

**Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations**  
**2015-16 Performance Report**  
**Oklahoma Firefighters Pension & Retirement System**

**Agency Mission Statement**

To be responsive in administering retirement benefits to firefighters of Oklahoma; to manage the Firefighters' Retirement Fund prudently; and to embrace the highest ethical standards with regard to these endeavors.

**Lead Administrator**

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**Governance**

**270:1-1-2. Description of organization**

- (a) The System is a body corporate and an instrumentality of the State of Oklahoma, vested with the powers and duties specified in 11 O.S. Sections 49-100.1 through 49-143.3, and other such powers and duties necessary to carry out the purposes and intent of these provisions.
- (b) The State Board shall be responsible for the operation, administration and management of the System, and has such powers and authority expressly conferred upon it by, or reasonably implied from the provisions of 11 O.S. Sections 49-100.1 through 49-143.3. The State Board is composed of thirteen (13) members appointed as follows:
- (1) Five (5) members shall be the Board of Trustees of the Oklahoma Firefighters Association;
  - (2) One member shall be the President of the Professional Firefighters of Oklahoma or his designee. The designee shall be a member of the Professional Firefighters of Oklahoma;
  - (3) One member shall be the President of the Oklahoma State Retired Firefighters Association or his designee. The designee shall be a member of the Oklahoma State Retired Firefighters Association;
  - (4) One member shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
  - (5) One member shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;
  - (6) Two (2) members shall be appointed by the President of the Oklahoma Municipal League;
  - (7) One member shall be the State Insurance Commissioner or his designee;

(8) One member shall be the Director of State Finance or his designee. (Refer to 75:251(B)(2)(b) in APA and 10:10-5-12 in ARR.)

### **Governance Accountability**

The Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System will meet the third Friday of each month to conduct business.

### **Modernization Efforts**

The Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System has undertaken a number of modernization efforts aimed at providing more efficient services to members. Two examples of these efforts follow.

The System has converted its paper filing system into an online imaging system. This has helped reduce the amount of paper and made the office more efficient. Record searches and filing times have been significantly improved.

The System is currently in the final stages of awarding a contract to convert our existing COBOL based member database and administrative system into a modern system. This change will give the System more flexibility, improve member services, reduce paper, as well as other improvements. This project should be completed by the end of 2016.

### **Core Mission**

Governor Haskell signed into law the first fireman's pension benefit statute May 14, 1908. The new law contained a one percent tax on insurance premiums to fund the pension benefits for both paid and volunteer firefighters. Oklahoma cities and towns administered the program until the State Legislature created the current Oklahoma Firefighter Pension and Retirement System in 1980. The Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System was created to better fund the total system and administer the system equally. The agency is vested with the power and duties specified by statutes and such other powers as may be necessary to enable it and its officers and employees to carry out fully and effectively the intent of the law to provide pension benefits to all participating firefighters in Oklahoma.

**Private Alternatives**

The Oklahoma Firefighters Pension & Retirement Systems works within its mission and does not compete with the private sector. The agency has not been approached by any foundation, for-profit, or not-for-profit corporation with efforts to privatize the functions of the agency.