

40-1707. Authorized uses of moneys received by firefighters relief associations; cessation of private fire department, transfer of association funds to state firefighters association, inc. (a) Except as otherwise provided in the firefighters relief act, all moneys received by a firefighters relief association under the provisions of the firefighters relief act shall be held in trust and used as a fund:

(1) For the relief of any member of the fire department of such city, township, county or fire district when injured or physically disabled in or by reason of the discharge of such member's duties as a firefighter;

(2) for the payment of a death benefit when any member of such fire department is killed in the discharge of such member's duties as a firefighter, or who dies from the effect of injuries so received or from disease contracted by reason of such member's duties as a firefighter, to the beneficiary or beneficiaries as designated by the member or, in the event that no beneficiary has been designated to receive such death benefit, to the following persons in the following priority:

(A) If there is a spouse and there are no natural or adopted children of the deceased member, the death benefit shall be for the spouse;

(B) if there are one or more natural or adopted children and spouse of the deceased member, 1/2 of the death benefit shall be for the spouse and the remaining 1/2 of the death benefit shall be for the children, in equal shares thereof;

(C) if there are one or more natural or adopted children and there is no spouse of the deceased member, the death benefit shall be for the children, in equal shares thereof;

(D) if there is a father or mother, or both, and there are no natural or adopted children and no spouse of the deceased member, the death benefit shall be for the father or mother, or to both in equal shares thereof if there are both;

(E) if there are one or more siblings and there is no father or mother or spouse and there are no natural or adopted children of the deceased member, the death benefit shall be for the siblings, in equal shares thereof; and

(F) if there are no siblings, no father or mother, no natural or adopted children and no spouse of the deceased member, the death benefit shall be for the estate of the deceased member;

(3) for the payment of the necessary funeral expenses of any member of such fire department when killed in the discharge of such duties as a firefighter, or in the case of death resulting from injuries so received or disease contracted by reason of such member's duties as a firefighter;

(4) for the further purpose of paying a pension to members of full-paid fire departments who are unfit for service after having served for a period of not less than 20 years with the department, such pension not to exceed 1/2 of the monthly salary at the date of retirement; or

(5) for the purchase of insurance which would provide for any or all of the foregoing purposes for which such fund is authorized to be expended.

(b) In any city of the second class which maintains a fire department consisting of both salaried and volunteer firefighters, such moneys may be expended for the purchase of, or payment of premiums on, policies of life, accident, or accident and health insurance upon members of the fire department of such city, which policies may be owned either by the firefighters relief association of such city or by the individual members thereof but, before any premium is paid on such policies of insurance, the provisions thereof shall be approved by such firefighters relief association as suitable to carry out the objects for which such association was established.

(c)(1) In any fire department consisting of volunteer firefighters, such moneys may be used to establish an annuity for each firefighter who served for not less than 20 years with such fire department and who attended and fought not less than 75% of the fires which were attended by such fire department during such period of time and which the firefighter was available to attend, as verified by the governing body of such fire department, but such annuity shall not exceed the amount paid to fully paid members of fire departments of comparable size to such volunteer department. In any full-paid or any volunteer fire department such moneys may be expended for the purchase of group term, group permanent or individual permanent life insurance contracts for members of such department. Any benefits or coverage accruing to individual members of the department under such policies shall be and shall remain the property of the firefighters relief association except as follows:

(A) A member that has completed 10 years of service with the department and has been covered under such policy for a continuous period of not less than five years, a member who suffers a total and permanent disability or death, or a member who retires under the retirement plan in effect for the fire department, shall, upon termination of employment, be entitled to any benefits or coverage available to an individual member under the provisions of the contract; and

(B) A member that has not fulfilled one of the requirements set forth in paragraph (A) of this subsection (c)(1) shall, upon termination of employment, be entitled to the same proportion of benefits or coverage available to an individual member as such member's individual premium contributions bear to the total premiums paid on the policy at the time of termination. Any additional coverage or benefits may be obtained by reimbursing the firefighters relief association an equitable and reasonable amount in accordance with procedures set forth in the bylaws of the association.

(2) Prior to the purchase of any annuity contract for and on behalf of any volunteer firefighter, the provisions thereof shall be approved and the adequacy of the funds available for such purpose shall be established by such firefighters relief association.

(d) The moneys paid by the commissioner of insurance to the Kansas state firefighters association, inc., as provided in subsection (c) of K.S.A. 40-1706, and amendments thereto, shall be used by the Kansas state firefighters association, inc., in accordance with that statute and as may be regulated by such association in this state at the annual meetings of the Kansas state firefighters association, inc., which shall be held annually at places to be selected by such association within this state. The Kansas state firefighters association, inc., shall make an annual accounting to the commissioner of insurance of all moneys paid to such association as provided in K.S.A. 40-1706, and amendments thereto.

(e) In the city of El Dorado, in Butler county, which city has by election established a firemen's pension fund under the provisions of K.S.A. 14-10a01 to 14-10a15, inclusive, and amendments thereto, the firefighters relief association of such city may, when the money and securities belonging to such association exceed \$35,000, grant from time to time sums not exceeding 1/2 the earnings of the fund and not exceeding 1/2 the yearly amount received from the commissioner of insurance under this act to the city to be credited to the firemen's pension fund of such city.

(f) Any such firefighters relief association is hereby authorized to loan part or all of such funds to the city, township, county or fire district in which such association is located, to be used by such city, township, county or fire district in the improvement of its fire department and equipment thereof, and such city, township, county or fire district is hereby authorized to borrow the same and issue to the treasurer of such firefighters relief association its warrant therefor bearing interest payable semiannually, at a rate not to exceed 6% per annum.

(g) The commissioner of insurance is hereby authorized to adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary to effect the purposes of the firefighters relief act.

(h) All assets of any firefighters relief association, which is composed of members of a private fire department and which has ceased to provide fire protection services for an incorporated city, township, county or fire district, shall be transferred to and shall become the property of the firefighters relief association for the fire department which is the immediate successor of such private fire department, after satisfaction of any outstanding obligations. If there is no firefighters relief association for the immediately succeeding fire department, such assets shall become the property of the Kansas state firefighters association, inc., as of the date such private fire department ceased to provide such fire protection services, after satisfaction of any outstanding obligations. The Kansas state firefighters association, inc. shall use all such assets for fire prevention and fire extinguishment education and study.

History: L. 1927, ch. 231, 40-1707; L. 1929, ch. 201, § 1; L. 1941, ch. 257, § 6; L. 1943, ch. 187, § 1; L. 1953, ch. 235, § 1; L. 1957, ch. 287, § 7; L. 1974, ch. 188, § 1; L. 1978, ch. 180, § 1; L. 1981, ch. 193, § 1; L. 1984, ch. 165, § 8; L. 1987, ch. 168, § 2; July 1.