

UNITED FIRE & CASUALTY CO
Form 11-K
June 28, 2006

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 11-K

☒ ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005

OR

☐ TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
Commission File No. 2-39621

UNITED FIRE GROUP 401(k) PLAN

(Full title of the plan)

United Fire & Casualty Company

(Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan)

118 Second Avenue SE

Cedar Rapids, IA 52407

(Address of principal executive office)

United Fire Group 401(k) Plan

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Trustees and Participants of United Fire Group 401(k) Plan

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the United Fire Group 401(k) Plan (the Plan) as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2005. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. We were not engaged to perform an audit of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Our audit included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan at December 31, 2005 and 2004, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2005, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audits were performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2005, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements, but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. This supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audits of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

June 28, 2006
Chicago, Illinois

United Fire Group 401(k) Plan

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004

	2005	2004
Investments:		
Participant-directed investments, at fair value	\$ 25,736,450	\$ 22,238,789
Participant loans	193,303	148,479
Total investments	25,929,753	22,387,268
Non-interest bearing cash		72,414
Receivables:		
Contribution receivable from plan sponsor	76,852	
Dividend receivable from plan sponsor	11,620	
Total Receivables	88,472	
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$ 26,018,225	\$ 22,459,682

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

United Fire Group 401(k) Plan

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

ADDITIONS:

Investment income	\$ 887,083
Contributions:	
Participant	2,551,621
Rollover	458,120
Total contributions	3,009,741
Net realized and unrealized appreciation on fair value of investments	1,087,171
Total additions	4,983,995

DEDUCTIONS:

Withdrawals	1,419,137
Administrative expenses	6,315
Total deductions	1,425,452

NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	3,558,543
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NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS:

AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	22,459,682
AT END OF YEAR	\$ 26,018,225

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

United Fire Group 401(k) Plan

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2005

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following description of the United Fire Group 401(k) Plan (the *Plan*) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all employees of the United Fire Group who have at least one hour of service and have attained age 21 or older. The United Fire Group is comprised of United Fire & Casualty Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries: United Life Insurance Company, Lafayette Insurance Company, Addison Insurance Company, American Indemnity Financial Corporation, American Indemnity Company, United Fire & Indemnity Company and Texas General Indemnity Company; and its affiliate United Fire Lloyds (collectively the *Companies*). The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (*ERISA*).

Contributions Each year, participants may elect to contribute up to an annual dollar limitation of their eligible compensation to the Plan through salary reduction. The Plan provides for payments by the participating employers to the Plan in such amounts as the Board of Directors of each of the Companies shall direct. No payments by participating employers have been made since the inception of the Plan.

Participant Accounts Individual accounts are maintained for each Plan participant. Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution and allocations of (a) the Companies' discretionary contributions and (b) Plan earnings, and charged with an allocation of Plan losses. Allocations are based on participant earnings (losses) or account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Participants direct the investment of employer and participant contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. Participants may change their investment options daily. The Plan currently offers seventeen mutual funds, a common collective trust, and a self-directed account in which participants have access to a money market account.

Vesting Participants are immediately vested in their voluntary contributions plus actual earnings (losses) thereon. Vesting in the remainder of the participant account balances is based on years of continuous service with full vesting after two years. A participant with less than two years of credited service is not vested except in the event of the participant's death or disability while employed by the Companies, at which time the participant becomes 100 percent vested. Because no payments by participating employers have been made since the inception of the Plan, there have been no unvested account balances since the inception of the Plan.

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Forfeitures Upon termination, the nonvested portion of a participant's account balance is forfeited. Forfeitures are to be used to first reduce the Plan's ordinary and necessary administrative expenses for the Plan year and then reduce the employer contributions for the Plan year. Because there have been no unvested account balances since the inception of the Plan, there were no forfeited account balances included in the Plan's net assets available for benefits at December 31, 2005 or 2004.

Participant Loans Participants may borrow from their accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50 percent of their vested account balance. Loan terms range from 1-5 years, except for the purpose of acquiring the person's personal residence for which the term is commensurate with local prevailing terms, as determined by the Companies. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at a rate determined at the time of each loan by the Plan administrator. Principal and interest is paid ratably through semi-monthly payroll deductions.

Payment of Benefits Upon termination of service, a participant may elect to receive either a direct rollover, a lump-sum amount equal to the value of their vested accounts or installment payments over a fixed period of time not to exceed the participant's life expectancy or the joint life expectancy of the participant and the participant's designated beneficiary. Prior to separation from service, participants may elect a hardship distribution in accordance with Plan policy.

Administrative Expenses The Plan's administrative expenses are paid by either the Plan or the Companies, as provided by the Plan document. The Companies paid substantially all administrative expenses for 2005.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Use of Estimates The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of net assets available for benefits at the date of the financial statements and changes therein during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The Plan offers various investment instruments to its participants. Investment securities, in general, are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, credit, and overall market volatility. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the financial statements.

Valuation of Participant-Directed Investments at Fair Value and Participant Loans Investments in mutual funds are stated at fair value based upon quoted market prices reported on recognized securities exchanges on the last business day of the year, which represents the net asset values of shares held by the Plan at the reporting date. The fair value of the participation units owned in the common collective trust fund is based on quoted redemption values on the last business day of the plan year. Investments in money market funds and participant loans are stated at cost, which approximates fair value. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded as of the trade date.

Withdrawals Participant withdrawals are recorded upon distribution.

3. INVESTMENTS

The Charles Schwab Trust Company is the trustee of the Plan and custodian of the Plan's assets. The Plan's investments that represented five percent or more of the Plan's net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2005 and 2004 are as follows:

Identity of Issuer	Description of Investment	Shares	2005	2004
Artisan Funds	Artisan International Fund	88,198 shares at December 31, 2005 90,199 shares at December 31, 2004	\$2,232,285	\$1,997,017
Dodge & Cox Funds	Dodge & Cox Balanced Fund	16,523 shares at December 31, 2005 13,462 shares at December 31, 2004	1,343,946	1,068,222
First Eagle Fund of America, Inc.	First Eagle Fund of America	53,304 shares at December 31, 2005 50,322 shares at December 31, 2004	1,356,577	1,311,382
American Funds	Growth Fund of America	82,714 shares at December 31, 2005 72,008 shares at December 31, 2004	2,537,653	1,960,784

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Pacific Investment Mgmt Co LLC	Pimco Total Return Fd Cl D	276,617 shares at December 31, 2005	2,904,476	
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.*	Schwab S&P 500 Investment Shares	82,147 shares at December 31, 2005 79,517 shares at December 31, 2004	1,577,220	1,481,407
Selected Funds	Selected American Shares	56,764 shares at December 31, 2005 51,118 shares at December 31, 2004	2,284,171	1,884,733
T Rowe Price	T Rowe Price Mid Cap Value	84,850 shares at December 31, 2005 83,029 shares at December 31, 2004	1,983,788	1,908,838
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.*	Schwab Stable Value Fund Retire Cl	276,571 shares at December 31, 2005	4,407,299	

*Indicates a party-in-interest to the Plan.

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During 2005, the Plan's investments (including investments bought, sold, and held during the year) appreciated (depreciated) in fair value, as follows. Fair values of investments that have been fully disposed of at December 31, 2005 have been marked N/A.

Identity of Issuer	Description of Investment	Fair Value	Appreciation/
			(Depreciation)
Artisan Funds	Artisan International Fund	\$2,232,285	\$269,897
Century Shares Trust Co.	Century Shares Trust	217,369	(6,201)
Cohen & Steers Capital Mgmt.	Cohen & Steers Realty	537,617	7,833
Columbia Funds	Columbia Acorn Fund CL Z	756,347	34,155
Columbia Funds	Columbia High Yield Fund CL Z	93,824	(3,362)
Dodge & Cox Fund	Dodge & Cox Balanced Fund	1,343,946	29,600
First Eagle of America, Inc.	First Eagle Fund of America	1,356,577	(30,779)
First Eagle of America, Inc.	First Eagle Overseas Fund	1,087,498	37,642
Gabelli Asset Management, Inc.	Gabelli Westwood Balanced	314,308	27
Gartmore Morley Financial Services	Morley Stable Value Fund	N/A	56,413
American Funds	Growth Fund of America	2,537,653	268,551
American Funds	High Income Trust R4	9,621	(16)
JP Morgan Asset Management	JP Morgan Divers Mid Cap Growth	1,252,461	27,774
Pacific Investment Mgmt Co LLC	PIMCO Total Return Fd Cl D	2,904,476	(89,780)
Selected Funds	Selected American Shares	2,284,171	188,926
T Rowe Price	T Rowe Price Mid Cap Value	1,983,788	30,941
Wells Fargo Funds	WF Advantage Government Securities	N/A	9,205
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.*	Schwab S & P 500 Investment Shares	1,577,220	46,053
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.*	Schwab Stable Value Fund Retire Cl	4,407,299	99,017
United Fire & Casualty Company*	United Fire Stock Fund	604,577	109,215
United Fire & Casualty Company*	Common Stock	N/A	
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.*	Schwab Personal Choice Accounts	235,413	2,041
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.*	Schwab Retirement Money Fund	N/A	19
Total participant-directed investments at fair value		\$25,736,450	\$1,087,171

* Indicates a party-in-interest to the Plan.

4. PLAN TERMINATION

Although it has not expressed any intention to do so, United Fire & Casualty Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions set forth in ERISA. In the event of any termination of the Plan, or upon complete or partial discontinuance of contributions, the accounts of each affected participant become fully vested.

5. FEDERAL INCOME TAX STATUS

The underlying non-standardized prototype plan has received an opinion letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) dated November 21, 2001 stating that the form of the plan is qualified under Section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code, and therefore, the related trust is tax exempt. In accordance with Revenue Procedure 2002-6 and Announcement 2001-77, United Fire & Casualty Company has determined that it is eligible to and has chosen to rely on the current IRS prototype plan opinion letter. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the Code to maintain its qualification. The plan administrator believes the Plan is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code and, therefore, believes that the Plan is qualified and the related trust is tax exempt.

United Fire Group 401(k) Plan**FORM 5500, SCHEDULE H, PART IV, LINE 4i SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR) DECEMBER 31, 2005**

Identity of Issuer	Description of Investment	Shares	Current Value
<u>Mutual Funds</u>			
Artisan Funds	Artisan International Fund	88,198	\$2,232,285
Century Shares Trust Co.	Century Shares Trust	6,452	217,369
Cohen & Steers Capital Mgmt.	Cohen & Steers Realty	7,406	537,617
Columbia Funds	Columbia Acorn Fund CL Z	26,849	756,347
Columbia Funds	Columbia High Yield Fund CL Z	11,051	93,824
Dodge & Cox Fund	Dodge & Cox Balanced Fund	16,523	1,343,946
First Eagle of America, Inc.	First Eagle Fund of America	53,304	1,356,577
First Eagle of America, Inc.	First Eagle Overseas Fund	47,200	1,087,498
Gabelli Asset Management, Inc.	Gabelli Westwood Balanced	26,171	314,308
American Funds	Growth Fund of America	82,714	2,537,653
American Funds	High Income Trust R4	794	9,621
JP Morgan Asset Management	JP Morgan Diversified Mid Cap Growth	50,727	1,252,461
Pacific Investment Mgmt Co LLC	PIMCO Total Return Fd Cl D	276,617	2,904,476
Selected Funds	Selected American Shares	56,764	2,284,171
T Rowe Price	T Rowe Price Mid Cap Value	84,850	1,983,788
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.*	Schwab S & P 500 Investment Shares	82,147	1,577,220
United Fire & Casualty Company*	United Fire Stock Fund	58,435	604,577
<u>Common Collective Trust</u>			
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.*	Schwab Stable Value Fund Retire Cl	276,571	4,407,299
<u>Personal Choice Retirement Accounts</u>			
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.*	Schwab Personal Choice Accounts		235,413
Total participant-directed investments at fair value			25,736,450
Participant loans (maturing 2006 through 2017 at interest rates ranging from 5% - 14%)			193,303
Total assets held for investment purposes			\$25,929,753

*Indicates a party-in-interest to the Plan.

The Plan. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, United Fire & Casualty Company, as plan administrator, has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

United Fire Group 401(k) Plan

Date: June 28, 2006

By:/s/ John A. Rife
John A. Rife
President and Chief Executive Officer