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AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE CITY OF PIQUA  
AND  
LOCAL UNION 252, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF FIREFIGHTERS, AFL-CIO-CLC  
(FIRE OFFICERS)

January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2022

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This Agreement is entered into by the City of Piqua, Ohio ("City") and the International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO-CLC, Local Union 252 ("Union").

## **ARTICLE 1. UNION RECOGNITION**

Section 1. Recognition. The City recognizes the Union as the exclusive bargaining representative of all full-time fire officers, including Captains and Assistant Chiefs, but excluding the Chief of the Fire Department, for the purpose of bargaining with respect to wages, hours of work and working conditions. The employees covered by this Agreement are collectively referred to as "Fire Officers." This Section is solely for the purpose of granting exclusive recognition and defining the coverage of this Agreement, and nothing else is intended or is to be inferred from this Section.

Section 2. Dues Checkoff. During the term of this Agreement, the City will deduct regular and uniform monthly Union dues or assessments from the wages of employees who individually and voluntarily authorize and direct such deductions. The authorization and direction must be in writing, must be signed by the employee, and must be revocable upon ten days notice to the City. The City will promptly forward checked off dues to the Union each month.

Section 3. Fair Share Fee. So long as the ruling in Janus vs. AFSCME remains in effect, fair share fees will not be deducted from any bargaining unit member unless that member in writing elects to waive his/her rights under the Janus decision and voluntarily and knowingly consents to the deduction for fair share fees. If the member so elects to waive his/her rights under the Janus decision, they must notify the union and the City in writing. The fair share fee amount shall be certified to the City by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Local Union, in writing, but shall not be an amount larger than the dues amount paid by the members, as provided in Ohio Revised Code 4117.09 (C). Deduction of the fair share fee from any earnings of the employee shall be automatic and shall not require written authorization for payroll deduction. Payment to the Union of the fair share fees shall be made in accordance with procedures for delivery of regular dues deductions.

Section 4. Indemnity. The Union will hold the City harmless and indemnify it against any liability it may have in complying or attempting to comply with this Article.

## **ARTICLE 2. MANAGEMENT RIGHTS**

The City reserves and retains the right to direct, manage and control the affairs of the City and its employees, except to the extent this Agreement specifically provides to the contrary. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. the exercise of all functions of government granted to the City by the constitution and the statutes of the State of Ohio and the Charter of the City of Piqua;
2. the securing of revenues of the City;

3. the determination from time to time as to what services the City shall perform;
4. the determination of the equipment, machinery, and methods to be used;
5. the selection, transfer, assignment and layoff of employees;
6. the termination of probationary employees, and the termination for just cause of other employees;
7. making, amending, and enforcing reasonable work rules and regulations;
8. the determination of the size and composition of the work force; and
9. taking actions to carry out the mission of the City as a governmental unit.

The City retains all rights except to the extent this Agreement specifically and expressly provides to the contrary. The City may exercise these rights, and any other management rights granted by this Agreement or by Section 4117.08 of the Ohio Revised Code, without prior consultation with the Union or the Fire Officers. Should the City fail to exercise any of its rights, or exercise them in a particular way, it shall not be deemed to have waived such rights or to be precluded from exercising them in some other way.

### **ARTICLE 3. NO STRIKE - NO LOCKOUT**

Section 1. No Strike by Union. During the life of this Agreement, the Union shall not cause, authorize, sanction or condone, nor shall any Fire Officer take part in, any strike, slow-down, work stoppage, curtailment of work, concerted use of paid leave time, restriction of work, or interference with the operations of the Fire Department or City of any kind for any reason, including a labor dispute between the City and any other labor organization,

The Union shall not cause, authorize, sanction or condone, nor shall any Fire Officer take part in, any picketing of the Fire Department or the City's building, offices, or premises because of a labor dispute with the City. This paragraph shall not apply to informational picketing which does not interfere or attempt to interfere with the operations of the Fire Department or the City.

Section 2. Union to Take Affirmative Action to Stop. The Union agrees that it and its officers will take prompt affirmative action to prevent or stop unauthorized strikes, sit-downs, slow-downs, work stoppages, curtailment of work, concerted use of paid leave time, restrictions of work or interference with the operations of the Fire Department or City by notifying the Fire Officers and the public in writing that it disavows these acts. The Union further agrees that the Chief and the City have the right to discipline (including discharge) any or all Fire Officers who violate this Article.

Section 3. No Lockout by City. During the life of this Agreement, the City shall not cause, permit, or engage in any lockout of the Fire Officers.

#### **ARTICLE 4. COOPERATION**

The City, the Union, and each Fire Officer will cooperate fully to maintain the highest levels of efficiency in serving the public, to serve the citizens of the City and the public in general, to protect the property of the City, the public and employees, to ensure the prompt and uninterrupted delivery of services to the public, and to promote the morale, rights and well-being of Fire Officers.

#### **ARTICLE 5. RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS**

Residency shall be per ORC 9.481 Residency requirements prohibited for certain employees.

#### **ARTICLE 6. PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES**

Section 1. Probation Period. Newly promoted fire officers shall be probationary for six (6) months worked, on shift after the date of their promotion. The City has the right to demote a probationary Fire Officer to the next lower rank at any time for unsatisfactory performance during this probationary period. A demotion pursuant to this article shall be subject to the grievance and arbitration procedure in accordance with Article 7.

Section 2. Probationary Leave. Whenever a probationary employee is granted a leave of absence, or sick leave, or is laid off, suspended for disciplinary purposes, or is otherwise absent from work, the length of the probationary period shall be extended by the length of such absence. Upon return to duty following such absence, such employee shall be required to successfully complete the remaining portion of the probationary period.

#### **ARTICLE 7. GRIEVANCE AND ARBITRATION**

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of this grievance procedure shall be to settle all grievances as quickly as possible so as to insure efficiency and promote Fire Officer morale.

Section 2. Grievance Definition. A grievance is a claim that the City has violated this Agreement. The processing of the grievance by the City in accordance with the terms of this Article does not waive the City's right to contest the validity or the arbitrability of the grievance at arbitration or in another forum. Any issue of arbitrability shall be determined prior to the merits of the grievance. All time limits for processing grievances shall be calendar days.

All claims that are not a violation of the collective bargaining agreement, including but not limited to claims of state and federal law, must go through the proper administrative agency or court of law.



Section 3. Procedure. All grievances shall be handled exclusively as set forth in this Article. Any settlement reached at any step between the representatives designated to handle that step shall be final and binding on the grievant, the City, and the Union. If a grievance is not filed or appealed on time, it shall be considered dropped. If the City does not answer on time, the grievant may elect to have the matter considered at the next step without delay. All time limits may be extended by mutual written agreement. If the last day of a time limit falls on a weekend or holiday, the time limit will be extended to the next regular working day.

Section 4. Steps. The City and the Union shall cooperate to provide for the prompt adjustment of grievances in a fair and reasonable manner, with a minimum of interruption of work schedules. Every reasonable effort shall be made by both the City and the Union to resolve grievances at the earliest step possible. To carry this out, the following procedure shall be followed:

Step 1. In order for a grievance to be arbitrable the aggrieved employee must present his signed grievance in writing to the Fire Chief (or designee) within 10 calendar days of the occurrence of the incident giving rise to the grievance. This may be extended to 10 calendar days after the employee became aware of the incident, or, if earlier, the date the employee should have become aware of it, using reasonable diligence, but in no case may a grievance be filed more than 30 calendar days after the occurrence. The Fire Chief (or designee) shall schedule a meeting with the grievant and his representatives, if any, within 7 calendar days after receipt of the grievance. The Fire Chief (or designee) shall investigate and respond in writing to the grievant within 7 calendar days following the meeting. If this answer does not resolve the grievance, the Union may take the grievance to the next step.

Step 2. Within seven (7) calendar days from the date of the Fire Chief's answer, the grievance shall be presented to the City Manager (or designee) in writing. The City Manager (or designee) shall give an answer in writing within fourteen (14) calendar days. The answer of the City Manager will stand unless within seven (7) calendar days the Union notifies the City Manager in writing that the grievance will be taken to arbitration.

Section 5. Arbitration. The arbitrator shall be selected through the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) or the Arbitration Mediation Service from Cincinnati, Ohio, unless the City and the Union mutually agree upon an arbitrator. The parties will mutually agree on the service to be used, and if they cannot agree, the party requesting arbitration shall select the service. After receiving a list, the parties shall alternatively strike an arbitrator until one arbitrator is left. If the parties cannot agree who will strike first, the decision shall be made by a coin toss. The decision of the arbitrator shall be binding on the City, the Union, and the grievant. The arbitrator shall not have the power to add to, subtract from or modify this Agreement. The arbitrator has no authority to judge or opine about the reasonableness of work rules and may only

consider a work rule in determining whether there has been a violation of the collective bargaining agreement. The costs of the arbitrator shall be paid equally by the City and the Union.

Section 6. Multiple Grievances. No more than one grievance shall be placed before an arbitrator at any one hearing unless the City and the Union agree to waive this provision.

Section 7. Content. In order to be arbitrable, all grievances must contain the following information and must be filed using the grievance form mutually agreed to by the parties:

- A. Aggrieved employee's name and signature.
- B. Aggrieved employee's classification.
- C. Date grievance was filed in writing.
- D. Date and time grievance occurred.
- E. Where grievance occurred.
- F. Description of incident giving rise to the grievance.
- G. Specific sections of Agreement violated.
- H. Desired remedy to resolve grievance.

Section 8. Class Grievances. A grievance may be brought by any member of the bargaining unit. Where a group of bargaining unit members desire to file a grievance involving a situation affecting each member in the same manner, one member selected by such group may process the grievance as a class action grievance, provided each employee desiring to be included in the class action grievance signs the grievance. If more than one employee is involved in a grievance or a group of similar grievances, one of them shall be selected as spokesman.

Section 9. Union Grievances. The Union may file grievances claiming violations of the recognition clause, the dues deduction and fair share clause, or any other contract right which accrues solely to the Union as a labor organization and not to individual employees. Such grievances shall be initially filed at Step 2 within the time limits for filing at Step 1.

Section 10. Attendance. The employee filing the grievance may attend Steps 1 and 2 of the grievance procedure without loss of pay as a result of attendance during regularly scheduled working hours. For a class action grievance or a group of similar grievances, this protection against loss of pay will extend only to the spokesman. The employee's representative (if a Fire Officer) may also attend without such loss of pay at Steps 1 and 2.

## ARTICLE 8. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Section 1. Leave for Personal Reasons. An employee, upon written application, may be granted up to 30 days of unpaid personal leave of absence at the discretion of the City when such leave of absence is for a justifiable reason. Such a leave of absence may be extended by the City Manager for periods of time not to exceed a total of one year.

Section 2. Leave of Absence Due to Illness or Injury. An employee who is unable to work due to illness, injury, or other disability for a period in excess of 14 days must request a leave of absence in writing before the end of 14 days (or, if the employee's disability prevents the employee from making the request within 14 days, as soon as reasonably possible). In no event shall the leave for illness or injury extend for more than 1 year from the day the employee last worked, or, if less, for a period of time equal to the employee's seniority at the beginning of the leave, unless an extension is granted in the sole discretion of the City Manager, based on a medical opinion that the employee's return to work is imminent. Female employees will be granted a leave of absence for disabilities due to pregnancy on the same basis as leaves are granted for other disabilities. When an employee knows in advance that an absence or disability will occur, such as for surgery or due to pregnancy, the employee shall give the City notice of such expected disability as far in advance as practicable. Leave of absence due to illness or injury will be paid to the extent of available sick leave except that if the illness or injury is the result of the employee's outside employment, no donated sick leave will be permitted to be used.

Section 3. Jury Leave. An employee required to serve on a jury by a court empowered by law to require such service shall be excused from duty for the time required for such service, and shall be paid the difference between jury pay and the employee's regular pay. Employees must present proof of the amount of jury pay received and must promptly report for duty when released from jury service, unless reporting to duty is excused by the Chief to the following shift.

Section 4. Military Leave. Employees who enter the military service of the United States will be afforded all applicable rights by law.

Section 5. Unpaid Leave. All leave is unpaid unless otherwise specifically provided (for example, sick leave, injury leave, jury leave and funeral leave).

Section 6. Unauthorized Absence. Unauthorized absence from duty may constitute grounds for discharge or other discipline. An unauthorized absence is defined as any time after one hour past the start of a duty shift, and if it is continued for one full tour of duty without notification to the City, may result in disciplinary action up to and including discharge, unless the employee can substantiate that failure to notify the City was due to unforeseen circumstances beyond the employee's control and not the employee's fault.

## **ARTICLE 9. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**Section 1. Health and Safety Cooperation Between City and Union.** The City, the Union and all employees will cooperate fully on all matters pertaining to health and safety.

**Section 2. Medical Examination in Connection With Leave of Absence.** The City may require an employee to undergo an examination by, and to receive approval of, a physician or other examiner selected by the City before being permitted to go on leave, remain on leave, or return to work. If such examination is required, it shall be paid for by the City. The employee will not lose any regular straight time pay he would otherwise have received as a result of time reasonably spent in attending the examination.

**Section 3. Medical Examination in Interest of Health, Safety, or Job Performance.** In the interest of health, safety, or job performance, the City may at any time require a physical or mental examination of an employee by a physician or other examiner selected by the City. If the examiner determines that the employee's condition jeopardizes his health or safety or that of others, or his job performance, the City may place the employee on leave of absence. If such examination is required, it shall be paid for by the City. The employee will not lose any regular straight time pay he would otherwise have received as a result of time reasonably spent in attending the examination.

**Section 4. Authorization.** The City may require an employee to provide it authorization for release of his records and information about his status as part of an examination under this Article or when relevant to any claim by the employee against the City.

**Section 5. Third Doctor.** If an employee disagrees with the findings of the City's doctor, he may undergo an examination by a doctor of his choice, at his expense. The employee's doctor shall prepare a written report with a copy to the City. If the findings of the City's doctor and the employee's doctor are in conflict, the two doctors shall select a third doctor to resolve the conflict. The City and the employee will make all relevant materials available to the third doctor, including all medical records. The finding of the third doctor will be final and binding and his costs will be paid for by the City.

**Section 6. Involuntary Separation.** If this section has been exhausted for an employee and the employee is unable to return to work, as determined in Section 5, and has exhausted all of said employee's individual leaves and FMLA leave, donated time may no longer be accepted and the City may pursue involuntary separation. An involuntary separation is not grievable.

## **ARTICLE 10. DRUGS AND ALCOHOL**

The purpose of this Article is to provide a safer work environment, to improve an employee's health or job performance when affected by the abuse of alcohol or drugs, and to provide guidelines for the consistent handling of alcohol and drug-related situations.

### **Section 1. Use of Alcohol and Drugs.**

- A. Employees shall not possess, sell or use alcohol or controlled substances while on the job, including meal periods.
- B. Employees shall not work or report to work under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances, except as provided in subparagraph C or D below.
- C. Employees must report to their supervisors when they are experiencing a reaction to a prescription or over-the-counter drug which may affect their ability to do their job. Regardless if prescribed as medical marijuana or not, medical marijuana is prohibited from consumption or absorption in any form for all employees.
- D. Employees called back to work will report to the supervisor any off duty use of alcohol or a reaction to a prescription or over-the-counter drug and shall not report to work.
- E. Any employee who has been prescribed medical marijuana and has consumed or absorbed it in any form shall be sent home immediately and said employee shall be required to use sick time.
- F. Due to the changing federal and state regulation ensuring safety and reporting accidents and that all of the employees are in safety sensitive positions for the equipment they operate and the services they perform, all employees shall be subject to the same drug testing policy, i.e., random drug tests, as those who maintain a CDL.
- G. No alcohol or drug test will be administered if subparagraph C or D applies.

### **Section 2. Dependency Treatment.**

- A. Employees are urged to request assistance with any drug or alcohol problem before disciplinary action is necessary. If an employee advises the City of a drug or alcohol problem, the employee will be urged to receive counseling and, if necessary, will be permitted to take accrued paid sick leave or vacation to receive the recommended treatment. If an employee has exhausted accrued paid sick leave and vacation, he may apply for an unpaid personal leave of absence for the period of time necessary to receive the recommended treatment, which application shall not be unreasonably denied.
- B. Alcoholism and chemical dependencies are treatable. Employees covered by City-sponsored health insurance have limited coverage for treatment of alcoholism and chemical dependency. Any costs associated with treatment that are not covered by insurance will be the responsibility of the employee.

### Section 3. Testing Procedure.

- A. Drug and/or alcohol testing will be conducted when there is a reasonable suspicion that an employee is using or possessing controlled substances or alcohol, or abusing a controlled substance at work, or is working or reporting to work under the influence of illegal drugs, alcohol or an abused controlled substance. Reasonable suspicion may be based upon, but is not limited to, unexplained and excessive absence, a reliable report, reporting to work with the odor of alcohol or marijuana on an employee, unusual behavior such as slurred speech or lack of coordination, the unauthorized possession of drug paraphernalia, or involvement in an on-duty accident or other on-duty incident which results in physical harm or property damage.
- B. Upon request, the Fire Chief shall identify to the employee and his representative the basis for reasonable suspicion. The Fire Chief may withhold the names of persons who have provided information if the Fire Chief identifies facts and circumstances which independently provides a basis for reasonable suspicion.
- C. Testing will require that the employee provide a urine and/or blood sample, or some other medically accepted procedure will be used. Any time an employee is requested to take a drug or alcohol test, the employee will be required to sign an authorization form permitting the physician or lab to conduct the test and release the results to the City and the employee. Refusal to sign the authorization form or to submit to a requested drug or alcohol test will be considered insubordination and will subject the employee to disciplinary action. A refusal occurs if the employee fails to submit to a required drug test within two hours of receiving the order, or to a required alcohol test within one hour of receiving the order. The employee shall be granted a reasonable amount of time to change from the employee's uniform to civilian clothing.
- D. The employee will be transported by a supervisor to the designated facility for collection of the test samples. All test samples will be given at a licensed medical facility or doctor's office selected by the City, sealed and properly identified. All drug screening tests shall be conducted by medical laboratories certified by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) or certified by a DHHS recognized certification program. Positive levels for drugs will be those set forth in Department of Transportation regulations (currently 49 CFR § 40.87), or, for drugs not listed in the DOT regulations, as determined by the lab. Evidentiary chain of custody controls shall be maintained. The split sample method of collection shall be used. If a drug confirmation test is positive, the employee may, upon written request and at the employee's expense, have the split sample re-tested by a DHHS certified laboratory. This request shall be presented within seventy-two (72) hours upon being notified of a positive result. The test results will be considered a confidential medical record not subject to public disclosure. Results will be distributed to the City and the employee only. Drugs being screened may include any controlled substance contained in Schedules I through V of Section 202 of the Controlled Substance Act, Section 21 U.S.C. 812, or as defined in O.R.C. 3719.01.

- E. At any time prior to providing a sample of blood or urine, the employee will have the right to confer with an attorney or union representative as long as this does not result in the employee not being able to perform the test within the two hour period. Otherwise, to the extent possible, the sample must be provided within a 2 hour period after reasonable suspicion has been determined.
- F. If the initial test result is positive, the result shall be reviewed by a medical review officer (MRO) who shall consult with the employee. If the MRO determines there is a legitimate medical explanation, substitution or invalid drug test result, the test shall not be reported as positive.
- G. Testing shall be conducted in accordance with DOT Urine Specimen Collection Procedure Guidelines, 49 CFR Part 40.

#### Section 4. Rehabilitation and Counseling.

- H. An employee who tests positive for drugs or alcohol under this Article shall be given one opportunity for rehabilitation before disciplinary action is taken, provided that the employee's only rule violation is working or reporting to work under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances. An employee who violates any other rule under this Article shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include discharge, for the first offense.
- I. A positive drug or alcohol test, or a drug or alcohol problem, shall not excuse or mitigate any other misconduct (e.g., insubordination or dishonesty). The City shall respond to such misconduct by applying the same principles of disciplinary action as it would apply to an employee who had no positive test result and no drug or alcohol problem.
- J. An employee who is entitled to an opportunity for rehabilitation under this Article will be relieved from duty immediately and placed on paid accrued sick leave. This sick leave may be conditioned upon receipt of reports that the employee is cooperating and making reasonable progress in the treatment program.
- K. Within 45 days of entering the treatment program the employee must provide satisfactory medical evidence that he has completed the program and is fit to return to work and must pass another drug/alcohol screen. This time limit can be extended only based on medical or scientific evidence that a longer time is justified. However, no period longer than 6 months total from the date of the original positive test will be permitted. Failure to meet these conditions will result in termination of employment. Accrued sick leave up to a maximum of 60 calendar days and accrued vacation may be used for this leave, otherwise this leave will be unpaid. If the dependency was a result of an accepted medical treatment program, the sick leave time shall be extended until the employee has exhausted his/her accumulated sick time.
- L. The treatment program must be provided by a facility accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Hospitals and/or licensed through an appropriate state agency.

- M. Any employee who successfully completes a drug/alcohol program as described above and successfully passes a drug screen shall be reinstated to his former position without loss of time in grade.
- N. The Fire Chief may require up to two tests of an employee during the six month period after an employee has completed a rehabilitation program. These tests need not be based upon a reasonable suspicion of drug or alcohol use. If either test is positive, the employee's employment shall be terminated.

#### Section 5. Appeal.

An employee may appeal action taken by the City under this Article through the grievance procedure.

#### Section 6. Search.

All property belonging to the City, including City owned premises, desks, files and vehicles, is subject to search at any time without notice.

### **ARTICLE 11. EFFECT OF LAW**

If any provision of this Agreement is in conflict with any applicable federal law or regulation, that provision shall no longer be effective, but the remainder of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect. The same is true with respect to any state law or regulation which cannot be subordinated to this Agreement. In such an event, the City and the Union may meet and confer on an alternative provision.

The City Commission shall adopt no ordinances, resolutions, or other legislative matters in conflict with this Agreement. Neither the City Manager, nor the Fire Chief, nor their subordinates shall adopt or issue any rules, regulations, orders or other executive directions in conflict with this Agreement.

The City and the Union intend this Agreement to prevail over any conflicting state or local law to the fullest extent permitted by law.

### **ARTICLE 12. NO DISCRIMINATION**

Section .1. Cooperation. The City, the Union, and each employee will cooperate fully to abide by all applicable laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination on account of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, union activity, or status as a Veteran of the Vietnam era.

Section 2. Reassignment. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the City may reassign a disabled employee or restructure a disabled employee's job in order to reasonably accommodate the disabled employee. The City shall notify the Union of such reassignment or restructuring in advance of its implementation. Such reassignment or restructuring shall be made in good faith for the purpose of meeting the City's obligation under the Americans With Disabilities Act or Ohio Revised Code 4112.



## **ARTICLE 13. HOURS OF DUTY AND OVERTIME**

**Section 1. Hours of Duty.** The hours of duty shall be so established by the Fire Department that the average weekly hours of duty (other than hours during which employees may be summoned or kept on duty) shall not exceed 56 hours. The shift hours will start at 7:00 a.m. and end at 7:00 a.m. the following day. Employees shall have 24 hour shifts immediately followed by 48 hours off duty, except for the Fire Prevention Officer, who normally shall work a 40 hour a week schedule.

**Section 2. Overtime Scheduled.** In the event that a need for overtime should occur in the Department because of vacation, sickness, or other reasons, overtime pay shall be paid at the time and one-half rate of pay to the employee working overtime, computed on the hourly pay rate. Employees shall be paid double time for overtime worked on Sundays and holidays. The hourly rate shall be 1/40th of weekly salary. The City shall maintain the necessary overtime list made up of qualified employees to perform the duty needed. Employees shall be listed on a rotating list. A copy of this list shall be kept in the Chief's office and be available for inspection with permission. On this list the City shall record the date of call and the response and whether the overtime was refused or no answer received, or the employee was absent due to sickness, vacation, or otherwise. Employees shall be called in rotation, starting at the top of the list. Any mistakes will be corrected solely by future assignments. In the event there is no officer on said shift, then it shall be at the Chief's discretion to authorize an officer to work overtime. The officer in charge of scheduling the overtime will first telephone the employee. If the phone is busy, answered electronically, the phone is not answered, or the employee is not at home, the officer will then call the employee by their respective individual cell phone number. If no reply is received from the employee within 5 minutes, the officer will then proceed to the next employee on the overtime list, following the same procedure until an employee is found to cover the needed overtime. If an employee refuses or no answer is received after calling the employee, the employee's name will be placed at the bottom of the list. The employee shall be responsible for keeping his phone numbers updated with the Fire Department.

Assistant Fire Chiefs, except for the Fire Prevention Officer, shall be paid on a salary basis and are exempt employees of the City of Piqua for overtime, FLSA matters and other related matters. In addition to their pre-determined salary, they shall be eligible for compensatory time off on an hour and a half basis for time worked in excess of their regularly scheduled workweek upon approval of the Fire Chief, Assistant City Manager or City Manager. Assistant Fire Chiefs may accrue a maximum of two hundred and forty (240) hours of compensatory time, on an hour and a half basis, at any one time. Hours worked beyond the regularly scheduled workweek after reaching the maximum two hundred and forty (240) hour limit will not be counted as compensatory time. Payment in lieu of compensatory time off shall not be granted, except at death while employed by the City of Piqua. At any other separation from the City of Piqua, Assistant

Fire Chiefs shall not be paid for unused compensatory time. The same compensatory time rules will be applied to the Fire Prevention Officer. Any officer who has compensatory time earned may use it or carry a maximum cumulative bank of 240 hours.

Section 3. Voluntary Exchange of Duty Tours. The Fire Chief may grant the request of any employee to exchange hours of duty or days off with another employee who meets the qualifications as long as there is no increase in pay. The employee requesting exchange shall give as much advance notice as possible to the officer in charge.

Section 4. Normal Daily Work Schedule. The normal daily work schedule shall start at 7:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. with a one hour lunch period. The above does not pertain to work that may have to be performed in the care and maintenance of apparatus after returning from an emergency, after the hours described above.

Section 5. Call Back for Alarms. The procedure for call back is as follows: The officer in charge will see that the preceding shift of off-duty firefighters is called first, before calling the firefighters of the following shift. It is understood that errors are not correctable.

Section 6. Call Back Compensation. Employees recalled to duty under this Article will be compensated on the following basis: There will be no compensatory time off for such a recall to duty. Employees recalled will receive a minimum of 4 hours pay at their regular rate of pay. However, if the callback time exceeds 2 hours and 40 minutes, the employee will receive time and one-half the regular rate for the hours actually worked. On holidays, employees recalled will receive a minimum of 5 hours and 20 minutes pay at their regular rate of pay. However, if the callback time on a holiday exceeds 2 hours and 40 minutes, the employee will receive twice the regular rate for the hours actually worked. If more than one callback occurs during the initial 2 hours and 40 minutes, no credit will be given for the second callback until the 2 hour and 40 minute period has expired. Payment at the rate of 1-1/2 or double time figures on 1/40th of the weekly salary. This time or pay shall be verified by the officer in charge. This section shall not apply to Assistant Fire Chiefs or the Fire Prevention Officer, who shall be paid as provided in Section 2.

Section 7. Overtime Under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Employees shall be paid for overtime rather than receive compensatory time off. Overtime pay shall be calculated on the basis of the hours exceeding the maximum allowable under the Fair Labor Standards Act (204 hours in a 27 day work period) at time-and-one-half the employees' hourly rate. The hourly rate shall be 1/40th of the employee's weekly wage. There shall be no pyramiding of overtime under this Article. This section shall not apply to Assistant Fire Chiefs and the Fire Prevention Officer, who shall be paid as provided in Section 2.

Section 8. Relief at Emergency. In the event of a fire or other emergency requiring employees to work longer than their regular tour of duty, it shall be the responsibility of the officer in charge to see that these employees are relieved by the oncoming tour as speedily as possible.

**Section 9. Declaration of an Emergency.** In the event the City Manager has declared an emergency, it is mandatory that all fire personnel respond, with the exception of any personnel who was previously scheduled to be unavailable for service or is unavailable due to suffering a bonafide family emergency such as sustained or impending significant damage to one's home or illness or injury to one's immediate family that requires hospitalization or treatment by a licensed health care professional.

**ARTICLE 14. WAGES**

**Section 1. Weekly Wage Rates.** The weekly wage rates for Fire Officers shall be increased 2.5% effective January 1, 2020, 2.5% effective January 1, 2021, and 2.5% effective January 1, 2022. The wage step schedule for Fire Officers shall be as indicated in "Schedule C" below based on months of completed service in grade. Time in grade for each step before the Fire Officer is eligible for a merit increase is as follows:

January 1, 2020

WAGE RATE Time in Grade+ Paramedic Certification

	STEP A 0-24 mos.	STEP B 25-48 mos.	STEP C 49+ mos.	STEP D 0-24 mos.	STEP E 25-48 mos.	STEP F 49+ mos.
Fire Captain	\$1533.73	\$1556.74	\$1587.87	\$1580.80	\$1604.51	\$1636.60
Asst. Fire Chief	\$1838.85	\$1866.43	\$1903.76	\$1893.69	\$1922.10	\$1960.54

January 1, 2021

WAGE RATE Time in Grade+ Paramedic Certification

	STEP A 0-24mos.	STEP B 25-48 mos.	STEP C 49+ mos.	STEP D 0-24 mos.	STEP E 25-48 mos.	STEP F 49+ mos.
Fire Captain	\$1572.07	\$1595.66	\$1627.57	\$1620.32	\$1644.62	\$1677.52
Asst. Fire Chief	\$1884.82	\$1913.09	\$1951.35	\$1941.03	\$1970.15	\$2009.55

January 1, 2022

WAGE RATE Time in Grade+ Paramedic Certification

	STEP A 0-24mos.	STEP B 25-48mos.	STEP C 49+ mos.	STEP D 0-24 mos.	STEP E 25-48 mos.	STEP F 49+ mos.
Fire Captain	\$1611.37	\$1635.55	\$1668.26	\$1660.83	\$1685.74	\$1719.46
Asst. Fire Chief	\$1931.94	\$1960.92	\$2000.13	\$1989.56	\$2019.40	\$2059.79

Each Fire Officer's performance will be rated by the Fire Chief prior to the anniversary date the Fire Officer is eligible, by time in grade, for consideration for a step increase. A Fire Officer must receive an overall rating of satisfactory or better to receive a step increase. A Fire Officer denied a step increase may request a reevaluation after 90 days from the denial of the step increase.

Fire Officers at the top step will have their performance rated annually by the Fire Chief or his designee.

Rating forms, when completed, will be discussed with the employee. The employee is required to sign it as evidence of the fact that it has been reviewed and a copy will be returned to the employee. The signature does not necessarily mean that the employee is satisfied with the rating. It is recognized that satisfactory performance is a requirement and that unsatisfactory performance may result in denial of a step increase or disciplinary action.

Section 2. Paramedic Pay and Certification. The wage rate for an employee certified as a paramedic shall be 103% of the weekly wage rate for the appropriate classification. Fire Officers meeting the Paramedic qualification shall advance three steps regardless of their time in grade. For example, a newly promoted Assistant Fire Chief with a paramedic certification will be advanced to Step D. Conversely, an Assistant Fire Chief who drops paramedic certification will move back three steps unless he has completed the Fire Officer qualification series as detailed in this Agreement.

Section 3.

- A. Fire Officer, who was employed after 2001, shall be required as a condition of employment, to retain his/her certification as a paramedic until he/she has completed twelve and one half years of service with the department.
- B. A Fire Officer shall receive a bonus of the appropriate wage rate upon certification as a fire officer based on Fire Officer qualification series approved by Fire Chief. That appropriate wage rate shall consist of the following:
- C. A maximum of 1% of the base wage rate can be obtained a certificate from a course approved by the Fire Chief and 200 hours of outside training as defined in area 1 below.
- D. A maximum of 2% of the base wage rate can be obtained with a certificate from a course approved by the Fire Chief and Associate Degree in Fire Science and 300 hours of outside training as defined in area 1 below.
- E. A maximum of 3% of the base wage rate can be obtained with a certificate from a course approved by the Fire Chief and Bachelor Degree and 400 hours of outside training as defined in area 1 below.
- F. Area 1 is defined as follows:

College courses (from an accredited institution of higher learning as approved by the Fire Chief with a designated major in Fire Science, Public Administration, or any other major related to the Captain's or Assistant Fire Chief's job duties as determined by the Fire Chief and approved by the City Manager).

Non-credit college courses (from an accredited institution of higher learning as approved by the Fire Chief with a designated major in Fire Science, Public

Administration, or any other major related to the Captain's or Assistant Fire Chief's job duties as determined by the Fire Chief and approved by the City Manager).

Continuation of the wage rate increases will be maintained with the successful completion of either a 3 hour college or university course or 30 hours of approved outside in-service training programs each 18 months as continuing education.

A Fire Officer receiving a bonus as a certified paramedic shall not be eligible to receive the three percent bonus as a certified Fire Officer. An Assistant Fire Chief or Fire Captain shall be required to maintain his/her certification as an emergency medical technician ambulance if not certified as a paramedic.

**Section 4. Acting Officer.** If a Fire Captain is assigned and works as an Acting Assistant or Acting Fire Chief due to the unavailability or absence of an officer of a higher rank for a minimum of two consecutive hours, the Fire Captain shall be entitled to receive a pay rate of 11% above the Fire Captain's wage rate for those hours actually worked in such a capacity.

If the Fire Captain has achieved all of the established criteria, as set forth in department policy, the Fire Captain shall be entitled to receive a pay rate of 13% above the Fire Captain's wage rate for those hours actually worked in such capacity.

If an Assistant Fire Chief is assigned and works as an Acting Fire Chief due to the unavailability or absence of the Fire Chief, the Assistant Fire Chief shall be entitled to receive a rate of 7% above the Assistant Chief's current wage rate for those hours actually worked in such capacity.

The Fire Captain remains an overtime-eligible employee.

The selection of the officer to be assigned as the acting officer shall be made by the Fire Chief. An officer assigned as the acting officer shall be responsible to perform all the duties of the position and/or all other duties as assigned by the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief has the sole discretion in determining the need for such a temporary Acting Officer assignment. The officer must satisfactorily perform all the duties and requirements of the position. Unsatisfactory performance will be noted and may be grounds for non-appointment at the next opportunity.

## **ARTICLE 15. HOLIDAYS AND PERSONAL DAYS**

**Section 1. Holidays.** Eligible employees will receive holiday compensation for the following recognized holidays:

New Years Day	Labor Day
Martin Luther King Day	Thanksgiving Day
President's Day	Day After Thanksgiving
Memorial Day	Christmas Eve
Independence Day	Christmas Day

The day of the week on which the holiday occurs shall be the holiday. Employees working from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight on the holiday in question shall be considered as working the holiday. Employees working 12:00 midnight to 7:00 a.m. on the holiday shall be considered as not working the holiday.

Section 2. Holiday Pay. 56 hour employees: Employees who do not work the holiday shall receive a compensatory 24-hour day off. Employees who work the 24-hour holiday shift shall receive a compensatory 24-hour day off plus ten percent of their weekly wage. 40 hour employees (Fire Prevention Officer): Employees shall have the holiday off with pay. Employees who work an 8-hour holiday shift shall receive a compensatory 12-hour day off.

Section 3. Eligibility. To be eligible for holiday pay, the employee must be entitled to pay for his last scheduled work day prior to the holiday and his first scheduled work day after the holiday. Employees on vacation or on a leave of absence with pay shall be considered as working their regular scheduled days for the purpose of this Section.

A holiday falling within an employee's paid sick leave shall not be charged against such sick leave period.

Section 4. Accumulation. An employee may accumulate up to seven (7) holidays. An employee may be permitted upon prior approval of the Fire Chief to accumulate up to eight holidays due to extenuating circumstances (i.e., shift shortage, illness, injury, etc.). The next available day must be taken off to prevent a loss of holiday. Compensatory time off will not be granted when such time off will result in any shift having less than authorized minimum number of persons set by the department on duty, unless permission for such time off is first secured from the senior officer on duty, and then secured from the Chief of the Department, except in the case of special emergency affecting an on-duty Fire Officer and only with the permission of the senior officer on duty.

Employees will be granted compensatory time off provided that their presence is not required during the shift (ex: scheduled mandatory training, physical exams, etc.).

Vacations will take precedence over holiday time off, so until such time as the vacation schedule has been approved, holidays granted will be subject to bumping by vacations. After the vacation schedule has been completed and approved by the Chief of the Department, any employee who asks the officer in charge for a specific day off as a holiday, has complied with all the rules of this Agreement, and is granted such day off, shall not be bumped from such day by any employee who seeks to change or add vacation to the schedule, without the express consent of the Chief of the Department. Compensatory time off shall not be granted for more than one month ahead of the calendar month the request occurs in. For example: In June a member can request a holiday for June and July. In July a member may request a holiday in July and August, etc.

Section 5. Personal Leave. Officers working fifty-six hour work weeks shall be granted ninety-six hours (4 duty days) of personal time on January 1 of each year. Officers working a forty-hour week shall be granted forty-eight hours of personal time on January 1 of each year. By request made by November 15 of each year, officers may sell the full amount of personal time accrued each year. Officers will be able to maintain a maximum of 4 personal days on the books at any given time. One (1) 24-hour day may be utilized by the employee in four (4) hour minimum increments for unforeseen circumstances that may occur during duty hours. The personal leave incremental hours may be used upon the approval of a supervisor for personal matters. Usage of hours less than a 4 hour increment will be approved at supervisory discretion. Should the employee elect not to utilize a personal day for incremental purposes, the four (4) days will be taken as singular 24 hour personal days. An officer may be permitted upon prior approval of the Fire Chief to accumulate a maximum of 6 personal days due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., shift shortage, illness or injury).

## **ARTICLE 16. VACATIONS**

Section 1. General. Fire Officers shall be granted a vacation in each calendar year without loss of pay. Such vacation shall be computed in the following manner for employees working a 56 hour a week schedule:

For 3 years but less than 8 years	6 days annually
For 8 years but less than 15 years	9 days annually
For 15 years but less than 25 years	12 days annually
For 25 years or more	15 days annually

Vacation shall be computed in the following manner for employees working a 40 hour a week schedule:

For 3 years but less than 8 years	- 10 days annually
For 8 years but less than 15 years	- 15days annually
For 15 years but less than 25 years	- 20days annually
For 25 years or more	- 25 days annually

One day for employees working a 40 hour a week schedule is a scheduled work day of eight hours.

A 56-hour employee who has accumulated 672 hours of sick leave shall be granted additional vacation at his request. The conversion will be the use of one sick day for one vacation day. In no case will more than three days additional vacation be granted in any calendar year under excess sick leave credits, and no employee shall receive more than 19 days vacation in one calendar year.

A 40-hour employee who has accumulated 480 hours of sick leave shall be granted additional vacation at his request. The conversion will be the use of one sick day for one vacation day. In no case will more than five days additional vacation be granted in any calendar year under excess sick leave credits, and no employee shall receive more than 30 days vacation in any one calendar year.

It is agreed that any person hired as a full-time employee by the City of Piqua will be

given credit for prior service with other political subdivisions of the State of Ohio for the purpose of determining the amount of vacation the person will receive as an employee of the City of Piqua. Such prior service, if any, will be recognized after one year of employment with the City of Piqua.

Section 2. Physical Training (PT) Vacation Day(s). PT vacation days may be taken in one day increments or in conjunction with other vacation time, subject to approval by the officers in charge. At no time will an employee be permitted to accumulate more than three PT vacation days.

Section 3. Vacation Period. Vacations shall be scheduled during the calendar year beginning January 1 and ending December 31 of that year. A 56-hour employee may transfer up to three days unused vacation time to the next calendar year, provided that any accumulated vacation shall not exceed the amount earned by an employee in a two year period. A 40-hour employee may transfer up to five days unused vacation to the next calendar year, provided that any accumulated vacation shall not exceed the amount earned by an employee in a two year period. Vacation may be scheduled in one-day increments.

Any employee who has accumulated vacation in excess of the amount earned in a two year period will forfeit such excess vacation as of December 31 unless prior approval by the City is granted for carry over to the next calendar year.

Section 4. Vacation Conversion to Cash. A 56-hour employee may convert up to 112 hours of accumulated vacation to cash annually at any time during the calendar year at the 56-hour rate. A 40-hour employee may convert up to 80 hours of accumulated vacation to cash annually at any time during the calendar year at the 40-hour rate but by no later than November 15.

Section 5. Partial Vacation Pay. In the event that an employee leaves City employment, he shall be paid accrued but unused vacation as of his last anniversary plus the pro-rata share of vacation earned during the current year. Vacation for the current year shall be pro-rated on the basis of 1112th for each full month worked since the most recent anniversary of the employee's hiring date, times the number of vacation days that the employee would have earned by working the entire year.

## **ARTICLE 17. SICK LEAVE**

Section 1. Sick Leave Credit and Use. Employees scheduled to work 56 hours a week shall earn sick leave credit on the basis of one day (24 hours) for each completed month of service. Employees scheduled to work 40 hours a week shall earn sick leave credit on the basis of 10 hours for each completed month of service. Credit shall be earned by employees on extended sick leave only if there is an intention to and reasonable expectation of a return to work. Sick leave will be charged on the basis of one day (24 or 8 hours as applicable) for each day (24 or 8 hours) off. Sick leave may be used as provided by this Agreement for absence due to illness, birth, injury, exposure to contagious disease, and for illness in the employee's immediate family. In the case of sick leave granted to care for a family member, the employee is expected to return to work for the remainder of the employee's shift when another family member becomes available to provide care. Immediate family means spouse, parent (natural,



step or in law) children (natural, step, or adopted) or other relatives living in the employee's household. Sick leave may not be used after the first week of a compensable injury.

Section 2. Sick Leave Accumulation and Payout. Sick leave will accumulate without limit for sick leave benefits.

Accumulated sick leave up to 1344 hours (for employees scheduled to work 56 hours a week) or up to 960 hours (for employees scheduled to work 40 hours a week) will be payable to employees with 8 or more years of service at termination of employment regardless of the reason for termination, except discharge for conviction of a felony offense, based on the following formula:

8 – 20 years	1:3
21-25 years	1:2
Over 25 years	1:1

For employees scheduled to work 56 hours a week, unused sick leave shall be cumulative up to and including 2016 hours for retirement or death benefits only. For employees scheduled to work 40 hours a week, unused sick leave shall be cumulative up to and including 1440 hours for retirement or death benefits only.

For employees scheduled to work 56 hours a week, the hourly rate for payment of accumulated sick leave shall be the employee's weekly rate divided by fifty-six. For employees scheduled to work 40 hours a week, the hourly rate for payment of accumulated sick leave shall be the employee's weekly rate divided by forty. Payment may be made weekly or in a lump sum at the option of the Director of Finance, with due regard to the financial status of the City.

For employees hired after September 1, 2001, who work a 56 hour a week schedule, unused sick leave shall be cumulative up to and including 1008 hours for retirement or death benefits, and shall be cumulative up to and including 672 hours upon other termination of employment, (except for dismissal for conviction of a felony offense) on the same conversion formula applicable to employees hired before the effective date of this Agreement. Upon retirement, the employee shall also be paid for accumulated sick time, at the current hourly rate, for any hours earned above 1008 hours up to 2184 hours at the rate of 1 for 3 for a combined total of up to 1400 hours.

For employees hired after September 1, 2001, who work a 40 hour a week schedule, unused sick leave shall be cumulative up to and including 720 hours for retirement or death benefits, and shall be cumulative up to and including 480 hours upon other termination of employment (except for dismissal for conviction of a felony offense), on the same conversion formula applicable to employees hired before the effective date of this Agreement. Upon retirement, the employee shall also be paid for accumulated sick time, at the current hourly rate, for any hours earned above 720 hours up to 1560 hours at the rate of 1 for 3 for a combined total of up to 1000 hours.

Section 3. Sick Leave Conversion to Cash. Effective January 1, 2002, a 56-hour employee who has accumulated 56 days sick leave may convert up to 56 hours of sick leave to cash each calendar year. The conversion will be hour-for-hour at the 56-hour

rate. A 40-hour employee who has accumulated 40 days of sick leave may convert up to 40 hours of sick leave to cash each calendar year. The conversion will be hour-for-hour at the 40-hour rate.

Effective January 1, 2005, a 56-hour Assistant Fire Chief or Captain who has used no more than 72 hours sick leave in the past 12 months may convert an additional 56 hours of sick leave to cash each calendar year, at the 56-hour rate, provided that the Assistant Fire Chief's or Captain's sick leave balance after the conversion still exceeds 2,520 hours. A 40-hour employee who has accumulated 1,800 hours of sick leave may convert up to 40 hours of sick leave to cash each calendar year. The conversion will be hour-for-hour at the 40-hour rate. Sick leave converted to cash is sick leave that was earned in prior years.

All conversion to cash shall be made by November 15 of each calendar year.

**Section 4. Misuse of Sick Leave.** Dishonesty in connection with sick leave will result in disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

**Section 5. Voluntary Sick Leave Donation.** All hours donated under this policy shall be determined by a dollar equivalent based upon the recipient's regular hourly rate.

An employee may donate the equivalent of a minimum of one (1) work day up to a maximum of one (1) work week per occurrence, with the exception where Article 9, Section 6 applies, a maximum of two (2) work weeks may be donated, to a fire department employee who has exhausted paid leave, personal days and vacation hours, and otherwise continues to be qualified for paid sick leave.

Donation of sick leave may only be permitted provided that the employee has a minimum accumulated balance of 480 hours from the City of Piqua.

Hours donated shall be on an hour per hour, as required basis only, and no excess hours shall be permitted to accumulate beyond the actual number of hours required by the recipient.

A donation of sick leave will be deducted from the donor employee's accumulated sick leave hours but shall not be counted as an absence.

## **ARTICLE 18. INJURY LEAVE**

When an employee is incapacitated from duty because of a compensable injury, sustained in the performance of the employee's duties, the employee shall be entitled to injury leave with compensation from the City, in the following amount: the difference between the employee's normal weekly salary and the amount of compensation paid to the employee by the Bureau of Worker's Compensation (BWC), for a period of time from one week after date of injury up to six months after that date with the option to re-evaluate every 30 days. The City may, in its discretion, elect to pay the employee his full weekly rate in place of the employee's receipt of compensation paid by the Bureau of Worker's Compensation (BWC). Additional injury leave for long term injury or illness may be granted by the City Manager upon proper application. The City may require a medical examination under the procedures set out in Article 9. If an employee is injured while performing a second job for a governmental or private industry for fire or EMS services

and cannot perform his job at the City of Piqua, the employee may not use donated sick time.

## **ARTICLE 19. FUNERAL LEAVE**

An employee shall be paid at the employee's regular rate for a work day (24 or 8 hours as applicable) lost due to an absence caused by a death in an employee's immediate family. In special or extenuating circumstances, the Fire Chief may grant up to two (2) days of additional funeral leave. Funeral leave may be taken at any time from date of death to date of funeral. For the purposes of funeral leave, the definition of "immediate family" shall be spouse, parent, parent-in-law, brother, sister, child, including foster or step child, grandchild, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, legal guardian who stands in loco parentis, employee's grandparents, employee's step grandparents, grandparents of employee's spouse, step grandparents of employee's spouse or any other member of the immediate household.

Up to 24 hours of sick leave may be granted to attend the funeral of an aunt, uncle, first cousin, niece or nephew.

Any additional time off granted by the Fire Chief in connection with a death covered by this Article will be charged against the employee's sicktime.

## **ARTICLE 20. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

Section 1. Required Clothing and Uniforms. The City shall purchase all required clothing and uniforms. After the initial issue, the City will pay for the replacement of any clothing that shows sign of wear or is lost or damaged in the line of duty. In order to receive the replacement clothing, the worn or damaged items shall be presented to the Fire Chief and/or designated representative for approval prior to purchasing the new items. All items shall be purchased through the regular City purchasing procedures and it shall be the responsibility of the Fire Chief and/or designated representative to maintain records on the disposition of these items.

Section 2. Reimbursement of Personal Property Loss or Damage. The City agrees to reimburse up to a maximum of \$40.00 (forty dollars) toward repair or replacement of personal wrist watches damaged or destroyed while in the performance of duties, limited to one occurrence per eligible person during the life of this agreement.

The City agrees to reimburse up to a maximum of \$125.00 (one hundred twenty five dollars) toward repair or replacement of personal prescription eye glasses damaged or destroyed while in the performance of duties, limited to one occurrence per eligible person during the life of this agreement.

Damage is to be reported to the shift supervising officer immediately and the damaged wrist watch or prescription eyeglasses presented for inspection and damage verification at the time of occurrence. Documentation of actual repair or replacement cost(s) is required prior to being eligible for reimbursement of damage expense(s).

Section 3. SCBA Face Piece Prescription Lens Kits. The City will provide prescription eyeglass kits, including lenses, for SCBA face pieces when needed by employees to safely see and work while at a fire scene.

Section 4. Protection of Property and Equipment. It shall be the responsibility of any employee having custody of any equipment and property to see that it is properly cared for, kept clean and returned to its place of storage. The employee shall not be held financially responsible for any accidentally damaged or missing property.

## **ARTICLE 21. FITNESS FOR DUTY**

Section 1. Physical Examinations. The City will provide for annual physical examinations to determine if an employee is able to perform the duties and functions of the position as established by the essential job functions established by the Chief. The Fire Chief will consult with the department doctor to determine the content of the examinations and the medical standards to be used. The Fire Chief will select the doctor(s) to perform the examinations. The examination may include a stress EKG if the regular EKG examination and employee's medical condition indicate it is appropriate.

Section 2. Examination Results. Employees will be bound by the results of the examinations. Should the employee not agree with the findings of the doctor selected by the Fire Chief, the employee may, within thirty days, obtain an opinion of another doctor. The employee will bear the full cost of this examination. The doctor selected by the employee must provide a complete report of the examination and findings to the departmental physician and the employee. In the event of a conflict in the opinions and finding of the two doctors, a third doctor will be selected by the City and the Union. The cost of this examination will be paid by the City. The third doctor shall be furnished copies of the opinions and findings of the two doctors.

Should the City, after consultation with the department physician, and when applicable the report of the third doctor, judge an employee as being unable to perform his/her duties, the employee will be placed on a leave of absence. This leave will be unpaid except to the extent that the employee has paid leave available. An employee placed on a leave of absence will have one year to have the medical condition corrected and to meet the required standards. The employee may be terminated if the medical condition is not corrected and the employee is unable to perform essential duties and functions of the position.

Section 3. Physical Conditioning Equipment. The City will continue to make physical conditioning equipment available.

Section 4. Physical Conditioning and Testing. It is recognized that each employee is responsible for the employee's physical conditioning. The Fire Chief will consult with the department physician to interpret and apply the standards to the physical conditioning and testing program.

Each employee must annually undergo a test of the employee's physical conditioning/agility commencing during the third quarter of each year. The basis for the fitness test will be the standards set forth by Coopers Institute for Aerobic Research. The tests shall consist of the bench press, leg press, push-ups, sit and reach or sit ups, and an aerobic test. The aerobic test shall consist of one of the following: 1 1/2 mile run, Rockport 1 mile walk, 12 minute run, or 12 minute bicycle ergometer.

The Single Standard General Population standards will be the basis for scoring. For an employee to pass the standard, the employee must meet or exceed the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in each category. An employee who does not meet these standards will have the opportunity to retest within 3 months. An employee who meets or exceeds the employee's physical fitness standard shall receive one day of additional vacation.

An employee who does not meet the standards after a retest must take the Job Task Related Test. The Job Task Related Test that is utilized for new recruits will be used.

There will be no use of body fat composition or height/weight charts to determine physical fitness standards under this section.

After 15 years of employment and every 5 years thereafter, the City shall pay for the employee to have a Coronary Artery Calcium CT scan. Should the CT scan come back positive where it is recommended that the employee proceed with a dye test, the City will pay for the dye test up to the amount of the employee's remaining deductible. All tests shall be submitted through the employee's insurance.

Section 5. Non-compensable Time. Unless released from duty requirements during a scheduled work day, the time spent in conditioning, testing and undergoing examination or treatment shall not be compensable.

## **ARTICLE 22. TRAINING**

Section 1. Need for In-Service Training. The City of Piqua and the Union recognize the need for continuing in-service training in order to promote the professionalism of the individual employee and the Department, including training received at the outside academies and seminars. The City shall fairly and equitably distribute opportunities for such training among all employees covered by this Agreement, consistent with the operational needs of the Department and the training needs of individual employees.

Section 2. Intra-Departmental, In-Service Training and Department Meetings. Any employee required to attend a training session or departmental meeting outside of the employee's regular scheduled 24-hour shift will receive overtime pay for the time so spent.

Section 3. In-Service Training at Outside Academies. When an employee is required to attend training at an outside academy or seminar, the work schedule of the employee may be adjusted in advance of the training to reflect reasonable travel time to and from the training site. The employee's weekly schedule may also be adjusted to a 40-hour schedule consisting of five 8-hour days. In such a case, the employee's regularly scheduled work day for training purposes shall not include meal periods unless the exclusion of the meal period would reduce the regularly scheduled work day below 8 hours.

## **ARTICLE 23. PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

Section 1. Promotions and Disqualification. Appointment to the promoted ranks shall be made by promotion from the next lowest rank, providing the employee considered for the promotion is qualified for the position. A fire officer shall not be able to take a promotional examination with less than 12 months in their current position, unless the

process is not competitive. If the person is disqualified by the Chief or City Manager, the reasons for such disqualification shall be presented in writing to the person so disqualified. A disqualification may constitute a grievance and be processed in accordance with Article 7.

A. Testing. Scoring from the position of Captain to Assistant Chief shall be as follows:

1. Written Test - 50%
2. Assessment Center - 50%
3. Seniority points per ORC 123.4

The written test and assessment center shall each be scored with a maximum score of 100%. The written test score and the assessment center score shall each be divided by two, with the results added together for the final score (before the addition of seniority points). E.g. if the written score is 80% and the assessment center score is 90% the final score will be 85%. The candidate must score at least 70% on the written test to go on to the Assessment Center. There will be no minimum passing score on the Assessment Center.

B. The Director of the Civil Service Commission shall appoint members in the order of their rank on the certified eligibility list, the highest score being first and so on.

## **ARTICLE 24. WORK RULES**

**Section 1. Adoption of Rules.** The Fire Chief may adopt rules for the operation of the department and the conduct of its employees, provided such rules do not conflict with any of the provisions of this Agreement.

**Section 2. Discipline.** It is agreed that the City has the right to discipline or discharge regular employees for just cause, subject to the grievance and arbitration procedure. The purposes of discipline are to serve as corrective and preventative of future conduct.

The City shall apply the principles of progressive discipline, however, depending upon the severity and the circumstances of the offense, even if a first offense, may result in more serious disciplinary action than a Verbal Warning, up to and including discharge.

VERBAL WARNING (WRITTEN RECORD)

- A. WRITTEN REPRIMAND
- B. SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY
- C. REDUCTION IN RANK AND/OR PAY (DEMOTION)
- D. DISCHARGE FROM EMPLOYMENT

Progressive discipline shall take into account the nature of the violation, the employee's record of discipline, and the employee's record of performance and conduct. All such actions shall be reduced to writing and copies shall be submitted to the employee, union and all involved supervisory levels.

**Section 3. Record of discipline.** If an employee receives a Verbal Warning which is placed in his/her personnel file, such Verbal Warning shall be removed at the expiration of 12 months from the date thereof, if there has been no further discipline of similar or like offense within the 12 months. However, if the employee receives a second Verbal Warning within 12 months from the first Verbal Warning for the same offense, both Verbal Warnings shall be kept an additional 12 months from the date of their second Verbal Warning. Even though discipline may be removed from the personnel file, it will be retained in accordance with the City's public records retention policy. Such discipline cannot be used as a basis for progressive discipline.

If an employee receives a Written Warning which is placed in his/her personnel file, such Written Warning shall be removed at the expiration of 12 months from the date thereof, if there has been no further discipline of similar or like offense within the 12 months. However, if the employee receives a second Written Warning within 12 months from the first Written Warning for the same offense, both Written Warnings shall be kept an additional 12 months from the date of the second Written Warning. Even though discipline may be removed from the personnel file, it will be retained in accordance with the City's public records retention policy. Such discipline cannot be used as a basis for progressive discipline.

If an employee receives a Suspension which is placed in his/her personnel file, such Suspension shall be removed at the expiration of 18 months from the date thereof, if there has been no further discipline of similar or like offense with the 18 months. However, if the employee receives a second Suspension within 18 months from the first Suspension for the same offense, both Suspensions shall be kept an additional 18 months from the date of the second Suspension. Even though discipline may be removed from the personnel file, it will be retained in accordance with the City's public records retention policy. Such discipline cannot be used as a basis for progressive discipline.

If an employee receives a Demotion which is placed in his/her personnel file, such Demotion shall be removed at the expiration of 24 months from the date thereof. Even though discipline may be removed from the personnel file, it will be retained in accordance with the City's public records retention policy. Such discipline cannot be used as a basis for progressive discipline.

**Section 4. Investigations.** In instances when an investigation may be warranted, employees who are to be interviewed as part of an investigation shall have a union designated representative present during the interview except where immediate action is required, as in situations endangering personnel, and a steward or officer is not available, in which case the employee may be placed on paid administrative leave pending a meeting with the steward present. Unless the employee requests that the representative not be present. Before an employee may be interviewed or requested to provide a statement, the employee shall be informed of the general nature of the investigation and, upon request, provided the opportunity to review documents or materials that may be relevant to the investigation.

**Section 5. Policies.** The city shall make all personnel policies available to employees.

**Section 6. Defense of an employee.** It is an affirmative defense if an employee is disciplined for refusing to do an assignment which he/she reasonably believes to be unsafe. However, the incident that resulted in discipline must have been reported to the Chief of the Fire Department or the City Human Resources Director within the same workday if possible. Should the Chief be notified, he/she shall provide a written copy of said incident as well as the decision made to the Human Resources Director by leaving a voicemail or email to either individual, or reporting directly to the individual.

**Section 7. Processing.** No employee shall be suspended, demoted, discharged, put on unpaid administrative leave, or otherwise be forced to suffer a loss of pay or opportunity to work, unless there has first been a hearing at which the following conditions are met:

- A. The employee has been notified of the time and place of the hearing 72 hours prior to the hearing. The employer will provide a courtesy copy to the local union representative.
- B. The employee has been notified of the nature of the charges against the employee at least 72 hours before hearing, according to the guidelines outlined in the discipline personnel policy.
- C. The city will introduce all evidence related to the incident at the pre-disciplinary hearing. The employee and/or union may request a recess to review the submitted evidence, for a time period not to exceed sixty (60) minutes. If the union believes that it needs to talk to witnesses or request records, the pre-disciplinary hearing will be rescheduled to occur within three (3) business days.
- D. The employee is represented by a union steward, officer or trustee, or other union designated representative, or the employee has waived such representation in writing to both the city and the union.
- E. The employee and his representatives are given an opportunity to respond to the charges as well as submitting any evidence, they believe is relevant to the hearing (i.e. asking questions of any potential witnesses of bargaining and non-bargaining employees).
- F. If the City elects to record any of the meetings, the employee will be given a copy of the recording at no charge.

**Section 8. Legal Rights.** If an employee elects to appeal a disciplinary action or discharge to the Civil Service Commission, the employee shall be denied any remedy under the grievance and arbitration procedure. Disciplinary Actions will not be used to increase future disciplinary penalties or deny future promotional exams after relevant expiration of said disciplinary action.

## **ARTICLE 25. GROUP INSURANCE.**

### **Section 1. Health Insurance.**

- a) **Benefits Offered.** Health insurance shall be offered to the employees. The coverage provided will be the same as the coverage authorized by the City Commission for all non-bargaining employees. The employee will contribute 15% of the City's total cost of its Health Insurance Plan.



The City will fund the employee HSA accounts by funding 1/12 of the annual total each month. The City will fund the employee HRA accounts by funding the entire amount each year in January. The City will fund 50% of employee HSA and HRA accounts. Employees hired during a plan year shall have the City's contribution to their HSA and HRA prorated based upon the number of full months employed by Piqua during that initial planyear.

An employee may be reimbursed up to a maximum of \$1,400 if on a family plan and \$700 for a single plan for each calendar year for the duration of this agreement. The employee and not the family member must participate in the below activities to be eligible for the reimbursement.

Such reimbursement shall be based on participation in self-selected programs established by the City and the health insurance provider for eligibility.

Upon completion of an eligible program, the employee shall submit the required form and information to the Human Resources Director who will submit the request for reimbursement. All reimbursement checks will go to the employee's HSA or HRA account and not directly to the employee.

Reimbursement Eligibility: The following activities are eligible for reimbursement.

Additional activities may be approved by the City during the plan year for reimbursement.

Eligible Activity	Amount Reimbursed	Special Conditions
Biometric Screening Event	\$400	Eligible for reimbursement once each calendar year.
Health Risk Assessment	\$100	Eligible for reimbursement once each calendar year.
Wellness Coaching	\$100	Wellness Coaching is as indicated by the Health Risk Assessment. Eligible for reimbursement once each calendar year.
Registering on Health ins website	\$100	Eligible for reimbursement once each calendar year.
Flu Shot	\$100	Eligible for reimbursement once each calendar year.
Exercise	\$100	90 minutes of physical activity per week for each 8 week period completed. Forms must be completed and turned in to Human Resources. The forms are available at HR
BP of less than 130/80 Cholesterol of less than 200 mg BMI of less than 25	\$200	To qualify for reimbursement, the employee must meet two of the three categories .
Prescription Medications	\$100	Employee must switch from brand medication to generic. Must begin only in January and continue for the calendar year. Eligible for each prescription changed.
Prescription Medications	\$50	Employee must switch from brand medication to generic. Must be for a consecutive six month period. Eligible for each prescription changed.
Cessation Program	\$100	Employee must complete a program as approved by the HR department and successfully have stopped smoking for a consecutive 6 month period. Employee will be subject to random testing to verify continued success. Eligible for reimbursement only one time during employee's tenure and at conclusion of 6 month period.
Competitive Events	\$50-5k \$100-10k; Triathlon \$150-½ marathon; tough mudder or Spartan like event \$200 –full marathon or larger	The triathlon must include 3 events and at least a 5k run. The tough mudder and Spartan like event must include a minimum of a 10 mile course. Proof of registration and completion must be submitted. A maximum of \$400 can be earned in this category by one event of any combination thereof per calendar year.

- b) Insurance Committee. The Union shall designate up to two bargaining unit employees to represent the bargaining unit on the City's Insurance Committee. The Insurance Committee will meet periodically to (1) review the benefits being provided and the cost of those benefits and (2) to consider alternatives to maintain acceptable benefit levels at an acceptable cost to employees and the City. Any recommendation approved by a majority of the members of the Insurance Committee will be submitted to the City Manager for his consideration.
  
- c) Option out. Eligible employees, who decline the city offered health insurance benefits, will be entitled to receive a one-time payment per health insurance year of \$2,000 for those eligible for family coverage and \$1,000 for individual coverage.

Section 2. Life Insurance. The City shall provide and pay the necessary premiums for group life insurance in the amount of \$100,000.

Section 3. Professional Liability Insurance. The City shall provide and pay the necessary premiums for professional liability insurance. The City will provide the most comprehensive insurance offered to the City and will provide a copy of the insurance policy to the Union.

Section 4. The City shall earmark a maximum of \$10,000 for the replacement of fitness equipment in the fire department as may be eligible under the requirements of the health and wellness program guidelines as established by Anthem the health insurance provider.

## ARTICLE 26. SENIORITY

Section 1. Definition. Seniority is defined as an employee's total length of continuous service with the City as a firefighter.

Section 2. Break in Service. Continuous service as a firefighter will include approved leaves of absence and any period of layoff during which the firefighter retains recall rights.

Section 3. Identical Hire Dates. When two or more employees have the same seniority date, the employee with the lower employee identification number will be considered the most senior.

Section 4. Termination of Seniority. Seniority shall terminate when the employee:

- A. quits or resigns;
- B. retires;
- C. is discharged (unless reinstated through the grievance and arbitration procedure);
- D. fails to timely return from a layoff or leave of absence;
- E. is on layoff for a period of time equivalent to the employee's seniority, or two (2)

years, whichever is less; or  
F. is on leave of absence for more than two (2) years.

Section 5. Seniority List. The Fire Chief shall maintain a seniority list which shall be brought up-to-date in a timely manner when the need arises.

## **ARTICLE 27. LAYOFF AND RECALL**

Section 1. Layoff. In the event of a layoff, the employee with the least seniority shall be laid off first. Firefighters and firefighter/paramedics will be considered the same classification in applying this Article.

Section 2. Recall. In the event of a recall, the most senior employee with recall rights will be recalled first. No new employee will be hired until all laid off employees with recall rights have been given the opportunity to return to work.

## **ARTICLE 28. WAIVER**

During the term of this Agreement, each party waives any right to require the other party to negotiate on any subject, and agrees that it shall take no action to compel the other party to negotiate on any subject except to the extent this Agreement specifically provides otherwise.

## **ARTICLE 29. JOB REQUIREMENTS**

Employees are to regard themselves as public employees, and are to be governed by the highest ideals of honor and integrity in all their public and personal conduct in order that they may merit the respect and confidence of the general public.

In justice and in fairness to the City and the taxpayers, all employees shall report to work on time, shall not leave the job early, shall be prompt in reporting to their assigned duties and shall faithfully perform their duties.

## **ARTICLE 30. UNION ACTIVITIES.**

Section 1. Union Officers. The Union shall notify the Fire Chief in writing whenever there is a change in the names of the current officers of Local 252. These notices shall be kept current by the Union at all times.

Section 2. Discipline. When an employee is to be discharged, suspended or given a written reprimand, a Union officer shall be present upon request of the employee or supervisor.

Section 3. Negotiations. Meetings between the City and the Union to negotiate the renewal of this Agreement or to process grievances will be scheduled, as far as practical, during normal working hours. If such meetings are held during an employee's normal working hours, the employee will suffer no loss of pay for time actually spent in such meetings. A maximum of 3 employees shall be eligible for such pay protection.

Section 4. Visits of Union Representatives. A Union officer may consult in the assembly area before the start of and at the completion of the day's work. Upon

notification to and consent of the supervisor, the Union officer shall be permitted access to work areas at all reasonable times only for the purpose of adjusting grievances, assisting in the settlement of disputes, and for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions and aims of this Agreement. These privileges are extended subject to the understanding that work assignments are not, in fact, interfered with.

Section 5. Meetings. The City agrees to permit the Union use of the Fire Department building for the conducting of the regular and special monthly meetings.

### **ARTICLE 31. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT COMPLIANCE**

Section 1. Compliance. The City has the right to take steps reasonably necessary to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and with the Family and Medical Leave Act, or to remove doubts about such compliance.

This section shall be governed by federal and state law and by City policy as City policy pertains to notice requirements.

### **ARTICLE 32. LABOR/MANAGEMENT MEETINGS**

Section 1. Committee In the interest of sound employee relations, a joint committee, not to exceed six (6), half of whom shall represent the City and half of whom shall represent the Union, may meet from time to time by mutual agreement upon a request by either party to discuss subjects of mutual concern.

Section 2. Conduct of Meeting An agenda will be furnished by the party requesting the meeting at least five (5) working days before the scheduled meeting, with a list of matters to be discussed in the meeting, and the names of the Union representatives who will be attending. Matters which may be discussed at such meetings include:

1. The administration of this Agreement;
2. Changes made by the City which affect bargaining unit employees;
3. Grievances which have not been processed beyond the final step of the grievance procedure, when such discussions are mutually agreed to in advance by the parties;
4. General information of interest to the parties;
5. Ways to increase productivity and to improve efficiency; and
6. Safety matters relating to employees.

Section 3. No Loss of Pay Union representatives attending Labor/Management meetings shall not suffer loss in their regular pay while attending any meetings provided for under this Article which are held during the employee's regular working hours. With the prior approval of the Fire Chief, Union representatives may confer with bargaining unit members in preparation for such meetings without a loss in their regular pay.

Section 4. LIM Not Negotiations Labor/Management meetings shall not be negotiation sessions to alter or amend the basic Agreement.

**ARTICLE 33. TERM OF AGREEMENT**

Section 1. Effective Dates. This Agreement shall become effective on January 1, 2020, or when this Agreement is signed, whichever is later, and shall remain in full force and effect until 11:59 p.m., December 31, 2022. The parties shall continue in full force and effect all the terms and condition of this Agreement after expiration until a new agreement is signed or the statutory dispute settlement procedures are completed.

Section 2. Negotiations. The Union and the City shall present, in writing, their proposed changes for a successor agreement no later than 90 days before the termination date of this Agreement. Negotiations will commence between the 83<sup>rd</sup> and the 90<sup>th</sup> day before the termination date. Both parties shall negotiate in good faith in an earnest effort to complete negotiations and reach a new agreement 45 days before the termination date.

This Agreement is signed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of MARCH 2020.

CITY OF PIQUA, OHIO

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
FIREFIGHTERS, AFL-CIO-CLC,  
Local #252 PIQUA, OHIO


By:

  
Gary A. Huff, City Manager

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cleodous Hawk, IAFF Local 252 President


By:

  
Catherine M. Bogan, HR Director

By:

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Eric Wood, IAFF Local 252 Vice President


By:

  
Cynthia Holtzapple, Finance Director

By:

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Paul Brown, Fire Officers Representative

By:

  
Brent Pohlschneider, Fire Chief

By:

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Henry Arnett, Esq. Livorno & Arnett, Co. LPA