

Additional Benefits

- **Volunteer Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Service Award Fund (VOLSAP)** is established to provide service awards to eligible volunteer firefighters and rescue squad workers who elect to become members of the Fund. The Volunteer Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Service Award Fund Board (the Board) shall utilize the assistance of the Virginia Retirement System in establishing, investing, and maintaining the Fund. § 51.1-1200 - § 51.1-1211

VOLSAP benefits are locality-specific, please contact your local jurisdiction about participation. For additional information about VOLSAP benefits, e-mail Patty Atkins-Smith at psmith@varetire.org.

- **VAVRS Death Benefit Plan** - At the time of death, financial aid is rendered to the designated beneficiary or estate of any member in good standing of the Plan. To qualify for membership in the Plan, the person applying shall be one of the following VAVRS member types: individual, sustaining, associate or associate unit member.

- **Governor's EMS Awards** - Every year the Governor of Virginia recognizes select members of the EMS community for their hard work and dedication to the field. Nominees are first selected through their Regional EMS Councils and then nominated at the state level. Contact your Regional EMS Council for additional information about this program.

- **IRS Tax Deductions** - Write off mileage to and from the station, expenses for meals, personal equipment, etc. Consult your tax advisor for additional details.

- **Incentive Award Program** - At the EMS Agency level there are various incentive award programs that offer members benefits such as movie tickets, reduced prices at retail establishments, gift certificates, vacation trips, etc. Contact your local EMS Agency for additional information about this benefit.

For more information about your benefits, contact your local EMS Agency, Regional EMS Council, VAVRS or e-mail questions to emstechasst@vdh.virginia.gov.

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Discover your Benefits



A Guide to Local and State Benefits for Virginia EMS Providers

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Local & State Benefits

Local Benefits

The following benefits are initiated by locality and may not pertain to all agencies.



- **Personal property tax reduction for vehicles** owned or leased by volunteers. § 58.1-3506

- **County sticker** (local license) may be issued free of charge. § 46.2-752

- **Loans** to volunteer firefighting and rescue organizations. Any locality may make loans of money appropriated from public funds to any nonprofit organization furnishing firefighting or rescue services **for the construction of facilities or the acquisition of equipment** that is to be used for the purpose of providing firefighting or rescue services. § 15.2-954

- Any volunteer fire department or rescue squad or auxiliary unit thereof which has been recognized in accordance with § 15.2-955 by an ordinance or resolution of the political subdivision where the volunteer fire department or rescue squad is located as being part of the safety program of such political subdivision shall be **exempt from the payment of application and audit fees to conduct charitable gaming, bingo, etc.** (required by § 18.2-340.25 - § 18.2-340.31). § 18.2-340.23



- Volunteer firefighter or emergency medical services **personnel tuition reimbursement.** Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, any locality may by ordinance establish and administer a tuition reimbursement

program for eligible volunteer firefighters or emergency medical services personnel, or both, for the purposes of recruitment and retention. § 15.2-954.1

- **Liability insurance or self insurance for EMS agency operational medical directors (OMDs) or physician course directors (PCDs)** to cover the costs and expenses for settlement, suit or satisfaction of judgement arising from their conduct in the discharge of their official duties. § 15.2-1518

State Benefits

- **Workmen's compensation coverage** for firefighters, lifesaving or rescue squad members and law enforcement officers in an off-duty capacity. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a claim for workers' compensation benefits shall be deemed to be in the course of employment of any firefighter, lifesaving or rescue squad member or law-enforcement officer who, in an off-duty capacity or outside an assigned shift or work location, undertakes any law-enforcement or rescue activity. § 65.2-102

- **Waiver of tuition and certain charges and fees** for eligible children and spouses of certain military service members, eligible children and spouses of certain public safety personnel, and certain foreign students. § 23-7.4:1

- **State employees shall be allowed up to 24 hours of paid leave in any calendar year,** in addition to other paid leave, to serve with a volunteer fire department and rescue squad or auxiliary unit thereof that has been recognized in accordance with § 15.2-955 by an ordinance or resolution of the political subdivision where the volunteer fire department or rescue squad is located as being a part of the safety program of such political subdivision. § 2.2-2821.2

- **Commonwealth Public Safety Medal of Valor.** Governor can award a Public Safety Medal of Valor to a public safety officer for performance above and beyond the call of duty involving extraordinary valor in the face of grave danger, at great personal risk. § 9.1-800

- **Purchase of continued health insurance coverage** by the surviving spouse and any dependents of an active or retired local law-enforcement officer, firefighter, etc., through the Department. § 2.2-1205

State Benefits continued...

- **Availability of surplus items** to volunteer rescue squad or volunteer fire department as well as departments, divisions, institutions, or agencies of the Commonwealth. § 2.2-1124

- **Special license plates** for members of volunteer rescue squads and volunteer rescue squad auxiliaries; fees. The Commissioner, on application, shall supply members of volunteer rescue squads and members of volunteer rescue squad auxiliaries special license plates bearing the letters "RS" followed by numbers or letters or any combination thereof. § 46.2-735

- **Payments to beneficiaries** of certain deceased law enforcement officers, firefighters, etc., and retirees in line of duty. § 9.1-402



- **Compensation to dependents** of an employee killed; burial expenses. The employer shall also pay burial expenses not exceeding \$10,000 and reasonable transportation expenses for the deceased not exceeding \$1,000. § 65.2-512

- **Allowances to injured officials and employees and their dependents.** The governing body of any locality is authorized in its discretion to make allowances by appropriation of funds, payable in monthly or semimonthly installments, for the relief of any of its officials, employees, police officers, firefighters, sheriffs or deputy sheriffs, town sergeants and town deputy sergeants, or their dependents, who suffer injury or death as defined in Title 65.2, whether such injury was suffered or death occurs before or after June 29, 1948 (date is the effective date of the section.) § 15.2-1511

- Volunteer fire departments and rescue squads classified as **charitable organizations.** § 58.1-3610

- **Reimbursement of expenses** incurred in responding to DUI incidents and other traffic accidents. § 15.2-1716

- **Obstructing members of rescue squad** in performance of mission; penalty. § 18.2-414.1