

STATE OF WISCONSIN

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling
Representative John Nygren

Date: December 28, 2018

Re: DOA Report to JFC

Attached is a report on the Service Award program from the Department of Administration, pursuant to s. 16.25(6), Stats.

This report is being provided for your information only. No action by the Committee is required. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Attachments

AD:JN;jm



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Scott Walker, Governor
Ellen E. Nowak, Secretary
Dawn Vick, Division Administrator

December 28, 2018

Senator Alberta Darling, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 317 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53703

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Representative John Nygren, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 309 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Nygren:

This letter serves as a report to the Joint Committee on Finance on the Service Award Program administered by the Department of Administration, as required by s. 16.25(6).

The State of Wisconsin created the Service Award Program, formerly called the Length of Service Award Program, under 1999 Wisconsin Act 105. The Program establishes by rule a tax-deferred benefit program for volunteer fire fighters, emergency medical technicians, and first responders. The intent of the Program is to assist municipalities in training and retaining volunteers.

For service year 2017, the Service Award Program matched \$2,372,944.44 in municipal contributions with \$2,428,721.54 from state funds. This number is made up of awards to 6,412 individual volunteer firefighters and emergency medical service personnel from 245 participating departments.

The state match for the 2017 service year was \$390, up from \$344.11 for the 2016 service year. The state match for the 2018 service year will be \$398 at a \$2 state match for every \$1 municipal dollar contributed.

There are currently four vendors providing administrative services and investment plans to the Program. All four vendors were chosen utilizing the criteria of the State Procurement Manual.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Service Award Program for Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Ellen E. Nowak
Secretary