

The Size up!

ILLINOIS PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER **Terry B. Cox**

The New Year, 2009 - is upon us again, unlike other years we are facing an economic melt down like never seen before. The government is in turmoil, the governor has his own problems, and we have firefighters and chiefs alike getting laid off and or forced to retire.

Budget cuts are forcing fire departments and cities to scrutinize budgets and condense operations wherever possible. Cities that rely on sales tax for survival already fear bankruptcy. In an effort to stall any such action, they are adjusting budgets and services. Nothing is sacred, all avenues are being explored.

Pension Boards must stay vigilant and fulfill their obligations as per state statues. Remember you are required by state statute to send a letter outlining the amount needed to be levied. It is your responsibility to request the appropriate tax levy. The department of financial and professional regulation, pension division provides you with these numbers each year. Some cities say to make it easier for you they will do the letter for you. If you allow this, you are accepting their information as being correct.

Remember it is up to you not the city to request the correct information. If you ask and they do not answer that request, it takes it all to a different legal level and the responsibility is shifted to them.