

**Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire District Board  
Public Safety Personnel Retirement System  
Pension Funding Policy**

The intent of this policy is to clearly communicate the Fire District Board's pension funding objectives and its commitment to our employees and the sound financial management of the Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire District and to comply with statutory requirements of ARS §38-863.01.

Several terms are used throughout this policy:

**Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL)** – Is the difference between trust assets and the estimated future cost of pensions earned by employees. This UAAL results from actual results (interest earnings, member mortality, disability rates, etc.) being different from the assumptions used in previous actuarial valuations.

**Annual Required Contribution (ARC)** – Is the annual amount required to pay into the pension funds, as determined through annual actuarial valuations. It is comprised of two primary components: normal pension cost – which is the estimated cost of pension benefits earned by employees in the current year; and, amortization of UAAL – which is the cost needed to cover the unfunded portion of pensions earned by employees in previous years. The UAAL is collected over a period of time referred to as the amortization period. The ARC is a percentage of the current payroll.

**Funded Ratio** – Is a ratio of fund assets to actuarial accrued liability. The higher the ratio the better funded the pension is with 100% being fully funded.

**Intergenerational equity** – Ensures that no generation is burdened by substantially more or less pension costs than past or future generations.

The Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire District full-time employees who are regularly assigned hazardous duty participate in the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS).

**Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS)**

PSPRS is administered as an agent multiple-employer pension plan. An agent multiple-employer plan has two main functions: 1) to combine assets of all plans under its administration, thus achieving economy of scale for more cost-efficient investments, and invest those assets for the benefit of all members under its administration and 2) serve as the statewide uniform administrator for the distribution of benefits.

Under an agent multiple-employer plan each agency participating in the plan has an individual trust fund reflecting that agency's assets and liabilities. Under this plan all contributions are deposited to and distributions are made from that fund's assets, each fund has its own funded ratio and contribution rate, and each fund has a unique annual actuarial valuation. The Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire District has one trust fund for fire employees.

The Fire Board formally accepts the assets, liabilities, and current funding of the Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire District's PSPRS trust funds from the June 30, 2024 actuarial valuation, which are detailed below.

### Liabilities and Funded Ratios – Tiers 1 & 2

	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
<b>Pension</b>		
Actuarial Present Value of Benefits (PVB)		
Retirees and Beneficiaries	\$ 0	\$ 0
DROP Members	0	0
Vested Members	4,438	5,310
Active Members	<u>1,033,184</u>	<u>937,730</u>
Total Actuarial Present Value of Benefits	1,037,622	943,040
Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL)		
All Inactive Members	4,438	5,310
Active Members	<u>992,736</u>	<u>885,782</u>
Total Actuarial Accrued Liability	997,174	891,092
Actuarial Value of Assets (AVA)	835,095	704,835
Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability	162,079	186,257
PVB Funded Ratio (AVA / PVB)	80.5%	74.7%
AAL Funded Ratio (AVA / AAL)	83.7%	79.1%

### Liabilities and Funded Ratios – Tier 3

	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
<b>Pension</b>		
Actuarial Present Value of Benefits (PVB)		
Retirees and Beneficiaries	\$ 7,268,826	\$ 2,783,769
Vested Members	9,523,410	6,565,608
Active Members	<u>710,626,649</u>	<u>558,509,014</u>
Total Actuarial Present Value of Benefits	727,418,885	567,858,391
Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL)		
All Inactive Members	16,792,236	9,349,377
Active Members	<u>148,879,454</u>	<u>101,611,814</u>
Total Actuarial Accrued Liability	165,671,690	110,961,191
Actuarial Value of Assets (AVA)	178,758,433	119,101,476
Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability	(13,086,743)	(8,140,285)
PVB Funded Ratio (AVA / PVB)	24.6%	21.0%
AAL Funded Ratio (AVA / AAL)	107.9%	107.3%

## PSPRS Funding Goal

Pensions that are less than fully funded place the cost of service provided in earlier periods (amortization of UAAL) on the current taxpayers. Fully funded pension plans are the best way to achieve taxpayer and member intergenerational equity. Most funds in PSPRS are significantly underfunded and falling well short of the goal of intergenerational equity.

### AZ Fire Ins Premium Tax (FIPTC)

Arizona revised statute ARS §20-224 section (b), has established a premium tax on fire insurance policies. The proceeds of the distribution are to be used exclusively for the benefit of firefighters who have retired and met qualifying requirements or for whom a retirement fund has been established by their employer. Fund distributions are based on the amount of fire insurance premium tax collected, the assessed value of the municipality or legally organized fire district and number of qualifying agencies. As a Fire District with individuals enrolled in PSPRS, Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire District is eligible to receive an annual distribution to help fund its pension program.

### **The Fire District Board's PSPRS funding ratio goal is 100% (fully funded) by June 30, 2038.**

The Fire District Board established this goal for the following reasons:

- The PSPRS trust funds represent only the Beaver Dam/Littlefield Fire District liability
- The fluctuating cost of an UAAL causes strain on the Fire District budget, affecting our ability to provide services
- A fully funded pension is the best way to achieve taxpayer and member intergenerational equity

The Fire District Board has taken the following actions to achieve this goal:

- Maintain ARC payment from operating revenues – the Fire District Board is committed to maintaining the full ARC payment (normal cost and UAAL amortization) from operating funds.
- Continue funding additional Amortization Payment up to \$35,000 per year to reduce the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL)
- In the event that an actuarial valuation indicates that the current contribution level is inadequate, additional contribution increases will be considered.

Based on these actions the Fire District Board plans to achieve its goal of 100% funding by June 30, 2038, in accordance with the amortization timeline set forth by the PSPRS June 30, 2024 Actuarial Valuation.