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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

June 23, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Dr. Karen A. Marrongelle
 Chief Science Officer
 National Science Foundation

Dear Dr. Marrongelle:

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) provided my office with information outlining some federal aircraft inventory data from fiscal year 2024 regarding the National Science Foundation (NSF).¹ This data was compiled from the General Services Administration's (GSA) Federal Aviation Interactive Reporting System (FAIRS).² According to GAO, NSF owned two operational aircraft during fiscal year 2024.³

So that Congress may better understand how taxpayer money was spent related to NSF's use of that aircraft, please respond to the following questions no later than July 7, 2025:

1. Provide the number of aircraft currently owned by NSF.⁴ Of that number, how many are:
 - a. Airplanes;
 - b. Helicopters; or
 - c. Unmanned Aircraft Systems.
2. Explain the purpose of use for each aircraft in question 1.
3. From 2021-2024, what was the total annual cost associated with each aircraft to include all storage, fuel, maintenance, labor, and related costs? Provide annual data for each aircraft.

Thank you for your prompt review and responses. If you have any questions, please contact Tucker Akin on my Committee staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
 Chairman
 Committee on the Judiciary

¹ Exhibit 1.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ General Services Administration, *Aviation regulations and guidance* (May 8, 2025), <https://www.gsa.gov/policy-regulations/policy/aviation-management-policy/aviation-regulations-and-guidance#tab--Report-data>. ("Executive agencies of the United States Government must report to FAIRS if they "own, bail, borrow, loan, lease, rent, charter, contract for, or obtain by inter-service support agreement Government aircraft."").

EXHIBIT 1

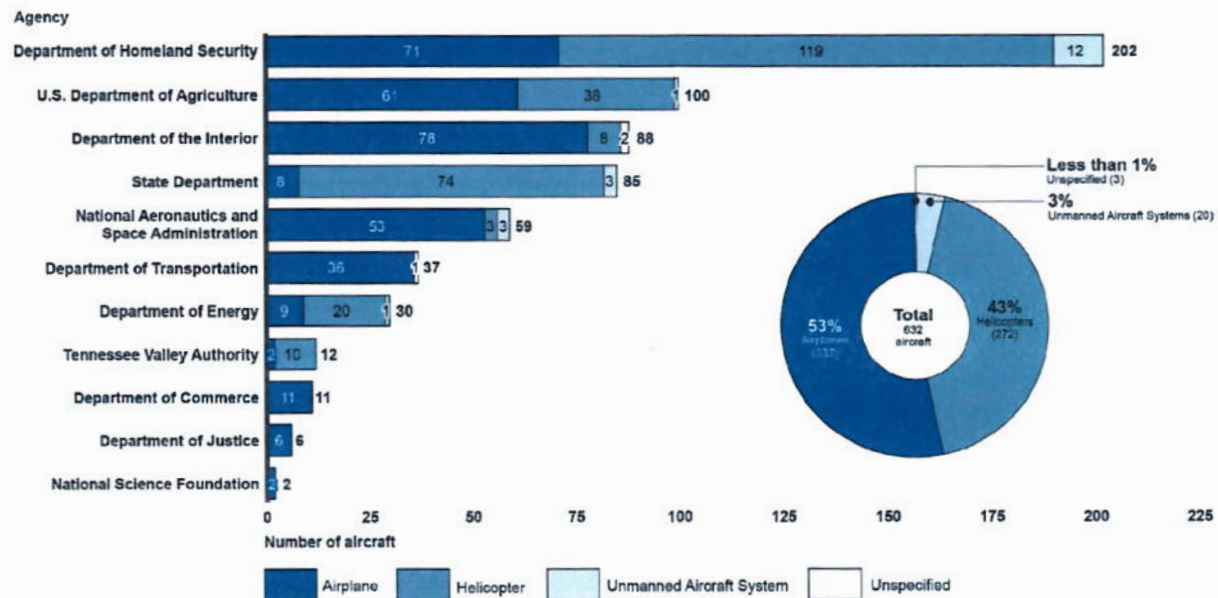
Federally Owned Aircraft Inventory, Fiscal Year 2024

Data Source: The information in the tables below is compiled from fiscal year 2024 federal aircraft inventory data submitted to the General Services Administration's Federal Aviation Interactive Reporting System (FAIRS). According to GSA, several agencies corrected their data after the end of the fiscal year. The data shown below was last updated in April 2025. This inventory data does not include the following:

- Assets of agencies in the intelligence community or the Armed Forces (including the U.S. Coast Guard);
- Aircraft that are leased, chartered, or rented; or
- Non-operational assets (i.e., aircraft that cannot be economically returned to service, but may be used for parts).

In addition, according to GSA, this data also does not include most unmanned aircraft systems (or drones). Agencies are not required to report unmanned aircraft systems to FAIRS if the accumulated costs for acquisition and operations do not meet the agency's threshold for capitalization or have a useful life of less than two years.

Figure: Operational Aircraft Owned by Federal Agencies, Fiscal Year 2024



Note: The term "Unspecified" refers to situations where the agency did not designate a particular aircraft category and left the data field blank. According to GSA, an upcoming FAIRS system modification will make this data element mandatory for all reporting agencies.