



The Retirement Board of the FIREMEN'S ANNUITY & BENEFIT FUND of Chicago

Spring 2026

REPORT TO PARTICIPANTS

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

ABOUT THE FIREMEN'S ANNUITY AND BENEFIT FUND OF CHICAGO

The FABF Fund office is open Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM excluding holidays. Members and guests are welcome.

Monthly Retirement Board meetings are typically held on the third Wednesday of each month, 8:30 AM at the Fund office. Members and the public are welcome to attend.

ELECTED TRUSTEES

DANIEL A. FORTUNA
Annuitant Trustee, President

ZACHARY PENTEK
Active Trustee, Secretary

JOE SENORSKI
Active Trustee

MICHAEL FLISK
Active Trustee

EX-OFFICIO TRUSTEES

ANNA VALENCIA
City Clerk, Vice-President

MELISSA CONYEARS-ERVIN
City Treasurer

MICHAEL BELSKY
City Comptroller

BRANDON KELLER
First Deputy Fire
Commissioner

Contact Us: info@fabf.org
Web: www.fabf.org

Markets have been favorable to the Fund, with a strong start to 2026 and solid investment performance over the past several years. The Fund achieved returns of 13.9% in 2023, 9.2% in 2024, and 13.8% in 2025. While short-term market movements can draw attention, the Fund remains focused on a long-term investment horizon and disciplined compliance with its investment policies, all aimed at meeting or exceeding the Fund's actuarially determined rate of return.

Over the past ten years, the Fund has achieved an annualized return of 8.3%, outperforming its targeted return assumption of 6.75%. Members are encouraged to review the Investment Chair's update that follows for additional detail.

For members who retired during the expired contract period, the Fund has recalculated benefits using the amended contract wage schedules and terms. The amended grant amounts and corresponding retroactive payments were approved at the May Regular Retirement Board Meeting. The May distribution to retired members should reflect the updated benefit amount, along with any retroactive payments due because of the recalculation. We anticipate questions and encourage members to contact Fund staff if clarification is needed.

Over the last four years, the City has made additional voluntary contributions to the Fund, including \$38.72 million in 2023, \$28.27 million in 2024, and \$15.64 million in 2025. In January 2026, the Fund received an additional supplemental employer contribution of \$5.79 million from the City's 2026 budget. This amount represents 50% of the City's budgeted supplemental pension payment to the Fund for 2026. These supplemental pension payments are separate from, and in addition to, the City's annual statutorily required employer contribution, which for payment year 2026 is \$445.3 million. Through May 2026, the Fund has received approximately 60% of the employer contributions due and owing for 2026.

In the 104th General Assembly, scheduled to adjourn May 31, 2026, there are several bills are under consideration that may impact Fund members. The following legislation

has passed either the House or the Senate and has moved to the opposite chamber for further consideration:

HB 2704 – Provides that the Retirement Systems Reciprocal Act (Article 20 of the Illinois Pension Code) is adopted and made part of the Chicago Firefighter Article of the Pension Code.

SB 1454 – Provides that, beginning January 1, 2027, municipalities shall automatically enroll employees hired on or after that date into an eligible deferred compensation plan established by the municipality.

SB 3404 – Among other provisions, establishes an accelerated pension benefit discounted lump sum payment in lieu of any monthly pension benefit.

The Fund's Legislative Committee reviews all pending legislation believed to be applicable to the Fund and its members. It is our practice to communicate with members and stakeholders whenever legislation is proposed and/or enacted that the Board believes may materially impact benefits or administration of the Fund.

We continue to see strong participation in our member education efforts. Our semi-annual pre-retirement seminars recently have been at full capacity, and the Fund has received positive feedback on the content. The 2026 Fall Pre-Retirement Seminar is scheduled for October 3, 2026, and members nearing retirement are strongly encouraged to attend.

Every two years, the Fund is legally required to verify each annuitant's current address and proof of life. This bi-annual "Jurat Verification" process will begin this summer. Please do not ignore the communications and instructions. Failure to respond may result in a suspension of benefits.

The families of Firefighter Michael Altman and Fire Engineer Steven Decker, their respective crews, and the entire Chicago Fire Department have suffered a profound loss with their line-of-duty deaths. We extend our deepest condolences to all who knew and worked alongside Firefighter Altman and Fire Engineer Decker.

Fraternally,
Daniel Fortuna, Annuitant Trustee, President

INVESTMENT CHAIRMAN RECAP

Capital markets have held up well during the volatility experienced through April of 2026. Despite a choppy start to the year, the Fund posted a **year-to-date return of 5.7% after fees**, slightly ahead of its benchmark return of 5.5%.

Both equity and fixed income markets rebounded strongly in April, recovering from March's sharp selloff. Investors largely looked past ongoing geopolitical tensions and focused instead on solid corporate earnings and growing investor interest around artificial intelligence. While disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz and unresolved U.S.–Iran tensions remained in the background, the overall economic picture has been supportive enough to keep investors engaged.

Even with policy uncertainty, higher costs, and geopolitical risks, the U.S. economy and corporate earnings have continued to exceed market expectations. Markets have also shown confidence in long-term growth prospects.

Against this backdrop: U.S. stocks, as measured by the Russell 3000 Index, fell 4.0% in the first quarter but rebounded sharply in April, gaining 10% and more than making up for the earlier decline. International stocks declined 0.7% in the first quarter, based on the MSCI ACWI ex-U.S. IMI Index, but returned 9.7% in April, bringing the year-to-date return to 8.9%. Bonds remained relatively stable with the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index posting a slight decline of -0.05% in the first quarter, but gained 0.11% in April, resulting in a small positive return year to date.

Looking back at 2025, the Fund delivered a strong **13.8% return after fees**, above the Fund's actuarial assumed return of 6.75%. Markets performed well across most asset classes, with international and emerging markets outperforming the U.S. for the first time since 2009. The Fund's public equity exposure played a meaningful role in performance, with international equities returning 26.7% and U.S. equities up 13.7%. Fixed income also contributed positively, with public fixed income up 8.1% and private credit returning 8.3%.

Public real estate, which tends to move closely with U.S. equities, returned 8.1%, while private real estate declined 2.0%. Many investors believe the real estate market has reached its bottom, and the Fund expects to award a new non-core real estate investment mandate in 2026. Private Equity, Infrastructure, and Diversified Strategies delivered solid returns of 6.7%, 6.7%, and 5.0%, respectively.

Over the five-year period ending December 31, 2025, the Fund generated an annualized return of 6.6%, slightly below its actuarial assumption. Over the past ten years, however, the Fund achieved an annualized return of 8.3%, exceeding its targeted actuarial assumption. While past performance is no guarantee of future results, the Fund remains focused on long-term objectives through broad diversification, disciplined portfolio management, and regular review of strategic asset allocation. Short-term market movements often grab headlines, but they don't change the Fund's long-term strength or outlook.

AS OF 12/31/2025 NET OF FEES	Mkt Val (\$mil)	% of Total	Policy Target	3-Month Return	1 Year Return	3 Year Return	5 Year Return	10 Year Return
FIREMEN'S BENEFIT FUND	\$1,563	100.0%	100.0%	1.8%	13.8%	12.1%	6.6%	8.3%
<i>Policy Target</i>				2.4%	16.6%	13.8%	7.9%	9.1%
BROAD US EQUITY	\$547	35.0%	33.0%	1.9%	13.7%	17.4%	10.1%	12.7%
<i>U.S. Equity Blended Benchmark</i>				2.4%	17.2%	22.3%	13.2%	14.4%
GLOBAL Ex-US EQUITY	\$400	25.6%	24.0%	3.0%	26.7%	17.5%	8.1%	8.5%
<i>MSCI ACWI ex-US Index IMI</i>				4.8%	32.0%	17.1%	7.8%	8.5%
FIXED INCOME	\$335	21.4%	22.0%	1.3%	8.1%	5.6%	0.6%	3.1%
<i>Bloomberg Aggregate</i>				1.1%	7.3%	4.7%	-0.4%	2.0%
PUBLIC REAL ESTATE	\$74	4.7%	4.0%	-1.2%	8.1%	7.0%	2.3%	
<i>Core Real Estate Benchmark</i>				-0.7%	9.6%	6.7%	2.8%	
PRIVATE REAL ESTATE	\$45	2.9%	4.0%	0.4%	-2.0%	-4.3%	3.8%	1.0%
<i>Global REITs Benchmark</i>				0.9%	3.8%	-3.5%	3.4%	4.6%
INFRASTRUCTURE	\$39	2.5%	3.0%	0.0%	6.7%	4.5%		
<i>FTSE Dev Core Infra 50/50</i>				0.1%	14.4%	8.5%		
PRIVATE EQUITY	\$47	3.0%	4.0%	1.0%	6.7%	6.1%	13.2%	10.7%
<i>Private Equity Benchmark</i>				2.2%	8.4%	8.3%	14.3%	14.1%
PRIVATE CREDIT	\$31	2.0%	3.0%	1.9%	8.3%	13.8%		
<i>Private Credit Benchmark</i>				1.8%	8.9%	10.9%		
LIQUID DIVERSIFYING	\$42	2.7%	3.0%	3.8%	5.0%	1.1%	-3.1%	
<i>Liquid Div. Blended Index</i>				1.9%	8.2%	8.8%	7.2%	
CASH	\$5	0.3%	-	1.1%	4.5%	5.2%	3.5%	2.5%
<i>3-month T-Bill</i>				1.0%	4.2%	4.8%	3.2%	2.2%

FUND OVERVIEW

The Firemen's Annuity and Benefit Fund of Chicago (Fund or FABF) was established in 1887 and is governed by Articles 1, 1A and 6 of the Illinois Pension Code (Code). The Fund was created for the purpose of providing retirement, disability, death, and survivor benefits for employees of the City of Chicago (City) employed under the provisions of the Municipal Personnel Ordinance as fire service employees and for the dependents of such employees. All employees that pay into the Fund under their covered employment are exempt from Social Security. Employees hired after 1986 are covered by Medicare.

The Fund, as of December 2024, supports the retirement security of over 10,394 members: 4,775 active members, 272 disabled members, 3,897 retirees, 1,291 survivors and dependents of such members, and 145 inactive or deferred employees. The demographic of our current active membership as of December 2025 is broken down into 1,966 Tier 1 members and 2,708 Tier 2 members.

With respect to funding, all members, regardless of Tier status, pay 9.125% of their salary to the Fund as an employee contribution. The required employer contribution from the City is set forth in Section 6-165 of the Code. Section 6-165 provides that the City shall levy

a tax annually at a rate on the dollar of the assessed valuation of all taxable property that will produce when extended an annual amount that is equal to no less than (1) the normal cost to the Fund, plus (2) an annual amount sufficient to bring the total assets of the Fund up to 90% of the total actuarial liabilities of the Fund by the end of fiscal year 2055. Employer statutory required contributions booked for 2024 (paid in 2025) were \$444.6 million and have been paid in full. Employer statutory required contributions booked for 2025 (paid in 2026) are expected to be \$445.3 million. Employee aggregate contributions for 2025 were \$49.8 million and are expected to be \$53.1 million for 2026. Correspondingly, the Fund paid \$447.5 million (unaudited) in annuitant benefit payments in 2025.

The Fund's actuarial value of assets (\$1,826.9 billion) represents 102.9% of the fair market value of assets (\$1,774.2 billion). The total actuarial liability for the Fund is \$7,487 billion. The funded ratio based on the actuarial value of assets is 24.4%. This overview of the Fund is as of December 31, 2024. Actuarial Valuation and Review (the full report is available on our website at fabf.org). Financial and Actuarial reports for FY2025 will be available on the Fund's website in July.

2025 IN MEMORIAL *

Michael J. Ahearn 5/3/2025	Michael Gacki 7/20/2025	Robert B. Macek 11/22/2025	Charles L. Pickett 5/9/2025
Jerrold L. Anderson 1/16/2025	Edward W. Gallagher 2/11/2025	Gerald H. Macey 9/26/2025	Arlency Pitts 3/11/2025
Thomas J. Barrett 1/13/2025	John A. Gleason 1/14/2025	Nick P. Marino 6/19/2025	Daniel P. Power 7/16/2025
Michael F. Barry 6/29/2025	Donald T. Goepfner 8/28/2025	George Maroder 4/7/2025	Christine M. Rago 4/23/2025
Raymond A. Barskus 7/22/2025	Jerry T. Haase 10/31/2025	Kevin J. McGarry 2/6/2025	Matthew Raia 1/16/2025
Edmund J. Beauregard 5/12/2025	James R. Hampe 1/8/2025	Daniel J. McGowan 4/28/2025	Barbara J. Riggle 2/7/2025
Russell P. Bedell 4/9/2025	John M. Hardy 11/13/2025	Thomas P. McGrath 9/14/2025	John D. Rohn 3/14/2025
Daniel L. Breaux 9/11/2025	Edward V. Haugh 10/3/2025	James T. McGuire 4/10/2025	Alexander F. Rossi 6/21/2025
Timothy J. Brown 9/13/2025	Patrick W. Hayes 2/3/2025	Francis J. McMillin 6/24/2025	Daniel E. Ryder 9/24/2025
Charles E. Burrell 10/7/2025	Dennis M. Hofflander 11/21/2025	James P. McSweeney 6/9/2025	Bradley J. Sanicki 5/27/2025
Steven E. Bybee 11/19/2025	Cheri A. Holmes 10/20/2025	**David J. Meyer 4/23/2025	Steven H. Schulz 4/24/2025
Thomas R. Carmody 6/16/2025	Thomas J. Hosty 10/13/2025	Leonard Mikuta 7/14/2025	Leo Seay 10/1/2025
Joseph F. Carroll 4/4/2025	Thomas M. Howe 10/31/2025	Ozzie J. Moran 1/28/2025	William M. Sheridan 4/20/2025
Wayne Carter 12/31/2025	Joseph E. Hughes 2/1/2025	John J. Moriarty 7/14/2025	Lawrence J. Sobek 4/7/2025
Anthony J. Consola 4/5/2025	James Hynes 10/7/2025	Philip Murawski 7/2/2025	Raymond K. Stone 11/12/2025
James E. Corbett 10/30/2025	Casimer W. Jabczynski Jr. 7/8/2025	Edward D. Murphy 11/22/2025	Michael Striedl 7/23/2025
Joseph A. Cordero Jr 10/13/2025	Edward Jaguszewski 7/6/2025	Lawrence W. Murray 9/8/2025	John E. Sutherland Jr. 10/31/2025
Brian Corley 2/11/2025	William E. Jaquest 9/14/2025	William J. Nolan 11/11/2025	Robert S. Synal 10/27/2025
Domenick Costantini 11/4/2025	Michael Jobe 2/4/2025	William H. Norris 5/15/2025	Cecil Thomas 7/31/2025
Robert E. Datz 5/13/2025	Charles E. Johnson 7/30/2025	Gregory Norris 2/24/2025	Antonio Trinidad 3/25/2025
Patrick J. Devine 5/6/2025	Donald D. Jurcak 12/20/2025	Patrick O'Callaghan 8/2/2025	Robert Valentinas 8/15/2025
Michael D. Deyonge 1/27/2025	John J. Kelleher 3/25/2025	John T. O'Connell 3/29/2025	Michael J. Walsh 1/17/2025
Edward L. Dovgin 2/8/2025	Thomas J. Kelly 7/12/2025	Michael E. O'Connell 4/2/2025	Mark M. Ward 9/5/2025
Luke F. Dwyer 11/14/2025	William J. Kinsella 1/23/2025	Robert T. Olson 7/6/2025	Dennis R. Warfield 2/5/2025
Richard E. Ervin 3/26/2025	Steven M. Kolecki 12/1/2025	Raymond E. Orozco 11/3/2025	Raymond Wittekind Jr. 12/5/2025
Melvin Ferman 2/24/2025	Walter F. Kolinski 3/16/2025	Gerald D. Page 6/1/2025	Walter S. Wojcik 5/13/2025
Timothy J. Finnegan 12/6/2025	William A. Krueger 5/7/2025	Lawrence M. Panatera 3/16/2025	
Patrick J. Flaherty 7/17/2025	Donald A. Lachapelle 4/29/2025	Gino P. Panella 12/9/2025	
James Friel 6/21/2025	William T Lee 3/30/2025	Francis J. Paukert 6/28/2025	
Thomas P. Furlong 5/14/2025	Thomas J. Linnane 5/31/2025	Richard V. Paulus 4/6/2025	
Arnold C. Gacki 12/7/2025		Ernie W. Pentek 4/4/2025	

*Memorial recognition is for in service and retired CFD member deaths in 2025

**Line of Duty Death.



The Retirement Board of
the Firemen's Annuity &
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**INFORMATION
REQUEST**
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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

All retired participants that move, even temporarily over winter or summer, are required to complete a change of address form. The required forms can be located on our website or you can call the Fund Office at 312-726- 5823 and a form will be mailed to you. In addition, you can now elect to complete the form digitally through the members log in and ID.me verification process. Please click this link [member-login](#) to learn more.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD SECRETARY

The Secretary's responsibilities include acting as the Board's liaison with the Fund's Executive Director regarding staffing, benefit processing, and office operations. Currently the Fund employs fifteen full-time employees and one part-time employee. As noted in the December 2025 Fund Summary, during 2025 the Fund processed, and the Board granted, 218 service retirements, 3 ordinary disabilities, 14 occupational disabilities, 21 duty disabilities, 62 regular widow annuities, 7 child annuities, and 1 Duty Widow Compensation annuity.

The Fund engaged Northern Trust's Benefit Payment Services Division to administer monthly annuity benefit disbursements. As a result, all retirement payments are now being issued by Northern Trust. As part of the services included is the ability to access the Northern Trust's Benefit Payment Web Passport®. The portal provides annuitants with 24/7 access to their payroll information including recent payment history, tax statements (available January 2027), and check payment status (paid vs. outstanding). Members electing to use the optional portal must enroll through the Northern Trust Payroll Services website at www.northerntrust.com/bppweb.

Beginning in late June, the FABF's website will be enhanced to allow members to securely: download Member and Annuitant forms and complete them electronically; upload completed Member and Annuitant forms directly from their computer to Fund staff; send secure messages and transmit documents through an encrypted document exchange; and access Northern Trust payroll information via the Benefit Payment Participant Web Passport®. To ensure the security of member information, the Fund has partnered with ID.me. If you already have an ID.me account, your existing username and password can be used to access the new member's site. Members who do not have an ID.me credential may create one by following the instructions available on the Fund's website. To log into the secure Members Only section, Members and Annuitants will need their Member number which may be found on any written communication received from FABF. If unable to locate that number, you may request it by emailing Fund staff at info@fabf.org. It is our expectation that this new option will save members time and money, as well as improving security over personal information provided.

The Fund formally issued an RFP for vendors that specialize in Pension Administration Software. Our current software needs to be updated to accommodate changes in benefits calculations related to recent legislative amendments, as well as to allow us to operate and integrate with the upgraded Windows Operating Software. Our goal in improving our software platform is to modernize user dashboards, improve recordkeeping and data integration capabilities, provide enhanced security, and allow members enhanced access to their individual membership records.

The Trustees are excited at the technological enhancement the Fund is working towards, we hope each of you takes advantage of the improved accessibility. As your Board Secretary, the Fund staff and I are available to address questions or concerns you may have about Fund operations.

Fraternally,
Zachary Pentek
Active Trustee, Secretary

HOW DO I UPDATE MY BENEFICIARY

The Fund pays an ordinary death benefit to the designated beneficiary or beneficiaries of deceased participants. [Click here](#) to visit the FABF website regarding this Death Benefit. Or [click here](#) to download the Death Benefit Directive form. Use this form to request a new, or to update your current beneficiary. You can download and print the form. Once completed, it will need to be notarized and returned to the Fund accompanied by a legible copy of a valid Driver's License or State ID. Alternately, you may email FABF at info@fabf.org and request the Death Benefit Directive Form which may be completed and verified online using [ID.me](#). A confirmation will be provided once the change is completed.

EMWQ

Please consider donating to EMWQ. Your support—whether through payroll deductions, annuity deductions, or direct contributions via check or online—goes directly to providing financial assistance to minor children in the event of an active member's death. Additionally, we offer annual support to the minimum widows of Chicago Fire Department members. For more information, please visit our website at widowsandchildren.org. All donations are greatly appreciated.

The Ende, Menzer, Walsh & Quinn Retirees', Widows' and Children's Assistance Fund is a tax exempt 501 (c) (3) Charitable Organization