



LAKE TRAVIS FIRE RESCUE

TRAVIS COUNTY ESD NO. 6

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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A MESSAGE FROM THE TRAVIS COUNTY ESD NO. 6 FIRE CHIEF

It is an honor to serve alongside the dedicated professionals of Lake Travis Fire Rescue, whose commitment to compassionate, high-quality service defines everything we do. Each day, our team works to ensure the safety and well-being of our community through emergency response, prevention, and preparedness.

In 2025, we continued to strengthen our organization to meet the needs of a rapidly growing community. While several major capital improvement projects are on the horizon, our focus this year has been on thoughtful planning; ensuring future stations and facilities are strategically aligned with long-term service demands and operational readiness.

We also made meaningful investments in our capabilities to strengthen both local response and regional wildfire support. The addition of a new water tender enhances our ability to respond effectively in areas without hydrant access, improving fire suppression capacity in a community where geography and growth present unique challenges. At the same time, we expanded our regional partnerships by entering into an interlocal agreement with Travis County to maintain and deploy county-owned dozers in support of wildfire suppression and mitigation efforts. Together, these resources enhance our readiness for large-scale incidents and reinforce our commitment to protecting the broader region.

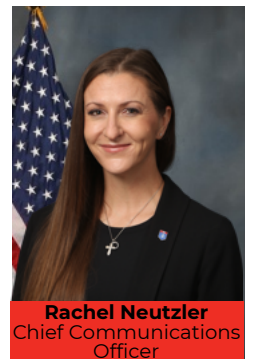
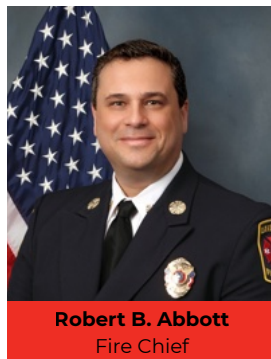
Equally important is the investment we are making in the fire service's future. This year marked the launch of our inaugural Lake Travis Fire Explorers program, providing young people with hands-on experience, mentorship, and a pathway into public safety careers. Programs like this help us build the next generation of leaders while strengthening our connection to the community.

Our progress is made possible through strong partnerships with our employees, our elected officials, and the residents we serve. Together, we are building a resilient, forward-looking organization grounded in professionalism, innovation, and service.

On behalf of our executive staff, thank you for your continued trust and support.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Abbott
Fire Chief



MESSAGE FROM THE TRAVIS COUNTY ESD NO. 6 BOARD PRESIDENT

I am proud to serve this community as President of the Travis County Emergency Services District No. 6 Board of Commissioners and to share Lake Travis Fire Rescue's 2025 Annual Report.

As our community continues to grow, the responsibility to provide high-quality, responsive emergency services grows with it. The Board remains focused on ensuring LTFR is well-positioned to meet both current demands and future challenges through thoughtful planning and responsible stewardship.

A major priority this year has been advancing the District's Capital Improvement Plan. Although these projects are still in development, they reflect a significant and necessary investment in stations and facilities that will support long-term service delivery. Guided by data-driven planning and a commitment to maintaining the high standards our community expects, these improvements are intended to strengthen the District's ability to serve the community for years to come.

Equally important is our investment in people and community connection. Programs like the Junior Firefighter Academy continue to inspire young residents, while the Lake Travis Fire Explorers program creates meaningful pathways for those pursuing careers in public safety. In addition, we partnered with Travis County and neighboring Emergency Services Districts to prioritize wildfire preparedness through town halls and community education events.

The Board is committed to supporting the mission, people, and future of Lake Travis Fire Rescue. We appreciate the trust placed in us and remain dedicated to serving this community with accountability, transparency, and vision.

Sincerely,
Shiloh Newman



Shiloh Newman
President

Travis County ESD No. 6 Board of Commissioners



Larry Sartin
Vice President



Matt Womack
Treasurer



Angela Grossman
Assistant Treasurer



Jessica Clinton
Secretary

Who We Are

Lake Travis Fire Rescue, Travis County Emergency Service District No. 6, proudly provides fire protection and emergency medical services to the Lake Travis community.

Compassionate Committed Service

MISSION

To minimize loss of life and property through emergency response, prevention and community involvement.



VISION

To continually exceed the expectations of those we serve through Innovation, Engagement and Preparedness.



VALUES

Our success is built upon the foundation of our commitment to professionalism, leadership, integrity, respect, compassion and safety.



Our Team

147

Full-Time
Budgeted Positions

5

Executive Staff

102

Operations

8

Prevention

8

Training

8

Fuels Mitigation

8

Administrative

8

Fleet/Logistics

15

Veterans

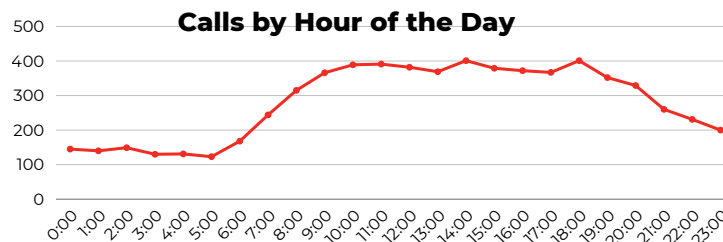


Emergency Operations

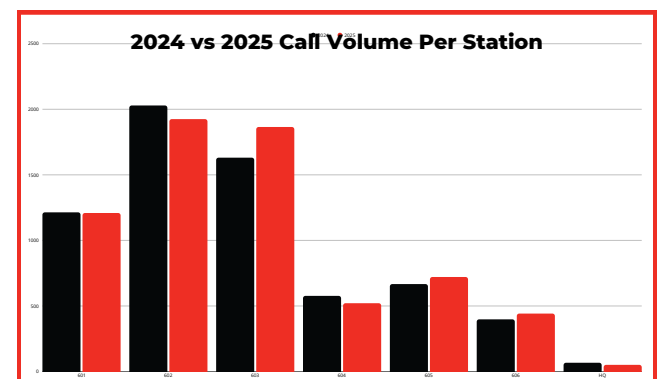
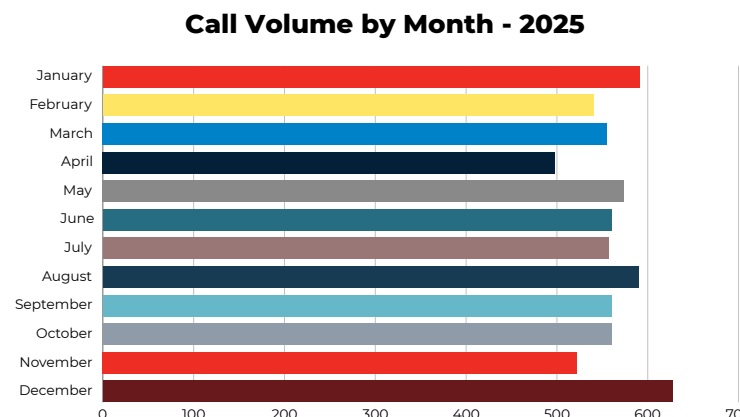
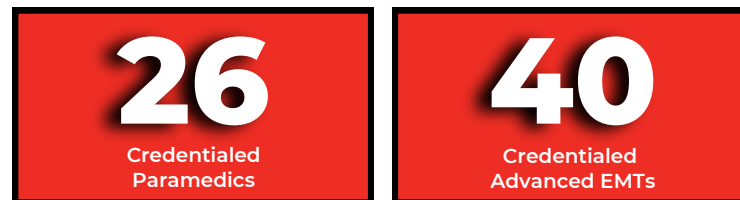
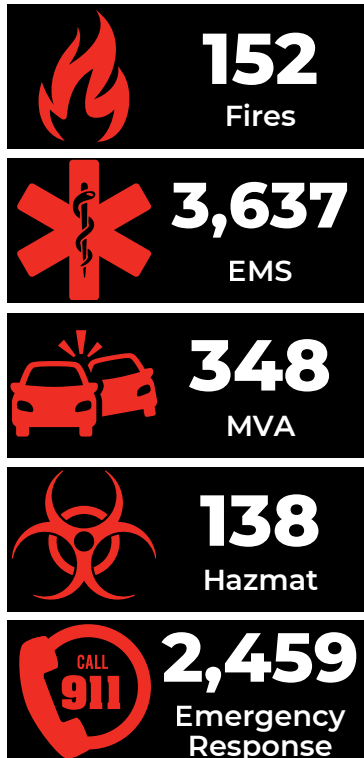
The Emergency Operations Division at Lake Travis Fire Rescue involves responding to various emergencies, such as fires, accidents, rescues and medical emergencies. Committed to integrity, they lead with compassion, ensuring the safety of individuals and property while upholding the highest standards of respect for the community they serve.



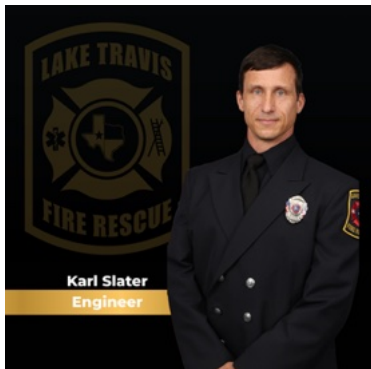
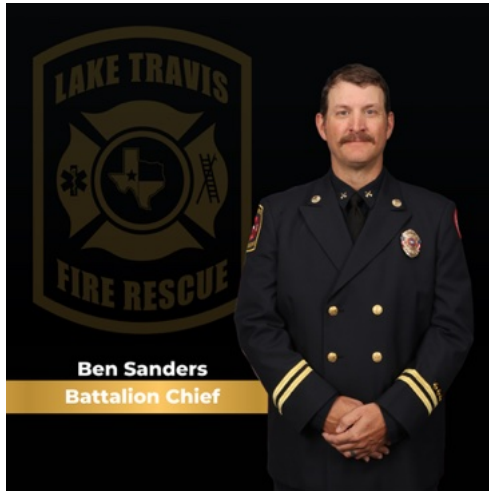
**Total Incidents
2025 6,734**



2025 Statistics



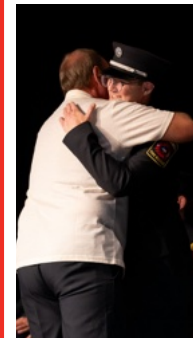
Promotions



New Firefighters



Five firefighters completed their probationary year with Lake Travis Fire Rescue and were pinned on Sept. 4, 2025.



Prevention

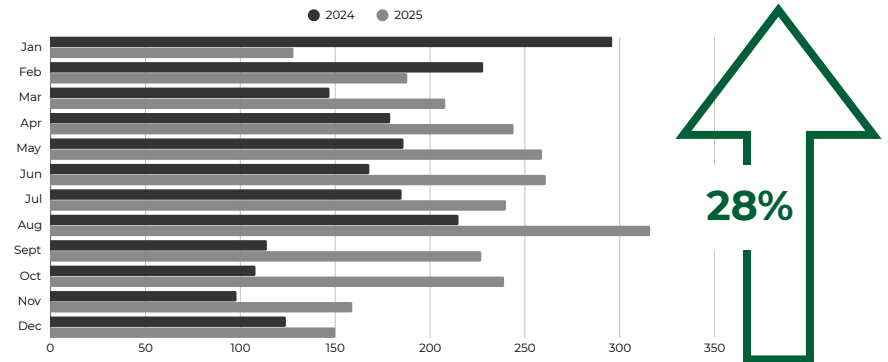
The Prevention Division is responsible for protecting lives and property through fire code adoption, fire inspections, code enforcement, fire investigations, permitting and community outreach and education.



Deputy Fire Marshal Chris Lee graduated from the Fire Executive Management Training (FEMT) program at Sam Houston State University, strengthening his leadership and strategic management skills in service to Lake Travis Fire Rescue and the community.



TOTAL INSPECTIONS: 2,619



116
Operational
Permits

97
Open Burning
Permits

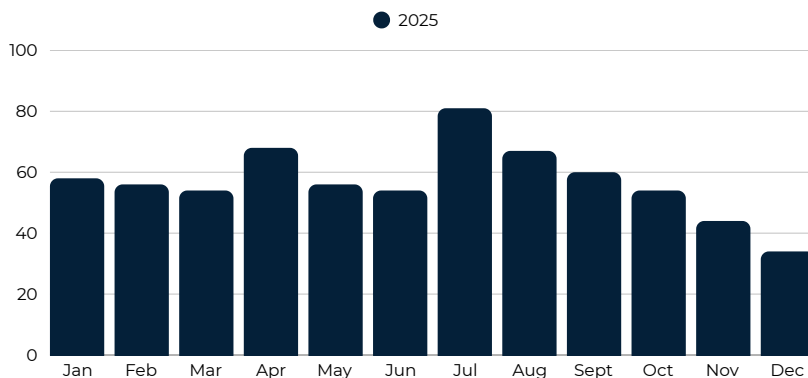
18
Fireworks
Related
Permits

334
Construction
Permits

2 Day
Plan Review
Turn-Around

1,627
Hazards
Found

Plans Reviews by Month



**41 Fire
Investigations**



2nd Junior Firefighter Academy



Safety Squad



6,415
students reached



National Night Out



Lake Travis Community Library Firefighter Story Hour



Public Education

Lake Travis Fire Rescue's public education program focuses on reducing risk and preventing emergencies through proactive outreach, including school programs, community events, and safety campaigns. Their efforts emphasize wildfire preparedness, fire prevention, and life safety education to help residents protect their homes and families.



Community Training



CPR Card

33

People Trained



CPR Hands Only

90

People Trained



Stop the Bleed

145

People Trained

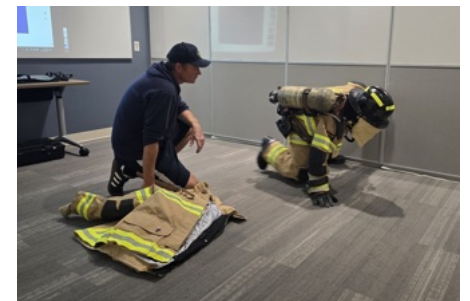
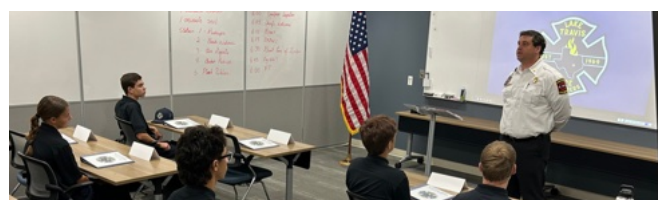


200+

**Fire and Life Safety Event
Attendees**

Inaugural Lake Travis Fire Explorers

The Lake Travis Fire Explorers Program launched its inaugural year with 15 students meeting twice a month to learn the foundations of the fire service. Led by Public Educator Jesus De Luna, with support from Lake Travis Fire Rescue and Pedernales Fire Department firefighters and staff, participants received hands-on training in areas such as fire behavior, basic firefighting skills, emergency medical response, and radio communications. The program emphasized teamwork, leadership, and a commitment to service while providing real-world exposure alongside firefighters. This first year established a strong foundation for developing future public safety professionals and strengthening community connections.



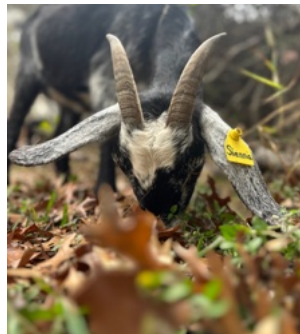
Wildfire Mitigation

The Wildfire Mitigation Division at Lake Travis Fire Rescue takes proactive measures to reduce the risk and impact of wildfires in the region. Through strategic vegetation management, community outreach, and comprehensive planning, they work to create defensible spaces, raise awareness about wildfire risks, and enhance overall preparedness.



Steiner Ranch Fuels Mitigation Projects

Lake Travis Fire Rescue successfully completed multiple community fuel mitigation projects in Steiner Ranch in partnership with volunteers from the Steiner Ranch Firewise group and LTFR's Fuels Mitigation crew. These projects focused on reducing wildfire risk by removing ladder fuels, dead vegetation, and smaller trees—key steps in creating defensible space. As part of these efforts, targeted grazing with goats was also utilized to help manage vegetation and reduce hazardous fuels in difficult-to-access areas. Additional projects are planned to further strengthen wildfire resilience in the community.



Community Education



Certified Wildfire Mitigation Specialist, Dustin Dunn attended numerous public education events, delivering presentations to increase community awareness and preparedness for wildland fire risk. He provided practical guidance on reducing hazards around homes, emphasizing defensible space, vegetation management, and protecting structures from ember intrusion.

42.7 Acres of Fuel Breaks



768 Acres Burned

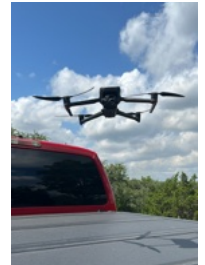
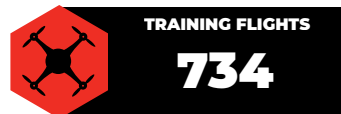
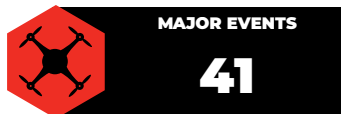
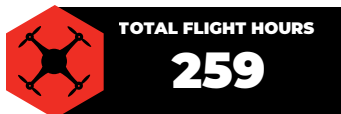


100 Piles Burned



TAC Team

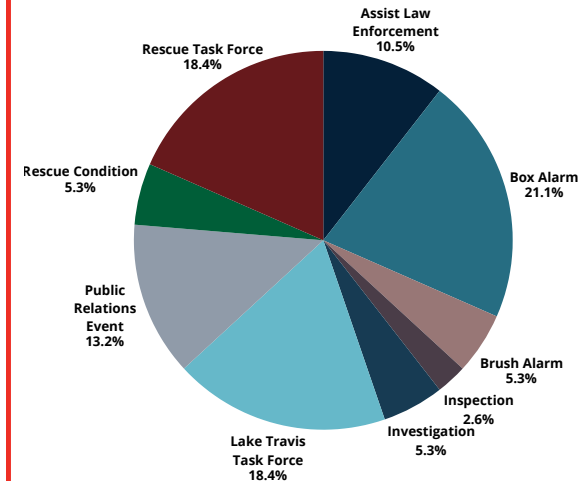
The Lake Travis Technology Aiding Command (TAC) Team is the central hub for the organization's robotics initiatives, initially concentrating on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). This team will harness UAS capabilities to support incident response, preventive measures, and mapping, ensuring a versatile and efficient approach to operational tasks.



Drone Presentation

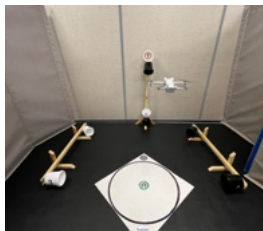
Lake Travis Fire Rescue participated in the 15th Annual Manor ISD Robotics & Coding Expo, where personnel highlighted how drones and technology are transforming the fire service. Students learned about tools like aerial support and thermal imaging used in search, rescue, and fireground operations.

2025 UAS Missions

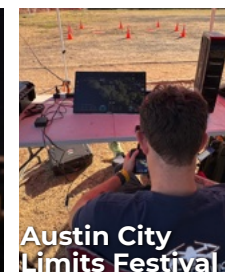
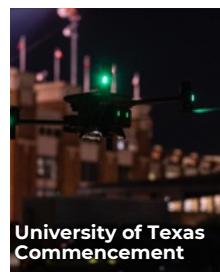
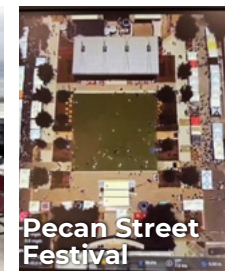


NIST UAS Proctoring Course

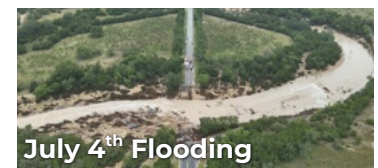
Lake Travis Fire Rescue participated in the NIST Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Proctoring Course at the Regional Training Center alongside regional public safety partners. This training strengthens the department's UAS program by promoting operational safety, proficiency, and adherence to national best practices for drone use in emergency response.



Large Event Partnerships



Incident Response

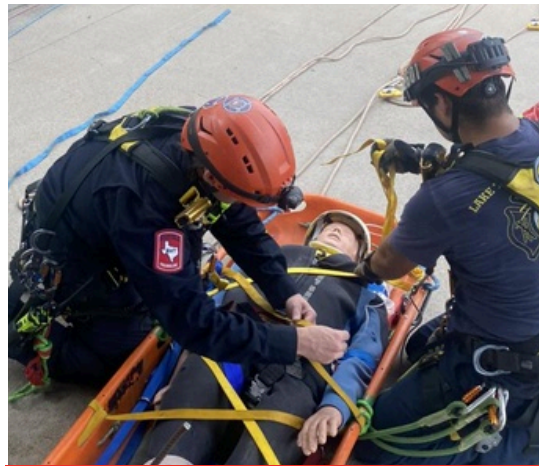


Training

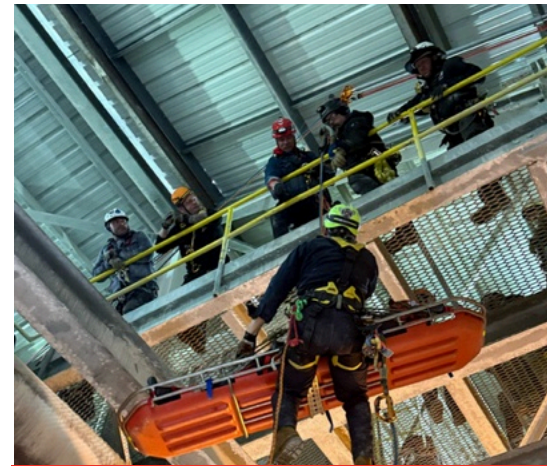
The Training Division is responsible for honing personnel's skills and knowledge for effective emergency response. They conduct comprehensive and ongoing training programs, ensuring that our first responders receive up-to-date education on the latest protocols, techniques, and best practices in EMS, Fire, Rescue, and Wildland.



Hands-On Training Classes
177



Annual Total Training Hours
2,410



Total Employee Hours Trained
2,558

7
Cleared Medics



3
Cleared AEMT



Battalion Chief Robert Rygg earned the professional designation of Chief Training Officer (CTO) from the Commission on Professional Credentialing, recognizing his commitment to excellence in the fire and emergency services.

Battalion Chief Robert Rygg successfully completed his second year of the Texas Fire Chiefs Academy, earning the designation of Certified Fire Executive (CFE).

New Position Emergency Educator Specialist

Firefighter Jakeb Busby joined the Training Division as an emergency educator specialist. With this addition, the training division has four emergency educator specialists dedicated to ensuring LTFR firefighters are trained to national standards and best practices.



Human Resources

Human Resources is responsible for the management of talent acquisition, personnel policies and procedures, employee benefits, compliance with employment laws and regulations and a wide range of other HR administrative functions. HR plays a crucial role supporting District staff and fostering a positive work environment.

New Hires: 2 **Career Advancements: 12**

Hiring Process

221 Applicants



90 Completed Written Exam



84 Completed FPAT



76 Completed Swim Assessment



Retirements

Battalion Chief Preston Jacobi



Battalion Chief Preston Jacobi served LTFR for 29 years and retired in January 2025. Thank you, Battalion Chief Jacobi, for your service.



Lieutenant Tryge Dixon



Lieutenant Tryge Dixon served LTFR for 20 years and retired in June 2025. Thank you, Lieutenant Tryge Dixon, for your service.



Finance

Finance is responsible for all financial aspects of the department, including the annual budget, long-term financial and capital planning, cash flow and investment management, and all accounting functions, including payroll and accounts payable/receivable. Additionally, Finance is responsible for the annual audit, monthly financial reporting to the Board of Commissioners, establishing and monitoring internal controls, and assuring compliance with accounting and financial standards.



Emergency Operations

Emergency response staff salaries and benefits, required protective equipment, tools and supplies for responding to emergency calls.



\$19.4 Million

Administration

Salaries and benefits of non-emergency personnel, utilities, facility maintenance and contracted services.

\$3.3 Million

Training

Training for firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, new recruits and staff.

\$1.6 Million

Community Risk Reduction & Prevention

Building inspections, code enforcement, plans review, smoke alarm installations, and fire and life safety presentations.



\$2.5 Million

Debt Services

\$1 Million

Principal and interest payments for outstanding loans.



\$1.7 Million Capital Projects Fleet and Equipment

Purchase of fire equipment, radios, EMS equipment and staff vehicles.



New Position
Senior Accountant
Natalie Robertson

Capital Projects Building Construction



\$700,000

Approved Capital Improvement Projects

\$62 Million

Logistics Warehouse



Features
4 offices
2 bunk rooms
3,500 sq. ft.



Estimate Build: 2027

Station 604

Estimate Build: 2030

Station 607 - Serene Hills

Estimate Build: 2028

Station 608 - Hillsong

Estimate Build: 2032

Station 603

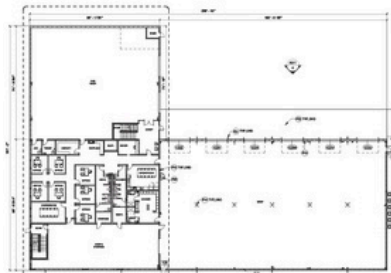
Features

4 bays
12 bunk rooms
6 offices
14,445 sq. ft.



Estimate Build: 2027

Fleet Warehouse



Features

8 bays
26,800 sq. ft.

Estimate Build: 2027

Station 602

Features 3 bays 3 offices
10 bunk rooms 18,500 sq. ft.

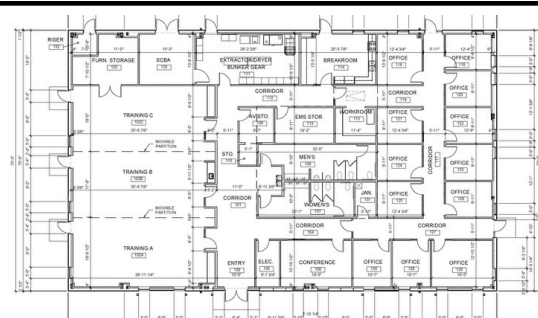


Estimate Build: 2027

Training

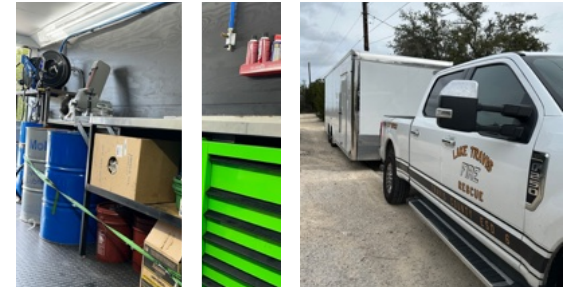
Features
12 offices
2,000 sq. ft. training room
8,00 sq. ft. training building
2,400 sq. ft. fitness building

Estimate Build: 2027



Fleet & Logistics

Fleet and Logistics at Lake Travis Fire Rescue is dedicated to ensuring the seamless operation of the fire department's vehicles and optimizing logistical efficiency. Additionally, they oversee the coordination of logistical operations, ensuring timely and effective resource deployment to support Lake Travis Fire Rescue and surrounding Emergency Services Districts.



New Tender

Lake Travis Fire Rescue added a new water tender to its fleet in 2025. The specialized apparatus carries 3,000 gallons of water and is designed to support firefighting operations in areas without access to fire hydrants. This addition strengthens LTFR's operational capabilities within the district and enhances the department's ability to assist neighboring communities and auto-aid partners during emergency responses.



**New Position
Fleet Technician Assistant**

Lake Travis Fire Rescue welcomed Gus Alexander to the newly created position of Fleet Technician in 2025. This additional role was added to support the maintenance and operational readiness of the District's growing fleet of emergency response vehicles.

**Master Emergency Vehicle
Technician (EVT)**



Fleet Technician David Purvis achieved his Master Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) certification, the highest level of certification in the emergency vehicle maintenance field.

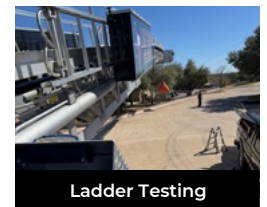
**Master Emergency Vehicle
Technician (EVT)**



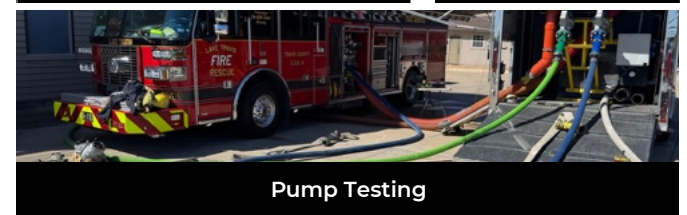
Fleet Technician JJ McMullin achieved his Master Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) certification, the highest level of certification in the emergency vehicle maintenance field.



Clean Gear



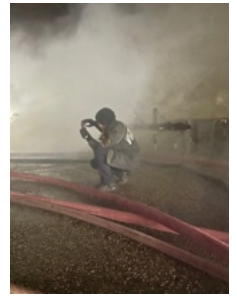
Ladder Testing



Pump Testing

Public Information

Public Information is the crucial link between the fire department, the community, and the media, disseminating timely and accurate information. The public information officer manages public communications, social media, and news releases, keeping residents informed about fire safety, emergency preparedness, and departmental activities.



Public Information Officer Focus Group

Communications Director Rachel Neutzler participated in a focus group at FEMA's National Disaster and Emergency Management University in Emmitsburg, MD, to update and revise the Advanced Public Information Officer, 0388, course.



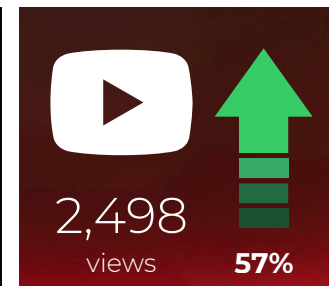
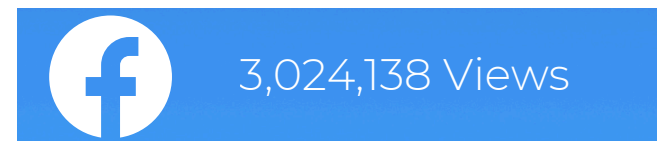
Media Interviews and News Conferences



Lake Travis Fire Rescue works with the media to ensure timely and accurate information is provided on various topics.



Social Media



Video Projects

Lake Travis Fire Rescue created and also collaborated with all Travis County ESDs on multiple multi-media projects in 2025.

Fire Prevention Week: Lake Travis Community Video Series

Fire Prevention Week: Charge into Fire Safety

Fire Prevention Week: Spanish



CPSE PIO Designation Renewed for Rachel Neutzler



9-11 Stair Climb

Lake Travis Fire Rescue firefighters and staff participated in a 9/11 Stair Climb alongside the Lakeway Police Department and the Bee Cave Police Department, honoring the lives lost and the bravery displayed on September 11, 2001.



Shared Programs

Lake Travis Fire Rescue partners with neighboring agencies and entities to share the cost of key programs, including specialized positions and critical equipment. These shared investments strengthen regional capabilities while maximizing efficiency and responsible use of taxpayer resources.

City of Lakeway Fuels Mitigation Specialist Position



Travis County ESDs County Resource Coordinator



Travis County and Travis County ESDs Dozers and Wildfire Mitigation



Presentations & Partnerships

Presentations and partnerships are integral to Lake Travis Fire Rescue as they provide opportunities to educate the community on fire safety measures and emergency preparedness, fostering a safer environment. Collaborative efforts with external entities enhance LTFR's capacity to respond effectively to diverse challenges, creating a network of support for the community's well-being.



Wildfire town hall hosted with Commissioner Ann Howard, Travis County Parks, and West Travis County PUA.



Commissioners Ann Howard and Brigid Shea, along with Travis County ESDs 4, 6, and 14, hosted a Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation Town Hall to help residents protect their homes, families, and neighborhoods.



Assistant Chief Mike Prather and Battalion Chief Robert Rygg presented on the use of Unmanned Aerial Systems in emergency services at the SAFE-D Conference in Round Rock.



Communications Director Rachel Neutzler, Williamson County, the Travis County Sheriff's Office and Texas Department of Emergency Management taught Basic PIO to attendees from across the state.

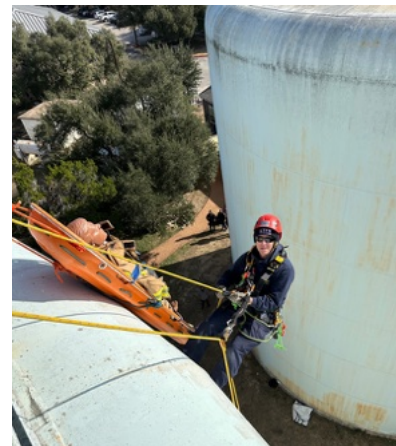
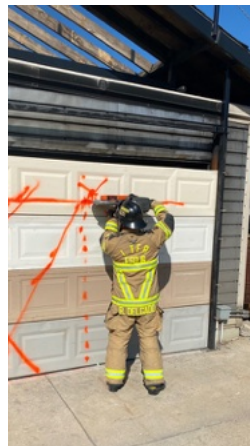
Presentations & Partnerships

Presentations and partnerships are integral to Lake Travis Fire Rescue as they provide opportunities to educate the community on fire safety measures and emergency preparedness, fostering a safer environment. Collaborative efforts with external entities enhance LTFR's capacity to respond effectively to diverse challenges, creating a network of support for the community's well-being.



F.L.A.M.E Initiative

Wildfire Mitigation Specialist Dustin Dunn spoke at a regional news conference announcing the F.L.A.M.E. initiative, a wildfire prevention partnership with Travis County and Travis County Emergency Services District No. 2, highlighting the importance of community-driven wildfire mitigation and home hardening measures to reduce wildfire risk.



West Side 5 Training

Lake Travis Fire Rescue personnel participated in West Side 5 training, working alongside regional fire departments to strengthen coordination, share best practices, and enhance operational readiness for emergency response across the region.

Presentations & Partnerships



Fire Chief Robert "Bobby" Abbott presented at the SAFE-D Conference, sharing A Chief's Perspective: ESD Employment Matters and discussing leadership insights and workforce considerations within Emergency Services Districts.



Communications Director Rachel Neutzler presented PIO 101 at the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers (TAMIO) Conference, sharing insights on the role of the Public Information Officer



TIFMAS Deployments



LTFR entered into an interlocal agreement with Travis County to maintain and deploy county-owned dozers in support of wildfire suppression and mitigation efforts in the region.

Awards and Recognition

2025 Lake Travis Fire Rescue Awards



Firefighter of the Year
Firefighter Ralph Delgado



Engineer of the Year
Engineer Tristan Monks



Officer of the Year
Lieutenant Jeffrey Dudik



Medical Provider of the Year
Firefighter Tyler Moore



Visionary Award
Battalion Chief Robert Rygg



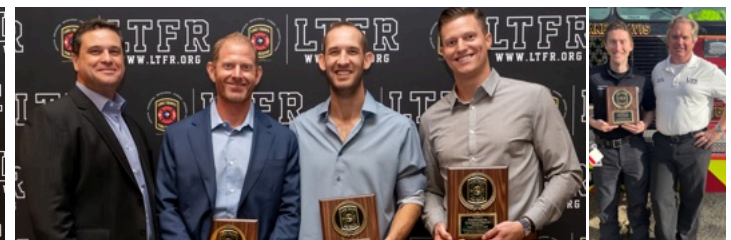
District Support Award
Hope Ball



District Support Award
Captain Ted Harris



Company of the Year: 601 C-Shift
Lieutenant Jeffrey Dudik, Engineer Graham Taylor, Firefighter
Brandon Barto, Firefighter Ralph Delgado



Community Impact Award
Safety Squad

Awards and Recognition



Lake Travis Fire Rescue was honored to be recognized as the "Best Community Partner" by the West Austin Chamber of Commerce.



Firefighter Daniel Bachmeyer, recognized as Outstanding Firefighter by The 100 Club of Central Texas and recipient of LTFR's Medal of Bravery for extraordinary courage.



Lake Travis Fire Rescue's Honor Guard was recognized by Folds of Honor and the University of Texas Golf Club for its continued participation in the annual Folds of Honor tournament, presenting the colors to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation.







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