



A secure retirement is within your reach

As an employee of the City of Fort Worth, your pension is a life benefit. The contributions you make to the pension fund will be returned to you many times during your lifetime. When it comes to retirement, the Fort Worth Employees' Retirement Fund wants to make sure you have all the information you need to plan for a happy and secure future.

(The benefits outlined in this brochure are applicable only to general employees hired prior to July 1, 2011, as well as to all civil service fire and police employees. General employees hired on or after July 1, 2011, can call the Fund at 817-632-8900 for retirement information specific to their plan.)

Considering Retirement . . .

To find out more . . .

Please call and schedule an appointment with your Member Services Specialist to review retirement options and run calculations of your retirement pension.

If your last name starts with A - G, call Jennifer Sierra at 817-632-8902 or Jennifer.Sierra@fwretirement.org (Se habla Español)

If your last name starts with H - P, call Melissa McDougall at 817-632-8903 or Melissa.McDougall@fwretirement.org

If your last name starts with Q - Z, call Eunice Harris at 817-632-8907 or Eunice.Harris@fwretirement.org

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Elements of Retirement

As an employee of the City of Fort Worth, there are several retirement options available to you. You may choose to retire with a monthly pension for the rest of your life, retire with up to 25% of the value of your lifetime benefit in a lump sum, join the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP), or take a refund of your contributions and forfeit future benefits.

If you choose **normal retirement**, your retirement date is the first day of the month after your age and years of service equal 80 points (Rule of 80), or if you are 65 with a minimum of five years of service (whichever comes first).

If you are at least 50 with five or more years of service, you are eligible for **early retirement** and a reduced pension. Early retirement pensions are calculated using a reduced multiplier and are subject to a penalty of up to 5% annually, depending on how early you retire.

If you are a police officer, you are eligible for a **normal retirement** (see above), or for **special retirement** after completing 25 years of service regardless of your age (whichever comes first).

If you have at least five years of credited service and separate from service (voluntarily or involuntarily), you may choose to leave your contributions in the Fund and receive a **vested termination pension** at a later date.

Social Security

As an active employee, you do not pay into Social Security and your pension is not affected by Social Security. However, if you have enough credits to receive Social Security income, your Social Security check may be reduced based on Windfall Elimination (Pub. No. 05-10045) and the Government Pension Offset (Pub. No. 05-10007). Please call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 for more information.

Retiree health and life insurance are handled through the City's HR Benefits office at 817-392-2897

Deferred Comp/457 Plan

If you have a deferred compensation plan, you can defer income taxation on retirement savings into future years. You can also rollover your leave payout from the City into your 457 Plan at retirement. For more information, contact the City of Fort Worth Human Resources office at 817-392-7745.

Beneficiaries

If married, your spouse will be your primary beneficiary; however, you are strongly encouraged to name contingent beneficiaries in the event your spouse predeceases you. Please bring beneficiary information when you come to retire (see checklist at right).

Documents for Retirement

Please make an appointment 30 to 60 days prior to your retirement date to turn in the necessary paperwork and review what your pension amount will be.

In addition to a completed application, you must bring copies of the following documents so that we can process your retirement:

- Driver's license
- Birth certificate
- Social Security card
- Marriage license
- Spouse's driver's license
- Spouse's birth certificate
- Spouse's Social Security card
- Birth certificate and Social Security card for dependent children younger than 18 years of age
- Banking information for direct deposit (voided check)
- Beneficiary information, including beneficiary's Social Security number, date of birth and current address

Completed applications must be submitted by the 10th of the month in order to take effect the following month. (Because of the holidays, November and December applications must be submitted earlier. Please call 817-632-8900 for deadline information.)