



## Roadmap to Retirement: Taking Control of Your Finances and Future

The South Carolina Fire Academy is offering an in-person financial success strategies workshop geared toward firefighters who want to take control of their financial future, agency recruit school coordinators, and anyone in emergency services interested in learning more about financial planning. This workshop includes a 2025 update for those preparing to enter retirement.

The goal is for firefighters take control of their personal, professional, and financial future so that when they retire, they can enjoy life after emergency services with a fully-funded retirement plan, based on the strategies and tactics they set up and implement while still on the job. This workshop teaches firefighters how to change the behavioral problems and mindset that lead to overwhelming debt, crippling their ability to be financially independent. For those currently in debt, this workshop walks through the steps on how to wipe it out and regain control of personal finances.

This program covers how to: establish a “Why”, set wildly important goals, establish a working budget, run cost analysis on major purchases, live debt-free, manage financial accounts, better understand the 1 percent fund, calculate the value of a pension (PORS/SCRS), invest for the future, become financially independent, how to prepare for retirement, and how to tie it all together to form a personal “Roadmap to Retirement”.

This workshop has been delivered to almost 700 first responders across the region, and has been added to multiple recruit programs to provide our firefighters with a financial foundation as they enter the fire service.

**DATE:** Thursday, July 17, 2025  
**TIME:** 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** South Carolina Fire Academy, Denny Auditorium  
141 Monticello Trail Columbia, SC 29203  
**FEE:** \$8, includes lunch  
**REGISTER:** 8689-26001 [Click here to register.](#)

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Robby Baldwin** has 25 years of public service with the Charleston Fire Department, where he holds the rank of Assistant Fire Chief of Special Operations. Prior to moving to Special Operations, he oversaw the department’s Training Division for seven years, holding the rank of Battalion Chief and Assistant Chief. During that time, he led the training of 296 Charleston Fire Recruits. He has over 15 years of experience instructing first responders through the SCFA, NFA, NIMS, IAFF, ISFSI, NIST, and NFFF. He also provides mental health support to local first responders as one of the founding members of the Charleston Fire Department’s Peer Support Team.



Robby is an independent financial advisor with Cornerstone Financial Strategies LLC, focusing on retirement and estate planning. He helps clients customize an individual financial plan that includes setting financial goals and benchmarks, creating a working budget, and identifying multiple sources of retirement income. He combines his experience with recruits, as an instructor, and as a financial advisor, to teach first responders how to gain control of their personal, professional, and financial future.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree and has completed the Securities Industry Essentials, Series 63, Series 6, and SC Insurance Producer exams.

Robby is a Charleston native and has been married to his wife, Angie, for 33 years. He has two sons, Bobby, who lives in Florida and works as a fitness instructor, and Wyatt, a firefighter with the Charleston Fire Department. When not working, he enjoys kayaking, camping, and hiking.

**Questions?** Please contact [Amy Williamson](#)

**statefire.llr.sc.gov**