

Montebello Fire Department Interim Fire Chief Kurt Norwood



The cost of meeting the fire safety needs of the Montebello community continues to grow as sources of revenue and funding continue to decline.

With an average life span of approximately 15 to 20 years, several of the Montebello fire engines, fire trucks and apparatus are outdated and needs replacing. The increased maintenance costs and down time of frontline fire engines and fire trucks are impacting the service delivery to the community. Some of the manufactures of several of the Fire Department's apparatus have gone out of business and finding replacement parts is becoming difficult and more expensive. As a result, it is extremely difficult to keep these frontline engines and trucks in service where the Fire Department needs to rely on older reserve equipment to handle incidents. Just like personal vehicles, older fire engines and trucks are more likely to have a breakdown.

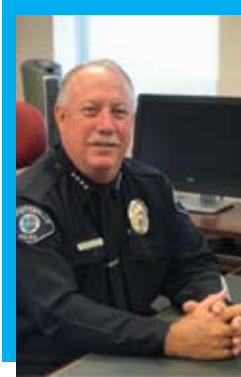
Fire protection service is a job where a quick response can mean the difference between life and death. Without adequate fire apparatus, firefighters may be battling flames as well as aging equipment when they get that emergency response call. When firefighter/paramedics are at the end of a hose battling a flame, or providing paramedic services, we need to know that the fire engines and fire trucks are reliable. A quick response by the Fire Department is needed to save lives. If an engine is out of service this means that firefighters do not have the proper equipment to deliver fire protection services to the residents. As firefighting technology progresses, older equipment simply does not meet standards.

Despite current needs and challenges, the Fire Department continues to take on additional responsibilities and strives to provide excellent service to the community. Quite the testament to a department facing financial challenges, understaffing and critical needs in fire vehicles, equipment, and infrastructure repairs. No agency, no matter how dedicated, can continue to hope indefinitely that it can get "just one more year" out of aging equipment essential to the public's safety.

AGING FIRE APPARATUS NEEDING REPLACEMENT - APPROX. \$2.25 MILLION DOLLARS

YEAR	FUNCTION	REPLACEMENT COST
2003	LADDER TRUCK	\$ 1,500,000
2003	FIRE ENGINE	\$ 750,000

Montebello Police Department Police Chief Kevin McClure



The Police Department, along with support from the City Council and City Manager, has always strived to hire and retain top notch police officers for the community, adhering to the highest recruitment standards. With an estimated \$5.3 million needed to satisfy crucial needs of the Montebello Police Department, funding for the majority of these needs now falls on the City's general fund. The state and federal funding that law enforcement has received over the years, including opportunities for grant funding, is rapidly dwindling and will continue to put a strain on vital city services.

During the past several years, various State driven changes to the criminal justice system, such as AB109, Prop 47 and Prop 57 have placed limitations on law enforcement's ability to respond to criminal activities. Communities are less safe given the changes made by AB109, Prop 47 and Prop 57.

AB 109	PROP 47	PROP 57
AB 109 transferred the responsibly of housing 45,000 criminals from State prison to local jail facilities. In order to house the violent criminals being transferred, local jail facilities were forced to release tens of thousands of lower-level convicted criminals back into our community, which has had the effect of increasing crime.	Prop 47 was approved by 60% of voters in 2014, and changed various crimes from felonies to misdemeanors. Criminals arrested for misdemeanor crime violations are typically released immediately with a citation to appear in court at a later date. Today, possession of illegal drugs is considered a misdemeanor.	Prop 57 allows the State the complete authority to release up to 30,000 inmates in California State prison back into our communities. The State has been granted total authority to release anyone they want from prison, including those convicted of various violent and serious crimes such as drive by shooting and assault with a deadly weapon.

The Department continues to provide incredible service to the community with response times, dispatch to arrival for priority one calls, averaging three minutes, and priority two calls, averaging four and a half minutes. Other sources of revenue continue to decline with the ceasing of additional sources of revenue still to come. The majority of available funds go to Los Angeles County, leaving it up to the County to determine how much, if any, goes to local police departments. The Department faces many challenges as it tries to compete not only for new officers to fill vacancies, but retention of current officers.