

ERNST BARRIE W  
Form 4  
December 11, 2012

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
ERNST BARRIE W

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
UNITED FIRE GROUP INC  
[UFCS]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
118 SECOND AVENUE SE, P.O.  
BOX 73909

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
12/07/2012

\_\_\_\_ Director  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
VP/Chief Investment Officer

(Street)  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52407-3909

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |  |
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V   | Amount  |  |  |
| Common Stock                    | 12/07/2012                           |  | M <sup>(1)</sup>               |   | 2,000   | A  | \$ 15.85                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/07/2012                           |  | S <sup>(1)</sup>               |   | 2,000   | D  | \$ 20.85                                   |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 400   | I  |  |

By Issuer's Employee Stock Ownership Plan

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|              |                      |   |                            |
|--------------|----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Common Stock | 1,027                | I | By spouse                  |
| Common Stock | 5,369 <sup>(5)</sup> | I | By 401(k) Account for Self |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Stock Option (right to buy)                | \$ 15.85   | 12/07/2012                           |  | M <sup>(1)</sup>               | 2,000  | <sup>(6)</sup> 02/21/2012                                | Common Stock  | 2,000                         |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |                             |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                     | Other |
| ERNST BARRIE W<br>118 SECOND AVENUE SE<br>P.O. BOX 73909<br>CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52407-3909 |               |           | VP/Chief Investment Officer |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Barrie W. Ernst by Dianne M. Lyons,  
Attorney-in-Fact

12/11/2012

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) This transaction represents the exercise and sale of vested, non-qualified stock options under a preapproved 10b-5 trading plan.

(2) The total number of securities beneficially held directly by the Reporting Person following the reported transaction includes: 2,714 share of restricted stock issued under the Issuer's 2008 Stock Plan which vest, subject to certain conditions, on 02/18/2011; 1,944 shares of restricted stock issued under the Issuer's 2008 Stock Plan which vest, subject to certain conditions, on 05/21/2013; and 2,000 shares acquired upon option exercise.

(3) The price per share represents the price per share of the shares sold upon option exercise as reported by the Reporting Person's broker.

(4) The total number of securities beneficially held directly by the Reporting Person following the reported transaction includes: 2,714 share of restricted stock issued under the Issuer's 2008 Stock Plan which vest, subject to certain conditions, on 02/18/2011 and 1,944 shares of restricted stock issued under the Issuer's 2008 Stock Plan which vest, subject to certain conditions, on 05/21/2013.

(5) The number of securities shown as being held in or acquired by the Issuer's 401(k) account for the Reporting Person's benefit are the approximate number of shares of common stock for which the Reporting Person has the right to direct the vote under the Issuer's 401(k) plan. Such shares are not directly allocated to 401(k) Plan participants, but are instead held in a unitized fund consisting primarily of common stock, together with a small percentage of short-term investments. 401(k) Plan participants acquire units of this fund.

(6) All options currently exercisable.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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