



4/21/2025

TO: LGERS Board of Trustees

FM: Sam Watts, Executive Director

RE: The Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund (FRSWPF) Advisory Panel

The Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund (FRSWPF) Advisory Panel is established under NCGS 58-86-6 and has the annual responsibility of reporting to the Board of Trustees of the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System (LGERS) regarding the needs of the FRSWPF.

STATUTE

§ 58-86-6. Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund Advisory Panel.

There is created an advisory panel to be known as the Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund Advisory Panel, hereinafter referred to as "the advisory panel."

The advisory panel shall consist of seven persons:

(1) The Executive Director of the Retirement Systems Division of the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer or his or her designee, who shall act as chair.

(2) A designee of the State Fire Marshal.

(3) Five members to be appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System: one paid firefighter, one volunteer firefighter, one paid rescue squad worker, one volunteer rescue squad worker, and one representing the public at large, for terms of four years each. One member of the advisory panel appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System must be a member of that Board. Members of the advisory panel may succeed themselves if reappointed by the Board of Trustees of the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System.

The persons serving on the Board of Trustees of the Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Pension Fund on June 30, 2013, may serve as members of the advisory panel until the expiration of their current terms. No member of the advisory panel shall receive any salary, compensation, or expenses other than that provided in G.S. 138-6 for each day's attendance at duly and regularly called and held meetings of the advisory panel.

STRUCTURE

- Statute requires the LGERS Board to appoint five members.
- Staff are recommending reappointment of Dean Coward (Jackson) as the volunteer fighter; Gary Whitman (Harnett) as the rescue squad member; and Debra Poe (Ashe) as the volunteer rescue squad member.
- Staff are also recommending appointment of Benjamin Bobzien (New Hanover) as the paid firefighter. Bobzien also fulfills the requirement that a member of the LGERS Board should serve on the advisory panel.
- Staff are further recommending appointment of David Cates (Wake) as the representative of the public at large.
- Mike Williams of the Department of Insurance will continue to serve as the designee of the State Fire Marshal.