

THE CITY OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND FIRE PENSION SYSTEM

**ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORT** 

JULY 1, 2020







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# **Executive Summary**

	July 1, 2020	July 1, 2019
Number of members		
Active employees	93	95
Terminated vested members	0	0
Retired, disabled and beneficiaries	124	120
Total	217	215
Covered employee payroll	6,743,133	6,844,043
Average plan salary	72,507	72,043
Actuarial present value of future benefits	132,027,597	128,190,093
Actuarial accrued liability	116,778,149	113,225,837
Plan assets		
Market value of assets	66,064,366	62,523,396
Actuarial value of assets	67,644,660	63,474,304
Unfunded accrued liability	49,133,489	49,751,533
Funded ratio	57.9%	56.1%
Actuarially determined employer contribution (ADEC)		
Fiscal year ending ADEC	2022 7,014,265	2021 6,752,128



# Valuation Results and Highlights

# **Purpose of the Valuation**

The purpose of the valuation is to develop the Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution (ADEC).

The ultimate cost of a pension plan is based primarily on the level of benefits promised by the plan. The pension fund's investment earnings serve to reduce the cost of plan benefits and expenses. Thus,

Ultimate cost = Benefits Paid + Expenses Incurred – Investment Return – Employee Contributions

The actuarial cost method distributes this ultimate cost over the working lifetime of current plan participants. By means of this budgeting process, costs are allocated to both past and future years, and a cost is assigned to the current year. The current year's allocated cost, or normal cost, is the building block upon which the actuarially determined employer contribution is developed. The July 1, 2020 valuation produces the contribution for the fiscal year ending 2022.

# Information Available in the Valuation Report

The Executive Summary is intended to emphasize the notable results of the valuation from the perspective of the Plan Sponsor. Supporting technical detail is documented in Results of the Valuation, Supporting Exhibits and Description of Actuarial Methods and Assumptions. A concise summary of the principal provisions of the Plan is outlined in Summary of Plan Provisions.

# **Changes Reflected in the Valuation**

The report reflects the following update in assumptions:

- Mortality improvement scale
- Investment rate of return
- Inflation

The changes are shown in more detail in the Description of Actuarial Assumptions section of this report. The impact of these changes was an increase in actuarial accrued liability and the ADEC of approximately \$441,000 and \$39,000 respectively.

# **Cash Contribution for Fiscal Year Ending 2022**

The City cost is: 2022 Fiscal Year

\$7,014,265

# **Liability Experience During Period Under Review**

The plan experienced a net actuarial gain on liabilities of approximately \$120,000 since the prior valuation. The gain was attributable to COLA increases that were lower than expected, though offset by losses due to inactive mortality and salary increases.



# **Asset Experience During Period Under Review**

The plan's assets provided the following rates of return during the past fiscal year:

2020 Fiscal Year

Market Value Basis 4.7%

Actuarial Value Basis 5.6%

The Actuarial Value of assets, rather than the Market Value, is used to determine plan contributions. The Actuarial Value spreads the asset volatility over 5 years, thereby smoothing out fluctuations that are inherent in the Market Value.

#### **Assessment and Measurement of Risks**

## **Financial Significance of Plan**

It is important to understand the size of the pension plan compared to the size of the sponsor of that plan. Additional pension contributions may be required at inopportune times for the plan sponsor. In general, a plan sponsor with assets or revenue that are much larger than the liabilities in its pension plans will be better able to withstand increases in required pension contributions.

# **Plan Maturity Measurements**

	July 1, 2020	July 1, 2019
Actuarial accrued liability for members currently in pay status		
as a percentage of the total actuarial accrued liability	73.1%	71.8%

- A lower percentage results in greater volatility as the investment return assumption changes.
- A higher percentage results in greater demand on cash due to a proportionately higher percentage of benefits being in pay status.

	July 1, 2020
Duration of benefit payments using an investment rate of return of 7.00%	14.4 years

• A higher duration will occur if the plan's percentage of members in pay status decreases. A plan with a higher duration will have a liability that is more sensitive to changes in the investment return assumption.

	July 1, 2020	July 1, 2019
Ratio of market value of assets to covered payroll	9.8	9.1

• A higher ratio is more typical of relatively mature plans with a larger percentage of inactive members and may cause more potential contribution volatility as pension fund assets fluctuate.



#### **Risks to Assess**

## **Overriding Minimum Contribution**

	Fiscal Year
	Ending 2022
Actuarially determined employer contribution (ADEC)	7,014,265
Overriding minimum contribution (OMC)*	6,326,896
Surplus (deficit) - ADEC vs. OMC	687,369

• A deficit suggests that a plan's current funding policy contribution approach may result in little to no progress being made towards: (1) reducing the plan's unfunded liability; and (2) improving the plan's funded ratio in the near-term.

# Estimated Impact of a 5% Reduction in Market Value of Assets

Fiscal Year
Ending 2022

Increase in actuarially determined employer contribution (ADEC)

74,277

• Plans would generally be subject to a larger amortization payment if the market value of assets were 5% smaller. As a result, the ADEC would generally be higher for up to 15 years.

Due to the asset smoothing method, the ADEC will additionally increase by the same amount in each of the next few years. Each of these additional contributions will continue for up to 15 years.

# Estimated Impact of a 1 Year Increase in Life Expectancies

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Endin			

Increase in actuarially determined employer contribution (ADEC)

301,899

• If members live longer than expected, it generally results in larger benefits and/or additional benefit payments made. As a result, the ADEC would generally be higher for up to 15 years.

<sup>\*</sup> As defined in "Public Pension Plan Funding Policy" (Society of Actuaries, 2010).



## **Historical Results**

Valuation Year Beginning	Investment Return Assumption	Annual Effective Rate of Return on Market Value of Assets	Market Value of Assets as a % of Actuarial Accrued Liability	Benefit Payments as a % of Market Value of Assets
2020	7.00%	N/A	56.6%	N/A
2019	7.25%	4.7%	55.2%	10.4%
2018	7.25%	4.2%	54.3%	10.7%
2017	7.25%	9.1%	50.3%	11.5%
2016	7.25%	12.6%	45.1%	12.6%



# Certification

This report presents the results of the July 1, 2020 Actuarial Valuation for The City of Newport, Rhode Island Fire Pension System (the Plan) for the purpose of estimating the funded status of the Plan and determining the Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution (ADEC) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. This report may not be appropriate for any other purpose.

The valuation has been performed in accordance with generally accepted actuarial principles and practices. It is intended to comply with all applicable Actuarial Standards of Practice.

I certify that the actuarial assumptions and methods that were selected by me and represent my best estimate of anticipated actuarial experience under the Plan.

In preparing this valuation, I have relied on employee data provided by the Plan Sponsor, and on asset and contribution information provided by the Trustee. I have audited neither the employee data nor the financial information, although I have reviewed them for reasonableness.

The results in this valuation report are based on the Plan as summarized in the *Summary of Plan Provisions* section of this report and the actuarial assumptions and methods detailed in the *Description of Actuarial Methods and Assumptions* section of this report.

Future actuarial measurements may differ significantly from the current measurements presented in this report due to factors such as, but not limited to, the following: plan experience differing from that anticipated by the economic or demographic assumptions; changes in economic or demographic assumptions; increases or decreases expected as part of the natural operation of the methodology used for these measurements (such as the end of an amortization period or additional cost or contribution requirements based on the Plan's funded status); and changes in plan provisions or applicable law. Due to the limited scope of this report, an analysis of the potential range of such future measurements has not been performed.

I have no relationship with the employer or the Plan that would impair, or appear to impair, my objectivity in performing the work presented in this report. I am a member of the American Academy of Actuaries and meet its Qualification Standards to render the actuarial opinion contained herein.

Steve A. Lemanski, FSA, FCA, MAAA Enrolled Actuary 20-05506

October 9, 2020

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Robert P. Lessard, ASA, FCA, MAAA Enrolled Actuary 20-08801

Robert P. Lessard



# **Development of Unfunded Accrued Liability and Funded Ratio**

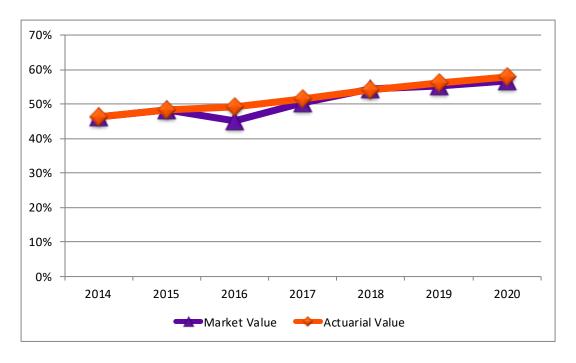
	July 1, 2020	July 1, 2019
Actuarial accrued liability for inactive members		
Retired, disabled and beneficiaries	\$85,363,566	\$81,277,575
Terminated vested members	0	0
Total	85,363,566	81,277,575
Actuarial accrued liability for active employees	31,414,583	31,948,262
Total actuarial accrued liability	116,778,149	113,225,837
Actuarial value of assets	67,644,660	63,474,304
Unfunded accrued liability	49,133,489	49,751,533
Funded ratio	57.9%	56.1%



# **Actuarial Accrued Liability vs. Actuarial Value of Assets**



# **Funded Ratio**



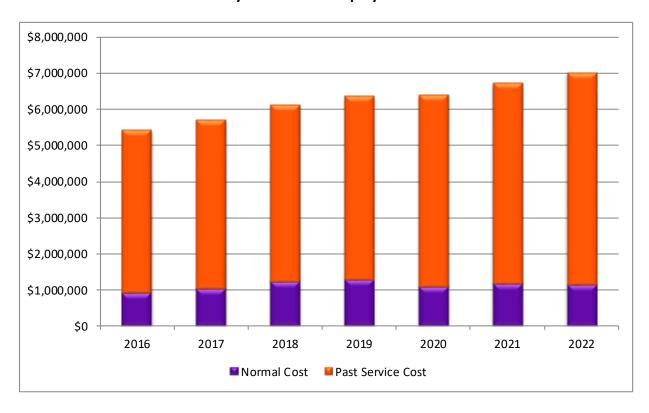


# **Determination of Normal Cost and Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution**

	July 1, 2020		July 1, 2	2019
	Cost	Percent of payroll	Cost	Percent of payroll
Gross normal cost	\$1,652,258	25.1%	\$1,657,006	25.0%
Estimated employee contributions	(593,350)	-9.0%	(595,877)	-9.0%
Estimated administrative expenses	46,108	0.7%	51,763	0.8%
City's normal cost	1,105,016	16.8%	1,112,892	16.8%
Amortization of unfunded accrued liability	5,744,852	87.1%	5,468,129	82.6%
Contribution before adjustment as of the valuation date	6,849,868	103.9%	6,581,021	99.4%
Estimated valuation year payroll for actives not yet at 100% assumed retirement age	6,592,780		6,620,854	
Fiscal year ending	2022		2021	
Adjustment for interest and inflation	164,397		171,107	
Actuarially determined employer contribution	7,014,265		6,752,128	



# **Actuarially Determined Employer Contribution**





# **Determination of Actuarial Gain/Loss**

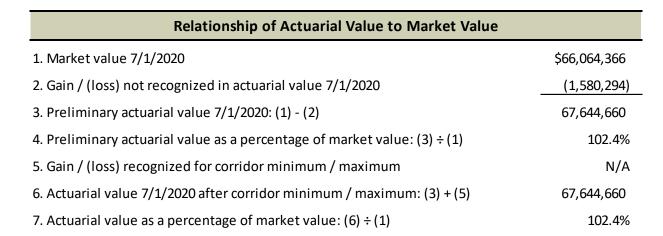
The Actuarial Gain/Loss is the difference between the expected unfunded accrued liability and the actual unfunded accrued liability, without regard to any changes in actuarial methods, actuarial assumptions or plan provisions. This can also be referred to an Experience Gain/Loss, since it reflects the difference between what was expected and what was actually experienced.

Actuarial Gain / Loss		
Expected unfunded accrued liability July 1, 2020		
Expected unfunded accrued liability July 1, 2020		
Unfunded accrued liability July 1, 2019	\$49,751,533	
Gross normal cost July 1, 2019	1,708,769	
City and employee contributions for 2019-2020	(7,039,109)	
Interest at 7.25% to July 1, 2020	3,261,806	
Expected unfunded accrued liability July 1, 2020	47,682,999	
Actuarial (gain) / loss July 1, 2020	1,009,193	
Actual unfunded accrued liability July 1, 2020, prior to plan provision, assumption and method changes		48,692,192
Sources of (gain) / loss		
Assets	1,129,000	
Liabilities	(120,000)	
Liabilities		
Total (gain) / loss (rounded to nearest \$1,000)	1,009,000	
		441,297
Total (gain) / loss (rounded to nearest \$1,000)		441,297_



# **Development of Asset Values**

Summary of Fund Activity					
	Market Value	Actuarial Value			
1. Beginning value of assets July 1, 2019					
Trust assets	\$62,556,736	\$63,507,644			
Accrued contribution	0	0			
Benefits payable	0	0			
Administrative expenses payable	(33,340)	(33,340)			
Net total	62,523,396	63,474,304			
2. Contributions					
City contributions during year	6,412,242	6,412,242			
Employee contributions during year	626,867	626,867			
Change in accrued contribution	0	0			
Total for plan year	7,039,109	7,039,109			
3. Disbursements					
Benefit payments during year	6,506,534	6,506,534			
Administrative expenses during year	46,108	46,108			
Change in benefits payable	0	0			
Change in administrative expenses payable	6,097	6,097			
Total for plan year	6,558,739	6,558,739			
4. Net investment return					
Net investment income	3,176,758	N/A			
Change in accrued income	0	N/A			
Expected return	N/A	4,750,175			
Recognized gain / (loss)	N/A	(1,060,189)			
Required adjustment due to corridor	N/A	0			
Reversal of prior year required adjustment	N/A	0			
Investment-related expenses	(116,158)	N/A			
Total for plan year	3,060,600	3,689,986			
5. Ending value of assets July 1, 2020					
Trust assets	66,103,803	67,684,097			
Accrued contribution	0	0			
Benefits payable	0	0			
Administrative expenses payable	(39,437)	(39,437)			
Net total: (1) + (2) - (3) + (4)	66,064,366	67,644,660			
6. Approximate rate of return	4.7%	5.6%			



Development of Market Value Gain / Loss for 2019-2020 Plan Year					
1. Market value 7/1/2019	\$62,523,396				
2. City contributions	6,412,242				
3. Employee contributions	626,867				
4. Benefit payments	6,506,534				
5. Administrative expenses	52,205				
6. Expected return at 7.25%	4,750,175				
7. Expected value 7/1/2020: (1) + (2) + (3) - (4) - (5) + (6)	67,753,941				
8. Market value 7/1/2020	66,064,366				
9. Market value gain / (loss) for 2019-2020 plan year: (8) - (7)	(1,689,575)				

Recognition of Gain / Loss in Actuarial Value						
Year	(a) Gain / (loss)	(b) Total recognized as of 7/1/2019	(c) Recognized in current year: 20% of (a)	(d) Total recognized as of 7/1/2020: (b) + (c)	(e) Not recognized as of 7/1/2020: (a) - (d)	
2015-2016	(\$5,251,800)	(\$4,201,440)	(\$1,050,360)	(\$5,251,800)	\$0	
2016-2017	2,504,401	1,502,640	500,880	2,003,520	500,881	
2017-2018	1,055,654	422,262	211,131	633,393	422,261	
2018-2019	(1,919,626)	(383,925)	(383,925)	(767,850)	(1,151,776)	
2019-2020	(1,689,575)	0	(337,915)	(337,915)	(1,351,660)	
Total			(1,060,189)		(1,580,294)	



R	Rate of Return on Market Value of Assets						
Period Ending	Avera	age Annual Effe	ective Rate of F	Return			
June 30	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years			
2011	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
2012	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
2013	12.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A			
2014	16.7%	N/A	N/A	N/A			
2015	4.7%	11.1%	N/A	N/A			
2016	-3.0%	5.8%	N/A	N/A			
2017	12.6%	4.6%	8.4%	N/A			
2018	9.1%	6.0%	7.8%	N/A			
2019	4.2%	8.6%	5.4%	N/A			
2020	4.7%	6.0%	5.4%	N/A			



# Target Allocation and Expected Rate of Return July 1, 2020

		Long-Term	
Asset Class	Target Allocation	Expected Real Rate of Return*	Weighting
Large Cap Equity	20.00%	5.25%	1.05%
Mid Cap Equity	15.00%	5.75%	0.86%
Small Cap Equity	15.00%	5.75%	0.86%
International Equity	15.00%	5.75%	0.86%
Fixed Income	20.00%	1.25%	0.25%
Real Estate and Timber	15.00%	5.75%	0.86%
	100.00%		4.74%
Long-Term Inflation Expectation			2.40%
Long-Term Expected Nominal Return			7.14%

<sup>\*</sup>Long-Term Real Returns are provided by Hooker & Holcombe Investment Advisors. The returns are geometric means.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return are developed. Best estimates of the real rates of return for each major asset class are included in the pension plan's target asset allocation.

The information above is based on geometric means and does not reflect additional returns through investment selection, asset allocation and rebalancing. The results support a rate between 7.00% and 7.50%. An expected rate of return of 7.00% was used.



# **Amortization of Unfunded Liability**

Schedule of Amortization Bases							
	Date established	Original amount	Amortization installment	Years remaining	Present value of remaining installments as of July 1, 2020		
Initial base	July 1, 2018	\$50,227,537	\$5,459,627	11	\$46,584,070		
2019 base	July 1, 2019	1,215,103	133,517	14	1,167,672		
2020 base	July 1, 2020	1,381,747	151,708	15	1,381,747		
Total			5,744,852		49,133,489		



# **Member Data**

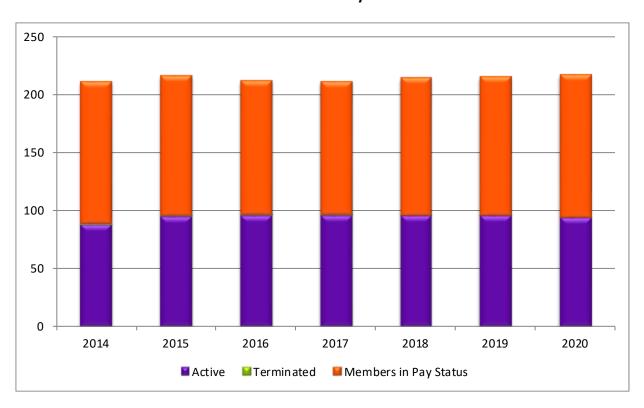
The data reported by the Plan Sponsor for this valuation includes 93 active employees who met the Plan's minimum age and service requirements as of July 1, 2020.

Member Data						
	Active	Terminated vested	Members in pay status	Total		
Total members July 1, 2019	95	0	120	215		
Adjustments	0	0	0	0		
Retirements	-5	0	+5	0		
Disabilities	0	N/A	0	0		
Terminations						
Vested	0	0	N/A	0		
Lump sum payments	0	0	N/A	0		
Deaths						
With death benefit	0	0	-2	-2		
Without death benefit	0	0	-3	-3		
Transfers	0	0	N/A	0		
Rehires	0	0	N/A	0		
New beneficiaries	N/A	N/A	+4	+4		
New entrants	+3	N/A	N/A	+3		
Total members July 1, 2020	93	0	124*	217		

<sup>\*</sup> Includes 5 alternate payees receiving benefits



# **Member Counts by Status**





Member Data					
	Active	Terminated vested	Members in pay status		
Average age					
July 1, 2019	43.3	N/A	70.5		
July 1, 2020	43.0	N/A	70.1		
Average service					
July 1, 2019	13.6	N/A	N/A		
July 1, 2020	13.5	N/A	N/A		
Covered employee payroll					
July 1, 2019	\$6,844,043	N/A	N/A		
July 1, 2020	6,743,133	N/A	N/A		
Total annual benefits					
July 1, 2019	N/A	N/A	\$6,456,422		
July 1, 2020	N/A	N/A	6,764,697		



	Completed Years of Credited Service										
Attained age	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 and over	All years
Under 25											
25 to 29	2	3	2								7
30 to 34	1	6	7								14
35 to 39		2	10	3							15
40 to 44		3		8	5						16
45 to 49			1	2	5	5					13
50 to 54				4	2	7	2				15
55 to 59				1	1	2	4				8
60 to 64			1			3	1				5
65 to 69											
70 & over											
All ages	3	14	21	18	13	17	7				93



# **Description of Actuarial Methods**

#### **Asset Valuation Method**

The Actuarial Value of assets used in the development of plan contributions phases in the recognition of differences between the actual return on Market Value and expected return on Market Value over a 5-year period at 20% per year.

#### **Actuarial Cost Method**

Changes in Actuarial Cost Method: None.

Description of Current Actuarial Cost Method: Entry Age Normal (level percentage of salary)

<u>Normal Cost</u>: Under this method, the total normal cost is the sum of amounts necessary to fund each active member's normal retirement benefit if paid annually from entry age to assumed retirement age. Entry age is the age at which the employee would have been first eligible for the plan, if it had always been in effect. The normal cost for each participant is expected to remain a level percentage of the employee's salary. The normal cost for the plan is the difference between the total normal cost for the year and the anticipated member contributions for that year.

<u>Past Service Liability</u>: The present value of future benefits that relates to service before the valuation date is the total past service liability. The unfunded past service liability is the difference between the total past service liability and any assets (including accumulated member contributions). Unfunded accrued liabilities as of July 1, 2018 were amortized over a closed 13-year period assuming a 2.40% amortization increase rate. Effective with the July 1, 2019 valuation, future changes in the unfunded accrued liability will be amortized separately, assuming a new 15-year amortization each valuation with level dollar payments.

<u>Experience Gains and Losses:</u> All experience gains and losses (the financial effect of the difference between the actual experience during the prior period and the result expected by the actuarial assumptions for that prior period) appear directly in the past service liability and are amortized at the same rate the plan is amortizing the remaining unfunded past service liability.



# **Description of Actuarial Assumptions**

## **Changes in Actuarial Assumptions**

The valuation reflects changes in the actuarial assumptions listed below. (The assumptions used before and after these changes are more fully described in the next section.)

- Investment rate of return
- Rate of compensation increase
- Inflation
- Mortality
- Cost of living increases
- Amortization increase rate
- Payroll growth

The assumptions indicated were changed to represent the Enrolled Actuary's current best estimate of anticipated experience of the plan.

**Investment rate of return** (net of investment-related and administrative expenses)

7.00%. (Prior: 7.25%)

## Rate of compensation increase (including inflation)

2.40% per year plus longevity increases of 3.00% after seventh year of employment and 0.50% for each year of employment thereafter through the thirty-first year of employment. No longevity increases are assumed after the thirty first year of employment.

Prior: 2.60% per year plus longevity increases of 3.00% after seventh year of employment and 0.50% for each year of employment thereafter through the thirty-first year of employment. No longevity increases are assumed after the thirty first year of employment.

The assumption is based on input from the plan sponsor regarding future expectations, as well as our review of long-term inflation expectations.

The assumption was changed to remain consistent with the inflation assumption.

# Inflation

2.40%. (Prior: 2.60%)

This assumption is consistent with the Social Security Administration's current best estimate of the ultimate long-term (75-year horizon) annual percentage increase in CPI, as published in the 2020 OASDI Trustees Report.

The assumption was changed to better reflect anticipated experience.

# Mortality

Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Amount-Weighted Mortality Tables for Public Safety employees, for non-annuitants and annuitants, projected to the valuation date with Scale MP-2019.

Prior: Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Amount-Weighted Mortality Tables for Public Safety employees, for non-annuitants and annuitants, projected to the valuation date with Scale MP-2018.

#### **Mortality Improvement**

Projected to date of decrement using Scale MP-2019 (generational).

Prior: Projected to date of decrement using Scale MP-2018 (generational).

We have selected this mortality assumption because it is based on the latest published public retirement mortality study released by the Society of Actuaries.

The mortality assumption was updated to better reflect anticipated experience.



#### **Retirement rates**

Years of Credited Service	Rate
20	10%
21-24	2%
25	50%
26-29	10%
30	50%
31-34	20%
35+	100%

# **Termination prior to retirement**

Years of Credited	
Service	Rate
0	3.00%
1	2.25%
2	2.00%
3	1.75%
4	1.50%
5	1.25%
6	1.00%
7	0.75%
8	0.50%
9	0.25%
10+	0.00%

# Disability

Sample Rates				
Age	Rate			
25	0.17%			
35	0.29			
45	0.72			
55	1.21			

90% of disabilities are assumed to be service related.

The actuarial assumptions in regards to rates of decrement shown above are based on standard tables modified for certain plan features such as eligibility for full and early retirement where applicable and input from the plan sponsor.

# **Administrative expenses**

The estimate is based on actual administrative expenses paid from the trust in the prior year.



# **Cost of living increases**

2.40% per year. (Prior: 2.60% per year)

The assumption was changed to remain consistent with the inflation assumption.

## **Amortization increase rate**

2.40% per year. (Prior: 2.60% per year)

The assumption was changed to remain consistent with the inflation assumption.

# Payroll growth

2.40% per year. (Prior: 2.60% per year)

The assumption was changed to remain consistent with the inflation assumption.

# Percent of active employees married

90%.

# Spouse's age

Husbands are assumed to be 3 years older than wives.

The assumption changes increased liabilities by approximately 0.4%.



# **Summary of Plan Provisions**

This exhibit summarizes the major provisions of the Plan. It is not intended to be, nor should it be interpreted as a complete statement of all plan provisions. To the extent that this summary does not accurately reflect the plan provisions, then the results of this valuation may not be accurate.

## Plan identification

Single-employer pension plan.

#### **Effective data**

Most recent amendment: August 31, 2011.

# Eligibility

All firefighters who contribute to the pension fund.

#### Retirement

# Eligibility:

Members retired prior to July 1, 2011: 20 years of service.

Members retired on or after July 1, 2011: earlier of attainment of age 58 or completion of 30 years of service.

Benefit formula: The annual benefit at retirement is equal to the percentage of final annual salary specified in the table below, plus \$100 per year for each year of service over 25 (maximum \$1,000). For pension purposes, annual salary includes regular and longevity pay.

Years of Service	Benefit as a Percentage of Final Annual Salary
20	50%
21	52%
22	54%
23	56%
24	58%
25	65%
26	66%
27	67%
28	68%
29	69%
30+	70%

Commencement date: Retirement benefits commence as of the first payroll period after retirement.

Form of payment: The annual benefit calculated in accordance with the formula above is payable monthly for the remainder of the retired member's life, with 67.5% of the member's benefit payable for the lifetime of the member's surviving spouse.



#### **Vested termination**

Eligibility: Upon termination of employment after 10 years of service, a member is eligible for a benefit deferred to retirement age.

Benefit formula: 2.5% of final annual salary multiplied by full years of service at termination.

Commencement date: 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of employment.

Form of payment: The annual benefit calculated in accordance with the formula above is payable monthly for the remainder of the retired member's life, with 67.5% of the member's benefit payable for the lifetime of the member's surviving spouse.

# **Disability retirement**

Eligibility: A member who is retired because of mental or physical incapacity is eligible to receive disability retirement benefits.

## Benefit formula:

Non-service related: If a member has fewer than 10 years of service, benefit is 25% of final annual salary. If a member has more than 10 years of service, benefit is 25% of final annual salary plus an additional 2.5% of final annual salary for each year over 10, up to a maximum of 62.5% of final annual salary.

Service related: 66-2/3% of final annual salary.

Regular retirement: If an employee has 25 or more years of service at disability, his pension will be the greater of the disability or retirement pension.

Commencement date: Benefits commence as of first payroll period after disability.

Form of payment: The annual benefit calculated in accordance with the formula above is payable monthly for the remainder of the retired member's life, with 67.5% of the member's benefit payable for the lifetime of the member's surviving spouse.

# Non-vested termination of employment

A member who leaves employment prior to completing 10 years of service will receive a lump sum payment of accumulated contributions.

## Death before retirement – survivor annuity benefits

Eligibility: Death while actively employed.

Benefit formula: Surviving spouse (or, if none, dependent children) receives benefit of 67.5% of final annual salary, reduced pro rata if the deceased member had less than 20 years of service.

Commencement date: Benefits commence as of the first payroll period after death.

Form of payment: Monthly life annuity.



# Retiree cost of living increase

Members retired prior to August 26, 2011: Pensions for retirees and disabled retirees (but not beneficiaries) are indexed to the negotiated pay increases for active firefighters. Terminated vested members receive 3% annual increases after benefit commencement.

Members retired on or after August 26, 2011: For those entitled to annual increases, they will equal the Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI for Northeast Urban Wage Earners, but will not exceed 3% nor be lower than 0.5%.

Firefighters who retire due to a line of duty injury or sickness shall receive the annual cost of living adjustments provided to active members who retire after July 1, 2011 commencing at the time they would have had 20 years of service if they had remained on active duty.

# **Employee contributions**

9% of salary.