

**Fire Department Relief Association—Funds—Fire  
Equipment.**

The public funds which are placed in the Fire Department Relief Association by law may not be used for the purpose of purchasing a building for the purpose of housing fire equipment, but may be used only for the purposes mentioned in the statute.

R. N. Hawkins, Esq.,  
Assistant State Examiner,  
Helena, Montana.

April 29, 1930.

My dear Mr. Hawkins:

You have requested an opinion on the following question:

“May a fire department relief association purchase a building for the purpose of housing its fire equipment in view of the attorney general’s opinion as contained in Volume 10, page 344?”

I am assuming by this question you mean to inquire if the public funds which are placed in the hands of the fire department relief association by law may be used for the purpose mentioned in your letter as distinguished from private funds which the association may have acquired from other sources.

The public funds which are put in the hands of the association in the manner provided by statute are limited in their use by the terms of the statute, namely, for pensions, benefits, and funeral expenses of the members of the association. This limitation precludes the use of these moneys for any other purpose.

It is therefore my opinion, that your question must be answered in the negative.

Very truly yours,  
L. A. FOOT,  
Attorney General.