

**SUPERSTITION FIRE & MEDICAL DISTRICT  
PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
ANNUAL PENSION FUNDING POLICY #2021-08**

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

Terms 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 Superstition Fire & Medical District's public safety 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) Commingle 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 contributions 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 Superstition Fire & Medical District has one trust fund for public safety employees.

The Board formally accepts the assets, liabilities, and current funding ratio of the Superstition Fire & Medical District's PSPRS trust funds from the June 30, 2020 actuarial valuation, detailed below.

Report Date: June 30, 2020				
Trust Fund	Assets	Accrued Liability	Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability	Funded Ratio
Tier 1 & 2	\$41,620,655	\$62,177,195	\$20,556,540	66.9%
Tier 3	\$23,570,444	\$23,239,599	(\$ 330,845)	101.4%
Totals	\$65,191,099	\$85,416,794	\$20,225,695	76.3%

### **PSPRS Funding Goal**

On July 29, 2021, the District concluded the sale of \$29,360,000 in Certificates of Participation (COPs) in order to achieve a fully funded status for its Tier 1 and Tier 2 public safety employees. In addition, a Contingency Reserve Fund was established to provide for funds in the event that future investment and/or benefit circumstances cause the District's Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding ratio to fall below 100%.

**The Board's PSPRS funding ratio goal is to reach 100% (fully funded) by August 1, 2021, and to maintain the 100% fully funded status going forward.**

The Board established this goal for the following reasons:

- A fully funded pension is the best way to achieve taxpayer and member intergenerational equity
- The Fire Board is committed to maintaining the full normal payroll pension payments for all Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 public safety employees from operating funds.