TUXEDO — The Tuxedo Volunteer Ambulance Corps had more than $10,000 collecting dust in a state fund for a decade, and never knew it.

The emergency medical organization apparently had no idea it was owed $652 from Prudential Insurance, dating back to the mid-1990s. Nor did it claim a $9,951 gift from the United Way of New York City, made in the late 1990s.

County Legislator Noel Spencer found that money among $9.9 billion in unclaimed money that is sitting in an account managed by the state comptroller's office.

State law requires banks, insurance companies, utilities and other businesses to return dormant accounts — and the money within — to the state.

People who have left jobs without picking up final paychecks, moved without leaving forwarding addresses or forgotten to cash checks may find money in this account.

Through random searches, Spencer, who represents Tuxedo and Chester, as well as parts of Monroe and Warwick, found 92 businesses and municipalities in his district that have unclaimed money.

According to the comptroller's office, there are more than 23 million account records still unclaimed.

Half of all claims are for $100 or less, but there are accounts that are much heftier.
One claimed account had more than $4 million, paid to a state resident in 2008 from a stock. The largest unclaimed account has more than $1.7 million, earmarked for one individual.

There are no fees to reclaim funds. To check if you are owed money, visit www.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/index.htm or call 800-221-9311, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

And as for the ambulance corps, it should see its money in a matter of months.

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