



Benefits Explanation Outline

1. Section 7, “Permanent Disability Pension; Not in Line of Duty”.

- a. Less than 10 full years of credited service.
- (1) Accrual rate of 3% per year.
 - (2) The normal form payment is a monthly benefit for life of firefighter at above rate, and upon death of firefighter 65% of benefit paid firefighter is then paid eligible surviving spouse for life regardless of remarriage and/or minor children (form of payment in effect prior to 01/01/2008).
 - (3) Firefighter may elect life with 10 years certain (guarantee of 120 monthly payments); or life only; or joint pensioner, form of payment. However, the monthly benefit is the actuarial equivalent value of the normal form of payment.*
 - (4) If life with 10 years certain is elected, after payment of 120 monthly payments at above rate, upon death of firefighter, no further benefits are paid since firefighter had less than 10 years of credited service.
 - (5) If life with 10 years certain is elected and firefighter dies before 120 monthly payments are made, designated beneficiaries receive remainder of 120 monthly payments.
- Ref.: Sec. 7, Sec. 14(1) & (5)(a), Section 34 and Sec. 35(3).
- b. 10 full years or more but less than 20 years of credited service.
- (1) Accrual rate of 4% per year not to exceed 60%.
 - (2) Firefighter may elect life with 10 years certain (guarantee of 120 monthly payments), or life only, or joint pensioner, form of payment.*
 - (3) If life with 10 years certain is elected, after payment of 120 monthly payments at the above rate, upon the death of the firefighter, 65% of the pension the firefighter was entitled to receive is paid to the eligible surviving spouse for life regardless of remarriage and/or minor children.
 - (4) If life with 10 years certain is elected and firefighter dies before 120 monthly payments are made, designated beneficiaries receive remainder of 120 monthly payments.
- Ref.: Sec. 7, Sec. 14(5)(a) and Sec. 35(3).
- c. 20 or more years of credited service.
- (1) 60% + 4% for each year in excess of 20 years but not to exceed 80%, unless more than 40 years of service.
 - (2) Firefighter may elect life with 10 years certain (guarantee of 120 monthly payments), or life only, or joint pensioner, form of payment.*
 - (3) If life with 10 years certain is elected, after payment of 120 monthly payments at the above rate, upon the death of the firefighter, 75% of the pension the firefighter was entitled to receive is paid to the eligible surviving spouse for life regardless of remarriage and/or minor children.



- (4) If life with 10 years certain is elected and firefighter dies before 120 monthly payments are made, designated beneficiaries receive remainder of 120 monthly payments.
 - (5) Cost-of-Living Increases - Monthly benefit is increased by 5% every 3 years beginning 3 years after retirement, including for those eligible to receive monthly benefits after death of firefighter, if firefighter had 20 or more years of actual service.
- Ref.: Sec. 7, Sec. 14(5)(a), 35(3), and Sec. 19.

*Note: If life only form of payment is elected, no further monthly benefits are paid upon death of firefighter. Ref.: Sec. 34(1)(b). If joint pensioner form of payment is elected, upon death of firefighter, 100%, 75%, 66 2/3% or 50% of benefit paid firefighter, as selected by firefighter, is paid to joint pensioner for life of joint pensioner regardless of marital status. Ref.: Sec. 34(1)(c).

2. Section 8, "Pension for Death in Line of Duty".

- a. Less than 10 full years of credited service.
 - (1) Benefit is paid to surviving spouse for life regardless of remarriage and/or minor children. If no surviving spouse or minor children, a refund of the firefighter's contributions is paid to the named beneficiary, or, if none, the estate.
 - (2) Amount of benefit is 75% of 80%, which is 60% of firefighter's average monthly salary.
 - (3) Pre-separation death election of life only or joint pensioner form of payment is void upon pre-separation death.

Ref.: Sec. 33(1)(b) and Sec. 14(1) & (5)(b).
- b. 10 or more but less than 20 years of credited service.
 - (1) If firefighter had not designated beneficiaries, benefits are paid to surviving spouse for life regardless of remarriage and/or minor children.
 - (2) If firefighter had designated beneficiaries, after 120 monthly payments to designated beneficiaries, benefits would be paid to eligible surviving spouse for life regardless of remarriage and/or minor children.
 - (3) Benefit is 60% (75% of 80%) since firefighter with less than 20 years of credited service would not have earned a benefit greater than 60%.
 - (4) Pre-separation death election of life only or joint pensioner form of payment is void upon pre-separation death.

Ref.: Sec. 33(2)(a) & (c), Sec. 35(1), and Sec. 14(5)(b).
- c. 20 or more years of credited service.
 - (1) If firefighter had not designated beneficiaries, benefits are paid to surviving spouse for life regardless of remarriage and/or minor children.
 - (2) If firefighter had designated beneficiaries, after 120 monthly payments to designated beneficiaries, benefits would be paid to eligible surviving spouse for life regardless of remarriage and/or minor children.
 - (3) For first 120 monthly payments, benefits would be paid at what firefighter earned (20 years = 68%, plus 3.4% for each additional year, up to 85% (25 years)).



- (4) After 120 monthly payments, benefits would be paid to eligible surviving spouse and minor children at rate of 60% (75% of 80% of firefighter's average monthly salary), unless member had completed 23.53 years of credited service, in which case, the percentage would be more.
- (5) Pre-separation death election of life only or joint pensioner form of payment is void upon pre-separation death.
- (6) Cost-of-Living Increases - Monthly benefit is increased by 5% every 3 years beginning 3 years after death of firefighter, if firefighter had 20 or more years of actual service.
Ref.: Sec. 33(2)(a) & (c), Sec. 35(1), Sec. 14(5)(b), Sec. 12(2)(b) or (c), and Sec. 19(2).

3. Section 9, "Permanent Disability Pension; In Line of Duty".

- a. 80% of average monthly salary regardless of years of credited service, except more if 40 years of credited service.
- b. Firefighter may elect life with 10 years certain (guarantee of 120 monthly payments), life only, or joint pensioner form of payment.
- c. If firefighter elects life with 10 years certain (guarantee of 120 monthly payments), and dies before 120 monthly payments, named beneficiaries are paid the remainder of the 120 monthly payments. Thereafter, eligible surviving spouse for life regardless of remarriage and/or minor children are paid at 75% of benefit paid first 120 months.
- d. If life only form of payment is elected, no further monthly benefits are paid upon death of firefighter.
- e. If joint pensioner form of payment is elected, upon death of firefighter, 100%, 75%, 66 2/3% or 50% of benefit paid firefighter, as selected by firefighter, is paid to joint pensioner for life of joint pensioner regardless of marital status.
- f. Firefighter with more than 23.53 years or more of credited service could elect to receive a greater benefit under Section 12, Service Retirement, but pension benefits may not be tax exempt as they are for line of duty disability benefits.
- g. Cost-of-Living Increases - If firefighter has 20 or more years of actual service, monthly benefit is increased by 5% every 3 years beginning 3 years after retirement, with continuation of cost-of-living increases to those persons who are eligible to receive monthly retirement benefits upon the death of the firefighter.

Ref.: Sec. 9, Sec. 14(5)(c), and Sec. 19.

4. Section 10, "Pension for Death Not in Line of Duty".

- a. Less than 10 years of credited service.



(1) Refund of contributions to designated beneficiaries or estate.
Ref.: Sec. 10(1)(b) and Sec. 33(1)(a).

b. 10 or more but less than 20 years of credited service.

- (1) 4% per year, not to exceed 60%.
- (2) First 120 monthly payments paid to designated beneficiaries or if no designated beneficiaries to eligible surviving spouse and/or minor children, or, if none, to estate.
- (3) Thereafter, to the eligible surviving spouse for life regardless of remarriage and/or minor children:
 - i) 65% of the amount of the first 120 monthly payments if the firefighter died before reaching normal retirement age (10 years of service and age 47 or 20 years of service regardless of age).
 - ii) 75% if the firefighter had reached normal retirement age (10 years of service and age 47 or 20 years of service regardless of age).
- (4) Pre-separation death election of life only or joint pensioner form of payment is void upon pre-separation death.

Ref.: Sec. 10(1)(a), Sec. 35(1), and Sec. 14(5)(d).

c. 20 or more years of credited service.

- (1) First 120 monthly payments paid to designated beneficiaries, or if no designated beneficiaries to eligible surviving spouse and/or minor children or, if none, to estate, in the amount of the benefit that the firefighter earned, which at 20 years of credited service is 68.0% plus 3.4% for each year thereafter until 25 years of service or 85.0%.
- (2) After the 120 monthly payments, 75% of the earned amount (68% - - 85%) is paid to the eligible surviving spouse for life regardless of remarriage and/or minor children.
- (3) Pre-separation death election of life only or joint pensioner form of payment is void upon pre-separation death.
- (4) Cost-of-Living Increases - Monthly benefit is increased by 5% every 3 years beginning 3 years after death of firefighter, if firefighter had 20 or more years of actual service.

Ref.: Sec. 10(1)(a), Sec. 35(1), Sec. 14(5)(d), Sec. 12(2)(b) or (c), and Sec. 19(2).

5. Section 12, "Service Requirement for Voluntary Retirement".

a. Less than 10 years of credited service.

- (1) Refund of contributions to firefighter.
Ref. Sec. 18(2)

b. 10 or more but less than 20 years of credited service.

- (1) Accrual rate of 2.0% per year of average monthly salary.
- (2) Commencement of payment of monthly benefits begins on the 1st of the month immediately after age 47 after separation from employment.
- (3) Firefighter may elect life with 10 years certain (guarantee of 120 monthly payments), or life only, or joint pensioner, form of payment.*



- (4) If life with 10 years certain is elected, after payment of 120 monthly payments at the above rate, upon the death of the firefighter, 75% of the pension the firefighter was entitled to receive is paid to the eligible surviving spouse for life regardless of remarriage and/or minor children.
- (5) If life with 10 years certain is elected and firefighter dies before 120 monthly payments are made, designated beneficiaries or, if none, estate receive remainder of 120 monthly payments.

Ref.: Sec. 12, Sec. 14(5)(e) and Sec. 35(3).

c. 20 or more years of credited service.

- (1) 68% + 3.4% for each year of credited service in excess of 20 years of credited service (but not to exceed 85%), unless more than 42.5 years of credited service.
- (2) Commencement of payment of monthly benefits begins on the first of the month immediately after separation from employment.
- (3) For Forward DROP participants, commencement of accrual into Forward DROP of monthly benefits begins on the first of the month immediately after entry into Forward DROP.
- (4) Firefighter may elect life with 10 years certain (guarantee of 120 monthly payments), or life only, or joint pensioner, form of payment.*
- (5) If life with 10 years certain is elected, after payment of 120 monthly payments at the above rate, upon the death of the firefighter, 75% of the pension the firefighter was entitled to receive is paid to the eligible surviving spouse for life regardless of remarriage and/or minor children.
- (6) If life with 10 years certain is elected and firefighter dies before 120 monthly payments are made, designated beneficiaries or, if none, estate receive remainder of 120 monthly payments.
- (7) Cost-of-Living Increases - Monthly benefit is increased by 5% every 3 years beginning 3 years after retirement, or, in case of a DROP participant, 3 years after termination of employment, with continuation of cost-of-living increases to those persons who are eligible to receive monthly retirement benefits upon the death of the firefighter, if firefighter had 20 or more years of actual service.

Ref.: Sec. 12, Sec. 14(5)(e), Sec. 35(3), and Sec. 19.

*Note: If life only form of payment is elected, no further monthly benefits are paid upon death of firefighter. Ref.: Sec. 34(1)(b). If joint pensioner form of payment is elected, upon death of firefighter, 100%, 75%, 66 2/3% or 50% of benefit paid firefighter, as selected by firefighter, is paid to joint pensioner for life of joint pensioner regardless of marital status. Ref.: Sec. 34(1)(c).