

**FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION TRUST FUND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

JOSEPH E. JOHNSON III, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 201 HOWELL AVENUE
BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 34601

REGINA A. MARTIN, VICE-CHAIRMAN
JOHN BERG, TRUSTEE

STEVEN E. SMITH, TRUSTEE
BRADLEY W. SUFFICOOL, TRUSTEE

ANDREW PEPE, TRUSTEE

PO BOX 10134, Brooksville, Fl. 34603 bfdpension@gmail.com

January 22, 2026

AGENDA

5:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS-- Chairman-Vice Chairman and Secretary
4. MINUTES-September 23, 2025
5. CITIZENS INPUT
6. FOSTER AND FOSTER-Actuary
Presentation: Patrick Donlan. Update on Calculations & Miscellaneous Information regarding termination of the Plan
7. PEDRO HERRERA, BOARD ATTORNEY
 - a. Options of Board to retirees and terminated former employees re: termination
 - b. Explanation and option of Substitute Trust Fund
 - c. Inquiry - T. LaChause- Termination
 - d. Inquiry J. Webb- Termination
 - e. Inquiry John Berg- Termination
 - f. Update on transition to Salem Trust
 - g. Miscellaneous information and updates
8. INVOICES
 - a. COLA increases- Daniel \$93.47;Dow\$188.29;Guckian\$82.88;Keefer\$53.58;Mossgrove \$147.55;Papa \$15.76; Wilfong \$79.01.
 - b. Sugarman & Susskind, legal fees Oct 2025 \$894.60;Nov 2025 \$994.00
 - c. Saltmarsh, Audit fee partial\$7350
 - d. S McCrary- Reimbursement PO Box and stamps \$114.32 - Adm.fee November, 2025
9. APPROVAL OF RETIREMENT-
 - a. Stanley Mettinger- \$18,204.45 retroactive Oct,Nov & Dec.2025. Monthly \$6068.15 retro \$328.83- New monthly \$6177.76
10. TRUSTEES/ADMINISTRATOR INPUT
11. ADJOURNMENT

Correspondence to Note

- a. Letter dated 12/16/25 from Stan Mettinger to Board termination of Plan-plus misc.information
- b. Donation from Sugarman, Susskind, to American Red Cross
- c. Letter from Doug Beckendorf Div of retirement dated 12/27/25 re:acceptance of reports
- d. Memos to retirees and non vested dated 12/15/25 re: termination of Plan
- e. Letter to Keith Brinkman dated 1/9/26 re: Impact statement
- f. Letter to Steve Bardin, Div of retirement re: Impact Statement
- g. E-Mail Alaimo and Woop- termination

MINUTES

The Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund Board of Trustees met on September 23, 2025, at Joseph E. Johnston, III Council Chambers, 201 Howell Avenue, Brooksville, Florida .

PRESENT: Joseph Pecora, Chairman; Regina Martin, Vice Chair; Andy Pepe, Trustee; Steve Smith, Secretary ; Stan Mettinger, Trustee; Susan McCrary, Administrator ; Jennifer Gainfort, Mariner; Pedro Herrera, Attorney and Patrick Donlan, Foster and Foster via telephone.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to Order by the chairman at 5:02 pm..

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance

Pedro Herrera and Patrick Donlan

Patrick stated that he City has two different options-closing or terminating the Plan Members could take a refund and enter the FRS. There has to be an Ordinance done. The City was asking for impact statements for each scenerios. If it is a Plan closure each member has to elect what to do.

Patrick stated that the members can not make a decision until the city decides what to do. Patrick explained how he would do the statements.

Andy stated that the council needs to make their decision before the members can make any decisions and Council needs the information so they can decide whether to terminate or close the Plan. Patrick stated that he will not be able to do individual statements until the city makes that decision. Joe Pecora felt that the information provided by Patrick should come back to the Board and the Board could provide it to the city. He asked Patrick how long it would take. Patrick advised from two to four weeks

Kyle Martin, Human Resources Director, stated the next council meeting would be October 6th and 20, 2025. She stated the information needed to be before the council meeting dates. Following meeting is November 6, 2025.

There was discussion about Board members attendance and meeting place. Board will meet in November after information from Foster.

Motion: Regina Martin made a motion to approve Patrick to do the study seconded by Steve; voted upon and carried.

The Share Plan ordinance was discussed. Patrick stated that the language in the Ordinance needs to be changed. This was discussed with the city pension attorney. Patrick advised he can then do the no impact letter to accompany the Ordinance.

Nicholas Alaimo , District Chief of Brooksville Fire Department approached. He asked what is the status of the Plan once the County takes over? Pedro advised that it depended on whether the city closes or terminates. Pedro stated that based on the inter-local agreement that the city is liable for the Plan. He stated that the members have the choice to make which depends on what the city does. Plan closure means employees are 100% vested as the day of closure; Termination 100% vested and benefits accrue on that datae, The Board then decides how to pay everyone out. Closure- Plan stays the same. No new members . The multiplier is difference in FRS and the Brooksville Plan.

Thomas LaChause-Tom asked if he could draw his pension and then go onto FRS; Pedro advised that he had to stop working. It depends on whether the Plan is terminated or closed.

Andy advised that the County approved that the city pay into the pension fund and the firefighters be allowed to stay in the fund, but it has to be approved by the city.

Stan asked what happens to the retirees. Pedro stated they will continue to get a check until the city decides what they are going to do with the Plan. Depending on the decision., if it is terminated, then lump sum payout or annuity is

1-22-26
att # 4

offered to the retirees. The Police Board gave the members the option to decide. Patrick advised. He stated that he will send the impact information to the Board and the Board will give to Council.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING as of June 30, 2025. Mariner- Jennifer Gainfort

Ms. Gainfort advised that the tariffs have had an effect on the market for a short period of time. Rates held steady. Interest rates are expected to come down. Domestic equities, strong. Mid and small caps up 8%. Overseas market up 12%. Strong year. Bonds up 6%. Last quarter 8.6 million then up to 9.1 million. Fixed at 23%. Real estate up 8%. Investments within policy, but needs some rebalancing. \$200,00 in Agincourt \$100,000 in cash.. She will prepare letter.

Motion: Motion by Steve Smith to rebalance as advised by Jennifer; seconded by Andy Pepe; voted upon and carried.

She went over the reconciliation section of the report. Good growth. We needed more cash for disbursements. We are in the top percentile. She continued over the report. Agincourt is having some changes and she will keep the Board advised. Overall results up to date up to 9.5 million.

Pedro advised that FTI will be surrendering our fund as of February 16, 2026. We could do FRP, but this Board is not required by Law to do this.. We could make selection based on recommendations. After discussion, it was decided to go with recommendations of advisors without RFP. Salem Trust indicated to Jennifer that they would honor the fees charged by FTI.

Andy asked if the city terminates the Plan how does it affect the Board. Pedro advised that the Board stays in existence until the last penny is paid. If the Plan is closed and there is one member, the Board stays.

Steve stated that if Susie and Jennifer are comfortable with Salem then he would recommend going with them.

Motion: Motion to assign custodial responsibilities to Salem Trust made by Steve; seconded by Regina Martin; voted upon and carried unanimously.

Mrs. McCrary asked if we need to hold an election for Stan's position since he is retiring. His term ends December 31, 2025.. Pedro advised to do so.

Pedro explained new Law regarding Protecting Florida Investments Act. The Board is in compliance.

BUDGET- October 1, 2025- September 30, 2026

Motion: Motion to approve Budget made by Regina Martin; seconded by Andy Pepe; voted upon and carried unanimously

RETURN OF CONTRIBUTIONS- Erik Ortiz- \$7540.30

Motion: Motion made by Stan Mettinger to approve return of contributions; seconded by Andy Pepe, voted upon and carried unanimously,

APPROVAL OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS- Donald Nichols- Retro \$328.74- Monthly \$4164.37

Motion: Motion to approve made by Steve Smith; seconded by Stan Mettinger, voted upon and carried unanimously

mtf agenda

City of Brooksville
Firefighters' Retirement Trust Fund

Authorization for Cost-of-Living Adjustments
Effective January 1, 2026

<u>Name of Payee</u>	<u>Current Payment</u>	<u>New Payment</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Daniel, Robert	\$3,115.74	\$3,209.21	\$93.47
Dow, Michael	6,276.33	6,464.62	188.29
Guckian, Steven	2,762.80	2,845.68	82.88
Keefer, Joseph	1,786.13	1,839.71	53.58
Mossgrove, Timothy	4,918.18	5,065.73	147.55
Papa, Daniel	525.44	541.20	15.76
Wilfong, Dennis	2,633.64	2,712.65	79.01
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$22,018.26	\$22,678.80	\$660.54

This revision reflects a 3.0% cost-of-living adjustment effective January 1, 2026 for retirees between the ages of 55 and 65.

The foregoing authorization and direction for payment has been made pursuant to directions and authorities of the Board of Trustees.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By: _____

Date of Issuance: _____

(1 copy for Disbursing Agent, 1 copy for Board)

PROCESSED *Sum*

1-22-26
Item # 8A

SUGARMAN, SUSSKIND, BRASWELL & HERRERA

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Robert A. Sugarman ♦
Howard S. Susskind
D. Marcus Braswell, Jr.
Pedro A. Herrera
Kenneth R. Harrison, Sr.
Veronica Ucros

Madison J. Levine
David E. Robinson
Of Counsel

150 Alhambra Circle
Suite 725
Coral Gables, Florida 33134
(305) 529-2801
Toll Free (800) 329-2122
Facsimile (305) 447-8115

♦ Board Certified Labor &
Employment Lawyer

November 6, 2025

OCT

City of Brooksville Firefighters' Retirement Trust
Susan McCrary
85 Veterans Avenue
Brooksville, FL 34601

CURRENT FEES:	894.60
CURRENT COSTS:	0.00
PREVIOUS BALANCE:	3,451.67 <i>pd</i>
PAYMENTS RECEIVED:	0.00

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:	4,346.27

1-22-26
#8

SUGARMAN, SUSSKIND, BRASWELL & HERRERA

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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150 Alhambra Circle
Suite 725
Coral Gables, Florida 33134
(305) 529-2801
Toll Free (800) 329-2122
Facsimile (305) 447-8115

♦ Board Certified Labor &
Employment Lawyer

December 8, 2025

Nov

City of Brooksville Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund
Board of Trustees
Susan M. McCrary, Administrator
P.O. Box 10134
Brooksville, FL 34603

CURRENT FEES:
CURRENT COSTS:
PREVIOUS BALANCE:
PAYMENTS RECEIVED:

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:

994.00
0.00
4,346.27 ·
3,451.67 - pd

1,888.60 · *pas*
bel. pd \$ 894.60

1-22-26
#82

SUGARMAN, SUSSKIND, BRASWELL & HERRERA, P.A.

150 Alhambra Circle
Suite 725
Coral Gables, Florida 33134
Telephone: 305-529-2801
Fax: 305-447-8115
www.sugarmansusskind.com

City of Brooksville Firefighters' Retirement Trust
Susan McCrary
85 Veterans Avenue
Brooksville, FL 34601

November 5, 2025
Invoice #201035

Oct

Client: Matter BRFP: MEET

In Reference To: Meeting

	<u>Amount</u>
Previous balance	\$3,451.67
Balance due	<u>\$3,451.67</u>

Client: Matter BRFP: PLAN

In Reference To: Plan

Professional Services

	<u>Hrs/Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10/27/2025 Draft response memo to ADMN and Board regarding pending issues with merger of services and potential termination/closure of 175 plan. Telephone conference with regarding same.	1.80 \$497.00/hr	<u>\$894.60</u>
For professional services rendered	1.80	<u>\$894.60</u>
Balance due		<u>\$894.60</u>

↑

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12-3-25
SB
1-22-26*



INVOICE

City of Brooksville Firefighters' Retirement Trust Fund
Via e-mail
c/o Susan McCray
bfdpension@gmail.com

Date: 11/5/2025
Invoice Number: 746716
Client: T50979.AU

Progress billing for the audit of the Plan's financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2025. \$7,350.00

Invoice Total: \$7,350.00

Remit to Saltmarsh CPA's Inc: ~ PO Drawer 13207 ~ Pensacola, FL 32591-3207

Payment is due within 30 days from the date of this invoice

To pay online: www.saltmarshadvisors.com/pay Please note credit card payments are subject to a convenience fee.
There is no fee for ECheck, however allow 3-5 business days for processing before payment is applied to your account.

Contact us at Billing@saltmarshcpa.com - 850-435-8300 or toll free 800-477-7458

pd
12-3-25

1-22-26
#8C

CITY OF BROOKSVILLE
FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT TRUST FUND
AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT FROM FUND

TO: FIDUCIARY TRUST INTERNATIONAL, Inc.
SUBJECT: Authorization from Board of Trustees for Payment from Fund
Name of Payee: Susan Mae McCreary
Social Security Number: _____
Address for Payment Purposes: Reimbursement - for
PO Box - Stamps - Postage
Amount of Payment: \$114.33

____ Retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, first payment to be made
____, 20____ and subsequent payments the first day of each month
hereafter. (Upon death of the payee, please notify the Board of Trustees for further
instruction concerning survivor benefits, if any.)

____ Retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, first payment to be made
20____ and subsequent payments the first day of each month hereafter, until
____, 20____, upon which date all remaining monthly payments shall
be reduced to \$____.

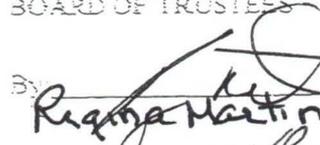
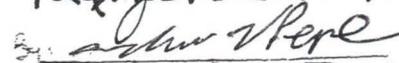
____ Disability benefit, payable until terminated by further written notice from Board. (Upon
death of the payee, please notify the Board of Trustees for further instruction concerning
survivor benefits, if any.)

____ Death Benefit, payable to Beneficiary of Member, first payment to be made
____, 20____ and subsequent payments on the first day of each
month, with the last payment on ____ 20____. (Upon the death of the
payee, please notify the Board for further instructions.)

____ Lump sum amount of \$____ (Member Contributions, PLOP, DROP, etc.)
(If Refund of Member Contributions, includes \$____ pretax and \$____ after tax)

The foregoing authorization and direction for payment has been made pursuant to directions
and authority of the Board of Trustees.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By: 
Regina Martin - Vice-Chairman
By: 
Andrew Pepe, Trustee

Date of Issuance: Dec 3, 2025
(1 copy for Disbursing Agent, 1 copy for Board)

1-22-26
#80

CITY OF BROOKSVILLE
FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT TRUST FUND

AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT FROM FUND

TO: FIDUCIARY TRUST INTERNATIONAL, Inc.

SUBJECT: Authorization from Board of Trustees for Payment from Fund

Name of Payee: Susan Marie McGarry

Social Security Number: _____

Address for Payment Purposes: Direct deposit

Amount of Payment: _____

Retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, first payment to be made hereafter 20 and subsequent payments the first day of each month thereafter. (Upon death of the payee, please notify the Board of Trustees for further instruction concerning survivor benefits, if any.)

Retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, first payment to be made 20 and subsequent payments the first day of each month hereafter, until 20, upon which date all remaining monthly payments shall be reduced to \$ _____.

Disability benefit, payable until terminated by further written notice from Board. (Upon death of the payee, please notify the Board of Trustees for further instruction concerning survivor benefits, if any.)

Death Benefit, payable to Beneficiary of Member, first payment to be made 20 and subsequent payments on the first day of each month, with the last payment on 20. (Upon the death of the payee, please notify the Board for further instructions.)

Lump sum amount of \$ _____ (Member Contributions, PLOP, DROP, etc.)
(If Refund of Member Contributions, includes \$ _____ pre-tax and \$ _____ after tax)

The foregoing authorization and direction for payment has been made pursuant to directions and authority of the Board of Trustees.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Date of Issuance: Nov 8 2025
(1 copy for Disbursing Agent, 1 copy for Board)

By: [Signature] Payment Station Vice-Chair
By: [Signature] Warren Pepe, Trustee

PF-7
03-01-15

[Signature]
12-3-25
1 2224
8D

CITY OF BROOKSVILLE
FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT TRUST FUND
AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT FROM FUND

TO: FIDUCIARY TRUST INTERNATIONAL, Inc.

SUBJECT: Authorization from Board of Trustees for Payment from Fund

Name of Payee: Stanley Mettenger, Jr

Social Security Number: _____

Address for Payment Purposes: Direct deposit

Amount of Payment: \$6177.46/ NEW MONTHLY payment as of Jan. 2026 - per alt.

____ Retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, first payment to be made _____, 20____ and subsequent payments the first day of each month thereafter. (Upon death of the payee, please notify the Board of Trustees for further instruction concerning survivor benefits, if any.)

____ Retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, first payment to be made _____, 20____ and subsequent payments the first day of each month thereafter, until _____, 20____, upon which date all remaining monthly payments shall be reduced to \$_____.

____ Disability benefit, payable until terminated by further written notice from Board. (Upon death of the payee, please notify the Board of Trustees for further instruction concerning survivor benefits, if any.)

____ Death Benefit, payable to Beneficiary of Member, first payment to be made _____, 20____ and subsequent payments on the first day of each month, with the last payment on _____, 20____. (Upon the death of the payee, please notify the Board for further instructions.)

____ Lump sum amount of \$_____ (Member Contributions, PLOP, DROP, etc.) (If Refund of Member Contributions, includes \$_____ pretax and \$_____ after tax)

The foregoing authorization and direction for payment has been made pursuant to directions and authority of the Board of Trustees.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By: Regina A. Martin Vice Chair
By: Susan Mae McCarty
Susan Mae McCarty, Admin

Date of Issuance: Dec 18, 2025

(1 copy for Disbursing Agent, 1 copy for Board)

1-22-26
#9

CITY OF BROOKSVILLE
FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT TRUST FUND

AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT FROM FUND

TO: FIDUCIARY TRUST INTERNATIONAL, Inc.

SUBJECT: Authorization from Board of Trustees for Payment from Fund

Name of Payee: Stanley Mettinger, Jr.

Social Security Number:

Address for Payment Purposes: Direct deposit

Amount of Payment: \$328.88 / retro adjustment \$109.61 per month
Oct Nov, Dec

Retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, first payment to be made _____, 20____ and subsequent payments the first day of each month thereafter. (Upon death of the payee, please notify the Board of Trustees for further instruction concerning survivor benefits, if any.)

Retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, first payment to be made _____, 20____ and subsequent payments the first day of each month hereafter, until _____, 20____, upon which date all remaining monthly payments shall be reduced to \$_____.

Disability benefit, payable until terminated by further written notice from Board. (Upon death of the payee, please notify the Board of Trustees for further instruction concerning survivor benefits, if any.)

Death Benefit, payable to Beneficiary of Member, first payment to be made _____, 20____ and subsequent payments on the first day of each month, with the last payment on _____, 20____. (Upon the death of the payee, please notify the Board for further instructions.)

Lump sum amount of \$_____ (Member Contributions, PLOP, DROP, etc; (If Refund of Member Contributions, includes \$_____ pretax and \$_____ after tax)

The foregoing authorization and direction for payment has been made pursuant to directions and authority of the Board of Trustees.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By: Regina A. Martin - Vice Chair
Susan Nee McChary

Date of Issuance: Dec 18, 2025

(1 copy for Disbursing Agent, 1 copy for Board)

#9
1-22-21

CITY OF BROOKSVILLE
FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT TRUST FUND
AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT FROM FUND

TO: FIDUCIARY TRUST INTERNATIONAL, Inc.

SUBJECT: Authorization Board of Trustees for Payment from Fund

Name of Payee: Stanley W. Mettinger, Jr.

Social Security Number: _____

Address for Payment Purposes: Direct Deposit

Retro - Oct Nov December 2005

\$18,204.45 Retro Retirement
6,068.15 plus Monthly Jan 2006

Amount of Payment: _____

Retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, first payment to be made _____, 20____ and subsequent payments the first day of each month thereafter. (Upon death of the payee, please notify the Board of Trustees for further instruction concerning survivor benefits, if any.)

Retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, first payment to be made _____, 20____ and subsequent payments the first day of each month thereafter, until _____, 20____; upon which date all remaining monthly payments shall be reduced to \$ _____.

Disability benefit, payable until terminated by further written notice from Board. (Upon death of the payee, please notify the Board of Trustees for further instruction concerning survivor benefits, if any.)

Death Benefit, payable to Beneficiary of Member, first payment to be made _____, 20____ and subsequent payments on the first day of each month, with the last payment on _____, 20____. (Upon the death of the payee, please notify the Board for further instructions.)

Lump sum amount of \$ _____ (Member Contributions, PLOP, DROP, etc.) (If Refund of Member Contributions, includes \$ _____ pretax and \$ _____ after tax.)

The foregoing authorization and direction for payment has been made pursuant to directions and authority of the Board of Trustees.

Date of issuance: Dec 8, 2005

(1 copy for Disbursing Agent, 1 copy for Board)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By: Regina Martin, Vice Chair
By: Edwin Pepe, Trustee
Andrew Pepe, Trustee

December 16, 2025
2092 Culbreath Road, Lot C29
Brooksville, Florida 34602

City of Brooksville
Firefighter Pension Board of Directors
201 Howell Ave
Brooksville, Florida 34601

Members of the Board;

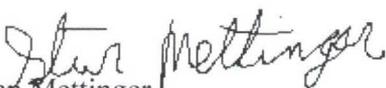
I am writing you as a result of the City of Brooksville, City Council action that terminated the Brooksville Firefighters Pension Plan earlier this month. As you are aware, this action negatively impacted the well-being of 55 members of the plan and at least that many more spouses and family members. The action ended the careers of several members and forced other member to start over at year one earning a retirement, unless they buy into the Florida Retirement System. The decision was far reaching and negatively impacts members that have already retired during my 23-year career with the city and before, some of which gave well over 20 years (in some cases 30) only to be disrespected and treated like trash in the end.

Whether those 55 members worked year or 30 years with the City of Brooksville, they earned their every dime of their pension and have the right to have a say in how it will be distributed to them, whether it be lump sum payout or some form of annuity paid monthly. This is especially true for those of us that have retired and are currently receiving monthly payments.

Florida Statute 112.0515 protects the retirement and pension rights of public employees when governments merge, consolidate, or transfer functions, ensuring no reduction in benefits or rights occurs due to such governmental changes at state or local levels, safeguarding benefits that existed before the merger or consolidation. It states that the result of the merger shall not result in any impairment or reduction of benefits or other pension rights accruing to those members. I feel that not having an option is certainly considered an impairment.

As a Board Member you certainly have responsibility to manage the plan in the best interest of the plan. Technically there is no longer a plan since it was terminated. Therefore, your concern should be solely in the best interest of each and every member and no weight should be cast on what would be beneficial to the City of Brooksville. Please give each individual the right to choose what is right for us.

Respectfully,


Stan Mettinger

GTN A
1-20-26



Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>

Letter to pension board

1 message

DC60B <captstanm1@gmail.com>

Tue, Dec 30, 2025 at 9:07 AM

To: bfddow@hotmail.com, Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>

send it to: bfdpension@gmail.com ASAP

i forgot to say that technically a lump sum is going to cost us in penalties and taxes which in effect reduces our pension payment. That should be added to the letter.



December 16 Letter to Pension Board.docx

42K

CTN
A 1-22-26

The Board has to do what State statutes say regarding the Pension Plan. As you know we have excellent advisors, and will govern ourselves accordingly.

[Quoted text hidden]

DC60B <captstanm1@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 7, 2026 at 6:25 PM

To: Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>

I see nothing thing in the statutes that says they have to pay us lump sum. This will be devastating to some people. Give us a choice

[Quoted text hidden]

DC60B <captstanm1@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 7, 2026 at 6:31 PM

To: Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>

under a Florida Chapter 175 plan, the board of trustees (acting as the board of directors/administrators) has the authority to determine the method of distribution of funds upon plan termination and can offer the choice between a lump-sum cash payout or the purchase of an insured annuity.

According to Florida Statute 175.361(2):

Florida Statute 175.361(2) states that the board of trustees is responsible for determining the method of distributing asset value to firefighters entitled to benefits upon plan termination. This includes options such as cash payment, maintaining another trust fund, or purchasing insured annuities. The statute provides the board with flexibility in choosing how benefits are distributed, allowing for the use of insured annuities or cash payments. The board is also required to ensure that all accrued benefits become nonforfeitable upon plan termination and are distributed following specific procedures.

. Florida Statutes, Title X, Chapter 112, Section 112.0515 states:

It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that in any consolidation or merger of governments or the transfer of functions between units of governments either at the state or local level or between state and local units,

the rights of all public employees in any retirement or pension fund shall be fully protected. No consolidation or merger of governments or governmental services, either state or local, accomplished in this state shall diminish or impair the rights of any public employee in any retirement or pension fund or plan which existed at the date of such consolidation or merger

MPA
1-22-24

and in which the employee was participating, nor shall such consolidation or merger result in any impairment or reduction in benefits or other pension rights accruing to such employee.”

Florida Statute Title X, Section 112.0515, which protects public employee pension rights during government mergers, **does apply to public sector plans like those governed by Chapter 175 (Police & Firefighters' Pensions)**, as it's a broad statute safeguarding all public employees' accrued retirement benefits, even if the specific plan (like a municipal Firefighters' plan) has its own detailed rules. The core principle is that governmental changes (mergers, transfers) cannot diminish employee pension rights, making it relevant to public plans, including those under Chapter 175.

Here's why it applies:

Broad Language: Section 112.0515 Florida Statutes says "in any consolidation or merger of governments... the rights of all public employees in any retirement or pension fund shall be fully protected".

Public Employee Focus: It explicitly refers to "public employees" and their "retirement or pension fund," covering all governmental levels and types.

Chapter 175 Context: Chapter 175 governs municipal and special district firefighters' pension funds, which are public sector plans, meaning their participants are public employees whose rights are protected by 112.0515.

In essence: While Chapter 175 provides the specific framework for firefighters' pensions, Florida Statute Title X, Section 112.0515 acts as a super-statute ensuring those rights aren't eroded by governmental restructuring.

[Quoted text hidden]



Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>

(no subject)

1 message

DC60B <captstanm1@gmail.com>
To: Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 3:56 PM

I see or read the ordinance. But this is what is in state law?

When a Florida Chapter 175 Police or Fire Pension Plan terminates due to consolidation or merger, your accrued, vested benefit is nonforfeitable, meaning the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) generally **cannot reduce your existing monthly check**, but they must distribute the funds, often leading to a transfer of benefits, and may offer a lump-sum payout option as part of that process, according to Florida Statute 175.361. The new plan or merged entity takes on the responsibility, and while future earnings might change, previously earned benefits are protected, though you'd need to see your specific plan documents for how the transfer affects the calculation or if a lump sum is an option. 

Key Considerations:

- 1. Nonforfeitable Rights:** Chapter 175 statutes explicitly state that upon termination, the rights of employees to benefits accrued and amounts credited to their accounts become nonforfeitable.
- 2. Plan Distribution:** The funds must be distributed according to specific procedures outlined in the statute, often involving transferring to another plan or paying out.
- 3. No Benefit Reduction (for vested amounts):** Your existing monthly benefit, based on past service, should not be reduced; the consolidation shifts responsibility, not liability for earned benefits.
- 4. Lump-Sum Payout:** A lump-sum option might become available upon termination, depending on the plan's rules and the new entity's structure, as it's a common way to distribute assets, according to resources like John Hancock.
- 5. Review Your Plan Documents:** The most crucial step is to obtain and review the official plan documents (Summary Plan Description) for the specific details of how *your* plan handles termination, merger, or consolidation.
- 6. Contact Plan Administrators/FRS:** Reach out to your former plan's trustees, the new entity's administrator, or the Florida Retirement System (FRS) for clarification on your specific situation. 

In essence, the AHJ can't just cut your check, but the process of plan termination means the underlying structure changes, potentially offering new payout choices (like a lump sum) for your accrued benefits, which must be managed according to Florida law. 

CTN A
1-22-24



Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>

Attached

2 messages

Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>
To: DC60B <captstanm1@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 22, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Hi- Hope all is well. Happy holidays and please acknowledge receipt of this memo. Susie

--

Susan Mae McCrary, Administrator
Brooksville Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund

 **RETIREESTERMINMEMO2025.pdf**
419K

DC60B <captstanm1@gmail.com>
To: Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 22, 2025 at 6:41 PM

Received,

We are entitled to our pensions and a say in how they are distributed. A lump sum could theoretically expire/deplete prior to death even if invested and a lump sum will also result in us paying penalties.
[Quoted text hidden]

CR

1-22-26



Thank You Howard!

DONATION DETAILS

➔ **One-time Donation of:** \$5,125.00

Designation: Disaster Relief

Transaction ID: b1est7mv

Donation Date: 12-5-2025

Dear Howard Susskind on behalf of all our clients at Sugarman, Susskind, Braswell & Herrera, P.A.

The American Red Cross is very grateful for your generous gift of \$5,125.00 on December 5, 2025 to Disaster Relief. Your gift will help people affected by disasters big and small, whenever and wherever they occur across the country.

Please see below for a copy of your tax receipt information for your donation. A copy of this tax receipt will also be emailed to ad@sugarmansusskind.com.

The humanitarian efforts of the Red Cross provide comfort and hope to so many during their times of need. Thank you for your commitment to this critically important work. Our mission depends on the support and compassion of donors like you.

On behalf of those we serve, thank you for standing with us.

Sincerely,

Cliff Holtz
President and CEO, American Red Cross

P.S. Did you know that many employers match gifts from their employees? Your gift could go twice as far. Please visit redcross.org/matching to view a list of participating companies.

Please print this page for tax purposes. As required by IRS regulations, we provide the following information: The American Red Cross is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. Our federal tax identification number is 53-0196605. As no goods or services have been provided in connection with this gift, the full amount is deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.

To learn more about our privacy policy and how your data is used, please visit us at redcross.org/privacy-policy.

OTN B
1-22-25



October 27, 2025

Ms. Susan Mae McCrary
Brooksville Firefighters' Retirement Trust Fund
85 Veterans Ave.
Brooksville, FL 34601

**RE: Brooksville Firefighters' Retirement Trust Fund
State Acceptance - All reports through 10/1/2024**

Dear Ms. McCrary:

The above-referenced plan has been determined to be **state-accepted** pursuant to Part VII of Chapter 112, F.S. and Chapter 60T, F.A.C. By this determination, all prior actuarial reports and impact statements effective prior to the above date and received by the Division of Retirement may be considered to be **state-accepted**. This review relied upon the actuarial costs and asset amounts as determined by the Plan actuary in the referenced actuarial reports. Although I reviewed the results of the reports for compliance, consistency and reasonableness, I did not audit the asset information or employee data information for accuracy. Accordingly, I express no opinion on the reasonableness of the estimates of the financial status of the plan. An audit may or may not uncover additional material issues in the actuarial work performed.

The investment return assumption used in the most recent actuarial valuation was **7.25%**. Based on the plan's balance sheet asset allocation and consensus capital market outlook expectations for future inflation and real returns as of the valuation date, we would consider an investment return assumption in the range of **6.00% to 6.75%** to be a reasonable 50th percentile expectation of future long-term geometric average annual return. We recommend that the Board consider lowering the Plan's investment return assumption.

Please contact our office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Douglas E. Beckendorf, A.S.A., E.A.
Actuary

cc: Mr. Patrick T. Donlan, Plan Actuary
Mr. Pedro Herrera, Plan Attorney
Mr. Joseph Pecora, Plan Chairman
Ms. Lisa Hendrickson, Brooksville City Manager
Ms. Autumn Sullivan, Brooksville Finance Director
Ms. Christa Tanner, Brooksville Mayor
Mr. Steven Smith, Plan Secretary
Mr. Steve Bardin, Division of Retirement

CTN @
1-22-26

FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SUSAN MAE McCRARY, ADMINISTRATOR - 352-796-1035

PO Box 10134, Brooksville, Fl. 34603
bfdpension@gmail.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL RETIREES

FROM SUSAN MAE McCRARY, ADMINISTRATOR

RE: PENSION BENEFIT

DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2025

The Brooksville City Council voted on December 1, 2025 to terminate the City of Brooksville Firefighters' Pension Plan ("Pension Plan")

According to Florida State Statutes and City Ordinance #525, the value of your accrued benefit will be calculated by the Pension Plan's actuary. The Board of Trustees has directed that in addition to possibly providing lump sum distributions to all eligible participants for the actuarial equivalent of each members' accrued benefits, the purchase of annuities for each member will also be considered. The Board is expected to meet again soon (possibly January or February) where it will discuss all payout options. This information will be available to you at a future time when provided to us by the Pension Plan's actuary or consultant. All information and necessary instructions to secure your earned benefits will be provided to you as soon as practicably possible.

We understand the importance of this matter and are available to address any questions or concerns. Please bear with us while this is being done. In the meantime, your monthly benefits will continue to be paid as it is currently provided.

You may contact me at the phone number or e mail provided above.

With kindest regards.

1-22-26
CTND

REGINA A. MARTIN, VICE-CHAIR
JOHN BERG, TRUSTEE

STEVEN E. SMITH, TRUSTEE, SECRETARY
BRADLEY W. SUFFICOOL, TRUSTEE

ANDREW PEPE, TRUSTEE

FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION TRUST FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SUSAN MAE McCrARY, ADMINISTRATOR - 352-796-1035

po Box 10134, Brooksv illel, Fl. 34603
bfdpension@gmail.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL TERMINATED FIREFIGHTERS

FROM SUSAN MAE McCRARY, ADMINISTRATOR

RE: NON VESTED MEMBER RETURN OF CONTRIBUTIONS

DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2025

The City of Brooksville City Council voted to terminate the Firefighters' Pension Plan on December 1, 2025.

Due to the fact that you are not vested in the City of Brooksville Firefighters' Pension Plan ("PensionPlan") and are no longer employed by the City of Brooksville, you are immediately eligible for a refund of your employee contributions made during the course of your employment as a firefighter with the City.

Please fill out the enclosed paperwork as soon as possible and return to me at: P.O. Box 10134, Brooksville, Florida 34603. If you are requesting a direct deposit of these funds or are electing to rollover these amounts to another qualified plan, please fill out those forms respectively as well and return to me accordingly. Should we not receive the necessary forms and elections within 30 days, a check will be mailed to you at the most recent address in the Pension Plan's files. The approximate amount owed to you is indicated on the form enclosed. This amount may be adjusted slightly based on the final accounting after confirmation by the Pension Plan advisors.

REGINA A. MARTIN, VICE-CHAIRMAN
JON BERG, TRUSTEE

STEVEN E. SMITH, TRUSTEE, SECRETARY
BRADLEY W. SUFFICOO, TRUSTEE

ANDREW PEPE, TRUSTEE

1-22-26
CTN
D

FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

P.O. Box 10134, Brooksville, FL 34601

SUSAN MAE MCCRARY, ADMINISTRATOR - 352-796-1035

bfdpension@gmail.com

January 9, 2026

Mr. Keith Brinkman, Chief Actuary
Division of Retirement
P.O. Box 9000
Tallahassee, Florida 32315

Re: Actuarial Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Brinkman:

The City of Brooksville is considering the implementation of amended retirement ordinance. The changes are described in the enclosed material.

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 175, we are enclosing the required Actuarial Impact Statement along with a copy of the proposed Ordinance for your review.

If you have any questions, or additional information is needed, please contact us.,

Sincerely,



SUSAN MAE MCCRARY
Plsn Administrator

REGINA A. MARTIN, VICE-CHAIRMAN
BRADLEY W. SUFFICOL, TRUSTEE

STEVEN E. SMITH, TRUSTEE

ANDREW PEPE, TRUSTEE
JOHN BERG, TRUSTEE

CTN
1-22-26

FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION TRUST FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

P.O. Box 10134, Brooksville, Fl. 34601

SUSAN MAE MCCRARY, ADMINISTRATOR - 352-796-1035

bfdpension@gmail.com

January 9, 2026

Mr. Steve Bardin, Administrator
Police and Firefighters' Retirement Trust Funds
Dept. of Management Services, Div. of Retirement
3189 S. Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Re: Actuarial Impact Statement

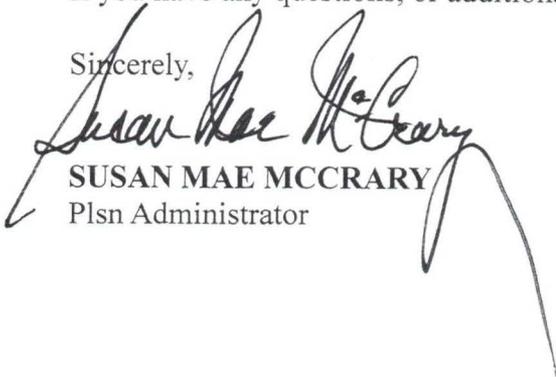
Dear Mr. Bardin:

The City of Brooksville is considering the implementation of amended retirement ordinance. The changes are described in the enclosed material.

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 175, we are enclosing the required Actuarial Impact Statement along with a copy of the proposed Ordinance for your review.

If you have any questions, or additional information is needed, please contact us.,

Sincerely,



SUSAN MAE MCCRARY
Plsn Administrator

CTW
1-22-26 

REGINA A. MARTIN, VICE-CHAIRMAN
BRADLEY W. SUFFICOOL, TRUSTEE

STEVEN E. SMITH, TRUSTEE

ANDREW PEPE, TRUSTEE
JOHN BERG, TRUSTEE



Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>

Re: Pension

7 messages

Thomas Lachausse <lachausset@yahoo.com>

Thu, Dec 18, 2025 at 1:53 PM

To: Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>, "bradsuff@gmail.com" <bradsuff@gmail.com>, "andrewpepe352@gmail.com" <andrewpepe352@gmail.com>

It is my understanding that once the pension ordinance is officially changed that I will be eligible to collect my pension. I will be vested and I am 56 years old. Can this please be verified with the Board and Attorney. If this is the case I would like to retire as soon as possible.



Thank you,

Tom LaChausse

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

On Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 8:51 PM, Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com> wrote:

Per your request.

On Mon, Dec 15, 2025 at 4:14 PM Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com> wrote:

Yes, I will.

On Mon, Dec 15, 2025 at 3:55 PM Thomas Lachausse <lachausset@yahoo.com> wrote:

Can someone please send me a copy of the pension plan and ordinance?

Tom LaChausse

--
Susan Mae McCrary, Administrator
Brooksville Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund

--
Susan Mae McCrary, Administrator
Brooksville Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund

M-C
1-22-26

Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 18, 2025 at 8:40 PM

To: Thomas Lachausse <lachausset@yahoo.com>

Hi. Thomas. Please explain and elaborate on your understanding. Out line it for our attorney. I will then pass it on to him. From what you have sent, it is unclear. Thank you
[Quoted text hidden]

Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 18, 2025 at 9:10 PM



Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>

BFD pension questions

3 messages

Tamara Webb <tamarawebb15@gmail.com>
To: "bfdpension@gmail.com" <bfdpension@gmail.com>

Tue, Dec 2, 2025 at 7:43 PM

Susan

My name is James Webb, former Captain at Brooksville Fire. I received my elections, but I have a few questions as I am the only one who already has 13 years in FRS.

If I continue to put in to BFD, and am vested in about 2 years do I receive a one time election within this pension to transfer/move to FRS.

After vested can I stop putting in the BFD pension and let it accrue until 55 and then pick up on my FRS?

Also, generally when organizations are shut down and they are no longer putting into retirement you become automatically vested?! Is this what's happening? If not, why not?

Also, with these 2 options available was it taken into consideration thoughts who already (such as myself) have FRS?

Thank you for your help!

James Webb

Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>
To: Tamara Webb <tamarawebb15@gmail.com>

Tue, Dec 2, 2025 at 9:53 PM

I just was informed that council voted to terminate the plan. All action is in the hands of our attorney and you will be advised of the status accordingly.

Susan Mae McCrary, Administrator
Brooksville Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund
[Quoted text hidden]

7.d
1-22-26

Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>
To: Jessica De la Torre Vila <jess@sugarmansusskind.com>
Cc: Pedro Herrera <pherrera@sugarmansusskind.com>

Mon, Dec 29, 2025 at 11:03 AM

I am forwarding this members e mail to you for your information, Happy New Year

[Quoted text hidden]

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[Quoted text hidden]



Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>

BFD pension

1 message

John Berg <jcberg95@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 3:57 PM

To: Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>

I was apart of BFD pension plan when we were consolidated. I was told at the time we could continue our pension with Hernando, since then we've been told we can not. Other pension members, and I would like to petition city council to hold off on making an decision on terminating our pension until we understand the full impact it'll have on all current and retired members of the pension. If after that they still choose to terminate our pension I'd like to the pensions legal to explore options how to stay in the pension plan even though the city is planning to terminate it if that's at all possible. Thankyou. ←

John C. Berg

74
~~74~~
1-22-26



Susan McCrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>

Staying in the pension plan

2 messages

Steven Woop <steven.woop@gmail.com>
To: bfdpension@gmail.com

Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 1:52 PM

Hey Susie it's Steven Woop from Brooksville Fire and apart of the Hernando / Brooksville consolidation. I was wanting to stay in the Brooksville pension plan if we were able to.

Susan McCrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>
To: Steven Woop <steven.woop@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 3:53 PM

In reference to your request, be advised that the City elected to terminate the Plan instead of close it . therefore, according to State statutes the option to stay in the plan no longer exists.

Susie
[Quoted text hidden]

--

Susan Mae McCrary, Administrator
Brooksville Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund

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1-22-26



Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>

BFD Pension

2 messages

Nicholas Alaimo <nicholas.alaimo94@gmail.com>
To: "bfdpension@gmail.com" <bfdpension@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 2:02 PM

Hello,

I am wanting to explore the options of staying in the Brooksville Fire Pension Plan.
I was part of the consolidation and have elected to stay in the pension.

Susan Mccrary <bfdpension@gmail.com>
To: Nicholas Alaimo <nicholas.alaimo94@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 3:50 PM

Nick- In reference to your request, be advised that the City elected to terminate the Plan instead of close it . therefore, according to State statutes the option to stay in the plan no longer exists.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Susan Mae McCrary, Administrator
Brooksville Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund

CTN
1-22-26