

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 1091

By: Kelley of the House

3 and

4 Gollihare of the Senate

5  
6 An Act relating to retirement; amending 11 O.S. 2021,  
7 Sections 49-100.1, as amended by Section 2, Chapter  
8 232, O.S.L. 2022 (11 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 49-  
9 100.1), 49-113, 49-117.1, as amended by Section 7,  
10 Chapter 232, O.S.L. 2022 (11 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section  
11 49-117.1), 49-117.3, 49-138, as amended by Section 2,  
12 Chapter 247, O.S.L. 2024 (11 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section  
13 49-138), which relate to the Oklahoma Firefighters  
14 Pension and Retirement System; defining term;  
15 modifying provisions related to death benefits;  
16 specifying which contributions member is to be  
17 refunded; modifying provisions relating to repayment  
18 of contributions; authorizing member to make certain  
19 repayment; authorizing amortized payment if permitted  
20 by State Board; directing the State Board to  
21 promulgate rules or procedures; providing that member  
22 may purchase transferred credited services; providing  
23 procedures; providing limitations; providing  
24 exception; modifying how payments may be made;  
25 updating reference; providing limitation on purchase  
26 of military service credit; providing limitation on  
27 purchase of credited service; providing for purchase  
28 of military service credit; providing requirements to  
29 purchase such credit; providing restrictions;  
30 permitting volunteer members to purchase military  
31 service credit; requiring payment to be received  
32 prior to commencement of benefits; providing for  
33 codification; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 "employee" means any person (other than an employee of the recipient)  
2 who pursuant to an agreement between the recipient and any other  
3 person ("leasing organization") has performed services for the  
4 recipient (or for the recipient and related persons determined in  
5 accordance with Section 414(n) (6) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
6 1986, as amended) on a substantially full-time basis for a period of  
7 at least one (1) year, and such services are performed under primary  
8 direction or control by the recipient. Contributions or benefits  
9 provided a leased employee by the leasing organization which are  
10 attributable to services performed for the recipient employer shall  
11 be treated as provided by the recipient employer. A leased employee  
12 shall not be considered an employee of the recipient if the  
13 requirements of the safe harbor provisions of Section 414(n) (5) of  
14 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, are satisfied.

15 Effective July 1, 1999, any individual who agrees with the  
16 participating municipality that the individual's services are to be  
17 performed as a leased employee or an independent contractor shall  
18 not be a member regardless of any classification as a common law  
19 employee by the Internal Revenue Service or any other governmental  
20 agency, or any court of competent jurisdiction;

21 7. "Normal retirement date" means the date at which the member  
22 is eligible to receive the unreduced payments of the member's  
23 accrued retirement benefit. Such date shall be the first day  
24 following the date the member completes twenty (20) years of

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

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

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

22 |       10. "Disability" means the complete inability of the  
23 | firefighter to perform any and every duty of the firefighter's  
24 | regular occupation; provided further, that once benefits have been

1 paid for twenty-four (24) months the provisions of Section 49-110 of  
2 this title shall apply to the firefighter;

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 of this subsection, a "Noneligible Member" is any member who first  
2 became a member during a plan year commencing on or after July 1,  
3 1996.

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

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

16 Effective June 9, 2010, any payments not described above shall  
17 not be considered gross salary if paid after severance from  
18 employment, even if they are paid by the later of two and one-half  
19 (2 1/2) months after the date of severance from employment or the  
20 end of the calendar year that includes the date of severance from  
21 employment, except payments to an individual who does not currently  
22 perform services for the participating municipality by reason of  
23 qualified military service within the meaning of Section 414(u)(5)  
24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, to the extent

1 these payments do not exceed the amounts the individual would have  
2 received if the individual had continued to perform services for the  
3 participating municipality rather than entering qualified military  
4 service.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 18. 19. "Limitation year" means the year used in applying the  
7 limitations of Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,  
8 which year shall be the calendar year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 greater than the total contributions made by the employee, as  
2 defined in the next sentence, then a payment shall be made to the  
3 member's estate or, if applicable, the last surviving beneficiary's  
4 estate equal to the total contributions made by the employee minus  
5 the payments made including payments made, or to be made, from the  
6 Deferred Option Plan but excluding the death benefit pursuant to  
7 Section 49-113.2 of this title. The total contributions made by the  
8 employee for purposes of the prior sentence shall mean the sum of:

- 9     a. the member's accumulated contributions,
- 10    b. payments made to repurchase credited service pursuant  
11       to Section 49-117.1 of this title,
- 12    c. payments made to transfer credited service from  
13       another retirement system pursuant to subsection A of  
14       Section 49-117.2 or Section 49-117.3 of this title,  
15       and
- 16    d. payments made to purchase prior military service  
17       credit pursuant to subsection E of Section 49-138 of  
18       this title.

19 Total contributions, as used in this paragraph, shall exclude  
20 interest earned or paid with respect to any contribution or payment  
21 described in subparagraphs a through d of this paragraph.

22     5. Any person eligible to receive a payment pursuant to this  
23 section may make an election to waive all or a portion of monthly  
24 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 ~~but excluding any interest or;~~

17 2. Payments made to repurchase credited service pursuant to  
18 this section;

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

22 4. Payments made to purchase prior military service credit  
23 pursuant to subsection E of Section 49-138 of this title.

1    A refund made pursuant to this paragraph shall exclude interest  
2    earned or paid with respect to any contribution or payment described  
3    in subparagraphs 1 through 4 of this subsection, and any amount  
4    contributed by the municipality or state, and interest earned with  
5    respect to such contributed amount.

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

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

23      D. If a member who terminated employment and elected, or was  
24    eligible to elect, a vested benefit dies prior to being eligible to

1 receive benefits, the member's beneficiary, as defined in paragraph  
2 16 of Section 49-100.1 of this title, shall be entitled to the  
3 member's normal monthly retirement benefit on the date the deceased  
4 member would have been eligible to receive the benefit.

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

13 F. ~~Lump-sum payments for repayment of any amounts received~~  
14 ~~because of a member's prior termination with interest may be repaid~~  
15 ~~by a trustee-to-trustee transfer of non-Roth funds from a Code~~  
16 ~~Section 403(b) annuity, a governmental Code Section 457 plan, and/or~~  
17 ~~a Code Section 401(a) qualified plan~~ Members may make the repayment  
18 described in subsection E of this section in cash by a trustee-to-  
19 trustee transfer or direct rollover of non-Roth funds from a Code  
20 Section 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, or a combination  
24

1 thereof, provided that after-tax funds in retirement plans shall not  
2 be used to make a repayment.

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

1       H. A firefighter shall not be permitted to withdraw from the  
2 System while employed as a firefighter in a participating  
3 municipality.

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

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

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

24

1       B. In the event that the member is unable to pay the purchase  
2 price provided for in this section by the due date, the State Board  
3 shall permit the members to amortize the purchase price over a  
4 period not to exceed sixty (60) months. Said payments shall be made  
5 by payroll deductions unless the State Board permits an alternate  
6 payment source. The amortization shall include interest in an  
7 amount not to exceed the actuarially assumed interest rate adopted  
8 by the State Board for investment earnings each year. Any member  
9 who ceases to make payment, terminates, retires or dies before  
10 completing the payments provided for in this section shall receive  
11 prorated service credit for only those payments made, unless the  
12 unpaid balance is paid by said member, his or her estate or  
13 successor in interest within six (6) months after said member's  
14 death, termination of employment or retirement, provided no  
15 retirement benefits shall be payable until the unpaid balance is  
16 paid, unless said member or beneficiary affirmatively waives the  
17 additional six-month period in which to pay the unpaid balance. The  
18 State Board shall promulgate such rules as are necessary to  
19 implement the provisions of this subsection. A member wishing to  
20 purchase transferred credited service from another retirement system  
21 must be an active paid member at the time of purchase and must have  
22 been an active paid member for a minimum of thirty (30) months so as  
23 to establish an adequate salary history for the computation of the  
24 purchase price of transferred credited service. Upon application by

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

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

16   C. D. Members who pay the purchase price in cash by the due  
17   date described in subsection B of this section may make payment by:

18       1. A trustee-to-trustee transfer of non-Roth funds from a Code  
19       Section 403(b) annuity or custodial account, an eligible deferred  
20       compensation plan described in Code Section 457(b) which is  
21       maintained by an eligible employer described in Code Section  
22       457(e)(1)(A), and/or a Code Section 401(a) qualified plan, provided  
23       that after-tax funds in retirement plans shall not be used to  
24       purchase transferred credited service; or

1       2. A direct rollover of tax-deferred funds from a Code Section  
2       403(b) annuity or custodial account, an eligible deferred  
3       compensation plan described in Code Section 457(b) which is  
4       maintained by an eligible employer described in Code Section  
5       457(e)(1)(A), a Code Section 401(a) qualified plan, and/or a Code  
6       Section 408(a) or 408(b) traditional or conduit Individual  
7       Retirement Account or Annuity (IRA)., provided that Roth accounts,  
8       after-tax funds in retirement plans or IRAs, and Coverdell Education  
9       Savings Accounts shall not be used to purchase transferred credited  
10      service; or

11       3. Certified check.

12       A combination of payment methods described in paragraphs 1 through 3  
13       of this subsection may be used.

14       The State Board shall promulgate such rules or procedures as are  
15       necessary to implement the provisions of this subsection.

16       D. E. Members amortizing the purchase price and making  
17       amortized payments by payroll deduction on an after-tax basis,  
18       pursuant to subsection F of this section, shall have the option of  
19       making a cash lump-sum payment for the balance of the actuarial  
20       purchase price with interest due through the date of payment by:

21       1. A trustee-to-trustee transfer of non-Roth funds from a Code  
22       Section 403(b) annuity or custodial account, an eligible deferred  
23       compensation plan described in Code Section 457(b) which is  
24       maintained by an eligible employer described in Code Section

1    457(e) (1) (A), and/or a Code Section 401(a) qualified plan, provided  
2    that after-tax funds in retirement plans shall not be used to  
3    purchase transferred credited service; or

4        2. A direct rollover of tax-deferred funds from a Code Section  
5        403(b) annuity or custodial account, an eligible deferred  
6        compensation plan described in Code Section 457(b) which is  
7        maintained by an eligible employer described in Code Section  
8        457(e) (1) (A), a Code Section 401(a) qualified plan, and/or a Code  
9        Section 408(a) or 408(b) traditional or conduit Individual  
10      Retirement Account or Annuity (IRA)-, provided that Roth accounts,  
11      after-tax funds in retirement plans or IRAs, and Coverdell Education  
12      Savings Accounts shall not be used to purchase transferred credited  
13      service-; or

14        3. Certified check.

15      A combination of payment methods described in paragraphs 1 through 3  
16      of this subsection may be used.

17        F. In the event that the member does not pay the purchase price  
18      provided for in this section by the due date established in  
19      subsection B of this section as provided for in subsection D of this  
20      section, the State Board may permit the member to amortize the  
21      purchase price over a period not to exceed sixty (60) months or  
22      other method approved by the State Board. Such amortized payments  
23      shall be made by payroll deductions on an after-tax basis and shall  
24      not be picked up by the member's employer. The amortized payments

1 shall include interest at a rate not to exceed the actuarially  
2 assumed interest rate adopted by the State Board for investment  
3 earnings each year. Any member who ceases to make payment,  
4 terminates, retires or dies before completing the payments provided  
5 for in this section shall receive transferred, credited service  
6 prorated for only those payments made, not including interest,  
7 unless the unpaid balance, including interest, is paid by the  
8 member, the member's surviving spouse, the member's beneficiary, or  
9 the member's estate or successor in interest within ninety (90) days  
10 of the first to occur of said member's termination, retirement, or  
11 death; provided that no retirement benefits shall be payable until  
12 the earliest of the date the unpaid balance is paid in full or  
13 ninety (90) days after the first to occur of the member's  
14 termination, retirement, or death.

15       G. The State Board shall promulgate such rules or procedures as  
16 are necessary to implement the provisions of this subsection  
17 section.

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

21       Section 49-138. A. Any member of a regularly constituted fire  
22 department of any municipality who is now serving or may hereafter  
23 serve in the Armed Forces of the United States whether such service  
24 is voluntary or involuntary, who shall have been a member of such

1 fire department at the time of entering such service, shall be  
2 entitled to have the whole of the time of such service applied under  
3 the provisions of Section 49-106 of this title, so far as the same  
4 applies to a service pension; provided further, that the  
5 municipality shall continue its payment into said pension fund, to  
6 the same force and effect as though the member were in the actual  
7 service of such fire department; provided, that any person who is  
8 eligible for such service but who shall have volunteered for  
9 military or naval service for a period not to exceed five (5) years  
10 shall likewise be entitled to all of the benefits of Sections 49-138  
11 through 49-142 of this title for the full period of such service or  
12 enlistment; provided further, that only one such period of voluntary  
13 service shall be considered hereunder. If such person shall  
14 reenlist, unless required to do so by law, such person shall not  
15 thereafter be entitled to the provisions of this subsection. The  
16 provisions of this subsection shall not apply where any such person  
17 dies during the period of said service or enlistment, and shall not  
18 entitle the surviving spouse or children to any benefits, and shall  
19 not apply to any member who shall have served on active duty  
20 (including initial active duty) for training purposes only and/or  
21 inactive duty training.

22       B. Effective February 1, 1997, credited service received  
23 pursuant to this section or credited service for wartime military  
24 service received as otherwise provided by law shall be used in

1 determining the member's retirement benefit but shall not be used in  
2 determining years of service for retirement, vesting purposes or  
3 eligibility for participation in the Oklahoma Firefighters Deferred  
4 Option Plan. For a member of the System hired on or after July 1,  
5 2003, if the military service credit authorized by this section is  
6 used to compute the retirement benefit of the member and the member  
7 retires from the System, such military service credit shall not be  
8 used to compute the retirement benefit in any other retirement  
9 system created pursuant to the Oklahoma Statutes and the member may  
10 receive credit for such service only in the retirement system from  
11 which the member first retires.

12 C. A member who retires or elects to participate in the  
13 Oklahoma Firefighters Deferred Option Plan on or after July 1, 1998,  
14 shall be entitled to prior service credit, not to exceed five (5)  
15 years, for those periods of military service on active duty prior to  
16 membership in the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement  
17 System.

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

22 1. During the following periods, including the beginning and  
23 ending dates, and only for the periods served, from:  
24

- a. April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, commonly referred to as World War I,
- b. September 16, 1940, to December 7, 1941, for members of the 45th Division,
- c. December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, commonly referred to as World War II,
- d. June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955, commonly referred to as the Korean Conflict or the Korean War,
- e. February 28, 1961, to May 7, 1975, commonly referred to as the Vietnam era, except that:
  - (1) for the period from February 28, 1961, to August 4, 1964, military service shall only include service in the Republic of Vietnam during that 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;

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

15       D. An eligible member pursuant to subsection C of this section  
16 shall include only those persons who shall have served during the  
17 times or in the areas prescribed in subsection C of this section,  
18 and only if such person provides appropriate documentation in such  
19 time and manner as required by the System to establish such military  
20 service prescribed in this section, or for service pursuant to  
21 division (1) of subparagraph e of paragraph 1 of subsection C of  
22 this section, those persons who were awarded service medals, as  
23 authorized by the United States Department of Defense as reflected  
24 in the veteran's Defense Department Form 214, related to the Vietnam

1 Conflict for service prior to August 5, 1964. The provisions of  
2 subsection C of this section shall include military retirees, whose  
3 retirement was based only on active service, that have been rated as  
4 having twenty percent (20%) or greater service-connected disability  
5 by the Veterans Administration or the Armed Forces of the United  
6 States. The provisions of subsection C of this section shall not  
7 apply to any person who shall have served on active duty for  
8 training purposes only unless discharged from active duty for a  
9 service-connected disability.

10       E. A member of the System who served in the Armed Forces of the  
11 United States, or any component thereof, who was honorably  
12 discharged from full-time active military service prior to becoming  
13 a member of the System and whose full-time active duty military  
14 service does not otherwise meet the qualifications for prior service  
15 credit pursuant to subsections B through D of this section may  
16 purchase up to five (5) years of full-time active duty military  
17 prior service credit at the actuarial cost of service credit as  
18 determined by the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement  
19 System Board, pursuant to ~~Section 49-117.3~~ Section 7 of this ~~title~~  
20 act.

21       The service credit provided by this subsection shall be  
22 administered pursuant to subsections B through D of this section,  
23 including, but not limited to, only full-time active duty military  
24 service not for training-only purposes, unless discharged from

1 active duty for a service-connected disability, as reflected on the  
2 member's Defense Department Form 214, shall be considered for prior  
3 service credit, and such prior service credit shall only be used in  
4 determining the member's retirement benefit but shall not be used in  
5 determining years of service for retirement, vesting purposes, or  
6 eligibility for participation in the Oklahoma Firefighters Deferred  
7 Option Plan.

8 F. Notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary:

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

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

21 G. Members or beneficiaries shall make application to the  
22 System for credited service related to wartime military service.  
23 Interest on additional benefits related to wartime military service  
24 owed by the System to a retired member or beneficiary as provided by

1 law shall cease accruing one (1) year after the effective date the  
2 additional benefits are payable by the System or July 1, 2000,  
3 whichever is later, if the member has not applied to the System for  
4 credited service related to such wartime military service.

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

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

11 Notwithstanding any other provision in 49-100.1 et seq. of Title  
12 11 of the Oklahoma Statutes, the maximum number of years of credited  
13 service taken into account under the System shall not exceed thirty  
14 (30) years.

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

18 A. The State Board shall adopt rules or procedures for  
19 computation of the purchase price for prior military service credit  
20 provided for in subsection E of Section 49-138 of Title 11 of the  
21 Oklahoma Statutes. These rules or procedures shall base the  
22 purchase price for each year purchased on the actuarial cost of the  
23 incremental projected benefits to be purchased. The purchase price  
24 shall represent the present value of the incremental projected

1 benefits discounted according to the member's age at the time of  
2 purchase. Incremental projected benefits shall be the difference  
3 between the projected benefit said member would receive without  
4 purchasing the prior military service credit and the projected  
5 benefit after purchase of the prior military service credit computed  
6 as of the earliest age at which the member would be able to retire.  
7 Said computation shall assume an unreduced benefit and be computed  
8 using interest and mortality assumptions consistent with the  
9 actuarial assumptions adopted by the Board of Trustees for purposes  
10 of preparing the annual actuarial evaluation.

11       B. A member wishing to purchase prior military service credit  
12 must be an active paid member for a minimum of thirty (30) months so  
13 as to establish an adequate salary history for the computation of  
14 the purchase price of prior military service credit. Upon  
15 application by an eligible member to purchase prior military service  
16 credit, the State Board shall provide the member with a computation  
17 of the purchase price for prior military service credit. The  
18 computed purchase price shall be good for ninety (90) days from the  
19 date the computed purchase price is provided to the member and,  
20 except as otherwise provided in subsection G of this section, must  
21 be paid within such ninety-day period. After the expiration of the  
22 ninety-day period without payment by the member, or payment  
23 commencing as provided in subsection G of this section, the member  
24 must reapply to purchase prior military service credit, a new

1 purchase price must be computed and provided to the member by the  
2 State Board, and a new ninety-day period shall commence.

3       C. An active volunteer member may request to purchase volunteer  
4 prior military service credit in accordance with the second, third,  
5 and fourth sentences of subsection B of this section. A volunteer  
6 member who purchases volunteer prior military service credit and  
7 later becomes a paid member may purchase paid prior military service  
8 credit in accordance with all of subsection B of this section,  
9 including the requirement that the member be an active paid member  
10 for a minimum of thirty (30) months so as to establish an adequate  
11 salary history for the computation of the purchase price of prior  
12 military service credit. Any amount paid to purchase volunteer  
13 prior military service credit, excluding interest, shall reduce the  
14 purchase price for the paid prior military service credit, and the  
15 purchased volunteer prior military service credit shall be  
16 disregarded.

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

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

23           1. A trustee-to-trustee transfer of non-Roth funds from a Code  
24 Section 403(b) annuity or custodial account, an eligible deferred

1 compensation plan described in Code Section 457(b) which is  
2 maintained by an eligible employer described in Code Section  
3 457(e)(1)(A), and/or a Code Section 401(a) qualified plan, provided  
4 that after-tax funds in retirement plans shall not be used to  
5 purchase military service credit;

6       2. A direct rollover of tax-deferred funds from a Code Section  
7 403(b) annuity or custodial account, an eligible deferred  
8 compensation plan described in Code Section 457(b) which is  
9 maintained by an eligible employer described in Code Section  
10 457(e)(1)(A), a Code Section 401(a) qualified plan, and/or a Code  
11 Section 408(a) or 408(b) traditional or conduit Individual  
12 Retirement Account or Annuity (IRA), provided that Roth accounts,  
13 after-tax funds in retirement plans or IRAs, and Coverdell Education  
14 Savings Accounts shall not be used to purchase military service  
15 credit; or

16       3. Certified check.

17 A combination of payment methods described in paragraphs 1 through 3  
18 of this subsection may be used.

19       F. Members amortizing the purchase price and making amortized  
20 payments by payroll deduction on an after-tax basis, as described in  
21 subsection G of this section, shall have the option of making a cash  
22 payment for the balance of the actuarial purchase price with  
23 interest due through the date of payment by:

1       1. A trustee-to-trustee transfer of non-Roth funds from a Code  
2 Section 403(b) annuity or custodial account, an eligible deferred  
3 compensation plan described in Code Section 457(b) which is  
4 maintained by an eligible employer described in Code Section  
5 457(e)(1)(A), and/or a Code Section 401(a) qualified plan, provided  
6 that after-tax funds in retirement plans shall not be used to  
7 purchase military service credit;

8       2. A direct rollover of tax-deferred funds from a Code Section  
9 403(b) annuity or custodial account, an eligible deferred  
10 compensation plan described in Code Section 457(b) which is  
11 maintained by an eligible employer described in Code Section  
12 457(e)(1)(A), a Code Section 401(a) qualified plan, and a Code  
13 Section 408(a) or 408(b) traditional or conduit Individual  
14 Retirement Account or Annuity (IRA), provided that Roth accounts,  
15 after-tax funds in retirement plans and IRAs, and Coverdell  
16 Education Savings Accounts shall not be used to purchase military  
17 service credit; or

18       3. Certified check.

19 A combination of payment methods described in paragraphs 1 through 3  
20 of this subsection may be used.

21 G. In the event that the member does not pay the purchase price  
22 provided for in this section by the due date established in  
23 subsection B of this section as provided for in subsection E of this  
24 section, the State Board may permit the member to amortize the

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

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

21       SECTION 8. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
22 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
23 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
24 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

1      Passed the House of Representatives the 13th day of March, 2025.  
2  
3  
4

---

Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

5      Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.  
6  
7  
8

---

Presiding Officer of the Senate

9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24