

**PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES'
SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFIT PLAN**

**2017 Annual Report
Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-961 (J)
February 28, 2018**

PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES' SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFIT PLAN

Report Background

This document reports activity for Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017) of the Public Safety Employees' Supplemental Benefit Plan pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-961 (J), which reads:

The Department of Administration shall report by March 1 each year on the overall claim, appeal and payment history for state employee claims and appeals made pursuant to this section during the prior year. The report shall include claims made and claims resolved.

The plan was established by Laws 2012, Chapter 287 (HB 2643), which was signed by the Governor on April 18, 2012. This bill was intended to provide additional workers' compensation benefits to public safety employees who are "...injured while on duty to the extent that the public safety employee cannot perform the functions of the position." As originally adopted, this plan was set to repeal automatically on October 1, 2014.

The Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) established policies and procedures for the Public Safety Employees' Supplemental Benefit Plan effective August 2, 2012. This plan provides an eligible injured employee with the difference between the employee's workers' compensation temporary disability benefits and the employee's base salary, as well as continued contributions for employee benefits and retirement in effect at the time of the qualifying injury, and payment of the employee's portion of required retirement contributions to Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) or the Corrections Officer Retirement Plan (CORP). Eligible participants may enroll to receive benefits for a minimum of six months and a maximum of one year. As originally adopted, injury was defined as "the physical damage, harm or loss giving rise to the compensable workers' compensation claim."

Laws 2014, Chapter 190 (SB 1284) was signed by the Governor on April 23, 2014. This bill allows ADOA to establish an appeals process for the denial of public safety employees' supplemental benefits for employees injured while on duty, and requires ADOA to annually report on the overall claim and appeals and payment history for the prior year by March 1. As originally adopted, this bill extends the repeal date to October 1, 2017.

Effective June 10, 2014, the policy for the Public Safety Employees' Supplemental Benefit Plan was updated to include the new appeals process. In addition, the scope of covered injuries was revised to cover only severe, catastrophic injury that results in serious injury or disfigurement in the line of duty, and adds language to take into consideration salary received for light-duty employment and other outside income.

Eligibility

Eligible employees are individuals employed at one of the following state agencies who are active members of the PSPRS or CORP at the following agencies in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-961:

- Department of Corrections
- Department of Public Safety
- Department of Juvenile Corrections
- Department of Game and Fish
- State Parks Board
- Department of Liquor Licenses and Control
- Attorney General, Department of Law
- Department of Emergency and Military Affairs

Claims Processing: Applications and Appeals

There were no costs and one (1) appeal for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 for the original plan effective August 2, 2012. For the period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, applications and appeals for the revised plan were as follows:

Agency	Applications Received	Applications Approved	Percent of Total Approved	Active at 6/30/17	Closed FY 2017	FY 2017 Appeals
Department of Corrections	28	7	25%	3	8	2
Department of Public Safety	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Department of Juvenile Corrections	1	0	0%	1	1	1
Game and Fish Department	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
State Parks Board	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Department of Liquor Licenses and Control	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Attorney General, Department of Law	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Department of Emergency and Military Affairs	0	0	N/A	0	0	0
Grand Total	29	7	24.14%	4	9	3

Costs for Qualifying Applicants' Benefits

Costs for the program include four components. In addition to the supplemental benefit payment, agencies also incur employee related expenditures (benefits, payroll taxes, etc.) and the employee's share of retirement contributions for both the portion related to the supplemental benefit payment and the workers' compensation payment. For the two agencies with claimants who received benefits during fiscal year 2017, the associated costs for approved claims under the original and revised plans are as follows:

Department of Corrections	
	Expenditure
Supplemental Benefit Payments	\$ 30,785.05
Employee related Expenditures @ 53.5%	\$ 15,731.16
Supp Ben: Employee Share of Corp @ 8.41%	\$ 36,399.90
Work Comp: Employee Share of Corp @ 8.41%	\$ 36,399.90
	\$ 119,316.01

Department of Juvenile Corrections	
	Expenditure
Supplemental Benefit Payments	\$ 463.40
Employee related Expenditures @ 51.1%	\$ 263.80
Supp Ben: Employee Share of Corp @ 8.41%	\$ 483.21
Work Comp: Employee Share of Corp @ 8.41%	\$ 483.21
	\$ 1,693.62

Summary

The number of approved applications from Fiscal Year 2016 to Fiscal Year 2017 decreased by 18. This equates to \$143,532 less in total expenditures. Total expenditures for Fiscal Years 2017 and 2016 were \$121,010 and \$115,973 respectively.