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9.22.25

**AGREEMENT**  
**between the**  
**CITY OF SPARKS**  
**and the**  
**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL NO. 731**  
**July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027**

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## **SECTION 1 – ADMINISTRATION**

### **Article A - PREAMBLE**

This Agreement is entered into between the CITY OF SPARKS, NEVADA, hereinafter referred to as the "City," and the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS, Local No. 731 or any successor bargaining group, hereinafter referred to as the "Firefighters." Members of the Association, employed by the City, are covered by this Agreement and will hereinafter be referred to as "Employees."

It is the intent and purpose of the Agreement to ensure sound and mutually beneficial working and economic relationships between the parties hereto, and to provide an orderly and peaceful means of resolving any misunderstandings or differences which may arise. It is recognized by both the City and the Firefighters and its member employees that the City is engaged in rendering public service to the general public and that there is an obligation on each party for the continuous rendition and availability of such services. It is further recognized by both the City and the Firefighters that each party has a mutual obligation for executing the provisions of this contract.

All employees shall perform loyal and efficient work and services; shall use their influence and best efforts to protect the properties of the City and its service to the public; and shall cooperate in promoting and advancing the welfare of the City and in preserving the continuity of its service to the public at all times. The full agreement between the parties, other than those portions of public employment agreements that are expressly provided for, or excluded from by state statute, as set forth herein.

### **Article B - ADOPTION OF AGREEMENT**

1. **Adoption:** This Agreement will be deemed adopted and of binding effect, terminating negotiations during its term, upon approval and subscription of the Firefighters and the City.
2. **Copy of Agreement:** The City agrees to furnish this Agreement electronically on the City's Intranet.
3. **Scope of Negotiations and Amendments:** By adopting this Agreement, the Firefighters agree that they will not seek any additional wage demands during the duration of this Agreement, but are entitled to entertain negotiations seeking to amend this Agreement concerning non-wage benefits.
4. **Bulletin Boards:** The City shall permit all reasonable use of Bulletin Boards located in the respective fire houses of the City. All materials posted by the Firefighters shall be in good taste and shall not contain information which would embarrass or coerce any employee or official of the City.
5. **Rules and Procedures:** The Sparks Fire Department Rules and Standard Operating Procedures, as amended from time to time, and as long as Rules or Regulations are not in conflict with the existing contractual agreement, are not a part of this negotiated agreement. Any changes in such rules shall be made at the discretion of the Fire Chief or designee with the approval of the City Manager, provided such changes are posted via city email not less than ten (10) days prior to the effective date of such changes. A copy of the proposed changes must also be sent to the Firefighters President and Secretary at least ten (10) days prior to the change.

### **Article C - AMENDING PROCEDURE**

1. **Amendments:** If either the Firefighters or the City desire to modify or change this Agreement during its term, it shall serve written notice on the other party setting forth the nature of the modifications or changes. Failure of the other party to give written approval of the modifications or changes proposed within thirty (30) days of the required written notice shall be deemed a rejection of the proposal. Any amendment, whether a proposed amendment or an alternative to a proposed amendment, that may be mutually agreed upon shall become part of the Agreement, effective on the agreed date.
2. **Benefits:** No presently existing benefit, whether monetary or otherwise, may be reduced below its present level, whether such benefit is the subject of this contract, regular, ordinary, regulation or established custom of the

Fire Department; except that any such benefit shall be subject to negotiation and may be eliminated, reduced or increased, as a result of such negotiations.

#### **Article D - DURATION OF AGREEMENT**

This Agreement shall take effect July 1, 2025, and shall continue in force until June 30, 2027.

#### **Article E - RECOGNITION AND APPLICATION**

The terms and conditions of the Agreement shall apply to those employees of the classes listed in Appendix A, regardless of membership in the Firefighters Bargaining Unit.

The City recognizes the Firefighters as the exclusive negotiating agent for purposes of establishing salaries, wages, hours and other conditions of employment for all its classified firefighting, fire prevention, fire training, emergency medical services, and administrative employees in the position classes of the bargaining unit listed in Appendix A.

#### **Article F - STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS**

1. The Firefighters will not promote, sponsor or engage in, against the City, any strike, slow down, interruption of operation, stoppage of work, absences from work upon any pretext or excuse not founded in fact, or any other intentional interruption of the City, regardless of the reason for so doing, and will use its best efforts to induce all employees covered by this Agreement to comply with this pledge.
2. The City will not lock out any employees during the term of this Agreement as a result of a labor dispute with the Firefighters.

#### **Article G – STAFFING**

##### Fire Department Staffing

1. The Fire Chief or designee will determine the number and type of apparatus, including but not limited to Medic Unit(s), in-service at any given time. A Medic Unit is defined as an ambulance that is transport capable.
2. Normal daily staffing will be three (3) personnel on “Type I” structure engines, “Type III” brush trucks, and aerial devices.
3. The normal daily complement of personnel will be a Captain, FAO, and Firefighter Paramedic or Firefighter on structure engines, brush trucks, and aerial devices.
4. Acting positions may be used to meet daily staffing requirements.
5. Normal daily staffing will be two (2) personnel on Medic Units.
6. The normal daily staffing of two (2) personnel on Medic Units will be one (1) Firefighter/Paramedic and one (1) Firefighter A-EMT or higher qualification. The Medic Units shall not be cross-staffed with any personnel from another apparatus except in the case of extenuating circumstances such as Mass Casualty Incident, riot, military action, natural disaster, civil disorder, a major incident as determined by the Fire Chief or designee or declared emergency by the City of Sparks, the State of Nevada or a Federal or State declaration that directly impacts the City of Sparks or its surrounding region. For the purposes of this provision, “surrounding region” shall be defined as within 75 miles of the City of Sparks. Daily staffing shall not be considered a major incident or emergency.
  - a. Cross-staffing is defined as personnel moving from a staffed apparatus to one not staffed based on the type of call they are responding to or counting the personnel from two apparatus operating as a task force toward the staffing for each apparatus.

- b. The intent is to not cross-staff as a part of normal daily staffing to cover for normal vacancies, but to allow flexibility for the Fire Chief or designee to respond to major emergency events appropriately. The personnel on the Medic Unit will not be counted towards the minimum staffing for any other apparatus.
  - c. This is not intended to restrict the movement of personnel from different apparatus to a Medic Unit as long as the minimum staffing levels as defined in Section 1, Article G are maintained. This is also not meant to restrict the ability to cross-staff brush trucks or special teams' equipment when needed.
- 7. Medic Units will be staffed, licensed, and equipped as an Advanced Life Support (ALS) unit, with at least one department-qualified ALS person at all times.
- 8. When emergency staffing is needed, the Shift Commander or designee, may use personnel of any rank so long as they are represented by Firefighters, and the normal staffing of personnel, as outlined in Section 1, Article G is maintained, and the personnel are qualified to perform in the positions needed.
- 9. Staffing for other apparatus will be determined by the Fire Chief or designee. The Fire Chief or designee will confer with the Firefighters President or designee, on the ranks assigned to these apparatuses.
- 10. To allow shuttling of apparatus for maintenance, training, or to get apparatus to emergency scenes, staffing levels can be adjusted.
- 11. Normal daily staffing levels will be backfilled anytime the vacancy is expected to exceed one (1) hour. Any rank represented by Firefighters may voluntarily fill vacancies on a Medic Unit, so long as the ALS staffing requirements are maintained. Any personnel who are to work on a Medic Unit must be trained and qualified by a fire department proctor and/or the Training Division before being assigned to that apparatus.
- 12. When staffing falls below the minimums outlined in Section 1, Article G, the apparatus will be placed "out of service" with Dispatch (CAD). The Shift Commander will either redistribute the remaining personnel to other apparatus, or send an apparatus to cover the vacant district, or have the remaining personnel respond to incidents to provide manpower with the "in-service" responding apparatus.
- 13. The City and Union agree that four-person staffing of aerial devices and engines is optimal and enhances safety of firefighters and the public. The City agrees to work toward meeting this staffing goal as resources allow.
- 14. Nothing in this section removes any obligation or rights under NRS Chapter 288.

#### **Article H - RIGHTS OF MANAGEMENT**

The City is entitled, without negotiation or references to any agreement resulting from negotiations, to:

- 1. The right to hire, direct, assign, or transfer an employee, but excluding the right to assign or transfer an employee as a form of discipline.
- 2. The right to reduce in force or layoff any employee because of lack of work or lack of money, subject to NRS 288.150(2) (v) (Procedures for reduction of work force).
- 3. The right to determine:
  - a. Appropriate staffing levels and work performance standards, except for safety considerations;
  - b. The content of the workday, including without limitation work load factors, except for safety considerations.

- c. The quality and quantity of services to be offered to the public; and,
  - d. The means and methods of offering those services.
- 4. Safety of the public.
  - 5. To take whatever action may be necessary to carry out its responsibilities in situations of emergency such as a riot, military action, natural disaster, or civil disorder.
  - 6. To maintain the efficiency of its governmental operation consistent with the best interests of all its citizens, taxpayers and its employees.
  - 7. To have and use any of the additional rights reserved to the City as a local government employer by NRS 288.150.

#### **Article I - NON-DISCRIMINATION**

- 1. The City will not interfere with, or discriminate in respect to any term or condition of employment, against any employee because of membership in the Firefighters, or because of any legitimate activity pursuant to this Agreement by the individual employee or the Firefighters on behalf of its members, nor will the City encourage membership in any other employee employment bargaining organization.
- 2. The Firefighters recognize their responsibilities as the exclusive negotiating agent and agrees to represent all employees in the Firefighters without discrimination, interference, restraint, or coercion.
- 3. The provisions of the Agreement shall be applied equally to all employees in the negotiation unit without discrimination for political affiliation, and in accordance with any state or federal law. The Firefighters shall share equally with the City the responsibility for applying this provision of the Agreement.

#### **Article J - FIREFIGHTERS DUES AND SALARY CHECK-OFF PRIVILEGES**

- 1. The employees may authorize payroll deductions for the purpose of paying Firefighters' dues. Upon the execution of the proper personnel payroll document filed with the Human Resources Manager, and coinciding with the commencement of a payroll period, the City agrees to deduct from the wages of an employee on a biweekly basis, such sums as the employee may specify for: Firefighters' dues, the City's approved group health insurance, United Way and City approved Deferred Compensation Programs. The City agrees to deduct the City's approved credit union on a biweekly basis. Additional deductions may be requested by an employee; provided however, that the City has approved such deduction at the request of a majority of the total number of employees covered by this Agreement.
- 2. No authorization shall be allowed for payment of initiation fees, assessments or fines. Each employee shall have the right to terminate such payroll deductions at the end of any payroll period upon the timely execution of the proper payroll document filed with the Human Resources Manager.
- 3. The Firefighters will indemnify, defend, and hold the City harmless against any claims made and against any suits instituted against the City on account of any action taken or not taken by the City in good faith under the provisions of this Article. The Firefighters agree to refund to the City any amounts paid to them in error on account of the payroll deduction provision upon presentation of proper evidence thereof.
- 4. The employee's earnings must be regularly sufficient after other legal and required deductions are made to cover the amount of the appropriated Firefighters' dues. When a member in good standing of the Firefighters is in non-pay status for an entire pay period, no withholding will be made to cover that pay period from future earnings. In the case of an employee who is in non-pay status during only part of the pay period, and the wages

are not sufficient to cover the full withholding, no deductions shall be made. In this connection, all other legal and required deductions have priority over Firefighters' dues.

#### **Article K - FIREFIGHTER ACTIVITIES**

1. As directed by Firefighters' President, Firefighters appointed or elected members shall have access to a "pool" of hours consisting of three hundred (300) hours each fiscal year for union business leave of absence time. This time will be used to attend meetings, including but not limited to City Council, Group Healthcare Committee, and Civil Service Commission. Each of these members may draw upon this "pool" as may be required to conduct union business until such time as the "pool" of hours is exhausted.
2. Any three members of the Firefighters' Negotiation Committee, Grievance committee, Labor Management committee, and Safety committee, shall be granted leave from duty with full pay for all meetings between the City and the Firefighters pursuant to NRS Chapter 288. This leave will not be counted towards the annual allowance of union leave for union business.

#### **Article L - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

1. Purpose: The purpose of the following grievance procedure shall be to settle as quickly as possible disputes concerning the interpretation and application of the Agreement.
2. Definition of "Working Day": For the purpose of this Article, a working day shall be defined as a normal Monday through Friday workday, holidays excluded.
3. Time Frames: Grievances not filed within the required time frames will be forfeited. Grievances not responded to by the City within the required time frames shall be automatically moved to the next step as if the grievance was denied. The City and Firefighters may agree in writing to extend any time requirements of this Article.
4. Procedure:
  - a. STEP 1 - The employee concerned must within twenty (20) working days from the day employee is grieved, file a written grievance with the Fire Chief or designee. The Fire Chief or designee shall render a written decision within twenty (20) working days after receipt of the grievance.
  - b. STEP 2 - If the grievance is not settled at Step 1, the grievance shall be submitted within ten (10) working days to the City Manager or designee. The City Manager or designee, after examination of all relevant evidence and after consultation with the aggrieved employee or employee's representative, will render a written decision within twenty (20) working days after receipt of the grievance.
  - c. STEP 3 - If the grievance is not settled at Step 2, the grievance shall be submitted to arbitration within twenty (20) working days by either of the parties upon written notice to the other party.
5. Arbitration: The party requesting arbitration shall request a list of seven (7) arbitrators from the Federal Mediation Conciliation Service (FMCS). If the FMCS is unable to provide a panel within thirty (30) days of the request the Union shall request a panel of Arbitrators from the American Arbitration Association. The Firefighters shall strike the first name. The findings of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on all parties concerned.

The cost of any arbitration, or award, shall be at the discretion of the arbitrator. The cost for the services of the arbitrator shall be shared equally by both parties. The arbitrator shall not combine or consolidate separate grievances for hearing without the express written consent of the parties.

The arbitrator's decision shall be rendered within thirty (30) days after a transcript, if required, is submitted. Nothing contained herein shall preclude an employee, with or without representation, from bringing a problem not covered herein through the chain of command, on an informal and oral basis.

6. Streamlined Arbitration: If the parties agree to utilize streamlined arbitration in place of the current procedure set forth in Paragraph 4, they will use the following streamlined arbitration procedures. The streamlined arbitration procedure will be to select an arbitrator using an FMCS list of seven (7) arbitrators.

The Firefighters will strike the first name. The hearing will be scheduled within thirty (30) calendar days of the selection of the arbitrator unless the parties agree to extend this period. The hearing will not include briefs, and the award is due within five (5) business days of the closing of the hearing. The award of the arbitrator will be in writing. The arbitrator will not have any power to add to, subtract from, or modify this Agreement. The cost of the arbitration will be as provided in Paragraph 5. The award is final and binding except as provided by law. If a court reporter is requested by either party, the party requesting the reporter shall pay all the costs of the reporter and provide copies of the transcript to the arbitrator and the other party. If the parties do not agree to streamlined arbitration, the normal arbitration procedures contained in Paragraph 5 will apply.

## **Article M - HOURS OF WORK**

1. The normal work period of employees covered by this Agreement shall consist of either seven (7) days for forty (40) hour employees or twelve (12) days for fifty-six (56) hour employees, depending on the employee's classification. It is recognized that in order to implement scheduled shift changes, personnel may be required to work less than or more than the above enumerated hours. In such cases, the affected person or persons are entitled to overtime for any excess hours worked, and will not be subject to a pay decrease for any fewer hours worked than the above enumerated. The Fire Chief or designee may temporarily reschedule an employee from a fifty-six (56) hour work week to a forty (40) hour work week. In this event, the forty (40) hour provisions of this Agreement will apply.

Accordingly:

- a. Annual and sick leave balances will be multiplied by 5/7 to convert to a forty (40) hour work week equivalent.
  - b. When returning to a fifty-six (56) hour work week, annual and sick leave balances will be multiplied by 7/5 to convert to a fifty-six (56) hour work week equivalent.
  - c. All such schedule changes shall begin at the start of a pay period and end with the end of a pay period. Such rescheduling shall be no less than one (1) pay period duration, or more than thirteen (13) pay periods in duration.
  - d. Rescheduling will not entitle the employee to receive holiday benefits more than once for any one (1) holiday. All scheduling of work shifts and work weeks shall be directed by the Fire Chief or designee.
2. Duty hours shall be devoted fully to the performance of assigned duties; periods of absence for personal reasons are not creditable toward duty hours and must be charged to vacation time, leave of absence without pay, or, if resulting from a legitimate illness or physical injury, to sick leave.
  3. Breaks: Except during emergency situations, employees covered by this Agreement shall be permitted one fifteen (15) minute break or rest period for each four (4) hour term of assigned duty, not to exceed two (2) such break periods in any twelve (12) hour shift. Breaks may not be combined nor taken at the beginning or end of a shift.
  4. This Article is intended only as basis for computing overtime and is not intended as a guarantee of hours of work per day or per week.
  5. FLSA Work Period: The work period for purposes of computing FLSA overtime is seven (7) days for forty (40) hour employees and twelve (12) days for fifty-six (56) hour employees. Effective the first full pay period after this Agreement is approved the City Council, hours will be associated with the day the shift begins. For example,



if an employee's shift starts on January 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM and ends at 8:00 AM on January 6<sup>th</sup>, all 24 hours will be assigned to January 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Article N - DISCHARGE AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

The City will abide by the current Civil Service Rules regarding discharge and discipline. These procedures will not be amended without thirty (30) days prior written notice of the proposed amendment and negotiation of any change which is mandatory subject of bargaining under NRS 288.150(2). No employee will be discharged without justifiable cause, a written notice of charges, and a pre-termination hearing.

Employees may appeal disciplinary action under Article L of this Section or the Sparks Civil Service Rules, but not under both procedures. A grievance filed under Article L of this Section or an appeal filed under the Sparks Civil Service Rules waives the other appeal procedure.

#### **Article O - PERSONNEL REDUCTION**

The City will abide by the current Civil Service Rules regarding personnel reduction except that employees who pass a physical and remain otherwise qualified for the position will be subject to recall for a period up to three (3) years from the effective date of the layoff. These procedures will not be amended without thirty (30) days prior written notice of the proposed amendment and negotiation of any change which is a mandatory subject of bargaining under NRS 288.150(2).

For purposes of this Article, firefighters and firefighter paramedics are an equivalent level in the "career ladder" as defined in City of Sparks Civil Service Regulations (currently listed as Chapter VIII Layoff Procedure). This clause shall be in effect as long as any employee occupies the position of firefighter.

#### **Article P - CONSOLIDATION**

1. The City agrees to negotiate with the Firefighter representatives over the impact and effects of consolidation on represented employees. Nothing in this Article will prevent the City from making the decision to consolidate.
2. The City agrees not to sell or convey or cause to sell or convey or otherwise transfer or cause to transfer its Fire Department operations, or any function associated with fire based services within the scope of representation of the Firefighters to a new employer without first fulfilling this contract and securing the agreement of the successor employer to assume the City's and/or Sparks Fire Department's obligations under this contract.
3. In the event a bargaining agent other than Local 731, IAFF, would assume the representation rights over Firefighters, or its members or former members, then the City of Sparks shall not enter into any agreement with the successor employer regarding section (1) above until a new collective bargaining agreement between the new successor employer and succeeding bargaining agent has been completed. Such new bargaining agreement must demonstrate to Local 731's satisfaction the successor employer's assumption of the City's contract obligations per section (1) above.

#### **Article Q - SAVINGS CLAUSE**

1. This Agreement is the entire Agreement of the parties, terminating all prior arrangements and practices and concluding all negotiation during the term of this Agreement, except as provided in Section 1, Article B. The City shall, from time to time, meet with the Firefighters to discuss its views relative to the administration of this Agreement; the Firefighters may request discussions if it wishes.
2. Should any provisions of this Agreement be found to be in contravention of any federal or state law by a court of competent jurisdiction, such particular provision shall be null and void, but all other provisions of this Agreement shall remain in force and effect until otherwise canceled or amended.

## **SECTION 2 - PAY**

### **Article A - PAY RATES**

1. Pay Rates: The pay rates set forth in Appendix "A" are base pay rates for full-time service in the several classes. No person in the classified service shall be paid at a rate above the maximum or below the minimum in the range to which employee's position class is assigned.
2. Pay Periods: Each two-week period shall constitute a pay period. The pay period shall commence on Monday at 12:00 a.m. and end on Sunday at 11:59 p.m. The dates of payment shall be established by the City.
3. Initial Appointment: Upon entering the classified service, an employee shall receive compensation at the minimum of the salary range of the job classification for which employee was hired.

When economic conditions, unusual employment conditions, or exceptional qualifications of a candidate for employment indicate that a higher rate would be in the City's best interest, the Fire Chief or designee with the approval of the Human Resources Manager may authorize hiring at a rate above the minimum for the job classification for which the employee is being hired, but in all cases, the rate is not to exceed the maximum for the job classification.

4. Promotions: When an employee is promoted to a position allocated to a higher pay range, the employee shall receive a salary within the range of the new position class, but not less than the employee's salary at the time of promotion.
5. Demotions: When an employee is demoted within a position class or to a lower position class, the pay rate shall be commensurate with the employee's new status within the range of the class in which the employee was demoted.
6. Reduction within a Position Class: The Fire Chief or designee, with the approval of the City Manager may reduce an employee within a position class from the employee's current salary to any lesser salary within the salary range for that class upon failure of the employee to maintain a standard of work set forth in the position class job description. The employee may again be raised by the Fire Chief or designee, with the approval of the City Manager, to a salary not to exceed that from which the employee was reduced.
7. Permanent and Temporary Transfers: When an employee is transferred to a position in the same salary range, the employee shall receive such salary as recommended by the Fire Chief or designee, as approved by the City Manager, provided that the employee's salary will not be reduced. The forty (40) hour duties will carry increased responsibilities and include a vehicle for an employee to gain education and experience. The increased responsibility will offset the fact that the employee will be working fewer hours for approximately the same pay.

An employee may gain or lose as much as 2.6 hours of annual or sick leave in a year's time as a result of changing the employee's accrual rates.

For Example:

(40 hour)  $26 \times 4.6 = 119.6 \times 7/5 = 167.44$   
 (56 hour)  $26 \times 6.5 = 169.0$ ; or

(40 hour)  $26 \times 6.5 = 169.0 \times 7/5 = 236.60$   
 (56 hour)  $26 \times 9.0 = 234.0$

Whenever an employee is permanently or temporarily – thirty-one (31) days to six (6) months - transferred from a fifty-six (56) hour to a forty (40) hour work week, the employee shall be paid at the forty (40) hour rate, except for light duty assignment specified in Section 10 of this Article.

8. Reclassification of Position: When a job classification position is reclassified to a higher pay range, the employee in that classification shall be placed in the new pay range at a salary not less than the employee's current salary.
9. Full-Time Service: For the purposes of determining eligibility for salary advancements and accrual benefits, the term "full-time service" shall mean the number of days actually worked on a job, including absences with pay. Leave of absence without pay shall not be credited as full-time service.
10. Light Duty Pay: When an employee is assigned to light duty because of a temporary physical disability or condition, the employee shall be paid at the rate of the normal duty assignment without regard to the temporary duty schedule. A temporary light duty assignment shall not exceed six (6) calendar months without written approval of the Fire Chief and Human Resources Director after consideration of the employee's medical condition and improvement.
  - a. When an employee is assigned to light duty because of a temporary physical disability or condition, the employee shall be paid at the rate of the normal duty assignment without regard to the temporary duty schedule. A temporary duty assignment shall not exceed six (6) calendar months.
  - b. After being assigned to a 40-hour light duty schedule due to a workers' compensation injury, up to two (2) employees from each Battalion on light duty due to a workers' compensation injury may submit a written request to the Fire Chief to stay on a 56-hour schedule at a location assigned by the Fire Chief or designee. Approval of any request shall not be unreasonably denied. Denials must be based on specific and documented factors directly related to the employee's ability to perform light duty or the feasibility of assigning such a schedule, and shall be communicated in writing to the employee upon request.
  - c. All such approved schedule changes shall begin at the start of a pay period and end with the end of a pay period. Once two (2) employees from a Battalion have been authorized to stay on a 56-hour schedule while on light duty due to a workers' compensation injury, only the Fire Chief may approve a written request from additional employees from the same Battalion to stay on a 56-hour schedule while on light duty due to a workers' compensation injury.
  - d. The assigned employees from each Battalion on light duty due to workers' compensation injuries on a 56-hour schedule will not leave the assigned fire station to respond to calls for service as an emergency responder, but may leave the assigned fire station to perform support personnel duties, and will only perform light duty assignments pursuant to their doctor's restrictions. It is the employee on light duty due to a workers' compensation injury's responsibility to inform any supervisor assigning duties to the employee of the employee's restrictions.

## **Article B - PAY INCREASES**

All Firefighters employed by the City shall be paid according to this Agreement effective the first full pay period following July 1, 2024. The step advancement system shall be based on objective testing standards. Firefighters shall be paid and be confirmed by the City in the following manner:

### **1. Firefighter Recruit Position:**

The parties agree to add the position of "Firefighter Recruit" to Appendix A. The pay for this recruit position would be 95% of the minimum base pay for Firefighter and would not include any special pays, including Paramedic pay.

2. Firefighters, Fire Prevention Inspector I/II, and Fire Plans Examiner/Inspector:

- a. At the completion of a twelve (12) month probationary period, an employee in the job classification of Firefighter, Firefighter Paramedic, Fire Plans Examiner/Inspector, or Fire Prevention Inspector I whose service has been certified as satisfactory by the employee's immediate supervisor, shift supervisor and Fire Chief or designee shall be deemed a classified employee, however, the probationary period may be extended as per Civil Service Rules. A firefighter, firefighter paramedic, Fire Plans Examiner/Inspector, or Fire Prevention Inspector I hired at range minimum shall receive a step increase to Step 2, but the employee shall have successfully completed the objective examination as administered by the Fire Department.
- b. The City shall from time to time establish, with the approval of the Sparks Civil Service Commission, job descriptions for the Firefighter, Firefighter Paramedic, Fire Plans Examiner/Inspector, and Fire Prevention Inspector I/II job classifications and provide each employee with a copy of the job description for the employee's position. The job description shall state the principal assignments and responsibilities of an employee and shall be used as the basis for evaluating the employee's job performance along with the other factors utilized in the City's evaluation process.
- c. An entry-level probationary employee shall be given a work performance evaluation at the end of the 3rd, 6th, 9th, and 12th months of the employee's probationary year. The entry-level probationary employee's twelve (12) month probationary period begins upon completion of any academy required for the employee's position or the date of hire, whichever last occurs.
- d. When a work performance evaluation during the probationary year, rates a Firefighter, Firefighter Paramedic, Fire Plans Examiner/Inspector, or Fire Prevention Inspector I's performance substandard, the Fire Chief or designee shall discuss the report with the employee and set forth a written plan specifying the area(s) of deficiency, steps to be implemented to correct the area(s) of deficiency, and the scheduling of monthly or other periodic follow-up evaluations to monitor the employee's work performance.
- e. At the completion of the Firefighter's or Firefighter Paramedic's second year of employment, said employee shall receive a step salary increase to Step 3, but the employee shall have successfully completed the objective examination as administered by the Fire Department.

At the completion of the Fire Prevention Inspector I's second year of employment, an employee who has successfully completed the objective examination as administered by the Fire Department will be assigned as Fire Prevention Inspector II and shall receive a salary increase to Step 3 of the Fire Prevention Inspector II salary range.

At the completion of the Fire Plans Examiner/Inspector's second year of employment, an employee who has successfully completed the objective examination as administered by the Fire Department shall receive a salary increase to Step 3 of the Fire Plans Examiner/Inspector salary range.

- f. At the completion of the Firefighter's, Firefighter Paramedic's, Fire Plans Examiner/Inspector's, or Fire Prevention Inspector's third year of employment, said employee shall receive a step salary increase to Step 4, but the employee shall have successfully completed the objective examination as administered by the Fire Department.

3. Fire Apparatus Operator (FAO) and Fire Prevention Inspector III:

- a. Immediately upon receiving appointment to an FAO or Fire Prevention Inspector III position, the probationary employee shall receive a five percent (5%) salary increase unless the appointed employee served in the position of acting FAO with the Sparks Fire Department for a minimum of seven hundred twenty (720) hours, or Fire Prevention Inspector III with the Sparks Fire Department for a minimum of four hundred eighty (480) hours, at which time said employee shall receive Step 4 pay.

- b. If promoted below Step 4, at the completion of not less than six (6) months and not more than one (1) year probationary period, said employee shall receive an increase in salary to Step 4.
  - c. The City shall from time to time establish, with the approval of the Sparks Civil Service Commission, job descriptions for FAO and Fire Prevention Inspector III job classifications and provide each employee with a copy of the job description for the employee's position. The job description shall state the principal assignments and responsibilities of an employee and shall be used as the basis for evaluating the employee's job performance along with the other factors utilized in the City's evaluation process.
  - d. An entry-level probationary employee shall be given a work performance evaluation at the end of the 3rd and 6th months of the employee's probationary period.
  - e. When a work performance evaluation during the probationary year rates an FAO or Fire Prevention Inspector III's performance as substandard, the Fire Chief or designee shall discuss the report with the employee and set forth a written plan specifying the area(s) of deficiency, steps to be implemented to correct the area(s) of deficiency, and the scheduling of monthly or other periodic follow-up evaluations to monitor the employee's work performance.
4. Fire Captain or Assistant Fire Marshal:
- a. Immediately upon receiving appointment to Fire Captain or Assistant Fire Marshal, the probationary employee shall receive a five percent (5%) salary increase unless the appointed employee served in the position of acting Fire Captain or Assistant Fire Marshal with the Sparks Fire Department for a minimum of seven hundred twenty (720) hours, at which time said employee shall receive Step 4 pay.
  - b. If promoted below Step 4, at the completion of not less than six (6) months and not more than one (1) year probationary period, said employee shall receive an increase in salary to Step 4.
  - c. The City shall from time to time establish, with the approval of the Sparks Civil Service Commission, job descriptions for the Fire Captain or Assistant Fire Marshal job classifications and provide each employee with a copy of the job description for the employee's position. The job description shall state the principal assignments and responsibilities of an employee and shall be used as the basis for evaluating the employee's job performance along with the other factors utilized in the City's evaluation process.
  - d. An entry-level probationary employee shall be given a work performance evaluation at the end of the 3rd and 6th months of the employee's probationary period. When a work performance evaluation during the probationary year rates a Fire Captain or Assistant Fire Marshal's performance as substandard, the Fire Chief or designee shall discuss the report with the employee and set forth a written plan specifying the area(s) of deficiency, steps to be implemented to correct the area(s) of deficiency, and the scheduling of monthly or other periodic follow-up evaluations to monitor the employee's work performance.
- 5. With respect to any probationary employee or any employee scheduled to receive a step advancement, if the objective test to be administered by the Sparks Fire Department is not completed within six (6) months of the Firefighter being placed in the particular position, then the Fire Chief or designee shall set forth in writing reasons for an extension in time. In no case shall the extension exceed an additional six (6) months.
  - 6. Regarding Paragraph 4, the Fire Chief or designee shall certify that the decision is not based upon budgetary constraints.
  - 7. City agrees that employees covered by this Collective Bargaining Agreement shall have the right to review a list of subject matter and comment as to any proposed certification test to be administered by the Fire Department.
  - 8. The City will abide by the current Civil Service Rules regarding promotion. The City agrees to discuss with the Firefighters and to allow the Firefighters input into the review of the testing procedures to be used in said promotional exam. Thirty (30) days prior to the posting of a promotional examination a representative of the

Firefighters may meet and confer with representatives of the City to discuss position requirements and promotional testing procedures as they relate to any promotions involving any such job classifications. Nothing in this section relinquishes any Management Right. The promotional procedures will not be amended without thirty (30) days' prior written notice of proposed amendment and negotiation of any change which is a mandatory subject of bargaining under NRS 288.150(2).

### **Article C - OVERTIME PAY**

1. **Overtime:** All hours of work officially ordered and approved in excess of an employee's basic work period (straight time) are overtime.
  - a. **Contractual Overtime:** Contractual overtime is overtime specified in this collective bargaining agreement other than FLSA overtime. Contractual overtime includes scheduled overtime, emergency and non-emergency callback and special event overtime. Contractual overtime shall be paid on a time and one-half basis of the employee's basic rate of pay or, at the option of the employee, credited to their Overtime or Callback bank at the rate of one and one half (1.5) hours for every one (1) hour of overtime or callback worked.
  - b. **FLSA Overtime:** FLSA overtime is computed and paid at time and one-half the employee's regular hourly rate for all hours in excess of forty (40) hours actually worked during the employee's assigned seven (7) day work period for forty (40) hour employees and for all hours in excess of ninety-one (91) hours actually worked during the employee's assigned twelve (12) day work period for fifty-six (56) hour employees. Employees are not entitled to both Contractual and FLSA Overtime for the same hours worked.
2. **Extension of the Work Day:** If an employee arrives to duty within one (1) hour prior to or remains on duty after employee's regularly scheduled shift has ended as a result of either an emergency incident, to maintain minimum staffing, an inspection or other event, such additional work shall be regarded as an extension of the work day. Such extensions of the work day shall be paid as overtime pay for the actual duration of the extension. Extensions of the work day are not subject to the two (2) hour minimum in Paragraph 3 of this Section.

Cancellation of an extension of the work day is not subject to a two (2) hour minimum in Paragraph 3 unless the employee is given less than twelve (12) hours' notice of the cancellation. Extension of the work day shall be counted against the time list the same as non-emergency overtime, with the exception of an employee who is extended due to emergency that started prior to the time of the scheduled shift.

3. **Two (2) Hour Minimum:** An employee who is called back in situations not covered by Paragraph 2 of this Section for any overtime work required of an employee on a day when no work was scheduled for the employee, or for which the employee is required to return to the place of employment, and where less than twelve (12) hours' notice has been provided to the employee shall be considered to be at least two (2) hours in duration.

Any Fire Prevention Inspector I, II, or III or Assistant Fire Marshal who is called back in situations not covered in Paragraph 2 for any overtime work required of an employee on a day when no work was scheduled for the employee, or for which the employee is required to return to the place of employment, including while on standby pay, shall be considered to be at least two (2) hours in duration regardless of the time notification.

4. **Callback Compensation:** Callback shall be compensated as per Paragraph 1(a) of this article, NRS 286.025 and PERS Revised Official Policies 286.025.
5. **Emergency Callback:** For purposes of this Agreement, emergency callback overtime shall be defined as overtime required due to response to an emergency incident alarm, including, but not limited to, working incidents, natural or manmade disasters, and civil disorders where less than twelve (12) hours' notice of the callback has been provided to the employee. Emergency Callback overtime may also be required to maintain staffing levels and shall not be counted on the overtime list and is subject to a two (2) hour minimum.

6. Non-Emergency Callback: For purposes of this Agreement, Non-Emergency Callback shall be defined as overtime required to maintain staffing levels where less than twelve (12) hours' notice of the callback has been provided to the employee. Non-Emergency Callback shall be counted against the time list the same as scheduled overtime. Cancellation of Non-Emergency Callback shall be subject to the two (2) hour minimum in Paragraph 3 of this Section.
7. Scheduled Overtime: For purposes of this Agreement, scheduled overtime shall be prearranged with at least twelve (12) hours' notice given, or as an extension of the regularly scheduled day in order to maintain required staffing, or for situations not covered under 5, 6 or 8 of this Article. Scheduled Overtime shall be paid for the actual hours or fractions of hours worked, unless it meets the requirements for cancellation of scheduled overtime, or as otherwise provided for in Paragraph 3 of this Section. Cancellation of Scheduled Overtime is not subject to a two (2) hour minimum in Paragraph 3 of this Section unless the employee is given less than twelve (12) hours' notice of the cancellation.
8. Special Event Overtime: Overtime will be paid to off-duty employees who represent the Department at non-traditional fire suppression or prevention activities. Employees who are interested in working Special Event Overtime shall place their names on a sign-up list posted not less than seven (7) calendar days in advance of the event. If more employees sign up for the event than are needed, first preference for time and date to be worked will be given to individuals as they appear in the Department's Special Event Overtime list. Overtime work by employees at special events shall be approved in advance by the Fire Chief or designee and shall be subject to the needs of the department. Effective upon approval of this Agreement by the City Council, employees who work a special event for which the City issues a "special event permit" shall be paid at the rate of two times the employee's FLSA regular rate.

In certain circumstances, such as for testing validation, the same individual may be needed to work the special event assignment overtime on consecutive days. When this situation occurs, the Fire Chief or designee will notify the IAFF President or designee, before posting the sign-up list. This sign-up list will indicate that the same individual(s) will be needed for the duration of the event. If a member is scheduled for a regular shift assignment during the event, another member will be selected from the event sign up list to cover that member's regularly scheduled shift.

9. Meals: An employee working a four (4) hour period of overtime because the employee was called back to or ordered to stay on duty for an emergency incident shall be allowed a meal break and the meal shall be appropriate to the time of day. The employee shall, at the option of the City, either be reimbursed for any such meal up to a maximum of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) or have such meal purchased for the employee by the City.
10. Day Light Savings: Time changes in accordance with Day Light Savings will be compensated in the following manner:
  - a. Spring Forward: The advancing of the clock by one (1) hour shall have no effect on employee compensation and the recording of time worked.
  - b. Fall Back: The setting back of the clock by one (1) hour results in the on-duty employee working one extra hour. The employee will be compensated for this hour as per this Article. In the case of Shift Trade and HCT, the employee who shift traded will receive the extra hour, not the relief employee. These hours are not subject to the two (2) hour minimum in Paragraph 3 of this Section.

#### **Article D - EDUCATIONAL INCENTIVE PAY AND EDUCATIONAL LEAVE**

1. Educational Incentive: An employee shall receive payment for education as follows:
  - a. The rate of one and one-half percent (1.5%) of the employee's base salary for the successful completion of thirty (30) credits which are acceptable by Truckee Meadows Community College toward a degree in Fire Science, or as approved by the Fire Chief or designee and Human Resources; or, three percent (3%) of the employee's base pay for the successful completion of the requirements for the degree of Associate in

Applied Science in Fire Science, Fire Administration, Fire Management, General Studies, Public Administration, Criminal Justice, or a closely related field. Such payment shall be payable biweekly. Education Incentive will not be paid until a certified transcript is provided to Human Resources, and will not be retroactive.

- b. An employee earning a Bachelor's Degree from an "accredited" institution shall receive three percent (3%) of the employee's base biweekly pay. Such payment shall be payable biweekly. Education Incentive will not be paid until a certified transcript is provided to Human Resources, and will not be retroactive. See matrix below.
- c. An employee who is eligible for both educational incentives (AA and Bachelor's) shall receive six percent (6%) of the employee's base biweekly pay. Employees earning the Bachelor's Incentive will not receive the one and a half percent (1.5%) for credits earned towards an AA in Fire Science. Education Incentive will not be paid until a certified transcript is provided to Human Resources, and will not be retroactive. See matrix below.
- d. An Employee earning a Bachelor's Degree in Fire Science, Fire Administration, Fire Management, General Studies, Public Administration, Criminal Justice, or a closely related field will receive six percent (6%) of the employee's base biweekly pay. Employees earning this incentive will not receive the one and a half percent (1.5%) for credits earned towards an AA in Fire Science. Education Incentive will not be paid until a certified transcript is provided to Human Resources, and will not be retroactive. See matrix below.

Paragraph	Education	Percentage
a	30 credits toward Fire Science (not combined with any other)	1.5%
a	AA in Fire Science, Fire Administration, Fire Management, General Studies, Public Administration, Criminal Justice, or a closely related field	3%
b	Bachelor (any degree)	3%
c	AA in Fire Science plus Bachelor (any degree)	6%
d	Bachelor - Fire Science, Fire Administration, Fire Management, General Studies, Public Administration, Criminal Justice, or a closely related field	6%

- e. No employee receiving educational incentive pay as of July 1, 2024, shall have it removed as a result of this agreement.

2. Educational Leave: The purpose of Educational Leave is to enable an employee to attend professional development training or classes when scheduled to work. Educational Leave will not be used for mandatory departmental training.

Educational Leave may be used when an employee is scheduled to work but desires to attend any educational instruction specified in Section 3 - Article D. Employees shall be eligible for up to a maximum of seventy-two (72) hours of Educational Leave per fiscal year.

The minimum number of hours of educational leave per request will be: Forty (40) hour employees – one (1) hour Fifty-six (56) hour employees – four (4) hours. One (1) hour if employee is going off shift.

If the employee returns early from Educational Leave, they may be credited back time (only in whole hours) provided that the vacancy was covered with on-duty staffing. If the vacancy was covered with overtime, and the cover employee agrees to fewer hours, the employee on Educational Leave may also be credited back hours (only in whole hours).



An employee will be required to give ninety-six (96) hours advance notice to the shift supervisor (BC or Fire Marshal) when Educational Leave will be taken. The operating requirements of the City as determined by the Fire Chief or designee shall prevail.

**Article E - SPECIAL DUTIES DIFFERENTIAL PAY**

1. Special Team Pay:

- a. Employees who maintain on an annual basis the Sparks Fire Department requirements for the Hazardous Materials Team, who are certified as Hazardous Material Technicians, and who are assigned to the Hazardous Materials team shall receive special duty pay equal to three percent (3%) of base pay paid biweekly.
- b. Employees who maintain on an annual basis the Sparks Fire Department requirements for Technical Rescue including but not limited to confined space rescue, trench rescue, high angle rescue, structural collapse rescue, and who are assigned to the Technical Rescue team shall receive special duty pay equal to three percent (3%) of the base pay paid biweekly.
- c. Employees who maintain on an annual basis the Sparks Fire Department requirements for Water Rescue, and are assigned to the Water Rescue team shall receive special duty pay equal to three percent (3%) of the base pay paid biweekly.
- d. Employees who maintain on an annual basis the Sparks Fire Department requirements for Fire Investigator, and are assigned to the Fire Investigation on-call team shall receive special duty pay equal to three percent (3%) of base pay paid biweekly.
- e. Multiple Team Pay: An employee assigned to multiple teams set forth in this Article or any other special teams added to this agreement in the future shall only be eligible for a maximum of two (2), three percent (3%) special duties differential pay paid biweekly. Special duties teams are subject to the Standard Operating Procedures adopted, amended or repealed by the Sparks Fire Department. Special duties differential pay terminates on the employee's failure to meet the Sparks Fire Department requirements for the special team(s) or on the City's decision to retire or discontinue a special team(s).

2. Emergency Medical Technician –The City has determined that a Nevada Advanced Emergency Medical (EMT-A) certification is an essential function for the jobs of Firefighter, Fire Apparatus Operator and Fire Captain. Employees who have a current EMT-A and are on a one hundred and twelve (112) hour schedule will receive an increase in their base pay (see Appendix A). Employees who have a current EMT-A and are on an 80-hour schedule will also receive an increase to their base pay (see Appendix A).

The City agrees to pay for the cost of renewal of EMT-A certificate.

3. Paramedic Pay:

- a. Firefighter Paramedics: Current City of Sparks Firefighters who wish to transfer to the position of Firefighter Paramedic and who have the proper Paramedic Certification and Nevada License may do so by making the election to Human Resources. This assignment will require a three (3) year commitment from the Firefighter during which time the Nevada Paramedic Certification must be maintained. After three (3) years, those individuals who have elected to take the position of Firefighter Paramedic may elect to subsequently renew such commitment every three (3) years or return to the position of Firefighter. Such election to return to Firefighter shall result in the applicable decrease in pay as set forth in Appendix A. Firefighters must maintain the EMT-A certification in accordance with Paragraph 2 of this Section.
- b. Employees hired after January 1, 2017, who are hired in or assigned to the position of Firefighter Paramedic must possess and maintain their Nevada Paramedic Certification while in the position of Firefighter Paramedic. The pay rates for Firefighter Paramedic are set forth in Appendix A.

- c. **Fire Captain and Fire Apparatus Operator:** Consistent with other special duty pay practices, all current Fire Captains and Fire Apparatus Operators who possess a Nevada Paramedic Certification and choose to perform the duties associated with Paramedic special duties will be required to sign an initial three (3) year commitment letter to maintain said Nevada Paramedic Certification, with subsequent renewals for a period of three (3) years.

Fire Captains and Fire Apparatus Operators who possess and maintain a Paramedic certification and a Nevada License and comply with the licensing requirements of a paramedic certification, including any ongoing education and training requirements imposed by the Sparks Fire Department, and choose to sign a three (3) year commitment letter shall receive the following additional special pay at the following schedule:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Percent of employee's base pay (excluding all other special pays)</b>
Fire Apparatus Operator	3.0%
Fire Captain	3.0%

Effective the first full pay period following July 1, 2026:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Percent of employee's base pay (excluding all other special pays)</b>
Fire Apparatus Operator	5.0%
Fire Captain	5.0%

The City agrees to pay for all associated costs of renewal of Nevada Paramedic certificate for any Firefighter Paramedic, Fire Apparatus Operators and Fire Captains who maintain their paramedic license.

In the event a Fire Captain or Fire Apparatus Operator's Paramedic Certification lapses or is not maintained, the special pay shall cease. The Fire Captain or Fire Apparatus Operator shall inform Human Resources within twenty-four (24) hours of the employee's receipt of notification of loss or cessation of the Paramedic Certification and Nevada Paramedic License. Fire Captain or Fire Apparatus Operator shall maintain the EMT-A Certification in accordance with Paragraph 2 of this Section.

4. **Bilingual Pay:** Employees who are bilingual shall be entitled to bilingual pay in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) biweekly. The City will design and implement a testing process to determine whether an Employee qualifies for bilingual pay. Bilingual pay will be effective with the first full pay period after the Employee's qualification for bilingual pay. Employees receiving bilingual pay must make themselves available while on duty to engage in translation duties and must comply with any request they receive while on duty to engage in translation. An employee who fails to comply with this provision may be removed from the list of employees eligible to receive bilingual pay.
5. **Instructor/Preceptor Special Assignment:** An employee who is both:
- Certified by a recognized authority or Sparks Fire Department as an instructor, preceptor, or having a special skillset; and
  - Assigned in writing by the Fire Chief or designee to serve as a designated instructor, preceptor, or to use the special skillset to benefit the Department by providing scheduled or assigned training, instruction, or preceptor work;

shall receive five percent (5.0%) of the employee's base pay rate for all hours assigned to training, instruction, or preceptor work. This incentive will not be provided to employees simply for professional development or company-level efficiency, nor will it be provided on the sole basis of an employee obtaining a relevant certification.

6. **Medic Unit Pay:** An employee assigned to an in-service Medic Unit shall be entitled to special assignment pay equal to five percent (5%) of base pay for the hours so assigned. This will be paid retroactively from July 1, 2024.

#### **Article F - ACTING TEMPORARY PAY**

1. Any classified employee who has been confirmed to employee's position may be temporarily assigned to serve in an acting capacity in a position allocated to a higher pay range than that in which the employee is employed so long as the employee is certified in the higher position. If an employee is temporarily assigned the duty of such position, employee shall, for each day thereafter so assigned be termed an "Acting Temporary" employee.
2. Any classified employee who is certified in the higher position shall receive compensation five percent (5%) greater than employee's regular compensation beginning with the first shift of such temporary work assignment. Upon termination of the temporary assignment, the employee shall return to employee's original compensation. At no time will the acting pay exceed the pay of the top step of the higher classification.
3. A Firefighter, Fire Apparatus Operator, or Fire Captain who is certified in the higher position and has served in an "Acting Temporary" capacity for seven hundred twenty (720) hours, shall receive Step 4 pay for the higher-rated classification in which the employee is serving, beginning with the first hour after seven hundred twenty (720) hours worked in such higher-rated position.
4. A Fire Prevention Inspector I, II, or III who is qualified to serve in the higher position and has served in an "Acting Temporary" capacity for four hundred eighty (480) hours shall receive Step 4 pay for the higher rated classification in which the employee is serving, beginning with the first hour after four hundred eighty (480) hours worked in such higher-rated position. An Assistant Fire Marshal who is qualified to serve as a Fire Marshal and has served in an "Acting Temporary" capacity as such for four hundred eighty (480) hours shall receive the top step for the Fire Marshal position, beginning with the first hour after four hundred eighty (480) hours worked as a Fire Marshal.

#### **Article G - STAND-BY DUTY**

1. **Definition:** A period of non-duty hours when employee is assigned to be available to respond to their duty station without delay. The Fire Chief or designee may assign Stand-By Duty at their discretion when an emergency exists or when it is in the best interest of the City to have off-duty employees ready to respond without delay.
2. **Requirements:** An employee assigned to Stand-By Duty, to accrue Stand-By pay, must adhere to the following:
  - a. Carry a departmental pager or provide a telephone number where they can be contacted.
  - b. Report for duty to the nearest Sparks Fire Station within one (1) hour after being paged or called. The one (1) hour requirement may be waived if the roadway system has been compromised by the emergency.
3. **Pay/Benefits:** The employee assigned by the Fire Chief or designee to Stand-By Duty shall be entitled to stand-by pay at the rate of one-quarter (1/4) of their base hourly rate for each one (1) hour period of stand-by duty. When an employee is called back to work while on stand-by duty, stand-by pay shall stop and the employee shall be paid at their time and one-half (1½) hourly rate from the time of the page or call. The provisions of Article C, Paragraph 3 of this Agreement shall apply. When an employee is no longer required to be on duty, employee may be placed back on stand-by duty status or released to off-duty status.
4. **Fire Investigator:** Weekend fire investigations will be handled by an "On-Call" Investigator. Fire Investigators will work respective weekend on-call shifts based on the rotating 'On-Call' schedule from 6:00 p.m. Friday to 7:00 a.m. the following Monday. In order to be eligible for on-call pay, the on-call Fire Investigator must be able to respond to the Fire Department within one (1) hour of the initial call or page. An on-call list will be kept up-to-date at the Fire Department, each station, and at Sparks Police Dispatch. If any changes occur during the Fire

Investigator's weekend on-call shift, the employee shall notify each agency of the change. Effective the first full pay period following October 14, 2002, the weekend on-call Fire Investigator shall be compensated for on-call time at the rate of one-fourth (1/4th) hour pay at the regular hourly rate for each one (1) hour period of on-call time. If an Investigator is called to active duty while on-call, the Investigator shall be paid in accordance with Section 2, Article C of this Agreement. All hours prior to and following the active duty shall be paid at the on-call rate. In no instance will an Investigator be paid both on-call pay and stand-by pay concurrently.

#### **Article H - EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY**

1. **Eligibility:** All employees who have completed five (5) years of service with the City, with each year being computed to the 16th day of November, shall be entitled to longevity pay in addition to regular pay and benefits.
2. **Amount of Longevity Pay:** Employees shall earn longevity pay at the rate of one half of one percent (0.5%) of annual base salary multiplied by the number of years of service with the City up to a maximum of ten percent (10%), or eight thousand dollars (\$8,000.00) per year whichever is the lesser amount. Effective July 1, 2025, employees shall earn longevity pay at the rate of one half of one percent (0.5%) of annual base salary multiplied by the number of years of service with the City up to a maximum of ten percent (10%) or nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) per year whichever is the lesser amount. The calculation used in an example is as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Base Salary} \times \text{Number of Months Employed} \times .005}{12}$$

3. **Computation and Payment of Longevity Pay:** The longevity pay shall be computed from the longevity date through November 16th of the year being paid. For purposes of computation, a longevity date prior to the 16th of a month shall cause that month to be counted as a month of employment.

Longevity pay for all eligible employees shall be paid no later than the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving.

4. **Creditable Service for Longevity Computation:** All periods of classified full-time employment with the City shall be considered as creditable service for the purpose of computing longevity eligibility service.

This will be interpreted to include all previous classified City employment, provided the employee's service was terminated under honorable conditions and that not more than five (5) years lapsed between any periods of termination and reentering City employment. Any period in which an employee was, while employed by the City, called into the active military service of the United States Armed Forces will be considered as creditable service for computation of longevity pay.

5. **Non-Creditable Service for Longevity Computation:**
  - a. Any periods that an employee is on authorized leave of absence will be deducted from the creditable service time for longevity pay.
6. **Payment of Longevity Pay upon Termination:** An eligible employee shall be paid applicable longevity pay upon termination of employment with the City, provided the employee leaves under honorable conditions. Payment will be prorated by dividing the number of whole months worked since the preceding November 15 by twelve (12) and multiplying by the Longevity Computation or the employee maximum, whichever is less.
7. **Payment of Longevity Pay upon Death:** Longevity pay shall be paid to the employee's beneficiary or estate. Longevity will not be prorated upon death. The full annual amount will be paid.

#### **Article I - CLOTHING AND PERSONAL ITEM ALLOWANCE**

1. **Uniform Allowance:** Employees who are required to maintain uniforms shall be paid a uniform allowance for the proper maintenance of uniforms. This allowance shall be thirty dollars and no cents (\$30.00) per week,

computed from Monday at 12:00 a.m. through Sunday at 11:59 p.m. All uniform allowance shall be payable with the employee's regular pay each pay period.

Employees hired on or after the date this agreement is ratified shall receive the uniform allowance for their first fifty-two (52) weeks of employment in a single lump sum, payable with their first paycheck, to enable new employees to purchase required uniforms at the beginning of employment. Such an employee shall not receive the weekly payment of the uniform allowance until they have been employed by the City for fifty-three (53) weeks.

2. Protective Clothing and Equipment: The City agrees to supply protective clothing and protective equipment appropriate to the job duties for all employees covered by this contract. The City further agrees to replace protective clothing and protective equipment when they become worn, damaged, obsolete, or no longer meet minimum safety standards. Protective clothing and protective equipment shall meet current NFPA and OSHA standards whenever applicable.

The first pair of wild land boots will be furnished by the City at no cost to employees. Wild land boots purchased after the effective date of this agreement will meet the NFPA and OSHA standards for wild land fire boots. These boots will be repaired or replaced if damaged while being worn during a wild land fire incident. If the employee chooses to wear the boots other than for wild land fire incidents, normal wear and tear will not be considered for replacement and shall be the responsibility of the employee.

3. Watches and Eyeglasses: The City agrees to reimburse employees for watches and eyeglasses that are damaged, lost or destroyed on the fire ground or while performing job-related duties to a maximum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each incident, as certified by the Fire Chief or designee.

#### **Article J - PAYMENT UPON DEATH OF AN EMPLOYEE**

Upon the death of an employee, the City Manager shall instruct the Financial Services Director concerning the disposition of all compensation due and payable.

#### **Article K - DEFERRED COMPENSATION MATCH**

Effective the first full pay period of July 2021, each employee that is an active participant and contributes a minimum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per pay period to a City approved Deferred Compensation program, will have their contributions matched by the City, not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per pay period.

#### **Article L - WELLNESS ALLOWANCE**

In order to facilitate Employees obtaining cancer screening according to NFPA 1582 and any successor document, effective the first full pay period following July 1, 2021, each Employee shall receive a one-time increase to annual base pay rates in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). This increase shall be applied before any cost of living adjustment. Further, effective the first full pay period following July 1, 2024, each Employee shall receive a one-time increase to annual base pay rates in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). This increase shall be applied before any cost of living adjustment.

### **SECTION 3 - BENEFITS**

#### **Article A - GROUP HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE**

1. Eligibility: All employees are eligible to enroll in the group health and life insurance, and may after initial employment, on the first day of calendar the month following employment, enroll in the City's group health and life insurance plan provided, however, such employee is not excluded from enrollment by conditions of the City's Group Health Insurance Plan Document.
2. City-Employee Share of Premium:

- a. The City shall pay one hundred percent (100%) of the premiums for the group health and life insurance coverage for each employee. Effective July 1, 2007, the City will pay seventy-five percent (75%) of the employee's eligible dependent's group health plan premiums (health, dental, vision, life), employees will pay twenty-five percent (25%) of their eligible dependent's group health plan premiums (health, dental, vision, life) via automatic payroll deductions.
  - b. The City shall maintain an equal or better standard of group health insurance coverage unless change is agreed to as provided in Paragraph 3 of this Article.
  - c. An employee on leave without pay who exceeds the limits set by the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) may continue the group health insurance coverage by pre-paying the entire one hundred percent (100%) premium amount to the City.
3. Group Health Care Committee: The purpose of this Committee is to discuss cost containment measures and to recommend to the City Council any benefit changes to the City's self-insured group health and life insurance plan.

The Committee shall be comprised of one (1) voting members and one (1) alternate member from each of the following recognized bargaining units:

- Operating Engineers (OE3)
- Sparks Police Protective Association (SPPA)
- International Association of Firefighters (IAFF)

The Committee shall also be comprised of one non-voting member and one alternate member from each of the following represented and non-represented groups to provide input to voting members:

- Operating Engineers Supervisory Unit
- Confidential
- Management Professional/Appointed
- Classified Chief Officers

One (1) retired employee and alternate will serve to provide input on the effect of any changes upon retirees.

The Committee Chairperson and Vice-chairperson will be appointed by the City Manager and will not have a vote on the Committee.

The voting member of each recognized bargaining unit shall have the authority to bind said bargaining unit to any modification in benefits recommended to the City Council subject to ratification of at least two (2) of the voting members (OE3, SPPA, IAFF). Any two (2) of the listed three (3) bargaining units can bind the remaining bargaining units to changes to the City's self-insured group health and life insurance plans. Any modification in benefits agreed to by the City Council on recommendation of the committee shall be binding upon each represented and non-represented group.

4. Benefits upon Retirement: Any employee with a minimum of twenty (20) years of service with the City, who retires after July 1, 2005, and qualifies for retirement benefits under Nevada PERS will be entitled to the following benefit:
  - a. For employees who retire before September 22, 2025, the City will pay sixty percent (60%) of the health insurance premiums (medical, dental, vision, life) under the City's group health insurance plan for the retired employee and employee's spouse at the time of retirement and so long as married to the retiree. However, this benefit cannot be combined with any employer subsidy under Nevada Law. For employees who retire on or after September 22, 2025, the City will pay seventy percent (70%) of the health insurance premiums (medical, dental, vision, life) under the City's group health insurance plan for the retired

employee and the employee's spouse at the time of retirement and so long as married to the retiree. However, this benefit cannot be combined with any employer subsidy under Nevada Law.

- b. When the retired employee reaches the eligibility age for Medicare benefits, the City agrees to pay fifty percent (50%) of the health insurance premiums (medical, dental, vision, life) only for the retired employee. The retired employees' benefit will continue until the retired employee's death.
- c. Spousal survivor benefits: in the event of the retiree's death, the covered spouse's benefit shall continue until the spouse's death, remarriage, or the date the retiree would have reached the age of Medicare eligibility, whichever occurs first.
- d. Sick leave conversion benefits pursuant to Section 3, Article B may be applied toward the remaining portion of the monthly health insurance premium so long as there is a balance of accumulated sick leave conversion funds.
- e. Any employee who retires under Nevada PERS after July 1, 2005, may continue the group health insurance coverage for that portion not covered under Paragraph D by paying in advance the monthly premium amount calculated for employees/dependent(s) to the City.

#### **Article B - SICK LEAVE CONVERSION**

1. **Eligibility:** Employees who elect to have sick leave payoff in cash in accordance with this agreement are not entitled to elect conversion of accumulated sick leave to an insurance benefit. Employees electing sick leave conversion to an insurance benefit are not entitled to sick leave payoff in cash.
2. **Conversion of Accumulated Sick Leave:** Employees retiring and qualifying for retirement under Nevada PERS with a minimum of fifteen (15) years of total service with the City of Sparks may elect to convert the following percentages of the employee's accumulated sick leave balance to an unfunded city account for the purpose of paying for coverage under the City's group health insurance plan on a monthly basis.

<b>Years of Service</b>	<b>Conversion Percentage</b>
15	50%
16	55%
17	60%
18	65%
19	70%
20	75%
21	80%
22	85%
23	90%
24	95%
25 or more	100%

The account is assigned a present value as of the date of retirement equal to the number of hours of accumulated sick leave multiplied by the employee's base hourly rate multiplied by the conversion percentage at the time of retirement. The City will account for a retiree's accumulated sick leave and debit said account on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

The City will pay the retiree's group health coverage so long as there is a balance of accumulated sick leave conversion funds. The fund to which the accumulated sick leave balance is credited does not accrue interest and does not have cash value.

When a retired employee becomes eligible for Medicare coverage or other federal programs, the retiree will receive Medicare supplemental coverage from the City's group health insurance plan so long as there is a balance of accumulated sick leave conversion funds, or the retiree agrees to pay for the costs themselves.

A surviving spouse will continue to receive group health insurance coverage as set forth in Section 3, Article A so long as there is a balance of accumulated sick leave conversion funds, or the coverage is paid for by the surviving spouse. This benefit is nontransferable and does not survive the retiree except as to a surviving spouse as described above.

#### **Article C - RETIREMENT**

1. Except as provided in Section 2 below, the retirement rights of the employees are as provided by the statutes of the State of Nevada (NRS Chapter 286).
2. Effective the first pay period in July 1981, the City shall pay all employee Firefighter contributions to the Nevada Police and Firemen's Retirement Fund, as specified in Chapter 286 of NRS.

#### **Article D - TUITION REIMBURSEMENT**

Employees will be reimbursed for tuition and job-related training, not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) per fiscal year effective the first full pay period following ratification of this agreement by both parties, for required and elective courses in a degree or UNR certificate program in which the employee is enrolled in fire science, public or business administration, management, or political science; and/or for training programs or seminars that are directly related to improving the employee's proficiency in performing duties of their current position or to the employee's career advancement within Sparks Fire Department. Tuition reimbursement is also available for advanced training in a fire science program or fire related courses and seminars with advance written approval by the Fire Chief or designee and Human Resources Manager.

For tuition reimbursement to be considered (subject to final approval), advanced notice of tuition reimbursement requests must be submitted to the Fire Chief or designee, prior to the class start date and time. In the case the employee has limited notice of the training opportunity, an email may be submitted to the Fire Chief or designee, and shall serve as advanced notice when followed up by the completion of the appropriate documentation on the employee's next work shift. If no request is submitted to the Fire Chief or designee, prior to the class start date and time, the employee will be ineligible for tuition reimbursement.

Payment will be made only upon receipt of proof of course completion with a final grade of "C" or higher. Where a course is graded "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory", only the "satisfactory" grade will be accepted. Where a course is not graded, payment will be made upon receipt of a Certificate of Completion.

Reimbursable expenses shall include fees or tuition for seminars, classes, or training programs, reasonable costs for required course materials, lodging, meals, and transportation expenses that do not exceed the City's travel policy.

#### **Article E - PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**

All classified Fire Department employees covered under this Agreement shall be required to have a complete medical examination conducted each calendar year, and receive mental health training as prescribed under NRS 616, 617, 616C.180 and NAC 616, 617.

The medical examination shall be accomplished by a licensed medical doctor who shall be required to report the findings of the physical examination to the Human Resources Manager. The City will designate the physician who is to perform the physical examination. The physical examination shall consist of all those essential elements to determine the physical fitness of the employee as prescribed under NRS 616, 617 and NAC 616, 617.

The employees required to have examinations shall have their physical examination accomplished during the month of their individual birth date of each calendar year.



Employees will be entitled to schedule up to three (3) hours of paid overtime during off-duty hours to complete the annual physical examination.

#### **SECTION 4 - LEAVE BENEFITS**

##### **Article A - HOLIDAYS AND HOLIDAY PAY**

1. The following legal holidays will be observed:

New Year's Day	January 1
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday	3rd Monday in January
Washington's Birthday	3rd Monday in February
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
Juneteenth Day	June 19
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	1st Monday in September
Nevada Day	Last Friday in October
Veteran's Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thanksgiving Day
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday after Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day	December 25

and any other day that might be declared a holiday by the Mayor of the City of Sparks, or by the Governor of the State of Nevada, or by the President of the United States. Temporary employees are ineligible for holiday benefits.

All fifty-six (56) hour employees shall receive twelve (12) hours of holiday pay for holidays specified in Section 1 of this Article.

When any such shift employee volunteers to provide another such shift employee who is scheduled to work any such holiday with time off on said holiday for a minimum of twelve (12) hours, the relieving employee shall receive twenty-four (24) hours of holiday pay for working the said holiday calculated at the employee's rate of pay. The employee taking the time off shall still receive regular compensation for the holiday in question.

Where one of the above holidays occurs when an employee is scheduled to work a forty (40) hour week, the employee will be paid at straight time (paid holiday) for their normally scheduled hours as the employee's holiday. Where one of the above holiday's falls on an employee's first scheduled day off, the preceding day shall be observed as the employee's holiday. Where one of the above holiday's falls on the employee's second or succeeding scheduled day off, the succeeding work day shall be observed as the employee's holiday.

Any forty (40) hour employee who works one of the above holidays shall receive two (2) times base pay for the holiday hours worked. Any work other than during an employee's regularly scheduled work week shall be considered "overtime."

##### **2. Holiday Compensatory Time (HCT)**

- a. Election of HCT: All fifty-six (56) hour work week, twenty-four (24) hour shift employees who have satisfactorily completed their entry-level probationary period in the suppression division may elect to receive HCT in lieu of holiday pay, as provided in Paragraph 1 above. The election will be made by the employee in writing and such election shall remain in force and effect until changed at a subsequent election. An employee may elect to exit the program at any time. Upon such election the employee will be paid for accumulated hours in accordance with paragraph F below. Employees not enrolled in the HCT

program are not eligible to earn, trade, or maintain HCT. HCT will be earned at the rate of twelve (12) hours/holiday after the holiday is worked.

- b. Scheduling HCT: A requesting employee who has earned and accrued HCT in excess of twelve (12) hours may request HCT off by first obtaining a written agreement from a qualified relief employee(s) of equal (non-acting) rank to work the HCT off in accordance with all the requirements of this Article. HCT will be used in a minimum block of four (4) hours.

Use of accrued HCT is subject to the approval of the agreement by the requesting employee and relief employees' immediate supervisor(s) at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the affected shift. Approval for such time off shall not be unreasonably withheld. HCT will be tracked in the Fire Department timekeeping system.

- c. Deduction of HCT: For each shift off, any employee approved to use HCT will have accrued hours deleted from the employee's accrued holiday pay/holiday compensatory time in four (4) hour blocks and will receive no pay or other prorated monetary benefits for such HCT, except as provided below for payment for unused HCT. The accounting of the deletion of the blocks of four (4) hours of accrued compensatory time per shift of the requesting employee will be the sole basis for payment of the relief employee at no additional cost impact to the City. The exception to the four (4) hour block is emergency callback, which will be treated in the same manner as shift trades.
- d. Compensation for Relief Employee: The requesting employee's banked hours will be transferred to the relief employee's banked hours. Hours worked by the relief employee(s) pursuant to this Article will not be a basis for overtime pursuant to Section 2, Article C unless the requesting employee is called back pursuant to Section 2, Article C. The failure of any relief employee to work a shift(s) in accordance with this Article, without an approved illness, injury or emergency approved in writing by the relief employee's immediate supervisor, will result in the relief employee forfeiting twelve (12) hours of holiday pay or HCT for each missed shift.
- e. Effect on FLSA: Hours worked pursuant to this Article shall not increase/decrease the requesting relief employees' entitlement to FLSA overtime.
- f. Payment for Unused HCT: If the employee elects in some future fiscal year to receive holiday pay in lieu of HCT, the employee will be paid for any accrued HCT in the first pay period following said election at the employee's current regular hourly rate. Prior to transfer to a forty (40) hour assignment, termination of employment or promotion into a bargaining unit which does not provide for HCT in the same manner as this Agreement, the employee will be compensated for all accrued HCT at the employee's current regular hourly rate. A fifty-six (56) hour work week employee who is on a temporary shift change to a forty (40) hour work week shall maintain their HCT Bank hours but cannot cashout or trade their HCT Bank hours while on the forty (40) hour temporary shift change.

Payment for unused or banked hours may be made upon the written request of the employee at any time during the fiscal year. Should an employee reach the maximum four hundred eighty hours (480), all hours over that amount will be paid at the applicable rate.

- g. When promoted within this bargaining unit an employee shall keep the same monetary value in their HCT account.

Example: Firefighter promoted to Fire Apparatus Operator

100 banked holiday hours @ FF hourly rate of \$18 per hour = \$1,800.00

\$1,800.00 value divided by FAO hourly rate of \$20 per hour converts to new HCT bank of 90 hours.

**Article B - ANNUAL LEAVE**

1. **Eligibility:** For the purpose of determining eligibility for annual leave allowance, the term "continuous service" shall be that service commencing with appointment to a position with the City and continuing until resignation or discharge.
2. For the purpose of determining annual leave earned, the term "actual service" shall mean the number of days actually worked on the job; provided, however, that absence from work due to sick leave with pay, vacation with pay, injury or illness incurred in the City's service and absence on temporary military duty shall be deemed "actual service."
3. An employee is not entitled to take annual leave until completion of six (6) months employment with the City.
4. A regular, full-time employee will be granted vacation benefits as follows:

<b>Years of Continuous Service</b>	<b>Accrual Rate 40 Hour Employees per Bi-Weekly Pay Period</b>	<b>Accrual Rate 56 Hour Employees per Bi-Weekly Pay Period</b>
Less than 5 years	4.6 hours	6.5 hours
5 years or more	6.5 hours	9.0 hours
10 years or more	7.1 hours	10 hours
15 years or more	7.9 hours	11.0 hours
20 years or more	8.4 hours	12.0 hours
Maximum Accumulation	380 hours	500 hours

The vacation accrual maximum of three hundred eighty (380) and five hundred (500) hours may be waived with written approval of the Fire Chief or designee and City Manager. Vacation credits shall accrue for each pay period on a pro-rata basis.

5. Choice of vacation dates shall be granted whenever practical, but the operating requirements of the City, as determined by the Fire Chief or designee, shall prevail. Where more employees than can be released for vacation request a particular period, preference will be in order of seniority determined by years of service based on ranking at time of hire, provided the remaining employees are qualified to do the work. Fifty-six (56) hour employees will pick their vacation in the following manner:
  - a. Vacation selection process will commence on November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Employees will have the opportunity to pick their vacation under the following rules:
    - The first round of the vacation picks must be in forty-eight (48) hour consecutive blocks.
    - Second round picks will follow the first-round picks as soon as all eligible employees have completed their first-round picks, but no later than the first week in December. Second-round picks must be in forty-eight (48) hour blocks. These blocks do not need to run consecutively.
    - Third-round picks will be completed as soon as all eligible employees have completed their second-round picks, but no later than before the end of December. Third-round picks must be in twenty-four (24) hour blocks. These blocks do not need to run consecutively.
    - After all employees have completed the third-round picks, the calendar will be opened up to all employees on a first come, first serve basis.
6. **Resignation and/or Retirement:** A person about to resign or about to retire under the provisions of Nevada PERS or who is to be laid off without fault on their part, and who has earned a vacation, may be granted a vacation for the time so earned not to exceed the maximum annual accrual for the employee. Such vacation must be taken prior to the effective date of any such resignation, retirement or layoff; or, at resignation or retirement, the employee will be paid for all remaining Annual Hours accrued.

7. Death of Employee: Upon death of an employee presently on the employment records of this City, a lump sum payment for the accumulated vacation time accrued to employee's credit will be made.
8. Advancing Vacation Time: Under unusual circumstances, advanced vacation time may be authorized. Requests for advanced vacation time will require the Fire Chief's or designee's approval and full justification. Each request for advanced vacation will be handled as a separate individual case and considered on its own merits. The City Manager will be the final approving authority on such requests.
9. Minimum Vacation Time to be Taken: The minimum vacation may be taken at any one time by an employee shall be zero for forty (40) hour employees and four (4) hours for fifty-six (56) hour employees. Fractions of hours of leave taken shall be considered as the next largest whole hour for fifty-six (56) hour employees
10. Annual Vacation Schedule: In order for the Department to plan for scheduled vacations and to allow employees a reasonable selection of vacation dates, the following formula will be used: based on assigned shift strength, one-seventh ( $1/7$ ) of the bargaining unit members on a shift will be permitted to schedule annual leave. Calculations shall be rounded to the nearest whole number. (For example: 26 on shift  $\times 1/7 = 3.7$ , which rounds up to 4 employees. 27 on shift  $\times 1/7 = 3.8$ , which rounds up to 4 employees. 28 on shift  $\times 1/7 = 4$  employees. 30 on shift  $\times 1/7 = 4.3$ , which rounds down to 4 employees.)

Effective November 1st, 2025, assigned shift strength is defined as the total number of suppression personnel divided by the number of battalions (For example: 75 personnel divided by 3 battalions = shift strength of 25). Shift strength is calculated on the day prior to the first day of annual bidding (prior to annual bidding round 1). The calculated shift strength and number of annual leave spots will remain in effect for the entire calendar year, until calculated again one day prior to the next annual bid cycle.

- a. Annual vacation schedules shall be fixed in accordance with the formula in Section 11 of this Article.
- b. If, after annual vacation schedules are fixed, an employee still has accrued leave time which is not taken under the annual vacation schedule, the employee may request leave time as follows:
  - The employee must request leave in writing no later than 0900 on the day prior to the shift where the employee desires to take leave.
  - The employee must request leave in a minimum block of four (4) hours, notwithstanding other provisions in the Agreement which provide for different minimum leave requirements.
  - The employee must take leave during a shift where, if the employee's request is granted, no more than one seventh ( $1/7$ ) of the bargaining unit members would be on annual leave.
  - The request shall be granted subject to the provisions of Section 4, Article B, Paragraph 5.

# 11. Emergency Leave

- a. Each fiscal year, fifty-six (56) hour employees shall have twenty-four (24) hours of annual leave available that is not subject to the  $1/7$  rule. Forty (40) hour employees shall have fourteen (14) hours. These twenty-four (24) and fourteen (14) hours may only be used for circumstances that are beyond the employee's control. Emergency leave is intended to be used during an unforeseen situation that does not allow the employee time to find a replacement within reason or usage of leave.

Examples include: flight delays, airline overbookings, road closures, severe weather, disabled vehicle on the way to work. Supporting documentation may be required of any employee using Emergency Leave. Additionally, emergencies that require the employee to leave work unexpectedly are also allowed, provided cover can be obtained. The Fire Chief, or designee, at their discretion, may allow an employee to leave work, without having found cover.

- b. This is not additional leave. Emergency leave is a subset of the accruals outlined in Section 4 of this Article.

- c. Each employee is allowed two (2) incidents a fiscal year not to exceed a combined use of twenty-four (24) hours for fifty-six (56) hour employees and fourteen (14) hours for forty (40) hour employees.
  - d. Emergency leave shall be subject to a two (2) hour minimum use per incident. A single incident shall not total more than twenty-four (24) hours for fifty-six (56) hour employees or fourteen (14) hours for forty (40) hour employees.
  - e. Emergency leave shall not be scheduled in advance.
  - f. Emergency leave is not intended to enhance an employee's vacation schedule. It shall be used for unforeseen emergencies only.
12. Annual Conversion: Once per fiscal year, an employee may elect to cash out annual leave in the amount of forty (40) hours. The employee must have a minimum of one hundred sixty (160) hours to utilize this benefit. Effective September 22, 2025, once per fiscal year, an employee may elect to cash out annual leave up to eighty (80) hours in forty (40) hour increments. The employee must have a minimum of one hundred sixty (160) hours to utilize this benefit.

### **Article C - SICK LEAVE**

- 1. Eligibility: For the purpose of determining eligibility for sick leave allowance, the term "continuous service" shall be that service commencing with appointment to a position with the City and continuing until resignation or discharge.
- 2. For the purpose of determining sick leave earned, the term "actual service" shall mean the number of days actually worked on the job; provided, however, that absence from work due to sick leave with pay, vacation with pay, injury or illness incurred in the City service and absence on temporary military duty shall be deemed actual service.

Qualifying Period: There is no qualifying period for the use of sick leave.

- 3. Accrual of Sick Leave:
  - a. Forty (40) Hour Work Week: Employees working on a classified or probationary basis in classes which have a forty (40) hour basic work week shall earn sick leave credit at the rate of five (5) hours per biweekly pay period or major fraction thereof, computed on the basis of calendar days of actual service.
  - b. Fifty-six (56) Hour Work Week: Employees working on a classified or probationary basis in classes which have a fifty-six (56) hour basic work week shall earn sick leave credit at the rate of seven (7) hours per biweekly pay period or major fraction thereof, computed on the basis of calendar days of actual service.
  - c. Unrestricted Maximum: Employees shall accumulate sick leave without limitation (unlimited). Accrual of sick leave shall cease after any period of continuous sick leave having a duration of six (6) calendar months.
- 4. Authorized Use of Sick Leave: Sick leave with pay, can be granted upon the approval of the Fire Chief or designee in the case of a bona fide illness or injury of an employee or illness, injury or death of any relative within the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) degree of consanguinity or affinity; to wit: spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandparent or grandchild, as outlined in Appendix B, or for the purpose of parental leave as limited in Section 9 of this Article. For leave not covered under the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), a fifty-six (56) hour a week employee may use sick leave for the illness, injury or death of any of said relatives during any calendar year may be granted, but shall not exceed four (4) consecutive shifts of twenty-four (24) hours per shift per any such illness, injury or death; and per event it shall not exceed three (3) events per calendar year totaling twelve (12) shifts. For a forty (40) hour per week employee, they may use up to two (2) weeks or eighty (80) hours per event and shall not exceed three (3) events per calendar year. Subject to the approval of the Department Head or designee, an Employee, including an Employee who has not yet attained classified status, who has used all sick leave as authorized by

this Article may use any other leave(s) in lieu of sick leave in the following order: compensatory time, emergency leave, annual leave.

5. Certificate of Illness: Evidence in the form of a physician's certificate or certificate of illness shall be furnished as proof of adequacy of the reason for the employee's absence during the time when sick leave was requested. Certificates may be required by the Fire Chief or designee when there is an absence in excess of three (3) days; or whenever there is reason to believe that the sick leave is being abused.
6. Forfeiture of Sick Leave: No employee shall be entitled to sick leave while absent from duty on account of any of the following:
  - a. Disability arising from any conduct which is in violation of federal, state or local statute, written city or departmental policy, or direct order of the Fire Chief or designee.
  - b. Sickness or disability sustained while on Leave Without Pay.
  - c. Fraudulent Claim: Any person claiming sick leave, with pay, and the Fire Chief or designee approving the same where it is shown that such claim was made or approved by such claimant or the Fire Chief or designee knowing that such claimant was not in fact sick or otherwise entitled thereto, shall forfeit the equal number of sick leave hours that were used fraudulently. For example: if a person used 48 hours of sick leave fraudulently, they would lose an additional 48 hours of sick leave. If there are not enough hours accrued in the person's sick leave bank, leave without pay would be used to satisfy the remaining hours. This forfeiture is in addition to, not in lieu of, and has no impact on the City's ability to impose discipline for improper use of sick leave. It shall be the duty of the City Manager to enforce this provision.
7. Advancing Sick Leave: Upon application of an employee and approval and justification by the Fire Chief or designee and City Manager, an employee may be advanced sick leave. Advanced sick leave will not exceed sixty (60) calendar days and will be subject to the following:
  - a. Request for advancement of sick leave will be supported by a medical certificate.
  - b. All available accumulated sick leave will be exhausted before advancement.
  - c. All available accumulated vacation leave will be exhausted before advancement.
  - d. There is reasonable assurance that the employee will return to duty to earn and repay the advance credits. The City Manager will be the final approving authority on such requests.
8. Recovery for Damages: If benefits are payable under this section, the cause of any injury is approximate consequence of the wrongful conduct of another, and the employee recovers damages for the time lost, the employee shall not receive sick pay under this section for the same time; or having received the same prior to the recovery of damage, the employee shall repay the City for any amount paid therefore under this section.
9. Sick Leave for Parental Benefits: Accumulation of sick leave accruing to an employee's credit may be used for the purpose of parental leave.
10. Minimum Sick Leave to be Taken: The minimum sick leave time which may be taken at any one time by any employee shall be one (1) hour for fifty-six (56) hour employees. Fractions of hours of sick leave shall be considered as the next largest whole hour. There is no minimum time requirement for forty (40) hour employees.
11. Payment for Unused Sick Leave: The City shall pay upon separation of an employee in good standing who has ten (10) or more years of service with the City, payment equal to ten percent (10%) of said employee's total accumulated sick leave and an employee in good standing who has twenty (20) or more years of service with

the City, payment equal to fifteen percent (15%) of the employee's total accumulated sick leave earned with the City. The payment shall be computed at the employee's hourly rate of compensation at date of separation.

12. Payment for Unused Sick Leave/Upon Death of a Member: The City shall pay upon non-job related death of an employee who has had ten (10) years of service with the City, payment equal to twenty percent (20%) of employee's total accumulated sick leave balance, and an employee who has had twenty (20) years of service with the City, payment equal to thirty percent (30%) of employee's accumulated sick leave balance, and an employee who has twenty-five (25) years of service with the City, payment equal to fifty percent (50%) of the accumulated sick leave balance earned with the City. In the event of a job-related death or total permanent disability as determined under Workers' Compensation (NRS Chapters 616/617 in effect on the date of the determination), the City shall pay one hundred percent (100%) of the accumulated sick leave balance to employee's beneficiary or estate. The payment shall be computed at the employee's base hourly rate of compensation at the time of the death or total permanent disability.

#### **Article D - CATASTROPHIC LEAVE**

Employees shall be allowed to voluntarily transfer up to a maximum of ninety-six (96) hours of their accumulated sick leave during any calendar year to another member of either the Firefighters or the Sparks Fire Department Classified Chief Officers unit who is eligible to take paid sick leave.

- a. The maximum amount of accumulated sick leave transferred to any employee under the terms of this article shall be nine hundred sixty (960) hours per calendar year for forty (40) hour employees or one thousand four hundred forty (1,440) hours for fifty-six (56) hour employees.
- b. Once sick leave has been donated and transferred, it cannot be refunded to the donor making the transfer. If the employee receiving the donation does not utilize all time donated, they will retain any remaining balance. This does not preclude any future catastrophic leave transfers between members.
- c. There is no maximum on the number of individuals to which ninety-six (96) hour donations may be made in a year (i.e., one employee may donate to several employees in a year).

#### **Article E - SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITY LEAVE**

If an employee is absent due to a service-connected injury or illness, the employee shall receive full base pay at the hourly rate at the time of injury for one hundred eighty-two (182) calendar days in any twelve (12) month period without being charged sick or annual leave.

In the event the employee's absence goes beyond said one hundred eighty-two (182) calendar days in any twelve (12) month period, the employee may elect either of the following options:

Option 1. Employee may elect to retain the Temporary Total Disability (TTD) check received pursuant to NRS Chapters 616 and 617. In such event, the employee will receive no compensation or benefits (other than those required by the Family Medical Leave Act) from the City and no deduction shall be charged against the employee's accrued sick or annual leave.

Option 2. Employee may elect to continue to accept full base pay at the hourly rate at the time of injury from the City by endorsing the Temporary Total Disability (TTD) check to the City.

Because Temporary Total Disability (TTD) checks are normally received after City pay checks for that time frame have been issued to the employee, the City will initially charge the entire amount of the pay check to the employee's leave balance, beginning with sick leave. If the employee's sick leave is exhausted, the charge shall be made against the employee's accrued annual leave balance.

When the TTD check is received by the employee and endorsed to the City, the employee's hours compensated by the TTD check will be credited back to the applicable leave balance. If the employee's sick and annual leave hours are exhausted, the employee shall be compensated by only Option 1.

Payment in Lieu of Overtime for Attending Workers' Compensation Appointments: This paragraph only applies to employees within the Suppression Division.

1. Except with prior approval of the Human Resources Director or designee or as otherwise provided in this paragraph, Employees within the Suppression Division must not schedule Workers Compensation appointments while on duty. In exchange for Employees continuing to schedule Workers Compensation appointments while off duty, effective the first full pay period of each fiscal year, the City will pay each Employee an annual bonus in an amount equal to ten (10) hours' pay at the Employee's base pay rate, regardless of whether the Employee experiences a Workers Compensation injury or illness.
2. An employee in the Suppression Division may schedule and attend Workers Compensation appointments during the employee's shift without approval of the Human Resources Director if the employee arranges for another employee to cover the shift at no additional cost to the City through use of HCT or shift trades.
3. An employee in the Suppression Division who is on light duty or an eighty (80) hour schedule may schedule Workers Compensation appointments during normal business hours and must use service-connected disability leave or other options pursuant to this Article for working time spent attending such appointments.
4. An Employee who schedules one or more Workers Compensation appointments while on duty in violation of this paragraph may be subject to discipline.
5. Employees in the Prevention Division are not entitled to the payment and are not required to schedule Workers Compensation appointments outside of normal business hours. However, Employees in the Prevention Division must use service-connected disability leave or other options pursuant to this Article for working time spent attending such appointments.

#### **Article F - COURT LEAVE**

An employee appearing in any court or before the Grand Jury as a party to an action arising out of City employment, or as a witness to either a civil or criminal case for the purpose of giving testimony as to facts or knowledge that employee has received in the course of City employment, shall receive full compensation as though actually on the job during such time. An employee appearing as a juror in any court or on the Grand Jury shall receive full compensation for the normal work shift such public service obligated employee to miss.

The employee shall claim jury, witness or other fee to which employee may be entitled by reason of such appearance and forthwith pay the same over to the Finance Department to be deposited in the General Fund of the City. In all cases, however, the employee shall retain mileage allowance.

In the event an employee is called upon as a witness before the Grand Jury, or in any case before a court of law as a direct result of or directly pertaining to City employment, employee may be entitled to retain from court fees reasonable allowances for expenses incurred.

#### **Article G - MILITARY LEAVE**

Military leave shall be granted in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 and in accordance with the City's Administrative Rule on Military Leave. All US Military reservists shall be entitled to the total pay received from the military, and receive City compensation if necessary to bring the total base pay to equal base pay prior to the leave.



Any classified employee who is absent due to mandatory training in the U.S. National Guard or Reserve will serve without loss of City compensation for a period not to exceed fifteen (15) working days in any one calendar year. Any such absence shall not be deemed to be an employee's annual vacation.

#### **Article H - LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Official leaves of absence may be granted for good cause by the Fire Chief or designee, with concurrence of the City Manager. During the leave of absence, the employee will not accrue seniority or any paid leaves. Any employee on such leave shall receive no compensation from the City during the period of absence. Any employee who exceeds the limits set by the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) may continue to receive group insurance coverage during the leave of absence by paying the monthly premium for the employee and any dependent(s).

#### **Article I - COMPENSATORY TIME**

Employees may, at the request of the employee and with the approval of the shift commander or designee, take compensatory time off as set forth in Section 2, Article C, and Paragraph 1(a). Compensatory time will be taken in either twelve (12) or twenty-four (24) hour increments for fifty-six (56) hour employees or any increment for forty (40) hour employees and is subject to open annual leave slots. Approval for such time off shall not be unreasonably withheld.

One compensatory time bank will be established. The bank will be used for extension of the workday and non-emergency overtime as defined in Section 2, Article C – Extension of the Workday Overtime and Non-Emergency Overtime and Emergency and Non-Emergency callback as defined in Section 2, Article C - 2 Hour Minimum, Emergency Callback and Non-Emergency Callback.

- a. Effective the first full pay period following the approval of this Agreement by the City Council, the following hours cannot be added to the compensatory bank and must be paid in the pay period earned: Special Events, Mutual Aid, and Training Programs.
- b. The maximum amount of compensatory time that can be banked is four hundred and eighty (480) hours.
- c. At the employee's request, hours may be 'cashed out' of the Compensatory Time Bank by noting the desired number of hours to be 'cashed out' on the Compensatory Time Payout Request Form.
- d. Compensatory time, unlike Holiday Compensatory Time (HCT) may not be traded among employees.
- e. When promoted within this bargaining unit, or switching between 40-hour and 56-hour schedules, an employee shall keep the same monetary value in their Compensatory Time account.

Example: Firefighter promoted to FAO

100 hours of compensatory time (banked at the rate of one and one half (1½) hours for each hour worked) @ FF hourly rate of \$18 per hour = \$1,800.

\$1,800 value divided by the FAO hourly rate of \$20 per hour converts to a new compensatory time bank amount of 90 hours.

- f. Should an employee reach the maximum four hundred eighty hours (480), all hours over that amount will be paid at the applicable rate.

#### **Article J - SHIFT TRADING**

The City recognizes the right of the Firefighters to trade shifts as outlined in the current Sparks Fire Department Rules and Regulations "Shift Trading." However, no Firefighter may receive more than fourteen (14) twenty-four (24) hour

shift trades in any fiscal year without prior approval by the Fire Chief or designee. An adverse ruling by the Fire Chief or designee may be appealed to the City Manager.

An employee in the job classification of Firefighter, during said employee's probationary year, shall not be allowed to shift trade for time off except for educational or training purposes pursuant to Section 2, Article D of this Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Shift trades for purposes of this Article shall not include any trades made pursuant to the holiday compensatory time provisions of Section 4, Article A of the Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the City and the Firefighters have caused these presents to be duly executed by their authorized representatives.

CITY OF SPARKS

LOCAL 731 INTERNATIONAL  
ASSN. OF FIREFIGHTERS

*Ed Lawson*

Ed Lawson Mayor

*Dan Tapia*

Dan Tapia, President

ATTEST:

*Lisa Hunderman*

Lisa Hunderman, City Clerk



*Mike Szopa*

Mike Szopa, Sparks Vice President

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

*Wesley Duncan*

Wesley Duncan, City Attorney

*Michael Porter*

Michael Porter, Chief Negotiator

**APPENDIX A – Job Class and Salary Wage Ranges\*****Fire Suppression**

<b>Firefighter Recruit</b>		
Pay Step	Hourly Rate	Annual Rate
95% 80-Step 1	\$40.18	\$83,574

<b>Firefighter</b>		
Pay Step	Hourly Rate	Annual Rate
112- Step 1	\$27.19	\$79,177
112- Step 2	\$28.67	\$83,487
112- Step 3	\$30.26	\$88,117
112- Step 4	\$32.35	\$94,203
80-Step 1	\$42.29	\$87,963
80-Step 2	\$44.66	\$92,893
80-Step 3	\$47.10	\$97,968
80-Step 4	\$50.42	\$104,874

<b>Firefighter Paramedic</b>		
Pay Step	Hourly Rate	Annual Rate
112- Step 1	\$28.94	\$84,273
112- Step 2	\$30.53	\$88,903
112- Step 3	\$32.19	\$93,737
112- Step 4	\$34.44	\$100,289
80-Step 1	\$45.02	\$93,642
80-Step 2	\$47.54	\$98,883
80-Step 3	\$50.13	\$104,270
80-Step 4	\$53.68	\$111,654

**Fire Apparatus Operator****Fire Prevention**

<b>Assistant Fire Marshal</b>		
Pay Step	Hourly Rate	Annual Rate
Step 1	\$57.24	\$119,059
Step 2	\$60.68	\$126,214
Step 3	\$62.82	\$130,666
Step 4	\$65.87	\$137,010

<b>Fire Prevention Inspector I</b>		
Pay Step	Hourly Rate	Annual Rate
Step 1	\$43.85	\$91,208
Step 2	\$46.41	\$96,533

<b>Fire Prevention Inspector II</b>		
Pay Step	Hourly Rate	Annual Rate
Step 3	\$49.06	\$102,045
Step 4	\$51.89	\$107,931

<b>Fire Prevention Inspector III</b>		
Pay Step	Hourly Rate	Annual Rate
Step 1	\$48.62	\$101,130
Step 2	\$51.43	\$106,974
Step 3	\$54.35	\$113,048
Step 4	\$56.93	\$118,414

**Fire Plans Examiner/Inspector**

Pay Step	Hourly Rate	Annual Rate
112- Step 1	\$30.43	\$88,612
112- Step 2	\$32.98	\$96,038
112- Step 3	\$33.86	\$98,600
112- Step 4	\$35.42	\$103,143
80-Step 1	\$47.33	\$98,446
80-Step 2	\$49.99	\$103,979
80-Step 3	\$52.72	\$109,658
80-Step 4	\$55.19	\$114,795

Pay Step	Hourly Rate	Annual Rate
Step 3	\$51.49	\$107,099
Step 4	\$54.47	\$113,298

Fire Captain		
Pay Step	Hourly Rate	Annual Rate
112- Step 1	\$35.87	\$104,453
112- Step 2	\$37.93	\$110,452
112- Step 3	\$39.27	\$114,354
112- Step 4	\$41.02	\$119,450
80-Step 1	\$55.80	\$116,064
80-Step 2	\$58.99	\$122,699
80-Step 3	\$60.98	\$126,838
80-Step 4	\$63.82	\$132,746

\* Dollar amounts are rounded. For exact amounts, refer to City of Sparks's "Position Report by Title."

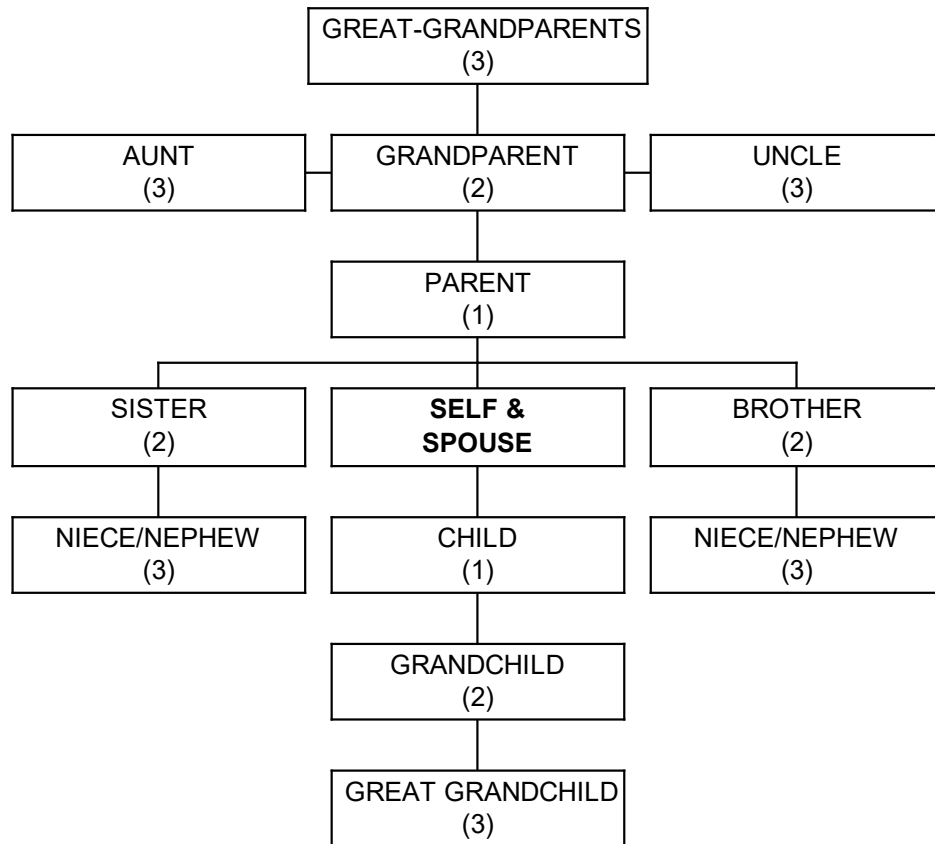
\*\* All Suppression positions except Firefighter Paramedic include pay for EMT-A licensure in base pay.

\*\*\* All Suppression and Prevention positions include \$750.00 in annual base pay for Wellness.

CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Selected Areas, all items index – West – Size Class B/C (2.5 million or less) from comparing December to December of the previous year. This CPI is a non-seasonally adjusted, annual index and will be rounded to the nearest tenth decimal point (CPI Series ID: CUURN400SAO).

**APPENDIX B - CONSANGUINITY & AFFINITY**

**DEGREES OF  
CONSANGUINITY AND AFFINITY**



**Note:**

- Spouse includes Domestic Partner.
- Step-family is included in all categories in the diagram above.