

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 HOUSE BILL 1091

By: Kelley

4
5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to retirement; amending 11 O.S. 2021,
8 Sections 49-100.1, as amended by Section 2, Chapter
9 232, O.S.L. 2022 (11 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 49-
10 100.1), 49-113, 49-117.1, as amended by Section 7,
11 Chapter 232, O.S.L. 2022 (11 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section
12 49-117.1), 49-117.3, 49-138, as amended by Section 2,
13 Chapter 247, O.S.L. 2024 (11 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section
14 49-138), which relate to the Oklahoma Firefighters
15 Pension and Retirement System; defining term;
16 modifying provisions related to death benefits;
17 specifying which contributions member is to be
18 refunded; modifying provisions relating to repayment
19 of contributions; authorizing member to make certain
20 repayment; authorizing amortized payment if permitted
21 by State Board; directing the State Board to
22 promulgate rules or procedures; providing that member
23 may purchase transferred credited services; providing
24 procedures; providing limitations; providing
exception; modifying how payments may be made;
updating reference; providing limitation on purchase
of military service credit; providing limitation on
purchase of credited service; providing for purchase
of military service credit; providing requirements to
purchase such credit; providing restrictions;
permitting volunteer members to purchase military
service credit; requiring payment to be received
prior to commencement of benefits; providing for
codification; and providing an effective date.

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

2 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 11 O.S. 2021, Section 49-100.1, as
3 amended by Section 2, Chapter 232, O.S.L. 2022 (11 O.S. Supp. 2024,
4 Section 49-100.1), is amended to read as follows:

5 Section 49-100.1. As used in this article:

6 1. "System" means the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and
7 Retirement System and all predecessor municipal firefighters pension
8 and retirement systems;

9 2. "Article" means Article 49 of this title;

10 3. "State Board" means the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and
11 Retirement Board;

12 4. "Local board" means the local firefighters pension and
13 retirement boards;

14 5. "Fund" means the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and
15 Retirement Fund;

16 6. "Member" means all eligible firefighters of a participating
17 municipality or a fire protection district who perform the essential
18 functions of fire suppression, prevention, and life safety duties in
19 a fire department. The term "member" shall include but not be
20 limited to the person serving as fire chief of any participating
21 municipality, provided that a person serving as fire chief of a
22 participating municipality shall meet the age, agility, physical and
23 other eligibility requirements required by law at the time said
24 person becomes a member of the System. Effective July 1, 1987, a

1 member does not include a "leased employee". The term "leased
2 employee" means any person (other than an employee of the recipient)
3 who pursuant to an agreement between the recipient and any other
4 person ("leasing organization") has performed services for the
5 recipient (or for the recipient and related persons determined in
6 accordance with Section 414(n)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of
7 1986, as amended) on a substantially full-time basis for a period of
8 at least one (1) year, and such services are performed under primary
9 direction or control by the recipient. Contributions or benefits
10 provided a leased employee by the leasing organization which are
11 attributable to services performed for the recipient employer shall
12 be treated as provided by the recipient employer. A leased employee
13 shall not be considered an employee of the recipient if the
14 requirements of the safe harbor provisions of Section 414(n)(5) of
15 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, are satisfied.
16 Effective July 1, 1999, any individual who agrees with the
17 participating municipality that the individual's services are to be
18 performed as a leased employee or an independent contractor shall
19 not be a member regardless of any classification as a common law
20 employee by the Internal Revenue Service or any other governmental
21 agency, or any court of competent jurisdiction;

22 7. "Normal retirement date" means the date at which the member
23 is eligible to receive the unreduced payments of the member's
24 accrued retirement benefit. Such date shall be the first day

1 following the date the member completes twenty (20) years of
2 credited service. If the member's employment continues past the
3 normal retirement date of the member, the actual retirement date of
4 the member shall be the first day following the date the member
5 terminates employment with more than twenty (20) years of credited
6 service;

7 8. "Credited service" means the period of service used to
8 determine the eligibility for and the amount of benefits payable to
9 a member. Credited service shall consist of the period during which
10 the member participated in the System or the predecessor municipal
11 systems as an active employee in an eligible membership
12 classification, plus any service prior to the establishment of the
13 predecessor municipal systems which was credited under the
14 predecessor municipal systems; provided, however, "credited service"
15 for members from a fire protection district shall not begin accruing
16 before July 1, 1982;

17 9. "Participating municipality" means a municipality, county
18 fire department organized pursuant to subsection D of Section 351 of
19 Title 19 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or fire protection district which
20 is making contributions to the System on behalf of its firefighters.
21 All participating municipalities shall appoint a fire chief who
22 shall supervise and administer the fire department;

23 10. "Disability" means the complete inability of the
24 firefighter to perform any and every duty of the firefighter's

1 regular occupation; provided further, that once benefits have been
2 paid for twenty-four (24) months the provisions of Section 49-110 of
3 this title shall apply to the firefighter;

4 11. "Executive Director" means the managing officer of the
5 System employed by the State Board;

6 12. "Eligible employer" means any municipality with a municipal
7 fire department, any county fire department organized pursuant to
8 subsection D of Section 351 of Title 19 of the Oklahoma Statutes or
9 any fire protection district with an organized fire department;

10 13. "Entry date" means the date as of which an eligible
11 employer joins the System. The first entry date pursuant to this
12 article shall be January 1, 1981;

13 14. "Final average salary" means the average paid gross salary
14 of the firefighter for normally scheduled hours over the highest
15 salaried thirty (30) consecutive months of the last sixty (60)
16 months of credited service. Gross salary shall not include payment
17 for accumulated sick or annual leave upon termination of employment,
18 any uniform allowances or any other compensation for reimbursement
19 of out-of-pocket expenses. Only salary on which the required
20 contributions have been made may be used in computing the final
21 average salary. Effective January 1, 1988, gross salary shall
22 include any amount of elective salary reduction under Section 125 of
23 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Gross salary shall
24 include any amount of elective salary reduction under Section 457 of

1 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and any amount of
2 nonelective salary reduction under Section 414(h) of the Internal
3 Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Effective July 1, 1998, for
4 purposes of determining a member's compensation, any contribution by
5 the member to reduce the member's regular cash remuneration under
6 132(f)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall be
7 treated as if the member did not make such an election. Only salary
8 on which required contributions have been made may be used in
9 computing final average salary.

10 In addition to other applicable limitations, and notwithstanding
11 any other provision to the contrary, for plan years beginning on or
12 after July 1, 2002, the annual gross salary of each "Noneligible
13 Member" taken into account under the System shall not exceed the
14 Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 ("EGTRRA")
15 annual salary limit. The EGTRRA annual salary limit is Two Hundred
16 Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00), as adjusted by the Commissioner for
17 increases in the cost of living in accordance with Section
18 401(a)(17)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The
19 annual salary limit in effect for a calendar year applies to any
20 period, not exceeding twelve (12) months, over which salary is
21 determined ("determination period") beginning in such calendar year.
22 If a determination period consists of fewer than twelve (12) months,
23 the EGTRRA salary limit will be multiplied by a fraction, the
24 numerator of which is the number of months in the determination

1 period, and the denominator of which is twelve (12). For purposes
2 of this subsection, a "Noneligible Member" is any member who first
3 became a member during a plan year commencing on or after July 1,
4 1996.

5 For plan years beginning on or after July 1, 2002, any reference
6 to the annual salary limit under Section 401(a)(17) of the Internal
7 Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall mean the EGTRRA salary limit
8 set forth in this subsection.

9 Effective June 9, 2010, gross salary shall also include gross
10 salary, as described above, for services, but paid by the later of
11 two and one-half (2 1/2) months after a firefighter's severance from
12 employment or the end of the calendar year that includes the date
13 the firefighter terminated employment, if it is a payment that,
14 absent a severance from employment, would have been paid to the
15 firefighter while the firefighter continued in employment with the
16 participating municipality.

17 Effective June 9, 2010, any payments not described above shall
18 not be considered gross salary if paid after severance from
19 employment, even if they are paid by the later of two and one-half
20 (2 1/2) months after the date of severance from employment or the
21 end of the calendar year that includes the date of severance from
22 employment, except payments to an individual who does not currently
23 perform services for the participating municipality by reason of
24 qualified military service within the meaning of Section 414(u)(5)

1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, to the extent
2 these payments do not exceed the amounts the individual would have
3 received if the individual had continued to perform services for the
4 participating municipality rather than entering qualified military
5 service.

6 Effective June 9, 2010, back pay, within the meaning of Section
7 1.415(c)-2(g)(8) of the Income Tax Regulations, shall be treated as
8 gross salary for the year to which the back pay relates to the
9 extent the back pay represents wages and compensation that would
10 otherwise be included in this definition.

11 Effective for years beginning after December 31, 2008, gross
12 salary shall also include differential wage payments under Section
13 414(u)(12) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

14 15. "Accrued retirement benefit" means two and one-half percent
15 (2 1/2%) of the firefighter's final average salary multiplied by the
16 member's years of credited service not to exceed thirty (30) years;

17 16. "Beneficiary" means a member's surviving spouse or any
18 surviving children, including biological and adopted children, at
19 the time of the member's death. The surviving spouse must have been
20 married to the firefighter for the thirty (30) continuous months
21 preceding the firefighter's death provided a surviving spouse of a
22 member who died while in, or as a consequence of, the performance of
23 the member's duty for a participating municipality, shall not be
24 subject to the marriage limitation for survivor benefits. A

1 surviving child of a member shall be a beneficiary until reaching
2 eighteen (18) years of age or twenty-two (22) years of age if the
3 child is enrolled full time and regularly attending a public or
4 private school or any institution of higher education. Any child
5 adopted by a member after the member's retirement shall be a
6 beneficiary only if the child is adopted by the member for the
7 thirty (30) continuous months preceding the member's death. Any
8 child who is adopted by a member after the member's retirement and
9 such member dies accidentally or as a consequence of the performance
10 of the member's duty as a firefighter shall not be subject to the
11 thirty-month adoption requirement. This definition of beneficiary
12 shall be in addition to any other requirement set forth in this
13 article;

14 17. "Contributions" means payments remitted to the System
15 pursuant to Section 49-122 or subsection A of Section 49-138 of this
16 title. Contributions shall not include payments made to repurchase
17 credited service pursuant to Section 49-117.1 of this title,
18 payments made to transfer credited service from another retirement
19 system pursuant to subsection A of Section 49-117.2 or Section 49-
20 117.3 of this title, or payments made to purchase prior military
21 service credit pursuant to subsection E of Section 49-138 of this
22 title;

23 18. "Accumulated contributions" means the sum of all
24 contributions made by a member to the System and includes both

1 contributions deducted from the compensation of a member and
2 contributions of a member picked up and paid by the participating
3 municipality of the member. Accumulated contributions shall not
4 include any interest on the contributions of the member, interest on
5 any amount contributed by the municipality or state and any amount
6 contributed by the municipality or state; and

7 ~~18.~~ 19. "Limitation year" means the year used in applying the
8 limitations of Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,
9 which year shall be the calendar year.

10 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 11 O.S. 2021, Section 49-113, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 Section 49-113. A. 1. In the event of the death of a
13 firefighter who at the time of the firefighter's death was drawing a
14 pension, other than a disability pension, or who at the time of the
15 firefighter's death (whether death occurred while on duty, but not
16 in or in consequence of the performance of duty, or while on
17 vacation or off duty) was eligible, upon written request, to retire
18 and draw a pension, other than a disability pension, the beneficiary
19 of such person shall be paid an amount not to exceed one hundred
20 percent (100%) of said pension.

21 2. In the event of the death of a firefighter who at the time
22 of the firefighter's death was drawing, or eligible to draw, a
23 disability pension for a physical or mental disability that occurred
24 while in, or in consequence of, the performance of the firefighter's

1 duty, and which prevented the effective performance of the
2 firefighter's duties, and which caused the State Board to retire the
3 firefighter from active service, the beneficiary of such person
4 shall be paid an amount not to exceed one hundred percent (100%) of
5 the pension paid in accordance with subsection A of Section 49-109
6 of this title.

7 3. In the event of the death of a firefighter who at the time
8 of the firefighter's death was drawing, or eligible to draw, a
9 disability pension for a physical or mental disability from causes
10 not arising in the line of duty and which prevented the effective
11 performance of the firefighter's duties, the beneficiary of such
12 person shall be paid an amount not to exceed one hundred percent
13 (100%) of the pension paid in accordance with subsection C of
14 Section 49-109 of this title.

15 4. ~~Effective March 1, 1997, if If a firefighter, who does not~~
16 ~~have a surviving beneficiary, and to whom a retirement or disability~~
17 ~~benefit has been awarded, or who is eligible therefore, dies prior~~
18 ~~to the date as of which the total amount of retirement or disability~~
19 ~~benefit paid equals the total amount of the employee contributions~~
20 ~~paid by or on behalf of the member and the member does not have a~~
21 ~~surviving beneficiary, the total benefits paid as of the date of the~~
22 ~~member's death shall be subtracted from the accumulated employee~~
23 ~~contribution amount and the balance, if greater than Zero Dollars~~
24 ~~(\$0.00), shall be paid to the member's estate receiving payments~~

1 equal to or greater than the total contributions made by the
2 employee, as defined in the next sentence, then a payment shall be
3 made to the member's estate equal to the total contributions made by
4 the employee minus the payments made including payments made, or to
5 be made, from the Deferred Option Plan. The total contributions
6 made by the employee for purposes of the prior sentence shall mean
7 the sum of:

- 8 a. the member's accumulated contributions,
- 9 b. payments made to repurchase credited service pursuant
10 to Section 49-117.1 of this title,
- 11 c. payments made to transfer credited service from
12 another retirement system pursuant to subsection A of
13 Section 49-117.2 or Section 49-117.3 of this title,
14 and
- 15 d. payments made to purchase prior military service
16 credit pursuant to subsection E of Section 49-138 of
17 this title, but in all cases, excluding interest
18 earned or paid with respect to any contribution or
19 payment described in subparagraphs a through d of this
20 paragraph.

21 5. Any person eligible to receive a payment pursuant to this
22 section may make an election to waive all or a portion of monthly
23 payments.

1 B. In the event of the death of the surviving spouse, the
2 pension shall cease, and should there then be but one living child
3 same shall receive an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of
4 said pension, but if there then be more than one living child, one
5 hundred percent (100%) of said pension shall be divided equally
6 between the children until each child reaches the age of eighteen
7 (18) years or until the age of twenty-two (22) years if the child is
8 enrolled full time and regularly attending a public or private
9 school or any institution of higher education. Provided, that in
10 the event the State Board finds that such a child who is not married
11 at the time of death of the member or the member's surviving spouse
12 and who at the time the child attains or attained the age of
13 eighteen (18) years is either physically or mentally disabled, the
14 pension thereof shall continue so long as such disability remains;
15 provided, that upon the death of the firefighter and surviving
16 spouse, if any, said physically or mentally disabled child shall be
17 entitled to have paid to the child's trustee of a trust, whether
18 inter vivos or testamentary, which trust provides for the receipt of
19 the pension benefits to be held and administered for the sole
20 benefit of said physically or mentally disabled child, or if there
21 is no trust, to the child's legally appointed guardian, an amount
22 not to exceed one hundred percent (100%) of said pension. The money
23 so paid to the guardian or trustee shall be used solely for the
24 benefit of the disabled child and it shall be reported annually to

1 the State Board. A child shall not be considered disabled if the
2 child is able to pursue a remunerative occupation, with the
3 remuneration being reasonably substantial rather than merely
4 nominal. The payment so provided shall be calculated after payments
5 have been made to all eligible children as provided in this section;
6 provided further, that beneficiaries now receiving pensions under
7 the provisions of Sections 49-112 or 49-113 of this title shall,
8 upon application to the State Board, thereafter be entitled to a
9 pension equal to the amount which they would have received if this
10 act were in effect at the time the right to said pension accrued.

11 C. In the event a surviving spouse of a member remarried prior
12 to June 7, 1993, the surviving spouse shall be eligible to receive
13 the pension benefits provided for in this section. To receive the
14 pension benefits provided for in this section the surviving spouse
15 falling within this section shall submit a written request for such
16 benefits to the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System.
17 The Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System shall
18 approve requests by surviving spouses meeting the requirements of
19 this section. Upon approval by the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension
20 and Retirement System, the surviving spouse shall be entitled to the
21 pension benefits provided for in this section beginning from the
22 date of approval forward. Pension benefits provided to surviving
23 spouses falling within this section shall not apply to alter any
24 amount of pension benefits paid or due prior to the Oklahoma

1 Firefighters Pension and Retirement System's approval of the
2 remarried surviving spouse's written request for benefits.

3 D. No surviving spouse shall receive benefits from this
4 section, Section 50-117 of this title, or Section 2-306 of Title 47
5 of the Oklahoma Statutes as the surviving spouse of more than one
6 member of the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System,
7 the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System, or the Oklahoma
8 Law Enforcement Retirement System. The surviving spouse of more
9 than one member shall elect which member's benefits he or she will
10 receive.

11 E. Upon the death of a retired member, the benefit payment for
12 the month in which the retired member died, if not previously paid,
13 shall be made to the beneficiary of the member or to the member's
14 estate if there is no beneficiary. Such benefit payment shall be
15 made in an amount equal to a full monthly benefit payment regardless
16 of the day of the month in which the retired member died.

17 F. Upon the death of an unmarried firefighter, or a firefighter
18 whose spouse does not meet the qualifications of beneficiary who has
19 one or more children, said child or children shall receive pension
20 benefits as provided in subsection B of this section as if the
21 surviving spouse had died; provided, that upon the death of the
22 firefighter, said child or children shall be entitled to have the
23 System pay to the child's or children's trustee of a trust, whether
24 inter vivos or testamentary, which trust provides for the receipt of

1 the pension benefits to be held and administered for the sole
2 benefit of said child, or if there is no trust, to the child's or
3 children's legally appointed guardian, the pension benefits as
4 provided in subsection B of this section in an amount not to exceed
5 one hundred percent (100%) of said pension. The money so paid to
6 the guardian or trustee shall be used solely for the benefit of the
7 child and it shall be reported annually to the State Board.

8 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 11 O.S. 2021, Section 49-117.1, as
9 amended by Section 7, Chapter 232, O.S.L. 2022 (11 O.S. Supp. 2024,
10 Section 49-117.1), is amended to read as follows:

11 Section 49-117.1. A. A member who terminates service before
12 normal retirement date, other than by death or disability shall,
13 upon application filed with the State Board, be refunded from the
14 Fund an amount equal to the accumulated sum of:

15 1. Accumulated contributions the member has made to the Fund,

16 2. Payments made to repurchase credited service pursuant to
17 this section,

18 3. Payments made to transfer credited service from another
19 retirement system pursuant to subsection A of Section 49-117.2 or
20 Section 49-117.3 of this title, and

21 4. Payments made to purchase prior military service credit
22 pursuant to subsection E of Section 49-138 of this title, but, in
23 all cases, excluding any interest or earned with respect to such
24 accumulated contributions, any interest earned or paid with respect

1 | to any payment described in paragraphs 1 through 4 of this
2 | subsection, any amount contributed by the municipality or state, and
3 | interest earned with respect to such contributed amount.

4 | B. If a member has completed ten (10) years of credited service
5 | at the date of termination, the member may elect a vested benefit in
6 | lieu of receiving the ~~member's accumulated contributions refund~~
7 | described in subsection A of this section.

8 | C. If the member who has completed ten (10) or more years of
9 | credited service as prescribed by subsection B of this section
10 | elects the vested benefit, the member shall be entitled to a monthly
11 | retirement annuity commencing on the date the member reaches fifty
12 | (50) years of age or the date the member would have had twenty (20)
13 | years of credited service had the member's employment continued
14 | uninterrupted, whichever is later. The annual amount of such
15 | retirement annuity shall be equal to two and one-half percent (2
16 | 1/2%) of the annualized final average salary multiplied by the
17 | number of years of credited service not to exceed thirty (30) years.
18 | The death benefits provided for in Section 49-113.2 of this title
19 | shall not apply to any member retiring under the provisions of this
20 | section.

21 | D. If a member who terminated employment and elected, or was
22 | eligible to elect, a vested benefit dies prior to being eligible to
23 | receive benefits, the member's beneficiary, as defined in paragraph
24 | 16 of Section 49-100.1 of this title, shall be entitled to the

1 member's normal monthly retirement benefit on the date the deceased
2 member would have been eligible to receive the benefit.

3 E. If a member terminates employment and withdraws the member's
4 accumulated contributions and then subsequently rejoins the System,
5 he may pay to the System in a lump sum the sum of the accumulated
6 contributions he has withdrawn plus ~~five percent (5%)~~ ten percent
7 (10%) annual interest from the date of withdrawal to the date of
8 repayment and shall receive the same benefits as if he had never
9 withdrawn his contributions; ~~however, effective January 1, 1991, the~~
10 ~~rate of interest provided herein shall be ten percent (10%) per~~
11 ~~annum.~~

12 F. Lump sum payments for repayment of any amounts received
13 because of a member's prior termination with interest may be repaid
14 by a trustee-to-trustee transfer of non-Roth funds from a Code
15 Section 403(b) annuity, a governmental Code Section 457 plan, and/or
16 a Code Section 401(a) qualified plan Members may make the repayment
17 required under subsection E of this section by a trustee-to-trustee
18 transfer of non-Roth funds from a Code Section 403(b) annuity or
19 custodial account, an eligible deferred compensation plan described
20 in Code Section 457(b) which is maintained by an eligible employer
21 described in Code Section 457(e)(1)(A), and a Code Section 401(a)
22 qualified plan.

23 G. In the event the member is unable to pay the purchase price
24 in whole or part pursuant to subsection F of this section, the State

1 Board may permit the member to pay the remaining purchase price in
2 cash by certified check, to amortize the remaining purchase price
3 over a period not to exceed sixty (60) months, or other method
4 approved by the State Board. Any amortized payments under this
5 subsection shall be made by payroll deductions and shall not be
6 picked up by the member's employer. The amortized payments shall
7 include interest at a rate not to exceed the actuarially assumed
8 interest rate adopted by the State Board for investment earnings
9 each year. Any member who ceases to make payment, terminates,
10 retires, or dies before completing the payments provided for in this
11 subsection shall receive prorated service credit for only those
12 payments made, not including interest, unless the unpaid balance,
13 including interest, is paid by the member, the member's surviving
14 spouse, the member's beneficiary, or the member's estate or
15 successor in interest within ninety (90) days after the first to
16 occur of said member's termination, retirement, or death; provided
17 that no retirement benefits shall be payable until the earliest of
18 the date the unpaid balance is paid in full or ninety (90) days
19 after the first to occur of the member's termination, retirement, or
20 death.

21 H. A firefighter shall not be permitted to withdraw from the
22 System while employed as a firefighter in a participating
23 municipality.

24

1 I. The State Board shall promulgate such rules or procedures as
2 are necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

3 SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 11 O.S. 2021, Section 49-117.3, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 49-117.3. A. The State Board shall adopt rules or
6 procedures for computation of the purchase price for transferred
7 credited service. These rules or procedures shall base the purchase
8 price for each year purchased on the actuarial cost of the
9 incremental projected benefits to be purchased. The purchase price
10 shall represent the present value of the incremental projected
11 benefits discounted according to the member's age at the time of
12 purchase. Incremental projected benefits shall be the difference
13 between the projected benefit said member would receive without
14 purchasing the transferred credited service and the projected
15 benefit after purchase of the transferred credited service computed
16 as of the earliest age at which the member would be able to retire.
17 Said computation shall assume an unreduced benefit and be computed
18 using interest and mortality assumptions consistent with the
19 actuarial assumptions adopted by the Board of Trustees for purposes
20 of preparing the annual actuarial evaluation.

21 B. ~~In the event that the member is unable to pay the purchase~~
22 ~~price provided for in this section by the due date, the State Board~~
23 ~~shall permit the members to amortize the purchase price over a~~
24 ~~period not to exceed sixty (60) months. Said payments shall be made~~

1 by payroll deductions unless the State Board permits an alternate
2 payment source. The amortization shall include interest in an
3 amount not to exceed the actuarially assumed interest rate adopted
4 by the State Board for investment earnings each year. Any member
5 who ceases to make payment, terminates, retires or dies before
6 completing the payments provided for in this section shall receive
7 prorated service credit for only those payments made, unless the
8 unpaid balance is paid by said member, his or her estate or
9 successor in interest within six (6) months after said member's
10 death, termination of employment or retirement, provided no
11 retirement benefits shall be payable until the unpaid balance is
12 paid, unless said member or beneficiary affirmatively waives the
13 additional six-month period in which to pay the unpaid balance. The
14 State Board shall promulgate such rules as are necessary to
15 implement the provisions of this subsection. A member wishing to
16 purchase transferred credited service from another retirement system
17 must be an active paid member at the time of purchase and must have
18 been an active paid member for a minimum of thirty (30) months so as
19 to establish an adequate salary history for the computation of the
20 purchase price of transferred credited service. Upon application by
21 an eligible member to purchase transferred credited service, the
22 State Board shall provide the member with a computation of the
23 purchase price for transferred credited service. The computed
24 purchase price shall be good for ninety (90) days from the date the

1 computed purchase price is provided to the member and, except as
2 otherwise provided in subsection F of this section, must be paid
3 within such ninety (90) day period. After the expiration of the
4 ninety (90) day period without payment by the member, or payment
5 commencing as provided in subsection F of this section, the member
6 must reapply to purchase transferred credited service, a new
7 purchase price must be computed and provided to the member by the
8 State Board, and a new ninety (90) day period shall commence.

9 C. Transferred credited service shall be taken into account
10 only if payment is received prior to the commencement of benefits,
11 except as otherwise provided in subsection F of this section.

12 E. D. Members who pay the purchase price by the due date
13 described in subsection B of this section may make payment by:

14 1. A trustee-to-trustee transfer of non-Roth funds from a Code
15 Section 403(b) annuity or custodial account, an eligible deferred
16 compensation plan described in Code Section 457(b) which is
17 maintained by an eligible employer described in Code Section
18 457(e)(1)(A), and/or a Code Section 401(a) qualified plan; or

19 2. A direct rollover of tax-deferred funds from a Code Section
20 403(b) annuity or custodial account, an eligible deferred
21 compensation plan described in Code Section 457(b) which is
22 maintained by an eligible employer described in Code Section
23 457(e)(1)(A), a Code Section 401(a) qualified plan, and/or a Code
24 Section 408(a) or 408(b) traditional or conduit Individual

1 Retirement Account or Annuity (IRA). Roth accounts, after-tax
2 funds, and Coverdell Education Savings Accounts shall not be used to
3 purchase transferred credited service; and

4 3. Certified check.

5 The State Board shall promulgate such rules as are necessary to
6 implement the provisions of this subsection.

7 D. E. Members amortizing the purchase price and making
8 amortized payments by payroll deduction, pursuant to subsection F of
9 this section, shall have the option of making a cash lump-sum
10 payment for the balance of the actuarial purchase price with
11 interest due through the date of payment by:

12 1. A trustee-to-trustee transfer of non-Roth funds from a Code
13 Section 403(b) annuity or custodial account, an eligible deferred
14 compensation plan described in Code Section 457(b) which is
15 maintained by an eligible employer described in Code Section
16 457(e)(1)(A), and/or a Code Section 401(a) qualified plan; or

17 2. A direct rollover of tax-deferred funds from a Code Section
18 403(b) annuity or custodial account, an eligible deferred
19 compensation plan described in Code Section 457(b) which is
20 maintained by an eligible employer described in Code Section
21 457(e)(1)(A), a Code Section 401(a) qualified plan, and/or a Code
22 Section 408(a) or 408(b) traditional or conduit Individual
23 Retirement Account or Annuity (IRA). Roth accounts and Coverdell

1 Education Savings Accounts shall not be used to purchase transferred
2 credited service.

3 F. In the event that the member is unable to pay the purchase
4 price provided for in this section in a lump sum by the due date
5 established in subsection B of this section as provided for in
6 subsection D of this section, the State Board may permit the member
7 to amortize the purchase price over a period not to exceed sixty
8 (60) months or other method approved by the State Board. Such
9 amortized payments shall be made by payroll deductions and shall not
10 be picked up by the member's employer. The amortized payments shall
11 include interest at a rate not to exceed the actuarially assumed
12 interest rate adopted by the State Board for investment earnings
13 each year. Any member who ceases to make payment, terminates,
14 retires or dies before completing the payments provided for in this
15 section shall receive transferred, credited service prorated for
16 only those payments made, not including interest, unless the unpaid
17 balance, including interest, is paid by the member, the member's
18 surviving spouse, the member's beneficiary, or the member's estate
19 or successor in interest within ninety (90) days of the first to
20 occur of said member's termination, retirement, or death; provided
21 that no retirement benefits shall be payable until the earliest of
22 the date the unpaid balance is paid in full or ninety (90) days
23 after the first to occur of the member's termination, retirement, or
24 death.

1 G. The State Board shall promulgate such rules or procedures as
2 are necessary to implement the provisions of this ~~subsection~~
3 section.

4 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 11 O.S. 2021, Section 49-138, as
5 amended by Section 2, Chapter 247, O.S.L. 2024 (11 O.S. Supp. 2024,
6 Section 49-138), is amended to read as follows:

7 Section 49-138. A. Any member of a regularly constituted fire
8 department of any municipality who is now serving or may hereafter
9 serve in the Armed Forces of the United States whether such service
10 is voluntary or involuntary, who shall have been a member of such
11 fire department at the time of entering such service, shall be
12 entitled to have the whole of the time of such service applied under
13 the provisions of Section 49-106 of this title, so far as the same
14 applies to a service pension; provided further, that the
15 municipality shall continue its payment into said pension fund, to
16 the same force and effect as though the member were in the actual
17 service of such fire department; provided, that any person who is
18 eligible for such service but who shall have volunteered for
19 military or naval service for a period not to exceed five (5) years
20 shall likewise be entitled to all of the benefits of Sections 49-138
21 through 49-142 of this title for the full period of such service or
22 enlistment; provided further, that only one such period of voluntary
23 service shall be considered hereunder. If such person shall
24 reenlist, unless required to do so by law, such person shall not

1 thereafter be entitled to the provisions of this subsection. The
2 provisions of this subsection shall not apply where any such person
3 dies during the period of said service or enlistment, and shall not
4 entitle the surviving spouse or children to any benefits, and shall
5 not apply to any member who shall have served on active duty
6 (including initial active duty) for training purposes only and/or
7 inactive duty training.

8 B. Effective February 1, 1997, credited service received
9 pursuant to this section or credited service for wartime military
10 service received as otherwise provided by law shall be used in
11 determining the member's retirement benefit but shall not be used in
12 determining years of service for retirement, vesting purposes or
13 eligibility for participation in the Oklahoma Firefighters Deferred
14 Option Plan. For a member of the System hired on or after July 1,
15 2003, if the military service credit authorized by this section is
16 used to compute the retirement benefit of the member and the member
17 retires from the System, such military service credit shall not be
18 used to compute the retirement benefit in any other retirement
19 system created pursuant to the Oklahoma Statutes and the member may
20 receive credit for such service only in the retirement system from
21 which the member first retires.

22 C. A member who retires or elects to participate in the
23 Oklahoma Firefighters Deferred Option Plan on or after July 1, 1998,
24 shall be entitled to prior service credit, not to exceed five (5)

1 years, for those periods of military service on active duty prior to
2 membership in the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement
3 System.

4 For purposes of this subsection, "military service" means
5 service in the Armed Forces of the United States by honorably
6 discharged persons during the following time periods, as reflected
7 on such person's Defense Department Form 214, as follows:

8 1. During the following periods, including the beginning and
9 ending dates, and only for the periods served, from:

10 a. April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, commonly referred
11 to as World War I,

12 b. September 16, 1940, to December 7, 1941, for members
13 of the 45th Division,

14 c. December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, commonly
15 referred to as World War II,

16 d. June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955, commonly referred
17 to as the Korean Conflict or the Korean War,

18 e. February 28, 1961, to May 7, 1975, commonly referred
19 to as the Vietnam era, except that:

20 (1) for the period from February 28, 1961, to August
21 4, 1964, military service shall only include
22 service in the Republic of Vietnam during that
23 period, and

(2) for purposes of determining eligibility for education and training benefits, such period shall end on December 31, 1976, or

f. August 1, 1990, to December 31, 1991, commonly referred to as the Gulf War, the Persian Gulf War, or Operation Desert Storm, but excluding any person who served on active duty for training only, unless discharged from such active duty for a service-connected disability;

10 2. During a period of war or combat military operation other
11 than a conflict, war or era listed in paragraph 1 of this
12 subsection, beginning on the date of Congressional authorization,
13 Congressional resolution, or Executive Order of the President of the
14 United States, for the use of the Armed Forces of the United States
15 in a war or combat military operation, if such war or combat
16 military operation lasted for a period of ninety (90) days or more,
17 for a person who served, and only for the period served, in the area
18 of responsibility of the war or combat military operation, but
19 excluding a person who served on active duty for training only,
20 unless discharged from such active duty for a service-connected
21 disability, and provided that the burden of proof of military
22 service during this period shall be with the member, who must
23 present appropriate documentation establishing such service.

1 D. An eligible member pursuant to subsection C of this section
2 shall include only those persons who shall have served during the
3 times or in the areas prescribed in subsection C of this section,
4 and only if such person provides appropriate documentation in such
5 time and manner as required by the System to establish such military
6 service prescribed in this section, or for service pursuant to
7 division (1) of subparagraph e of paragraph 1 of subsection C of
8 this section, those persons who were awarded service medals, as
9 authorized by the United States Department of Defense as reflected
10 in the veteran's Defense Department Form 214, related to the Vietnam
11 Conflict for service prior to August 5, 1964. The provisions of
12 subsection C of this section shall include military retirees, whose
13 retirement was based only on active service, that have been rated as
14 having twenty percent (20%) or greater service-connected disability
15 by the Veterans Administration or the Armed Forces of the United
16 States. The provisions of subsection C of this section shall not
17 apply to any person who shall have served on active duty for
18 training purposes only unless discharged from active duty for a
19 service-connected disability.

20 E. A member of the System who served in the Armed Forces of the
21 United States, or any component thereof, who was honorably
22 discharged from full-time active military service prior to becoming
23 a member of the System and whose full-time active duty military
24 service does not otherwise meet the qualifications for prior service

1 credit pursuant to subsections B through D of this section may
2 purchase up to five (5) years of full-time active duty military
3 prior service credit at the actuarial cost of service credit as
4 determined by the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement
5 System Board, pursuant to ~~Section 49-117.3~~ Section 7 of this ~~title~~
6 act.

7 The service credit provided by this subsection shall be
8 administered pursuant to subsections B through D of this section,
9 including, but not limited to, only full-time active duty military
10 service not for training-only purposes, unless discharged from
11 active duty for a service-connected disability, as reflected on the
12 member's Defense Department Form 214, shall be considered for prior
13 service credit, and such prior service credit shall only be used in
14 determining the member's retirement benefit but shall not be used in
15 determining years of service for retirement, vesting purposes, or
16 eligibility for participation in the Oklahoma Firefighters Deferred
17 Option Plan.

18 F. Notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary:

19 1. Contributions, benefits and service credit with respect to
20 qualified military service shall be provided in accordance with
21 Section 414(u) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended,
22 which is in accordance with the Uniformed Services Employment and
23 Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, as amended (USERRA); and

24

1 2. Effective January 1, 2007, if any member dies while
2 performing qualified military service (as defined in Section 414(u)
3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended), the survivors of
4 the member are entitled to any additional benefits (other than
5 benefits accruals relating to the period of qualified military
6 service) provided under the System had the member resumed and then
7 terminated employment on account of death.

8 G. Members or beneficiaries shall make application to the
9 System for credited service related to wartime military service.
10 Interest on additional benefits related to wartime military service
11 owed by the System to a retired member or beneficiary as provided by
12 law shall cease accruing one (1) year after the effective date the
13 additional benefits are payable by the System or July 1, 2000,
14 whichever is later, if the member has not applied to the System for
15 credited service related to such wartime military service.

16 H. The purchase of prior military service credit pursuant to
17 subsections B, C, D, and G shall not, in the aggregate, exceed five
18 (5) years of service credit.

19 SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 49-117.4 of Title 11, unless
21 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 Notwithstanding any other provision in 49-100.1 et seq. of Title
23 11 of the Oklahoma Statutes, the maximum number of years of credited
24

1 service taken into account under the System shall not exceed thirty
2 (30) years.

3 SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 49-138.1 of Title 11, unless
5 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 A. The State Board shall adopt rules or procedures for
7 computation of the purchase price for prior military service credit
8 provided for in subsection E of Section 49-138 of Title 11 of the
9 Oklahoma Statutes. These rules or procedures shall base the
10 purchase price for each year purchased on the actuarial cost of the
11 incremental projected benefits to be purchased. The purchase price
12 shall represent the present value of the incremental projected
13 benefits discounted according to the member's age at the time of
14 purchase. Incremental projected benefits shall be the difference
15 between the projected benefit said member would receive without
16 purchasing the prior military service credit and the projected
17 benefit after purchase of the prior military service credit computed
18 as of the earliest age at which the member would be able to retire.
19 Said computation shall assume an unreduced benefit and be computed
20 using interest and mortality assumptions consistent with the
21 actuarial assumptions adopted by the Board of Trustees for purposes
22 of preparing the annual actuarial evaluation.

23 B. A member wishing to purchase prior military service credit
24 must be an active paid member for a minimum of thirty (30) months so

1 as to establish an adequate salary history for the computation of
2 the purchase price of prior military service credit. Upon
3 application by an eligible member to purchase prior military service
4 credit, the State Board shall provide the member with a computation
5 of the purchase price for prior military service credit. The
6 computed purchase price shall be good for ninety (90) days from the
7 date the computed purchase price is provided to the member and,
8 except as otherwise provided in subsection G of this section, must
9 be paid within such ninety (90) day period. After the expiration of
10 the ninety (90) day period without payment by the member, or payment
11 commencing as provided in subsection G of this section, the member
12 must reapply to purchase prior military service credit, a new
13 purchase price must be computed and provided to the member by the
14 State Board, and a new ninety (90) day period shall commence.

15 C. An active volunteer member may request to purchase volunteer
16 prior military service credit in accordance with the second, third,
17 and fourth sentences of subsection B of this section. A volunteer
18 member who purchases volunteer prior military service credit and
19 later becomes a paid member may purchase paid prior military service
20 credit in accordance with all of subsection B of this section,
21 including the requirement that the member be an active paid member
22 for a minimum of thirty (30) months so as to establish an adequate
23 salary history for the computation of the purchase price of prior
24 military service credit. Any amount paid to purchase volunteer

1 prior military service credit, excluding interest, shall reduce the
2 purchase price for the paid prior military service credit, and the
3 purchased volunteer prior military service credit shall be
4 disregarded.

5 D. Purchased prior military service credit shall be taken into
6 account only if payment is received prior to the commencement of
7 benefits, except as otherwise provided in subsection G of this
8 section.

9 E. Members who pay the purchase price by the due date described
10 in subsection B of this section may make payment by:

11 1. A trustee-to-trustee transfer of non-Roth funds from a Code
12 Section 403(b) annuity or custodial account, an eligible deferred
13 compensation plan described in Code Section 457(b) which is
14 maintained by an eligible employer described in Code Section
15 457(e)(1)(A), and a Code Section 401(a) qualified plan;

16 2. A direct rollover of tax-deferred funds from a Code Section
17 403(b) annuity or custodial account, an eligible deferred
18 compensation plan described in Code Section 457(b) which is
19 maintained by an eligible employer described in Code Section
20 457(e)(1)(A), a Code Section 401(a) qualified plan, and/or a Code
21 Section 408(a) or 408(b) traditional or conduit Individual
22 Retirement Account or Annuity (IRA). Roth accounts, after-tax
23 funds, and Coverdell Education Savings Accounts shall not be used to
24 purchase transferred credited service; and

1 3. Certified check.

2 F. Members amortizing the purchase price and making amortized
3 payments by payroll deduction, as described in subsection G of this
4 section, shall have the option of making a cash lump-sum payment for
5 the balance of the actuarial purchase price with interest due
6 through the date of payment by:

7 1. A trustee-to-trustee transfer of non-Roth funds from a Code
8 Section 403(b) annuity or custodial account, an eligible deferred
9 compensation plan described in Code Section 457(b) which is
10 maintained by an eligible employer described in Code Section
11 457(e)(1)(A), and/or a Code Section 401(a) qualified plan;

12 2. A direct rollover of tax-deferred funds from a Code Section
13 403(b) annuity or custodial account, an eligible deferred
14 compensation plan described in Code Section 457(b) which is
15 maintained by an eligible employer described in Code Section
16 457(e)(1)(A), a Code Section 401(a) qualified plan, and a Code
17 Section 408(a) or 408(b) traditional or conduit Individual
18 Retirement Account or Annuity (IRA). Roth accounts, after-tax funds
19 and Coverdell Education Savings Accounts shall not be used to
20 purchase transferred credited service; and

21 3. Certified check.

22 G. In the event that the member is unable to pay the purchase
23 price provided for in this section in a lump sum by the due date
24 established in subsection B of this section as provided for in

1 subsection E of this section, the State Board may permit the member
2 to amortize the purchase price over a period not to exceed sixty
3 (60) months or other method approved by the State Board. Such
4 amortized payments shall be made by payroll deductions and shall not
5 be picked up by the member's employer. The amortized payments shall
6 include interest at a rate not to exceed the actuarially assumed
7 interest rate adopted by the State Board for investment earnings
8 each year. Any member who ceases to make payment, terminates,
9 retires, or dies before completing the payments provided for in this
10 section shall receive prior military service credit prorated for
11 only those payments made, not including interest, unless the unpaid
12 balance, including interest, is paid by the member, the member's
13 surviving spouse, the member's beneficiary, or the member's estate
14 or successor in interest within ninety (90) days of the first to
15 occur of said member's termination, retirement, or death; provided
16 that no retirement benefits shall be payable until the earliest of
17 the date the unpaid balance is paid in full or ninety (90) days
18 after the first to occur of the member's termination, retirement, or
19 death.

20 H. The State Board shall promulgate such rules or procedures as
21 are necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

22 SECTION 8. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

23

24

60-1-10625 CMA 01/03/25

THOMAS E. CUMMINS CONSULTING ACTUARY, INC.
2512 E. 71st Street , Suite D • Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136
(918) 492-9658 • (918) 492- 9659

January 7, 2025

Representative Kelley
Room 242N

Re: RBH No. 10625 Oklahoma Firefighter Pension and Retirement System

RBH No. 10625 contains clarification of the definition of contributions.

It excludes (1) payments to repurchase credited service; (2) payments made to transfer credited service from another retirement system; and (3) payments made to purchase prior military service.

Minimum death benefit is defined as return of accumulated contributions plus (1), (2) and (3) above.

RBH No. 10625 is a non fiscal bill as defined by OPLAAA.

I am a member of the American Academy of Actuaries and meet the Qualification Standards of the American Academy of Actuaries to render the actuarial opinion herein.

Thomas E. Cummins

Thomas E. Cummins, MAAA