \$26.1 |
| 2027 | Fully Committed | \$26.1 | \$26.1 |
| Phase 2: Maintain our Response Capability (Sustained Growth) | | | |
| 2028 | Fully Committed | \$30.7 | \$30.7 |
| 2029 | \$1.6 | \$30.7 | \$29.1 |
| 2030 | \$3.5 | \$30.7 | \$27.2 |
| 2031 | \$2.5 | \$35.3 | \$32.8 |
| 2032 | \$4.0 | \$35.3 | \$31.3 |
| 2033 | \$6.0 | \$35.3 | \$29.3 |
| 2034 | \$8.0 | \$39.9 | \$31.9 |
| 2035 | \$13.0 | \$39.9 | \$26.9 |
| 2036 | \$14.0 | \$39.9 | \$25.9 |
| 2037 | | \$44.2 | \$44.2 |
| 2038 | | \$44.2 | \$44.2 |
| 2039 | | \$44.2 | \$44.2 |
| 2040 | | \$49.1 | \$49.1 |



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SUMMARY

BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY



Lives Are Saved



Less Damage To Homes And Businesses



More Reliable 911 Service Citywide



Protection During Multiple Emergencies



Keeps Pace With City Growth



Stronger Community Confidence

This investment directly improves safety, saves lives, protects property, and ensures Riverside residents receive the level of emergency service they expect and deserve today, and in the years to come.



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