COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF FORT WORTH AND THE FORT WORTH PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, IAFF LOCAL 440

EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 30, 2018
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DEFINITIONS

“Agreement” refers to this collective bargaining agreement between the City of Fort Worth and the Fort Worth Professional Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 440.

“Anniversary Date” means the civil service date of commission as a fire fighter until he or she is promoted, at which time the Anniversary Date becomes the promotion (or demotion) date; e.g. when a fire fighter is promoted to engineer, lieutenant, etc. the date of promotion as specified on the HR personnel action request form becomes the anniversary date.

“Association” means the Fort Worth Professional Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 440, its officers and agents authorized to act on its behalf.

“Backfill” means to fill a temporary staffing vacancy with either vacation relief personnel or with overtime.

“Bargaining Unit” means all full time, permanent, paid members of the Fort Worth Fire Department who were hired in substantial compliance with TLGC Chapter 143, or as modified by the provisions of this Agreement. This definition excludes the Chief, non-certified employees, retirees and fire fighter trainees.

“Base Pay” means a fire fighter’s base salary (at step level) exclusive of any additional special pays.

“Business Day” means Monday through Friday during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and shall not include any day when City Hall is not opened to the public for business.

“Calendar Day” means each day inclusive of weekends, and holidays.

“City” means the City of Fort Worth, Texas, acting by and through its authorized agents.

“City Manager” means the City Manager of the City of Fort Worth.

“Company” means a department apparatus and crew used to respond to emergencies in a first responder’s roles.

“Commission” means the Fire Fighters and Police Officers Civil Service Commission of the City of Fort Worth.

“Commission Date” or “Date of Commission” means the date a person takes the oath of service in the Department.

“Date of Hire” or “Hire Date” means the date a Firefighter Trainee first attends Department orientation and training.
“Fire fighter” means any full time, permanent, paid member of the Fort Worth Fire Department who was hired in substantial compliance with TLGC Chapter 143 or as modified by the provisions of this Agreement. This definition excludes the Chief, non-certified employees, retirees and Fire fighter trainees.

“Executive Board of Directors” or “Executive Board” means the members of the Association who are duly elected or appointed and serve as members of the Executive Board of Directors of the organization pursuant to its constitution and by-laws.

“Fire Department” or “Department” means the City of Fort Worth Fire Department.

“Fire Chief” or “Chief” means the Fire Chief of the Fort Worth Fire Department. The term is synonymous with the term “department head” as used in the Local Government Code Chapter 143.

“Fire Chief” or “Chief’s designee” means the Chief or the individual he or she designates to act on his or her behalf.

“Fire fighter Trainee” means an applicant who has been certified and accepted for employment by the City for the sole purpose of attending the Department’s training academy. A Fire fighter Trainee shall be required to attend and successfully complete the Fire Department’s training academy requirements prior to becoming a Fire fighter.

“Formal Administrative Investigation” means an investigation initiated or conducted by the Fire Chief or officers specifically assigned to the investigation.

“Hours Worked” means all the time an employee is required to be on duty, on the employer’s premises or at a prescribed work-place. Fire fighters in Suppression shall have a maximum work hours standard of 212 hours in a 28-day cycle.

“Local Government Code Ch. 143” or “Chapter 143” means those portions of the Fire Fighter and Police Officer Civil Service Act, Texas Local Government Code Chapter 143 which are applicable to the City.

“Local Government Code Ch. 174” or “Chapter 174” means the Fire and Police Employee Relations Act, Texas Local Government Code Chapter 174.

“Party” or “Parties” means the City of Fort Worth or the Fort Worth Professional Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 440, or both when used collectively.

“Personnel Rules and Regulations” or “PRRs” means the City’s written policies applicable to fire fighters, as authorized under Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Fort Worth, Article V, entitled "Human Resources," by Ordinance No. 11921, effective February 1, 1999, as amended from time to time.

“Preempt” shall have the same meaning as supersede.
“Preliminary Investigation” means meetings, interviews, questions, and/or discussions on topics that could possibly lead to a Formal Administrative Investigation, but conducted by officers in a fire fighter’s chain of command.

“Regular Rate” shall have the meaning established by the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 USCA § 201 et seq.

“Shift” means a 24 hour shift in the Operations Division from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., unless otherwise specified.

“Supersede” means to the extent that any provision of this Agreement conflicts with or changes Chapter 143 or any other statute, executive order, local ordinance, or rule adopted by the City including a personnel board, or Civil Service Commission, this Agreement shall apply or control instead of such provisions, as authorized by Section 174.006 of the TLGC.

“Staff Fire fighter” or “Staff Personnel” means a fire fighter assigned to a 40-hour work week.

“Stanine” means nine evenly distributed groups of candidates who pass an exam.

“Suppression Fire fighter” or “Suppression Personnel” means a fire fighter assigned to a 56-hour workweek.

“TLGC” means Texas Local Government Code.
ARTICLE 1
INTENT AND PURPOSE

Section 1. Intent of the Parties.

This Agreement is entered into by the City of Fort Worth, Texas hereinafter referred to as the “City” and the Fort Worth Professional Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 440 hereinafter referred to as the “Association.” It is the intent and purpose of this Agreement to achieve and maintain harmonious relations between the Parties, and to establish benefits, rates of pay, hours of work, and other terms and conditions of employment for all Bargaining Unit Members and to provide for the equitable and orderly adjustments of grievances that may arise during the term of this Agreement.

Section 2. Preemption.

This Agreement preempts all contrary local ordinances, executive orders, statutes, or rules adopted by the state or by a political subdivision or agent of the state, including a personnel board, civil service commission, or home rule municipality.
ARTICLE 2
RECOGNITION

The City recognizes the Fort Worth Professional Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 440, as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for all fire fighters as that term is defined in this Agreement.
ARTICLE 3
NON-DISCRIMINATION

Section 1. Non-Interference with Protected Rights.

Neither party shall discriminate against any fire fighter or fire fighter trainee on the basis of membership or non-membership in the Association. Furthermore, the City shall not discriminate against an Association member for carrying out the duties of the Association.

Section 2. Duty of Fair Representation.

The Parties acknowledge and recognize the Association’s responsibility, as the exclusive representative under Chapter 174, TLGC, to fairly represent all fire fighters, in the negotiation, administration and enforcement of this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement will be construed to impose on the Association any obligations to non-members of the Association greater than those imposed by law.
ARTICLE 4
MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

The Association recognizes that the management of the City and the direction of the Department are vested exclusively in the City, subject to applicable State and Federal laws and the terms of this Agreement. In exercising its management rights, the City acknowledges the importance of continuously providing quality fire protection and safety for its citizens.

These Management Rights include and give the City the ability to:

A. Direct the work of its employees to include the scheduling of overtime work.

B. Determine the number of classified positions in each rank in accordance to Section 143.021.

C. Hire, promote, demote, transfer, assign, and retain employees in positions within the City, subject to Civil Service regulations and/or terms of this Agreement.

D. Reprimand, suspend, discharge or terminate employees, subject to Civil Service regulations and/or the terms of this Agreement.

E. Maintain the efficiency of governmental operations.

F. Relieve employees from duties due to lack of work, subject to Civil Service regulations and/or the terms of this Agreement.

G. Utilize the Department in emergency situations to protect life and property.

H. Determine the methods, processes, means, personnel, and staffing levels (subject to any specific provisions of this Agreement) by which operations are to be carried out.

I. Determine personnel assignments, subject to the remaining specific provisions of this Agreement.

J. Use civilians in the Department to perform duties which do not presently have certified personnel in place except as specifically stated and do not require a sworn certified fire fighter. In this regard, the City is authorized to use civilians for the following positions or units:

1. Fiscal Management

2. Personnel Support (administrative staff)

3. Clerical Support
4. Delivery (supply)

5. Fire Services/Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance (Provided that existing certified positions shall be maintained)

6. Industrial Sewing Technicians (Protective Clothing Repair)

7. Supply and Warehousing (Provided that existing certified positions shall be maintained)

8. Purchasing

9. Fire Photography

10. Fire Protection Engineers

11. Fire Protection Specialists

12. Revenue collection and Billing

13. Information Technology and Systems including CAD Administrator


K. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, the City, acting through the City Manager and the Chief, shall retain all rights and authority which by law it is their responsibility to enforce.
ARTICLE 5
MAINTENANCE OF STANDARDS

Section 1.  Economic Benefits, Privileges, and Working Conditions.

The economic benefits, privileges, and working conditions set forth in written City or Department policy as of October 1, 2014, shall remain unchanged for the duration of this Agreement, except as noted in Section 2 of this Article. For the purpose of this Article, “written City or Department policy” means City Ordinances, the City’s PRRs, departmental SOPs, IOCs, Information Bulletins, Fire Department Rules and Regulations, and any written documentation, the official approval of which is by a substantially similar process as for those specifically referred to above. “Written City or Departmental policy” also means memos from the Chief, an Assistant Chief or a Deputy Chief. No past practice can override any written City or departmental policy.

Section 2.  Amending Written Policies.

Written City or Department policies concerning economic benefits, privileges, and working conditions may be implemented and or amended any time during the term of this Agreement with the mutual consent of the City and the Association. To be enforceable, such amendment or implementation must be in writing and signed by the Chief, if it concerns operational issues, or by the City Manager or designee, if funding is involved, and the Association President or designee. Specifically with respect to the City’s PRRs applicable to fire fighters, the parties understand that the City is in the process of revising those PRRs and that those revisions will be applicable to members of this bargaining unit. Those changes are intended to clarify the organization, structure and readability of those PRRs, not to make changes in economic benefits, privileges or working conditions. Those proposed changes to the fire fighter PRRs will be subject to the approval process set out in this section.


The City, acting through the City Manager or the Chief, shall retain all authority to make unilateral changes to written Departmental policies that are considered management rights including those outlined in Article 4 of this Agreement, without the prior consent of, or prior notice to, the Association.

Section 4.  Pension Changes.

Nothing in this Agreement will be construed to prevent the City from making changes to fire fighter pension benefits and related contributions that are consistent with the applicable state and federal laws and constitutional provisions, and any disputes about those matters shall be by judicial action and not under the grievance provisions in this Agreement.
Section 5. Departmental SOPs.

The Parties have considered and discussed, prior to the effective date of this Agreement, certain Departmental Standard Operating Procedures (“SOPs”). Those SOPs will be implemented, consistent with Section 2 of this Article as of the effective date of this Agreement, or as soon thereafter as practicable. The Parties agree that this provision satisfies any duty or obligation to engage in good faith collective bargaining as to those matters.
ARTICLE 6
ASSOCIATION BUSINESS LEAVE

Section 1. Association Business Leave Pool.

At the beginning of the first pay period of each calendar year during this Agreement, the City will allocate 1684 hours of equivalent work-time hours to be utilized for an agreed Association Business Leave (“ABL”) Pool (the “Pool”). At the end of each calendar year during this Agreement, unused ABL hours up to 425 will carry over and must be used prior to the end of the next payroll year. All allocations must be used on a first-in, first-out basis. ABL shall be charged to the Pool at the rate of one (1:1) hours contributed to the Pool for every one (1) hour used based on the employee’s work schedule leave accrual.

If the Chief declares an emergency, he or she may order the Association President or any Association fire fighters on Association Business Leave time to report to work for the duration of the emergency. ABL will be counted as hours worked for the purpose of calculating overtime. ABL hours may be used for the following: (a) representing members at a disciplinary hearing (to the extent such representation is permitted by law, or in this Agreement, and allowed by Department policy) or grievance meetings; (b) administering the terms of this Agreement; (c) attending meetings of the Association’s Executive Board; (d) attending regular business meetings of the Association; (e) attending other Association meetings, training programs, seminars, workshops, and conferences, and (f) for the time an Association negotiating team member spends preparing for, traveling to and from and attending formally scheduled collective bargaining negotiating sessions with the City. ABL hours may not be used unless a member is scheduled to work.

All Association Business leave must be posted on Telestaff in accordance with the timelines regarding vacation leave. Association Business Leave shall not be subject to vacation quotas.

Section 2. Association Board of Directors.

Within thirty (30) Calendar Days after the execution of this Agreement, the Association shall notify the Chief in writing as to the names of the Association’s Board of Directors (to include disciplinary representatives.) The Association shall thereafter promptly notify the Chief of any change in the composition of its Board of Directors. To the extent that any designated member(s) of the Association’s Board of Directors is otherwise scheduled to work, the member shall be permitted to attend the monthly Association membership meetings and the regularly scheduled Association Board meetings and, any specially called Board meetings. Use of this leave shall not require the Chief to backfill these positions.

Section 3. Compliance.

A fire fighter who is eligible to use ABL hours may elect to exchange time in lieu of using ABL hours. Any fire fighter exchange of time in lieu of using ABL hours shall be properly documented and in compliance with all local, state and federal rules and regulations, including SOP S 1302 R4 that is in effect on the effective date of this Agreement, or as revised pursuant to Article 5 of this Agreement.
Section 4.  Time Off Without Pay.

The Chief will consider requests (and either grant or deny such requests) for additional time off without pay to attend to other Association business.

Section 5.  Other Associations.

This Article does not prevent the prior practice of the Chief allowing leave time to be awarded for other employee associations.
ARTICLE 7
INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

Section 1. Email Communication.

Subject to the Department SOP’s, the City’s rules and regulations, (particularly the Administrative Regulation regarding “Electronic Communications Use Policy”), and the applicable provisions of this Agreement, the Association may utilize electronic communications (“e-mail”) to communicate with Association members regarding matters of general interest of the Association in accordance with the following restrictions and limitations:

a. The City will grant access to the ZZ-CFD distribution group for the use by the Association’s Executive Board to communicate with its members only the following:

   1. Meeting notices and agendas; and
   2. Notices advising members to review information on the Association’s website, but not including specific links to the Association’s website.

b. The Association Board members may use the City e-mail system to communicate on Association business among themselves. Individual Association members may not use the e-mail system to advocate for or against issues, campaign for one’s self or others or promulgate personal issues as Association business.

Section 2. Specific Subjects Only.

Association e-mail communications shall relate solely to the following subjects:

a. Recreation and Social Affairs or other non-political activities of the Association
b. Association Meetings
c. Association Elections
d. Reports of Association Committees
e. Rulings or policies of the State or National Association, without added commentary
f. Legislative Enactments and Judicial Decisions Affecting Public Employee Labor Relations, without added commentary

Section 3. Prohibited Email Subjects.

Association e-mail communications shall not contain any political commentary, any solicitation for membership in, or financial contributions to, any labor organization, special interest organization, or political action organization, or any derogatory or offensive propaganda or commentary which reflects negatively upon the City, its officials, its employees, City employee associations or groups, or upon citizens of the City.
On a case-by-case basis, the Chief or Chief’s designee may consider requests from individual fire fighters for approval to distribute e-mail communications regarding solicitations for fire fighters (or their families) needing financial assistance or other forms of assistance.
ARTICLE 8
PAYROLL DEDUCTION

Section 1. Payroll Deductions.

The City shall bi-weekly deduct an amount from the pay of each individual fire fighter who has voluntarily authorized such deduction for remittance to the Association. The amount of pay deducted from each member of the Association shall be an amount authorized by the Board of the Association. The deduction amount shall remain constant until the City is notified in writing by an authorized member of the Board to change the deduction amount. The Association may change the amount of the deduction with thirty (30) Calendar Days’ notice to the City in writing. The total amount of deduction and a list of each member’s total deduction shall be remitted by the City to an account specified by the Board of the Association within ten (10) business days from the date the amount is taken from the member’s pay. After execution of this Agreement, fire fighters who wish to join the Association will complete and sign the appropriate City form to authorize the bi-weekly deduction amount. Any individual member of the bargaining unit wishing to voluntarily withdraw authorization for deductions or change the amount of their deduction must personally sign the appropriate form as required by the City.

Section 2. Deduction Fees.

All amounts deducted pursuant to this Article shall be paid to the legally designated representative of the Association in accordance with the procedures and costs established by the City Finance Director. The current cost structure of $0.05 per deduction shall be maintained until such time as the cost is changed to reflect a more accurate assessment of cost. The City Finance Director has the sole discretion to establish charges for deductions. The cost of deductions is subject to annual review. The actual cost shall not exceed $0.10 per deduction for the duration of this Agreement. The cost per deduction shall be no more than the cost applied to other employee associations.

Section 3. Indemnification.

The Association shall defend the City and hold the City harmless against any and all claims, demands, suits or other forms of legal action that may arise out of, or by reason of, any actions taken by the City, or any employee of the City in complying with provisions of this Article. The Association and the City shall jointly select and direct counsel retained for such defense, and the Association shall further assist and cooperate with the City during said defense.
ARTICLE 9
WAGES

Section 1. Payment.
Subject to all of the other provisions of this Agreement, the wages of the fire fighters covered by this Agreement shall be paid, during the four (4) year term of this Agreement, in accordance with the wage rates, terms, and conditions described in the structured pay plan attached in Appendix A, which is incorporated by reference. Annual step pay increases reflected in Appendix A for eligible fire fighters shall continue through the one-year evergreen period as stated in Article 33 of this Agreement or until such time as a new agreement is reached, whichever comes first.

Section 2. Wages.
In summary, wages will be paid according to the following schedule, as shown in Appendix A, beginning on November 1, 2014, and during the term of this Agreement:

FY 2014-2015: Effective on November 1, 2014, during FY 2014-2015; 0% across the board + annual step pay increases described in the structured pay plan attached in Appendix A for those fire fighters eligible on their applicable anniversary date.

FY 2015-2016: Effective the first pay period for FY 2015-2016; 2.2% across the board + annual step pay increases described in the structured pay plan attached in Appendix A for those fire fighters eligible on their applicable anniversary date.

FY 2016-2017: Effective the first pay period for FY 2016-2017; 2.2% across the board + annual step pay increases described in the structured pay plan attached in Appendix A for those fire fighters eligible on their applicable anniversary date.

FY 2017-2018: Effective the first pay period for FY 2017-2018; 3% across the board + annual step pay increases described in the structured pay plan attached in Appendix A for those fire fighters eligible on their applicable anniversary date.

For those occasions when a fire fighter’s anniversary date occurs the same day when an across-the-board base pay increase is implemented, the order of implementation will be the across-the-board base pay increase, then the step increase.

Section 3. Longevity Supplement Pay.
Statutory longevity pay shall be paid pursuant to TLGC 141.032. Longevity Supplement Pay has been eliminated. The Supplemental Longevity Pay amounts as outlined in the previous Collective Bargaining Agreement effective through September 30, 2014, have been incorporated into the Salary Schedule attached in Appendix A. The increases in step pay reflected in the Salary Schedule attached as Appendix A that are attributable to
incorporating Longevity Supplement Pay into the salary schedule, occur after 4, 9, and 14 years of commissioned service.

Section 4. Special Pays.

Current eligibility criteria, standards, and procedures for certification pay, bilingual pay, assignment pay and education pay, including current amounts, shall continue.

Section 5. Preemption.

This Article shall preempt any contrary provisions including those set forth in TLGC 143.041(b), TLGC 143.041(c), 143.042, 143.044, and 141.032 and any local ordinances, executive orders, or rules adopted by the City or Commission, it being expressly agreed and specifically so provided under the authority of TLGC 174.005 and 174.006.
ARTICLE 10
OVERTIME

Section 1. Emergency Call Back Overtime.

Emergency Call Back Overtime ("ECOT") is a “premium pay” and shall always be paid at time and one half (1 ½) of the regular rate of pay. Whenever a fire fighter is called back to work for an emergency after the fire fighter’s regular working hours and after having left the job site, or to work a double shift (due to an emergency situation as declared by the Chief), the fire fighter shall be eligible for ECOT and shall be paid a minimum of four (4) hours overtime. Fire fighters shall be paid in this manner for all hours worked during the callback until the fire fighter’s duty day begins, in which case, the additional compensation will cease. Hours worked that are paid as ECOT premium pay do not count as hours worked for the purpose of calculating eligibility for regular overtime.

Section 2. Mandatory Overtime.

Mandatory/forced-hire overtime shall be paid as ECOT premium pay. Hours worked that are paid as ECOT premium pay do not count as hours worked for the purpose of calculating eligibility for regular overtime.

Section 3. Voluntary Overtime.

When a fire fighter volunteers to work, and is selected to work, on an apparatus in order to meet daily staffing requirements, resulting in hours worked beyond an employee’s regularly scheduled work hours, but not caused or initiated by an emergency, those additional hours shall be paid as ECOT premium pay. The term “Apparatus” refers specifically to active service status fire engines, fire quints, fire ladders, AARF companies, brush trucks, two-person emergency vehicles and HazMat Squads. Hours worked beyond a fire fighter’s regularly scheduled work hours, other than as described in Sections 1, 2 and 3, will be paid as Regular Overtime. Hours worked that are paid as ECOT premium pay do not count as hours worked for the purpose of calculating eligibility for regular overtime.

Section 4. Regular Overtime.

The Association recognizes that the City compensates Suppression fire fighters as allowed in 20 U.S.C §107(k) (“Section 7(k)”) of the Fair Labor Standards Act, as amended. Regular overtime for a Suppression fire fighter is defined as hours worked in excess of 212 hours in a 28-day pay cycle. Regular Overtime for a Staff fire fighter is defined as hours worked in excess of 40 hours in a 7-day work week. All paid time off work, with the exception of Business (B), Personal Holiday (P), Holiday (J), Association Business Leave (FDABL), and Training (T), will not count as hours worked for purposes of calculating eligibility for regular overtime.
Section 5. Vacation Relief Ratio.

The number of vacation relief personnel utilized on a daily basis shall not exceed 20% of the total necessary to satisfy minimum daily staffing requirements. The minimum daily staffing requirement includes: all fire companies staffed as prescribed in Article 17 “Staffing Standards,” six Battalion Chiefs, one shift tech, one duty paramedic, two SCBA staff, one safety officer, and one shift commander.

The minimum daily staffing requirement as of October 2014 is 236. The 20% daily vacation relief staffing maximum as of October 2014 totals 47.

Changes to the minimum daily staffing requirement during the duration of this Agreement (e.g., the construction of new fire stations) will alter the vacation relief staffing maximum as the 20% threshold is applied to the new minimum daily staffing number.

The vacation relief staffing percentage may be exceeded for up to ninety days for new fire station construction delays.

Section 6. Preemption.

This Article shall preempt any contrary provisions including those set forth in TLGC 142.0015, and any local ordinances, executive orders, or rules adopted by the City or Commission, it being expressly agreed and specifically so provided under the authority of TLGC 174.005 and 174.006.
ARTICLE 11
COMPENSATORY TIME OFF

As permitted by the Fair Labor Standards Act (“FLSA”), 29 U.S.C. § 207(o), the City may compensate fire fighters, if requested by the fire fighter, with compensatory time in lieu of overtime compensation required by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 207 subject to the discretionary approval of the Chief. The Parties agree that if compensatory time is granted, it shall be administered in accordance with the City’s Personnel Rules and Regulations applicable to fire fighters and shall comply with state and federal law. The use of the term “fire fighter” in this Article shall not be construed as affording the right of time-and-one-half remuneration (whether overtime or compensatory time) except as provided by FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 213 and TLGC 142.0015(e). This Article preempts Section 142.0016 TLGC only to the extent of any inconsistency with that section.
ARTICLE 12
VACATION/HOLIDAY LEAVE

Section 1. Vacation Leave.

Vacation leave for sworn fire fighters shall be accrued according to the following chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sworn Service Time</th>
<th>Staff or 8-Hour Day Employees</th>
<th>Suppression or 12-Hour Day Employees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maximum Accrual Per Year (Hours)</td>
<td>Accrual Rate Per Pay Period (Hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire fighter with 1 year of service</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>4.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire fighter with 5 years of service</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>5.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire fighter with 10 years of service</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>5.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire fighter with 15 years of service</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>6.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire fighter with 20 years of service</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>7.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 2. Vacation Time Management.

The authorized number of allotted vacation positions can be exceeded if approved by the Chief or designee. There will be no less than 36 suppression vacation slots per day except under a declared emergency. Floating days shall not be included in this number.

Under the direction of the Chief or designee, Battalion Chiefs are responsible for managing vacations and other leave time for their battalion/shift to provide the most effective emergency response capability possible.

Section 3. Vacation Leave Transfer.

Fire fighters may transfer accrued vacation leave (no other type of leave may be transferred) into a non-civil service employee’s Short Term Sick Leave/Family Leave account or into a civil service employee’s Sick or Family Illness Leave account in order to ensure continuing income for an employee who must be absent from work due to a major personal illness or injury or due to an immediate family member’s major illness or injury which requires the presence of the employee. In the event of conflict, the PRRs policy for Vacation Leave Donations shall apply. Donated leave will not count toward any minimum required leave usage provisions listed in this Article.

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Section 4. Holiday Pay and Accrual.

Time accrued for all holidays shall be based on either an eight (8) hour day for Staff Personnel or a twelve (12) hour day for Suppression Personnel.

Suppression Personnel shall be paid for hours worked (eight or sixteen depending on shift) on a holiday (as defined below) at time and one half (1 ½) holiday rate. For purposes of this Article, only, holiday rate means an individual’s step rate within their rank. Suppression Personnel shall accrue twelve (12) holiday hours for each holiday observed unless the fire fighter is in a no-pay status.

Staff Personnel shall be paid for hours worked on a City-recognized holiday (except as modified by Section 5 of this Article) at time and one half (1 ½) holiday rate. Staff Personnel who work on the City-recognized holiday shall accrue eight (8) holiday hours.

If the City-recognized holiday falls on a ten (10) hour staff person’s off day, he or she shall accrue eight (8) holiday hours. Staff personnel shall be allowed to move their regular day off with supervisor approval.

If a fire fighter (suppression or staff) is scheduled to work on a holiday (actual or City-recognized) and is absent for any reason he or she shall be charged the requested leave time if available and accumulate the appropriate holiday hours for his or her position.

Section 5. Holidays.

Department personnel are granted eight (8) holidays per year.

City-recognized holidays may not always align with the actual holiday day and are: New Year’s Day, M.L.K. Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day/9-11 Remembrance Day, Thanksgiving Day, Day after Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. As per the City’s PRRs, the City may officially recognize a holiday on a day which is not the actual holiday.

Suppression Personnel and any Staff Personnel who are required by their position to work on the actual holiday shall receive Holiday Pay and accrue Holiday Hours for work on that actual holiday, regardless of when it is recognized by the City. Suppression Personnel and those Staff Personnel not included above, shall follow only the official City-recognized holiday schedule.

Fire fighters are also granted one (1) Personal Holiday per year (eight (8) hours per year for Staff Personnel and twelve (12) hours for Suppression Personnel).

Section 6. Vacation/Holiday Accumulation and Use.

There shall be no limit on maximum accumulation of vacation or holiday time. Vacation hours are available for use after twelve (12) months from date of hire. Upon separation of employment, Fire fighters shall receive payment of all accrued vacation and holiday time, except that Fire fighters who terminate from the City within twelve (12) months from their date of hire shall not be paid for accrued vacation time.
Fire fighters may accrue unlimited personal holiday hours, including any specially granted by the City Manager, and those hours accrued after the effective date of this Agreement will not be subject to any time limitations for usage. Fire fighters who terminate employment for any reason will not receive payment for any unused personal holiday hours upon separation from the City nor shall fire fighter personal holiday hours be part of any future leave sell back. Personal holiday time may only be taken in minimum increments of fifteen (15) minutes.

After one year from a fire fighter’s hire date a fire fighter may begin using vacation time. Beginning the first full calendar year after commission date, Fire fighters are required to use two (2) weeks (120 hours for 56-hour suppression personnel and 80 hours for 40-hour staff personnel) accrued holiday time and/or vacation time per calendar year. Failure to use the minimum required leave will result in the difference between the amount used and the minimum required leave usage being deducted from accumulated vacation leave at the beginning of the next calendar year.

A fire fighter who is not able to use two (2) weeks of accrued holiday and/or vacation time in a calendar year due to illness or injury may petition the Chief or designee in writing for a waiver of this requirement. The Chief or designee will provide a written ruling on the request to the petitioner within five (5) calendar days of receipt of the request. The Chief or designee’s decision will be final. Decisions resulting in a waiver to the requirement will be forwarded to the City Human Resources Department for implementation. Sending a request or response via email shall qualify as a writing.

Unless otherwise approved by City Council, fire fighters may not participate in the City’s yearly vacation leave and/or accrued holiday leave sell back program (when implemented by the City Council).

Section 7. Preemption.

This Article shall preempt any contrary provisions including those set forth in TLGC 142.0013, and any local ordinances, executive orders, or rules adopted by the City or Commission, and specifically preempts Section 142.0013(c) to the extent that section can be read to obligate the City to provide any fire fighter any additional vacation days, holidays or days in lieu of vacation days or holidays granted to any other municipal employees in a labor agreement, it being expressly agreed and specifically so provided under the authority of TLGC 174.005 and 174.006.
ARTICLE 13
WORKING AGREEMENT

Section 1. Substitutions.

Any fire fighters of the bargaining unit, who are injured or sick and have depleted his or her accrued leave benefits, to the limits stated in Section 4B1 of the Working Agreement Rules, Regulations and Procedures, may self-arrange or make a request to the Association for one or more fire fighter(s) of the bargaining unit to substitute for him or her. Substitution personnel working for another fire fighter under this provision need not be of the same classification as the fire fighter receiving the Working Agreement benefit, provided there are sufficient eligible fire fighters on-duty to fill those positions requiring specific classifications.

a. This Section shall cover a member for a maximum cumulative period of up to 24 months during a fire fighter’s career.

b. No fire fighter of the bargaining unit shall be eligible to receive benefits under this Section after qualifying for retirement under the then-current City retirement program as codified in 6243i of the Texas Revised Civil Statutes and Sections 2-201 – 2-235 of the City’s Code of Ordinances (as amended) and any relevant rules promulgated by the board of the Employees Retirement Fund.

c. The disabled fire fighter’s personnel record shall reflect continuous service with the City; the record shall not recognize a break in the fire fighter’s years of service as a result of availing him/herself of substitutes under this Section.

d. Under no circumstances shall a fire fighter who is using substitutes under this Section be allowed to perform non-department related work.

e. The City understands that the Association’s Working Agreement and Rules, Regulations and Procedures promulgated subject to this Article will include provisions concerning donations of time by fire fighters not certified to work in Operations, and will provide, in substance:

Fire fighters not certified to work in Operations may donate up to 16 hours, as adjusted for pay rates, in lieu of working one 24 hour shift. This adjustment shall be calculated by Fire Department payroll personnel.

Example: Step 7 Fire Captain (staff) 40 hour rate = $40.05
Step 5 Fire fighter (operations 24 hour shift) = $512.64
Therefore: $512.64/$40.05 = 12.80 hours donated by Captain not certified to work Operations.

f. Accrued time of the member receiving benefits shall be used when a substitute is unavailable to work the shift.
Section 2.  Substitution Approval.

All substitutions contemplated herein are subject to the Chief’s or his or her designee’s, approval as defined or limited by 29 C.F.R. 553.31. Nothing in this Article shall abrogate the Chief’s ability to determine a fire fighter’s fitness for duty or any other eligibility criteria of the Department.

Section 3.  Compliance with Federal Law.

The City has agreed to facilitate its fire fighter's shift exchanges, recognizing that a fire fighter's choice to do so is at the fire fighter's sole option and for the fire fighter's convenience. There is no incentive, encouragement, benefit or promise of any reward or advantage by or on behalf of the City in connection with this option. Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement, the City may make any changes in policies or practices necessary to comply with state and federal law and regulations, including but not limited to 29 C.F.R. 553.31, as to the City's involvement, regulation, or approval of fire fighter participation in this voluntary option.

Section 4.  Rules.

The Association may promulgate internal Working Agreement Rules, Regulations and Procedures subject to this Article. The City has informed the Association that it has no objections to the Association’s Working Agreement, Rules, Regulations and Procedures, and the modifications made as of the effective date of this Agreement.

Section 5.  Defense.

The City shall defend all claims against the Association (and its Executive Board, if named), with counsel of the City’s choice, which arise directly from the implementation of the specific terms in this Article and shall pay any and all claims finally adjudicated based thereon involving joint liability of the City and the Association. This provision does not preclude the Association from retaining its own defense counsel, at its expense, and the City shall reasonably cooperate with counsel designated by the Association to participate. The City’s obligation to defend and/or pay does not extend to liability based on the rules, regulations and procedures, or administrative practices of the Association, which are the sole prerogative of the Association.
ARTICLE 14
GROUP HEALTH BENEFITS

Section 1. Health Benefits.

The City agrees to provide medical coverage for eligible employees and their eligible dependents that is subsidized by the City at a level approved by Council on an annual basis. During the term of this Agreement, eligible fire fighters and their eligible dependents shall be offered the same medical insurance coverage at the same subsidized cost as approved by Council for other City employees on an annual basis. The City commits to not diminish the City’s annual contribution to the health fund below FY2015 budgeted levels during the term of this Agreement. This commitment does not include future contributions to the City’s Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust.

This Article does not prevent changes in plan design, pricing, the City Wellness Program or any other program that the City implements designed to improve employee health and/or decrease medical costs.

Section 2. Right to Reopen.

The City reserves the right to make changes in the plan or coverage that is reasonably required for implementation of the Affordable Care Act, or any other state or federal law or regulation.

Section 3. Definitions

In this Article, “employee” or “City employee” does not include members of the city council and their direct staff; persons who are appointed or elected by the city council pursuant to the City Charter; the city manager and assistant city managers; and department directors.

Section 4. Programs Described.

The health benefits program currently in effect for fire fighters and their dependents is described in the Summary Plan Description in effect as of January 1, 2014, and as amended from time to time thereafter in the Summary of Material Modifications. These benefits are summarized in the City of Fort Worth Summary of Plan Benefits chart which is attached hereto and incorporated herein in Appendix B.

Section 5. Preemption.

This Article shall preempt any contrary provisions set forth in Ch. 2, Art. V, Sec. 2-190 of the Fort Worth Code.
ARTICLE 15
RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS

Section 1. Fire Fighters Hired Prior to January 1, 2009.

During the term of this Agreement, the City will comply with Chapter 175 of the Local Government Code regarding continued health insurance coverage for eligible retired fire fighters and their eligible dependents. During the term of this Agreement, eligible retired fire fighters and their eligible dependents shall be offered the same health insurance coverage at the same subsidized cost as approved by Council for other City retirees on an annual basis.


Fire fighters hired on or after January 1, 2009 shall be entitled to retiree health benefits as follows:

The Association may establish a tax exempt IRS Compliant 501(c)(9) Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Association (VEBA). The $1.6 million set aside in the 2010 Collective Bargaining Agreement shall be deposited in the Association’s VEBA within 30 days of the legal creation of the trust and evidence of appropriate governance. Mechanisms for additional member contributions will be evaluated for the next contract cycle.

Section 3. Preemption.

This Article shall preempt any contrary provisions set forth in Ch. 2, Art. V, Sec. 2-190 of the Fort Worth Code, which shall otherwise remain in effect.
ARTICLE 16
SUPPLEMENTAL FIRE FIGHTER RETIREMENT PLAN

The City and the Association, upon mutual agreement, reserve the right to reopen negotiations to consider the establishment of a Supplemental Fire Fighter Retirement Plan (SFRP). It is the intent of the Association to establish a defined contribution retirement plan to supplement benefits, and the City is willing to discuss their proposal. There shall be no City contributions on behalf of the fire fighters’ benefits in the SFRP.
ARTICLE 17
STAFFING STANDARDS

Section 1. Assignments.

Fort Worth Fire Department management reserves the right to assign any employee to any position within the Department. Final authority to determine an employee’s assignment rests with the Fire Chief. This Article in no way inhibits the authority of the Fire Chief to make assignments as deemed necessary for the effective and efficient operation of the Department.

Section 2. Four-Person Staffing.

The City shall continue its practice of staffing with four (4) persons (consisting of: one (1) officer, one (1) engineer, and two (2) fire fighters), active service status Engine companies and Ladder companies, including quints (as commonly recognized apparatus by the Association and Department), Hazmat Squad, and ARFF companies (maintaining the existing practice of one four-person crew per ARFF company). These apparatus may be temporarily reduced to three (3) persons, yet remain in active service, if a fire fighter assigned to work on an apparatus is off duty using available leave for up to four (4) hours.

These apparatus may be temporarily reduced to three (3) persons yet remain in active service for up to five (5) hours including travel time while one crew member attends training or serves as an instructor. This practice may be used once daily per station.

Section 3. Two-Person Companies.

In order to maximize staffing and equipment resource efficiencies and better scale response levels to match specific incident requirements, the Chief may implement utilization of two-person emergency response companies as part of future departmental growth plans. Two-person companies can only be utilized to supplement existing four-person companies at specific stations where call volumes or other factors necessitate service expansion. These two-person companies shall not replace any existing four-person companies and shall be staffed with an Officer and an Engineer. Stations which house these units shall have a Captain and Lieutenant assigned on each shift. Two-person companies shall utilize smaller emergency vehicles and be dispatched as the sole response to emergency calls. These units shall not be dispatched to structure fires as a structural firefighting unit or perform any structural firefighting duties. Under unusual circumstances where these two-person crews may encounter a life-threatening situation, including arriving at a structure fire, prior to any other units, crews may perform rescue functions if necessary. The number and location of two-person emergency response companies is at the full discretion of the Chief subject to the conditions set forth in this Article.
Section 4. Meacham Airport.

The primary apparatus at Meacham Airport is excluded from the staffing standards noted above. ARFF apparatus at Meacham Airport may be staffed solely with a minimum of two (2) ARFF certified fire fighters. If staffed as a two-person company it shall consist of an Officer and an Engineer.

Section 5. Utilization.

This Article shall not affect the City’s or the Chief’s rights to set, determine, change, or modify the number, locations, service status, or utilization of fire stations, facilities and apparatus.
ARTICLE 18
PROCEDURE FOR FILLING AND PROBATIONARY PERIOD FOR BEGINNING POSITIONS IN THE FORT WORTH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Section 1. Recruitment.

The Chief will determine when the following procedures, outlined in this Article for the filling of entry positions in the Department, will take place. Recruitment for fire fighter candidates shall be a cooperative effort between the Department and the Human Resources Department. In all cases, recruitment efforts will be publicized and recruitment notices will be posted on the City’s Job Announcement web page. Recruitment may be conducted on a continuous or periodic basis. The Department may test at different locations, but all testing shall be conducted simultaneously for the particular eligibility list being established. A candidate may be tested only once for a specific eligibility list.

Section 2. Eligibility.

Eligibility to become a fire fighter will be determined by a candidate’s ability to meet the minimum standards established in the Local Civil Service Commission Rules. The Association shall be afforded the opportunity to assign representatives as unpaid proctors during the physical ability test and distance run. Candidates must meet all minimum standards and requirements to be eligible for future licensing by Texas Commission on Fire Protection. A candidate must not be younger than eighteen (18) years and must not have reached thirty-six (36) years of age by the date that the entry-level test required of that candidate is administered.

Section 3. Selection Criteria.

The selection of a candidate to be a fire fighter shall be based primarily upon the candidate’s suitability to serve as a fire fighter and including consideration of scores from the selection process. The Chief shall make the final hiring decision. The rule of three shall not apply. All testing and selection procedures shall be designed and intended to identify the most suitable applicants and to exclude those candidates who are deemed not likely to possess the characteristics and abilities to be successful in the performance of work required of a fire fighter. All candidates shall be required to pass an entry-level written test intended and designed to measure the candidate’s suitability and ability to perform the duties of a fire fighter. A passing score for the entry-level written test will be established based on the psychometric characteristics of the test as recommended by the test publisher. The Association shall be afforded the opportunity to assign representatives as unpaid proctors during testing.

The candidate characteristics for which additional points shall be added to a passing test score and the point values for such characteristics are as follows:

5 points for military veterans with honorable discharge per DD 214.

2 points for residency in the City of Fort Worth, provided that the candidate has continuously lived within the city limits for at least six months prior to the date of the entry-level test (includes college students and military personnel, if their
primary residence is Fort Worth). Applicants must present two forms of proof of residency at the time of the test. Acceptable proof of residency includes a driver’s license and a utility bills. If residence is at an all-bills-paid facility, a lease agreement may be used in lieu of a utility bill.

Seven (7) points is the maximum cumulative number of additional points which shall be added to a candidate’s passing test score for any combination of such characteristics. In order for points to be given for Military service, the candidate must provide proof of an honorable discharge by presenting a DD 214 at the time of application or submitted a minimum of 24 hours prior to the entrance test, in order for points to be given.

In the event a candidate who is called to active military service prior to being hired or disqualified was in a stanine that other candidates were hired from, that candidate shall be added to the stanine currently being considered or the next stanine to be considered for the next class hired if the candidate reapplies (completes a new application) within one hundred eighty (180) days of being released from active duty, provided that the next stanine to be considered is created within 24 months from the date of the candidate’s reapplication.

Section 4. Processing Candidates.

Candidates with passing test scores on the entry-level test will be placed on an eligibility list in the order of their overall eligibility scores (test score plus additional points). An eligibility list will be divided into stanines based on the eligibility scores of candidates who pass the entry-level test. All candidates within a stanine shall be considered to have an equivalent eligibility score. Candidates with eligibility scores that span two stanines will be placed in the higher stanine. Candidates may not be hired from an eligibility list that is created after an existing active eligibility list has been established until the existing list has been exhausted or has expired. All candidates within a stanine must be processed and either recommended for hire or rejected before candidates from a lower stanine may be considered. Candidates will be referred by the Human Resources Department to the Department by stanine. An eligibility list may be effective for a minimum of three (3) months and a maximum of eighteen (18) months, or until a specified number of candidates for academy classes are selected from a list. The conditions that will determine when an active list may be closed must be included on the announcement notifying candidates of the test. Any eligibility list created under this Article that is in effect at the time this Agreement expires, including the end of any “evergreen” provision, will remain in effect until the eligibility list expires, according to the terms under which it was created. This includes the last entry-level eligibility list that was created while the previous Collective Bargaining Agreement was in effect.

Section 5. Selection Process.

The Department will determine those candidates who are most suitable to be hired as fire fighters based on a structured and job-related selection process. The selection process will include testing for physical ability; personal characteristics linked to the performance of essential job functions, decision-making, communication skills, and interpersonal skills. The Department will utilize interview boards (e.g. review boards), polygraph examinations, drug screens, background reviews, and personal references to assess candidates as long as the methods have been reviewed by the Human Resources Department and found to be objective and job-related and applied
consistently in processing candidates. Pass/fail scores, rating scales or point scores currently in use as of the date of ratification of this Agreement shall continue to be used for each selection method in the selection process. A candidate must complete and pass each selection method in the entry-level hiring process in order to continue in the process.

The point system currently in use as of the date of ratification of this Agreement for the Interview Board’s personal history interview shall continue to be used for the selection process:

Candidates are rated in the following ten (10) categories:

1. Decision Making
2. Maturity
3. Initiative
4. Communication Skills
5. Interpersonal Skills
6. Attitude
7. Self-Discipline
8. Responsibility
9. Stability
10. Ethics

Each member of the Interview Board may score the candidate on a scale from zero (0) to ten (10). All scores by the Interview Board shall be within 3 points of one another per category. The total score per Interview Board member stands alone as long as the 3 point rule is met in each individual category. Candidates scoring 0-3 in any category are considered less suitable to be hired as firefighters for that category. Candidates scoring 4-7 in any category are considered suitable to be hired as firefighters for that category. Candidates scoring 8-10 in any category are considered more suitable to be hired as firefighters for that category. The overall total for each interview board member shall equal the sum of all scores in each category. The total score may range from 0 to 100 per interview board member. Then all interview board members’ scores shall be added together for the candidate’s final score, which may range from 0-500. Any candidate scoring below 300 points for a 5 member board, for their final score (240 points for a 4 member board, 180 points for a 3 member board) shall not be considered for hiring by the Fire Chief as they have been scored below the suitable for hiring range.

Nothing in this Article shall prevent the City, including the Interview Board, from complying with EEOC regulations or guidelines, nor shall this Article be interpreted to create a private right of action to an EEOC discrimination claim.

Any candidate needing a reasonable accommodation in order to complete a step in the process will be afforded an opportunity to request that accommodation from the Human Resources Director. The Human Resources Director or designee will grant or deny the request.

Any interview or review boards used in the selection process shall consist of one (1) member with one (1) alternate appointed by the Association and additional members (and their alternates) appointed by the Chief. Each additional member shall also have an alternate. Interview or review boards shall not have less than three (3) or more than five (5) members on each. Membership of the interview board will not change during a hiring period unless a member is
unable to serve, in which case his or her alternate shall serve. If needed, any trained alternate may serve as an alternate for any original board member. In the case of incapacitation, termination or resignation of the primary or alternate member, one additional alternate may be added after receiving training. In order to serve, each board member must have prior interview board experience and shall have received Human Resources training prior to their appointment. Alternates may be appointed prior to obtaining the required human resources training. Observation of an actual interview board session (i.e., a full day of interviews) shall satisfy the interview board experience requirement.


Upon completion of the selection process, a total final score, as described in Section 5 from the Interview Board will be calculated by the hiring process administrator for each candidate based on the rating or point standards established for the various selection methods. The hiring process administrator shall be appointed by the Chief and shall be a permanent member of the recruit training staff. Candidates will be ordered by final score and grouped into batches of ten (10) based on the candidates’ final score. In the event of a tie score, the tiebreak number drawn at the time of the entry-level test shall be used to rank candidates within a batch. The candidates will then be submitted to the Chief by batch (highest scoring batch, first) but without any associated scores or rankings. The Chief or designee may consider signed, written information provided by any of the participants in the selection process as to any candidate when making a final decision to make a conditional offer of employment to a candidate. The Chief or designee shall hire each candidate in a batch in order unless a valid reason exists to reject the candidate. The Chief or designee must either hire or reject each candidate in a batch before the next batch can be presented to the Chief or designee for consideration. As each candidate is hired, the order in which they are hired will be documented and this order will be used to establish the final tie breaking criteria for future promotional tests. The Civil Service Director or designee will review the scores and written documentation on all selected and passed-over candidates to insure consistency and fairness in the selection process and compliance with applicable law. Following this review, the Chief or designee will complete the hiring process.

Section 7. Candidate Hold Over.

If an eligibility list expires or is closed prior to the next class, the Department may retain any candidate’s name that was processed or being processed prior to the expiration of the eligibility list from the last stanine from which candidates were considered for hiring to be included in the next available class if such class begins within ninety (90) days of the expiration date. Processing is defined as the applicant having attended the first orientation meeting in the hiring process.

Section 8. Probationary Period.

All new hires and rehires will serve a probationary period from the date of hire until completion of Academy training and one year following being commissioned as a Fort Worth fire fighter. During the probationary period, a probationary employee may be terminated without civil service appeal rights. Upon completion of the probationary period, the employee will have full civil service protection, except as modified or abridged by this Agreement.
Leave for probationary fire fighters will be based upon length of continuous service from date of hire. Probationary fire fighters will be eligible to use available sick leave after six (6) months of service from the date of hire. Probationary fire fighters will be eligible to use available vacation and family leave after one (1) year of service from the date of hire. Probationary fire fighters who terminate after one (1) year of service from the date of hire will be paid for any accrued but unused vacation time.


The Commission may implement changes in the process or procedures set forth herein if the City Manager and the Executive Board of the Association approve a Memorandum of Agreement setting forth the changes deemed necessary to address problems or needs that arise after the effective date of this Agreement.

Section 10. Preemption.

This Article shall preempt any contrary provisions set forth in TLGC 143.021 (c), 143.023 (b), 143.025 (b), (h), (i), 143.026, 143.027 and any local ordinances, executive orders, or rules adopted by the City or Commission, it being expressly agreed and specifically so provided under the authority of TLGC 174.005 and 174.006.

Section 11. Defense.

With regard to this Article only, the City shall defend all claims against the Association (including its executive board, if named) and will pay any and all claims finally adjudicated involving joint liability of the City and the Association, with counsel of the City’s choice. This provision does not preclude the Association from retaining its own defense counsel, at its expense, and the City shall reasonably cooperate with counsel designated by the Association to participate.
ARTICLE 19
APPOINTED POSITIONS

Section 1. Assistant Chiefs.

Persons appointed by the Chief to the rank of Assistant Chief shall meet the requirements of TLGC 143.014(e) as of the effective date of this Agreement, and this Article.

Section 2. Deputy Chiefs.

The classification previously titled “Division Chief” is now titled “Deputy Chief.” The Fire Chief may have up to six (6) appointed Deputy Chiefs. Organizationally, the Deputy Chief classification will be immediately below the classification of Assistant Chief and immediately above the classification of Battalion Chief. The rank of Deputy Chief shall be filled by persons meeting the requirements of TLGC 143.014(e) as of the effective date of this Agreement, and this Article.

All promotions to any position in the classification of Deputy Chief shall be made by discretionary appointment of the Chief. The Chief will not be required to make promotions within any specific time. The Chief may, in his sole discretion, use any additional process or assessment procedure in making appointments to the deputy chief positions. Appointment to the rank of Deputy Chief shall be by mutual consent of the Chief and the appointee.

Section 3. Rights of Assistant Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs.

Any fire fighter appointed to the classification of Assistant Chief or Deputy Chief may be demoted to the same or equivalent classification the fire fighter held prior to appointment at the exclusive discretion of the Chief, and shall have no right to appeal such a demotion. Any Assistant Chief or Deputy Chief so demoted shall have no right to prior notice, a statement of charges, or to file a grievance or other complaint. Neither the Commission nor an Arbitrator shall have the jurisdiction, power, or authority to investigate or review such demotion or to alter the terms of such demotion.

Any fire fighter appointed to the classification of Deputy Chief shall be afforded the same protections as Assistant Chiefs in regard to TLGC 143.014 (g) and 143.014 (h).

Section 4. Deputy Chief and Assistant Chief Pay.

The base pay for the ranks of Deputy Chief and Assistant Chief shall not be controlled by TLGC Chapter 143 and specifically 143.041(b). Such personnel shall be exempt from overtime compensation to the extent permitted by state and federal law.
Section 4. Preemption Provision.

This Article shall preempt any contrary provisions set forth in TLGC 143.014(b)(g) and (h), 143.021(b), 143.021(c), 143.034, 143.036, 143.037, 143.041 and 142.0015(b)-(e), and any local ordinances, executive orders, or rules adopted by the City or Commission, it being expressly agreed and specifically so provided under the authority of TLGC 174.005 and 174.006.
ARTICLE 20
SECONDARY EMPLOYMENT

Section 1. On-Duty.

Fire fighters shall not engage in secondary employment while on-duty, except with the knowledge and consent of the Chief or designee and in accordance with Department rules.

Section 2. Conflict of Interest.

Fire fighters shall not engage in any secondary employment that constitutes a conflict of interest with the Department or the City, or where the secondary employment interferes with the ability of the fire fighter to proficiently perform all assigned duties, tasks, and training requirements.

Section 3. Good Conduct Required.

Fire fighters shall at all times be governed by the ordinary and reasonable rules of good conduct and shall not commit any act tending to bring reproach or discredit on themselves, the Department, or the City.

Section 4. Registration.

The Chief retains his or her authority to implement a registration system for off-duty employment in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

Section 5. Limitations.

This Article shall not be construed to authorize unlimited, unilateral or unconditional secondary employment while on duty.
ARTICLE 21
DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Section 1. Compliance with TLGC 143.

All disciplinary action shall comply with the applicable provisions of Chapter 143 of the TLGC as of the date of ratification of this Agreement. This Article provides options in addition to those included in Chapter 143.

Section 2. Suspension Options.

A fire fighter who is suspended from duty for up to a maximum of ten (10) calendar days may submit a request to the Chief to forfeit either his or her accumulated paid vacation or holiday leave in lieu of the suspension. The fire fighter must make the request to use paid leave in lieu of suspension to the Chief within 24 hours of receipt of notice of the disciplinary action. The request may be granted at the discretion of the Chief. If a fire fighter is permitted by the Chief to forfeit his or her paid leave in lieu of all or part of a disciplinary suspension, the disciplinary action is not appealable. Forfeited time shall not apply to annual leave use requirements. Under an agreement reached under Section 143.052(g) of the TLGC, the Chief and the fire fighter may agree to forfeit accrued leave for all or part of a disciplinary suspension through a reduction in the fire fighter’s accrued leave.

A fire fighter cannot make the request to use paid leave in lieu of suspension, as referred to in the preceding paragraph, if the fire fighter is suspended from duty for an arrest for driving while intoxicated or boating while intoxicated.

Section 3. Appeals.

Any fire fighter who chooses to appeal a disciplinary suspension as provided under Chapter 143 of the TLGC may be charged with the suspension days before the appeal is resolved.

Section 4. Formal Administrative Investigation.

In the event of a Formal Administrative Investigation of alleged misconduct by a fire fighter that could result in disciplinary action against that person, the fire fighter shall be notified in writing that he or she is the subject of a Formal Administrative Investigation and the allegations against the fire fighter at least thirty-six (36) hours prior to the subject fire fighter’s initial interrogation by the Chief or officers assigned to the investigation. The fire fighter who is the subject of a Formal Administrative Investigation shall be entitled to have a representative present at his or her interrogation or any subsequent meeting with the Chief or designee.

Section 5. Preliminary Investigations.

Meetings, interviews, questions and/or discussions, including those that could possibly lead to a Formal Administrative Investigation, conducted by officers in the fire fighter’s chain of command, are considered as Preliminary or fact finding Investigations, and may be initiated at any time, and without notice or requirement for representation. This does not prohibit the
officers in the fire fighter’s chain of command from allowing the affected fire fighter representation if so requested.

Section 6.  Felony Convictions.

Conviction of a felony shall terminate the employment of a fire fighter without right of administrative appeal.

Section 7.  Misdemeanors.

A fire fighter shall notify the Chief or designee through the chain of command within 48 hours of the fire fighter’s arrest for a Class A or Class B misdemeanor or felony; official charge for a Class A or Class B misdemeanor; felony indictment; and the conviction, acquittal, or dismissal related thereto.

Section 8.  Disciplinary Suspensions.

Before the Fire Chief makes the final determination of terms of a fire fighter’s disciplinary suspension, the Chief will offer the Association an opportunity to meet with the Chief. This meeting will be for informational purposes only and the decision regarding the disciplinary suspension is in the Chief’s sole discretion.

The Chief or designee shall not be required to deliver in person a written statement of suspension to the fire fighter being suspended. The written statement of suspension shall be deemed to have been delivered to the fire fighter when the written statement of suspension (1) is hand-delivered to the suspended fire fighter by the Chief or designee; or (2) is delivered to the suspended fire fighter’s attorney with signed receipt. If the City attempts in good faith to deliver the written statement as provided herein, but such attempts are unsuccessful, the written statement may be mailed by certified mail to the last known address of the suspended fire fighter. Service is complete upon mailing, and the suspension shall be automatically appealed consistent with Chapter 143 of the TLGC.
ARTICLE 22
GRIEVANCES

Section 1.  Grievances.

A grievance is defined as any dispute, claim, or complaint involving the interpretation, application or alleged violation of any provision of this Agreement. Except as may be otherwise provided in this Agreement, all disciplinary action shall be in compliance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 143 of the TLGC, as of the date of ratification of this Agreement, and is not subject to the terms under this Article. The Association or any bargaining unit member may file a grievance under the terms of this Agreement. Each grievance shall be submitted on a form agreed to by the parties and must include (1) a brief statement of the grievance and the facts or events on which it is based; (2) the section(s) of the contract alleged to have been violated; (3) the remedy or adjustment sought; (4) the steps taken by the grievant to resolve the issue; (5) for maintenance of standards or past practice grievances, the specific right or practice that is the basis of the complaint; and (6) the bargaining unit member’s signature or, if filed by the Association, the signature of the Grievance Committee Chairman or local Association President.

Section 2.  Procedure.

Notice

Notice or delivery of anything in writing required under this Article shall be accomplished by confirmed receipt (or Read Receipt) email, to the Chief, or designee, or the Association President, as applicable.

Step 1
A fire fighter who is aggrieved must file a grievance with an Association Grievance Committee member within thirty (30) calendar days of the date upon which the fire fighter knew of or should have known of the facts or events giving rise to the grievance. A copy of the notice of receipt of the grievance shall be forwarded to the Chief by the Association Grievance Committee within three (3) calendar days of receipt of the grievance. The Grievance Committee shall within fifteen (15) calendar days of receipt of the grievance determine if a grievance exists. If the grievance is denied by the Committee, a member of the Committee shall notify the grievant within five (5) calendar days of the day of the denial. The grievant may appeal in writing to the Executive Board of the Association within five (5) calendar days of notification of denial of the grievance. The Executive Board shall have five (5) calendar days to make final determination of the appeal. If the Association determines that no grievance exists, the Grievance Committee Chair shall notify the Chief or designee in writing that no further proceedings will be necessary. If the Association determines that the grievance is valid, it shall process the grievance on behalf of the fire fighter(s) by forwarding the written grievance to Step 2 of this procedure.

Step 2
Any grievance found to be valid by the Association shall be submitted to the Chief or the designee within ten (10) calendar days of the Step 1 ruling. After receipt of the grievance, the Chief or designee shall: within fifteen (15) calendar days of receipt of the grievance submit his or her response in writing to the Association President.
Step 3
If the grievance is not resolved at Step 2, the Association shall have ten (10) calendar days from receipt of the Chief’s decision to submit the matter to arbitration. The arbitration procedure will be implemented by the Association notifying the Chief in writing of their intent to submit the grievance to arbitration.

Step 4
If a grievance is submitted to arbitration, the City and the Association may, within ten (10) calendar days of such request, mutually agree to a neutral arbitrator. If the parties are unable to agree on such an appointment, the City and Association shall, within five (5) calendar days, jointly request a list of seven (7) arbitrators from the American Arbitration Association or the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. Within ten (10) calendar days following receipt of the list of arbitrators, the parties shall select an arbitrator by each party in turn striking one name from the list until only one (1) name remains. The remaining individual on the list shall serve as the arbitrator. The arbitrator so selected shall, through the agency selected, be promptly notified of his or her selection and the parties in agreement with the arbitrator shall select a time, place and date for the hearing of the grievance.

a. Within thirty (30) calendar days after the conclusion of the hearing, the arbitrator shall issue a written opinion and ruling with respect to the issues presented, a copy of which shall be mailed or delivered to the Association and the City.

b. With respect to the application, interpretation and enforcement of the provisions of this Agreement the decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on the parties of this Agreement.

c. The arbitrator’s authority shall be limited to the interpretation and application of the terms of this Agreement and/or any supplement thereto. The arbitrator shall have no jurisdiction or authority to modify or to establish new provisions as to the present Agreement, or to arbitrate away, in whole or in part, the provisions or amendments thereof.

d. The cost of the impartial arbitrator shall be borne by the losing party. In the event of a composite decision, the arbitrator shall determine the portion of such cost to be borne by each party. If a transcript of the proceedings is requested, then the party so requesting shall pay for such transcript, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties.

e. Each party shall be responsible for the cost of the attendance of its witnesses at the contract grievance hearing.

f. If the final date of any response and/or filing period falls upon a City Holiday (observed date), Saturday or Sunday, then the due date will fall on the next business day.
Section 3. Time Limits.

All time limits set forth in this Article may be extended by mutual consent and in writing, but if not so extended they must be strictly observed. In the event the Association fails to meet the time limits at any step of the procedure the grievance shall be considered resolved and no further action shall be required. Failure by the City to meet the time limits at any step shall be considered a denial of the grievance and shall automatically allow the grievance to proceed to the next step.

Section 4. Election of Remedies.

It is specifically and expressly understood that filing a grievance under this Article that has as its last step final and binding arbitration constitutes an election of remedies and any appeal of an arbitrator’s decision in this procedure shall be strictly and solely limited to the grounds that the arbitrator exceeded their authority and jurisdiction as provided under this Agreement; that the decision of the arbitrator was procured by fraud or collusion or that the arbitrator’s decision is based upon a clear and manifest error of law.

Section 5. Costs.

Each party shall be responsible for the costs of the attendance of its own witnesses at a contract grievance hearing. Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent the Association from charging non-members reasonable fees and expenses for representation, in accordance with its by-laws and other applicable law.
A fire fighter, with or without his or her designated representative, shall be entitled to review and copy the contents of his or her department personnel folder, upon request, during normal business hours. In the event an investigation is currently in progress, materials pertaining to that investigation shall not be available until the investigation is completed. This does not authorize a fire fighter to review or copy materials deemed confidential by TLGC Section 143.089(g), provided however, that if any such material from prior complaints or investigations is considered by the Chief, either as to the truth of current allegations, or the degree of punishment, such materials shall be available for review under this Article. A fire fighter must schedule a time at least 36 hours in advance with the Assistant Chief or Deputy Chief over the Office of Professional Standards or a designee, and any copying of the department personnel folder shall be onsite and at the fire fighter’s expense.
ARTICLE 24
MISCELLANEOUS

Control of station heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems will be at the discretion of the on duty station officer subject to management and oversight by the Chief or designee.
ARTICLE 25
CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

Section 1.  Appointment as Chaplain.

A minimum of one fire fighter shall be appointed by the Chief for duties as the Department Chaplain. Individuals appointed as Chaplain provides guidance and counseling for job related problems, including counseling with immediate family members, and will assist where possible when fire personnel are injured, ill, or deceased. The Chaplain will perform other related duties as requested by the Chief.

Section 2.  Vehicle Usage.

Individuals appointed as Chaplain shall use his or her personal vehicle and shall be reimbursed for mileage at the current City mandated rate.
ARTICLE 26
HEALTH AND SAFETY

Section 1. General.

The City and the Association agree that qualified and responsible fire protection and safety, including rescue and first responder emergency medical service is the primary purpose of the Department. In order to provide such protection and service to the community, the City and the Association agree to maintain the highest reasonable standards of safety and health in the Department, and the Parties intend to eliminate, as much as possible, injuries, illness and death in the fire service. This Article does not modify or limit the management rights of the Department or Chief.

Interpretation of this Article shall be subject to the Article 22 Grievance process only in so far as up to Step 3, which shall be modified by substituting the term “mediation” for “arbitration.” The same changes shall apply to Step 4; however all references to arbitration services, as well as subparts (a)-(f), shall not apply.

Section 2. Annual Fire Department Physicals.

Written complaints received by the Association concerning Physicians conducting yearly physical exams shall be forwarded to the Human Resources Benefits office to initiate a formal complaint and investigation against the Physician.

Section 3. City of Fort Worth Wellness Program.

a. Completion of the annual fire department physical and Healthy Challenge Survey shall count as participation in the Wellness Program. If a physical has not been scheduled and completed prior to the cutoff date for submission for the Wellness Program, a prior physical completed during the previous year may be submitted.

b. Wellness hours awarded shall be converted for suppression fire fighters as follows:

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<thead>
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<th>40 Hour Personnel</th>
<th>56 Hours Conversion</th>
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<tr>
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<td>15 hours</td>
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Section 4. Physical Fitness Equipment.

The City shall provide weight training and cardiovascular training equipment and will make reasonable efforts to maintain them in working order.
Section 5. Personal Protective Equipment.

The Department shall issue and maintain a set of bunker gear for each fire fighter. Prior to a change in vendor for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) a wear test shall be conducted by fire fighters in Operations. The Department shall issue upon request to all assigned 56-hour operations personnel, excluding chief officers, an additional set of gloves and a hood. The additional gloves and hood will be assigned to 25% of eligible personnel each year over the term of this Agreement. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the City to provide an additional set of gloves or a hood for any fire fighter who has two or more sets of either.
ARTICLE 27
PROMOTIONAL EXAM APPEAL PROCEDURES

Section 1.  Procedures and Authority.

On request, a promotional candidate will be allowed to review his or her promotional test and the correct answers, source material and examination grading. The test may be reviewed only once and questions may be appealed by promotional candidates for five (5) business days after the date of the exam. A candidate may appeal a test item by stating in writing why the graded correct answer is wrong or another answer is clearly more correct than the graded correct answer. A candidate’s test item appeal will be submitted by the Human Resources Department without the names of the appellants, to a board of three fire fighters, two appointed by the Chief and one appointed by the Association ("Review Board"). This Review Board will review each appealed question and make a written recommendation as to the validity of the appeal and appropriate remedy. If the Review Board and Human Resources Department are in agreement as to the validity of the appeal and appropriate remedy, their decision shall be final and binding. The Commission shall review all written recommendations and rule on all appeals and remedies in which the Review Board and the Human Resources Department are in disagreement. The Commission will be provided with the candidate’s appeal, the recommendation of the Review Board and the justification for the correct answer by the Civil Service Director or designee. The Commission will rule on the validity of the appeal based on the documentation provided without oral argument. All test items will be graded with either one best answer correct, multiple answers correct or all answers graded correct. The Commission’s decision on test item appeals on which they rule shall be final.

Section 4.  Preemption Provision.

This Article shall preempt any contrary provisions set forth in TLGC 143.021(c), 143.034, 143.036, and 143.037, 143.041 and 142.0015(b)-(e-1), and any local ordinances, executive orders, or rules adopted by the City or Commission, it being expressly agreed and specifically so provided under the authority of TLGC 174.005 and 174.006.
ARTICLE 28
SICK LEAVE

Section 1. Restrictions.

It is expressly understood and agreed that sick leave shall be utilized only in cases of bona fide incapacitation, illness or injury of the employee. There is no right to use sick leave for personal convenience or extra time off, or to burn excess leave prior to retirement. No employee shall engage in any outside employment, trade or occupation while off work when utilizing sick leave.

Section 2. Verification and Proof of Need for Use of Sick Leave.

For every use of sick leave for which an individual is not required to submit medical documentation, the individual must submit a completed form FD006 by which the individual states that the use of sick leave was legitimate and consistent with the criteria for using such leave. The FD006 form must be submitted to the department’s medical records custodian ("MRC") within 21 calendar days after the individual returns to work after the leave taken. The MRC shall notify the fire fighter and the Shift Deputy/Shift Commander within 3 business days of receipt of documentation.

Section 3. Medical Documentation Requirement.

Nothing in this Agreement shall limit the City’s inherent ability as the employer to require acceptable medical documentation for each absence after an individual has reported off work using sick leave for 48 hours for suppression personnel or 30 hours for staff personnel during the calendar year.

It is understood that the City considers acceptable medical documentation to be a receipt or note from a doctor, physician’s assistant, nurse practitioner, chiropractor, physical therapist, licensed massage therapist, or a receipt for a prescription that substantiates the need for the individual’s use of sick leave. The medical documentation should be provided to the department’s medical records custodian within 21 calendar days after the individual returns to work after the leave taken. The MRC shall notify the fire fighter and the Shift Deputy/Shift Commander within 3 business days of receipt of documentation.

Section 4. Overtime Restrictions.

A fire fighter will not be scheduled for, and cannot work, any overtime shifts, including EMS stand-by work, if the MRC notifies the Shift Deputy/Shift Commander that documentation was not received within the deadline required in this Article for the period of time, if any, that the fire fighter has not timely submitted the medical documentation or form FD006 within the time deadlines required in this Article. For example, if a Suppression fire fighter is required to submit medical documentation because it is his or her third shift of sick leave in a calendar year, and he or she has not submitted the documentation within 21 calendar days of returning to work, the fire fighter will be restricted from working overtime until he or she submits the acceptable
documentation. This restriction does not apply to Emergency Callback or mandatory/forced overtime.

Section 5. Disability Accommodation.

The parties agree that, in the event that a fire fighter with a documented disability is adversely affected by the requirements stated in this Article to provide medical, or other, documentation in connection with the fire fighter’s use of sick leave, beyond that experienced by fire fighters without a documented disability, the City agrees to engage in an interactive process with such fire fighter with a disability to determine what, if any, reasonable accommodation is needed to make the applicable documentation requirements no more burdensome on a fire fighter with a disability than they are on a fire fighter without a disability.

Section 6. Protection of Medical Information.

The medical records of all Bargaining Unit members as described in this Article shall be kept in confidence and shall be maintained in compliance with the City of Fort Worth Administrative Regulation D-10, Protection of Medical Information.

Section 7. Family Medical Leave Act.

Leave use which qualifies under the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) must be supported by an approved medical certification and appropriate supporting information as required by the City’s FMLA Policy. Employees have fifteen (15) calendar days to provide the approved medical certification for medical leave which qualifies under the City’s FMLA Policy.
Section 1. Evaluation of Competencies

Fire fighters shall be graded semi-annually on each of the applicable competencies (using the star system) with no commentary required. However, Battalion Chiefs and above are required to prepare appropriate commentary to develop the supervisory and management skills of their team members.

Section 2. Job Objectives

The Job Objectives section of the City evaluation shall not be used for fire fighters.
ARTICLE 30
NOTICE

Except as otherwise provided herein, any notice, demand, request or other communication hereunder given or made by either Party to the other shall be in writing and shall be either hand delivered (with written receipt obtained) or deposited in the United States mail, postage prepaid, certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the Parties hereto at the respective addresses set out below, or at such other address as they may provide by written notice to the other Party. If mailed, a written attachment of the document shall be e-mailed via the City e-mail system to either the Chief or the Association President.

A. If to City:
   City Manager
   City of Fort Worth
   1000 Throckmorton Street
   Fort Worth, TX 76102

B. If to Association:
   President
   Fort Worth Professional Firefighters Association - Local 440
   3855 Tulsa Way
   Fort Worth, Texas 76107
ARTICLE 31
SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS

This Agreement shall be binding upon the successors and assignees of the parties hereto during the term of this Agreement and no provisions, terms or obligations herein contained shall be affected, modified, altered or changed in any respect whatsoever by any change of any kind in the City Council, management or Charter of the City, or by any change of any kind in the Executive Board, management or Constitution and By-Laws of the Association.
ARTICLE 32
SAVINGS CLAUSE & AMENDMENTS

Section 1.  Savings Clause.

Should any provision of this Agreement be found to be inoperative, void or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect for the duration of this Agreement, it being the intention of the parties that no portion of this Agreement or provision herein shall become inoperative or fail by reason of the invalidity of any other portion or provision. Such invalidated provision(s) shall be the subject of immediate negotiations between the parties in order to attempt to negotiate a substitute provision. This Article does not extend the City’s statutory obligation to negotiate.

Section 2.  Amendments.

Either party may propose an amendment to this Agreement at any time during the duration of the Agreement, and both parties agree to meet and confer on the proposed amendment. The Agreement may be amended by mutual agreement of the parties via either reopening the Agreement or via an attached Memorandum of Understanding, after ratification and City Council approval.

Section 3.  Memorandum of Understanding.

The parties may accomplish a clarification or interpretation of this Agreement by a Memorandum of Understanding approved by the Association’s Executive Board, the City Manager, and signed by the authorized representatives.
ARTICLE 33
DURATION AND TERMINATION

Section 1. Term of Agreement.

A. This Agreement shall be effective as of November 1, 2014, after approval by the City Council after ratification by the membership of the Association. It shall remain in full force and effect until the 30th day of September, 2018, or until such time as it is superseded by a new agreement between the parties, whichever occurs later; provided however, that in no event shall any part of this Agreement continue in effect after September 30, 2019. Only specific provisions which are cited in this Agreement are not subject to this evergreen provision.

B. The provisions of this Agreement do not apply to any fire fighter who separates from City employment before the effective date of this Agreement or before the effective date of any specific provisions hereof.

Section 2. Funding Obligations.

The City presently intends to continue this Agreement each fiscal year through its term, to pay all payments due, and to fully and promptly perform all of the obligations of the City under this Agreement. All obligations of the City shall be paid only out of annual fiscal year revenues and funds lawfully available and legally unrestricted therefore and appropriated for such purpose by the City Council, in compliance with the Texas Constitution, Article XI.


A. In the event the voters of the City, at a duly called election concerning the continuation, dissolution or repeal of the Crime Control and Prevention District, rescind the authority for the Crime Control and Prevention District sales and use tax, the monetary obligations of the City under this Agreement shall terminate on the date of the canvass of such election.

B. In the event of action by the City Council under the prior paragraph, the Parties shall convene for the purpose of negotiating contract changes in the context of lost funding, but all other obligations of the Agreement shall otherwise continue unless agreed amendments are approved by both Parties.

Section 4. City Council Authority.

This Agreement does not impair the authority of the City Council to determine the number of authorized positions in the Department, or to change the classification of positions.

Section 5. Successor Agreement.

Negotiations for a successor agreement to this Agreement shall begin no later than October 1, 2017.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE PARTIES HAVE CAUSED TO HAVE THIS AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED BY THEIR DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES ON THIS _____ DAY OF ____________20___.

CITY OF FORT WORTH

__________________________________   ________________________
David Cooke      Betsy Price
City Manager      Mayor

__________________________________
Susan Alanis
Assistant City Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

__________________________________
Christopher Troutt
Senior Assistant City Attorney

FORT WORTH PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, LOCAL 440

__________________________________
Jim Tate
President
Fort Worth Professional Firefighters Association

__________________________________
Lowell Denton
Chief Negotiator
City of Fort Worth
Tentatively Agreed for Ratification Purposes
### APPENDIX A

**CITY OF FORT WORTH**  
**Fire Civil Service Classifications**  
**Salary Schedule for FY 2014 - 2015**

| CODE | TITLE / CODE | SCH | Pay *  
| | |  | BASE + 1 | BASE + 2 | BASE + 3 | BASE + 4 | BASE + 5 | BASE + 6 | BASE + 7 | BASE + 8 | BASE + 9 | BASE + 10 |
| | | | (1st Year) | (2nd Year) | (3rd Year) | (4th Year) | (5th Year) | (6th Year) | (7th Year) | (8th Year) | (9th Year) | (10th Year) |
| | | | STEP 1 | STEP 2 | STEP 3 | STEP 4 | STEP 5 | STEP 6 | STEP 7 | STEP 8 | STEP 9 | STEP 10 |
| 1032 | FIRE FIGHTER | HR | 23.89 | 25.08 | 26.33 | 27.65 | 29.90 | 31.39 | 31.39 | 31.39 | 32.31 | 33.22 |
| 1034 | FIRE ENGINEER | HR | 31.77 | 33.86 | 34.86 | 35.86 | 35.86 | 35.86 | 35.86 | 35.86 | 36.36 | 36.36 |
| | | Annual | 60,082 | 69,149 | 71,460 | 71,460 | 71,460 | 71,460 | 71,460 | 71,460 | 73,549 | 75,629 |
| 1035 | FIRE LIEUTENANT | HR | 35.92 | 37.71 | 37.71 | 37.71 | 37.71 | 37.71 | 37.71 | 38.81 | 39.90 | 39.90 |
| | | Annual | 74,714 | 78,437 | 78,437 | 78,437 | 78,437 | 78,437 | 78,437 | 80,725 | 82,992 | 82,992 |
| 1029 | FIRE CAPTAIN | HR | 40.05 | 42.04 | 42.04 | 42.04 | 42.04 | 42.04 | 42.04 | 44.09 | 44.09 | 44.09 |
| | | Annual | 83,294 | 87,443 | 87,443 | 87,443 | 87,443 | 87,443 | 87,443 | 90,002 | 92,539 | 92,539 |
| 1028 | FIRE BATTALION CHIEF | HR | 45.75 | 49.44 | 50.84 | 50.84 | 50.84 | 50.84 | 50.84 | 50.84 | 50.84 | 50.84 |
| | | Annual | 95,168 | 102,835 | 102,835 | 102,835 | 102,835 | 102,835 | 102,835 | 102,835 | 102,835 | 102,835 |

### CODE TITLE /

| CODE | TITLE / CODE | SCH | Pay *  
| | |  | BASE + 1 | BASE + 2 | BASE + 3 | BASE + 4 | BASE + 5 | BASE + 6 | BASE + 7 | BASE + 8 | BASE + 9 | BASE + 10 |
| | | | (1st Year) | (2nd Year) | (3rd Year) | (4th Year) | (5th Year) | (6th Year) | (7th Year) | (8th Year) | (9th Year) | (10th Year) |
| | | | STEP 1 | STEP 2 | STEP 3 | STEP 4 | STEP 5 | STEP 6 | STEP 7 | STEP 8 | STEP 9 | STEP 10 |
| 1032 | FIRE FIGHTER | HR | 17.06 | 17.91 | 18.81 | 19.75 | 20.70 | 21.66 | 22.62 | 22.62 | 22.62 | 23.03 | 23.73 |
| 1034 | FIRE ENGINEER | HR | 22.40 | 23.83 | 24.51 | 24.51 | 24.51 | 24.51 | 24.51 | 24.51 | 25.07 | 25.07 |
| | | Annual | 60,082 | 69,149 | 71,460 | 71,460 | 71,460 | 71,460 | 71,460 | 71,460 | 73,549 | 75,629 |
| | | Annual | 74,714 | 78,437 | 78,437 | 78,437 | 78,437 | 78,437 | 78,437 | 80,725 | 82,992 | 82,992 |
| 1029 | FIRE CAPTAIN | HR | 28.61 | 30.03 | 30.03 | 30.03 | 30.03 | 30.03 | 30.03 | 31.78 | 31.78 | 31.78 |
| | | Annual | 83,294 | 87,443 | 87,443 | 87,443 | 87,443 | 87,443 | 87,443 | 90,002 | 92,539 | 92,539 |
| 1028 | FIRE BATTALION CHIEF | HR | 32.68 | 35.31 | 35.31 | 35.31 | 35.31 | 35.31 | 35.31 | 36.31 | 36.31 | 36.31 |
| | | Annual | 95,168 | 102,835 | 102,835 | 102,835 | 102,835 | 102,835 | 102,835 | 102,835 | 102,835 | 102,835 |

### Notes:
- Step 5 includes additional 3%
- Step 10 includes additional 6%
- Step 11 includes additional 9%

### Across the Board (ATB) Pay Raise Percentages:
- FY2014/2015: 0.00% Effective first pay period of FY 2014/2015
- FY2015/2016: 2.20% Effective first pay period of FY 2015/2016
- FY2016/2017: 2.20% Effective first pay period of FY 2016/2017
- FY2017/2018: 3.00% Effective first pay period of FY 2017/2018

Source: HR Department
CITY OF FORT WORTH
Fire Civil Service Classifications
Salary Schedule for FY 2015 - 2016

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Notes:
Step 5 includes additional 3%
Step 11 includes additional 9%

Across the Board (ATB) Pay Raise Percentages:
FY 2014 - 2015 0.00% Effective first pay period of FY 2014-2015
FY 2015 - 2016 2.20% Effective first pay period of FY 2015-2016
FY 2016 - 2017 2.20% Effective first pay period of FY 2016-2017
FY 2017 - 2018 3.00% Effective first pay period of FY 2017-2018

Source: HR Department
# CITY OF FORT WORTH

Fire Civil Service Classifications
Salary Schedule for FY 2016 - 2017

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### Notes:
- Step 5 includes additional 3%
- Step 10 includes additional 8%
- Step 11 includes additional 9%

Across the Board (ATB) Pay Raise Percentages:
- FY2014-2015: 0.00% Effective first pay period of FY 2014-2015
- FY2015-2016: 2.00% Effective first pay period of FY 2015-2016
- FY2016-2017: 2.20% Effective first pay period of FY 2016-2017
- FY2017-2018: 3.00% Effective first pay period of FY 2017-2018

Source: HR Department
## CITY OF FORT WORTH
Fire Civil Service Classifications
Salary Schedule for FY 2017 - 2018

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
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<th>Base 3</th>
<th>Base 4</th>
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### Notes:
- Step 5 includes additional 3%
- Step 7 includes additional 6%
- Step 11 includes additional 9%

### Across the Board (ATB) Day Raise Percentages:
- **FY 2014/2015**: 2.00% Effective first pay period of FY 2014/2015
- **FY 2015/2016**: 2.20% Effective first pay period of FY 2015/2016
- **FY 2016/2017**: 2.20% Effective first pay period of FY 2016/2017
- **FY 2017/2018**: 3.00% Effective first pay period of FY 2017/2018

Source: HR Department

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63
CITY OF FORT WORTH
Fire Civil Service Appointed Classifications
Salary Schedules

**FY 2014-2015**

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<thead>
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<th>Job Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1532</td>
<td>Fire Deputy Chief (40 hr)</td>
<td>Y07</td>
<td>$56,84</td>
<td>$65,93</td>
</tr>
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<td>Annual $118,227</td>
<td>$137,134</td>
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<tr>
<td>1532</td>
<td>Fire Deputy Chief (56 hr)</td>
<td>Y07</td>
<td>$40,60</td>
<td>$47,09</td>
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<td>Annual $118,227</td>
<td>$137,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1027</td>
<td>Fire Assistant Chief</td>
<td>Y08</td>
<td>$63,86</td>
<td>$74,08</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Annual $132,829</td>
<td>$154,086</td>
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</table>

**FY 2015-2016**

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<td>$65,93</td>
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**FY 2016-2017**

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**FY 2017-2018**

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**Notes:**
Assistant Chief and Deputy Chief salary range changes contingent upon changes to General Employee salary structures.

Source: HR Department
APPENDIX B

Summary of Plan Benefits

The City of Fort Worth Basic and Basic Plus plan has different copays and the Consumer Choice plan has deductible and coinsurance for services provided in the office of a Primary Care Physician (PCP) and for services provided in the office of a Specialist. For purposes of the City's Health Plan, a PCP will be a physician who has contracted with Aetna as a Primary Care Provider. This will include providers who have contracted as a Family Practice, General Practice, Internal medicine, Pediatric or OB/GYN and are listed in Aetna's provider directory as a PCP or an OB/GYN provider. All other providers will be considered Specialists. A member is not required to elect a specific PCP and a referral from the PCP is not required to see a Specialist.

<table>
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<th>Plan Features</th>
<th>Basic Plan</th>
<th>Basic Plus Plan</th>
<th>Consumer Choice Plan</th>
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<td>In-Network</td>
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<td>In-Network</td>
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<td>Medical Lifetime Maximum</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Primary Care (PCP)</td>
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<td>69% after deductible</td>
<td>100% after $25 copay</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Specialist</td>
<td>100% after $49 copay</td>
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<td>Allergy Testing &amp; Treatment (Serum/Injections)</td>
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<td>69% after deductible</td>
<td>100% after $35 copay</td>
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<td>Routine Physicals/Immunizations</td>
<td>100% after $39 copay</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>100% after $25 copay</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Children * 7 exams in 1st 12 months of life 2 exams in the 13th-24th month; 1 exam per calendar year thereafter</td>
<td>100% after $39 copay</td>
<td>69% after deductible</td>
<td>100% after $25 copay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Adult 18 and older * 1 exam per calendar year</td>
<td>100% after $39 copay</td>
<td>69% after deductible</td>
<td>100% after $25 copay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Routine GYN Exam * 1 routine GYN exam per year with 1 Pap smear &amp; related lab tests</td>
<td>100% after $39 copay</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>100% after $25 copay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual mammogram Annual mammogram for females ages 40 &amp; over if at a free standing OB</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Routine Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) Test &amp; Digital Rectal Exam Annual DRE &amp; PSA for males ages 40 &amp; over</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refractive Eye Exam (1 exam every 24 months)</td>
<td>100% after $49 copay</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>100% after $35 copay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-Term Rehabilitation Physical, speech or occupational therapy for acute conditions, 66 visits per calendar year, Speech therapy available for children up to age 6 (3 times per week) if congenital anomaly exists, but not to exceed the 66 visits.</td>
<td>100% after $49 copay</td>
<td>69% after deductible</td>
<td>100% after $35 copay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinal Treatment—24 visits per calendar year included to one visit and treatment per day</td>
<td>100% after $49 copay</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>100% after $35 copay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Deductible</td>
<td>$950</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Individual</td>
<td>$1,300</td>
<td>$2,400</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan Coinsurance</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coinsurance Limit</td>
<td>Excludes copays, deductibles, penalties and expenses paid at 50%</td>
<td>Excludes copays, deductibles, penalties and expenses paid at 50%</td>
<td>Excludes copays, deductibles, penalties and expenses paid at 50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Individual</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Family</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Category</td>
<td>Inpatient</td>
<td>Outpatient</td>
<td>Inpatient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic Imaging</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Free-standing facility &amp; services</td>
<td>65% after deductible</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>65% after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Outpatients hospital</td>
<td>80% after deductible</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>85% after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex Imaging (MRI, PET, &amp; CAT scans)</td>
<td>80% after deductible</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>85% after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Room (non-emergency only)</td>
<td>100% after $159 copay – waived if admitted</td>
<td>100% after $125 copay – waived if admitted</td>
<td>80% after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance Service</td>
<td>50% after deductible</td>
<td>50% after deductible</td>
<td>50% after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urgent Care Center</td>
<td>100% after $60 copay</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>100% after $65 copay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anesthesia</td>
<td>80% after deductible</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>85% after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Inpatient</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>65% after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Outpatient</td>
<td>80% after deductible</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>85% after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Office Visit</td>
<td>100% after $20 copay</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>100% after $25 copay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Delivery Expenses</td>
<td>80% after deductible</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>85% after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durable Medical Equipment</td>
<td>80% after deductible</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>85% after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonoscopy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Initial screening</td>
<td>80% after deductible</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>85% after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Colonoscopy every 10 calendar years</td>
<td>80% after deductible</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>85% after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Colonoscopy (polyps)</td>
<td>80% after deductible</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>85% after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled Nursing/Convalescent Facility</td>
<td>80% after deductible</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>85% after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospice Care - 360 days</td>
<td>80% after deductible</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>85% after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospice Care - 360 days lifetime maximum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Inpatient</td>
<td>80% after deductible</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>85% after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Outpatient</td>
<td>80% after deductible</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>85% after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health &amp; Chemical Dependency Services</td>
<td>80% after deductible</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>85% after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Inpatient</td>
<td>80% after deductible</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>85% after deductible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Outpatient</td>
<td>80% after deductible</td>
<td>60% after deductible</td>
<td>85% after deductible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Prescription Drugs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retail – up to 30-day supply</th>
<th>100% after Rx deductible &amp; $10 copay</th>
<th>60% after Rx deductible &amp; $10 copay</th>
<th>100% after Rx deductible &amp; $8 copay</th>
<th>65% after Rx deductible &amp; $8 copay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mail order – up to 90-day supply</td>
<td>100% after Rx deductible &amp; $25 copay</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>100% after Rx deductible &amp; $20 copay</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Note:
* Assumes service is provided by a primary care physician (PCP)

Only one copay will apply per office visit.
In-network deductibles and out-of-network deductibles and coinsurance accumulate separately.
Calendar year and lifetime visit maximums are combined for in-network and out-of-network services. Prescription Drug Deductible is combined for in-network and out-of-network expenses.

**THE SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION (SPD) PROVIDES A MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EACH PLAN.**