# WISCONSIN SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

***For Service Award Program (Formerly LOSA) information on the web, please visit***
***http://www.doa.state.wi.us/section.asp?linkid=56&locid=9***

### What is the Service Award Program?

- The Service Award Program (formerly called the Length of Service Award Program or LOSA) is for volunteer fire fighters, first responders and emergency medical technicians.
- State funds match local investments and provide the benefit to the volunteers. The state annually matches municipal contributions up to a set amount.
- The program intent is to assist municipalities and counties in retaining volunteer fire fighters, first responders and emergency medical technicians.

### Who can participate?

- Any city, town, village or county with volunteer fire department, contracted volunteer fire company, first responders or authorized volunteer EMTs. Municipal participation is voluntary.

### How can my municipality participate?

- Municipalities participating in the program must first approve a resolution. A sample municipality resolution can be found on the SAP webpage.
- The municipality then works with an approved vendor to provide services.
- The municipality contributes to the program.

### How does the match work?

- The program matches up to $316.38 per year of service to the municipality.
- Municipalities can choose to contribute more or less than this amount, however, the state only matches up to the set amount.
- At retirement, a volunteer with over twenty years of service would collect the amount in his or her account. Those with over ten years experience would collect a portion of the amount in their account.

### What kind of incentives does the program offer?

- There is an increase in the value of the incentive as the length of service of the volunteer grows.
- Some benefits include becoming vested after 10 years of service, vesting grows with service.
- Upon reaching age 60, each volunteer with over 20 years of service collects the full amount in his or her account. Volunteers retiring with more than ten years experience (but less than 20 years) collect a portion of their account.

### What role does the state play?

- State annually matches municipal contribution up to maximum of $316.38 per eligible volunteer (amount adjusted annually for consumer price index).
- State will not match purchased past service.
- Limit adjusted annually for inflation. State total annual contribution capped at maximum of $2 million.

### Who are the approved Vendors?

- Volunteer Fireman's Insurance Services (VFIS) / The Horton Group **(800) 242-9028**
- Penflex, Inc. / UBS Financial Services **(800) 742-1409**
- RBC Wealth Management / BPA **(414) 347-7030**

### Who runs SAP?

- The Service Award Board Runs SAP. It is composed of 8 members, appointed by the Governor in staggered 3-year terms.

### Who do I contact for more information?

- E-mail or call Dawn Vick at the Department of Administration at **dawn.vick@wisconsin.gov** or (608) 266-7043.