

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

Between

The Board of Trustees of Canton Township

And

Canton Township Professional Fire Fighters

IAFF Local 3676

Effective April 1, 2024-March 31, 2025

SERB Case Number

2024-MED-01-0039

PREAMBLE

Section 1. This agreement is entered into by and between the Canton Township Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the “Employer” and the Local 3676 of the International Association of Firefighters, hereinafter referred to as the “Union”. It is the purpose of this agreement to achieve and maintain harmonious relations between the Employer and Union, to provide for equitable and peaceful adjustments of differences which may arise and to establish full and complete agreement governing the wages, hours worked, terms and any other conditions of employment.

ARTICLE 1

UNION RECOGNITION

Section 1. The Employer recognizes the Union as the sole and exclusive representative for those employees in the bargaining unit. Whenever used in this agreement, the term “bargaining unit” and/or “employee” shall be deemed to include those individuals employed full time by the Employer in the classifications listed below.

Included: All full-time personnel with the duties that include fire suppression, fire investigation, and EMS. The positions of full time Lieutenant, Captain, and Shift Commanders shall be included in this agreement.

Excluded: All part time and clerical employees with no duties as described above. **Any part time or full-time administrative staff, including the Fire Prevention Bureau and the Fire Department Mechanic**, or any full-time employee with the rank over Shift Commander shall not be included in this agreement.

Section 2. If, during the life of this agreement, the Employer wishes to establish the use of a new rank or position, both parties shall meet to determine whether or not such rank or position is to be included in the bargaining unit. In the event the parties are unable to reach an agreement, the dispute will be submitted to the State Employee Relations Board (SERB) for final disposition. If the new rank or position is to be included in the bargaining unit, the parties shall meet to negotiate wages, hours worked and any other terms/conditions of said position.

ARTICLE 2

NON-DISCRIMINATION

Section 1. The Employer and the Union agree to not interfere with the rights of employees to become members of the Union or refrain from membership in the Union. There shall be no discrimination, interference, restraint or coercion by the Employer or Union against any employee because of Union membership or non-membership or because of legal employee activity or representation in any official capacity or on behalf of the Union.

Section 2. The Employer pledges that it will provide for an equal opportunity workplace and will ensure a non-discriminatory environment in regards to race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender or age.

Section 3. All references to employees in this agreement designate both sexes and whenever the male gender is used, it shall be construed both male and female employees.

Section 4. The Employer and Union acknowledge that an employee in the bargaining unit has an absolute right to:

- A. Engage in other concerted activities for the good of collective bargaining or other mutual aid and protection.
- B. Representation by an employee organization.
- C. Bargain collectively with the employer to determine wages, hours worked, terms/other conditions of employment, continuation of, modification of, deletion of, a provision of this agreement and to enter into collective bargaining agreements.
- D. Present grievances and have them adjusted without the intervention of the bargaining unit representative, as long as the adjustment is consistent with the terms of the collective bargaining agreement currently in effect and as long as the bargaining unit representatives have the opportunity to be present at the adjustment.

ARTICLE 3

UNION REPRESENTATION

Section 1. The Employer agrees to admit not more than two (2) non-employee Union representatives, unless mutually agreed otherwise, to the Employer's facilities.

The Union representatives shall be admitted to the Employer's facilities and sites for the purpose of processing grievances or attending meetings as permitted herein, providing twenty-four (24) hours advance notice is given to the Employer except in an emergency situation whereby the twenty-four (24) hour notice shall be waived. Upon arrival, the Union representative(s) shall identify himself to the Employer or the Employer's designated representative(s).

Section 2. The Employer shall recognize the Union President as the Union Steward and the Vice President or Secretary/Treasurer in the absence of the President as an alternate to act as Union steward for the purpose of processing grievances in accordance with the grievance procedure. The alternate shall be recognized as the steward when the regular steward is the grievant or the subject of disciplinary action or when the steward is otherwise unavailable. If the Employer schedules a grievance hearing or other meeting during the steward's regular work shift, the steward shall not suffer any loss of straight time pay for the attendance of said meeting.

Section 3. The Union shall provide to the Employer an official roster of its staff representatives and local Union Steward which is to be kept current at all times and shall include the following:

- A. Name
- B. Address
- C. Home telephone number
- D. Union office held

The Employer shall not recognize any employee as a Union Steward or an alternate until the Union has presented the Employer with written certification of that person's selection.

Section 4. The investigation and the submission of a grievance may occur during the steward's and/or grievant's duty hours provided:

- A. There is no disruption of the Department or affected employee's regular duties and responsibilities.
- B. A reasonable amount of time as determined by the Fire Chief is spent.
- C. The affected parties are available (i.e., Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, or Clerk to the Board).

Section 5. Rules governing the activity of Union representatives are as follows:

- A. The Union agrees that no official of the Union, employee or non-employee shall interfere, interrupt or disrupt the normal work duties of other employees. The Union further agrees not to conduct Union business between the hours of 08:00 am to 16:00 hours, except to the extent specifically authorized herein this agreement.

Section 6. The Union shall be permitted to use the Fire Department facilities to conduct the monthly Union meetings provided there is space available. Such meetings shall take place at a time/date mutually agreed to by the Employer and Union. Furthermore, the meeting shall be of a reasonable duration and will not interrupt the usual/normal services and duties of employees.

Section 7. The Employer agrees to allow the Union to keep one (1) filing cabinet in the staffed Fire Stations for the purpose of storing Union records. These cabinets shall be purchased and maintained by the Union.

Section 8. Until such time that the Union acquires its own Union facility, the Employer agrees to allow the Union to use the Fire Station's mailing address for the purpose of receiving correspondence.

Section 9. The Employer agrees to permit one member of the Union to participate and be a part of the hiring board when the Employer is testing and hiring new bargaining unit members. The Union agrees to select a representative for the hiring board that does not have and family relationship to any of the applicants. The final decision by the Employer shall not be subject to the grievance and arbitration procedures as set forth in Article 11 of this Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Section 10. The Union recognizes and will follow the Fire Department's communication channel to the Employer. All requests, problems and suggestions should be directed to the Supervisor (if applicable) which in turn communicates with the Fire Chief or Assistant Fire Chief who then communicates with the Employer.

ARTICLE 4

MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

Section 1. The Township of Canton retains the right and responsibility to:

- A. Determine matters of inherent managerial policy which includes, but is not limited to, areas of discretion or policy such as the functions or programs of the public employer, the standard of service, its overall budget, utilization of technology and organizational structure.
- B. Direct, supervise, evaluate, assign and hire employees.
- C. Maintain and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of governmental operations.
- D. Determine the overall methods, process, means or personnel by which governmental operations are to be continued.
- E. Determine the adequacy of the workforce.
- F. Suspend, discipline, demote, discharge for just cause, layoff, transfer, assign, schedule, promote or retain employees.
- G. Determine the overall mission of the Employer as a unit of government.
- H. Effectively manage the work force, take actions necessary to carry out the mission of the public employer as a governmental unit.

ARTICLE 5

BULLETIN BOARD SPACE

Section 1. The Employer agrees to provide space for a bulletin board in the private quarters of any station that has Union employees working in it for the use of the Union.

Section 2. Union notices which appear on a bulletin board shall be signed, posted and removed by a local Union officer.

ARTICLE 6

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Section 1. The Union recognizes that the Employer in order to carry out its statutory mandates and goals has the right to promulgate work rules, regulations, policies and procedures consistent within the Employer's statutory authority to regulate the personal conduct of the employees while in performance of their assigned duties or in any representative capacity of the Township, or in the conduct of the Employer's services and programs.

Section 2. Copies of written work rules, policies, directives or amendments, herein, promulgated following the effective date of this agreement will be furnished to the Union fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the effective date of implementation. The Employer/Designee(s) will meet with the representatives of the Union to discuss the effects of any new or modified (of current) work rules, regulations, policies or procedures, upon the bargaining unit employees. Such work rules, regulations, policies and procedures shall be distributed to the affected employees and/or posted on the departmental bulletin boards (physical and electronic) fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the effective date.

Section 3. The Employer/Fire Chief may in an emergent situation implement a work rule, regulation, policy or procedure to rectify a situation. However, following the resolution of the emergency, the Employer shall meet with the representatives of the Union pursuant to the provisions contained in Section 2 of Article 6.

Section 4. The Employer recognizes that no work rules, regulations, policies or procedures shall be established that are in violation of any expressed terms of this Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Section 5. The reasonableness of work rules, regulations, policies and procedures promulgated by the Employer and/or its designee(s) are subject to the grievance procedure.

ARTICLE 7

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

ELECTIVE DEDUCTIONS

Section 1. The Employer agrees to deduct Union membership dues in accordance with this Article for all employees eligible for the bargaining unit.

Section 2. The Employer agrees to deduct regular Union membership dues in equal amounts per pay from the pay of any employee in the bargaining unit eligible for membership upon receiving written authorization signed individually and voluntarily by the employee. The employee must present the signed payroll deduction form to the Employer. Upon receipt of the proper authorization, the Employer will deduct Union dues from the payroll check for the next pay period in which dues are normally deducted following the pay period in which the Employer received the authorization.

Section 3. The parties agree that the Employer assumes no obligation financial or otherwise, arising out of the provisions of this article regarding the deduction of Union dues. The Union hereby agrees that it will indemnify and hold the Employer harmless from any claim, actions or proceedings by any employees arising from deductions made by the Employer pursuant to this Article. Once the funds are remitted to the Secretary/Treasurer of the Union, their disposition thereafter shall be the sole and exclusive obligation and responsibility of the Union.

Section 4. The Employer shall be relieved from making such individual Elective deductions upon any of the following employee actions:

- A. Termination of employment
- B. Transfer to a job other than one covered by the Collective Bargaining Agreement
- C. Layoff from work
- D. Unpaid leave of absence
- E. Revocation of the Elective Deduction Authorization
- F. Resignation by the employee from the Department

Section 5. The Employer shall not be obligated to make dues deductions from any employee who, during any dues month involved, shall have failed to receive sufficient wages to make all legally required deductions in addition to the deduction of Union dues.

Section 6. The parties agree that neither the employees nor the Union shall have a claim against the Employer for errors in the processing of deductions, unless a claim of error is made to the Employer in writing within sixty (60) days after the date such an error is claimed to have occurred. If it is found an error was made in deductions or in an over-payment made to the employee wherein the employee is responsible to pay back the over-payment, the repayment schedule shall be made in reasonable installments/amounts that are agreed to by both the Employer and Union on an individual, case by case basis.

Section 7. The Secretary/Treasurer of the Union shall certify the rate at which dues are to be deducted to the payroll clerk during January of each year. One (1) month advance notice must be given to the payroll clerk prior to making any changes in an individual's dues deductions.

Section 8. Except as otherwise provided herein, each eligible employee's written authorization for dues deduction shall be honored by the Employer for the duration of this agreement.

Section 9. The Employer will enroll in and make available to the Union the Ohio Deferred Compensation program. The payroll clerk as directed by the Ohio Deferred Compensation program will make deductions from each pay and forward deductions to Ohio Deferred Compensation as their guidelines dictate.

NON-ELECTIVE DEDUCTIONS

Section 1. The Union recognizes and authorizes the Employer to automatically deduct from each employee's pay all deductions mandated by law presently including, but not limited to, during the tenure of this Collective Bargaining Agreement, Federal Income Taxes, State Income Taxes, Local Income Taxes (if applicable) and deductions to the non-elective Police and Firemen's Disability and Pension Fund.

Section 2. The Union also recognizes the authority of the Employer to deduct mandated spousal and child support payments that are mandated by court from an Employee's pay. These deductions will be made and forwarded to the appropriate agency as directed by the court.

ARTICLE 8

SAFETY

Section 1. The Employer accepts the responsibility to make every reasonable effort to provide safe working conditions and working methods for all employees. The employee(s) and Union accept the responsibility to maintain the Department's equipment and work area in a safe and proper manner and accept the responsibility to follow all safety rules and safe working methods of the Employer. All working conditions believed to be unsafe must be reported to the Fire Chief/designee as soon as said unsafe working condition(s) are known. The Fire Chief/designee will investigate all reports of unsafe working conditions and will make every reasonable effort to correct any which are found and see that the safety rules and safe working methods are followed by bargaining unit employees.

Section 2. The Employer shall furnish and thereafter maintain at no cost to the employee all respiratory apparatus, gloves, helmets, protective clothing and any other protective equipment such as Personal Alarm devices, boots, Nomex hoods, flashlights, batteries and any other equipment as determined by the Employer to safely fulfill the requirements of the employee's

duties and responsibilities. All equipment shall meet or exceed National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) requirements at the time the equipment is issued.

Section 3. The Employer shall furnish and maintain at no cost the employee all EMS safety supplies as required to function in the EMS field and all safety equipment shall meet or exceed NFPA standards.

Section 4. Employees will be subject to annual random drug screenings per department policy.

ARTICLE 9

PERSONNEL FILES

Section 1. It is recognized by the parties that the Employer may prescribe regulations for the custody, use and preservation of records, papers, books, documents and property pertaining to the Township and/or Fire Department. However, every employee shall be allowed to review his/her personnel file upon request, and in the presence of the Fire Chief or designee. The Employer agrees to provide the employee notice in writing of an individual's file being reviewed by any party, within three (3) working days that an employee's personnel file is being reviewed.

The employee's Social Security number and any medical records/references or other Protected Health Information shall be removed before viewing from any member of the general public.

Section 2. If, during examination of a personnel file by employee, has reason to believe that there are inaccuracies in the documents contained in said file to which the employee has access, the employee may write a memorandum limited to two (2), 8.5"x11" sheets of paper, to the Fire Chief or designee explaining the alleged discrepancy/inaccuracy. If, upon investigation, the Fire Chief or designee sustains the allegations, he shall do one (1) of the following:

- A. The employee's memorandum shall be attached to the material in question and filed with it and the Fire Chief or designee may note thereon his concurrence.
- B. The Fire Chief or designee shall remove the inaccurate material from the personnel file if he feels that the inaccuracies warrant such removal.

Section 3. The employee shall be provided a copy of any/all documents placed in his/her personnel file at the same time such document is made part of the employee's personnel file.

ARTICLE 10

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Section 1. No non-probationary employee shall be disciplined, reduced in pay, suspended or discharged except for just cause.

Section 2. Except in instances where the employee is found guilty of a felony, discipline will be applied in a corrective and progressive manner in accordance with the Employer's Policy. 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.

Section 3. Prior to any disciplinary action taking place that may result in reduction in pay or rank, suspension or termination, the employee shall receive a notice of alleged misconduct. Said notice shall state the alleged misconduct by the employee including dates, times and places where misconduct is alleged to have occurred. At an informal meeting, the affected employee shall be given an opportunity to respond to the specific charges. A person designated by the Employer may conduct the informal meeting. Prior to the informal meeting, the employee may elect to waive, in writing, participation in the meeting. The employee shall be advised in writing that he/she is entitled to Union representation at the informal meeting.

Section 4. Should the employee wish to respond to the charges, he shall be entitled to Union representation.

- A. Upon conclusion of the meeting or upon receipt of the written waiver by the employee, if the Employer/designee believes that just cause exists, discipline shall be imposed. The affected employee shall be notified in writing of the discipline. The disciplinary action may be subject to appeal through the grievance procedure, filed at Step 1, with the Board of Trustees and if within five (5) working days following the day the employee receives the final notice of discipline.
- B. No recording devices or stenographic record shall be used during questioning unless agreed to mutually by both the Employer and Union. The employee will be supplied with a copy of the transcript if requested. The cost of transcript will be borne by the party requesting the copy of the transcript.

An employee may resign at any time following the receipt of a notice of discipline. Any such resignation will be processed in accordance with the Employer's rules and regulations and the employee's employment shall then be terminated.

Section 5. Where the Employer seeks as a penalty the imposition of a suspension without pay, a demotion in rank or removal from service of an employee, notice of such discipline shall be made in writing and served to the employee personally or by registered/certified mail with return service requested within fourteen (14) calendar days after the alleged misconduct.

Removal of Firefighter/Paramedic/Fire Safety Inspector from their position with the Canton Township Fire Department shall be done in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Sections 505.38, 733.35-733.39 and any other applicable Federal or State laws.

Section 6. An employee may be placed on administrative leave with pay at any time during the disciplinary investigation if the Employer, at its sole discretion determines it is necessary.

Section 7. Corrective action regarding verbal and/or written warnings shall cease to have force and effect after eighteen (18) months following the issuance of such actions unless a similar offense occurs within that eighteen (18) month period. In such instance, the reprimands from these similar offenses shall remain in force for a two (2) year period.

Corrective action regarding suspensions and/or demotions shall cease to have force after a thirty (30) month period following the effective date of such demotion or suspension unless a similar offense occurs within that thirty (30) month time period. In such instance, the thirty (30) month period shall begin on the date of the last or latest demotion or suspension occurred.

ARTICLE 11

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Section 1. The term "Grievance" shall mean any dispute between an employee and the Employer or its representative involving the interpretation or application of this Collective Bargaining Agreement, ordinances of the Township related to or matters involving discipline, discharge or safety and welfare.

Section 2. All grievances must be processed at the proper step in order to be considered at subsequent steps.

An employee may withdraw a grievance at any point by submitting in writing a statement to that effect or by permitting the time requirements at each step to lapse without further appeal. Any grievance which is not submitted by the employee within the time limits provided herein, shall be considered resolved based upon Management's last answer.

The employee may advance any grievance not answered by Management within the stipulated time limits to the next step in the grievance procedure. All time limits on grievance/hearings may be extended upon mutual written consent by both parties.

Section 3. It is the mutual desire of the Employer and the Union to provide for prompt adjustment of grievances with a minimum amount of interruption of the work schedules. Every responsible effort shall be made by the Employer and the Union to affect the resolution of

grievances at the earliest step possible. In furtherance of this objective, the following procedure shall be followed:

Step 1- FILING A GRIEVANCE: In order for an alleged grievance to receive consideration under this procedure, the grievant, with the appropriate Union representative, must verbally identify the alleged grievance to the Fire Chief or Assistant Fire Chief or a Township Trustee when the Fire Chief is unavailable, within seven (7) calendar days of the occurrence that gave rise to the grievance.

The Fire Chief shall respond in writing to the grievance within fourteen (14) calendar days following the date the involved parties discussed said grievance. Should the Fire Chief's response not resolve the grievance, the employee shall commit the grievance in writing and within fourteen (14) calendar days submit the grievance to the Board of Trustees or their designee.

The Chief's response, as described herein, shall contain the signature of the President of the Board of Trustees or designee when the alleged grievance involves discipline or issues related to compensation.

Upon receipt of the grievance, the Board of Trustees or their designee shall have fourteen (14) calendar days in which to schedule a meeting with the aggrieved employee and his appropriate Union representative (s) if the aggrieved employee desires said representation. The Board of Trustees or their designee shall investigate and respond to the grievant and/or appropriate Union representative (s) within fourteen (14) calendar days following the meeting.

Step 2- ARBITRATION: If the grievance is not satisfactorily settled in Step 1, the Union may make a written request that the grievance be submitted to Arbitration. A request for Arbitration must be submitted within fourteen (14) calendar days following the date the grievance was answered in Step 1 of the grievance procedure. In the event the grievance is not referred to Arbitration within the time limits prescribed, the grievance shall be considered resolved based upon the second step reply.

Upon receipt of request for Arbitration the Employer or their designee and the representative of the Union shall within ten (10) calendar days following the request for Arbitration jointly agree to request a list of seven (7) impartial arbitrators from the American Arbitration Association (AAA) or the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS). The parties shall select an arbitrator within ten (10) calendar days from the date the list of seven (7) arbitrators is received. Prior to striking, each party shall have the option to completely reject the list of names provided by the AAA/FMCS and request another list. The parties shall then use the alternate strike method from the accepted list of seven (7) arbitrators submitted to the parties. The moving party shall be the first to strike a name from the list, then the other party shall strike a name, and the parties will alternate in this manner until one (1) name remains on the list. The remaining name shall be designated as the arbitrator to hear the dispute in question.

The arbitrator shall hold the arbitration promptly and issue their decision within a reasonable time thereafter. The arbitrator shall limit their decision strictly to the interpretation, application or enforcement of those specific articles and/or sections of this Collective Bargaining Agreement in question. The arbitrator's decision shall be consistent with applicable law.

The arbitrator shall not have the authority to add to, subtract from, modify, change or alter any provision of this agreement; nor add to, subtract from or modify the language therein in arriving at their determination on any issue presented that is proper within the limitations expressed herein. The arbitrator shall expressly confine themselves to the precise issues submitted for arbitration and shall have no authority to determine any other issues not so submitted to them or to submit observations or declarations of opinion which are not directly essential in reaching a decision on the issue in question.

The arbitrator shall be without authority to recommend any right or relief on an alleged grievance occurring at any time other than the contract period in which such right originated. The arbitrator shall not establish any new or different wage rates not negotiated as part of this agreement. In cases of discharge or of suspension, the arbitrator shall have the authority to recommend modifications of said discipline. In the event of a monetary award, the arbitrator shall limit any retroactive settlement to the date the grievance was presented to the Employer in Step 1 of the grievance procedure.

Either party before the arbitration hearing of the grievance, on the grounds that the matter is non-arbitrable or beyond the arbitrator's jurisdiction may raise the question of arbitrability of a grievance. The first question to be placed before the arbitrator will be whether or not the alleged grievance is arbitrable. If the arbitrator determines the grievance is within the purview of arbitration the alleged grievance will be heard on its merits before the same arbitrator. The decision of the arbitrator shall be binding.

The losing party shall pay all costs directly related to the services of the arbitrator. Any cost involved in obtaining the list(s) shall be borne by the moving party.

Expense of any witnesses shall be borne, if any, by the party calling the witness. The fees of the court reporter shall be paid by the party asking for one. Such fees shall be split equally if both parties desire a court reporter's recording or request a copy of the transcript.

Section 4. All grievances must contain within reason the following information to be considered, and both parties must agree upon filed using the grievance form mutually:

- A. Aggrieved employee name and signature.
- B. Aggrieved employee classification.
- C. Date grievance was first discussed and name of supervisor with whom the grievance was discussed.
- D. Date grievance was filed in writing.
- E. Date and time grievance occurred.

- F. The location where the grievance occurred.
- G. A description of the incident giving rise to the grievance.
- H. Specific articles and sections violated in the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- I. Desired remedy to resolve the grievance.

Section 5. Any employee covered by this agreement may bring a grievance. Where a group of bargaining unit employees desire to file a grievance involving an incident affecting several employees in the same manner, one (1) employee shall be selected by the group to process the grievance. Each employee who desires to be included in such grievance shall be required to sign the grievance.

Section 6. Any grievance that originates from the Board of Trustees level may be submitted directly to the Board of Trustees.

Section 7. The Employer shall provide the Union with a list of the Management's designated representatives for each step of the grievance procedure.

ARTICLE 12

SENIORITY

Section 1. "Seniority" shall be computed on the basis of un-interrupted length of continuous full-time service with the Employer, defined as the Canton Township Fire Department.

Section 2. An approved leave of absence does not constitute a break in continuous service provided the employee follows the proper procedure for such leave and returns to active service immediately following the expiration of the approved leave.

Section 3. Employees shall lose all seniority and employment rights upon any of the following;

- A. Discharge
- B. Retirement
- C. Failure to return to work within seven (7) days after responding to notice of recall from layoff unless the failure to return within such days is not within the control of the employee or within such days the Employer agrees to an alternate date for the employee to return to work.
- D. Resignation from employment with the Employer.

Section 4. An employee who voluntarily resigns may return within ninety (90) calendar days provided that there is an available position and the Board of Trustees approve the re-hiring of said employee. The employee shall not accrue or earn seniority during this ninety (90) day period. The employee forfeits their seniority and will be re-instated as the least senior non-probationary employee.

Section 5. The following situations shall not constitute a break in continuous service and an employee shall continue to accrue seniority;

- A. Absence while on approved leave of absence.
- B. Absence while on an approved sick leave or disability leave.
- C. Military leave in accordance with applicable State or Federal law.

Section 6. When two (2) or more employees are hired at the same time, then the scores from the **new employees' evaluation process** shall be utilized. The employee with the highest score will be considered senior to the employee with the second highest score and so on. **Part time employees promoted to full time will be considered senior to any outside candidate hired within the same group.**

Section 7. The employer shall post a seniority list in the Department and update said list when appropriate.

ARTICLE 13

PROBATIONARY PERIODS

Section 1. Every newly hired employee will be required to successfully complete a probationary period. The probationary period for any new employees shall begin on the first day of compensated employment and shall continue for a period of one (1) calendar year. **During said probationary period, the Chief and the Union shall perform written reviews on probationary employees at the benchmarks of 3,6,9, and 12 months. Following the 12-month review, the probationary employee's probation period may be extended for a period of up to six (6) months as long as it is agreed upon by the Chief and the Union. If probation is extended, the employee shall remain on the probationary wage scale until successful completion of the probationary period. At the time of completion, the employee shall be compensated at the 13–24-month wage scale and shall resume as normal at the event of the employees next scheduled wage increase.** A newly hired probationary employee may be terminated any time during his probationary period and shall have no appeal over such removal.

Section 2. Probationary employees shall be included in overtime rotation. A new employee shall be placed at the highest level of overtime accumulation point of the non-probationary employees. This will cause the probationary employee to be last on the list for call in purposes. Overtime rotation is addressed later in the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Section 3. All newly promoted employees will be required to successfully complete a probationary period in their newly appointed positions. The probationary period for newly promoted employees shall begin on the effective date of the promotion and shall continue for no more than a six (6) month period.

A newly promoted employee who unsatisfactorily completes the probationary period shall be returned to his former position. An employee who wishes may return at any time before completion of the probationary period but may only do so one (1) time per contract year.

ARTICLE 14

ADDITION OF FULL-TIME FIRE/EMT-BASIC POSITION

FULL-TIME FIRE/EMT-BASIC

Classification:

This position will have a one-year probationary period. After the probationary period, if the member has not completed paramedic certification, the continuing job requirement will be attaining state paramedic certification.

Section 1: Wages

The EMT-Basic pay scale shall reflect a 10% reduction at each step from the current fire/medic pay scale listed in the Collective Bargaining Agreement in Article 33.

Section 2: Description

Expectations: Any employee hired full-time as an EMT Basic will be required to attain paramedic certification at the departments expense. Member(s) shall have three years, 36-months, to attain certification. Employee shall enroll in the first available paramedic class after their hire date. The employee shall maintain the required grades to remain in good standing in class. If the employee is removed from class for failure to maintain passing grades or voluntarily quits, the employee shall be separated from employment. The employee(s) shall be on probationary status for one-year. After probationary status is complete, the employee(s) continuing job requirement will be to attain state paramedic certification. The employee(s) will be granted three (3) attempts to pass National Registry testing. Each attempt shall occur at its earliest opportunity. If employee fails to attain state paramedic certification, employment shall be terminated, unless mutually agreed by the union and township.

Employees hired who are currently enrolled/attending paramedic class: These employees will be hired with the same expectations and probationary status as above. The remaining portion of class, at the time of their hire, will be reimbursable to the employee after attaining state certification.

After attaining State of Ohio Paramedic certification, the employee would then be placed at the appropriate step rate for Firefighter/Paramedic.

Costs: The cost(s) associated with attaining paramedic certification shall be borne by the employee. After completion, the current paramedic reimbursement program shall be followed.

Policy 610 shall be in effect from the time employee receives their paramedic certification and completes four years in the Fire/Medic position.

A maximum of two (2) EMT-Basics shall be on full-time roster if the Fill/Float position(s) is used, the EMT-Basic(s) shall be placed in this position.

If the float/fill position is not being utilized, the maximum number of basic EMT(s) would be (3) three. This would be (1) one per shift.

Section 3: Work/school hours:

Member shall work their scheduled work shifts for each FLSA work period. If class falls on a scheduled work day, member shall be excused to attend class and return to work/duty when completed.

This position shall be excused from mandatory overtime, in accordance with Article 19.

Section 4: Secondary Employment:

Canton Township will not preclude any employee from working a second job during Paramedic training, as each individuals' situations are different. It is Canton Townships intent to make clear the following expectations of the department.

1. Employee shall maintain good standing in the paramedic class.
2. Employee shall remain engaged with department operations and changes.
3. Employee shall put first their new full-time job requirements, as listed in this policy.

Section 3: Training

Members who are attending paramedic school will not be considered for any outside or specialized training during this time. Training will follow 29 CFR 553.226 training time guidelines. There will be no granted training hours during this time.

ARTICLE 15

LAYOFFS AND RECALL

Section 1. Whenever the Employer determines that a layoff is necessary, the Employer shall notify the affected employee(s) in writing at least thirty (30) calendar days in advance of the effective date of the layoff. The Employer, upon written request from the Union, agrees to discuss with the representative (s) of the Union the impact of the layoff on bargaining unit employees.

Section 2. When the Employer determines that a layoff will occur, employees will be laid off in accordance with their seniority beginning with the employee with the least seniority. **In the event the Township receives SAFER grant funding for staffing this section does not apply. If a SAFER funded position(s) cannot be maintained due to available funding at the conclusion of the grant, SAFER funded personnel would be the only effective layoffs.**

Section 3. In the event of a layoff, all part time scheduled hours and payments shall be suspended sixty (60) calendar days prior to any layoff notice by the Employer. It is understood by both parties that the Administrative/Clerical staff will not be affected by this agreement.

Section 4. Notice of recall from a layoff shall be sent to the employee by registered mail with a copy to the Union. The Employer shall be deemed to have fulfilled its obligations by mailing the recall notice by registered mail with return receipt requested to the last mailing address provided by the employee.

Section 5. In the case of a recall, the recalled employee shall have three (3) calendar days following the receipt of the recall notice to respond to the Employer/designee and no more than fourteen (14) calendar days to return to work unless the Employer agrees to an alternative date for the employee to return to work.

Section 6. The Employer agrees that no full-time employee will have a reduction in hours below that which is required for full time status for Police and Fire Pension Fund without being laid off.

ARTICLE 16

TRADE TIME

Section 1. Employees in similar/same classifications may trade shift/work days, subject to the approval of the Fire Chief, provided;

- A. Written request signed by the affected employee is submitted to the Fire Chief/designee at least five (5) calendar days in advance of the date requested, and
- B. As a result of the trade, no overtime is created for/by the affected employee.
- C. Shift Commanders may trade shift/work days with another Shift Commander and/or another full time Lieutenant **or appointed OIC** who is trained to fill the position.
- D. **Trades may not result in an employee to work in excess of forty-eight (48) hours consecutively as stated in Article 18/Section 2/C.**

The Fire Chief may, in special situations, waive the five (5) calendar day advance notice described above at his discretion.

ARTICLE 17

WORKER'S COMPENSATION

The Canton Township Board of Trustees will continue to meet the obligation imposed by Ohio Revised Code Section 4132.01 et. Seg.

Service Connected Disability

Section 1. In the event of a non-probationary employee is injured while in the performance of his job duties or contracts a service connected illness, the Employer shall grant to an employee who filed the appropriate application, and who is required to be absent from work in excess on one (1) week as a result of said injury or illness, temporary disability pay as described herein, pending the determination by the Bureau of Worker's Compensation of his claim, not to exceed sixty (60) calendar days from the date of the reported injury or illness.

- A. The Employer shall review each individual reported case of injury or illness, receive a written report from the Fire Chief and be satisfied that such injury/illness occurred during the performance of the employee's duties with the Employer.
- B. The Employer shall receive a written report from a licensed physician, psychologist or hospital stating that the absence is a direct result of the injury or illness and that the employee is totally unable to perform his normally assigned duties.

Section 2. Employees who are eligible for temporary disability pay shall exercise one (1) of the following options;

Option 1. An employee may elect to continue to receive his weekly net wages for the sixty (60) day period described herein. Upon receiving payment from the Bureau of Worker's Compensation, the employee shall forward/reimburse said payment, limited to the sixty (60) day period, to the Employer. The difference between the monies received from the Employer and the Bureau of Worker's Compensation shall be deducted from or charged against the employee's accrued but unused sick leave balance. Should the employee have no sick leave balance, the difference shall be deducted from or charged against the employee vacation leave.

Option 2. For the sixty (60) day period described herein, the employee shall receive seventy two percent (72 %) of his weekly net wages. Upon receiving pay from the Bureau of Worker's Compensation, such difference shall be submitted to the Employer.

Option 3. The employee may elect to receive no pay from the Employer and choose to wait for payments from Worker's Compensation. The employee will receive payments directly from Worker's Compensation and accept them as full payment with nothing owed to the Employer.

The employee accepts responsibility for making any non-elective deductions such as child and spousal support payments.

Bargaining unit employees shall submit in writing to the Employer their preference as to which option they wish to exercise. Failure to submit which preference shall negate the employee's option and the terms and conditions of Option 3 shall apply.

In the event the employee's claim is denied and the appeal process has been exhausted, all payments received from the Employer under this article shall be charged against the employee's unused sick leave balance. Should the sick leave balance be exhausted and additional money is owed to the Employer, the remaining balance shall be charged or deducted against accumulated but unused vacation leave.

In the event of an employee being terminated and complete repayment to the Employer has not been met by said employee, the Employer shall deduct all monies owed based upon the following schedule;

- A. Conversion of unused sick leave when applicable
- B. Vacation leave
- C. Employee's final paycheck

Falsification of claims, written statement (s) or physician certificates shall be grounds for disciplinary action which may include dismissal from employment.

ARTICLE 18

HOURS OF WORK/WORK PERIODS

Section 1. The Employer shall maintain a fifty-point sixty-six (50.66) hour work week and a 28 day work period for shift employees. The schedule shall be worked under a three (3) platoon system, working twenty-four (24) hours on and a forty-eight (48) hour period off. Each employee shall receive one (1) scheduled day off in each twenty-eight (28) day work period. This day shall be referred to as "Kelly Day". The person used (when applicable) to cover Vacation, Kelly and sick days shall be known as the "fill" person. The Fill personnel shall have the same contractual benefits as shift employees.

If an employee is not working due to the use of disability leave, suspension or any other unpaid leave of absence, said employee shall lose rights to select another Kelly day for any scheduled Kelly day missed due to the absence.

Section 2. Fill employees shall maintain an average of 50.66 hours worked per week over the course of the same twenty-eight (28) day work period as shift employees, excluding all Holidays as set forth in this Collective Bargaining Agreement.

- A. Fill employee (s) shall use “flex time” scheduling wherein their scheduled days will vary over the course of the twenty-eight (28) day work period but shall equal the number of hours worked by a shift employee.
- B. The fill employee (s) will have priority to schedule their work days over any part time scheduling.
- C. **The fill employee shall not be scheduled to work on consecutive holidays as defined in Article 28 unless mutually agreed upon by the employee and the employer. The fill employee shall schedule off holidays in advance before the schedule is posted.**
- D. All employee (s) may not work in excess of forty-eight (48) hours continuous for the Employer without a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours off.
- E. **If an employee is not physically working, the employee is not granted the use of scheduled Kelly days while on injury leave that did not occur during CTFD work hours, and is not entitled to make up missed Kelly days at a later time. Scheduled Kelly days during an employee’s injury period will be removed and revert to using sick time to cover the employees time off.**

ARTICLE 19

ROTATION OF OVERTIME

Section 1. Whenever the Employer/Fire Chief determines that overtime is necessary, such opportunities shall be offered first to shift employees in accordance to the overtime rotation list. **Overtime shifts must be filled 48 hours prior to the start time of the overtime shift, unless there is less than 48 hours’ notice of overtime due to unforeseen circumstances.**

In the event that any of the above said employees are unavailable to work the assignment, the least senior bargaining unit employee **of the shift prior to the necessary overtime shift** shall be required to work the assignment. **Said employee shall be forced to work the first 12 hours of the overtime shift, with the option to work the shift in its entirety.** If the forced employee only works the first 12 hours of the shift, the next least senior member of the shift prior to the necessary

overtime shift shall be forced to work the second 12 hours of the overtime shift. In the event that the members of the same shift are required to work overtime, employees that have previously been forced to work overtime shall be exempt from forced overtime until every member of the shift has worked a forced overtime shift. If an employee should refuse overtime of twelve (12) hours or more, said employee shall be charged twelve (12) hours for refusing. Twelve (12) hours or less, shall be charged accordingly. Employees shall then be placed accordingly in overtime rotation. This will not be in effect for personnel on Vacation, Kelly, or Trade leave.

An updated list of accumulated over time for all employees shall be posted electronically via the Employer Bulletin Board as a Read-Only file following each pay period. This list shall be used for call in purposes when overtime becomes available. The employee with the least accumulated overtime will be called first and continuing up the list to the employee with the most accumulated overtime until said overtime has been filled.

ARTICLE 20

OVERTIME COMPENSATION

Section 1. All bargaining unit employees shall be paid overtime pay at the rate of one and one half (1.5) time their regular straight time hourly rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of their normal work schedule in accordance with Article 18, Hours of Work/Work Periods. "Hours worked" shall include only hours actually worked. "Hours worked" shall not include Kelly Days or reduction days, sick time, vacation time or any other time off.

- A. For the purpose of overtime call in, an employee shall be considered on **Vacation, Kelly, or Trade** leave from the end of their last scheduled day to the beginning of their next scheduled day.

Section 2. Bargaining unit employees on **Trade**, Kelly or Vacation leave will not be called for overtime rotation unless all shift and Fill personnel have been contacted and refused the overtime at which time the bargaining unit employees on Kelly or Vacation leave shall be notified of the overtime. If employees on Vacation or Kelly leave are contacted and refuse the overtime, said employee shall not be charged for refusing the overtime. If a bargaining unit employee is required to work their scheduled Vacation or Kelly leave shift, said employee shall be compensated at two and a half (2.5) times their regular, hourly rate of pay. **After passing on the first rotation, an employee may be forced to work overtime in accordance with Article 19.**

Section 3. Any bargaining unit employee who is called in to cover shift time shall be compensated for a minimum of four (4) hours or for the number of hours worked, whichever is greater, at a rate of one and a half (1.5) times their regular, hourly rate of pay. There shall be no minimum hours of overtime pay for work abutting the employee's regular shift except in the case of scheduled overtime.

Section 4. Compensatory time off language removed in entirety and agreed by both parties. Compensatory time is no longer available in lieu of overtime pay.

ARTICLE 21

EMPLOYEE LIABILITY

Section 1. The Employer agrees to indemnify and defend any bargaining unit employee from actions arising out of the lawful performance of his/her official and/or assigned duties.

ARTICLE 22

COURT/JURY DUTY LEAVE

Section 1. An employee who is in off duty status and is required to appear in court in reference to his/her official duties as an employee of the Fire Department shall receive a compensation at one and one half (1.5) times their regular, hourly rate of pay for all the time spent for court duty, plus one (1) hour for travel time.

An employee who is subpoenaed for jury duty at a time he/she is scheduled for duty, said employee will be paid his regular, hourly rate of pay during his absence. In the event an employee is released early from jury duty, he will be required to report for work following jury duty. A copy of the subpoena shall be submitted at the time of the request for civil leave.

Section 2. If an employee is required to appear in a court of law for personal reasons, he is expected to take vacation leave, trade time or leave without pay at the discretion of the employee. An employee shall give at least one (1) week advance notice whenever possible for the need of such leave.

ARTICLE 23

MILITARY LEAVE

Section 1. Employees who are members of the Ohio National Guard, the Ohio Defense Corps, Naval Militia or members of any other reserve components of the Armed Forces of the United States are entitled to leave of absence from their respective duties without loss of pay for such time as they are in the military service on field training or active-duty periods not to exceed a total of one hundred seventy-six (176) hours in one (1) calendar year.

Section 2. An employee is required to submit to the Employer an order or statement from the appropriate military commander as evidence of such duty at least six (6) months prior to the beginning of such leave, except in cases of emergency. Upon submittal of military pay vouchers

documenting all wages and salaries earned on such leave, the Employer will reimburse the employee the difference between their military compensation and the normally earned scheduled straight time wages that would have been earned during the period of leave. There is no requirement that the service be in one continuous period of time. The maximum number of hours for which payment may be made in any one calendar year under the provision is one hundred seventy-six (176) hours.

ARTICLE 24

IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS

Section 1. Immediate family members shall include an employee's spouse, brother, sister, child(ren), stepchildren, stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, stepsister, grandparents, parents, grandchildren, father-in-law, mother-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law.

ARTICLE 25

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Section 1. Sick leave credit shall be earned at the rate eight (8) hours for each pay period for shift employees in active pay status, including paid vacation and sick leave, but not during a leave of absence or layoff. Unused sick leave shall accumulate without limit.

If illness or disability continues beyond the time covered by earned sick leave, the employee may be granted a leave of absence in accordance with the appropriate section of this agreement. Bargaining unit members may donate unused sick leave to another bargaining unit member according to the Ohio Administrative Code 123:1-46-05.

Sick leave shall be charged in units of one hour. Employees shall be charged for sick leave for days upon which they would otherwise have been scheduled to work. Sick leave payment shall not exceed the normal scheduled workday or workweek earnings by an employee.

Sick leave shall be granted to an employee upon approval of the Employer and for the following reasons:

- A. Illness or injury of the employee or illness or injury of an employee's immediate family member where the employee's presence is substantiated and approved by the Fire Chief.
- B. Medical, dental or optical examinations or treatment of the employee which cannot be scheduled during non-working hours.

- C. A member of the immediate family is afflicted with a contagious disease and due to exposure to the contagious disease, the presence of the employee at his job would jeopardize the health of others.
- D. Pregnancy and/or childbirth and other conditions related thereto.
- E. Bargaining unit members shall be entitled to two (2) personal days. The time off shall be deducted from the member's sick time. The days shall not be taken on a Holiday as listed in Article 28 of the collective bargaining agreement. A minimum of one (1) hour notice is required **for the first 24 hours of personal time. The second 24 hours of personal time must be scheduled no less than 48 hours prior to the start of the scheduled shift. Personal days may be used in a minimum of twelve (12) hour blocks.**
- F. **New employees shall receive 48 hours of sick time upon hire and will be entitled to use these hours if necessary, during their probationary period. Employees hired with no transferable accrued paid leave shall be advanced 48 hours of personal/sick time. At the completion of the probationary period 48 hours will be deducted from their sick time bank.**

The Employer shall require an employee to complete the sick leave request form explaining the nature of the illness to justify the use of sick leave. Falsification of either a written, signed statement or a physician's certificate may be grounds for disciplinary action. Employees intentionally failing to comply with sick leave rules and regulations may not be paid. Application for sick leave with intent to defraud may be grounds for disciplinary action together with a refund by the employee of any salary or wage paid in connection with non-compliance by the employee.

If medical attention is required, the employee shall be required to furnish a statement from a licensed physician or psychologist notifying the Employer that the employee was unable to perform his duties. Such physician's statement shall be required for absence of three (3) or more consecutive workdays due to illness. Whenever the Employer suspects abuse of the use of sick leave, it may require proof of illness in the form of a physician's statement of disability to approve the use of such leave.

The Employer may require an employee to take an examination conducted by a licensed physician or psychologist selected by the Employer, to determine the employee's physical or mental capacity/capability to perform the duties of the employee's position. If found to be not qualified, the employee may be placed on sick leave or disability leave. The Employer shall pay the cost of such examination.

Section 2. Light Duty Assignment

Upon submission of medical documentation that an employee is unable to temporarily perform firefighting duties due to a work-related injury or illness, the Township will provide, if available, at the employee's request, alternate duty. Alternate duty shall be limited to that which is

medically appropriate and which contributes in a meaningful and identifiable mission of the Department. The parties agree that alternate duty assignments are to be of a temporary nature, not exceeding twelve (12) calendar months.

Section 3. Leave of Absence (Unpaid)

- A. The Employer may, upon the receipt of approved medical certification, grant an employee who is unable to work because of sickness, injury or illness and who has exhausted all available paid leave, an unpaid leave of absence for a period not to exceed one (1) year.
- B. An employee who requests an unpaid leave of absence as defined in Section 3 above shall submit to the Employer a signed physician's statement to include the following information;
 - 1. Nature of the sickness, injury or illness.
 - 2. Date leave shall begin and approximate date of termination of unpaid leave.
 - 3. Statement that employee is unable to perform his regular duties.
- C. The Employer shall require an employee to take a physical examination conducted by a licensed physician or psychologist selected by the Employer to determine the employee's physical or mental capacity to perform the duties of the employee's position any time during such unpaid leave of absence, as defined in Section 3 above. The Employer shall pay the cost of the examination.

In the event the Employer's doctor and the employee's doctor are in disagreement, a third doctor selected mutually by the parties will perform the deciding examination, the cost of which will be divided between the Employer and the employee. The decision of the third doctor shall be final and binding.

- D. Upon completion of such leave of absence, an employee may be reinstated to employment at the rank that he had attained at the time leave was granted.

Section 4. Severance Pay.

After ten (10) or more years of continuous service with the Canton Township Fire Department an employee who elects to retire from active service shall receive in one (1) lump sum a cash payment of one fourth (1/4) of accrued and unused sick leave.

For the purposes of this provision, retirement shall be considered that criteria established for retirement from active service with the Department at the time of separation under the applicable Police and Firemen's Disability and Pension Fund.

Line of Duty Death (Sick Time Payout)

In the event of a LODD of a bargaining unit member, their full sick time balance shall be paid to the family (spouse or beneficiary) up to 2000 hours.

ARTICLE 26

FUNERAL LEAVE

Section 1. When management is notified of the death of an employee's immediate family member, as defined herein, the employee will be entitled to one (1) twenty-four (24) hour shift of time off with pay from his regularly scheduled turn for each death, not to be carried over.

Section 2. Additional time off shall be deducted from the employee's accumulated sick leave and shall be approved by management.

Section 3. At the sole discretion of the Employer, an additional day off of paid leave may be used for other family members.

Section 4. In the event a death in the employee's immediate family occurs while an employee is working his normal work shift, the employee shall notify the Employer/Fire Chief/designee and shall be permitted to leave work and be compensated for the remainder of the shift.

ARTICLE 27

TRAINING

Section 1. The Employer recognizes that a Paramedic must meet certain requirements and maintain other certifications in order to retain Paramedic certification.

At the time of this agreement, the State of Ohio and the Stark County Medical Control Board requirements for certification for Paramedic must be maintained.

Payment for these hours of Continuing Education shall be made by the following guidelines:

- A. Paid at the rate of pay at the time of training.
- B. Made on the signed Employer supplied form.
- C. Hours requested match hours of Continuing Education credit received for session.

The employee will provide to the Employer current copies of all mandated certifications to be kept in their personnel file.

The employee is responsible for maintaining all necessary records that are needed to re-certify State certifications.

Until 1/1/2022, The Employer agrees to pay up to forty-five (45) hours of pay at overtime rates per year, for Paramedic Continuing Education and Fire related training. All online CE is exempt from this payment. The Employer will also cover any fees and charges involved with taking any classes to maintain specific certifications.

The employer will assist bargaining unit members that pursue credentialing through the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association. This will consist of all costs related to the application process.

Ohio Fire Executive (OFE) classes will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Members who are Fire Investigators shall be entitled to a \$200.00 stipend to be paid annually in a separate check at the time of clothing allowance.

The Fire Chief at his discretion may authorize additional training.

Beginning 1/1/2022, the employer agrees to pay up to twenty-five (25) hours of pay at overtime rates per year for Paramedic Continuing Education and Fire related training. All department approved online CE is accepted. The employer will also cover any fees and charges involved with taking any classes to maintain job specific certifications.

Sections 2, 3 and 4.

Sections regarding the Interior Firefighting Test, requirements and actions to be taken in the event of a failed attempt during the Interior Firefighting Test have been removed and agreed by both parties.

It is understood and agreed by both parties that minimum standards developed from the Canton Township Fire Department Training Division are being developed and are to be used as a training assessment.

ARTICLE 28

HOLIDAYS

Section 1. Any full-time staff member including those classified as "Fill" or on "Flex" time shall be entitled to the following paid Holidays:

New Year's Day

Martin Luther King Day

President's Day

Memorial Day

Juneteenth

Independence Day

Labor Day

Columbus Day

Veterans Day

Thanksgiving Day

The day after Thanksgiving

Christmas Day

Section 2. Shift and Fill Employees.

- A. If an employee performs work on a Holiday, he shall be paid Holiday pay, one and one half (1 ½) times his regular straight time hourly rate of pay for all hours worked (8 hours from midnight to 08:00 hours) and twenty-four (24) hours for working the shift on a Holiday. This rate of pay for work performed shall only be paid when an employee works on the actual Holiday in that particular pay period.

An employee not scheduled to work the Holiday that is called in for overtime shall be reimbursed at two and one half (2 ½) times his regular rate of pay.

For purposes of this article, a Holiday will be defined as the full twenty-four (24) period. Employees calling off on a Holiday shall forfeit their Holiday pay for that Holiday period.

ARTICLE 29

VACATION

Section 1.

Years of Full Time Service	Hourly/Shift Employees
1 through 5 Years	2 Weeks/120 Hours/5 Shifts
6 Years through 10 Years	3 Weeks/192 Hours/ 8 Shifts
11 Years and over	4 Weeks/240 Hours/10 Shifts

Section 2. An employee shall be eligible for paid vacation leave beginning the first full pay period following his/her first anniversary date and each year thereafter anniversary date of employment.

If an employee is not permitted to take their vacation at approved times and are unable to fit vacation in another time of the year, said employee shall be compensated at a rate of two and a half (2 ½) times pay for vacation time not used. Any bargaining unit employee required to work their scheduled vacation shall be compensated at two and a half (2 ½) times their hourly rate of pay.

Upon separation of employment with the Employer and following two (2) weeks prior notice, which a two (2) week time period shall be worked pursuant to the normal work rotation schedule, an employee shall be entitled to compensation at his/her current rate of pay at separation for all accrued but unused vacation leave. In case of the death of the employee, any

accumulated but unused vacation leave shall be paid to the employee's designated beneficiary or the employee's estate, whichever is applicable.

Section 3 Vacation Buy Back

Employees may turn in for pay, up to, (2) two days of vacation days per calendar year. Pay shall be the employee's regular rate. Employees wishing to utilize the vacation buy back must notify the administration in writing when vacation schedule is completed. Once turned in these days will be considered "banked". Employees must fill out a request for vacation day pay when the employee wishes to cash in the vacation days. Requests must be in by November 30th of the current year.

ARTICLE 30

CALLING OFF

Section 1. The employees understand the importance of early notification of the Fire Chief/designee for the purpose of calling off. Therefore, notification must be given no later than one (1) hour prior to the start of the employee's shift.

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENTEE AGREEMENT

Section 2. An incident of absence is any day or part of a day (four hours or more) that an employee is not at work other than a personal day, Holiday, Vacation, Kelly, Jury duty, Court appearance, an approved Leave of Absence, injury leave, Pre-approved Union time, Family Medical Leave or funeral leave.

In the event of an extended medical illness of an immediate family member, the Employer may consider this event as being included in the list in the previous paragraph and will not count as an incident of absence.

- A. If an employee reaches a fourth (4th) incident of absenteeism within a twelve (12) month period the Fire Chief will counsel the employee and document the session.
- B. After the fifth (5th) incident of absenteeism within the twelve (12) month period, it will result in a written warning from the Fire Chief.
- C. After the sixth (6th) incident of absenteeism within the twelve (12) month period, it will result in a hearing with the Canton Township Board of Trustees.
- D. Any further incidents of absenteeism within the twelve (12) month period will result in additional disciplinary action including a possible termination hearing.
- E. The twelve (12) month period shall be a rolling calendar that begins on the first day an incident of absence occurs.
- F. The Fire Chief will proceed through each step of the disciplinary process automatically. Mitigating circumstances will only be considered by the Canton Township Board of Trustees/Fire Chief when the problem has progressed beyond the written warning stage.

Pattern abuse shall constitute grounds for discipline. Pattern abuse consists of the use of accrued sick time that can be shown to be a pattern that is contiguous with or related to Holidays, Weekends, Kelly days, Vacation days, Personal days or the consistent/regular use of available, accrued sick leave.

ARTICLE 31

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT ALLOWANCE

Section 1. Effective upon the execution of this agreement, each non-probationary employee shall be entitled to an annual uniform allowance of \$650.00 per year. The allowance shall be utilized for the purchase and maintenance of the uniform items as designated by the Fire Chief and Employer Policy and to be used in the performance of the employee duties and responsibilities.

Section 2. This allowance is received via a separate check from Employer bi-annually in April and October of each year.

Section 3. Probationary employees shall be supplied with all uniforms and equipment needed and will receive no clothing and equipment allowance throughout the probationary period. The provided clothing for all new hire employees includes: Two (2) Class B Shirts, two (2) pair of Nomex pants, four (4) department t-shirts, one (1) job shirt, one (1) multi-layer jacket, one (1) pair of boots, one (1) belt, one (1) ball cap, and one (1) winter cap. Any employee promoted from part time to full time will not receive a uniform allowance for the first year and will not be provided new uniforms. The employee and the employer shall assess the condition of the employee's uniforms and the employee shall be provided with new uniforms as deemed necessary.

Section 4. After execution of this Collective Bargaining Agreement, any further changes to the Employer Uniform Policy that result in any additional costs over and above the current cost of Nomex™ uniforms shall be borne by the Employer. If a change in Employer Uniform Policy results in a reduced cost for uniforms to employees, then there shall be no additional burden borne by the Employer.

Section 5. After completion of the employees probationary period, the department shall provide the employee with a full Class A uniform at no cost to the employee. If the employee leaves their position, the Class A uniform must be returned to the department upon resignation or must reimburse the department for the cost of the Class A uniform. Any employee who retires as a member of CTFD may retain their Class-A uniform at no cost to the employee.

ARTICLE 32

UNIFORMS

Section 1. Employees must wear attire with department logo or insignia at all times while on duty. Class B (button up) shirts or job shirts must be worn from the hours of 0800-1600, and during all public relations events and ceremonies (education, swear in, retirement, etc). Employees may wear T-Shirts for all fire suppression events or training exercises.

ARTICLE 33

WAGES

Section 1. Effective with the ratification of this Collective Bargaining Agreement, each full-time, non-probationary employee shall, with continuous service as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic/Fire Safety Inspector with the Canton Township Fire Department receive an annual salary of;

	2023	2024
Probationary	\$51,029.41	\$51,029.41
13 -24 Months	\$53,260.68	\$54,592.20
25-36 Months	\$55,868.66	\$57,265.38
Over 36 Months	\$65,749.99	\$67,393.74
Lieutenant	\$67,517.62	\$69,205.56
Shift Commander	\$70,328.44	\$72,086.65

Section 2. A member of the bargaining unit shall meet the criteria and qualifications in the Employer Policy in regard to promotional **evaluation**. Promotional **evaluation** shall also follow Policies as set forth by the Employer.

Section 3. All Firefighter/Paramedics are “non-exempt” for purposes of Fair Labor Standards Act. Any member of the bargaining unit hired after the execution of this agreement shall be paid in accordance with the salary schedule as listed in Section 1 above.

Section 4. The employee appointed as lead of the Fire Investigation Bureau and the employee appointed to the role of EMS coordinator shall receive a stipend of \$1,500 per year, directly added to the employee’s paycheck, the additional amount equals \$57.71 per pay.

Section 5. Each full-time, bargaining unit employee shall receive an annual longevity payment in addition to his/her regular, annual salary pursuant to the following schedule;

<u>YEARS</u>	<u>PAYMENT AMOUNT</u>
5	\$300.00
6	\$350.00
7	\$400.00
8	\$450.00
9	\$500.00

10	\$550.00
11	\$600.00
12	\$650.00
13	\$700.00
14	\$750.00
15	\$800.00
16	\$850.00
17	\$900.00
18	\$950.00
19	\$1000.00
20 AND OVER	\$1050.00

Years shall be computed for longevity purposes only by the employee's continuous full-time service effective on the employee's anniversary date for each year.

Longevity payments for each employee entitled thereto shall be made with the employee's first pay following November 1st of each year.

A separate voucher from normal pay for each employee entitled will accomplish payment of longevity pay.

ARTICLE 34

INSURANCE

Section 1.

Traditional Health Care

- A. The Canton Township Board of Trustees shall provide the existing hospitalization, major medical and prescription drug insurance coverage which is in effect on this date throughout the employee's time of employment under this Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- B. If the existing coverage, which is in effect on this date, is cancelled, non-renewed or otherwise becomes unavailable, the Canton Township Board of Trustees may substitute comparable coverage.

Health Maintenance Organization

The Canton Township Board of Trustees shall make available to and hereby inform the members of the Canton Township Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 3676 of the option to enroll in the current Health Care Plan in lieu of traditional health care (hospitalization, major medical and drug insurance).

Section 2.

Other Insurance Coverage

- A. The Canton Township Board of Trustees shall provide dental, vision, life, cancer and worker's compensation coverage, which is in effect presently. Life insurance coverage shall be maintained at fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) per employee.
- B. If the existing coverage, which is in effect currently, is cancelled, non-renewed or otherwise becomes unavailable, the Canton Township Board of Trustees may substitute comparable coverage.

Section 3.

Better and/or Alternative Insurance Coverage

Nothing in this section prohibits the Employer from providing better insurance and/or to provide alternate insurance coverage at the employee's option.

Section 4.

Insurer Changes in Terms

In the event of unilateral changes in insurance coverage imposed upon the Canton Township Board of Trustees and in turn, imposed upon the employees, the Canton Township Board of Trustees responsibility is limited to timely communication and occurrence of said changes to the employees and accompanied by an explanation of their effort (s).

Section 5. Employee Monthly contribution

Bargaining unit member's health insurance contribution will reflect 12% of healthcare premiums over the life of the contract. The employee's contribution will be as follows:

2021: 10.5% 2022: 11.25% 2023: 12%

The increase will go into effect on July 1, 2021. This will be recalculated and adjusted at the time of the provider's annual adjustment.

ARTICLE 35

RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY

Section 1. Pursuant to the provision of the Ohio Revised Code 742.01 et.seq, each Firefighter/Paramedic will be required to become members of the Police and Firefighters Disability and Pension Fund.

Section 2. The Canton Township Board of Trustees will meet all of its obligations as set forth in the Ohio Revised Code sections 742.01 et.seq, specifically including, but not limited to contributions to the Police and Firefighters Disability and Pension Fund as required by the Ohio Revised Code sections 742.34.

ARTICLE 36

FAIR SHARE FEE

Section 1. No employees shall be required to become a member of any union as a condition for securing or retaining employment.

Section 2. Any employee that chooses not to become a member of the union will pay a Fair Share Fee equal to the bi-monthly deductions (minus per capita) of those employees that are members of the union. The Fair Share Fee shall be paid to Local 3676 of the IAFF.

ARTICLE 37

STAFFING

Section 1. A minimum of two (2) full time shift or Fill firefighter/Paramedics shall be scheduled on duty at all times.

Section 2. If sufficient personnel are not available to meet the minimum staffing requirements, Firefighter/Paramedics shall be retained or recalled on overtime **as previously addressed in Article 19.** The Employer retains the right to order in the bargaining unit member with the lowest seniority of the shift **prior to the overtime shift.** Units shall not be placed out of service for reasons of insufficient personnel.

Section 3. If sufficient personnel are not available to meet minimum staffing requirements as set forth in Sections 1 and 2, in the event of a work place injury, illness or family emergency involving a bargaining unit member that requires the employee to leave his work assignment, prior to call in of a bargaining unit member, the Employer shall use part time shift personnel to

fill said vacancy, not to exceed three (3) hours from notice of said injury or illness unless bargaining unit personnel are not available. **If all bargaining unit members refuse the overtime, a bargaining unit employee shall be forced to work the overtime in accordance with Article 19.**

Section 4. In cases of lack of staffing on the part time units for periods of four (4) hours or more, the employer shall use only bargaining unit members to fill these positions.

Section 5. The Shift Commander shall be a member of the bargaining unit.

- A. In the event of the Shift Commander position being open, another full time Lieutenant **or OIC** appointed by the Fire Chief or Assistant Fire Chief and trained to perform the position, shall fill the position.
- B. Any Lieutenant filling the Shift Commander Position shall be compensated at the Shift Commander rate of pay for the hours worked.
- C. **Any FF serving in the capacity of a LT/Fill, serving as shift OIC shall be compensated at the LT rate of pay.**

ARTICLE 38

SEVERABILITY

Section 1. It is the intent of the Employer and the Union that this agreement complies with all applicable laws and legal statutes.

Section 2. If any provision of this agreement is subsequently declared by a judicial authority to be unlawful, unenforceable or not in accordance with applicable statutes, all other provisions other this agreement shall remain in force and effect for the duration of this agreement.

In the event any provisions of this agreement are declared by a judicial authority to be unlawful, unenforceable or not in accordance with applicable statutes, the parties shall meet within two (2) weeks of the publication of such a determination to review the affected provision to determine if the conflict can be resolved to the mutual satisfaction of the parties.

ARTICLE 39

DURATION OF AGREEMENT

Section 1. This agreement shall be in effect as of **April 1, 2024** and shall remain in full force and effect through **March 31, 2025**, unless otherwise terminated as provided herein.

- A. If either party desires to modify, amend or terminate this agreement, it shall give written notice of such intent no later than ninety (90) calendar days prior to the expiration date of this agreement. Such notice shall be certified mail with return receipt requested. The parties shall commence negotiations within two (2) calendar weeks upon receiving notice of intent.

- B. The parties acknowledge that during the negotiations which resulted in this agreement, each had unlimited right to make demands and proposals on any subject matter not removed by law from the area of collective bargaining, and that the understandings and agreements arrived at by the parties after the exercise of that right and opportunity set forth in the agreement. The provisions of this agreement constitute the entire agreement between the Employer and the Union, and unless specifically and expressly set forth in the provisions of this agreement, all rules, regulations, practices or procedures presently in effect may be modified or discontinued at the sole discretion of the Employer. Such discretion shall be exercised within the scope of the management's rights article contained herein.

ARTICLE 40

CREATING A FIRE DISTRICT

This agreement shall be binding upon the successors and assigns of the parties hereto, and no provisions, terms or obligations herein contained, shall be affected, modified, altered or changed in any respect whatsoever by the consolidation, merger, annexation, transfer or assignment of either party hereto, or by any change geographically or otherwise in the location or place of business of either party hereto.

SIGNATURE PAGE

Entered into and signed this _____ day of _____, 2024.

For the Canton Township
Board of Trustees

For the Canton Township
Professional Firefighters
Local 3676

Keith Hochadel, President

Dakota Wamsley, President

Mark Shaffer, Trustee Vice President

, Vice President

Chris Nichols, Trustee

, Local 3676

John Ring, Fiscal Officer

APPENDIX A

GRIEVANCE FORM

PAGE 1 OF 2

STEP-1

EMPLOYEE NAME: _____

EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION: _____

DATE INCIDENT OCCURRED: ____/____/____

LOCATION OF INCIDENT: _____

DATE THE GRIEVANCE WAS VERBALLY DISCUSSED WITH THE FIRE CHIEF OR WHEN APPLICABLE,
THE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE: ____/____/____

DISCUSSED WITH: FIRE CHIEF _____ TRUSTEE _____ (CHECK ONE)

FIRE CHIEF'S RESPONSE TO VERBAL DISCUSSION:

DATE EMPLOYEE SUBMITTED GRIEVANCE IN WRITING: ____/____/____

EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE: _____

ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT BY UNION OFFICIAL: _____

FIRE CHIEF SIGNATURE: _____

TRUSTEE SIGNATURE DATE WHEN APPLICABLE: ____/____/____

GRIEVANCE FORM

PAGE 2 OF 2

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE AND SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OR DESIGNEE.

DESCRIBE THE INCIDENT THAT PROMPTED THIS GRIEVANCE:

SPECIFIC ARTICLES/SECTIONS OF THE LABOR AGREEMENT VIOLATED:

REMEDY REQUESTED TO RESOLVE THE GRIEVANCE:

DATE RECEIVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES/DESIGNEE: ____/____/____

BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESPONSE:

DATE THE RESPONSE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WAS PROVIDED TO THE AGGRIEVED
EMPLOYEE: ____/____/____

STEP 2-ARBITRATION

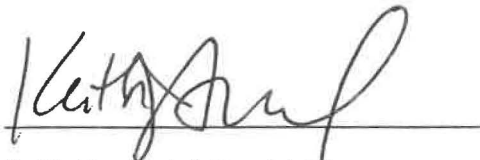
DATE OF SUBMISSION TO ARBITRATION: ____/____/____

SIGNATURE FO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OR DESIGNEE ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF NOTICE TO
ARBITRATE: ____/____/____

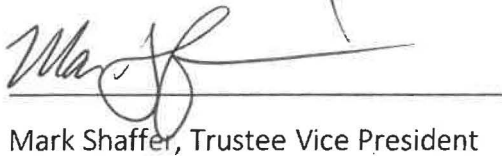
SIGNATURE PAGE

Entered into and signed this 16 day of April, 2024.

For the Canton Township
Board of Trustees



Keith Hochadel, President



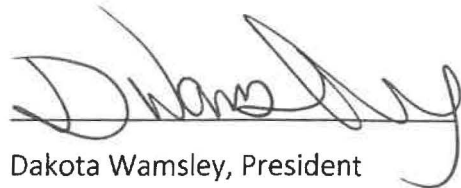
Mark Shaffer, Trustee Vice President



Chris Nichols, Trustee

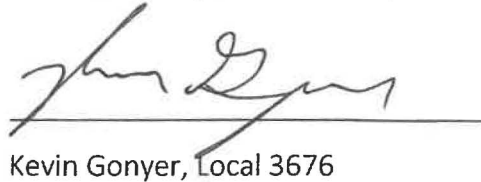
John Ring, Fiscal Officer

For the Canton Township
Professional Firefighters
Local 3676



Dakota Wamsley, President

Dane Whitsett, Vice President



Kevin Gonyer, Local 3676