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# Denison Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund

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## Actuarial Valuation as of December 31, 2023

July 31, 2024



**R&W**

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July 31, 2024

Board of Trustees  
Denison Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund  
c/o Ms. Zera Taylor, Administrator  
300 W. Main Street  
Denison, TX 75020

Members of the Board of Trustees:

At your request, we have prepared this report of the results of the actuarial valuation of the fund as of December 31, 2023. This valuation was prepared to determine whether the fund has an adequate contribution arrangement.

In a separate July 1, 2024 report, we provided the necessary disclosures for the fund's compliance with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 67 for the plan year ending December 31, 2023. We will also provide a separate report later this year containing the pension expense, net pension liability, and disclosure information for the city's compliance with GASB 68 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. GASB 68 prescribes the city's accounting for your fund, while this actuarial valuation report reflects the assumed contribution policy described in this report.

We certify that we are members of the American Academy of Actuaries who meet Qualification Standards of the American Academy of Actuaries to render the actuarial opinions contained in this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark R. Fenlaw'.

Mark R. Fenlaw, F.S.A.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brandon L. Fuller'.

Brandon L. Fuller, F.S.A.

MRF/BLF:nlg

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## Section I

### Valuation Summary

An actuarial valuation of the assets and liabilities of the Denison Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund as of December 31, 2023 has been completed. The valuation was based on the Present Plan (plan effective May 1, 2024) and the provisions of the Texas Local Fire Fighters' Retirement Act (TLFFRA) which were in effect on December 31, 2023. Section II shows the key results of the actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2023 and discusses the changes since the prior valuation that we prepared as of December 31, 2021.

This valuation reflects an actuarially assumed total contribution rate of 31.25%, comprised of 13.25% by the firefighters and an assumed 18.00% by the city. The total contribution rate of 31.25% exceeds the normal cost rate of 19.08%, leaving 12.17% available to amortize the unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) of \$7,228,298. Assuming that the total payroll increases at the rate of 2.5% per year in the future, the contributions in excess of the normal cost **will amortize the UAAL in 15.3 years.**

In order for a retirement plan to have an adequate contribution arrangement, contributions must be made that are sufficient to pay the plan's normal cost and to amortize the plan's UAAL over a reasonable period of time. Based on the Texas State Pension Review Board guidelines for pension funding, our professional judgment, and the actuarial assumptions and methods used in making this valuation, we consider periods of 10 years to 20 years to be preferable and 30 years to be the maximum acceptable period. Since the total contributions are sufficient to pay the fund's normal cost and to amortize the fund's UAAL within the maximum acceptable period, we are of the opinion that the fund, based on present levels of benefits and contributions, **has an adequate contribution arrangement.** Section III has considerations for benefit improvements.

### Changes in Plan Provisions

Since the prior actuarial valuation, the plan was amended effective May 1, 2024 to remove the previous maximum amount for a monthly retirement benefit of \$7,250. Correspondingly, the previous maximum amount for a monthly surviving spouse benefit of \$5,437.50 was removed.

### Projected Actuarial Valuation Results

In addition to completing this actuarial valuation, we estimated the amortization periods as of December 31, 2025 and as of December 31, 2027 by making projections from the December 31, 2023 actuarial valuation. These projections examine the effect on the amortization period in the next two biennial actuarial valuations of the actuarial investment gains and losses that the fund experienced in the four years prior to the valuation date (a gain in 2021 and losses in 2020, 2022, and 2023) that have been only partially recognized as of December 31, 2023. As shown in Exhibit 8, a smoothing method is used to determine the actuarial value of assets (AVA) for this valuation. This method phases in over a five-year period any investment gains or losses (net actual investment return greater or less than the actuarially assumed investment return) that the fund has had. The AVA used in this current valuation is deferring recognition of various portions of the gains and losses in 2020-2023

that the fund experienced. The AVA used in this valuation is \$23,822,890. The market value of assets (MVA) is \$21,246,289. The \$2.58 million difference between the MVA and the AVA is the deferred net loss over the past four years that will be recognized in the next two biennial actuarial valuations.

The theory behind the AVA method is to allow time for investment gains and losses to partially offset each other and thereby dampen the volatility associated with the progression of the MVA over time. In practice, the timing and amounts of investment gains and losses can result in irregular effects on the AVA in a given year. However, as intended, the pattern of the AVA is smoother over time than the pattern of the MVA, as seen in Exhibit 9.

For purposes of projecting the amortization period through 2027 we used six scenarios of various assumed annual rates of investment return, net of investment-related expenses. These projections show the expected effects over the next four years after the valuation date of (1) the recognition of the portions of the investment gains and losses over the past four years that are deferred as of December 31, 2023, and (2) investment returns over the next four years different from the 7.25% assumption used in this valuation.

	Scenario					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Assumed Investment Return for Calendar Year						
2024	7.25%	15.00%	12.00%	5.00%	0.00%	0.00%
2025	7.25	15.00	12.00	5.00	3.00	12.00
2026	7.25	7.25	7.25	10.00	10.00	10.00
2027	7.25	7.25	7.25	10.00	10.00	10.00
2028 and later	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.25
Amortization Period in Years as of December 31:						
2023 (actual)	15.3	15.3	15.3	15.3	15.3	15.3
2025 (projected)	18.5	14.9	16.3	19.6	21.7	20.3
2027 (projected)	21.1	12.1	15.3	22.8	29.1	22.7

The projected future December 31, 2027 valuation in Scenario 1, with no investment gain or loss in the four years, reveals that instead of decreasing by the expected four years to 11.3 years, the amortization period is projected to increase by 5.8 years to 21.1 years because of the recognition of the deferred net loss. Scenarios 2 and 3 include very favorable experience in 2024 and 2025, but neither scenarios would completely offset the \$2.58 million deferred net loss by December 31, 2027. Scenarios 4-6 show the effects of a mix of unfavorable experience early followed by favorable experience. The highest amortization period as of December 31, 2027 (Scenario 5) does not exceed 30 years.

We do not know what the investment experience will be for each of the next four calendar years. Variations in experience from the underlying assumptions, other than investment return, will cause the actual amortization periods to be different from the periods shown above, but investment experience is the biggest influence on future actuarial valuations. In addition, the future investment experience in each of the four years could be better or worse

than the assumed rates shown. These scenarios present a range of scenarios for the next four years assuming no increases in the total contribution rate and no changes in benefits.

## Participant and Asset Data

We have relied on and based our valuation on the active firefighter data, pensioner data, and asset data provided on behalf of the board of trustees by Ms. Zera Taylor, the Administrator. We have not audited the data provided but have reviewed it for reasonableness and consistency relative to the data provided for the December 31, 2021 actuarial valuation. Exhibit 1 is a distribution of the active firefighters by age and service. The assumed 2024 compensation used for projecting future contributions and benefits for each active firefighter in the valuation was generally the actual pay for calendar year 2023 increased by 7%. This increase was to reflect the effect of the general pay increases effective October 1, 2023 ranging mostly from 9% to 12%. The total of these assumed compensation amounts is our assumed annualized covered payroll for the plan year beginning January 1, 2024 and is used in the valuation to determine the UAAL amortization period. The averages of the assumed compensation amounts for the 2024 plan year are shown in Exhibit 1.

Exhibit 2 contains summary information on the pensioners. The monthly benefit payments are generally based on the amounts paid in January 2024. Exhibit 3 is a reconciliation of firefighters and pensioners from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2023. Exhibit 4 shows a breakdown of the dollar amount of the monthly benefits for retirees and surviving spouses. Exhibit 5 shows a historical comparison of the actuarial accrued liability and the actuarial value of assets.

The summary of assets contained in Exhibit 6 is based on the allocation of the December 31, 2023 market value of assets in the December 31, 2023 report from the fund's investment consultant. This exhibit also shows a comparison with the market values and actuarial values of assets as of December 31, 2021 and December 31, 2023. Exhibit 7 contains the statement of changes in assets for 2022 and 2023. Exhibit 8 shows the development of the actuarial value of assets. Exhibit 9 shows a historical comparison between the market value and actuarial value of assets. A market value asset allocation by major asset class as of December 31, 2021 and as of December 31, 2023 is shown in Exhibit 10.

## Assumptions

As a part of each actuarial valuation, we review the actuarial assumptions used in the prior actuarial valuation. As a result of our review and with board input during its July 11 meeting, we have selected actuarial assumptions we consider to be reasonable and appropriate estimates of future experience for the fund for the long-term future. Their selection complies with the applicable actuarial standards of practice. Significant actuarial assumptions used in this valuation are:

1. 7.25% annual investment return net of investment-related expenses;
2. 2.5% general annual compensation increase plus an average of 1.89% per year for pay increases due to promotions and longevity over a 30-year career;
3. 2.5% aggregate payroll growth (for the purpose of amortizing the UAAL);

4. Retirement rates which result in an average expected age at retirement of 54.0; and
5. PubS-2010 (public safety employees) total dataset mortality tables for employees and for retirees, projected for mortality improvement generationally using the projection scale MP-2019.

The following actuarial assumption changes have been made, and the new assumptions are compared to those used in the December 31, 2021 valuation:

1. We lowered the investment return assumption from 7.5% to 7.25% net of investment-related expenses, retaining the inflation assumption of 2.5% and lowering the net real rate of return from 5% to 4.75%. We believe the 7.25% assumption is more reasonable for the long-term future.
2. We changed the assumed administrative expenses as a percent of covered payroll from 1.00% to 0.95% based on the last four years of experience.

The effects of these changes in assumptions in the UAAL and in the UAAL amortization period are identified in Section II. A summary of all the assumptions and methods used in the valuation is shown in Exhibits 11 and 12. In our opinion, the assumptions used, both in the aggregate and individually, are reasonably related to the experience of the fund and to reasonable expectations. The assumptions represent a reasonable estimate of anticipated experience of the fund over the long-term future.

### Supporting Exhibits

Exhibit 13 contains definitions of terms used in this actuarial valuation report. Exhibit 14 summarizes the plan provisions of the Present Plan. Appendix A documents our review of the economic assumptions.

### Funding Policy

The funding policy adopted by the board of trustees at its January 14, 2021 board meeting says that each actuarial valuation report will include a benchmark actuarially determined contribution (ADC) rate using a closed amortization period of 30 years beginning January 1, 2020. The closed amortization period declines by one each year; so it is 26 years for the December 31, 2023 actuarial valuation. The table below compares the benchmark ADC rate to the actuarial valuation results in two key metrics, the amortization period and the total contribution rate.

	Amortization Period	Total Contribution Rate
Benchmark ADC rate	26.0 years	27.89%
Actuarial valuation	15.3 years	31.25%
Difference	-10.7 years	+3.36%

The actuarial valuation results are much better than those two metrics in the benchmark ADC rate. The current funding policy includes a short paragraph about situations when the fund

has a favorable actuarial condition. Our recommendations for benefit improvements are presented in Section III.

### Variability in Future Actuarial Measurement

Future actuarial measurements may differ significantly from the current measurements presented in this report due to such factors as the following:

- Plan experience differing from that anticipated by the current economic or demographic assumptions;
- Increases or decreases expected as part of the natural operation of the methodology used for these measurements;
- Changes in economic or demographic assumptions; and
- Changes in plan provisions.

Analysis of the potential range of such future measurements resulting from possible sources of measurement variability was provided on pages 1-3 in the projected amortization periods for the next two biennial actuarial valuations under six scenarios. These projections were designed to assess the risk of variance of potential future investment rates of return in the four years following the actuarial valuation date from the assumed 7.25% rate and the potential effect on the amortization period. Additional or other sensitivity analysis could be performed in a subsequent report if desired by the board of trustees.

Respectfully submitted,  
RUDD AND WISDOM, INC.



Mark R. Fenlaw  
Fellow, Society of Actuaries  
Member, American Academy of Actuaries



Brandon L. Fuller  
Fellow, Society of Actuaries  
Member, American Academy of Actuaries

## Section II

### Key Results of the Actuarial Valuation

	December 31, 2021 <sup>1</sup>	December 31, 2023
1. Actuarial present value of future benefits		
a. Those now receiving benefits or former firefighters entitled to receive benefits	\$ 19,780,366	\$ 20,426,639
b. Firefighters	<u>12,458,753</u>	<u>21,163,659</u>
c. Total	<u>\$ 32,239,119</u>	<u>\$ 41,590,298</u>
2. Actuarial present value of future normal cost contributions	\$ 5,513,539	\$ 10,539,110
3. Actuarial accrued liability (Item 1c – Item 2)	\$ 26,725,580	\$ 31,051,188
4. Actuarial value of assets	\$ 21,674,231	\$ 23,822,890
5. Unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) (Item 3 - Item 4)	\$ 5,051,349	\$ 7,228,298
6. Contributions (percent of pay)		
a. Firefighters	13.25%	13.25%
b. City of Denison	<u>18.00%</u>	<u>18.00%</u>
c. Total	31.25%	31.25%
7. Normal cost (percent of payroll)	15.56%	19.08%
8. Percent of payroll available to amortize the UAAL (Item 6c - Item 7)	15.69%	12.17%
9. Annualized covered payroll	\$ 3,815,442	\$ 5,442,692
10. Years to amortize the UAAL	11.0 years	15.3 years
11. Funded ratio (Item 4 ÷ Item 3) <sup>2</sup>	81.1%	76.7%

<sup>1</sup> All items are from the December 31, 2021 actuarial valuation and reflect the prior plan provisions with the \$7,250 dollar cap on benefits.

<sup>2</sup> The funded ratio is not appropriate for assessing either the need for or the amount of future contributions or the adequacy of the assumed contribution rates. Using the market value of assets instead of the actuarial value of assets for Item 11 would have resulted in funded ratios of 93.4% as of December 31, 2021 and 68.4% as of December 31, 2023. **The best indicator of the fund's health is Item 10.**

### Changes in the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability

In comparing this actuarial valuation to the prior one with the \$7,250 dollar cap, the UAAL increased by \$2,176,949 from \$5,051,349 as of December 31, 2021 to \$7,228,298 as of December 31, 2023. The table below summarizes the reasons for the increase.

Reason for Change	Amount
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expected decrease (interest on UAAL less than expected amortization payments accumulated with interest)</li> </ul>	\$ (515,797)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment loss for the two years (based on the AVA average annual return of 6.9%)</li> </ul>	283,427
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience gain (net difference between actual experience and assumed experience for contributions, compensation increases, retirements, mortality, and terminations)</li> </ul>	(549,742)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of dollar cap on benefits</li> </ul>	2,039,935
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in assumptions</li> </ul>	<u>919,126</u>
Total	\$ 2,176,949

### Changes in the Amortization Period

The amortization period, based on the prior plan provisions, was determined in the prior actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2021 to be 11.0 years. Since two years have passed since that valuation date, a 9.0-year amortization period would be expected if all actuarial assumptions had been exactly met, no changes had occurred (other than those expected) in the firefighter and pensioner data, and no changes in assumptions or benefits had been made. The amortization period is now 15.3 years. The actual experience occurring between December 31, 2021 and December 31, 2023 differed from the expected experience, and in combination with the changes in assumptions and the removal of the dollar cap on benefits, the resulting amortization period is 15.3 years, 6.3 years more than expected, for the following reasons:

1. The average annual rate of investment return, net of investment-related expenses, on the market value of assets during the two years 2022 and 2023 was -6.0%. However, the actuarial value of assets (AVA) used in the valuation and the determination of the amortization period is based on an adjusted market value. The average annual rate of return on the AVA, net of investment-related expenses, for years 2022 and 2023 was 6.9%, less than the assumed rate of return of 7.5%. This resulted in an **increase** in the amortization period of 0.7 of a year.
2. The aggregate payroll increased at an average rate of 19.4% per year instead of the assumed 2.5% per year rate, which caused the amortization period to **decrease** by 3.0 years.

3. The net result of all experience other than the investment experience and the aggregate payroll experience had the combined effect of **decreasing** the amortization period by 1.7 years.
4. The removal of the dollar cap on benefits **increased** the amortization period by 6.6 years.
5. The changes in the assumptions had the effect of **increasing** the amortization period by 3.7 years.

### **Section III**

#### **Benefit Improvements**

The results of this actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2023 reveal that the fund, based on the Present Plan of benefits, has an adequate contribution arrangement. As disclosed in both Sections I and II, the amortization period of the UAAL is 15.3 years. With an amortization period of 15.3 years, we would normally be willing to give the actuarial approval required by the provisions of Section 7 of the Texas Local Fire Fighters' Retirement Act (TLFFRA) to increase benefits. However, because of the significant headwind from the \$2.58 million deferred net loss, as shown in the six scenarios on page 2, and the near-term uncertainty in the economy, we recommend waiting until the next actuarial valuation to assess the fund's ability to provide any benefit increases.



**Exhibit 2**  
**Summary of Pensioner Data**

Type of Benefit	Pensioner Data Used in December 31, 2023 Valuation	
	Number of Recipients	Total Monthly Benefit Payments
Service Retirement	48 <sup>3</sup>	\$ 140,559
Disability Retirement	1	1,050
Vested Terminated (Deferred)	7	14,042
Surviving Spouse	5	7,661
Surviving Child	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>61<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>\$ 163,312</b>

Type of Benefit	Comparison of Pensioner Count by Type as of The Prior and Current Actuarial Valuations			
	December 31, 2021	New	Ceased	December 31, 2023
Service Retirement	46 <sup>1</sup>	+4 <sup>2</sup>	-2	48 <sup>3</sup>
Disability Retirement	1	0	0	1
Vested Terminated (Deferred)	8	0	-1	7
Surviving Spouse	4	+1	0	5
Surviving Child	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-4</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>63<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>+5</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>61<sup>3</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes one alternate payee receiving a monthly benefit according to the terms of a Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO).

<sup>2</sup> Two of the four were retirees, one was an alternate payee, and one was a vested terminated participant whose monthly benefit has commenced.

<sup>3</sup> Includes two alternate payees receiving monthly benefits according to the terms of a QDRO.

**Exhibit 3**  
**Firefighter and Pensioner Reconciliation**

	Firefighters	Current Payment Status	Vested Terminated Firefighters	Total
1. As of December 31, 2021	50	55 <sup>1</sup>	8	113
2. Change of status				
a. retirement	(2)	3	(1)	0
b. disability	0	0	0	0
c. death	0	(2)	0	(2)
d. survivor payment begins	0	1	0	1
e. withdrawal	(6)	0	0	(6)
f. vested termination	0	0	0	0
g. QDRO alternate payee	0	1	0	1
h. child benefit ceases	0	(4)	0	(4)
i. correction	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
j. net changes	(8)	(1)	(1)	(10)
3. New firefighters	<u>18</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>18</u>
4. As of December 31, 2023	60	54 <sup>3</sup>	7	121

<sup>1</sup> Includes one alternate payee receiving a monthly benefit according to the terms of a Qualified Domestic Relations Order (QDRO).

<sup>2</sup> There were 23 new firefighters in 2022 and 2023 who were active as of December 31, 2023. The 18 shown above are net of five John Does included as of December 31, 2021 who were hired in January 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Includes two alternate payees receiving monthly benefits according to the terms of a QDRO.

Exhibit 4

Breakdown of Monthly Benefit Payment Amounts as of December 31, 2023

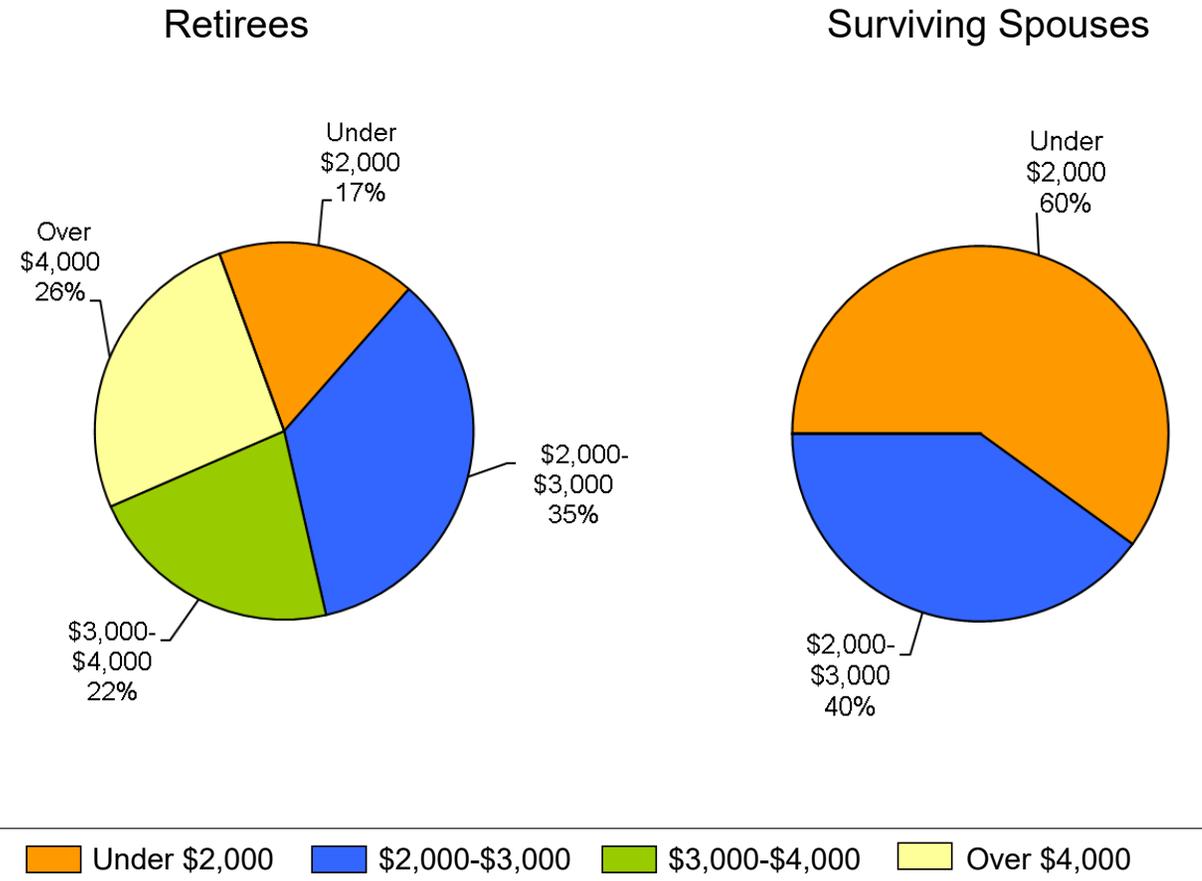
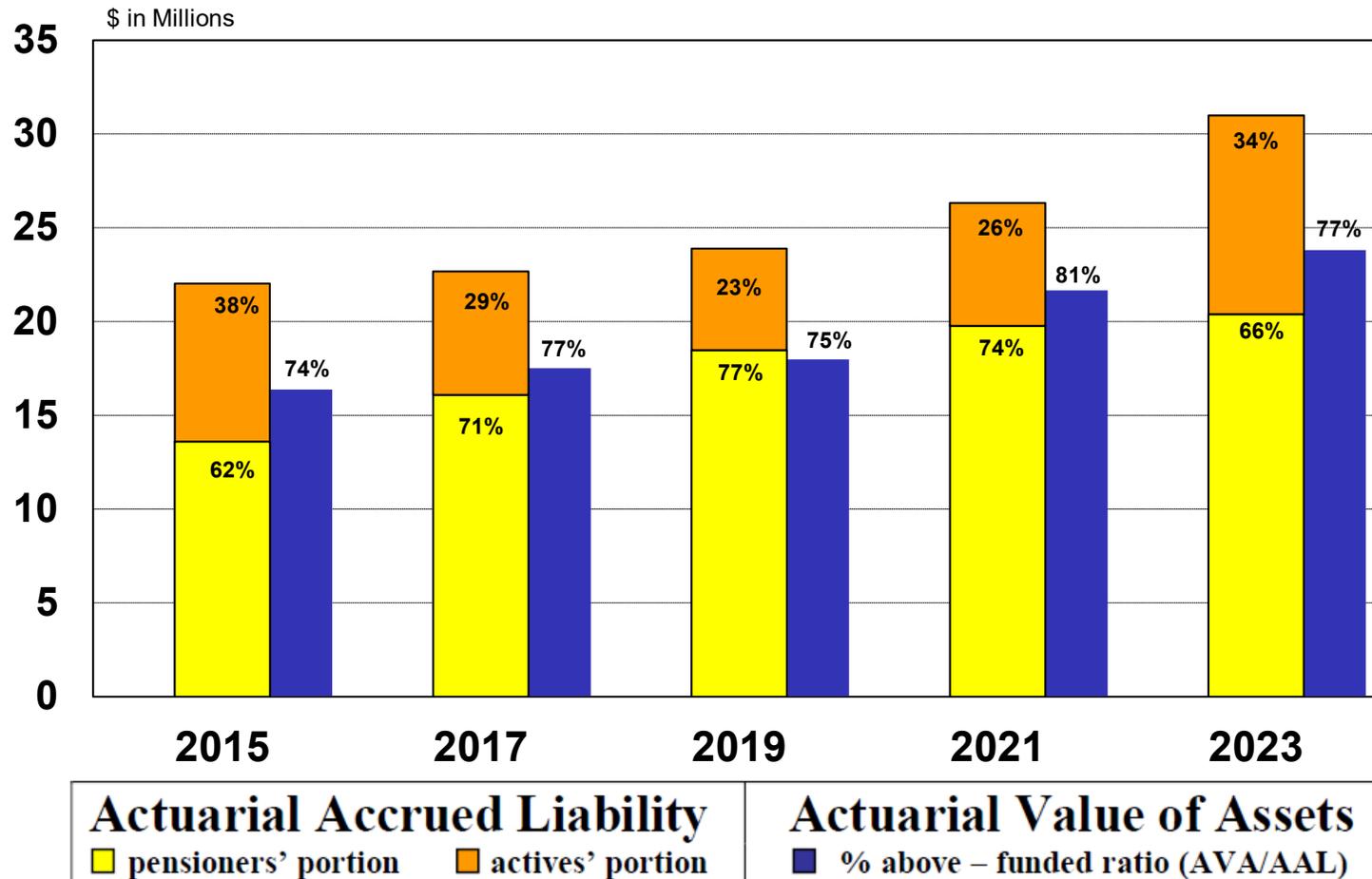


Exhibit 5

Historical Comparison of Actuarial Accrued Liability and Actuarial Value of Assets  
(Present Plan Valuations as of December 31)



**Exhibit 6**  
**Summary of Asset Data**

Asset Type	Market Value as of December 31, 2023	Allocation As a Percent of Grand Total
Domestic equities	\$13,817,155	65.0%
Foreign equities	630,283	3.0
REITS	0	0.0
Closed-end mutual funds	1,552,380	7.3
Fixed income	4,956,232	23.3
Cash	<u>290,239</u>	<u>1.4</u>
Grand Total	\$21,246,289 <sup>1</sup>	100.0%

<sup>1</sup> The grand total is the audited amount. All of the invested amounts are from the December 31, 2023 report from the investment consultant. Cash is the balancing item.

Comparison of Asset Values as of the Prior and Current Actuarial Valuation Dates		
	<u>December 31, 2021</u>	<u>December 31, 2023</u>
Market Value	\$24,957,398	\$21,246,289
Actuarial Value	\$21,674,231	\$23,822,890
Actuarial Value as a Percent of Market Value	86.8%	112.1%

## Exhibit 7

Statement of Changes in Audited Assets  
for the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	<u>12/31/2023</u>	<u>12/31/2022</u>
<b>Additions</b>		
1. Contributions		
a. Employer	\$ 943,365	\$ 791,048
b. Employees	694,423	582,299
c. Total	<u>\$ 1,637,788</u>	<u>\$ 1,373,347</u>
2. Investment Income		
a. Interest and dividends	\$ 733,537	\$ 730,505
b. Net appreciation in fair value	805,197	(4,930,736)
c. Total	<u>\$ 1,538,734</u>	<u>\$ (4,200,231)</u>
3. Other Additions	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Total Additions</b>	<b>\$ 3,176,522</b>	<b>\$ (2,826,884)</b>
<b>Deductions</b>		
4. Benefit Payments	\$ 1,878,332	\$ 1,911,540
5. Expenses		
a. Investment-related	\$ 86,858	\$ 99,660
b. Administrative	37,733	46,624
c. Total	<u>\$ 124,591</u>	<u>\$ 146,284</u>
<b>Total Deductions</b>	<b>\$ 2,002,923</b>	<b>\$ 2,057,824</b>
<b>Net Increase in Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,173,599</b>	<b>\$ (4,884,708)</b>
Market Value of Assets (Fiduciary Net Position)		
Beginning of Year	\$ 20,072,690	\$ 24,957,398
End of Year	\$ 21,246,289	\$ 20,072,690
Rate of Return		
Net of All Expenses	7.09%	(17.61)%
Net of Investment-Related Expenses	7.28%	(17.43)%
Gross	7.74%	(17.06)%
Direct Investment-Related Expenses	0.46%	0.37%

**Exhibit 8**  
**Development of Actuarial Value of Assets**

Calculation of Actuarial Investment Gain/(Loss) Based on Market Value for Plan Years Ending December 31				
	2023	2022	2021	2020
1. Market Value of Assets as of beginning of year	\$20,072,690	\$24,957,398	\$21,080,017	\$20,225,141
2. Firefighter Contributions	694,423	582,299	482,276	496,234
3. City Contributions	943,365	791,048	655,168	674,130
4. Benefit Payments and Administrative Expenses <sup>1</sup>	(1,916,065)	(1,958,164)	(1,752,392)	(1,683,217)
5. Expected Investment Return <sup>2</sup>	<u>1,495,016</u>	<u>1,849,874</u>	<u>1,557,941</u>	<u>1,497,654</u>
6. Expected Market Value of Assets as of end of year	21,289,429	26,222,455	22,023,010	21,209,942
7. Actual Market Value of Assets as of end of year	<u>21,246,289</u>	<u>20,072,690</u>	<u>24,957,398</u>	<u>21,080,017</u>
8. Actuarial Investment Gain/(Loss)	(43,140)	(6,149,765)	2,934,388	(129,925)
9. Market Value Rate of Return Net of Expenses	7.28%	(17.43)%	21.63%	6.85%
10. Rate of Actuarial Investment Gain/(Loss)	(0.22)%	(24.93)%	14.13%	(0.65)%

<sup>1</sup> Administrative expenses are included for all years since the investment return assumption was net of investment-related expenses.

<sup>2</sup> Assuming uniform distribution of contributions and payments during the plan year; investment return assumption was 7.5% per year.

Plan Year	Investment Gain/(Loss)	Deferral Percentage	Deferred Gain/(Loss) as of 12/31/2023
2023	\$ (43,140)	80%	\$ (34,512)
2022	(6,149,765)	60%	(3,689,859)
2021	2,934,388	40%	1,173,755
2020	(129,925)	20%	(25,985)
Total			<u>\$ (2,576,601)</u>

Actuarial Value of Assets as of December 31, 2023	
11. Market Value of Assets as of December 31, 2023	\$ 21,246,289
12. Deferred Gain/(Loss) to be Recognized in Future	<u>(2,576,601)</u>
13. Preliminary Value (Item 11 – Item 12)	\$ 23,822,890
14. Corridor for Actuarial Value of Assets	
a. 80% of Market Value as of December 31, 2023 (minimum)	\$ 16,997,031
b. 120% of Market Value as of December 31, 2023 (maximum)	\$ 25,495,547
15. Actuarial Value as of December 31, 2023	\$ 23,822,890
16. Write Up/(Down) of Assets (Item 15 – Item 11)	\$ 2,576,601

Exhibit 9

Historical Comparison of Market and Actuarial Value of Assets  
(Valuation as of December 31)

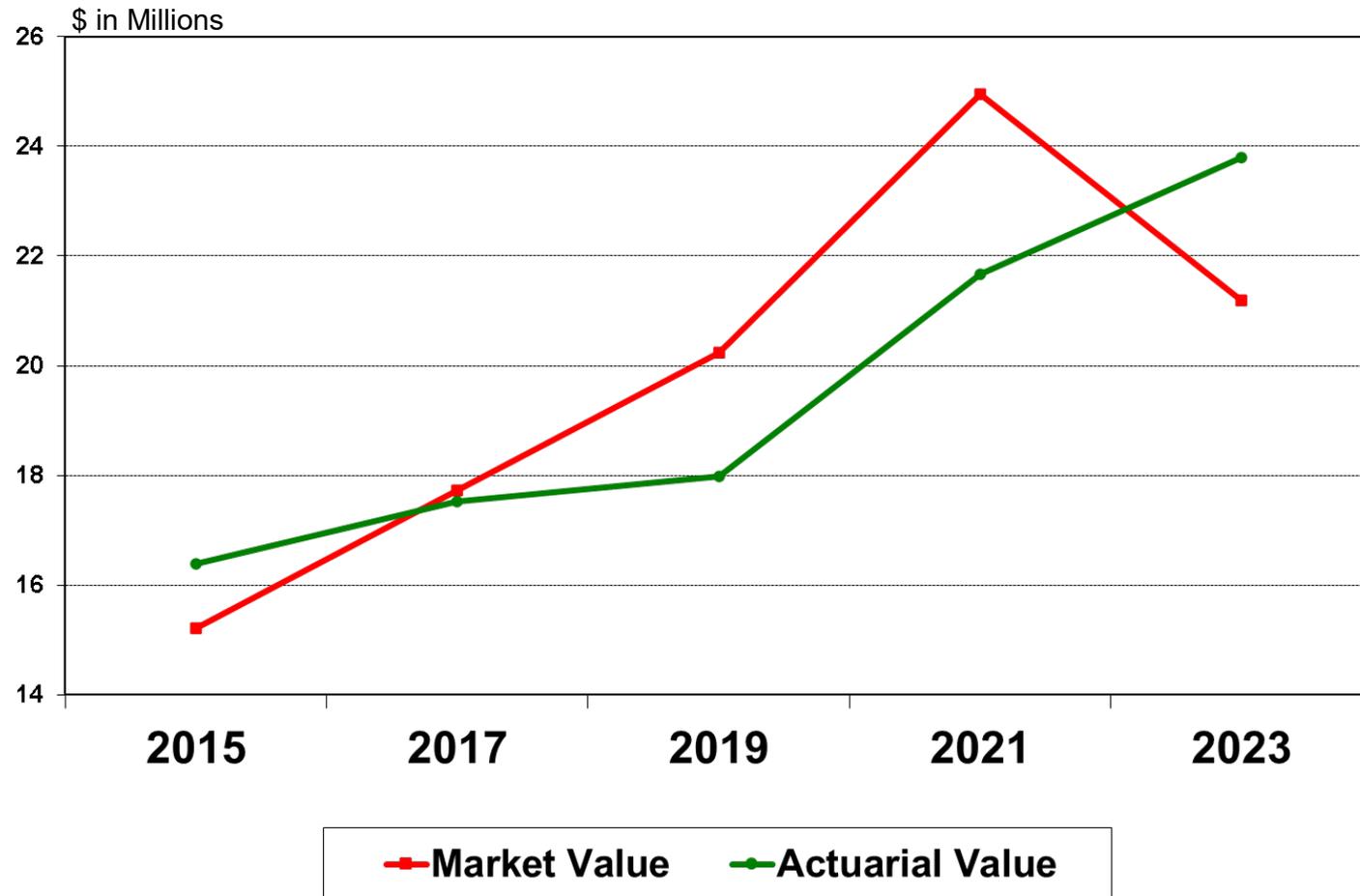
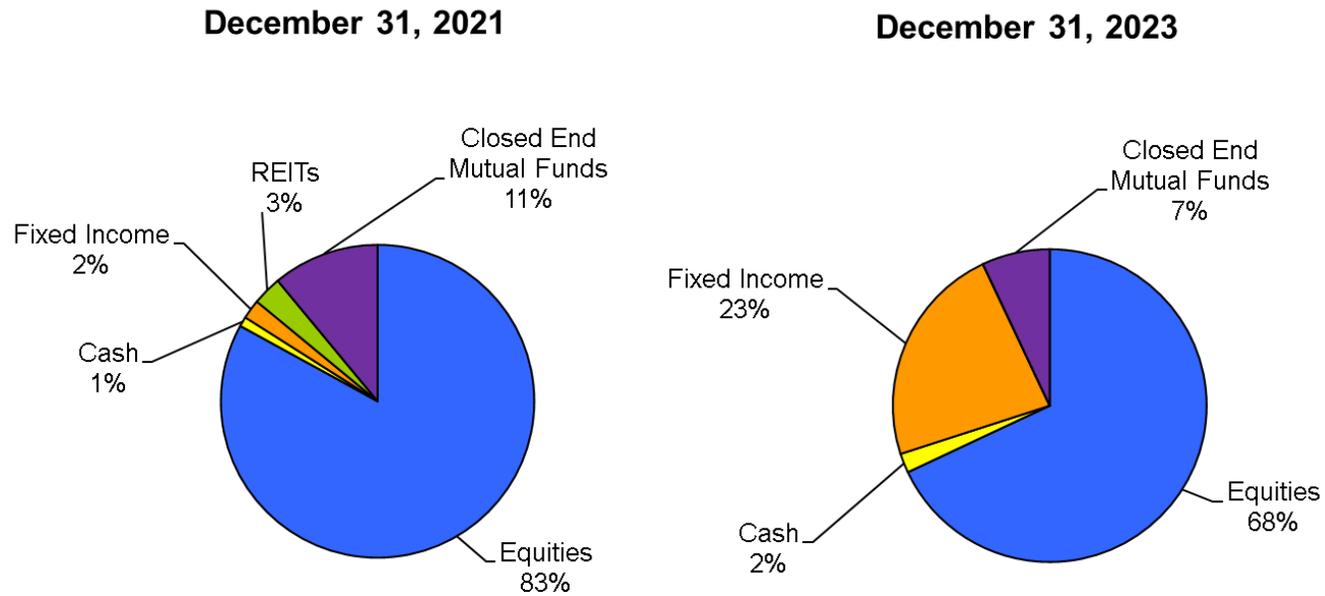


Exhibit 10

Market Value Asset Allocation as of the Prior and Current Actuarial Valuations



## Exhibit 11

### Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

#### A. Actuarial Methods

##### 1. Actuarial Cost Method

The Entry Age Actuarial Cost Method is an actuarial cost method in which the actuarial present value of projected benefits of each active firefighter included in the valuation is allocated as a level percentage of compensation over the period from age at hire to the last age before 100% assumed retirement. Each active firefighter's normal cost is the current annual contribution in a series of annual contributions which, if made throughout the firefighter's total period of employment. The normal cost for the fund is the sum of the normal costs for each active firefighter for the year following the valuation date. The normal cost as a percent of payroll reflects that contributions are made biweekly.

The fund's actuarial accrued liability is the excess of the actuarial present value of projected benefits over the actuarial present value of all future remaining normal cost contributions. The unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) is the amount by which the actuarial accrued liability exceeds the actuarial value of assets. The UAAL is recalculated each time a valuation is performed. Experience gains and losses, which represent deviations of the UAAL from its expected value based on the prior valuation, are determined at each valuation and are amortized as part of the newly calculated UAAL.

##### 2. Amortization Method

The UAAL is assumed to be amortized with level percentage of payroll contributions (total assumed contribution rate less normal cost contribution rate) based on assumed payroll growth of 2.5% per year. The actuarial determination of the amortization period reflects that contributions are made biweekly.

##### 3. Actuarial Value of Assets Method

All assets are valued at market value with an adjustment made to uniformly spread actuarial gains or losses (as measured by actual market value investment return vs. expected market value investment return) over a five-year period. The total adjustment amount shall be limited as necessary such that the actuarial value of assets shall not be less than 80% of market value nor greater than 120% of market value.

#### B. Actuarial Assumptions

As a part of each actuarial valuation, we review the actuarial assumptions used in the prior actuarial valuation. The investment return assumption is reviewed using the building block approach that includes several asset allocations, assumed real rates of return for each asset class, an assumed rate of investment-related expenses, and an assumed rate of inflation, with all assumptions for the long-term future. Our economic assumptions are influenced both by long-term historical experience and by future expectations of investment consultants and economists, but we select the economic assumptions and

normally discuss them with the board before completing the actuarial valuation. See Appendix A for our review of the economic assumptions.

We review the termination and retirement experience since the prior valuation and periodically look back more than two years. We also periodically review the average compensation by years of service to get insights into the promotion, step, and longevity compensation patterns for the purpose of reviewing our compensation increase assumption. For the mortality assumptions, we use an appropriate published mortality table with projections for improvement beyond the valuation date. We are guided in our review and selection of assumptions by the relevant actuarial standards of practice. As a result of our review, we have selected actuarial assumptions we consider to be reasonable and appropriate estimates of future experience for the fund for the long-term future.

1. Investment Return

7.25% per year net of investment-related expenses.

2. Inflation

2.5% per year included in compensation increases and investment return assumptions.

3. Mortality Rates

PubS-2010 (public safety) total dataset mortality tables for employees and for retirees (sex distinct), projected for mortality improvement generationally using the projection scale MP-2019.

4. Compensation Increases

General increases of 2.5% per year combined with promotion, step, and longevity increases that average 1.89% per year over a 30-year career. See Exhibit 12.

5. Retirement Rates

Age	Rate per Year for Paid Firefighters Eligible to Retire
50-51	10%
52-53	20
54	30
55-57	25
58-59	50
60	100

The average expected retirement age for firefighters not yet eligible to retire based on these rates is 54.0.

6. Termination Rates

See Exhibit 12.

7. Disability Rates

See Exhibit 12.

8. Reduction in Benefit after 2½ Years of Disability Retirement

15% weighted average reduction in benefit for future disabilities.

9. Percent Married

100% of the active firefighters are assumed to be married at retirement, disability, or death while employed, with male firefighters having a spouse three years younger and female firefighters having a spouse three years older. Actual marital status and spouse date of birth are used for retirees.

10. Payment Form for Retirement Benefits Due to Service Retirement, Disability Retirement, or Vested Termination

- Joint and 75% to surviving spouse

11. Surviving Child's Death Benefit

None are assumed as a result of future deaths.

12. Firefighters' Contribution Rate

13.25% of covered compensation.

13. City's Assumed Contribution Rate

18.0% of covered compensation for at least as long as the period required to amortize the UAAL.

14. Covered Payroll for First Year Following Valuation Date

The total payroll for 2024 was assumed to be the sum of the individual assumed 2024 compensation amounts, which was assumed to be the actual pay for 2023 with an adjustment of 7% for each firefighter to reflect the effect of the general pay increases effective October 1, 2023 ranging mostly from 9% to 12%. However, for those hired in 2023, the 2024 compensation was assumed to be \$70,000.

15. Administrative Expenses

The expenses paid by fund assets for other than investment-related expenses are assumed to be 0.95% of payroll. The normal cost rate as a percent of payroll is assumed to be 0.95% of payroll higher to reflect these expenses.

**Exhibit 12**  
**Disability and Termination Rates per 1,000 Active Members**  
**Compensation Increases by Years of Service**

Disability Rates		Termination Rates		Compensation Increases	
Attained Age	Rate per 1,000	Years of Service	Rate per 1,000	Years of Service	Increase Percent
20	0.14	0	119	1	9.16%
21	0.15	1	107	2	9.16
22	0.16	2	95	3	9.16
23	0.17	3	84	4	9.16
24	0.18	4	73	5	9.16
25	0.19	5	63	6	4.55
26	0.21	6	54	7	4.55
27	0.23	7	48	8	4.55
28	0.25	8	42	9	4.55
29	0.28	9	38	10	4.55
30	0.31	10	33	11	4.55
31	0.35	11	28	12	4.55
32	0.40	12	24	13	4.55
33	0.45	13	21	14	4.55
34	0.49	14	19	15	4.55
35	0.52	15	18	16	3.53
36	0.54	16	18	17	3.53
37	0.57	17	16	18	3.53
38	0.62	18	15	19	3.53
39	0.73	19	15	20	3.53
40	0.92	20 & Over	0	21	2.50
41	1.14			22	2.50
42	1.32			23	2.50
43	1.48			24	2.50
44	1.73			25	2.50
45	2.09			26	2.50
46	2.55			27	2.50
47	2.98			28	2.50
48	3.34			29	2.50
49	3.62			30	2.50
50	3.79	31	2.50		
51	3.92	32	2.50		
52	4.04	33	2.50		
53	4.24	34	2.50		
54	4.56	35	2.50		
55	0.00	36	2.50		
56	0.00	37	2.50		
57	0.00	38	2.50		
58	0.00	39	2.50		
59	0.00	40	2.50		

## Exhibit 13

### Definitions

1. Actuarial Accrued Liability That portion, as determined by the particular actuarial cost method used, of the Actuarial Present Value of future pension plan benefits as of the Valuation Date that is not provided for by the Actuarial Present Value of future Normal Costs.
2. Actuarial Assumptions Assumptions as to the occurrence of future events affecting pension costs, such as: mortality, termination, disablement and retirement; changes in compensation; rates of investment earnings and asset appreciation; and other relevant items.
3. Actuarially Equivalent Of equal Actuarial Present Value, determined as of a given date with each value based on the same set of Actuarial Assumptions.
4. Actuarial Gain (Loss) A measure of the difference between actual experience and that expected based on the Actuarial Assumptions during the period between two Actuarial Valuation dates, as determined in accordance with the particular actuarial cost method used.
5. Actuarial Present Value The value of an amount or series of amounts payable or receivable at various times, determined as of a given date (the Valuation Date) by the application of the Actuarial Assumptions.
6. Actuarial Valuation The determination, as of a Valuation Date, of the Normal Cost, Actuarial Accrued Liability, Actuarial Value of Assets and related Actuarial Present Values for a pension plan.
7. Actuarial Value of Assets The value of cash, investments and other property belonging to a pension plan, as determined by a method and used by the actuary for the purpose of an Actuarial Valuation.

8. Entry Age Actuarial Cost Method  
An actuarial cost method under which the Actuarial Present Value of the Projected Benefits of each individual included in the Actuarial Valuation is allocated as a level percentage of compensation over the period from age at hire to the last age before 100% assumed retirement. The portion of this Actuarial Present Value allocated to a valuation year is called the Normal Cost. The portion of this Actuarial Present Value not provided for at a Valuation Date by the Actuarial Present Value of future Normal Costs is called the Actuarial Accrued Liability. Under this method, Actuarial Gains (Losses), as they occur, reduce (increase) the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability.
9. Plan Year  
A 12-month period beginning January 1 and ending December 31.
10. Normal Cost  
That portion of the Actuarial Present Value of pension plan benefits that is allocated to a valuation year by the actuarial cost method.
11. Projected Benefits  
Those pension plan benefit amounts that are expected to be paid at various future times according to the Actuarial Assumptions, taking into account such items as the effect of advancement in age and past and anticipated future qualified service.
12. Overfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability  
The excess, if any, of the Actuarial Value of Assets over the Actuarial Accrued Liability.
13. Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability  
The excess, if any, of the Actuarial Accrued Liability over the Actuarial Value of Assets.
14. Valuation Date  
The date upon which the Normal Cost, Actuarial Accrued Liability and Actuarial Value of Assets are determined. Generally, the Valuation Date will coincide with the end of a Plan Year.
15. Years to Amortize the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability  
The period is determined in each Actuarial Valuation as the number of years, beginning with the Valuation Date, to amortize the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability with a level percent of payroll that is the difference between the expected total contribution rate and the Normal Cost contribution rate.

**Exhibit 14**  
**Summary of Present Plan**

1. Normal Service Retirement Monthly Benefit - Percentage of Highest 24-Month Average Salary per Year of Service
  - (a) for each of the first 20 years of service 2.65%
  - (b) for each year in excess of 20 years 3.00%
  
2. Normal Service Retirement Eligibility (Minimum) Age 50 and 20 Years
  
3. Vested Terminated Benefit
  - (a) Eligibility for firefighters (minimum service) 10 Years
  - (b) Benefit based on formula in item 1
  - (c) Benefit is deferred to date person would have satisfied normal service retirement eligibility
  
4. Disability Retirement Monthly Benefit for Firefighters Who Become Disabled while Employed
  - (a) For initial 18-month period if not able to perform job in fire department – 50% of Highest 24-Month Average Salary
  - (b) Following initial 18-month period depending upon status
    - (i) Initial benefit
    - (ii) One-half of initial benefit
    - (iii) Zero
  - (c) Upon attaining eligibility for normal retirement, the member's vested retirement benefit becomes payable if the disability benefit has been reduced or terminated
  
5. Maximum Monthly Benefit for Items 1, 3, and 4 None
  
6. Surviving Spouse's Monthly Death Benefit for a Firefighter Who Dies While Employed [(a) plus (b), subject to (c)]
  - (a) Percent of Highest 24-Month Average Salary 39.75%
  - (b) Three-fourths of any additional service benefit earned as of date of death for years in excess of 20 years
  - (c) Maximum monthly benefit None
  
7. Surviving Spouse's Monthly Death Benefit for a firefighter who dies after service retirement, disability retirement, or vested termination will be equal to three-fourths of the monthly benefit the firefighter was receiving or entitled to receive as of the date of death.
  
8. Surviving Children's Monthly Death Benefit
  - (a) Where the spouse is receiving a benefit \$100.00
  - (b) Where the spouse is not receiving a benefit or there is no spouse \$200.00

9. Contributions as a Percent of Compensation by:
- |                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| (a) Firefighters    | 13.25% |
| (b) City of Denison | 18.00% |
10. The normal form of annuity payment at retirement is a Joint and Three-Fourths to Surviving Spouse, and payment is the first business day of each month. No optional forms of annuity payments are available.
11. Compensation used to determine contributions and the Highest 24-Month Average Salary includes all pay except for lump sum distributions for unused sick leave or vacation pay. The average is based on the 24 consecutive months with the fire department during which his total pay was highest.
12. Refund of firefighters' accumulated contributions without interest will be made to firefighters who terminate employment and either are not eligible for any other benefit from the fund or request a refund from the fund.

## Appendix A

Review of the Actuarial Economic Assumptions  
for the December 31, 2023 Actuarial Valuation

## Theoretical Investment Return Assumption Development

Manager and Class	Gross Annual Real Rate of Return (ROR) <sup>1</sup>	Asset Allocation		
		12/31/2023 Actual <sup>2</sup>	12/31/2021 Actual <sup>3</sup>	12/31/2019 Actual <sup>4</sup>
Equities	6.5%	68.0%	83.5%	80.7%
REITs	4.0	0.0	2.7	6.7
Closed-end mutual funds	3.5 <sup>5</sup>	7.3	10.9	11.9
Fixed income securities	2.0	23.3	2.2	0.0
Cash	0.0	<u>1.4</u>	<u>0.7</u>	<u>0.7</u>
		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b><u>Weighted Average Gross Real ROR Assumption</u></b>		5.14%	5.96%	5.93%
<b><u>Weighted Average Net Real ROR Assumption<sup>6</sup></u></b>		4.59%	5.41%	5.38%
<b><u>Theoretical Annual Investment Return Assumption: Net Real ROR Plus Assumed Annual Rate of Inflation</u></b>				
Assumed 2.50% Inflation		7.09%	7.91%	7.88%

<sup>1</sup> A gross annual real rate of investment return is the total annual rate of investment return, before any expenses, that is in excess of the assumed annual inflation rate. These are long-term assumptions made by Rudd and Wisdom, Inc.

<sup>2</sup> This allocation is from the December 31, 2023 report from Fiduciary Financial Services Wealth Management.

<sup>3</sup> This allocation is from the December 31, 2021 report from Fiduciary Financial Services Wealth Management.

<sup>4</sup> This allocation is from the December 31, 2019 report from Fiduciary Financial Services Wealth Management.

<sup>5</sup> This return assumption is net of the indirect expenses for the mutual funds.

<sup>6</sup> The investment-related expenses, for direct expenses, are assumed to be 0.55% of assets and are based on direct expenses for the last six years (page 5), rounded up to the next multiple of 0.05% plus 0.05% for indirect expenses for ETFs and open-end mutual funds.

## Appendix A (continued)

## Price Inflation in the USA Average Annual Rates of Increase in the CPI-U

<u>Years (Dec. to Dec.)</u>	<u>Number of Years</u>	<u>Average Annual Increase</u>
1958 – 2023	65	3.70%
1963 – 2023	60	3.90
1968 – 2023	55	4.00
1973 – 2023	50	3.86
1978 – 2023	45	3.41
1983 – 2023	40	2.81
1988 – 2023	35	2.71
1993 – 2023	30	2.51
1998 – 2023	25	2.54
2003 – 2023	20	2.58

Most inflation forecasts are for 10 years or less. For example, the average 10-year forecast in the June 2024 Livingston Survey published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia was 2.25%. However, 10 years is too short a forecast period for a public employee defined benefit pension plan. In the 2024 annual report of the OASDI Trust Funds (Social Security), the ultimate inflation assumptions for their 75-year projections are 3.0%, 2.4%, and 1.8% for the low-cost, intermediate, and high-cost assumptions, respectively. Looking at the average annual increase in the CPI-U over historical periods of 30 to 65 years above and considering the Social Security forecasts, we believe that reasonable assumed rates of inflation for the long-term future would range from 2.25% to 3.00%.

## Expenses Paid from Fund

Plan Year Ending 12/31	Beginning of Year Assets	Expenses		Expenses as a % of Assets	
		Admin.	Direct Investmt	Admin. (3) ÷ (2)	Investmt (4) ÷ (2)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
2023	\$ 20,072,690	\$ 37,733	\$86,858	0.19%	0.43%
2022	24,957,398	46,624	99,660	0.19	0.40
2021	21,080,017	54,295	108,088	0.26	0.51
2020	20,225,141	17,749	93,931	0.09	0.46
2019	16,588,604	43,403	91,096	0.26	0.55
2018	17,725,070	24,075	88,431	0.14	0.50
2018-2023	\$120,648,920	\$223,879	\$568,064	0.19%	0.47%

**Exhibit 1 (continued)**

**Administrative Expenses Paid by the Fund**

Plan Year Ending 12/31 (1)	Administrative Expenses Paid by the Fund (2)	Covered Payroll (3)	% of Payroll (2) ÷ (3) (4)
2023	\$ 37,733	\$ 5,240,917	0.72%
2022	46,624	4,394,711	1.06
2021	54,295	3,639,822	1.49
2020	17,749	3,745,167	0.47
2020-2023	\$156,401	\$17,020,617	0.92%

The administrative expenses are not reflected in the investment return assumption but are reflected as a percent of payroll that is added to the normal cost contribution rate. For the December 31, 2023 actuarial valuation, we recommend 0.95%, the average developed above for the last four plan years, rounded up to a multiple of 0.05%. It is a small reduction from the 1.00% assumption we used for the December 31, 2021 actuarial valuation. (The covered payroll was determined as the city contributions for the plan year divided by the city contribution rate during the plan year.)

**Comparison of 12/31/2021 Actuarial Economic Assumptions  
with 12/31/2023 Actuarial Economic Assumptions**

Actuarial Assumption <sup>1</sup>	12/31/2021 Actuarial Economic Assumptions	12/31/2023 Actuarial Economic Assumptions
Inflation (Price)	2.50%	2.50%
Net real rate of return <sup>2</sup>	<u>5.00</u>	<u>4.75</u>
Net total investment return <sup>2</sup>	7.50%	7.25%
Firefighter pay increase <sup>3</sup>	4.39%	4.39%
Aggregate payroll increase	2.50%	2.50%
Administrative expenses	1.00% of payroll	0.95% of payroll

<sup>1</sup> All assumptions are annual rates.

<sup>2</sup> Net of investment-related expenses.

<sup>3</sup> The 4.39% for 12/31/2021 and 12/31/2023 is comprised of a 2.50% annual general compensation increase combined with annual promotion, step, and longevity pay increases that vary by length of service (highest in early years) and that average 1.89% over a 30-year career.

## Appendix B

### Other Disclosures as of December 31, 2023

#### Negative Amortization

- As of this actuarial valuation, the fund has no negative amortization because the total contributions in each future year are expected to exceed the sum of the normal cost and interest on the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL), with the UAAL expected to be fully amortized in less than 16 years.

#### Reasonable Actuarially Determined Contribution Rate

- The benchmark actuarially determined contribution (ADC) rate in the funding policy section on page 4 is a reasonable ADC rate consistent with actuarial standards of practice.

#### Actuarial Valuation Software

- We have utilized software licensed from Winklevoss Technologies, LLC in the development of the liabilities summarized in the report. We have independently confirmed the model developed by Winklevoss and have sufficiently tested it to ensure the model is an accurate representation of the fund's liabilities.

#### Low-Default-Risk Obligation Measure (LDRM)

- The LDRM is a new required disclosure calculated as of the date of the actuarial valuation using a discount rate based on high quality bond yields instead of the expected return on the fund's diversified investment portfolio.

Low-Default-Risk Obligation Measure	\$54,905,830
Actuarial Accrued Liability	\$31,051,188

- The difference between the LDRM and the actuarial accrued liability determined in this actuarial valuation could be viewed as the expected savings from investing in the fund's diversified portfolio instead investing only in high quality bonds.
- For our calculation of the LDRM, we have used the same actuarial cost method and actuarial assumptions from this actuarial valuation summarized in Exhibits 11 and 12, except for an assumed discount rate of 3.26% instead of the investment return assumption of 7.25%. To determine the assumed discount rate, we used the Bond Buyer Index of general obligation bonds with 20 years to maturity, which has an average rating roughly equivalent to Moody's Investors Services' Aa2 rating and Standard and Poor's Corporation AA. The weekly index closest to the December 31, 2023 measurement date was 3.26%.
- Because the fund's assets are not invested only in high-quality bonds, the LDRM does not reflect the fund's actuarial condition, nor does it offer insights into the total contribution required for an adequate contribution arrangement or the security of participant benefits.