

Request For Comment, Boston Fire Department:

Commissioner Dempsey told Open The Books that Finn's payout included accrued sick time, vacation, and personal time, all of which is part of a contractual buyback and benefits package at retirement.

"Members like Deputy Chief Hocking worked many paid details which are not part of their salary or contractual benefits. Paid details are included in their earnings but not paid by the city payroll and can increase a firefighter's pay significantly depending on how many off duty hours are worked for contractors. A paid detail is for various duties such as a fire watch on hot work permitted jobs and other construction-related work. The city actually collects 10 percent of every paid detail cost, bringing in millions of dollars to the city general fund."

Dempsey added that the department has a minimum staffing requirement that allows them to maintain an Insurance Services Office rating of 1, which is the best in the country, and keep insurance rates very low, which saves the public millions.

"In order to meet this requirement, there is a need for OT to fill vacancies as a result of retirements, injuries, sick, vacation and other leaves guaranteed under the collective bargaining agreement. This past year was unique as a result of Covid-19."

