State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Public Safety

KEITH D. SQUIRES
Commissioner

April 25, 2018

Dear Chief Administrator,

Many of you are familiar with the Public Safety Officer and Firefighter Line-of-Duty Death Act established by the legislature. Members of the Local Public Safety and Firefighter Surviving Spouse Trust Fund Board of Trustees (board), feel it important to provide you with the latest information. To ensure local government agencies are familiar with the obligations and opportunities of new legislation in the past two years, we have put together a brief summary of the changes to Utah Code Section 53-17 Public Safety Officer and Firefighter Line-of-duty Death Act.

1. All agencies employing one or more public safety service employees or firefighter service employees who are eligible to earn service credit in a Utah Retirement System under Title 49, Utah State Retirement and Insurance Benefit Act shall be a participant in the Local Public Safety and Firefighter Surviving Trust Fund (Fund). The legislature made this mandatory for all agencies to participate.
2. Instead of requiring each agency to provide 24 months of insurance coverage after the line-of-duty death, an agency now is required to provide only 12 months of insurance coverage before an employer is eligible for reimbursement of health insurance costs from the Fund. This new change becomes effective July 1, 2018 and would apply to costs incurred after July 1, 2018.
3. Reimbursement from the Fund has been expanded to include any health insurance payments for line-of-duty deaths that occurred after July 1, 2005.
4. Certain law enforcement agencies that employ public safety officers or firefighters and are not participating in the Utah Retirement System under Title 49, Utah State Retirement and Insurance Benefit Act may elect to participate in the Local Public Safety and Firefighter Surviving Spouse Trust Fund.

The board has relied on actuarial analysis to set the rate for the year beginning July 1, 2018. Based upon the actuarial analysis, the board has decided to keep the rate at $95 annually per public safety officer or firefighter. Payment is due by June 30, 2018. Please find included the cost sharing agreement and a form for each agency to certify the number of officers to be covered by the Fund.

Please sign the new cost sharing agreement even if you signed one before. The new agreement has changes beneficial to those signing the agreement. The new agreement has two changes: 1) it allows reimbursement from the Fund after 12 months instead of 24 months of

4501 South 2700 West, Box 141775, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-1775
Telephone (801) 965-4461

insurance payments and 2) it allows reimbursement for health insurance provided for a line of duty death that occurred after July 1, 2005.

The board encourages you to share this information with your city/county officials, human resource staff and budget staff.

If you have any questions, please contact Joe Brown at jbrown@utah.gov.

Respectfully,

Keith D. Squires
Commissioner