

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEDONA, ARIZONA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE CITY'S PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RETIREMENT SYSTEM PENSION FUNDING POLICY.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Sedona shall have control of the finances and property of the City pursuant to A.R.S. § 9-240(A) and § 9-499.01 et seq.; and


WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Sedona shall also have the power to appropriate money and provide for the payment of its debts and expenses pursuant to A.R.S. § 9-240(B); and

WHEREAS, the Second Regular Session of the Fifty-Third Arizona Legislature enacted HB 2097 in 2018 (codified as A.R.S. § 38-863.01) requiring each governing body of a Public Safety Personnel System employer to adopt a pension funding policy for employees who were hired before July 1, 2017, that addresses at least the following:

- (a) How to maintain the stability of the governing body's contributions to the system; and
- (b) How and when the governing body's funding requirements of the system will be met; and
- (c) Defining the governing body's funded ratio target under the system and the timeline for reaching the targeted funded ratio.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEDONA, ARIZONA, that the City formally approves and adopts its Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Pension Funding Policy as presented to the Mayor and City Council and attached hereto as Exhibit A.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Sedona, Arizona this 11th day of September, 2018.




Sandra J. Moriarty, Mayor

ATTEST:



Susan L. Irvine, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Robert L. Pickels, Jr., City Attorney

City of Sedona

Public Safety Personnel Retirement System

Pension Funding Policy

The intent of this policy is to clearly communicate the Council's pension funding objectives and its commitment to our employees and the sound financial management of the City and to comply with new statutory requirements of Laws 2018, Chapter 112.

Several terms are used throughout this policy:

Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) – Is the difference between trust assets and the estimated future cost of pensions earned by employees. This UAAL results from actual results (interest earnings, member mortality, disability rates, etc.) being different from the assumptions used in previous actuarial valuations.

Annual Required Contribution (ARC) – Is the annual amount required to pay into the pension funds, as determined through annual actuarial valuations. It is comprised of two primary components: normal pension cost – which is the estimated cost of pension benefits earned by employees in the current year; and, amortization of UAAL – which is the cost needed to cover the unfunded portion of pensions earned by employees in previous years. The UAAL is collected over a period of time referred to as the amortization period. The ARC is a percentage of the current payroll.

Funded Ratio – Is a ratio of fund assets to actuarial accrued liability. The higher the ratio the better funded the pension is with 100% being fully funded.

Intergenerational equity – Ensures that no generation is burdened by substantially more or less pension costs than past or future generations.

The City's police employees who are regularly assigned hazardous duty participate in the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS).

Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS)

PSPRS is administered as an agent multiple-employer pension plan. An agent multiple-employer plan has two main functions: 1) to comingle assets of all plans under its administration, thus achieving economy of scale for more cost efficient investments, and invest those assets for the benefit of all members under its administration and 2) serve as the statewide uniform administrator for the distribution of benefits.

Under an agent multiple-employer plan each agency participating in the plan has an individual trust fund reflecting that agencies' assets and liabilities. Under this plan all contributions are deposited to and distributions are made from that fund's assets, each fund has its own funded ratio and contribution rate, and each fund has a unique annual actuarial valuation. The City of Sedona has one trust fund for police employees.

Council formally accepts the assets, liabilities, and current funding ratio of the City's PSPRS trust fund from the June 30, 2017 actuarial valuation, which are detailed below.

Trust Fund	Assets	Accrued Liability	Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability	Funded Ratio
Sedona Police	\$6,855,350	\$11,800,232	\$4,944,882	58.1%

PSPRS Funding Goal

Pensions that are less than fully funded place the cost of service provided in earlier periods (amortization of UAAL) on the current taxpayers. Fully funded pension plans are the best way to achieve taxpayer and member intergenerational equity. Most funds in PSPRS are significantly underfunded and falling well short of the goal of intergenerational equity.

The Council's PSPRS funding ratio goal is 100% (fully funded) by June 30, 2036.

Council established this goal for the following reasons:

- The PSPRS trust funds represent only the City of Sedona's liability.
- The fluctuating cost of an UAAL causes strain on the City's budget, affecting our ability to provide services.
- A fully funded pension is the best way to achieve taxpayer and member intergenerational equity.

Council has taken the following actions to achieve this goal:

- Maintain ARC payment from operating revenues – Council is committed to maintaining the full ARC payment (normal cost and UAAL amortization) from operating funds. The estimated combined ARC for FY2018-19 is \$636,952 and will be able to be paid from operating funds without diminishing City services.
- Additional payments above the ARC
 - Annually contribute an additional amount to achieve a total of \$1,000,000 in contributions for a "level-dollar" payment.
- Pay the full amount of the contributions at the beginning of each fiscal year to maximize the interest earnings allocated to the City's PSPRS trust fund.

Based on these actions the Council plans to achieve its goal of 100% funding by June 30, 2036, in accordance with the amortization timeline set forth by the PSPRS June 30, 2017 Actuarial Valuation.