2004 Lexus SC 430 at 110,000 mi

JTHFN48Y740123456

MODEL / CHASSIS	ENGINE	MILEAGE	DRIVETRAIN
SC 430 · UZZ40 SC 430 (4.3L V8)	Lexus UZ V8 (3UZ-FE 4.3L; 1UZ-FE 4.0L)	110,000 mi	RWD
BUILD MONTH	**REPORT DATE**	**MODE**	**PREPARED FOR**
Not entered (door jamb)	October 28, 2026	Owner	Sample Owner

VIN check: check digit valid; model-year code '4' = 2004, matches the year entered. The VIN doesn't record the build month. Sample report: synthetic VIN.

1 · SUMMARY

What this car needs, in order

Each item compares this car's mileage with when owners and shops report the part failing. It is not an inspection: a qualified technician decides what the car actually needs.

1 job recommended now

0 to plan in the next 30,000 miles

2 to watch or check at each service

Safety recalls NHTSA lists for this model year (1)

- **19V-741** · Air bags · frontal (replacement inflator): Some cars got a replacement frontal air bag inflator in an earlier repair that can rupture in a crash and throw metal fragments, causing serious injury or death. Free replacement; a VIN check shows if this car is affected.

A model-year list, not a VIN check. Repairs are free at a Lexus dealer if open. On a car over 15 years old, ask the dealer whether a newer recall is still repaired free. Check this VIN at nhtsa.gov/recalls.

Step 0 · Free: run the VIN at nhtsa.gov/recalls and ask a Lexus dealer for a campaign printout. Read the build month (MM/YY) on the driver's door-jamb label.

Recommended now at the next service — $1,223–$1,610

Timing belt and water pump replacement — $1,223–$1,610 (independent shop, installed)

Past the range (Every 90,000 miles or 9 years, water pump with the belt) · if the records don't show it done

Next 12 months up to about 122,000 mi

Nothing scheduled here.

Within the next 30,000 miles up to 140,000 mi

Nothing else enters its reported range in this window.

Watch inspect at each service, fix on condition, or optional

Electronic throttle body fault (limp mode) — **$1,413–$1,502** independent shop, installed

Any mileage (2003 GS 430, LS 430 and SC 430 were covered by campaign 3LF) · Inspect at each service; fix at the first sign

In-tank fuel pump failure (stall, no restart) — **$611–$1,984** independent shop, installed

Any mileage (Owner complaints, mainly 2004 LS 430) · Inspect at each service; fix at the first sign

Recommended now

$1,223–$1,610

Independent shop, installed. Dealers often charge more.

Planned through 140,000 mi

$1,223–$1,610

Nothing else on the list before 140,000 mi. Now + next 12 months + next 30,000 miles. Excludes “watch” and optional items.

Costs are published independent-shop ranges (low end + low end, high end + high end). Bundled jobs are priced together because the labor overlaps. Routine service (oil, brakes, tires) isn't included; factory fluid and spark plug intervals are listed below.

FACTORY MAINTENANCE

The maker's maintenance schedule isn't on this report

This report doesn't include the maker's scheduled maintenance for this car yet, so brake fluid, spark plugs, coolant and transmission fluid aren't listed even when they're due. Check the service records and the maker's schedule for this car.

WHERE 110K SITS FOR EACH WEAK POINT

#	WEAK POINT	REPORTED RANGE	THIS CAR
1	Timing belt and water pump replacement	Every 90,000 miles or 9 years, water pump with the belt SHOP/RETAILER	Past the range
2	Electronic throttle body fault (limp mode)	2003 GS 430, LS 430 and SC 430 were covered by campaign 3LF OFFICIAL	Any mileage
3	In-tank fuel pump failure (stall, no restart)	Owner complaints, mainly 2004 LS 430 OFFICIAL	Any mileage

Colors compare mileage with reported failures, not the car's condition. Red: past the range. Amber: inside or approaching. Green: below, or not listed for a recall.

2 · RECALLS AND BULLETINS

Recalls to check for this 2004 Lexus SC 430

Safety recall repairs are free at Lexus dealers. On a car over 15 years old, ask the dealer whether a newer recall is still repaired free. Nothing here can tell whether a recall is open or already done on this VIN; only the official VIN lookup or a dealer can.

Official VIN check (2 minutes)

1. Go to nhtsa.gov/recalls and enter JTHFN48Y740123456.
2. Note every recall shown as “Recall incomplete” and keep a screenshot.
3. Ask a Lexus dealer for a campaign printout; it also lists completed campaigns.

4.3L 3UZ-FE V8 RECALLS WE TRACK

NHTSA lists no engine-specific recall campaign for the 4.3L 3UZ-FE V8 as of 2026-10-27. Recalls on the rest of the car are in the model-year list below.

EVERY RECALL NHTSA LISTS FOR THE 2004 LEXUS SC 430 (1)

RECALL	COMPONENT	WHAT CAN HAPPEN (NHTSA, SHORTENED)
19V-741	Air bags · frontal (replacement inflator)	Some cars got a replacement frontal air bag inflator in an earlier repair that can rupture in a crash and throw metal fragments, causing serious injury or death. Free replacement; a VIN check shows if this car is affected. Details

Source: NHTSA recalls API, fetched 2026-10-28 and combined across NHTSA model names: SC430. Safety categories (air bags, fire, brakes, stalling, roll-away and loss of control) are listed first; listings whose NHTSA text names another engine, or an aftermarket part, go last. OFFICIAL

SERVICE ACTIONS, BULLETINS AND WARRANTY PROGRAMS

Manufacturer bulletins and warranty programs for this engine are cited on each weak point in section 4, where they apply.

4 · THE 3 WEAK POINTS

Each weak point, one card each

Every figure carries its source. Retailer part numbers are shown only when the retailer lists them for this chassis (UZZ40). Left out because they apply to other models, years, engine sizes or body codes: Harsh 2-1 downshift when stopping (GS 430).

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1 Timing belt and water pump replacement

Past the range

Severity: High: overheating, stalls, limp mode or a big bill · 0 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

At 110,000 mi this car is past the reported range (Every 90,000 miles or 9 years, water pump with the belt). If the original parts are still fitted, have them checked and plan for them. Range: Every 90,000 miles or 9 years, water pump with the belt SHOP/RETAILER [3]



WHAT FAILS SHOP/RETAILER [3]

These V8s use a rubber timing belt that must be changed on schedule. The water pump is driven by the timing belt, so shops change the pump, tensioner and idlers in the same job.

SYMPTOMS

- No warning before a belt breaks
- Coolant seep at the water pump behind the timing covers

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

A broken belt stops the engine at once and strands the car; a leaking pump can overheat it.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Yes, if there is no record of it in the last 90,000 miles or 9 years.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Timing belt replacement, 2002 LS430 (RepairPal estimate)	**$1,223–$1,610** SHOP/RETAILER [2] independent shop, installed
Same job after a breakdown, plus towing	**$1,223–$1,610** SHOP/RETAILER [2] reported range for the bill after a failure
Dealer	**Often 1.5–2× the independent-shop price** OUR ESTIMATE

1.0× The failure-bill midpoint ($1,417) is about 1.0× the early-fix midpoint ($1,417). A cost ratio, not a probability.

PARTS FOR UZZ40

- Ask your parts supplier for the OE part number for this VIN.

WHAT TO ASK YOUR SHOP

- When was the timing belt last replaced? Water pump with it?

2 Electronic throttle body fault (limp mode)

Any mileage

Severity: Medium: leaks and wear · 5 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (2003 GS 430, LS 430 and SC 430 were covered by campaign 3LF), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: 2003 GS 430, LS 430 and SC 430 were covered by campaign 3LF OFFICIAL [4]

WHAT FAILS FORUM/BLOG [4][9]

An electrical contact in the throttle body motor can fail. The check-engine light comes on and the engine can go into a limp-home mode. Lexus campaign 3LF inspected and, where needed, replaced the throttle body on 2003 models.

SYMPTOMS

- Check-engine light
- Reduced power or limp-home mode
- Idle or throttle response problems

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

Sudden loss of power in traffic is a safety risk.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

Ask a Lexus dealer whether campaign 3LF was done on a 2003 car; on others, replace the throttle body when throttle codes appear.

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Throttle body replacement, GS430 (RepairPal estimate)	**$1,413–$1,502** SHOP/RETAILER [5] independent shop, installed
Same job	**$1,413–$1,502** SHOP/RETAILER [5] reported range for the bill after a failure
Dealer	**Often 1.5–2× the independent-shop price** OUR ESTIMATE

1.0× The failure-bill midpoint ($1,458) is about 1.0× the early-fix midpoint ($1,458). A cost ratio, not a probability.

PARTS FOR UZZ40

- Ask your parts supplier for the OE part number for this VIN.

WHAT TO ASK YOUR SHOP

- Any limp mode or throttle codes?
- Campaign 3LF done (2003)?

3 In-tank fuel pump failure (stall, no restart)

Any mileage

Severity: High: overheating, stalls, limp mode or a big bill · 20 mentions in counted NHTSA complaints

COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA

Reports cover a wide mileage span (Owner complaints, mainly 2004 LS 430), so mileage doesn't say much here. Range: Owner complaints, mainly 2004 LS 430 OFFICIAL [1]

WHAT FAILS OFFICIAL [1]

Owners describe the engine stalling while driving and not restarting right away, sometimes several times before the fuel pump failed completely. Mechanics found a failed in-tank fuel pump.

SYMPTOMS

- Stalls while driving, then cranks but will not start
- Restarts after it cools down

ESTIMATED REPAIR COST

Fuel pump replacement, LS430 (YourMechanic: average $611; shop/dealer up to $1,984)	**$611–$1,984** SHOP/RETAILER [6] independent shop, installed

- Hesitation before the stall

IF IT'S LEFT TOO LONG

A stall at speed is a crash risk and leaves the car stranded.

IS IT WORTH DOING EARLY? OUR ESTIMATE

At the first unexplained stall, test fuel pressure before replacing other parts.

Same job plus towing	**$611–$1,984** SHOP/RETAILER [6] reported range for the bill after a failure
Dealer	**Often 1.5–2× the independent-shop price** OUR ESTIMATE

1.0× The failure-bill midpoint ($1,298) is about 1.0× the early-fix midpoint ($1,298). A cost ratio, not a probability.

PARTS FOR UZZ40

- Ask your parts supplier for the OE part number for this VIN.

WHAT TO ASK YOUR SHOP

- Any stalls or hard starts when hot?
- Fuel pump ever replaced?

5 · ALSO REPORTED, NOT RANKED

Other themes in 4.3L 3UZ-FE V8 owner complaints

Every NHTSA complaint theme with 10 or more counted reports is either a weak point above or explained here.

THEME	COMPLAINTS	WHY IT ISN'T A WEAK POINT
Air bags	106	Takata air bag inflator recalls; not an engine fault. Check the VIN.

6 · BUYING OR SELLING

Used-car checklist and resale helper

For owners this is a resale checklist: it's what a careful buyer will ask.

Ask the inspecting shop to check

- Timing belt sticker and records
- Water pump seep at the timing cover
- Scan for throttle and lean codes

Ask the seller

- Timing belt and water pump done in the last 90,000 miles?
- Campaign 3LF done (2003)?
- Any stalls or no-starts?

Documents to request

- Dealer service-history printout for the VIN
- nhtsa.gov/recalls screenshot

WHAT A BUYER MAY DEDUCT

	FINDING	ESTIMATED ADJUSTMENT
●	Timing belt and water pump replacement: original, no replacement invoice	$1,223–$1,610
	Electronic throttle body fault (limp mode): symptoms or fault codes present	$1,413–$1,502
	In-tank fuel pump failure (stall, no restart): symptoms or fault codes present	$611–$1,984
	Pre-ticked rows (●), if no records clear them	**$1,223–$1,610**

● = expected at this mileage. Estimated repair costs, not an appraisal. Recalls cost the seller nothing: ask for open recalls to be completed rather than discounted. OUR ESTIMATE

How this report is built

Inputs. VIN, model year, model, mileage and build month (if entered). Model and engine are checked with NHTSA's vPIC decoder.

Mileage positions. Below: more than 10,000 miles before the reported range. Approaching: within 10,000. Inside: in the range, or past the start of an open-ended range. Past: beyond the top of the range. These bands are our rules, not an industry standard.

The plan. Critical items inside or past their range go first; high-severity items follow, and jobs that share labor are bundled. At most three jobs land in “Recommended now”. Leaks that are cheap to watch are fixed on condition; inspections are asked for at each service.

Costs. Published independent-shop ranges from shop quotes, retailer prices and owner reports. The worst-case cost of every item failing is not shown: it isn't an expected cost.

Labels. `OFFICIAL` NHTSA/Toyota documents · `SHOP/RETAILER` parts prices and shop articles · `FORUM/BLOG` owner forums and blogs · `COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA` our analysis of NHTSA data · `OUR ESTIMATE` ours.

NHTSA complaint data. Pulled Oct 27, 2026 from NHTSA's complaints API for All 2000 LS 400 / GS 400 / SC 400, 2001–2006 LS 430, GS 430 (through 2004) and 2002–2010 SC 430 complaints, plus 2005–2007 GS complaints that mention the 430 or V8. The 4.7L 2UZ-FE trucks and SUVs are on the UR/UZ V8 page: 378 complaints. Some of these nameplates were sold with other engines too; for those we kept only complaints whose text names this engine, which under-counts. Themes are keyword matches on the complaint text. `COMPUTED FROM NHTSA DATA`

THEME	COMPLAINTS	IN THIS REPORT
Air bags	106	Also reported
Fuel pump / stalling	20	Item 3
Harsh downshift	9	Other years or engine sizes
Sudden acceleration	9	—
Throttle / limp mode	5	Item 2
Timing belt / water pump	0	Item 1

Limits: complaints are self-reported and not adjusted for cars sold; keyword matching over- and under-counts; owners rarely file safety complaints about oil seeps, so leaks look rarer than they are.

SOURCES

1. NHTSA owner complaints for 2000 LS 400, GS 400 and SC 400, 2001–2006 LS 430, 2001–2007 GS 430 and 2002–2010 SC 430, pulled Oct 27, 2026 (ODI numbers in the cost notes) `OFFICIAL`
https://www.nhtsa.gov/report-a-safety-problem#complaints

2. RepairPal: 2002 Lexus LS430 timing belt replacement estimate ($1,223–$1,610), via search extract Oct 28, 2026 `SHOP/RETAILER`
https://repairpal.com/estimator/lexus/ls430/2002/timing-belt-replacement-cost

3. Go-Parts: 2001–2006 Lexus LS430 engine water pump (driven by the timing belt; replace with the belt every 90,000 miles or 9 years), via search extract Oct 28, 2026 `SHOP/RETAILER`
https://www.go-parts.com/garage/ps-2001-2006-lexus-ls430-engine-water-pump

4. Lexus Special Service Campaign 3LF: Inspect and/or replace the throttle body assembly (throttle motor electrical contact can set the MIL), 2003 models (2003-07-24), filed with NHTSA `OFFICIAL`
https://www.nhtsa.gov/?nhtsaId=10003487

5. RepairPal: Lexus GS430 throttle body replacement estimate ($1,413–$1,502), via search extract Oct 28, 2026 `SHOP/RETAILER`
https://repairpal.com/estimator/lexus/gs430/throttle-body-replacement-cost

6. YourMechanic: Lexus LS430 fuel pump replacement (average $611; 2004 LS430 shop/dealer $1,410–$1,984), via search extract Oct 28, 2026 `SHOP/RETAILER`
https://www.yourmechanic.com/estimates/lexus/ls430/fuel-pump-replacement

7. Lexus L-SB-0126-12 Rev1: Harsh 2-1 downshift when coming to a stop (ECM replacement), 2006 GS 300 and 2006–2007 GS 430 (2013-11-15), filed with NHTSA OFFICIAL
https://static.nhtsa.gov/odi/tsbs/2013/MC-10132077-9999.pdf

8. Tekmetric: average auto repair labor rates by state, 2026 (national average $132/h; state averages $85–$197/h). We use $100–$160/h for labor-time estimates. SHOP/RETAILER
https://tours.tekmetric.com/answers/average-auto-repair-labor-rates-by-state-2026

9. vehicleflaws.com: Lexus bulletin 3LF summary (throttle motor contact can set the MIL and put the car in limp-home mode) FORUM/BLOG
https://vehicleflaws.com/tsb/3lf-vehicle-speed-control

This report contains no affiliate links; retailer prices are quoted as price sources only. Found an error? Email hello@repairahead.com.

PLEASE READ

Important

Based on public records and published repair costs. Not a diagnosis or a guarantee. Your technician's inspection decides what your car needs. Confirm recalls with a dealer using your VIN.

Informational only. This report is not a mechanical inspection, a diagnosis, or professional, legal or financial advice. Nobody from RepairAhead has seen, driven or inspected this vehicle.

Reported ranges and estimates, not predictions

Failure mileages are reported ranges compiled from public owner complaints, manufacturer bulletins, recalls and repair-shop reports. Costs are estimates. Parts can fail earlier, later or not at all, and other problems can occur. Statistics from owner complaints describe past reports to NHTSA; NHTSA has not reviewed or endorsed this analysis.

Safety issues go to a dealer

If you notice overheating, a burning or fuel smell, smoke, a brake-assist problem, stalling or loss of power, pull over when it's safe and contact a Lexus dealer or qualified shop. Safety recall repairs are free at Lexus dealers. Confirm recalls for this VIN at nhtsa.gov/recalls.

No warranty

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Wrong input (VIN, mileage, build date)? Email hello@repairahead.com with report ID RA-LEXUZ-123456-20261028 and we'll correct and reissue it.
