

RESOLUTION #2024-06

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VERDE VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ADOPTING A PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM
PENSION FUNDING POLICY**

WHEREAS, House Bill 2097, approved by the Governor on April 3, 2018, requires that each governing body of an employer shall annually adopt a pension funding policy that includes funding objectives that address

- How to maintain stability of the governing body's contributions to the system,
- How and when the governing body's funding requirements of the system will be met,
- Define the governing body's funding ratio target under the system and the timeline for reaching the targeted funded ratio; and

WHEREAS, the policy must also formally accept the employer's share of the assets and liabilities under the system based on the system's actuarial valuation report; and

WHEREAS, the policy must be posted on the District's website; and

WHEREAS, the policy must be updated and adopted annually;

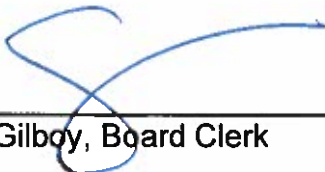
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Verde Valley Fire District hereby adopts the Pension Funding Policy attached hereto.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Verde Valley Fire District, Yavapai County, Arizona on this 27th day of February, 2024.



Donald Peck, Board Chairman

ATTEST:



Coleen Gilboy, Board Clerk

Verde Valley Fire District Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Pension Funding Policy

The intent of this policy is to clearly communicate the Board's pension funding objectives and its commitment to our employees and the sound financial management of the Verde Valley Fire District and to comply with new statutory requirements of Laws 2018, Chapter 112.

Several terms are used throughout this policy:

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

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

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

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

The Verde Valley Fire District's fire employees who are regularly assigned hazardous duty participate in the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS).

Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS)

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

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

The Board formally accepts the assets, liabilities, and current funding ratio of the Verde Valley Fire District's PSPRS trust funds from the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation, which are detailed below.

Trust Fund	Assets	Accrued Liability	Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability	Funded Ratio
Tier 1 & 2	\$24,074,947	\$23,700,339	\$(374,608)	101.6%
Tier 3	\$119,101,476	\$110,961,191	\$(8,140,285)	107.3%
Verde Valley Fire District Totals	\$143,176,423	\$134,661,530	\$(8,514,893)	106.3%

PSPRS Funding Goal

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

The Board's PSPRS funding ratio goal is 100% (fully funded) by June 30, 2036. The Board established this goal for the following reasons:

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

The District issued Certificates of Participation on July 1, 2021 to pay off the unfunded liability and established a contingency fund to set aside funds in the event additional unfunded liabilities are incurred. To aid in preventing additional unfunded liabilities from developing, the Fire Board has taken the following actions to achieve this goal:

- Maintain ARC payment from operating revenues – The Board is committed to maintaining the full ARC payment (normal cost and UAAL amortization) from operating funds. The estimated combined ARC for FY2024-2025 is \$342,766 and will be able to be paid from operating funds without diminishing Verde Valley Fire District services.
- Additional payments above the ARC:
 - If funds allow, budget for additional funds to be applied to the District's unfunded liability.
 - Annually evaluate prior year budget compared to actual expenditures and make an excess payment if funds allow.
- Pay the full amount of the budgeted contributions at the beginning of each fiscal year to maximize the interest earnings allocated to the District's PSPRS trust fund.

Based on these actions the Board will strive to maintain its goal of being 100% funded.