

*AUSTIN FIRE FIGHTERS
RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND*

ANNUAL REPORT

2014



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2014

ANNUAL REPORT

AND

PENSION PLAN GUIDE FOR MEMBERS

DECEMBER 31, 2014

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While this report and pension plan guide set forth most of the facts about the plan, it does not attempt to describe all provisions or limitations as they apply in individual situations. In case of any conflict between the report/guide and the statute, the pension statute article 6243e.1, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes, as amended through the 2015 State Legislature Regular Session, will prevail.

If you have any questions about the plan, please contact the Austin Fire Fighters Relief and Retirement Fund Pension Office, at (512) 454-9567. The Pension Office address is 4101 Parkstone Heights Drive, Suite 270, Austin, Texas 78746. Our email address is: *afdpension@austin.rr.com*. You can also visit our web site at *AFRS.ORG*.

BOARD		Mayor Steve Adler, Chair
OF		Keith A. Johnson, Vice Chair
TRUSTEES		Art Alfaro, Secretary-Treasurer
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		Jeremy E. Burke, Trustee
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AUDITOR		Figer & Co. – Austin, TX
FUND CUSTODIAN		State Street – Boston, MA
INVESTMENT CONSTULTANT		Meketa Investment Group – Miami, FL
	INVESTMENT MANAGERS	
Aberdeen Asset Mgmt., Inc. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Aether Investment Partners Denver, Colorado	Baillie Gifford Edinburgh, Scotland
Blackstone Alternative Asset Mgmt New York, New York	Clarion Partners Auburn, California	Constitutional Capital Partners Andover, Massachusetts
Cross Creek Capital Partners Salt Lake City, UT	DePrince, Race & Zollo, Inc. Winters Park, Florida	Deutsche Alternative Asset Mgmt. London, England
Dimensional Fund Advisors Austin, Texas	Evanston Capital Mgmt. Evanston, Illinois	Flag Capital Stamford, CT
57 Stars Washington D.C.	Greenspring Associates Owings Mills, Maryland	Highclere International Investors London, England
HarbourVest Boston, Massachusetts	Intech Palm Beach Gardens, Florida	LGT Capital Partners Inc. New York, New York
Metropolitan Real Estate Mgmt. Boston, Massachusetts	Parnassus Investments San Francisco, California	Partners Group (USA) Inc. New York, New York
Private Advisors Richmond, Virginia	Private Equity Investors New York, New York	Pyramis Global Advisors Smithfield, RI
Sanderson Asset Management Chicago, Illinois	State Street Global Advisors Boston, Massachusetts	Western Asset Management Pasadena, California
Westfield Capital Management Boston, Massachusetts	Westwood Holdings Group, Inc. Dallas, Texas	
LEGAL COUNSEL		Jackson Walker Austin, Texas
PENSION OFFICE STAFF		William E. Stefka Administrator Linda A. Adney Administrative Assistant



City of Austin

Steve Adler, Mayor

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August 31, 2015

TO OUR MEMBERSHIP:

On behalf of the Austin Fire Fighters Pension Board of Trustees I am pleased to present the 2014 annual report to our membership. The total fund return for 2014 was 4.9%. While this return was less than the 2013 return of 14.93%, it was very comparable relative to the plan's peers.

The latest actuarial valuation dated 12/31/14 shows the plan is financially sound being 90.9% funded with a 10.5 year amortization period. With the fund in such good health as certified by the plan's actuary, it has enabled the pension board to approve cost-of-living adjustments (COLA's) for the past three years. The most recent COLA was effective January 1, 2015 in the amount of 1.3% to all eligible pension recipients. This amount matched the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U/All Items) at the time it was approved and following actuarial certification that it would not impair the plan's financial health.

During the recent 84th State Legislature HB 1756 was introduced and passed. This bill pertained only to the Austin firefighters and their pension fund which has been governed by state statute for over 70 years. This bill addressed several administrative items and provided technical "clean-up" language with respect to the governing statute. The bill had the unanimous support of the City of Austin and the pension board, as well as the support of the active and retired firefighters' associations. With this combined effort the bill was successfully passed. A special thank you definitely goes out to the bill sponsors including Representatives Eddie Rodriguez and Paul Workman and Senator Kirk Watson, as well as their staffs.

It is an honor to be elected as Mayor of this great city and to serve as the Chair of your pension board. The service our firefighters provide to the citizens of Austin is immeasurable and most appreciated. I look forward to a bright future for the City of Austin and for your pension fund as well. Any comments or suggestions from our membership regarding your pension plan is welcomed and most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mayor Steve Adler, Chairman
Austin Fire Fighters Relief and
Retirement Fund Board of Trustees

FIGER & COMPANY
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

PARKSTONE OFFICE CENTRE
4101 PARKSTONE HEIGHTS DR., SUITE 220
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Trustees of
Austin Fire Fighters Relief and Retirement Fund
Austin, Texas

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Austin Fire Fighters Relief and Retirement Fund, which comprise the statements of plan net assets as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related statements of changes in plan net assets for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Fund's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial status of Austin Fire Fighters Relief and Retirement Fund as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the changes in its financial status for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Report on Supplemental Information

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental schedules of management's discussion and analysis (MD&A) and the required supplementary information on page 7 through 10 and pages 22 through 24, together referred to as "supplemental information," are presented for the purpose of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements, but are supplemental information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Such information is the responsibility of the Fund's management and was derived from and related directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consist principally of inquiries of management regarding methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.


Figer & Company

August 25, 2015

**AUSTIN FIRE FIGHTERS RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

Our discussion and analysis of the Austin Fire Fighters Relief and Retirement Fund's (the Fund) financial performance provides an overview of the Fund's activities for the calendar years 2014 and 2013. This information is provided in conjunction with our financial statements that follow.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Plan net assets held in trust by the Fund increased by \$36,811,080 or 4.89% in 2014 and increased by \$97,769,208 or 12.68% in 2013. The increase in 2014 and 2013 was due to positive financial market returns.
- Total contributions by the members and the City of Austin increased by 4.85% in 2014 and 9.9% in 2013. The increase for 2014 over 2013 reflects the increase both in the membership and in the contribution rate by the City of Austin from 21.05% to 22.05% and by the firefighters from 16.70% to 17.20% in October 2013.
- The amount of benefits paid directly to retired members and their beneficiaries increased by \$3,048,986 in 2014 and increased by \$2,038,489 in 2013. The increases for both years over the prior years were due to the increase in the number of pension recipients.
- The funding objective of the Austin Fire Fighters Relief and Retirement Fund is to meet long-term benefit obligations through contributions by the members and the City of Austin as well as from the investment income. As of December 31, 2014, the date of the most recent biennial actuarial valuation, the Plan's funded ratio of actuarial assets as a percentage of actuarial liabilities was 90.9% which is lower than the 91.75% ratio as of December 31, 2013.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Fund's financial statements consist of the Statement of Plan Net Assets and the Statement of Changes in Plan Net Assets, with accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements. The information available in each is summarized below:

The Statement of Plan Net Assets presents the Fund's assets and liabilities and the resulting net assets, which are held in trust for pension benefits. This statement provides a snapshot as of year-end of the Fund's investments, stated at fair value, along with cash and short-term investments, receivables, and other assets and liabilities. Over time, increases or decreases in plan net assets may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Fund is improving or deteriorating.

**AUSTIN FIRE FIGHTERS RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (CONTINUED)
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

The Statement of Changes in Plan Net Assets presents information showing additions to and deductions from the Fund during a twelve-month period, using the accrual basis of accounting. Thus, additions are reported when earned and deductions when incurred, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Notes to the Financial Statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the financial statements.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Our analysis below focuses on the plan net assets and changes in plan net assets of the Fund.

**Summary of Plan Net Assets
December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012**

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Cash and receivables	\$ 12,004,215	\$ 23,054,648	\$ 6,709,403
Investments	777,719,079	730,937,981	648,520,298
Other assets	<u>254,971</u>	<u>261,913</u>	<u>271,584</u>
Total assets	789,978,265	754,254,542	655,501,285
Total liabilities	<u>545,040</u>	<u>1,632,397</u>	<u>648,667</u>
Net assets held in trust for pension benefits	<u>\$789,433,225</u>	<u>\$752,622,145</u>	<u>\$654,852,618</u>

Net assets: The net assets of the Fund increased by \$36,811,080 in 2014 and increased by \$97,769,208 in 2013. The increase between 2014 and 2013 reflect positive investment returns due to stronger financial markets. The increase between 2013 and 2012 also reflects positive investment returns due to stronger financial markets.

Liabilities: The Fund's liabilities decreased by \$1,087,357 in 2014 from that of 2013 primarily due to the decrease in funds payable to the broker for securities purchased. Year-end liabilities increased by \$983,730 in 2013 from that of 2012 mostly due to the increase in accounts payable for management fees payable at year-end.

**AUSTIN FIRE FIGHTERS RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (CONTINUED)
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

**Summary of Changes in Plan Net Assets
Years Ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012**

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Additions:			
Contributions	\$ 33,329,890	\$ 31,787,008	\$ 28,913,194
Investment income (loss)	41,753,639	101,149,654	77,850,076
Other income	<u>94,574</u>	<u>139,513</u>	<u>215,847</u>
Total additions	<u>75,178,103</u>	<u>133,076,175</u>	<u>106,979,117</u>
Deductions:			
Benefit payments and contribution refunds	37,992,903	34,943,917	32,905,428
Administrative expenses	<u>374,120</u>	<u>362,731</u>	<u>343,726</u>
Total deductions	<u>38,367,023</u>	<u>35,306,648</u>	<u>33,249,154</u>
Net increase (decrease)	36,811,080	97,769,527	73,729,963
Net assets held in trust for pension benefits:			
Beginning of year	<u>752,622,145</u>	<u>654,852,618</u>	<u>581,122,655</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 789,433,225</u>	<u>\$ 752,622,145</u>	<u>\$ 654,852,618</u>

Additions: Total contributions by the members and the City of Austin for 2014 and 2013 were \$33,329,890 and \$31,787,008, respectively. The increase of \$1,542,882 in contributions for 2014 represents a 4.9% increase from 2013. The increase of \$2,368,942 in contributions for 2013 represents a 9.9% increase from 2012. The net investment income for 2014 was \$41.8 million and \$101.2 million in 2013. The total rate of return in 2014 and 2013 was 4.89% and 14.93% on a market value basis, respectively.

Deductions: The expenses paid by the pension plan include the benefit payments, refunds of member contributions, and administrative expenses. Benefits paid directly to retired members and their beneficiaries in 2014 were \$37,992,903 compared to \$34,943,917 in 2013. The amount of benefits paid out increased by \$3,048,986 in 2014 from that of 2013, while they increased by \$2,038,489 in 2013 from that of 2012. The increases in both 2014 and 2013 over their prior years were due to the increases in the number of retirees receiving benefits. Administrative expenses increased by \$11,389 or 3.1% in 2014 from that of 2013. This increase in 2014 from 2013 was attributed to an increase in printing and postage among other items. The increase in administrative expenses of \$19,005 in 2013 from that of 2012 was also attributed to an increase in printing and postage among other items.

**AUSTIN FIRE FIGHTERS RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (CONTINUED)
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

Overall Analysis: As of December 31, 2014, net assets increased by \$36,811,080 or 4.89% over the prior year. Also, as of December 31, 2013, net assets increased by \$97,769,208 or 14.93% over the prior year. The latest actuarial valuation dated December 31, 2014 shows the Plan's funded ratio to be 90.9% compared to 91.75% the prior year. This was attributed to the assumed rate of return changing from 7.75% to 7.7% as adopted by the pension board. The December 31, 2014 valuation shows the plan continues to be actuarially sound and has taken positive steps to continue that course.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

This financial report is intended to provide a general overview of the Austin Firefighters Relief and Retirement Fund's finances and to demonstrate the Fund's accountability for the money it receives. Any questions regarding this report may be addressed to the fund administrator at: 4101 Parkstone Heights Dr., Suite 270, Austin, TX 78746.

**AUSTIN FIRE FIGHTERS RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND
STATEMENTS OF PLAN NET ASSETS
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
ASSETS		
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 11,848,546	\$ 21,874,081
Receivables:		
Due from broker for securities sold	-	993,837
Accrued interest and dividends	155,669	186,730
	<u>155,669</u>	<u>1,180,567</u>
Investments, at fair value (See Note B):		
U.S. equities	170,402,649	193,420,927
International equities	188,712,284	-
Fixed income bond mutual funds	186,754,487	91,542,396
Other commingled funds	88,223,995	198,828,177
Alternatives	143,625,664	247,146,481
	<u>777,719,079</u>	<u>730,937,981</u>
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$132,013 and \$122,907, respectively	<u>254,971</u>	<u>261,913</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>789,978,265</u>	<u>754,254,542</u>
LIABILITIES		
Due to broker for securities purchased	148,494	1,171,034
Accounts payable	<u>396,546</u>	<u>461,363</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>545,040</u>	<u>1,632,397</u>
NET ASSETS HELD IN TRUST FOR PENSION BENEFITS	<u>\$ 789,433,225</u>	<u>\$ 752,622,145</u>

(A schedule of funding progress is presented on page 19.)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**AUSTIN FIRE FIGHTERS RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND
STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN PLAN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
ADDITIONS		
Contributions:		
Participating fire fighters	\$ 14,659,946	\$ 14,000,514
City of Austin, Texas	<u>18,669,944</u>	<u>17,786,494</u>
	<u>33,329,890</u>	<u>31,787,008</u>
Investment income (loss):		
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments	35,488,870	94,996,449
Interest	(1,280)	(4,263)
Dividends	<u>9,000,517</u>	<u>9,014,934</u>
	44,488,107	104,007,120
Less investment expenses	<u>(2,734,468)</u>	<u>(2,857,466)</u>
	<u>41,753,639</u>	<u>101,149,654</u>
Other income	<u>94,574</u>	<u>139,513</u>
Total additions	<u>75,178,103</u>	<u>133,076,175</u>
DEDUCTIONS		
Benefits paid directly to participants	37,453,771	34,869,278
Refunds of contributions	<u>539,132</u>	<u>74,639</u>
	37,992,903	34,943,917
Administrative expenses	<u>374,120</u>	<u>362,731</u>
Total deductions	<u>38,367,023</u>	<u>35,306,648</u>
Net increase (decrease)	36,811,080	97,769,527
NET ASSETS HELD IN TRUST FOR PENSION BENEFITS		
Beginning of year	<u>752,622,145</u>	<u>654,852,618</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 789,433,225</u>	<u>\$ 752,622,145</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**AUSTIN FIRE FIGHTERS RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

NOTE A – DESCRIPTION OF FUND

The Austin Fire Fighters Relief and Retirement Fund (the Fund) is a single employer defined benefit pension plan covering fire fighters employed by the City of Austin, Texas (the City). The Fund was originally established, and may be amended, by acts of the Texas Legislature. The current governing statute is Article 6243e.1, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes. The Fund is governed by a Board of Trustees.

Membership of the Fund as of December 31 is as follows (unaudited):

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Retirees:		
Retirees and beneficiaries receiving benefits	676	627
Terminated plan members entitled to but not receiving benefits	4	4
Current employees:		
Vested	703	692
Nonvested	<u>322</u>	<u>382</u>
 Total members	 <u>1,705</u>	 <u>1,705</u>

This information is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the plan agreement for more complete information.

NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

Fire fighter and City contributions are recognized as revenues in the period in which employee payroll is distributed. Benefits are recognized when the employee becomes eligible for retirement and elects to retire under the system and is paid a benefit. Employee contribution refunds are recognized when the employee leaves the City and elects to withdraw a contribution.

Cash and Short-Term Investments

Cash and short-term investments include deposits in a custodian-managed investment pool from which the Fund may make deposits and withdrawals at any time without prior notice or penalty. The market value of such deposits is equal to cost.

**AUSTIN FIRE FIGHTERS RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

NOTE B – Continued

Investments

The board has adopted a Statement of Investment Policies and Objectives (Investment Policy) to set forth factors involved in the management of investment assets for the Fund. By statute, the board of trustees in its sole discretion may invest, reinvest, or change the assets of the Fund. The board of trustees shall invest in funds in whatever instruments or investments the board considers prudent. In making investments for the Fund, the board of trustees shall discharge its duties with care, skill, prudence, and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a similar capacity and familiar with such matters would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a similar character and with similar aims.

Investments are reported at fair value. Securities traded on a national or international exchange are valued at the last reported sales price at current exchange rates. Limited partnerships are reported at fair value based on the net asset value of the Fund's interest provided by the investee. Investments that do not have an established market are reported at estimated fair value. Realized and unrealized gains and losses as well as other investment adjustments are reported as net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are stated at cost. Additions and improvements which significantly extend the useful life of an asset are capitalized. Other costs incurred for repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred. Depreciation on all assets is provided on the straight-line basis over the following estimated useful lives:

Buildings and improvements	40 years
Office furniture and equipment	3 to 15 years

Depreciation expense totaled \$9,106 and \$9,672 for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

Fund Administrative Expenses

All administrative expenses are the responsibility of the Fund and are financed through investment income.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires the plan administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results may differ from those estimates.

**AUSTIN FIRE FIGHTERS RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

NOTE C – DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT RISK

Deposit and investment resources are exposed to risks that have the potential to result in losses that could impact delivery of the Fund’s services.

The following summary represents the fair value of the Fund’s investments by type as of December 31, 2014 and 2013:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
U.S. equities	\$ 170,402,649	\$ 193,420,927
International equities	188,712,284	-
Fixed income bond mutual funds	186,754,487	91,542,396
Other commingled funds	88,223,995	198,828,177
Alternatives	<u>143,625,664</u>	<u>247,146,481</u>
Total Investments	<u>\$ 777,719,079</u>	<u>\$ 730,937,981</u>

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the Fund will not be able to recover its deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. While the Fund has no formal policy regarding custodial credit risk, operating bank account deposits in excess of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insured amounts are backed by pledged securities held as collateral. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, the Fund’s operating bank balances of \$11,848,546 and \$21,874,081, respectively, were not exposed to custodial credit risk.

Custodial credit risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty to a transaction, the Fund will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. Investment securities are exposed to custodial credit risk if the securities are uninsured, are not registered in the name of the Fund and are held by counterparty, its trust or agent, but not in the Fund’s name. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, the Fund’s investment securities are not exposed to custodial credit risk because all securities are held by the Fund’s custodial bank in the Fund’s name.

Concentration of Credit Risk

Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of the Fund’s investment in a single issuer. The Fund’s investment policy establishes asset allocation targets for major classes of invested assets as listed on the table below. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, there is no security issued by a single issuer that holds more than 5% of the Fund’s net assets available for benefits. The Fund is authorized to invest in the following as of December 31, 2014.

**AUSTIN FIRE FIGHTERS RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

NOTE C – Continued

<u>Investment Class</u>	<u>Target Range</u>
Equity (Domestic & Foreign)	40-70%
Common Stock	
Convertible Bonds	
Preferred Stocks	
Fixed Income Investments	20-35%
Domestic & Yankee Bonds	
Mortgage and Mortgage Backed Securities	
Asset-Backed Securities	
Cash-Equivalent Securities	
Money Market Funds, Bank STIF and STEP Funds	
Alternatives	0-40%
Open Ended Commingled Real Estate Funds	
Value Added/Oppportunistic Real Estate	
Private Equity	
Absolute Return Strategies	

Market conditions may result in a violation of the above guidelines and as a result the Fund retains the right to temporarily waive the guidelines when it would be prudent to do so.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. Although the Fund does have a formal investment policy, it does not specifically limit investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to potential fair value losses arising from future changes in interest rates.

As of December 31, 2014, the Fund had the following fixed income investments:

<u>Investment</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>1 to 10 years</u>	<u>10 to 20 years</u>	<u>20+ years</u>
State Street Bond Funds	\$ 186,754,487	95,861,648	24,864,241	66,028,598
Totals	<u>\$ 186,754,487</u>	<u>95,861,648</u>	<u>24,864,241</u>	<u>66,028,598</u>

As of December 31, 2013, the Fund had the following fixed income investments:

<u>Investment</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>1 to 10 years</u>	<u>10 to 20 years</u>	<u>20+ years</u>
State Street Bond Funds	\$ 3,323,442	1,893,365	288,807	1,141,270
PIMCO Mutual Funds	88,218,954	63,942,174	9,327,537	14,949,243
Totals	<u>\$ 91,542,396</u>	<u>65,835,539</u>	<u>9,616,344</u>	<u>16,090,513</u>

**AUSTIN FIRE FIGHTERS RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

NOTE C – Continued

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations to the Fund. It is the Fund's policy to maintain fixed income securities within its portfolio to an average credit rating of investment grade or better.

As of December 31, 2013, the Fund's investments in fixed income securities had the following credit quality ratings:

Standard & Poor's Quality Rating	Total Fair Value	State Street bond funds	PIMCO mutual funds
AAA	\$ 49,393,820	2,373,602	47,020,217
AA	10,828,266	162,516	10,665,750
A	13,687,614	381,199	13,306,415
BAA	406,125	406,125	0
BBB	13,586,638	0	13,586,638
BB	1,794,839	0	1,794,839
B	705,763	0	705,764
Below B	333,057	0	333,057
Not rated	<u>806,274</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>806,274</u>
Total	<u>\$ 91,542,396</u>	<u>3,323,442</u>	<u>88,218,954</u>

Foreign Currency Risk

Foreign currency risk is the risk that changes in exchange will adversely affect the fair value of an investment or deposit. Although the Fund does have a formal investment policy, it does not specifically address the Fund's exposure related to foreign currency risk.

NOTE D – SECURITIES LENDING

The Fund is authorized under its Investment Policy to participate in securities lending programs through State Street Bank and Trust Company under which, for an agreed-upon fee, system-owned investments are loaned to a borrowing financial institution. Under this agreement, when the loan closes, the borrowed securities are returned to the Fund and the collateral is returned to the borrower. The lending agreement requires securities to be collateralized by cash, US government securities, or irrevocable letters of credit with a total market value of at least 102% of the loaned Fund securities. For global securities pledged as collateral, total market value shall not be less than 105%. The Fund cannot sell or pledge the non-cash collateral unless a default of the securities lending agreement has occurred.

**AUSTIN FIRE FIGHTERS RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

NOTE E – CONTRIBUTIONS

The contribution provision of this Fund is authorized by Article 6243e.1, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes which provides the authority and procedure to change the amount of contributions determined as a percentage of pay by each member and a percentage of payroll by the City.

The Fund is maintained by biweekly contributions from the earnings of fire fighters and from the City. For the year ended December 31, 2014, the City's contribution rate was 22.05% and fire fighters contribution rate was 17.70% and for the year ended December 31, 2013, the City's contribution rate was 22.05% and fire fighters contribution rate was 17.2% on their earnings excluding overtime, educational incentive pay, assignment pay and temporary pay in higher classifications.

While the contribution requirements are not actuarially determined, state law requires that each plan of benefits adopted by the Fund be approved by a qualified actuary. The actuary must certify that the contribution commitment by fire fighters and the City provides an adequate financing arrangement. During 2013, contributions were made in accordance with the adopted plans of benefits approved by the Fund's actuary. However, the latest actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2014 determined that the annual required contributions by the City were to be 21.76% of fire fighters' earnings. The City's contributions were 22.05% and 21.05%, 98% and 101% of the annual required contributions were funded by the City during 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Under statute, the firefighters' contribution rates will increase as follows:

September 30, 2014	17.70%
September 30, 2015	18.20%
September 30, 2016	18.70%

NOTE F - BENEFITS

The benefit provisions of this plan are authorized by Article 6243e.1, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes which provides the authority and procedure to amend benefit provisions.

When a member has completed ten years of credited service after entrance into the Fund, the member's account becomes vested and non-forfeitable. Under the terms of the Fund agreement, members or their beneficiaries are eligible for distributions of benefits upon attaining a normal retirement age of 50 with ten years of service, or upon completing 25 years of service regardless of age. In addition, members are eligible for early retirement benefits upon reaching age 45 with at least ten years of service or 20 years of creditable service, regardless of age. Distributions to members or their beneficiaries are also available in the event of total and permanent disability or upon death including survivor (spousal) benefits at 75% of retiree benefits.

**AUSTIN FIRE FIGHTERS RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

NOTE F - Continued

The terms of benefit payments are determined by the member's level of earnings and length of service. With the exception of payments under the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) feature which provides eligible participants the ability to designate benefits to be disbursed in a single payment or not more than four payments upon leaving active service, distributions of benefits are made in a series of equal installments over a period of time. Payments to members or their beneficiaries may be increased annually by the amount of increase in the Consumer Price Index. Cost-of-living increases must be approved by the Board of Trustees and actuary of the Fund. A cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was approved and put into effect in 2013. The COLA amounted to an increase of \$93 per month allocated on a flat dollar basis for those eligible. The contribution refunds are paid with 5% interest.

NOTE G – INCOME TAX STATUS

The Fund is a Public Employee Retirement System and is exempt from federal income taxes and the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Fund by a letter dated October 9, 2012 that the Fund's plan is designed in accordance with applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC).

NOTE H – COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Fund's investments include investments in partnership interests. In connection with those investments, the Fund has remaining commitments as of December 31, 2013 and 2012 of approximately \$66.1 million and \$44.4 million, respectively, pursuant to the terms of the respective interests.

NOTE I – FUNDING STATUS AND PROGRESS

Accounting standards require that the statement of plan net assets report assets at fair value and include only benefits due plan members and beneficiaries, as well as accrued expenses as of the reporting date. Information regarding the actuarial funding status of the Fund as of December 31, 2014, the most recent actuarial valuation date, is as follows:

	(dollar amounts in thousands)
Actuarial value of assets	\$ 789,433
Actuarial accrued liability	868,146
Total unfunded actuarial accrued liability	78,713
Actuarial value of assets as a percentage of the actuarial accrued liability	90.93%
Annual covered payroll	82,537
Unfunded actuarial accrued liability as a percentage of annual covered payroll	95.37%

**AUSTIN FIRE FIGHTERS RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

NOTE I – Continued

The December 31, 2014 actuarial valuation used the following significant assumptions:

ACTUARIAL VALUATION:

Frequency	Biennial
Latest Date	12/31/14
Cost Method	Entry Age

AMORTIZATION:

Method	Level Percent
Open/Closed	Open
Remaining amortization period	10.57 Years

ASSET VALUATION METHOD:

5-year smoothed market

ASSUMPTIONS:

Investment rate of return*	7.7%
Projected salary increases*	7.5%
*Includes inflation at	3.0%
Payroll Growth Rate	3.5%

The schedule of funding progress, presented as required supplementary information following the notes to the financial statements, presents multiyear trend information about whether the actuarial values of plan assets are increasing or decreasing over time, relative to the actuarial accrued liabilities for benefits.

NOTE J – SUBSEQUENT EVENT

Subsequent to December 31, 2013, a cost of living adjustment (COLA) was put into effect. The COLA amounted to an increase of \$64 per month allocated on a flat dollar basis for those eligible. All other subsequent events have been evaluated through August 25, 2015, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

AUSTIN FIRE FIGHTERS RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND
SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS
(Unaudited)
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Actuarial Valuation Date (1)	Actuarial Value of Assets (a)	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) (b)	Unfunded (Over funded) AAL (UAAL) (b-a)	Funded Ratio (a/b)	Valuation Covered Payroll (c)	UAAL as a Percentage of Covered Payroll ((b-a)/c)
12/31/14	\$ 789,433	\$ 868,146	\$ 78,713	90.9%	\$ 82,537	95.4%
12/31/13	742,073	808,771	66,698	91.8%	85,377	78.1%
12/31/11	651,557	746,143	94,586	87.3%	76,700	123.3%
12/31/09	589,261	664,185	74,924	88.7%	78,980	94.9%
12/31/07	584,420	586,802	2,382	99.6%	76,556	3.1%
12/31/05	493,567	580,054	86,487	85.1%	65,885	131.3%
12/31/03	421,136	452,669	31,533	93.0%	55,939	56.4%
12/31/01	395,371	406,266	10,895	97.3%	49,726	21.9%

(1) Actuarial studies are performed on a biennial basis.

See accompanying independent auditors' report.

**AUSTIN FIRE FIGHTERS RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND
SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS
(Unaudited)**

<u>Year Ended December 31</u>	<u>Annual Required Contribution</u>	<u>Percentage Contributed</u>
2013	18,108,787	98%
2012	15,845,236	101%
2011	15,167,458	96%
2010	15,031,743	91%
2009	10,065,697	136%
2008	15,885,383	86%
2007	15,885,383	86%
2006	13,346,422	87%

See accompanying independent auditors' report.

**AUSTIN FIRE FIGHTERS RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

NOTE A – DESCRIPTION OF FUNDING PROGRESS

The comparability of trend information is affected by changes in actuarial assumptions, benefit provisions, actuarial funding methods, accounting policies and other changes. Those changes usually affect trends in contribution requirements.

NOTE B – ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODS

The information presented in the required supplementary schedules was determined as part of the actuarial valuations at the dates indicated. Additional information as of the latest actuarial valuation follows:

ACTUARIAL VALUATION:

Frequency	Biennial
Latest Date	12/31/14
Cost Method	Entry Age

AMORTIZATION:

Method	Level Percent
Open/Closed	Open
Remaining amortization period	10.57 Years

ASSET VALUATION METHOD:

5-year smoothed market

ASSUMPTIONS:

Investment rate of return*	7.7%
Projected salary increases*	7.5%
*Includes inflation at	3.0%
Payroll Growth Rate	3.5%



August 14, 2015

Mr. William E. Stefka
Austin Firefighters'
Relief and Retirement Fund
4101 Parkstone Heights Drive, Suite 270
Austin, TX 78746

Re: Austin Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund

Dear Mr. Stefka:

We are pleased to present to the Board this report of the annual actuarial valuation of the Austin Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund (AFRRF). The valuation was performed to determine whether the assets and contributions are sufficient to provide the prescribed benefits and to develop the appropriate funding requirements for the applicable plan year(s).

The valuation has been conducted in accordance with generally accepted actuarial principles and practices, including the applicable Actuarial Standards of Practice as issued by the Actuarial Standards Board, and reflects laws and regulations issued to date pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Local Fire Fighters' Retirement Act (TLFFRA) and Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes, as well as applicable federal laws and regulations. In our opinion, the assumptions used in this valuation, as adopted by the Board of Trustees, represent reasonable expectations of anticipated plan experience.

In conducting the valuation, we have relied on personnel, plan design, financial reports, and asset information supplied by the AFRRF staff, and the actuarial assumptions and methods described in the Actuarial Assumptions section of this report. While we cannot verify the accuracy of all this information, the supplied information was reviewed for consistency and reasonableness. As a result of this review, we have no reason to doubt the substantial accuracy of the information and believe that it has produced appropriate results. This information, along with any adjustments or modifications, is summarized in various sections of this report.

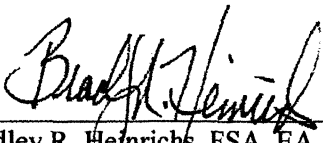
The undersigned is familiar with the immediate and long-term aspects of pension valuations, and meets the Qualification Standards of the American Academy of Actuaries necessary to render the actuarial opinions contained herein. All of the sections of this report are considered an integral part of the actuarial opinions.

To our knowledge, no associate of Foster & Foster Inc. working on valuations of the program has any direct financial interest or indirect material interest in the city of Austin, nor does anyone at Foster & Foster Inc. act as a member of the Board of Trustees of the AFRRF. Thus, there is no relationship existing that might affect our capacity to prepare and certify this actuarial report.

If there are any questions, concerns, or comments about any of the items contained in this report, please contact me at 239-433-5500.

Respectfully submitted,

Foster & Foster Inc.

By: 
Bradley R. Heinrichs, FSA, EA, MAAA
Enrolled Actuary #14-6901

BRH/lke

Enclosures

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The regular annual actuarial valuation of the Austin Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund, performed as of December 31, 2014, has been completed and the results are presented in this Report.

The pension costs, compared with those developed in the December 31, 2013 actuarial valuation, are as follows:

Valuation Date	<u>12/31/2014</u>	<u>12/31/2013</u>
Normal Cost % of Total Annual Payroll	29.36%	31.18%
Expected Member Contributions * % of Total Annual Payroll	17.83%	17.33%
City Normal Cost Rate % of Total Annual Payroll	11.53%	13.85%
Funding Period To Amortize UAAL * (expressed in number of years)	10.57	10.51

* A detailed list of the currently scheduled contribution rates for the City and Members can be found on page 32.

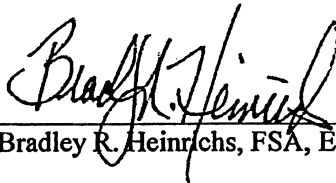
During the past year, there has been slight net unfavorable actuarial experience. The primary components of actuarial loss were attributable to a 7.6% investment return (Actuarial Asset basis) which fell short of the 7.75% assumption, in addition to unfavorable retirement experience. Additionally, there was a decrease in covered payroll since the previous valuation as opposed to the 3.5% payroll growth assumption. These components were partially offset by favorable experience as a result of lower than expected individual increases in pensionable earnings, and greater than expected retiree mortality.

In spite of these actuarial losses, it can be seen above that the funding period required to amortize the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability has remained neutral since the previous valuation. It is important to point out that this result reflects a number of assumption changes approved by the Board of Trustees as a result of our actuarial experience study. A list of the changes can be found on page 29 and the impact of these changes is displayed in the comparative summary section of the report.

The balance of this Report presents additional details of the actuarial valuation and the general operation of the Fund. The undersigned would be pleased to meet with the Board of Trustees in order to discuss the Report and answer any pending questions concerning its contents.

Respectfully submitted,

FOSTER & FOSTER INC.

By: 
Bradley R. Heinrichs, FSA, EA, MAAA

By: 
Drew D. Ballard, EA, MAAA

CHANGES SINCE PRIOR VALUATION

Fund Changes

There have been no changes in benefit provisions since the prior valuation.

Actuarial Assumption/Method Changes

In light of an actuarial experience study dated June 15, 2015, there have been numerous changes to the actuarial assumptions and methods since the prior valuation. A brief overview of the changes is listed below. For the specific changes to each assumption, please refer to our June 15, 2015 actuarial experience study.

- A “fresh-start” on the actuarial asset value has been implemented. For all future valuations, the asset valuation method will utilize a new smoothing technique.
- The investment return assumption has been decreased from 7.75% to 7.70% per year compounded annually, net of all expenses.
- The general wage inflation rate has been decreased from 3.5% to 3.0% per year.
- The service-based table attributable to merit and longevity salary increases has been amended.
- The retirement rates have been amended.
- The Retro-DROP election assumptions have been amended.
- The withdrawal rates have been amended.
- The assumed spousal age difference has been amended.

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL VALUATION RESULTS

	New Assums <u>12/31/2014</u>	Old Assums <u>12/31/2014</u>	Old Assums <u>12/31/2013</u>
A. Participant Data			
Actives	1,025	1,025	1,074
Service Retirees + DROP	538	538	506
Beneficiaries	80	80	82
QDRO	42	42	37
Disability Retirees	16	16	15
Terminated Vested	5	5	5
Total	<u>1,706</u>	<u>1,706</u>	<u>1,719</u>
Covered Payroll	82,537,554	83,856,212	85,377,451
Payroll Under Assumed Ret. Age	82,450,505	82,157,674	84,036,628
Annual Rate of Payments to:			
Service Retirees	29,703,998	29,703,998	27,213,153
Beneficiaries	2,735,388	2,735,388	2,678,184
QDRO	725,743	725,743	686,464
Disability Retirees	601,637	601,637	559,365
Terminated Vested	183,774	183,774	183,774
B. Assets			
Actuarial Value	789,433,224	793,679,032	742,073,494
Market Value	789,433,224	789,433,224	752,621,826
C. Liabilities *			
Present Value of Benefits			
Active Members			
Retirement + Vested Benefits	666,850,404	679,160,476	681,560,838
Death Benefits	8,230,947	7,606,228	8,008,429
Disability Benefits	22,501,079	20,933,061	21,505,991
Service Retirees + DROP	372,391,877	370,911,797	333,655,263
Beneficiaries	21,407,109	21,335,925	19,838,978
QDRO	8,075,587	8,039,993	7,655,264
Disability Retirees	5,339,638	5,321,014	5,017,819
Terminated Vested	1,829,177	1,816,866	1,685,633
Total	<u>1,106,625,818</u>	<u>1,115,125,360</u>	<u>1,078,928,215</u>

* Liabilities shown represent present value of future payments.

	New Assums <u>12/31/2014</u>	Old Assums <u>12/31/2014</u>	Old Assums <u>12/31/2013</u>
C. Liabilities - (Continued)			
Present Value of Future Salaries	845,931,737	850,609,933	902,853,032
Normal Cost (Entry Age Normal)			
Retirement + Vested Benefits	21,645,112	22,648,194	23,590,783
Death Benefits	532,853	520,592	536,474
Disability Benefits	1,131,577	1,097,888	1,095,045
Total Normal Cost	<u>23,309,542</u>	<u>24,266,674</u>	<u>25,222,302</u>
Present Value of Future Normal Costs	238,479,443	249,061,744	270,157,062
Actuarial Accrued Liability			
Retirement + Vested Benefits	445,126,946	446,420,909	428,620,261
Death Benefits	3,068,445	2,564,761	2,604,614
Disability Benefits	10,907,596	9,652,351	9,693,321
Inactives	409,043,388	407,425,595	367,852,957
Total Actuarial Accrued Liability	<u>868,146,375</u>	<u>866,063,616</u>	<u>808,771,153</u>
Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL)	78,713,151	72,384,584	66,697,659
GASB 25 Funded Ratio (AVA/AL)	90.9%	91.6%	91.8%

D. Actuarial Present Value of Accrued Benefits

Inactives	409,043,388	407,425,595	367,852,957
Actives	341,598,642	344,377,031	331,420,453
Total Present Value Accrued Benefits	<u>750,642,030</u>	<u>751,802,626</u>	<u>699,273,410</u>

Valuation Date	New Assums <u>12/31/2014</u>	Old Assums <u>12/31/2014</u>	Old Assums <u>12/31/2013</u>
E. Pension Cost			
Normal Cost			
% of Payroll under Assumed Ret. Age*	29.36	30.68	31.18
Expected Member Contributions ***			
% of Payroll under Assumed Ret. Age*	17.83	17.83	17.33
City Normal Cost Rate			
% of Payroll under Assumed Ret. Age*	11.53	12.85	13.85
Funding Period to Amortize UAAL **	10.57 years	10.93 years	10.51 years

F. PRB Preferred 20-Year Funding Cost

Normal Cost			
% of Payroll under Assumed Ret. Age*	29.36	30.68	31.18
Payment Required to Amortize Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability over 20 years			
% of Covered Payroll	7.04	6.40	5.79
Total 20-Year Funding Cost			
% of Covered Payroll	36.40	37.08	36.97

* Contributions developed as of 12/31/2014 are expressed as a percentage of projected payroll under assumed retirement age at 12/31/2014 of \$82,450,505 under the new assumptions and \$82,157,674 under the old assumptions.

** The City is currently scheduled to make annual contributions to the Fund of 22.05% of pensionable payroll.

*** Active Members are currently scheduled to make regular contributions to the Fund as follows:
17.70% of Compensation from 10/1/2014 to 9/30/2015
18.20% of Compensation from 10/1/2015 to 9/30/2016
18.70% of Compensation on and after 10/1/2016

GAIN/LOSS ANALYSIS

a. Total Gain/(Loss)

1. Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability as of December 31, 2013	66,697,659
2. Normal Cost applicable for 2014	25,222,302
3. Interest on (1) and (2)	7,123,797
4. Contributions made during 2014	33,329,890
5. Interest on (4)	1,267,435
6. Expected UAAL as of December 31, 2014: (1)+(2)+(3)-(4)-(5)	64,446,433
7. Actual UAAL as of December 31, 2014 (Before Assumption Changes)	72,384,584
 Total Actuarial Gain/(Loss)	 (7,938,151)

b. Gain/(Loss) on Assets

1. Actuarial Value of Assets as of December 31, 2013	742,073,494
2. Contributions Less Benefit Payments	(4,663,014)
3. Expected Investment Earnings	57,330,004
4. Expected AVA as of December 31, 2014: (1)+(2)+(3)	794,740,484
5. Actual Actuarial Value of Assets as of December 31, 2014 (Before Fresh Start)	793,679,032
 Gain/(Loss) on Assets	 (1,061,452)

c. Gain/(Loss) on Liabilities

1. Expected Actuarial Accrued Liability: a(6)+b(4)	859,186,917
2. Actual Actuarial Accrued Liability (Before Assumption Changes)	866,063,616
 Gain/(Loss) on Liabilities	 (6,876,699)

ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODS
(Effective December 31, 2014)

<u>Mortality Rates – Healthy Lives</u>	RP2000 (Fully Generational using Scale AA) set back two years for males and females -- Sex Distinct.
<u>Mortality Rates – Disabled Lives</u>	RP2000 Disability Mortality Table
<u>Retirement Elections</u>	See tables below.
<u>Termination Rates</u>	See tables below.
<u>Disability Rates</u>	See tables below.
<u>Interest Rate</u>	7.70% per year, compounded annually, net of all expenses.
<u>Salary Increases</u>	See tables below.
<u>General Wage Inflation</u>	3.0% per year.
<u>Inflation</u>	3.5% per year.
<u>Payroll Growth</u>	3.5% per year for amortization of the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability.
<u>Marital Status</u>	100% of actives are assumed to be married at time of benefit commencement. Females are assumed to be 4 years younger than Males. Additionally, 50% are assumed to have dependent children. The age of the youngest child is assumed to be one year.
<u>Funding Method</u>	Entry Age Normal Actuarial Cost Method.
<u>Asset Valuation Method</u>	All assets are valued at market value with an adjustment to uniformly spread investment gains and losses (as measured by actual market value investment return against expected market value investment return) over a five-year period.

Termination Rates

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Termination Probability</u>
0-4	1.0%
5-13	0.5
14+	0

Retirement Rates

<u>Number of Years After First Eligibility for Early Retirement</u>	<u>Probability of Retirement</u>
0	2.0%
1	2.0
2	2.0
3	2.0
4	2.0
5	5.0
6	7.5
7	7.5
8	10.0
9	16.7
10	16.7
11	16.7
12	20.0
13	20.0
14	30.0
15	40.0
16	50.0
17	75.0
18	100.0

Retro-DROP Elections

<u>Number of Years After First Eligibility for Early Retirement</u>	<u>No-DROP Elected</u>	<u>Duration 1 Election</u>	<u>Duration 2 Election</u>
0	90%	0.5 years (10%)	n/a
1	50%	1 year (50%)	n/a
2	50%	1 year (25%)	2 years (25%)
3	50%	1 year (25%)	2 years (25%)
4	20%	1 year (60%)	3 years (20%)
5	20%	2 years (40%)	4 years (40%)
6	20%	2 years (60%)	5 years (20%)
7	20%	2 years (50%)	5 years (30%)
8	20%	3 years (60%)	6 years (20%)
9	10%	3 years (50%)	6 years (40%)
10	10%	3 years (50%)	6 years (40%)
11	10%	3 years (60%)	6 years (30%)
12	10%	3 years (75%)	6 years (15%)
13	10%	3 years (40%)	6 years (50%)
14	10%	3 years (40%)	6 years (50%)
15	10%	3 years (20%)	6 years (70%)
16	10%	3 years (20%)	6 years (70%)
17	10%	3 years (20%)	6 years (70%)
18	10%	3 years (20%)	6 years (70%)

Disability Rates

<u>Age</u>	<u>Probability of Disablement</u>
20	0.014%
25	0.019
30	0.031
35	0.052
40	0.092
45	0.209
50	0.379
55	0.490
60	0.911

% Increase in Salary*

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Increase</u>
0	6.00%
1	8.50
2	7.50
3	4.00
4	1.00
5	5.00
10	1.50
15	1.50
20	5.50
21+	1.00

* Expected increase in salary in addition to general wage inflation assumption.

VALUATION NOTES

Payroll under Assumed Retirement Age is the projected rate of pay as of the valuation date of all active participants who are not subject to a 100% probability of retirement in the first year following the valuation date, discounted to take into account the probability of remaining an active participant.

Covered Payroll is equal to the Payroll under Assumed Retirement Age, with an addition for the projected rate of pay for the active participants who are subject to a 100% probability of retirement in the first year following the valuation date, discounted to take into account interest for middle of year timing.

Present Value of Benefits is the single sum value on the valuation date of all future benefits to be paid to current Members, Retirees, Beneficiaries, Disability Retirees and Vested Terminations.

Normal (Current Year's) Cost is determined for each participant as the present value of future benefits, determined as of the Member's entry age, amortized as a level percentage of compensation over the anticipated number of years of participation, determined as of the entry age.

Individual Entry Age Normal Actuarial Cost Method (Level Percent of Compensation) is the method used to determine required contributions under the Fund. The use of this method involves the systematic funding of the Normal Cost (described above) and the Unfunded Accrued (Past Service) Liability. The actuarial accrued liability for active participants is the difference between the present value of future benefits and the present value of future Normal Costs. The actuarial accrued liability for inactive participants is the present value of future benefits.

Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) is the difference between the actuarial accrued liability (described above) and the actuarial value of assets.

STATEMENT BY ENROLLED ACTUARY

This actuarial valuation was prepared and completed by me or under my direct supervision, and I acknowledge responsibility for the results. To the best of my knowledge, the results are complete and accurate, and in my opinion, the techniques and assumptions used are reasonable and meet the requirements and intent of the Texas Local Fire Fighters' Retirement Act (TLFFRA), Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes, and adhere to the Actuarial Standards of Practice. There is no benefit or expense to be provided by the plan and/or paid from the plan's assets for which liabilities or current costs have not been established or otherwise taken into account in the valuation. All known events or trends which may require a material increase in plan costs or required contribution rates have been taken into account in the valuation.



Bradley R. Heinrichs, FSA, EA, MAAA
Enrolled Actuary #14-6901

STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2014

<u>ASSETS</u>	MARKET VALUE
Cash and Cash Equivalents:	
Property, Furniture & Equipment	254,971.48
Checking Account - Expenses	117,439.63
Checking Account - Benefits	934,949.71
Petty Cash	319.04
Cash	10,795,837.52
Total Cash and Equivalents	12,103,517.38
Receivables:	
Investment Income	155,668.79
Total Receivable	155,668.79
Investments:	
State Street Securities	777,719,078.63
Total Investments	777,719,078.63
Total Assets	789,978,264.80
<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
Payables:	
Accounts Payable	396,546.33
To Broker for Investments Purchased	148,494.30
Total Liabilities	545,040.63
NET POSITION RESTRICTED FOR PENSIONS	789,433,224.17
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	789,978,264.80

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014
Market Value Basis

ADDITIONS

Contributions:

Member	14,659,946.06	
City	18,669,943.54	

Total Contributions		33,329,889.60
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Investment Income:

Net Increase in Fair Value of Investments	35,583,763.20	
Interest & Dividends	8,999,236.66	
Less Investment Expense ¹	(2,577,771.96)	

Net Investment Income		42,005,227.90
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Total Additions		75,335,117.50
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DEDUCTIONS

Distributions to Members:

Benefit Payments	32,682,389.95	
Lump Sum DROP Distributions	4,771,381.24	
Refunds of Member Contributions	539,132.24	

Total Distributions		37,992,903.43
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Administrative Expense		530,816.10
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Total Deductions		38,523,719.53
------------------	--	---------------

Net Increase in Net Position		36,811,397.97
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NET POSITION RESTRICTED FOR PENSIONS

Beginning of the Year		752,621,826.20
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End of the Year		789,433,224.17
-----------------	--	----------------

¹Investment related expenses include investment advisory, custodial and performance monitoring fees.

ACTUARIAL ASSET VALUATION
DECEMBER 31, 2014

Actuarial Assets are developed by recognizing 20% of the investment gain or loss, after taking into consideration contributions, benefit payments, and the expected investment earnings. The actuarial investment gain or loss is defined as the actual Market Value of Assets minus the expected Actuarial Value of Assets. In addition, the Actuarial Value used for funding purposes cannot exceed 120% or be less than 80% of the Market Value of Assets.

Development of Investment Gain/Loss

Market Value of Assets, 12/31/2013	752,621,826
Actuarial Value of Assets, 12/31/2013	742,073,494
Contributions Less Benefit Payments	(4,663,014)
Expected Investment Earnings on Actuarial Value*	57,330,004
Expected Actuarial Value of Assets (AVA), 12/31/2014	<u>794,740,484</u>
Actual Market Value of Assets (MVA), 12/31/2014	789,433,224
Excess/(Shortfall) of Actual MVA over Expected AVA	(5,307,260)

*Expected Investment Earnings = 0.0775 * (742,073,494 - .5 * 4,663,014)

Development of Actuarial Value of Assets

Expected Actuarial Value of Assets, 12/31/2014	794,740,484
Adjustment to Expected Value (20% of Excess/(Shortfall))	<u>(1,061,452)</u>
Actuarial Value of Assets, 12/31/2014	793,679,032

(A) 12/31/2013 Actuarial Assets 742,073,494

(I) Net Investment Income:

1. Interest and Dividends	9,093,811
2. Realized Gains (Losses)	31,472,639
3. Change in Actuarial Value	18,810,691
4. Investment and Administrative Expenses	<u>(3,108,588)</u>
Total	56,268,552

(B) 12/31/2014 Actuarial Assets 793,679,032

Actuarial Assets Rate of Return = 2I/(A+B-I):	7.6%
Market Value of Assets Rate of Return:	5.5%

12/31/14 Limited Actuarial Assets 793,679,032

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
DECEMBER 31, 2014
Actuarial Asset Basis

REVENUES

Contributions:		
Member	14,659,946.06	
City	18,669,943.54	
Total Contributions		33,329,889.60
Earnings from Investments:		
Interest & Dividends	8,999,236.66	
Miscellaneous Income	94,573.90	
Net Realized Gain (Loss)	31,472,638.68	
Change in Actuarial Value	18,810,690.79	
Total Earnings and Investment Gains		59,377,140.03

EXPENDITURES

Distributions to Members:		
Benefit Payments	32,682,389.95	
Lump Sum DROP Distributions	4,771,381.24	
Refunds of Member Contributions	539,132.24	
Total Distributions		37,992,903.43
Expenses:		
Investment related ¹	2,577,771.96	
Administrative	530,816.10	
Total Expenses		3,108,588.06
Change in Net Assets for the Year		51,605,538.14
Net Assets Beginning of the Year		742,073,494.17
Net Assets End of the Year²		793,679,032.31

¹Investment related expenses include investment advisory, custodial and performance monitoring fees.

²Net Assets may be limited for actuarial consideration.

STATISTICAL DATA

	<u>12/31/2011</u>	<u>12/31/2013</u>	<u>12/31/2014</u>
Actives	955	1,074	1,025
Average Current Age	42.8	42.2	42.7
Average Age at Employment	27.5	28.2	28.2
Average Past Service	15.3	14.0	14.5
Average Annual Salary	\$85,946	\$84,512	\$84,895

AGE AND SERVICE DISTRIBUTION

PAST SERVICE

AGE	0	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30+	Total
15 - 19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 - 24	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
25 - 29	0	33	7	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	44
30 - 34	0	41	25	0	0	49	9	0	0	0	0	124
35 - 39	0	20	43	0	0	62	81	14	0	0	0	220
40 - 44	0	0	6	0	0	29	91	58	19	0	0	203
45 - 49	0	0	1	0	0	0	36	70	74	10	0	191
50 - 54	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	23	59	82	5	171
55 - 59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	47	10	59
60 - 64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	10
65+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	0	96	82	0	0	144	219	165	154	140	25	1,025

AUSTIN FIREFIGHTERS'
RELIEF AND RETIREMENT FUND
SUMMARY OF BENEFIT PROVISIONS

Service Total years and completed months during which a Member makes contributions to the Fund.

Average Monthly Compensation Average Salary for the highest 36 months of service.

Member Contributions 17.70% of Salary (as of 12/31/2014). See schedule of rates on Page 10.

City Contributions 22.05% of payroll.

Normal Retirement

Date Earlier of age 50 and 10 years of Service, or 25 years of Service, regardless of age.

Benefit 3.30% of Average Monthly Compensation times Service (\$1,200 minimum). Effective July 1, 2012, the minimum benefit was increased to \$2,000 per month for all retirees and surviving spouses currently receiving normal or disability retirement benefits which commenced prior to January 1, 1994.

Form of Benefit Married: Life Annuity with 75% continued to Surviving Spouse

Single: Life Annuity with 75% continued to designated beneficiary.

Early Retirement

Date Earlier of age 45 and 10 years of Service, or 20 years of Service, regardless of age.

Benefit Same for Normal Retirement as shown above. Members who retire under Early Retirement are not eligible to receive any COLA adjustments until the date they would have met Normal Retirement eligibility requirements.

Vesting

Schedule	100% after 10 years of Service.
Benefit Amount	Member will receive his (her) accrued benefit payable at age 50 or the date they would have completed 25 years of Service had they remained employed. Non-vested members receive a refund of member contributions accumulated with 5.0% interest.

Disability

Eligibility	Disability preventing the Member from performing the duties of a firefighter during the two and one-half years after becoming disabled or any employment after the two and one-half years after becoming disabled.
Benefit	Accrued benefit at date of disability, but not less than 66% of Average Monthly Compensation.
Form of Benefit	<u>Married</u> : Life Annuity with 75% continued to Surviving Spouse <u>Single</u> : Life Annuity

Death Benefits

Surviving Spouse of Member:	75% of Member's accrued benefit at date of death, but not less than 49.5% of Average Monthly Compensation.
Dependent Children of Member: (with Surviving Spouse)	Each child is entitled to 15% of the payment paid to the surviving spouse as shown directly above.
Dependent Children of Member: (with no Surviving Spouse)	75% of the payment that would have been paid to a surviving spouse as shown above, split equally among each dependent child.

Cost of Living Adjustment

Eligibility	Normal Retirement.
Amount	Determined by the actuary if providing a COLA will not impair financial stability of the Fund.

Retroactive DROP

Eligibility

Satisfaction of Early or Normal Retirement Eligibility.

Participation Period

Upon election to retroactively enter DROP, the Retro DROP period will not exceed 84 months.

Rate of Return

5.0%, compounded annually, on monthly benefits that would have been deposited into a DROP account and Member contributions deposited into the fund between the effective DROP entry date and the actual date of termination.

PENSION PLAN GUIDE

GOVERNING PENSION LAW

The pension plan was established by an Act of the 45th Legislature of the State of Texas, which met in 1937. The fund was created by state statute article 6243e and the Austin Firefighters Relief and Retirement Fund is currently governed by article 6243e.1. This statute only pertains to the Austin firefighters.

ADMINISTRATION

The fund is administered by a Board of Trustees consisting of five (5) members. The Mayor is the Board Chairman and the City Treasurer is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Board. Members of the fund elect three (3) department members to serve on the Board. The Board elects a Vice-Chairman annually from among their number.

An administrative pension office and staff have been established to better serve the firefighters, retirees, and their beneficiaries. Administrative costs and expenses for professional services rendered are paid by the fund.

INVESTMENT OF FUNDS

The Board is required by law to keep separate from all other city funds all money for the use and benefit of the Firefighters Relief and Retirement Fund. The Board has hired an investment consultant, Summit Strategies, who assists the pension board with the development, enhancement, and monitoring of the plan's investment policies and guidelines. They also assist the Board in researching investment managers and making recommendations in the selection of such investment managers. Surplus pension funds are then invested by these professional investment managers as selected by the pension board.

The fund has an investment custody account agreement with State Street designating them as the master trust custodian for the pension fund. State Street's home office is in Boston, Massachusetts and also has divisions in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Jacksonville, Florida, and Kansas City, Missouri, which all provide various key services to the fund.

ELIGIBILITY

All commissioned civil service and Texas state-certified firefighters with at least six (6) months of service who are employed by the fire department pursuant to the Firemen's and Policemen's Civil Service Statute.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Per our statute, the firefighter is to contribute 15.70% of their bi-weekly base pay and longevity pay. The City of Austin's pension contributions will increase from 18.05% of salary to 22.05% in a total of four 1% increments by the year 2013. The firefighters' contributions will increase from 15.70% of salary to 18.70% in a total of six ½% increments by the year 2016.

SERVICE CONSIDERED

The period of time for which a member is required to make and does make prescribed contributions. Military service, only which interrupts fire department service, may also be considered under certain circumstances.

COMPENSATION CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING AVERAGE SALARY

Base pay and longevity pay is considered. Overtime, any temporary pay in a higher classification, educational incentive pay, and lump sum payments for accrued sick leave or vacation are not considered.

RETIREMENT BENEFIT

A firefighter is eligible for a normal service retirement benefit once he/she either attains age fifty (50) or accrues twenty-five (25) years of service, regardless of age. The monthly annuity, payable for life, is 3.30% of salary multiplied by years of service considered. Average salary is the monthly average of the firefighter's salary for the highest thirty-six (36) months during his/her period of service, excluding overtime pay, any temporary pay in higher classifications, educational incentive pay, Christmas Day bonus pay, automobile and clothing allowances.

EARLY RETIREMENT BENEFIT

A firefighter is eligible for an early retirement benefit at age forty-five (45), with at least (10) years of service, or twenty (20) years of service regardless of age. The early retirement benefit does not include a reduction in the factor. However, firefighters who retire early or who participate in a deferred retirement option plan (DROP), do not become eligible for cost-of-living adjustments (COLA's) until reaching normal service retirement eligibility at age fifty (50) with at least ten (10) years of service, or twenty-five (25) years of service credit regardless of age; whichever comes first.

DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PLAN

Under this program a member eligible for service retirement may elect to continue in active service as a firefighter but have the fund begin crediting "payments" to a deferred retirement option plan (DROP) account in the member's name as of their eligible retirement (DROP) date. The monthly "payments" would be an amount equal to what the member's monthly annuity would have been if the member had actually retired as of that eligible DROP date. Any eligible cost-of-living adjustments (COLAS) would be applied to the monthly annuity during this DROP period. In addition, during the DROP period, the member would have all of their appropriate pension contributions and applicable annual interest of 5% compounded monthly credited to their account during the DROP period as well. When the member actually retires, by terminating their active service in the fire department, an accumulated lump sum balance may be available to be distributed to the member from the DROP account if the retiree is eligible for such direct distribution by meeting age requirements according to pension board policy. Certain penalties could apply for "early distributions," so the pension board encourages seeking tax advisement when in doubt. The DROP account lump sum may also be "rolled over" into a qualified Individual Retirement Account (IRA) which is typically the option chosen by most firefighters. A third option is for the DROP account lump sum to remain in the fund in the member's name continuing to draw 5% interest compounded monthly until the retiree is ready to have the funds moved elsewhere. At this time of termination for retirement, the member will then begin receiving their ongoing monthly pension benefit payments from the fund as well.

A member who has remained in active service after becoming eligible for service retirement can retroactively establish such a DROP account. That is, in lieu of electing to participate in the DROP before actual retirement, a member who is eligible for normal service retirement may elect to terminate active service as a firefighter and establish the DROP account at termination. This is commonly referred to as a "BACK DROP," whereby the firefighter's DROP account reflects the accrual from the actual termination date back to a date upon or after which they become eligible for normal service retirement. The maximum period under which a firefighter can participate in a DROP is 7 years. A firefighter may elect to establish a DROP account after reaching normal or early service retirement eligibility.

Effective September 1, 2001 all DROP calculations, including "BACK DROP" calculations, have used a 3.30% factor regardless of the actual DROP date. Any firefighter eligible for a DROP who dies before retirement, and who is survived by a spouse, shall have such DROP options extended to their surviving spouse.

DISABILITY BENEFIT

A firefighter is eligible for a disability retirement benefit during the first thirty (30) months of his/her disability if he/she is unable to perform the duties of his/her occupation as a firefighter. After this initial thirty (30) month period, a disability retirement benefit may be continued, reduced, or discontinued according to criteria as established by the American Medical Association and as adopted by the pension board. The annuity is equal to the firefighter's accrued unreduced pension based on the greater of (1) his/her service at time of disability, or (2) twenty (20) years of service.

It is the policy of the Board that no disability retirement benefit shall commence retroactively more than ninety (90) days prior to the date on which the application is filed with the fund.

DEATH BENEFIT

If a firefighter dies either before or after retirement, the firefighter's surviving spouse shall receive seventy-five (75) percent of the member's accrued unreduced pension based on the greater of (1) his/her service at time of death, or (2) twenty (20) years of service. If the member's employment is terminated by death before retirement and he/she leaves no surviving beneficiary entitled to pension benefits, then the member's estate shall receive their contributions with interest. Any lump sum payments to the member's estate will include 5% interest based on a method of application approved by the Board.

VESTED BENEFIT

If the member has at least ten (10) years of service and terminated his/her employment with the fire department, he/she may elect to leave his/her accumulated deposits in the fund. He/She will be entitled to a vested benefit commencing at the earliest of age fifty (50) or at the age which the firefighter would have completed twenty-five (25) years of service regardless of age, whichever occurs first.

SEVERANCE

The severance benefit of a firefighter who subsequently terminates his/her employment before he/she is eligible for retirement shall be an amount equal to the sum total of his/her pension contributions, with interest, which were made while a participating member of the fund.

Severance benefits for such terminating members will include their contributions along with 5% interest and will be based on a method of application approved by the Board.

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS

Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA's) may not be made unless the fund's actuary has advised the pension board that the adjustment would not impair the financial stability of the fund.

Although a COLA has not been able to be actuarially approved consistently in recent years, the pension board remains committed to granting COLA's to retirees as soon as reserves are available and following actuarial certification.

BEFORE-TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

Funds available to pay benefits come from three (3) sources....

- Your contributions
- City of Austin contributions, and
- Investment earnings

You contribute 15.70% of your bi-weekly base pay and longevity pay (increasing to 18.70% by 2016). The City of Austin contributes 18.05% of base pay and longevity pay for each plan participant (increasing to 22.05% by 2013). For example, if your annual pay is \$40,000.00, you will contribute \$6,280.00 (15.70%) a year and the City of Austin will contribute \$7,220.00 (18.05%). Since January 1, 1986, your contributions into the plan are being made before taxes are figured. This reduces your taxable income, so you pay less federal income tax and your take-home pay is greater. An example follows:

	<u>BEFORE TAX</u>	<u>AFTER TAX</u>
Assume your pay is	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
Pre-Tax Contributions	-6,280.00	-0.00
Federal Taxes (Assume 15% bracket)	<u>-5,058.00</u>	<u>-6,000.00</u>
	\$28,662.00	\$34,000.00
After-Tax Contributions	<u>- .00</u>	<u>-6,280.00</u>
Take Home Pay	\$28,662.00	\$27,720.00

RETIREMENT BENEFIT EXAMPLE

Your retirement benefit is based upon three (3) components...

- Years of credited service in plan, multiplied by
- Retirement factor of 3.30%, multiplied by
- Your highest thirty-six (36) months average salary

Assume you are a retiring firefighter who is fifty-five (55) years old with twenty-seven (27) years of credited service, and whose highest thirty-six (36) months average salary is \$4,000.00. Your pension would be calculated as follows:

- Years	27
- Factor	3.30%
- Salary	<u>\$4,000.00</u>
- Monthly Benefit	<u>\$3,564.00</u>

EARLY RETIREMENT BENEFIT EXAMPLE

A firefighter is eligible for an early retirement benefit at age forty-five (45), with at least ten (10) years of service, or twenty (20) years of credited service regardless of age. The early retirement benefit does not include a reduction in the factor. However, firefighters who retire early or who participate in a deferred retirement option plan (DROP) do not become eligible for cost-of-living adjustments (COLA's) until reaching normal service retirement eligibility (age fifty (50) with at least (10) years of service, or twenty-five (25) years of service regardless of age; whichever comes first).

Assume you joined the fire department and pension plan at age twenty-five (25). At age forty-five (45), with twenty (20) years of service, you elect to terminate service in order to begin receiving an early retirement benefit. Also assume your highest thirty-six (36) months average salary is \$4,000.00. The benefit is then calculated as follows:

- Years	20
- Factor	3.30%
- Salary	<u>\$4,000.00</u>
- Monthly Retirement Benefit	<u>\$2,640.00</u>

DISABILITY RETIREMENT EXAMPLE

If a firefighter is eligible for disability benefits but has less than twenty (20) years of credited service, then twenty (20) years is used in the calculation. A disability benefit is calculated the same way a regular retirement benefit is, using the same three (3) components as follows:

- Years (assume 20 if less)	20
- Factor	3.30%
- Salary (assumed)	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
- Monthly Disability	<u>\$1,980.00</u>

SURVIVORS BENEFIT

Benefits are available to eligible dependents of all plan participants should such participant die before or after retirement. Eligible dependents include...

- Spouse, if married to you at time of retirement.
- Spouse, if married to you after retirement and you remained married for at least 24 consecutive months prior to your death.
- Spouse, if married to you at time of your death; and you die before retirement.
- All unmarried children under age twenty-two (22), unless the Board determines to the contrary.
- Dependent parent, if no surviving spouse or children are eligible.
- Designated surviving beneficiaries other than a spouse, child, or dependent parent as explained below.

Effective September 1, 2001, on the death of unmarried members who are retired or who are eligible to retire, designated beneficiaries other than an eligible spouse or children are eligible for survivor benefits; but only if there is no benefit payable to a surviving spouse or children. Since September 1, 1997, eligible spousal benefits are paid for life even after remarriage. Also since September 1, 1997, as mentioned above, spousal benefits apply to those who become married to the retiree after such retiree's retirement and remain married to such retiree at least 24 consecutive months prior to the retiree's death.

After all payments cease any remaining balance of the member's total contributions including interest at the date of the member's death, which exceeds any retirement and death benefits paid, shall go to the member's estate.

SURVIVORS BENEFIT EXAMPLE

Assume you are retired drawing \$3,564.00 per month and pass away, leaving a spouse who is eligible for benefits and have no children. Your spouse will receive seventy-five (75) percent of your benefit as follows:

SURVIVORS BENEFIT EXAMPLE (Continued)

- Your monthly benefit	\$3,564.00
	<u>X 75.00 %</u>
- Your spouse's monthly benefit	\$2,673.00

Assume you pass away before retirement and you are survived by an eligible spouse and child. Suppose your average salary for the highest thirty-six (36) months averaged \$4,000.00, and you had eight (8) years of service at the time of death.

You first calculate the benefit you would have been entitled to at the date of death and then determine the appropriate amount to be paid to your spouse and child.

Your benefit would have been...

- Years (assume 20 if less)	20
- Factor	3.30 %
- Salary	<u>\$4,000.00</u>
- Monthly benefit	\$2,640.00

Your spouse's benefit is...

- Firefighter base benefit	\$2,640.00
- Factor	<u>X 75.00%</u>
- Spousal monthly benefit	\$1,980.00

A minimum monthly benefit of \$2,000.00 was approved for eligible retirees and spouses effective July 1, 2012. However, this minimum benefit does not necessarily apply to children's benefits and benefits paid according to court orders, divorce decrees, and qualified domestic relations orders.

The retirement factor for the child is actuarially designed to be fifteen (15) percent of the regular retirement factor (3.30%), which is .495 percent. The child receives .495 percent (.00495) of the fire fighter's average salary, multiplied by the number of years of service, assuming twenty (20) years if less.

Your child's benefit is...

- Years (assume 20 if less)	20
- Child's benefit factor	.495 %
- Average salary	<u>\$4,000.00</u>
- Child's monthly benefit	\$396.00

The eligible children, together, will be entitled to a total amount of seventy-five (75) percent of the fire fighter's accrued benefit at the time of death, if there is no surviving spouse.

PERSONNEL RECORDS

A personnel record (Form 500) is to be completed by all firefighters. This information furnishes the pension office necessary data regarding age, years of service, beneficiaries, birth dates, social security numbers and marital status. Updating this information keeps our pension office current for providing accurate data to our actuaries. The actuaries conduct biennial valuations and other occasional studies in order to determine the overall soundness of the fund.

RETIREMENT PROCESS

When a firefighter is ready to retire, there are forms available at the pension office to be completed. There will probably be other information to be furnished to the AFD administrative office as well. Upon retirement, the firefighter will receive a monthly annuity. Deductions can be made for withholding tax, as well as any health or dental insurance available through the City of Austin which the firefighter chooses. Direct deposit is also available. Please contact the pension office with any questions you have regarding your retirement. You can visit our web site at *AFRS.ORG* for more information about your retirement.

FUND HISTORY

The pension plan was established by an Act of the 45th Legislature of the State of Texas in 1937. The Austin Fire Fighters Pension Fund participated under state statute Article 6243e Vernon' Texas Civil Statutes until 1975. This law covered approximately 38 paid and part paid fire departments around the state. When benefit enhancements were being considered, it was difficult to revise wording which would not disrupt the other pension funds operating under the same statute. In 1975 Article 6243e.1 was established which would only cover the Austin Fire Fighters Pension Fund. The pension plan currently provides retirement, disability, death, and survivor benefits to approximately 1,700 active and retired participants and their eligible beneficiaries.

In 1984 an actuarial study was conducted to adjust all the current retirees' benefits based upon the effect of inflation from their original date of retirement. At that time there were some annuitants on the rolls that retired at the original monthly pension of \$100. Although these retirees had received cost-of-living increases through the years, they were still losing ground to inflation. After the actuarial changes were made, if a retiree's adjusted monthly benefit came to less than \$500, then a minimum monthly pension of \$500 would take effect. This was approved by the pension board in December 1984 and went into effect March 31, 1985. Since that time the minimum monthly benefit has been increased several times (See Chronology Of Pension Plan Changes below). A full inflation cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was approved by the pension boards in most years from 1985 through 2002. Since that time, a very challenging financial market environment resulted in the inability to continue that pattern. Providing sound pension benefits and COLA's, when affordable, continues to be a top priority of the pension board.

CHRONOLOGY OF PENSION PLAN CHANGES

Significant plan changes and benefit enhancements since 1975 are as follows:

1975

A 2.0% COLA approved.

The retirement calculations changed from using the highest 5 years' average salary to using the highest 3 years' average salary.

The minimum monthly disability benefit changed from \$100 to \$200.

State statute Article 6243e.1 is created pertaining only to the Austin Firefighters Pension Fund, allowing the plan to branch away from the former statewide system.

1976

A 2.0% COLA approved.

1977

A 2.0% COLA approved.

1978

A 2.0% COLA approved.

The retirement multiplier increased from 2.0% to 2.1%

1979

A 2.0% COLA approved.

The minimum monthly spousal benefit increased from \$100 to \$200.

The minimum children's benefit increased from \$50 to \$100.

1980

A 2.0% COLA approved.

1981

A 2.0% COLA approved.

CHRONOLOGY OF PENSION PLAN CHANGES (Continued)

The retirement multiplier increased from 2.1% to 2.2%.

1982

A 2.0% COLA approved.

1983

A 2.0% COLA approved.

1984

A 2.0% COLA approved.

The retirement multiplier increased from 2.2% to 2.3%.

An actuarial study is conducted to adjust all then current retirees' benefits upward to offset the erosion of their benefits to inflation from their date of original retirement.

1985

A 4.0% COLA approved.

Early retirement eligibility set at age 50 and 25 years of service. (Normal retirement eligibility remained at age 55 or 35 years of service, regardless of age, which had been in effect for many years.)

Contribution rate by city increased from 14.0% to 14.05%.

The retirement multiplier increased from 2.3% to 2.5%

Employee contributions treated as employer contributions (pre-taxed) for federal income tax purposes.

Contributions are paid pre-taxed creating more take home pay.

A special increase for all current retirees to "catch their benefits up" with inflation from the time of their original retirement. If the resulting monthly benefit was less than \$500, then a \$500 minimum monthly benefit was approved where applicable.

1986

A 3.0% COLA approved.

1987

A 1.5% COLA approved.

The retirement multiplier increased from 2.50% to 2.65%.

Normal retirement eligibility lowered from age 55 or 35 years of service, regardless of age to age 55 or 30 years of service, regardless of age.

1988

A 4.0% COLA approved. The retirement multiplier increased from 2.65% to 2.90%.

1989

A 4.25% COLA approved.

The workers' compensation offset for disability benefits was eliminated.

Actuarially, an assumption adopted that 12% of firefighters were assumed to be single at retirement.

1990

A 4.50% COLA approved.

1991

A 6.30% COLA approved.

CHRONOLOGY OF PENSION PLAN CHANGES (Continued)

The minimum monthly pension benefit increased from \$500 to \$850 for normal service retirement, current retirees and spouses.

Normal retirement eligibility reduced from age 55 or 30 years of service, regardless of age to age 53 or 28 years of service, regardless of age. Surviving children eligible for full spousal benefits in the event there is no surviving spouse.

Actuarially, across the board salary increases assumption was decreased from 6.50% to 5.50% annually.

1992

A 2.90% COLA approved.

The minimum monthly pension benefit increased from \$850 to \$1000 for normal service retirement, current retirees and spouses.

Actuarially, a 5% anticipated COLA is extended through 1996.

1993

A 3.20% COLA is approved.

Normal retirement eligibility lowered from age 53 or 28 years of service, regardless of age to age 52 or 27 years of service, regardless of age.

Early retirement eligibility lowered from age 50 with 25 years of service to age 50 or 25 years of service, regardless of age.

The survivor (spousal) benefit is changed to a flat 75% of retiree's benefit.

Contribution refunds are paid with 5% interest.

Actuarially, growth in payroll no longer assumes 1% growth in membership annually.

Actuarially, a 5% anticipated COLA is extended through 1998.

1994

A 2.80% COLA is approved.

The minimum monthly pension benefit is increased from \$1000 to \$1200 for normal service retirement, current retirees and spouses.

City of Austin contributions increased from 14.05% to 16.05% of pay, while the contribution rate by the firefighters remains at 13.70%.

1995

A 2.60% COLA is approved.

Normal retirement eligibility reduced from age 52 to 50 (with at least 10 years of service) or with 25 years of service, regardless of age, down from 27 years of service.

Early retirement eligibility reduced from age 50 to age 48 (with at least 10 years of service) or with 23 years of service regardless of age, down from 25 years of service.

The retirement multiplier was increased from 2.90% to 3.0%.

A deferred retirement option plan (DROP) feature was added allowing up to 2 years of service designated for DROP participation.

City of Austin contributions increased from 16.05% to 18.05% of pay, while the contribution rate by the firefighters remains at 13.70%.

Actuarially, a 5% anticipated COLA is extended through 2002.

1996

A 2.90% COLA is approved.

CHRONOLOGY OF PENSION PLAN CHANGES (Continued)

1997

A 3.0% COLA is approved.

Early retirement eligibility (unreduced by the retirement multiplier) lowered from age 48 to age 45 (with at least 10 years of service), or with 20 years of service regardless of age, down from 23 years of service.

COLAs delayed until normal retirement eligibility is met.

The deferred retirement option plan (DROP) feature is extended from a maximum of 2 years to a maximum of 5 years of service designated for DROP participation.

Benefits made available to surviving spouses of retirees married after retirement.

Eliminate the requirement that a spouse's benefit terminate after remarriage.

Firefighter contributions "bought down" by 2% to 11.70%, while the city contributions increase to 20.05% due to the "meet and confer" agreement. (Firefighters continue to get credit for 13.70% per statute requirements.)

Actuarially, a 5% anticipated COLA is extended through 2004.

1998

A 2.10% COLA is approved.

Actuarially, the retirement incident rate revised to 100% of the members to retire and elect a 5 year DROP one year following the age first eligible for a 5 year DROP.

1999

A 1.50% COLA is approved.

A 3.33% benefit increase is approved September 1, 1999 to all then current retirees at the time based on the percentage increase of the retirement multiplier from 3.0% to 3.10%.

The retirement multiplier increased from 3.0% to 3.10%, effective September 1, 1999.

All DROP calculations including "BACKDROPS" will use a 3.10% multiplier after September 1, 1999, regardless of the DROP date.

The deferred retirement option plan (DROP) benefits made available to eligible survivors of members who die before retirement but after becoming eligible for a DROP.

In November 1999, a new "meet and confer" agreement is set whereby firefighters are to receive a 3% salary increase in November 1999 and every six months going forward, beginning in March of 2000 through March 2002.

Actuarially, mortality tables for actives and non-disabled annuitants were updated to the 1994 Group Annuity Mortality tables, reflecting current industry standards.

2000

A 2.60% COLA approved.

2001

A 3.40% COLA approved.

A 6.45% benefit increase is approved September 1, 2001 to all then current retirees at the time based on the percentage increase of the retirement multiplier from 3.10% to 3.30%.

The retirement multiplier increased from 3.10% to 3.30%.

All DROP calculations including "BACKDROPS" will use a 3.30% multiplier after September 1, 2001, regardless of the DROP date.

CHRONOLOGY OF PENSION PLAN CHANGES (Continued)

Effective September 1, 2001, the deferred retirement option plan (DROP) feature is extended from a maximum of 5 years to a maximum of 7 years of service designated for DROP participation. A survivor benefit is made available for all unmarried retirees, and for unmarried firefighters who die after becoming eligible to retire, per statute provisions. The percentage will be an actuarial equivalent of 75% of the firefighter's accrued benefit and will be tied to the age difference of the firefighter and the designated beneficiary.

2002

A 2.1% COLA approved.

2003

Effective June 1, 2003 the contribution rate by the firefighters increased from 13.70% to 15.70% of pay, while the contribution rate by the City of Austin remained at 18.05%.

2004

No changes

2005

\$32.00 per month increase in benefits for all eligible retirees.

2006

\$100.00 per month increase in benefits for all eligible retirees.

2007

No changes

2008

No changes

2009

Prudent investor rule adopted in pension statute.

2010

As a result of an agreement between the firefighters and the City of Austin, the City's pension contributions will increase from 18.05% of salary to 22.05% in a total of four 1% increments by the year 2013. In addition, the firefighters elected to increase their contributions from 15.70% to 18.70% in a total of six ½% increments by the year 2016.

2011

No changes

2012

Effective July 1, 2012 the minimum monthly pension is increased to \$2,000 for all current annuitants who were on the rolls in 1994 when the last adjustment of this type was made.

2013

\$93.00 per month increase in benefits for all eligible retirees.

2014

\$64.00 per month increase in benefits for all eligible retirees.

2015

A 1.3% COLA approved.

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