

Doug Fowler

In 1985 I became an Austin Firefighter. During my career I served as union president, vice president, union trustee, and benevolent fund trustee. I served 31 years and retired as Assistant Chief in 2017 to become the Fire Chief for the City of South Padre Island. In December I accepted a position with North Hays County ESD #1 to be closer to family.

I have an associate's degree from Austin Community College, a bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University, and a master's degree in public administration from UT Arlington.

The home page of Austin Fire Fighters Relief and Retirement Fund states:

OUR MISSION IS TO SAFEGUARD AND MANAGE THE FUND IN THE SOLE INTEREST OF THE PLAN PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR BENEFICIARIES.

If elected I can assure you that mission statement will be my guiding light.

My starting list of priorities:

- Staff the office with the talent required to operate professionally. Utilize a Headhunting firm to fill the Administrator and Assistant Administrator positions
- Ensure transparency while also utilizing the best tools for the job. For instance, tracking personal time electronically and not manually as was done until late 2019.
- Ensure staff compensation is competitive, appropriate, AND approved by the board
- Ensure staff expands and clarifies policies to better reflect the current business environment
- Maintain minutes in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act
- Report monthly on pension issues
- Consult with current and retired firefighters annually and include their concerns in the future direction of the plan.
- If members desire a change in the plan the board must communicate the ramifications of such changes. There must be a balance between plan benefits and the long-term ability of the plan to keep up with COLAs. Changes must be based upon the will of all and not the whims of a few