

**CITY OF TEMPE  
FIREFIGHTERS' UNIT  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)**

**July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027**

As per Tempe City Code 2-400 Et Seq

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## PREAMBLE

**WHEREAS** the Parties, through their designated representatives, met and conferred in good faith pursuant to Tempe City Code 2-400 Et Seq in order to reach agreement concerning wages, hours, and working conditions of employees comprising the Firefighter Unit, and,

**WHEREAS** the Parties hereby acknowledge that the provisions of this Memorandum are not intended to abrogate the authority and responsibility of City government provided for under the statutes of the state of Arizona or the Charter or Ordinances of the City of Tempe except as expressly and lawfully limited herein,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, having reached this complete agreement concerning wages, hours and working conditions for the term specified, the Parties submit this Memorandum to the City Council of the City of Tempe with their joint recommendation that body resolve to adopt its terms and take such other action as may be necessary to implement its provisions.

## PROVISO FOR EXISTING BENEFITS

The Parties agree and Tempe City Code 2-400 Et Seq confirms that in the event of a conflict between the City of Tempe Personnel Rules, attachments thereto, other Council approved programs, and this Memorandum of Understanding, the Memorandum of Understanding shall apply to the conflicting issue. If there is no conflict between the above referenced documents, the Parties are governed by the Personnel Rules, attachments thereto and Council approved programs. In the event all such formerly referenced documents are silent on a particular issue the City Manager and/or designee shall retain the right to exercise judgment on all such matters.

The parties agree to meet each year during the term of this contract to discuss the financials of the contract.

If, during the term of this Agreement, the City anticipates a substantive change in the benefits not included in this MOU but provided to Unit Members through the City of Tempe Personnel Rules and attachments thereto, and other Council approved programs, the City shall meet with the Union, explain the reasons for the change, and discuss the potential impact of such changes.

The purpose of the provisions of this Article is to continue to provide current financial benefit levels, as that terminology is customarily defined as part of the employees' overall compensation package, while simultaneously not restricting the authority of management in the administration and management of such benefits. As an example, unit members on a 56-hour workweek will continue to be provided the benefit of vacation accrual as provided in this MOU; however, how approval is obtained to utilize such time shall remain the determination of the City. Similarly, these provisions do not guarantee a unit member a particular work shift or work assignment; nor shall they guarantee a unit member a right to overtime.

The referencing of the Personnel Rules and other such policies and procedures herein does not make them an extension of this Memorandum of Understanding. Therefore, the process for an alleged breach of this MOU as contained in Tempe City Code 2-400 Et Seq or any procedure agreed upon by the Parties to resolve allegations of a breach of this MOU, shall not be applicable.

Any benefit provided by outside vendors (such as health insurance), and subject to cost increases outside the City's control, may cause a re-opening of this contract for purposes of the affected benefit only. This negotiation process will exclude fact-finding.

Any change in the City Personnel Rules that provides for a Medical Leave accrual rate, Vacation leave accrual rate, or tuition reimbursement benefit that is richer than the equivalent benefit stated in this MOU will automatically be changed in this MOU to the richer benefit.

## Definitions

For the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding, the following definitions shall apply:

“City”	shall mean Tempe City government
“Union”	shall mean United Phoenix Firefighters Association Local 493, Tempe Chapter
“Unit Member” Section 2-401.	shall mean a City employee identified in the Tempe City Code
“Sworn members”	shall mean unit members who are covered under the AZ Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS)
“Non-sworn members”	shall mean unit members who are covered under the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS)

## Article 1 Rights of the Union

1. Any release time to conduct City or Association-related business as outlined below is unpaid unless covered by donated leave time (UB) from association members. Members will be required to donate a maximum of 18 hours of Floating Holiday Leave per year as a requirement of IAFF membership. The donation procedures will be established by the City's Union Leave Guideline.
2. During the term of this Memorandum of Understanding, union officials will be released from duty with full pay (UB) when directed by the City to participate in a meeting with the City and/or City representatives. Union officials will also be released from duty with full pay to participate in any committee or task force established by this Memorandum of Understanding.
3. Employees who participate in meetings covered by this Article at times other than their normal work shift shall not receive compensation and said hours are not considered time worked for the purpose of computing overtime.
4. Union representatives shall be released from duty with full pay (UB) to provide employee representation in a grievance hearing, disciplinary meeting or any other meeting that may lead to disciplinary action with an employee.
5. It is understood and agreed that meetings such as those mentioned above shall be scheduled in such a manner as to minimize disruptions to service and to minimize overtime.
6. UB time shall not be unreasonably denied by the City.

7. There shall be no use of City paid time for Union-related activities except as expressly authorized by this Article. The Department shall maintain procedures to administer and control use of City paid time in conformity with the provisions of this Article.
8. The City shall furnish monthly, or as requested, a listing of Unit members on City payroll deduction for union dues during the term of this agreement. Included with the employee's name shall be the employee's current job assignment. An employee who wishes for his/her mailing address to be released to the Union may so designate to the City and this information will be included. The employee's authorization shall continue until revoked in writing by the employee. The Union agrees to use this list solely for purposes of communicating with Unit members and will not share this information with other individuals or organizations.
9. The City will deduct bi-weekly an amount for the purpose of Union Dues up to and including the following, Union Political Action Committee (PAC) dues and the Member Services Fund. The Union leadership will be responsible for advising the City in writing of changes in dues. Dues will be deducted from members who have a form on file authorizing the City to deduct Union Dues. Deductions will be transmitted to the Union on a bi-weekly pay period basis. The City will, at the written request of the Union, make changes in the amount of the deduction hereunder during the term of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The City assumes no liability on account of any action taken pursuant to this paragraph.
  1. In the event of any change in Union authorized deductions, it is the responsibility of the Union to provide that change with an effective date in writing to Human Resources.
    - a. Members must provide an authorization form that initiates or terminates the deduction of dues.
    - b. Ongoing changes to existing member deductions can be changed by written authorization from Union leadership. Requests for changes in the deduction amount will include the member name, effective date, and amount.
    - c. Submitted changes will be processed on the next available pay period.
    - d. The Union will hold harmless the city of Tempe and all its representatives with any claims associated with the deduction of due.
10. There shall be no implied rights beyond the specific terms of this Memorandum of Understanding.

## Article 2 Rights of the Unit Employees

### Representation

Unit Members have the right to be represented by the Association, as defined in City Code 2-400 et. seq., in dealings with the City.

- a. Unit Members have the right to be represented by the Association at any meeting which could or will result in disciplinary action being taken against that Unit Member, any meeting involving work-related counseling for that Unit Member, or any meeting related to a grievance filed by that Unit Member.

The Unit Member will have a reasonable amount of time to obtain Association representation, no less than two and one-half (2 1/2) from the time of notification by management of the intent to hold such a meeting to obtain Union representation from time of notification of meeting or a Union representative will be contacted with at least two and one-half (2 1/2) hours' notice to be present at the meeting with the Member. Upon notification the member will be made aware of the general reason for the meeting.

- b. Any Unit Member under investigation for a matter that may lead to a suspension, disciplinary pay reduction, demotion, or termination, and who is interviewed, shall be given a written notice of the investigation no less than two and one-half (2 ½) hours' prior to the interview. The unit member under investigation or IAFF may mechanically or audio record such an interview. If the Unit Member or IAFF chooses to audio record the interview, they must notify the interviewer and provide a copy of the recording to the City within 3 business days. If the City chooses to audio record an interview, they shall provide notice to the Unit Member and provide a copy of the recording to the Unit member upon request.
- c. For any scheduled interview, the Unit Member has the right to bring an Association Representative. The City will inform the Unit Member of this right. If the City intends to have legal counsel attend the interview, the City shall inform the employee at the time of the interview notice. IAFF may request to provide legal counsel to the Unit member at that interview.
- d. The City reserves the right to interview a Unit Member without Association representation if the matter involves immediate serious safety concerns for the Unit Member, other employees or the public, and no Association Representative is readily available.
- e. The interview session shall be a reasonable period of time, taking into consideration the gravity and complexity of the misconduct being investigated.
- f. If an investigation is warranted, investigations must be completed within 120 days unless the delay is caused by the employee or IAFF. An extension can be granted by the Human Resources Director due to extraneous circumstances, which may include complexity of the investigation, parallel criminal investigation, etc. IAFF will be notified of such circumstances in writing. The 120-day timeline starts at the time the City becomes aware of an alleged violation.
- g. During the course of the investigation the investigator shall not intentionally, carelessly or recklessly misrepresent any fact or material issue to the Unit Member. Nor will the Unit Member do so to the investigator.
- h. A Unit Member under investigation will be notified in writing every month as to the current status of the investigation. This will include a brief description of the number of known witnesses still to be interviewed and other investigative processes remaining to be completed, as well as an estimated date of completion.

- i. Departments must fully complete a Part I and provide it to the employee within 30 calendar days of the incident or within 30 calendar days from the time the City first became aware of the incident. Extensions shall be approved by the department director and Human Resources Director. The IAFF President shall be notified of the extension and the reason.
  
- j. At the time of the scheduled meeting for the Part I the investigator or department supervisor or other City employee shall make available for review to the Unit Member and/or the representative any material that is being used as a basis for the allegation of misconduct. If all material is not available during the initial Part I meeting as determined by Human Resources, the five (5) workdays to complete the Part II response will restart upon receipt of the additional documentation. Material includes any video, audio, photographs, or documents written by a complainant, witness, or investigative lead that may be included in the investigation unless doing so would compromise a safe haven. The Unit Member or IAFF may request additional documents beyond those provided with the Part I that would assist the Unit Member in their Part II response. The Department should consider a reasonable request for additional documents when considering a Part II extension.
  
- k. Unit members will be provided with a minimum of five (5) working days to submit a Part II response. The member, or the association on behalf of the member, may request an extension from the supervisor overseeing the disciplinary process. If the Department denies an extension, IAFF may appeal the denial to Human Resources. The appeal must be requested within 24 hours of the denial.

The use of requested Union Business (UB) time of up to 120 minutes by a Unit Employee to work on a Part Two response in coordination with a union representative will not be unreasonably denied by the employee's supervisor.

- l. The Part III must be completed and provided to the employee within 30 calendar days of the employee's receipt of the Part I. Exceptions shall be approved by the department director and Human Resources Director. IAFF shall be notified of any extensions to the Part III.
  
- m. The City agrees to follow the guidelines established in the Personnel Rules and Disciplinary Process Guideline for any disciplinary process and agrees to follow the principles of progressive discipline, just cause and due process in the disciplinary process in a timely manner. Unit Employees may attach rebuttal statements to the Part III.

## Article 3 Wages

Any authorized numerical or percentage change to any wage or benefit covered by this MOU during the term of this MOU will result in the issuance of an amended MOU, which will accurately describe then-current wages and benefits.

## Salary

The pay plan provided below will be maintained for fiscal years 2022-2025, with movement through the annual steps.

Any market adjustment will be applied to the following pay plan. Members will move to the new pay plan on their anniversary date of hire each fiscal year of this agreement.

	<b>Firefighter's 2025-2026 Annual Salary</b>	<b>Medic's 2025-2026 Annual Salary</b>
Assigned as Recruit - 40 hours	\$55,339	
Upon Academy Graduation	\$61,520	
1 Year from Hire Date <sup>1</sup>	\$64,596	\$71,056
2 Years from Hire Date	\$67,826	\$74,609
3 Years from Hire Date	\$71,217	\$78,339
4 Years from Hire Date	\$74,778	\$82,256
5 Years from Hire Date	\$78,517	\$86,369
6 Years from Hire Date	\$82,443	\$90,687

Upon assignment to Paramedic, A Firefighter will receive 10% above his or her current salary. Sworn members who are certified paramedics, but are not assigned as department paramedics, will receive assignment pay equal to 5% above his or her current salary.

	<b>2025-2026 Annual Salary</b>
Fire Engineer Upon Promotion (56 hr/wk)	\$102,786
Fire Engineer Medic Upon Promotion (56 hr/wk)	\$113,065
Fire Engineer (40 Hour Assignment)	\$112,037
Fire Engineer Medic (40 Hour Assignment)	\$123,240
Fire Captain (56 Hour Assignment)	\$114,934
Fire Captain Medic (56 Hour Assignment)	\$126,427
Fire Captain (40 Hour Assignment)	\$125,278
Fire Captain Medic (40 Hour Assignment)	\$137,806

\* See Overtime Article 22

<sup>1</sup> Hire Date for Non-Sworn members promoting to Firefighter is the date of promotion.

<b>Non-Sworn Members</b>	
These Positions receive overtime at 1 ½ times the hourly rate for any time worked over 40 hours.	<b>EMT Annual Salary Fiscal Year 2025-26</b>
Hire Date	\$37,391
1 Year after Hire Date	\$39,261
2 Years after Hire Date	\$41,223

Adjustments: Non-Sworn EMT annual salary will be tied to the Firefighter market increases.

These Positions receive overtime at 1 ½ times the hourly rate for any time worked over 40 hours.	<b>Paramedic Annual Salary Fiscal Year 2025-26</b>
Hire Date	\$44,768
1 Year after Hire Date	\$47,006
2 Years after Hire Date	\$49,357
3 Years after Hire Date	\$51,823
4 Years after Hire Date	\$54,416

Market Adjustments: Non-sworn Paramedic annual salary will be tied to the Firefighter market increases.

#### **40-hour Non-Sworn Positions**

EMTs and Paramedics who are assigned to the Training Center as a 40-hour assignment will receive a differential pay percentage on their base pay to increase their hourly rate to equal their annualized salary on a 56-hour schedule. They will receive this differential on the days working at the training center or for any paid time off on the days normally scheduled at the training center. When an EMT or Paramedic works overtime in an assignment other than the Training Center, they will not receive the differential pay.

#### **Paramedic Preceptor Pay**

When members are acting in the capacity of paramedic preceptor, the member(s) shall receive an additional \$1.25 per hour for the time working as a preceptor. This is only applied when actively performing the preceptor duties for a TFMR employee training to be a paramedic and is only applicable to the two specific preceptors selected for a paramedic trainee. No more than two paramedic preceptors are authorized per student for compensation as a paramedic preceptor and for no more than 480 hours per student. This temporary pay increase does not apply to members roving in, time trading, or working overtime on a unit which has a paramedic trainee assigned. This MOU does not preclude them from acting as a temporary preceptor for the day, however they are not eligible to receive preceptor pay under those circumstances. Additionally, this pay increase does not apply to members training currently certified paramedics who are in their ambulance training phase, or other members who are new to TFMR, but already certified as paramedics.

## Special Operations Pay

Special operations pay for all eligible members with a permanent assignment in a special operations position will be calculated at an hourly rate based on 5% of the top Firefighter hourly rate. Members not assigned to a special operations position, with a current Hazardous Materials or Technical Rescue Technician certification who are eligible to rove to or work overtime in a special operations position, based on TFMR policy, will receive special operations pay only when working in a special operations position.

Any unit member assigned to the dive team will receive special operations pay. This would not be additional pay for members who otherwise qualify for special operations pay.

Any unit member assigned to a special operations company will receive special operations pay after six (6) months of active duty on the company, receiving ongoing education and experience, unless they have the necessary technician or equivalent certification in which case, they will receive pay immediately when assigned.

In June 2026 the City will conduct a market study of top annual base salaries as of July 2026 for each of the three ranks represented by the Firefighters' Unit (sworn members only). The market cities will include Scottsdale, Mesa, Gilbert, Chandler, Phoenix, Peoria, Glendale, Surprise, and Goodyear. Both parties recognize that maintaining market competitiveness is of mutual benefit and agree to adjust the pay plans to reflect an average of the first and second highest market cities. Any increase will take effect on July 1, 2026.

## Productivity Enhancement Pay

In August and the second paycheck in December each year, Sworn Members, who have completed a minimum of five (5) years of service with the City of Tempe, will receive Productivity Enhancement Pay (in two semi-annual payments) according to the following plan. Effective July 1, 2022, non-sworn members will also be eligible for productivity enhancement pay.

A member may elect to receive his/her August Productivity Enhancement check in the preceding June if retiring or entering the DROP in June.

If a member retires or leaves employment in the months of June thru December, he/she will receive both the August and December Productivity Enhancement Pay amounts prior to leaving employment.

Productivity Pay will be based on a member's years of service and base pay, effective as of the first day of the pay period beginning in July of each year.

### **Years of Service    % Of Base Pay**

5-9	2%
10-14	4%
15-19	6%
20-24	8%
25+	10%

Salaries are based upon the pay plan consistent with this MOU.

For Productivity Enhancement Pay, years of service for sworn members will be considered accredited service with the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) but only after meeting the initial requirement of five (5) years of service with the City of Tempe. For non-sworn members, years of service will be based on years of service with the City of Tempe as a Unit member.

When a non-sworn unit member is hired as a sworn unit member the time as a non-sworn unit member will be credited to them for the purpose of calculating productivity enhancement pay.

## Bilingual Pay

Unit Members who successfully pass the required competency examination for entry into the City's Bilingual Pay Program will be eligible to receive additional compensation for significant interaction of \$150 per month.

## Performance Pay

Performance Pay is an additional pay that would be paid to sworn members on a per- paycheck basis. Sworn members who qualify for Medical Performance Pay will receive the equivalent of 5.18% of their base hourly rate. Any sworn member with seventeen (17) years or more of service in PSPRS who has an accrued balance of one thousand (1,000) hours of medical leave will qualify for for Medical Performance Pay. The member must elect the performance pay option. When receiving performance pay the members medical leave accrual will cease. A sworn member may receive Performance pay for medical leave one time for no more than six consecutive years.

Sworn members who qualify for the primary Vacation Performance Pay target would receive the equivalent of 8.5% of their hourly base rate. Sworn members who qualify for the secondary Vacation Performance Pay target would receive the equivalent of 9.2% of their hourly base rate. Any sworn member with 17 years or more in PSPRS who reaches 440 hours of vacation leave will qualify for primary performance pay. Any sworn member with 20 years or more in PSPRS who reaches 440 hours of vacation leave will qualify for secondary performance pay. The member must elect the performance pay option. When receiving performance pay the sworn member's vacation leave accrual will cease. A sworn member may receive performance pay for vacation leave one time for no more than six consecutive years.

## Article 4 Deferred Compensation

1. Sworn Members who have graduated from the Fire Academy shall receive deferred compensation contributions of \$100.00 per-pay-period to their deferred compensation accounts. The Tempe Firefighter's group may elect to move their members' fund to deferred compensation plans that are separate from the current City-sponsored plans as long as the Firefighters provide a 90-day written notice to the City. City deferred compensation administration contracts that are entered into during the term of this agreement, and which include the participation of members of the Firefighter's group, shall provide for separate reporting of the Firefighters' funds to be provided to the Firefighter's group on a quarterly basis. Non-sworn members will receive deferred compensation contributions of \$100.00 per-pay-period to their deferred compensation accounts, after 6 months of employment.
2. Unit Members are not eligible to participate in the City's Mediflex Program. Article 5 Health Insurance.

## Article 5 Health Insurance

The Unit provided the required notification to the City of their intent to exit the City's Health Benefit Plan, specifically medical, dental and vision coverage, as of January 1, 2015 and the City has agreed. Non-sworn members will be allowed to leave the City's medical, dental and vision coverage and join the sworn members' plan. Under this agreement, the following provisions will apply:

1. **Provision of Benefits:** The Unit will be solely responsible for purchasing, providing and administering medical, dental and vision benefit plans for all Unit members. All medical benefits will be Patient Protection Affordable Care Act (PPACA) compliant, specifically meeting minimum essential coverage and minimum value standards. All Unit members will be ineligible for medical, dental and vision benefits provided by the City as long as this agreement is in place. The City is not responsible to address any questions, concerns or issues with the Unit benefit plans and will refer any Unit member inquiries to the Unit benefit plan administrator.
2. **Wellness Program and Credit:** Unit members will no longer participate in the City's Wellness Program beginning 1/1/2015. City Wellness credits applied only to City employee medical premium contributions for those participating in the program and therefore is no longer applicable. Any credit associated with any Unit wellness program will be administered by the Unit benefit plan administrator.
3. **Waive Stipend:** Any Unit member who elects to not participate in the Unit's medical benefits plan (this does not apply to dental or vision plans), will continue to qualify for the City's waive stipend payment of \$100 month. The stipend will continue to be paid by the City via the Unit member's paycheck. No medical premium contribution from the City will be paid for any Unit member who is waiving medical coverage.
4. **Trust Fund:** The Unit is required to maintain an appropriate trust fund governed under, and in compliance with any applicable federal and state laws, for the purpose of receiving, holding and disseminating monies to cover the costs of providing the medical, dental and vision benefits to its members.
5. **Unit Member Premium Deductions:** The City will continue to deduct individual Unit member premium contributions from each paycheck on a pre-tax basis as long as the Unit provides all documentation required by the City to conclusively demonstrate that such pre-tax deductions are legal. Prior to the beginning of each plan year, the Unit will provide the City the various contribution amounts for all plans and all plan levels. Premium deductions shall be forwarded after each City payroll to the Unit Trust established for the health benefits of the Unit's members.
6. **Ongoing Verification of Pre-Tax Status:** The Unit is required to provide the City with copies of any changes to plan documents, trust documents, 125 cafeteria plan or any other documents governing their benefits provisions to Unit members in order for the City to determine that the pre-tax status of deductions and City contributions is not impacted.

Any tax or other liability associated with the adoption of plans by the Unit shall be the sole responsibility of the Unit.

7. **Unit Member Benefits Election and Mid-Year Changes:** Prior to the beginning of each of their plan years, the Unit will provide to the City the enrollment data file and supporting documents for all Unit Members including those waiving coverage. Prior to each bi-weekly City payroll, the Unit will provide a data file and supporting documentation of any mid-year changes to

members enrollment elections in order for the City to deduct appropriate employee contributions and submit appropriate associated employer contributions.

8. City Premium Contributions: The City shall submit to the Unit Trust each pay period the appropriate employer contribution for each enrolled member. Any responsibility for remission of those contributions to an insurer or to a self-funded plan shall be the sole responsibility of the Unit.
9. Changes to City Premium Contributions: The City will adjust its contribution to the Firefighters' Healthcare Trust commensurate with the percentage increase in the City's cost for other employees.
10. Flexible Spending Accounts: Unit Members will not be eligible for participation in the City's medical or dependent care FSA's.
11. Returning to the City Health Plans: The Unit shall provide the City with at least 60 days' notice of its intent to return its members to coverage under the City medical, dental and vision plans. Any return to the City plans will require negotiating an appropriate payment to the City's Health Fund.
12. The City will match \$50 per pay period into a fund for the purpose of providing a monthly stipend for retirees to apply to the cost of their health insurance premium upon retirement. The Trust Fund shall be maintained and initiated by a Board appointed by the United Phoenix Firefighters – Tempe Chapter Local 493.
13. The fund shall be invested in prudent, protected investments in compliance with state and federal laws. The fund managers may seek outside advice and consultation as they deem appropriate and are authorized to secure a formal trust instrument. The trust instrument and any amendments thereto must be provided to the City for review upon request and on an annual basis.
14. The PFFA Healthcare Trust (the "Trust") shall serve as the funding vehicle for the Union's health insurance plan as well as the funding vehicle for the retiree health insurance stipend.
  - a. The City agrees that the Union shall serve as the sole settlor and sponsor of the Trust effective as of January 1, 2015.
  - b. The Board of Trustees shall take precautions to make sure retiree health insurance stipend contributions are not used to pay costs associated with the Union's health insurance plan or any other benefit that may be offered through the Trust.
15. Each Unit Member will contribute \$50 per pay period into the Trust for the purpose of providing a monthly stipend for retirees to apply to the cost of their health insurance premiums and related expenses upon retirement. The Unit Member contributions are mandatory and therefore shall be deducted from payroll by the City on a pre-tax basis and remitted to the Trust on a bi-weekly basis.
16. The Trust's Board of Trustees shall determine the amount of the monthly retiree stipend, the eligibility criteria for the stipend and the timing of all stipend payments.
17. Effective with this MOU, Unit Members will no longer participate in the City sponsored Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The City will submit to the Trust the cost of the Firestrong/Public Safety Crisis Solutions EAP for the Unit Members which is \$6.42 per

employee per month. Any annual increase to this program will be subject to negotiation.

18. The City shall provide health insurance for members retiring from the City pursuant to the rules and procedures for retirement as defined under the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System and the City of Tempe policies and procedures regarding retiree health insurance as may be amended.
19. Any implementation of this Article shall be consistent with current and future IRS and/or PSRS rulings and all federal, state, and local laws.
20. The City assumes no liability on account of any action taken pursuant to this Article. The Union agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City, its agents, employees, and officials, for taking action in conformance with this Article.
21. The City will provide per-paycheck information related to deposits to the Arizona Firefighters Health Care Trust.
22. A representative of the fire unit will be able to attend the City of Tempe health care committee. They will be a non-voting member and present for informational purposes only.

## Article 6 Medical and Physical Fitness Examinations

1. During the term of this Memorandum of Understanding the Fire Department will schedule sworn and non-sworn members for a medical and physical fitness evaluation yearly. The medical and physical fitness evaluation will be of the same design and quality as the product which is in place through the Phoenix Fire Department's Health Center in June of 2009, and in keeping with the intent of National Fire Protection Association 1582.
2. Unit Members retiring after July 2007 will be able to continue to receive their annual physicals in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article. The City will provide this service at no expense to the individual.

## Article 7 Life Insurance

1. The City will continue the existing off-the-job and on-the-job life and dismemberment insurance coverage. The policy shall provide a benefit for sworn and non-sworn members equal to the member's base annual salary. Additionally, the City will provide a death benefit of \$75,000. The City will continue to provide to each member a \$250,000 death benefit covering the member's commutation to and from his/her City work location. This policy will be consistent with the City's current group insurance and will cover the Unit Member's commute for up to two (2) hours before his/her shift begins and two (2) hours after his/her shift concludes.
2. In the event of the death of a member while commuting to or from his/her work location, the City will continue to pay the full health insurance premium for the spouse, domestic partner, and all eligible dependents, in accordance with City policy.

## Article 8 Pension Contribution

Sworn Members participating in the D.R.O.P. program will make a onetime irrevocable election to receive either additional base pay OR to receive City contributions into their deferred compensation accounts, each pay period, equal to the reduction of the City's *Total Percentage Contribution Requirement* that is based on those employees' participation in the DROP program, but, in no case shall the City's contribution exceed 24.21%. The *Total Percentage Contribution Requirement* (Employer rate prior to Fire Insurance Tax offset) is documented on the Contribution Transmittal Form sent to PSPRS by the City each pay period. In the event the City refinances PSPRS debt, it will not affect the City's total liability so long as that debt is outstanding. For the duration of this MOU, the rate will remain at 24.21%. If, during the term of this contract, State legislation is passed that would require cities to make contributions to the PSPRS for Unit Members participating in the DROP program, either party can have the MOU re-opened for purposes of clarifying this article by submitting a written request to the other party.

## Article 9 Bidding on Vacancies

1. The Parties acknowledge that the Fire Department has historically utilized a procedure whereby Unit Member's bid on work locations based upon the Unit Member's length of sworn service. Although this process oftentimes meets the needs of both the Department and the Unit Member, the Parties agree that this process in no way limits the authority of the Fire Chief, or his designee, to make assignments to meet the operational needs of the Department.

This process will also be used in the event of any layoffs within the Fire Department.

Note: A sworn member is considered off probation one (1) year after hire date. Non-sworn members will be considered off probation after one year of employment.

2. In the event that the Fire Chief exercises his prerogative to utilize a different method for allocating work assignments other than allowing Unit Members to bid as acknowledged above in 1, the Union President has the right to make this issue an agenda item for discussion in the Labor/Management Committee, or the Unit Member may decide to appeal through the MOU Breach Procedure.
3. The Fire Chief shall make reasonable efforts to allocate work assignments and promotions expeditiously. The Fire Chief retains the right to make reassignments to meet the operational needs of the Department.

## Article 10 Call Back Pay

Unit members called back to work after leaving City facilities upon completion of their regular shift shall receive a minimum of two (2) hours pay at one and one-half (1½) times their regular rate of pay. They will also receive thirty (30) minutes travel time at a rate of one and one half (1 1/2) times their hourly rate if working over 2 hours. Travel time will be included in the minimum two hours when member has worked less than two (2) hours.

## Article 11 Stand-By Pay

At least one SWAT Medic and one Terrorism Liaison Officer for each shift will be paid an hourly rate for approved stand-by duty in accordance with the Personnel Rules.

## Article 12 Forty Hour (40) Leave Accrual

The Parties recognize that Unit Member's accrue vacation and medical leave at a higher rate than other City employees because of their fifty-six (56-hour) shift to which they are normally assigned. When the Fire Chief reassigns a sworn or non-sworn member into a position with a forty- (40) hour work schedule, the member will begin accruing vacation and medical leave at the same rate as other forty (40) hour per week City employees. Furthermore, the member's current accrual balances will be prorated as if it had been accrued based upon a forty (40) hour workweek. This article excludes light duty assignments of less than ninety (90) calendar days.

When a member on a forty (40) hour workweek returns to the regular fifty-six (56) hour workweek, vacation and medical leave will be in accordance with other fifty-six (56) hour workweek employees, and the member's leave balance will be prorated accordingly. This is not to be confused with article 15 "Light Duty".

## Article 13 Hours of Work / Working Conditions

1. The duty hours for Unit Members assigned to Emergency Services shall continue to average fifty-six (56) hours per week. Shifts shall continue to be twenty-four (24) hours in duration, except Unit members assigned to a forty (40) hour work week in positions such as staff assignments or light duty.
2. For the 6.24 hours per pay period (commonly referred to as "FLSA hours") that are considered overtime in the fifty-six (56) hour per week schedule, Sworn Members will be paid two (2) times their regular rate of pay.
3. Non-sworn members will receive 1.5 times their regular rate for hours worked in excess of the forty (40) hour per week schedule.

## Article 14 Lateral Entry Program

When an employee of the City of Tempe outside the Fire Department wishes to become an employee of the Fire Department in a position covered by this Memorandum of Understanding, the following provisions shall apply:

1. The Employee moving into the Fire Department shall be paid a rate of pay as determined by the Fire Chief with the approval of the City Manager. Prior to the final determination by the Fire Chief, he shall review the intended rate of pay with the Association President.
2. The employee will receive leave accrual based upon continuous service with the City of Tempe. Said employee shall retain previously accrued unused leave balances.
3. For purposes of bidding on company-based assignments and/or available vacation slots, seniority will be based upon continuous sworn service within the Fire Department.

## Article 15 Light Duty (Transitional Work)

Any sworn member assigned to light duty will be placed on a forty- (40) hour workweek schedule. All pay and leave accrual remains the same as if still on a 56-hour work week if the inability to perform regular duty is work related. If the inability to perform regular duty is not work related, all pay and leave accrual will remain the same for a period of ninety (90) days, after which the Member will stop receiving FLSA overtime premium pay only.

## Article 16 Working Out of Classification

All sworn and non-sworn members will be paid for temporarily working out of their assigned classifications for one hour or more. Pay will be at the hourly rate of the base pay of the position being filled or 5% above their normal base rate, whichever is greater.

Unit Members who work out of class into a position not covered by the IAFF MOU will receive the OT stipend to match the interim position.

## Article 17 Bereavement Leave

Members shall receive up to five (5) working days leave with pay not chargeable to medical or vacation leave for immediate family members. Members shall receive up to three (3) working days leave with pay not chargeable to medical or vacation leave for non – immediate family members. Two (2) additional working days shall be granted for out of state travel for non – immediate family members.

For the purpose of this article, immediate family members are Spouse / Domestic Partner, Child (foster & step), Parent (in-law & step), Sister (in-law & step), Brother (in-law & step), Son/Daughter in law, Grandparent (in-law & step), Grandchild (in-law & step); non-immediate family members are Aunt, Uncle, Nephew, and Niece.

## Article 18 Compassionate/Supplemental Family Medical Leave

Compassionate/Supplemental Family Medical Leave will be administered in accordance with the City's Personnel Rules. Unit Members are eligible for up to 224 hours (160 hours for 40-hour schedule) of paid Supplemental Family Medical Leave per calendar year; this will be prorated for part time Unit Members. Supplemental Family Medical Leave may be taken when on approved FMLA qualifying leave (1) for the birth of baby or parental leave including bonding time; (2) for their own non-job-related serious health condition or (3) to care for a spouse, domestic partner, child (including step) or parent with a serious health condition.

## Article 19 Holiday Benefits

In lieu of the holidays set forth below, sworn members working the fifty-six (56) hour workweek are paid for 11.2 hours at one and one-half (1½) times their hourly rate of pay. Non-sworn members receive 1.5 times their hourly rate for eight (8) hours in lieu of holidays.

New Year's Day  
Martin Luther King's Birthday  
President's Day  
Cesar Chavez Recognition Day

Memorial Day  
Juneteenth Holiday  
Independence Day  
Labor Day

Veterans Day  
Thanksgiving Day  
Friday following Thanksgiving Day  
Christmas Day

Four (4) Personal Leave Days: sworn members shall have the opportunity of selecting 11.2 hours of pay at the overtime rate to be paid out per the City's Personnel Rules or twenty-four (24) hours of personal leave, for all four (4) personal leave days.

Non-sworn members shall have the opportunity of selecting eight (8) hours of pay at the overtime rate to be paid out per the City's Personnel Rules or twenty-four (24) hours of personal leave, for all four (4) personal leave days.

Floating Holiday Leave: Each Unit Member will receive 24 hours of floating holiday leave to be used between January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>. Members must be utilized with supervisory approval before the end of the last full pay period in each calendar year or be forfeited. Floating Holidays do not roll over to the next calendar year. If a unit member starts their employment with the City July 1<sup>st</sup> or later, they will receive twelve (12) hours of Floating Holiday Leave for that year. For the 2025 implementation of this new leave, 24 hours of Floating Holiday Leave will be provided on July 1<sup>st</sup> to be used prior to the last full pay period paid in December.

## Article 20 Industrial Leave

All sworn and non-sworn members are covered by the City under the Arizona State Worker's Compensation Act against injuries, illness or disease occurring in the course of City employment.

If a Unit Member is absent from work as a result of an injury, illness, or disease that is covered under the Arizona State Worker's Compensation Act, the absence is considered industrial accident leave. For absences of one (1) to seven (7) calendar days, Members are compensated 100% of their regular base rate of pay without loss of any medical or vacation leave. For absences over seven (7) days, Members are compensated 95% of their regular biweekly base rate of pay from the City for up to twelve (12) months. Beyond twelve (12) months, employees are compensated in accordance with the Arizona Worker's Compensation Act. Members may voluntarily supplement their Worker's Compensation benefit with accrued medical and vacation leave. The amount that may be supplemented is the difference between the Worker's Compensation benefit and the employee's net take-home pay, plus voluntary payroll deductions. The amount of a member's Worker's Compensation benefit shall not exceed his/her regular base rate of pay.

## Article 21 Counseling Sessions for Non-sworn Members

The City agrees to provide the same counseling benefits to Non-Sworn Members of this MOU for exposures to qualifying events as provided in A.R.S. 38-673 (commonly referred to as the Craig Tiger Act). Non-Sworn Members may attend the counseling sessions in accordance with City policy.

## Article 22 Medical Leave

1. Sworn and non-sworn members on 56-hour schedules shall accrue 12.6 hours of medical leave per month. Maximum accrual of Medical Leave shall be unlimited. Sworn and non-sworn members on a 40-hour schedule shall accrue 9 hours of medical leave per month.
2. Sworn and non-sworn members retiring from the City in good standing shall receive 60% of all accrued Medical Leave in the form of cash or vacation leave. The Member will be reimbursed at an hourly rate equal to the Member's hourly rate at time of retirement or highest paid hourly rate within the last twelve (12) months prior to retirement. Highest paid rate must be for a position held for at least six (6) months.
3. Medical leave may be used for illness or physical incapacity of the employee, medical, dental or psychological appointments during working hours. Medical leave may also be used for any of the above reasons for an immediate family member.
4. Any member who has had an extended injury or illness for longer than twelve (12) shifts will have their sick leave retroactively charged to them based on a forty (40) hour work week.

Note: Benefits are based upon a fifty-six (56) hour workweek unless sworn member is assigned to a forty (40) hour assignment position.

## Article 23 Overtime

1. Unit Members who are assigned to be on duty beyond their scheduled work shift shall be compensated for such assigned work at one and one-half (1 ½) times their regular rate after the first seven (7) minutes of assigned and worked overtime calculated to the nearest quarter hour. Non-Shift work will be paid in accordance with number 5 of this article.
2. Allocations and opportunities for overtime shall be discussed in the Labor/Management Process.
3. The City and the Fire Chief have the exclusive right and authority to schedule work and/or overtime work as required in the manner most advantageous to the City subject to the express terms of this Memorandum.
  - a. Employees can only work overtime with the advance authorization of the Fire Chief or his designee.
  - b. Overtime will not be paid twice for the same hours worked.
4. Partials greater than eight (8) hours will be constant staffed.
5. Any Member working any special event, fire watch, or any event other than their regular shift work or attending any required training will be paid overtime at their regular salary based on a forty (40) hour work week. Holdovers, partials and call backs are considered a normal fifty-six (56) hour work week and will be paid 1 ½ times their regular rate based on a fifty-six (56) hour work week.

6. All overtime for a forty (40) hour assignment captain will be based on a forty (40) hour work week, including shift work.
7. Members who volunteer or are scheduled to work on the following holidays when that holiday does not fall on a regularly scheduled workday will receive two (2) times their regular rate of pay: New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Friday following Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

## Article 24 Tuition Reimbursement

Unit Members will receive tuition reimbursement up to a maximum of \$6,000 within any calendar year as long as they are a full-time employee. Tuition Reimbursement includes the cost of tuition, required textbooks, supplies and related fees. The City of Tempe Tuition Reimbursement Policy Guidelines and Section 127 of the IRS Tax Code will dictate the requirements for receiving Tuition Reimbursement.

## Article 25 Uniform, Clothing and Equipment Allowances

Each year Unit Members will receive a lumpsum of \$935 for purchase of uniforms and boots, in accordance with Department policy. The amount will be split in two payments; one will be paid by August 1<sup>st</sup> and the other by February 1<sup>st</sup>. New employees will receive their initial uniform allotment and in the first year of employment may not be eligible for the lumpsum distributions depending upon departmental policy. All Unit Members will be required to meet Department uniform/dress code standards.

## Article 26 Vacation Leave

1. Sworn and non-sworn members on a fifty-six (56-hour) work schedule will accrue vacation in accordance with the following schedule.

0 to completion of 5 years	11.2 hours per month After
completion of 5 years, but less than 10 years	14.0 hours per month After
completion of 10 years, but less than 15 years	16.8 hours per month After
completion of 15 years, but less than 20 years	20.54 hours per month After
completion of 20 years	22.4 hours per month

Maximum accrual for fifty-six (56-hour) employees shall be 630 hours.

For vacation leave accrual, years of service will be considered accredited service with the Arizona Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS). Non-sworn members’ vacation accrual is based on years of service with the City of Tempe.

2. To the extent permitted by current and future IRS and/or PSPRS rulings, and all federal, state and local laws, Unit Members may sell up to forty (40) hours of vacation leave in excess of one hundred and fifty (150) hours for those employees working a forty (40) hour workweek or two hundred and ten (210) hours for those employees working a fifty-six (56) hour workweek.

This benefit shall not exceed a total of forty (40) hours and may be sold as follows: twenty (20) hours on the last paycheck in November and/or May of the MOU year. No employee shall be permitted to sell back accrued vacation leave if the member has less than one hundred fifty (150) hours of vacation leave for a forty (40) hour member and two hundred ten (210) for a fifty-six (56) hour member.

3. A sworn member's vacation accrual after reaching 20 years of service in the PSPRS becomes unlimited after utilizing item 3 of this Article.
4. Upon separation of employment unit members are cashed out at 100% of all vacation hours. The hourly rate and accrual bank must both be calculated at either a 40 hour or 56 hour rate. If there is disagreement between the hourly rate and bank, the bank will be converted to match the hourly rate prior to payout.
5. After a member reaches 25 years of service with the City of Tempe or PSPRS, whichever is greater, they will receive 1 exempt leave day (24 hours) per year. This is a use it or lose it day for each calendar year and cannot be cashed out for pay. It requires the use of at least 1 vacation day during the year by the member after which, with supervisory approval, 1 exempt leave day will be granted during the same calendar year.

Any implementation of this Article shall be consistent with all federal, state and local laws.

Calculation of Available Vacation Slots will be based on a ratio of one 24-hour vacation slot per day per 25-unit member positions assigned to a 56 hour week schedule. The calculation shall not be affected by temporary assignments of members, long-term injuries or light duty status, or open (unfilled) positions. In the case of unit positions being added, the addition of vacation slots shall not exceed one per year. A new 24-hour vacation slot will not be added until the full amount of 25 unit member positions are added to the department list of authorized positions.

## Article 27 Labor Management Committee

1. There shall be a Labor Management Committee consisting of City employees: four (4) representatives of the Union and four (4) representatives of the Fire Department. The purpose of the Committee is to facilitate positive labor-management relationships by providing a forum for the free discussion of mutual concerns and problems, which may include discussion of the implementation of major, new department programs or substantial modifications of existing major department programs that will have a significant impact on service delivery, work schedules, or duties.
2. The Committee shall meet quarterly at mutually scheduled times, and at any other mutually scheduled time.

## Article 28 Diversity Recruitment

It is the goal of the City, the Fire Department, and the Union to increase the recruitment of qualified, diverse individuals within the Tempe Fire Department. The City shall distribute to the United Phoenix Firefighters checks for \$15,000 in July 2025 and 2026 to be used solely for diversity recruitment purposes.

The contracts for the above services and performance standards shall be approved by the City Manager.

## Article 29 Procedure for Alleged Breach of MOU

To further enhance and outline the City of Tempe's Claim of Breach Process, the following steps will be used for Section 2-426, J1-3.

If either a designated employee organization or employee claims that the Memorandum of Understanding has been breached, the Parties alleging the breach shall:

1. First, with the objective of resolving the alleged breach, discuss the alleged breach directly with the immediate supervisor outside the designated employee group.  
  
If the alleged breach is not resolved with ten (10) days, a written allegation of the alleged breach may be filed with the immediate supervisor, with a copy to the Deputy Human Resources Manager. To be considered, the alleged breach must be submitted within 45 days after the alleging party first became aware of or recognized as a potential breach, and contain, at a minimum, the specific contractual provision(s) of this Memorandum of Understanding that is/are alleged to have been violated with facts constituting the alleged violation(s) and relief sought.
2. If, after ten (10) days from the date that the alleged breach was filed with the immediate supervisor, the alleged breach is not resolved, the alleged breach may be filed with the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief or his designee shall schedule a meeting in an attempt to resolve the alleged breach no later than ten (10) days following receipt of the written alleged breach. Each party shall be entitled to bring documents and/or witnesses (at the expense of the Party bringing the witness(es) to the meeting in order to present evidence on their behalf. Each party shall have the right to cross-examine the witness(es) brought by the other party.
3. The Fire Chief or Assistant Fire Chief will have ten (10) days to render a decision. If the alleged breach is not resolved with the Fire Chief's decision, the alleged breach will be submitted to the City Manager.
4. The City Manager has the right to require fact-finding or mediation to resolve the alleged breach. The City Manager shall submit a written response within ten (10) days following:
  - a. The receipt of the written alleged breach, or
  - b. The written decision of the mediator or factfinder.
5. If the Parties are still unable to resolve the matter after the City Manager's review, then all written or relevant materials shall be submitted for resolution to the Mayor and Council within ten (10) days of receipt of the City Manager's written response. The decision of the Mayor and Council shall be consistent with the City Charter, and final and binding upon the Parties and employees.
6. The Parties can mutually waive all time frames listed above.
7. The City Manager, in consultation with the Union President, shall determine the selection process, the format of the meeting, the sharing of costs, and any other issue(s) that may result in utilizing the services of a mediator or factfinder.

Definitions

“Days,” for purposes of this article, shall mean Monday through Friday, not including holidays observed by the City.

## Article 30 Complete Agreement

The Parties agree that this is the complete and only agreement between the Parties once approved by the City Council. Each party has negotiated on all issues identified for negotiations and such negotiations have led to this agreement. No additional negotiations will be conducted on any item, whether contained herein or not, except by mutual agreement of the Parties. This Agreement replaces any and all previous agreements between the Parties.

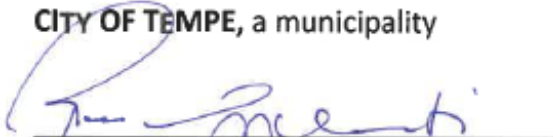
## Article 31 Term and Effect

This Memorandum shall become effective July 1, 2025, and remain in full force and effect until June 30, 2027, in accordance with the provisions of Tempe City Code section 2-400 et seq. This Memorandum constitutes the total and entire agreement between the parties and no verbal statement shall supersede any of its provisions. Only by mutual consent of both parties may this agreement be reopened.

This Memorandum constitutes the total and entire agreement between the Parties and no verbal statement shall supersede any of its provisions.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Parties have set their hands this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025.


**CITY OF TEMPE, a municipality**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rosa Inchausti, City Manager

**FIREFIGHTERS' UNIT**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Firefighters' Unit Representative

**APPROVED AS TO FORM**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eric C. Anderson, City Attorney