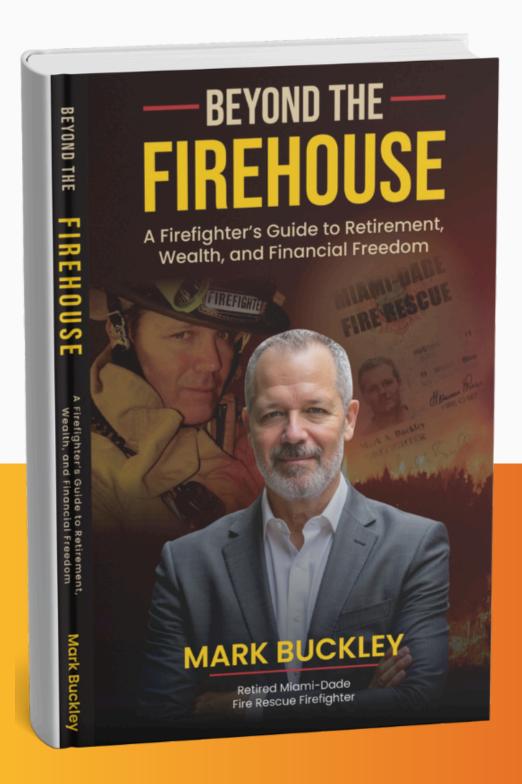
BOCK* PREVIEW



BEYOND THE FIREHOUSE



beyondthefirehouse.com

"I empower first responders to secure their financial legacy while serving their communities with confidence."

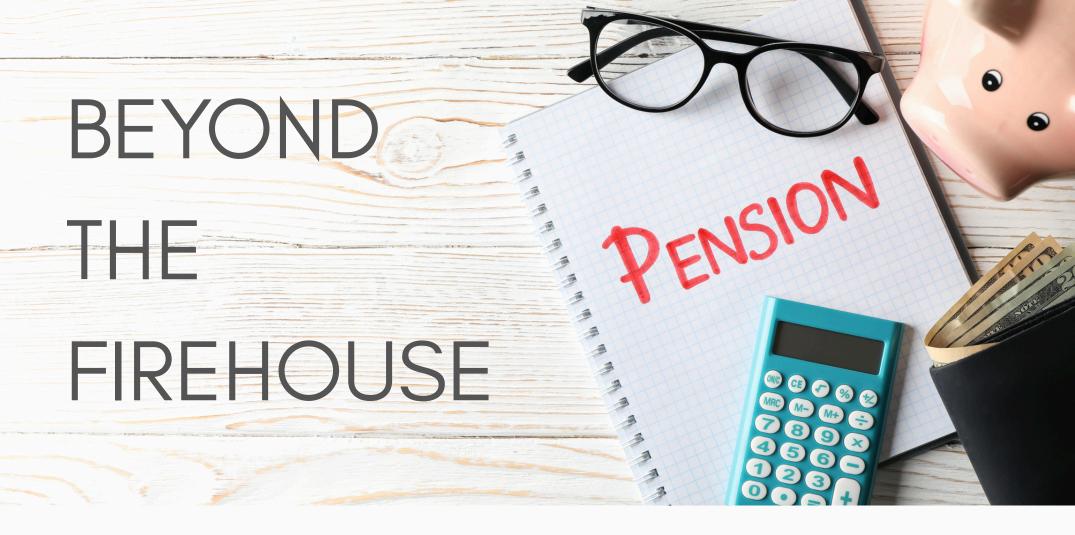
Mark Buckley

Financial Professional



I'm Most Proud Of:

My years as a Firefighter/Paramedic with Miami Dade Fire Rescue and helping many of my firefighter and policemen brothers with their financial future.



When I first joined Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR) back in 2007, I was filled with a sense of pride, excitement, and purpose. Like many new firefighters, I was eager to make a difference and ready to face the challenges that came with the job. Even though I think I was probably in one of the oldest recruitment classes ever formed for MDFR training, I quickly learned that firefighting was more than just a career—it was a calling that demanded both physical and mental endurance, a strong sense of teamwork, and the ability to adapt to unpredictable situations. I was going to have to dig down deeper and harder to succeed at this profession, but I was determined to succeed.

But as exhilarating as those early days were, there was one challenge I wasn't prepared for—managing my finances. Like many who enter this noble profession, my focus was on the job, not on my financial future. With the long hours, intense training, and the camaraderie of the station, it was easy to put off thinking about saving, investing, and planning for retirement. After all, firefighting itself felt like enough of a challenge.

Over time, I began to realize that while my work at MDFR was deeply rewarding, it was also crucial to look after my financial health. The unpredictable nature of our profession, with its physical demands and potential risks, meant that I needed to be proactive about securing my financial future. Whether it was understanding pension plans, making smart decisions with overtime pay, or learning how to invest wisely, I had to start thinking beyond the present.

It became clear to me that just as we train relentlessly to protect our communities, we also need to prepare ourselves for the financial realities of life during and after firefighting. This realization sparked my journey into investing and financial planning, and it's what inspired me to write this book. I wanted to create a guide that speaks directly to the needs of firefighters—offering practical, straightforward advice to help you make sound financial decisions while navigating the demands of the job.

Firefighters dedicate their lives to protecting others, often putting their safety on the line for the greater good. While the job demands bravery, resilience, and a deep sense of duty, it can be easy to overlook the importance of long-term financial well-being. Just as firefighting requires preparation, training, and strategic decision-making, so too does investing for your future.





This book is tailored specifically for firefighters like you—those who work long, often unpredictable hours, and who need straightforward, actionable advice on how to manage and seek to grow their hard-earned money. Whether you are just starting your career, looking toward retirement, or somewhere in between, this guide will help you make informed financial decisions with confidence.

The world of investing can sometimes feel as complex as navigating a fireground. The jargon, risk, and multitude of options can be overwhelming. But just as you wouldn't face a fire without the right tools and knowledge, you shouldn't approach your financial future without the proper guidance. This book breaks down investment strategies in simple, clear terms, and provides specific insights into how you can create a sound financial foundation that supports both your immediate needs and long-term goals.

Inside, you'll find practical advice on budgeting, retirement planning, stock market investments—all geared toward the unique needs of firefighters. I'll also highlight key ways to manage risks, better optimize returns, and create a balanced portfolio that works for you, whether you are in your first year or nearing retirement.

Just as your commitment to protecting others requires ongoing dedication, so does building a sound foundation for retirement. I remember when our training team brought us recruits into the Local Union Building to have us sign up for our FRS pension and investment choices.

Only from my background did I have financial knowledge but most of my fellow firefighter recruits were clueless of which were the best choices to go with. My goal here is to equip you with the knowledge and confidence to take control of your investments, so you can enjoy a prosperous and fulfilling life during and after your firefighting career. Let's get started on building your financial future!

