

0067-02  
24-MED-10-1246  
45758

**AN AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**THE CITY OF ASHLAND**

**AND**

**THE OHIO PATROLMEN'S  
BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION  
(Sergeants and Lieutenants)**

**EFFECTIVE: January 1, 2025  
EXPIRES: December 31, 2027**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE I	PREAMBLE .....	1
ARTICLE II	PURPOSE AND INTENT .....	1
ARTICLE III	RECOGNITION .....	1
ARTICLE IV	MANAGEMENT RIGHTS .....	1
ARTICLE V	NO-STRIKE .....	2
ARTICLE VI	NON-DISCRIMINATION .....	2
ARTICLE VII	DUES DEDUCTIONS .....	2
ARTICLE VIII	PROBATIONARY PERIOD .....	3
ARTICLE IX	EMPLOYEE RIGHTS .....	3
ARTICLE X	ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATION .....	5
ARTICLE XI	SICK LEAVE .....	5
ARTICLE XII	VACATIONS .....	7
ARTICLE XIII	HOLIDAYS .....	9
ARTICLE XIV	PERSONAL LEAVE .....	9
ARTICLE XV	JURY DUTY LEAVE .....	10
ARTICLE XVI	FUNERAL LEAVE .....	10
ARTICLE XVII	INJURY LEAVE .....	10
ARTICLE XVIII	OVERTIME AND COURT TIME .....	11
ARTICLE XIX	EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER PAYS .....	13
ARTICLE XX	UNIFORM ALLOWANCE .....	13
ARTICLE XXI	INSURANCE .....	14
ARTICLE XXII	SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL .....	14
ARTICLE XXIII	RATES OF PAY .....	14
ARTICLE XXIV	EDUCATION .....	15
ARTICLE XXV	MISCELLANEOUS .....	16
ARTICLE XXVI	LABOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE .....	17
ARTICLE XXVII	HEADINGS .....	17
ARTICLE XXVIII	GENDER AND PLURAL .....	18
ARTICLE XXIX	OBLIGATION TO NEGOTIATE .....	18
ARTICLE XXX	TOTAL AGREEMENT .....	18
ARTICLE XXXI	CONFORMITY TO LAW .....	18
ARTICLE XXXII	PART-TIME EMPLOYEES .....	19
ARTICLE XXXIII	DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE .....	19
ARTICLE XXXIV	GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE .....	21
ARTICLE XXXV	ARBITRATION PROCEDURE .....	24
ARTICLE XXXVI	SHIFT ASSIGNMENT .....	25
ARTICLE XXXVII	RESIDENCY .....	25
ARTICLE XXXVIII	FILLING OF POSITIONS .....	25
ARTICLE XXXIX	PROMOTIONS .....	27
ARTICLE XL	DURATION .....	29
ARTICLE XI	EXECUTION .....	30
	Employee Rights	
	Appeal or Acceptance	
	Notice of Disciplinary Action	
	Confirmation of Receipt	

**ARTICLE I****PREAMBLE**

**1.01.** This agreement is hereby entered into by and between the City of Ashland, Ohio, hereinafter referred to as the "Employer" and the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the "Union".

**ARTICLE II****PURPOSE AND INTENT**

**2.01.** In an effort to continue harmonious and cooperative relationships with its employees and to insure the orderly and uninterrupted efficient operations of government, the Employer now desires to enter into an agreement reached through collective bargaining which will have for its purposes, among other, the following: 1) To recognize the legitimate interest of the employees of the Employer to participate through collective bargaining in the determination of the terms and conditions of their employment; 2) To promote fair and reasonable working conditions; 3) To promote individual efficiency and service to the citizens of the City of Ashland, Ohio; 4) To avoid interruption or interference with the efficient operation of the Employer's business; and 5) To provide a basis for the adjustment of matters of mutual interest by means of amicable discussion.

**ARTICLE III****RECOGNITION**

**3.01.** The Employer hereby recognizes the Union as the sole and exclusive Bargaining agent with respect to wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment, as provided by the State Employment Relations Act, for all full-time employees employed in the Police Department occupying the position of Lieutenant and Sergeant, excluding all part-time, seasonal, temporary and probationary employees. All other employees of the Employer are excluded from the bargaining unit. Said recognition shall continue for a term as provided by law.

**ARTICLE IV****MANAGEMENT RIGHTS**

**4.01.** Not by way of limitation of the following paragraph, but to only indicate the type of matters or rights which belong to and are inherent to the Employer, the Employer retains the right to: 1) hire, discharge, transfer, suspend and discipline employees; 2) determine the number of persons required to be employed, or laid off; 3) determine the qualifications of employees; 4) determine the starting and quitting time and the number of hours to be worked by its employees; 5) make any and all rules and regulations; 6) determine the work assignments of its employees; 7) determine the basis for selection, retention and promotion of employees to or for positions not within the bargaining unit established by this Agreement; 8) determine the type of equipment used and the sequence of work processes; 9) determine the making of technological alterations by revising either process or equipment, or both; 10) determine work standards and the quality and quantity of work to be produced; 11) select and locate building and other facilities; 12) establish, expand, transfer and/or consolidate work processes and facilities; 13) consolidate, merge, or otherwise transfer any or all of its facilities,

property, processes or work with or to any other municipality or entity or effect or change in any respect the legal status, management or responsibility of such property, facilities, processes of work; 14) terminate or eliminate all or any part of its work or facilities.

**4.02.** In addition, the Union agrees that all of the functions, rights, powers, responsibilities and authority of the Employer in regard to the operation of its work and business and the direction of its workforce which the Employers has not specifically, abridged, deleted, granted or modified by the express and specific written provisions of this Agreement are, and shall remain, exclusively those of the Employer.

**ARTICLE V** **NO-STRIKE**

**5.01.** The Union does hereby affirm and agree that it will not either directly or indirectly, call, sanction, encourage, finance or assist in any way, nor shall any employee instigate or participate, either directly or indirectly, in any strike, slowdown, walkout, work stoppage, or other concerted interference with or the withholding of services from the Employer.

**5.02.** In addition, the Union shall cooperate at all times with the Employer in the continuation of its operations and services and shall actively discourage and attempt to prevent any violation of this article. If any violation of this article occurs, the Union shall actively discourage and attempt to prevent any violation of this article. If any violation of this article occurs, the Union shall immediately notify all employees that the strike, slowdown, work stoppage, or other concerted interference with or the withholding of services from the Employer is prohibited, not sanctioned by the Union and order all employees to return to work immediately.

**5.03.** It is further agreed that any violation of the above shall be sufficient grounds for disciplinary action.

**ARTICLE VI** **NON-DISCRIMINATION**

**6.01.** The Employer and the Union agree not to discriminate against any employee(s) on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, age, sex or handicap.

**6.02.** The Union expressly agrees that membership in the Union is at the option of the employee and that it will not discriminate with respect to representation between members and nonmembers.

**ARTICLE VII** **DUES DEDUCTIONS**

**7.01.** During the term of this Agreement, the Employer shall deduct initiation fees, assessments levied by the Union and the regular monthly Union dues from the wages of those employees who have voluntarily signed dues deduction authorization forms will be required from any employees for whom the Employer is currently deducting dues.

**7.02.** The initiation fees, dues or assessments so deducted shall be in the amounts established by the Union from time to time in accordance with its Constitution and Bylaws. The Union shall certify to the Employer the amounts due and owing from the employees involved.

**7.03.** The Employer shall deduct duties, initiation fees or assessments from the first pay in each calendar month. If an employee has no pay due on that pay date such amounts shall be deducted from the next or subsequent pay.

**7.04.** A check in the amount of the total dues withheld from those employees authorizing a dues deduction shall be tendered to the Treasurer of the Union within thirty (30) days from the date of making said deductions.

**7.05.** The Union hereby agrees to hold the Employer harmless from any and all liabilities or damages which may arise from the performance of its obligations under this Article and the Union shall indemnify the Employer for any such liabilities or damages that may arise.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **PROBATIONARY PERIOD**

**8.01.** All newly hired employees will be required to serve a probationary period of one (1) year. During such period, the Employer shall have the sole discretion to discipline or discharge such employee(s) and any such action shall not be appealable through any grievance or appeal procedure contained herein, or to the Civil Service Commission.

**8.02.** All newly promoted employees will be required to serve a promotional probationary period of six (6) months. During such a period, the Employer shall have the sole discretion to demote such employee(s) to his previous position and any such demotion shall not be appealable through any grievance or appeal procedure contained herein or to the Civil service Commission, Unless such discretion is exercised in an arbitrary or capricious manner when in such it may be appealed through the Grievance Procedure, herein.

**8.03.** If any employee is discharged or quits while on his initial probationary period and is later rehired, he shall be considered a new employee and shall be subject to the provisions of paragraph 8.01 above.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **EMPLOYEE RIGHTS**

**9.01.** An employee has the right to the presence and advice of a Union representative at all disciplinary hearings concerning the employee and/or disciplinary interrogations where the purpose is to garner evidence against the interrogated employee, including questioning of an employee pursuant to an "internal inquiry". Before an employee is questioned, he will be informed in writing whether he is the subject of an investigation or a witness and not under investigation.

**9.02.** An employee who is to be questioned as a suspect in any investigation of any criminal charge against him shall be advised of his constitutional rights before any questioning starts.

**9.03.** Before an employee may be charged with any violation of the Rules and Regulations for a refusal to answer questions or participate in an investigation, he shall be advised that his refusal to answer such questions or participate in an investigation may be the basis of such a charge and result in disciplinary action.

**9.04.** An employee may request an opportunity to review his permanent personnel file located at the office of Human Resources and Safety during normal hours, add pertinent memoranda to the file clarifying any documents contained in the file and may have a representative of the Union present when reviewing his file along with an Employer representative. A request for copies at the employee's cost, of items included in the file shall be honored. An employee may request removal of specific items in his permanent personnel file, which request would be subject to review by the Employer and at its discretion, on a case by case as is. All items in an employee's permanent personnel file with regard to complaints and investigations will be clearly marked with respect to final disposition. Records of written or verbal written reprimands that are more than two (2) years old, shall be expunged from the employee's permanent personnel file, providing there has been no other disciplinary action during such period.

**9.05.** Records of corrective counseling or coaching will be maintained in the Police Division personnel file for six (6) months. Corrective counseling must occur within thirty (30) days of the conduct in question and may be appealed only to the Chief of Police.

**9.06.** Complaints from third parties which may result in disciplinary action must be reduced to writing. The Officer involved will be notified of the existence of a complaint upon commencement of an investigation of the allegations in the complaint. The notification to the Officer may be delayed in the event that the matter involves a bona fide investigation of criminal conduct by the Officer. Prior to any questioning of the Officer, the Officer will be notified of his/her right to be represented by Union legal counsel and apprised of his/her "Garrity" rights concerning any statement made by him.

**9.07.** The commencement of the taking of disciplinary action or notification that asserted charges/complaints are unfounded shall occur within (a) fourteen (14) calendar days after the completion of an investigation of the matter, or (b) within forty-five (45) days after the incident at issue first comes to the attention of police officials above the rank of Sergeant. In the event that the Police Chief determines that additional investigation into a potential disciplinary matter is warranted, the Chief may extend the above-referenced time periods by an additional sixty (60) days upon notice to the employee and the Union Representative. Upon the commencement of disciplinary action, and reasonably prior to any hearing(s) conducted therewith, the employee shall be entitled to copies of such internal documents as may constitute "public records"

under R.C. Section 149.43 which are being utilized in connection with said disciplinary proceedings.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATION**

**10.01.** The parties recognize that it may be necessary for an employee representative of the Union to leave a normal work assignment while acting in the capacity of representative for the purposes of administering this Agreement. The Union recognizes the operational needs of the Employer and will cooperate to keep to a minimum the time lost from work by representatives. Before leaving an assignment pursuant to this section, the representative must obtain prior approval from the officer in charge of the shift or the Chief. The employee shall suffer no loss in pay for such time.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **SICK LEAVE**

**11.01.** Employees may use sick leave upon the approval of the Employer for the following reasons.

1. Illness or injury of the employee or his/her immediate family.
2. Medical, or dental, or optical examinations or treatment of an employee or his/her immediate family which requires the employee's attendance, which cannot be scheduled outside of normal working hours.
3. If a member of the immediate family is afflicted with a contagious disease, or when, through exposure to a contagious disease, the presence of the employee at his/her job will jeopardize the health of others.
4. Pregnancy and/or childbirth and other related conditions.
5. Where the employee's parents have an emergency.

**11.02.** All employees shall earn sick leave at the rate of four and six-tenths (4.6) hours for every eighty (80) hours worked and may accumulate such sick leave to an unlimited amount.

**11.03.** An employee who is to be absent on sick leave shall notify the Employer of such absence and the reason therefore at least one (1) hour before the start of his work shift each day he is to be absent. Employees who fail to call-in at least one (1) hour before his shift shall forfeit one (1) hours pay for each fifteen (15) minutes he calls in less than the one (1) hour minimum, with a maximum forfeiture of four (4) hours for late call-ins.

**11.04.** Sick leave may be used in segments of not less than one (1) hour.

**11.05.** Before an absence may be charged against accumulated sick leave, the Chief may require such proof of illness, injury or death as may be satisfactory to him, or may require the employee to be examined by a physician designated by and paid for by the

Employer. In any event, an employee absent for more than two (2) work days must supply a physician's report to be eligible for paid sick leave, unless waived by the Chief.

**11.06.** If the employee fails to submit adequate proof of illness, injury or death, or in event that upon such proof as is submitted or upon the request of medical examination, the Chief, finds there is not satisfactory evidence of illness or death sufficient to justify the employee's absence, such leave may, be considered an unauthorized leave and shall be without pay.

**11.07.** Any abuse or patterned use of sick leave shall be just and sufficient cause for disciplinary action.

Abuse may include, but is not limited to:

1. Consistent usage of sick leave and/or leave without pay in conjunction with scheduled time off of any type;
2. Consistent usage of sick leave, in one day increments or less, as it is earned, resulting in an extremely low balance of sick leave as compared to time in service;
3. Consistent usage of sick leave for non-specific illness.

Employees will be notified of potential attendance problems under this Article in December of each year. This initial notification will not count as a disciplinary action. Disciplinary action will be taken if there is an abuse of sick leave and/or leave without pay. Progressive discipline for reasons of sick leave/absence abuse will follow the City of Ashland's Standards of Conduct Attendance Standard, section 1.2 (see procedural guidelines).

**11.08.** The Chief may require an employee who has been absent due to personal illness or injury, prior to and as a condition of his return to duty, to be examined by a physician designated and paid by the Employer to establish that he is not disabled from the performance of his duties and that his return to duty will not jeopardize the health and safety of other employees.

**11.09.** When the use of sick leave is due to illness or injury in the immediate family, "immediate family" shall be defined to only include the employee's spouse and children including non-residential children for whom the employee must assume temporary primary care, children shall be defined as being eighteen (18) years of age or younger; and the employee's parents, parents-in-law or grandparents in the event of a medical emergency that requires the presence of the employee or for whom the employee has primary care with verifiable evidence. When the use of sick leave is due to death in the immediate family, "immediate family" shall be defined to only include the employee's parents, spouse, child, brother, sister, siblings-in-law, parents-in-laws, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparents, grandchild and stepchildren

**11.10.** Upon the retirement of an employee who has not less than ten (10) years of continuous employment with the Employer and who has qualified for retirement benefits from a state of Ohio Police and Firemen's Disability and Pension Fund such employee shall be entitled to receive a cash payment equal to his hourly rate of pay at the time of retirement multiplied by one-third (1/3) of the total number of accumulated but unused sick leave hours earned by the employee, certified by the Finance Director, providing that such resulting number of hours to be paid shall not exceed eight hundred (800) hours.

**11.11.** Any employee who has accumulated perfect attendance days from the prior contract may use such time upon the advanced approval of the Chief until the balance is exhausted.

**11.12.** Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement, Civil Service Rules or Regulations or Ordinances, any employee hired by the Employer after January 1, 1988, who has previous full-time employment from being employed by the State of Ohio or any other political subdivision of the State of Ohio and who has become employed by the Employer within ten (10) years from his termination from such other public employer shall not be granted any credit towards his sick leave accumulation with the Employer.

**11.13. Voluntary Sick Leave Donation Program.** See attached Memorandum of Understanding for eligible employees due to non-work related catastrophic illness or catastrophic injuries.

## **ARTICLE XII**

## **VACATIONS**

**12.01.** Each full-time employee shall earn and be entitled to paid vacation in accordance with the following schedule.

<u>Length of Service</u>	<u>Weeks</u>
After one (1) year	Two (2) 80 hours
After five (5) years	Three (3) 120 hours
After thirteen (13) years	Four (4) 160 hours
After twenty (20) years	Five (5) 200 hours
After twenty-six (26) years	Five (5) weeks and one day 208 hours
After twenty-seven (27) years	Five (5) weeks and two days 216 hours
After twenty-eight (28) years	Five (5) weeks and three days 224 hours
After twenty-nine (29) years	Five (5) weeks and four days 232 hours
After thirty (30) years	Five (5) weeks and five days 240 hours

Vacation time shall be used in hourly increments. For instance, a day of vacation used for a member working a 10-hour shift shall be 10 hours.

**12.02.** Vacation time shall be taken at a time approved by the Chief of Police or his designate. A maximum of 80 hours vacation time may be taken in one (1) continuous block of time, unless specifically approved otherwise by the Chief.

**12.03.** Any employee who has earned vacation time by reason of being employed in this department shall be able to transfer his vacation time to another department should he elect such a transfer.

**12.04.** Any employee who resigns, is terminated, retires, or is separated from employment by the employer because of a reduction in force will receive pay for their unused and accrued vacation time. In the case of resignation, they shall give two (2) weeks notice in writing to the Chief of Police to be eligible for such payment.

**12.05.** Vacation time may be carried over from one year to another because of unusual circumstances but not without the express written authorization of the Chief of Police and Mayor. Any employee may work up to 40 hours of his annual vacation in lieu of taking time off and receive additional compensation therefore at the employee's regular hourly rate, upon approval of the Chief of Police and Mayor. Any vacation time in addition to the aforementioned week that is unused within the year granted, shall be deemed forfeited, unless a carry over is approved.

**12.06.** Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement, Civil Service Rules or Regulations or Ordinances, any employee hired by the Employer after January 1, 1988, who has previous full-time employment from being employed by the State of Ohio or any other political subdivision of the State of Ohio and who has become employed by the Employer within ten (10) years from his termination from such other public employer shall not be granted any credit towards his vacation time calculation with the Employer.

**12.07.** If any employee(s) entitled to vacation time is deceased before any part of that vacation time is used, their heirs or estates will receive the vacation pay the deceased employee would have received.

**12.08.** In order to facilitate the employer's scheduling, an employee's vacation time must be scheduled during January of each year, if such employee wishes to exercise his seniority for such time. Employees shall be notified of the approval or denial of vacation leave under this section within a reasonable time after the employee's request is submitted.

**12.09.** Employees may utilize vacation time in daily segments, providing such time is requested at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance, and it is approved of by the Chief or his designee. Said approval shall not be unreasonably denied and employee shall not be responsible for filling the open shift slot caused by the use of approved paid leave. Employees may utilize vacation leave under this Section with less than seventy-two (72) hours notice, however, the employee will be responsible for filling the open slot prior to approval being granted. Notwithstanding any other language in this section, employees may utilize sixteen hours of vacation leave or sick leave bonus time in one hour increments during each calendar year of this Agreement.

**12.10.** All newly hired employees who are hired during a calendar year, shall accumulate vacation time at the rate of one (1) day per month worked during such year, not to exceed ten (10), for use subsequent to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the next calendar year.

**12.11.** All vacations will be taken during the calendar year, commencing January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **HOLIDAYS**

**13.01.** All full-time employees shall receive the following paid holidays:

New Year's Day	President's Day
Martin Luther King Day	Memorial Day
Independence Day	Juneteenth Day
Columbus Day	Labor Day
Thanksgiving Day	Veterans Day
	Christmas Day

**13.02.** All full-time employees shall receive, as compensation for the holidays set out in Section 1 of this Article, eighty-eight (88) hours of his regular rate of pay. Payment for any unused time shall be made on or before the first of December each year.

**13.03.** An employee shall be paid the time and one-half (1½) overtime rate for all hour worked on any of the holidays set forth in Section 13.01 plus Easter.

## **ARTICLE XIV**

### **PERSONAL LEAVE**

**14.01** All employees shall, in addition to all other leave benefits, earn and be granted four (4) personal leave days each year which are taken within the year earned. A day shall equal the amount of hours of the employee's scheduled shift. Probationary employees shall have to work ninety (90) days in order to be eligible to use personal leave days.

**14.02.** Personal days shall only be taken with advance approval of the Chief of Police or his designate.

**14.03.** Unused personal days may be added to the employees holiday pay and paid at the employee's regular hourly rate. This shall be paid on or before the first of December each year.

**14.04.** Employees may use two paid leave days annually as vacation with one (1) hour notice. The Shift Supervisor will determine when it is reasonable or not reasonable to allow the use of vacation with one-hour notice. A determination that the request is not reasonable may be appealed to the Captain or the Chief.

**ARTICLE XV****JURY DUTY LEAVE**

**15.01.** Any employee who is called for jury duty, either Federal, County or Municipal, shall suffer no loss in pay. Any compensation received from such court for jury duty, as provided for in the Ohio Revised Code, shall be surrendered to the Employer.

**ARTICLE XVI****FUNERAL LEAVE**

**16.01** An employee shall be granted paid funeral leave (not to be deducted from any other leave), for the purposes of attending a funeral of a member of the employee's immediate family. The employee shall be entitled to a maximum of three (3) workdays for each death in his immediate family. For the purposes of this article, "immediate family" shall be defined as to only include the employee's parents, spouse, child, step-child, adopted child, brother, brother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, parents-in-law, grandparents, grandchildren, grandparents-in-law, nieces, niece, nephew, aunt, and uncle.

**ARTICLE XVII****INJURY LEAVE**

**17.01.** When an employee suffers a compensable work related injury or occupational illness, he/she may elect to receive Injury Leave per the City's Wage Continuation Policy in lieu of Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation reimbursement as set forth in the Employee Handbook. Both parties agree to abide by the injury leave policy as stated in the current contract.

**17.02.** The parties agree to be bound by the Transitional Work Program as set forth in the Employee Handbook.

**17.03.** The Employer shall have the right to require the employee to have a physical exam by a physician appointed by the Employer resulting in the physician's certification that the employee is unable to work due to the injury as a condition precedent to the employee receiving any benefits under this Article. The designated physician's opinion shall govern whether the employee is actually disabled or not, but shall not govern whether the injury was duty related.

**17.04.** In the event the Employer grants injury leave and the employee's Worker's Compensation claim is ultimately denied on the merits of the claim after the appeal's process has been exhausted (including all court appeals), or after the employee's failure to timely appeal an adverse judgment, at any level of the appeal's process, the employee shall reimburse the Employer all the sums advanced on a pro-rata basis within two (2) years by designating to the Employer an equal amount of any type of paid leave referenced in this Agreement as reimbursement for any monies advanced to the employee. If an employee resigns or retires within the two (2) year period, the Employers may withhold the appropriate amount of the last paycheck as reimbursement.

**17.05.** Absences covered under this Article shall not affect the employee's eligibility for sick leave bonuses, except as set forth herein.

## **ARTICLE XVIII**

## **OVERTIME AND COURT TIME**

**18.01.** All employees, for work actually performed in excess of eighty (80) hours within a two (2) week pay period, when approved of by the Chief, shall be compensated at the rate of one and one-half (1 ½) times the employee's regular hourly rate. All paid leave time shall count as time worked in the calculation of overtime.

**18.02.** When approved by the Chief, employees called in to work, excluding approved parade duty, for training outside of formal work hours, or appearing in court on behalf of the Employer for a period of less than three (3) hours, when the employee is not on duty shall be compensated not less than three (3) hour's pay at the overtime rate.

**18.03.** An employee's work schedule shall not be modified for the sole purpose of avoiding overtime payments.

**18.04.** Employees may be hired by various organizations of the community, with the approval of the Chief of Police, to work special assignments, such as crowd control. Such services shall be performed at and under the direction of the Chief of Police. Payment for said services, as follows, shall be made by the hiring party. Any employee working such a special assignment shall be paid at the rate of double his or her hourly rate of pay for each hour that he or she is required to work thereat unless a different rate is agreed to in writing by a joint labor-management committee (as defined in Article XXVI of this Agreement), which committee is specially convened for the purpose of setting such rates of pay. The cost to the hiring party of hiring such employee shall also include all other benefits applicable to said policy officer's regular employment with the Employer, including but not limited to pension and worker's compensation cost.

**18.05.** A. Compensatory time may be accumulated up to a maximum of eighty (80) hours.

B. As an employee exhausts his/her accrued compensatory time, he/she may further accrue compensatory time. Any employee who accrues compensatory time in excess of the maximum hours set forth in Section A shall be promptly paid for any overtime worked at the applicable rate.

C. Compensatory time utilized must be approved in advance by the employee's supervisor who shall require at least three (3) working days' advance notice. Not less than one (1) hour of compensatory time shall be taken on any one (1) day.

Both parties agree to abide by the compensatory time agreement as stated in the current contract.

**18.06.** All prescheduled overtime which is known to the Employer at least seven (7) days prior to the overtime hours that are required to be filled, will be distributed to the employees as follows:

1. A supervisor may first approach the members of a shift and offer up to ten (10) hours of the prescheduled overtime to each member on a voluntary basis. Any dispute where two (2) members are interested in working specific available hours shall be settled on the basis of seniority.

2. After the exhaustion of the process set forth in number 1 above, the Employer shall post a list of available overtime hours. Any employee may choose up to ten (10) hours of available overtime on a first come, first served basis for the first seventy-two (72) hours that the list is posted. Upon expiration of the seventy-two (72) hour period, any employee may choose any amount of overtime remaining on the sign-up sheet on a first come, first served basis.

**18.07.** Overtime which is not prescheduled as defined in Section 18.06 shall be filled voluntarily from available personnel on an equalized basis. In the event that overtime hours cannot be filled voluntarily, the overtime shall be filled by mandating the overtime pursuant to the following procedure.

The overtime will be filled by mandating the overtime pursuant to a seniority list by reverse seniority of available employees. Available employees shall be construed as meaning employees who are going off and employees coming on to assigned shifts. These available employees shall be assigned to work overtime in four (4) hour intervals. The Employer shall first order the least senior available employees to work the mandatory overtime and then move up the seniority list each time it is necessary to order an employee to work. Notwithstanding the above, each time an employee voluntarily accepts an overtime assignment, that employee shall not be mandated again until all other available employees have either been mandated or subsequently, voluntarily accepted an overtime assignment.

For Lieutenants assigned to a 10-hour shift schedule, overtime will be filled by mandating overtime pursuant to a seniority list by reverse seniority of "available employees." The employer shall first order the least senior available employee to work the mandatory overtime and then move up the seniority list each time it is necessary to order an employee to work. Notwithstanding the above, each time an employee voluntarily accepts an overtime assignment, that employee shall not be mandated again until all other available employees have either been mandated or subsequently, voluntarily accepted an overtime assignment.

**18.08.** All overtime worked by an employee due to a parade shall be paid a minimum of three (3) hours at the overtime rate and will be released from the assignment at the conclusion of the parade or any law enforcement activity related to the parade.

**18.09.** In the event Sections 18.06 or 18.07 or 18.08 are violated, the sole remedy is that the affected employee shall be given the next overtime opportunity.

**ARTICLE XIX****EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER PAYS**

**19.01.** An employee who has received a training certificate attesting to the satisfactory completion of all Law Enforcement courses offered towards an Associate Degree in Law Enforcement, shall receive additional pay in the amount of two hundred dollars (\$200.00), annually.

**19.02.** Any employee, who has received an Associate Degree in Law Enforcement or related fields, shall receive additional pay in the amount of four hundred dollars (\$400.00), annually.

**19.03.** Any employee, who has received a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement or related fields, shall receive additional pay in the amount of eight hundred dollars (\$800.00), annually.

**19.04.** Any employee, who has received a Master's Degree in Law Enforcement or related fields, shall receive additional pay in the amount of one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200.00) annually.

**19.05.** Payment pursuant to paragraphs 1, 2, 3, & 4 of this Article shall be paid on or before the first of December each year. Payment to new hires during their first year of employment shall be on a pro-rata basis.

**19.06.** Each employee, who is employed with the Employer as of November 15<sup>th</sup>, shall receive a medium sized turkey or ham during the Christmas holiday season, at the Employer's expense.

**ARTICLE XX****UNIFORM ALLOWANCE**

**20.01.** All newly hired probationary employees shall receive, at the employer's expense one (1) entire complement of new uniforms, including, but not limited to: three (3) summer shirts, three (3) winter shirts, three (3) pair of trousers, one (1) winter coat, one (1) windbreaker, one (1) hat, one (1) pair of shoes, two(2) ties and one (1) ballistic vest.

The employer shall provide all necessary leather gear, uniform accessories as are applicable, and the required weapons. If such an employee does not complete his probationary period, he shall return all articles listed in this section. Thereafter, any employee who employment is terminated shall return all article, listed above, except for shirts, trousers, winter coat, windbreaker, ties and shoes.

**20.02.** The employer shall replace damaged uniforms, if not damaged due to the employee's negligence, when approved by the Chief. The Employer shall reimburse the employee up to one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) for the repair or replacement of personal attire damaged, if not damaged due to the employee's negligence, when approved by the Chief and such approval shall not be unreasonably denied.

**20.03.** All non-probationary employees shall receive an annual uniform allowance in the amount of one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1200.00) in each year of the contract. This amount shall be paid in July of each calendar year provided the employee is actively employed on July 1<sup>st</sup> each year in order to be eligible for the uniform allowance.

**ARTICLE XXI**

**INSURANCE**

**21.01.** The Employer will provide and pay in full premium for all full-time employees for professional liability insurance, including false arrest insurance, as in effect on October 18, 1983.

**21.02.** Effective January 1, 2023, the Employer shall offer comprehensive health care to all eligible employees and their dependents. All full-time and employees with a workweek of thirty (30) hours shall be eligible for health benefits. Eligible employees shall receive the same plan and premiums as Ordinance employees.

**21.03.** The Employer shall provide a forty thousand dollar (\$40,000.) term life insurance group policy for each full-time employee whose premiums shall be paid by the Employer.

**ARTICLE XXII**

**SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL**

**22.01.** Effective upon the execution of this Contract Amendment, all employees working from 1500 hours until 0700 hours shall earn a shift differential of sixty cents (\$0.60) per hour.

**22.02.** Shift differential shall only be paid for hours actually worked on such shifts when the employee is regularly scheduled to work such shifts.

**22.03.** Shift differential shall not be paid with any paid leave credits, except vacation pay.

**ARTICLE XXIII**

**RATES OF PAY**

**23.01.** Effective the first pay period in January, 2025, all employees shall be paid an hourly wage rate in accordance with the following schedule:

<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Rate Of Pay</u></b>
Sergeant Probationary	\$35.94
Sergeant II	\$36.83
Sergeant III	\$37.47
Sergeant IV	\$38.22
Sergeant V	\$39.00
Lieutenant Probationary	\$39.60
Lieutenant II	\$41.10
Lieutenant III	\$41.91

Lieutenant IV

\$43.30

Wage rates for 2026 and 2027 are subject to the Wage Reopener as set forth.

**23.02.** The parties acknowledge and agree that the Employer is currently revising evaluation procedures for purposes of granting merit pay as set forth in the Agreement. Until the evaluation procedures are finalized, employees shall not be denied merit pay. This provision shall not prohibit the Employer from imposing discipline to employees who exhibit poor performance. The parties further agree that once the Employer finalizes such evaluation procedures and rating requirements for merit pay, such modifications shall be incorporated into the CBA. Additionally, it is agreed that any modification of the current rating requirement of "3" for merit pay shall be retained or an equivalent percentage rating established, and that the Employer shall not promulgate more difficult standards for employees to be eligible for merit pay.

**23.03.** When an employee is qualified for, and is temporarily transferred to a higher classification, he shall be paid the rate of the higher classification for all hours worked in that classification, at overtime rates if applicable.

**23.04.** ~~All employees who successfully pass range qualification testing shall receive six hundred fifty dollars (\$650.00) as Firearm Proficiency Allowance. This amount shall be divided by 2080 and added to the total hourly rate for all hours worked.~~

**23.05.** Longevity. In addition to the wages specified in this Agreement, each employee covered by the terms of this Agreement shall be entitled to receive additional payment in accordance with the following schedule on all hours paid:

Schedule	Longevity
After 5 Years of Service	1.5% of Total Rate
After 10 Years of Service	2.0% of Total Rate
After 15 Years of Service	2.5% of Total Rate
After 20 Years of Service	3.0% of Total Rate
After 25 Years of Service	3.5% of Total Rate

Said longevity payment shall be paid on an hourly basis for all hours worked.

**23.06.** ~~Administrative Services Pay will be paid in an annual stipend to Sergeants and Lieutenants in the following amounts:~~

	Sergeants	Lieutenants
2022	\$2,325	\$2,425
2023	\$3,325	\$3,425
2024	\$3,325	\$3,425

~~These amounts shall be divided by 2080 and added to the total hourly rate for all hours worked.~~

## ARTICLE XXIV

## EDUCATION

**24.01.** Any employee who has enrolled in a Law Enforcement course, shows proof of such enrollment, and has scheduled said course so as not to interfere with his normal working hours shall not have his working hours changed unless the needs of the Department require same as determined by the Chief.

**24.02.** Any employee considering enrolling in a Law Enforcement course may request a change of working hours to attend said course in writing through the chain of command.

**24.03.** All employees shall be afforded equal access to information for training schools to which the Employer intends to send employees.

Training opportunities shall be allotted, at the Employer's discretion, to those employees performing functions which the Employer determines are necessary and beneficial to the department or specific tasks therein provided.

Upon an employee receiving training, in-service seminars may be scheduled in order to disseminate such training information to other employees.

## **ARTICLE XXV**

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**25.01.** In any instance where the Employer requires an employee to submit to a medical examination, the Employer shall pay the cost of the examination.

**25.02.** Paychecks will be issued every other Friday by direct deposit.

**25.03.** The Union will be allowed one (1) bulletin board for official Union notices. The bulletin board will be located in the Employee's locker of the Ashland Police Department.

**25.04.** The Employer agrees to permit the Union to provide a ballot box and/or suggestion box for Union business in the Locker Room at the Ashland Police Department.

**25.05.** Employees may request approval for private, part time employment from the Chief. Such approval shall be at the discretion of the Chief, provided that such approval or disapproval shall not be made in an arbitrary or capricious manner.

**25.06.** Employees who are required by the Chief to be on "stand-by" and be immediately available for call-in, shall receive one (1) hour's pay at the overtime rate for each day served when the employee is regularly scheduled to work such day and two (2) hour's pay at the overtime rate for each day served when the employee is not scheduled to work

**25.07.** Effective as soon as practical, the Employer shall implement the procedure of deducting the employee's pension contribution prior to calculating withholding taxes. The employer will provide, if practical, payroll deduction for an approved deferred compensation program.

**25.08.** Upon the retirement of an employee who has not less than ten (10) years of continuous employment with the Employer and who has qualified for retirement benefits from the Police and Fireman's Disability and Pension Fund, such employee shall be entitled to keep his department issued service weapon.

**25.09.** All employees shall participate in a mandatory random drug testing program administered by the Division of Human Resources in accordance with City of Ashland policy as set forth in the Employee Handbook.

**25.10.** All parties agree to be bound by the conditions of the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993 as set forth in the Employee Handbook.

## **ARTICLE XXVI**

## **LABOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**26.01.** A Labor-Management Committee shall be established to discuss and resolve areas of mutual concern. Such a committee shall be made up of three (3) representatives of the Union and up to three (3) representatives of the Employer. This Committee will function in the following areas:

- a) To discuss the policies and procedures of the department;
- b) To anticipate and discuss any problems in the work environment, and ways in which the work environment can be improved, including issues concerning employee safety.
- c) To suggest improved means of performing current services;
- d) To advise and consider issues relating to employees and their concerns; and
- e) To develop social and recreational activities, incentive plans, recognition awards and other methods to improve employee-employer relations.

**26.02.** This committee shall not discuss issues that are subject to collective bargaining or the Grievance Procedure. Committee meetings shall, if required, meet on a quarterly basis (every three (3) months).

## **ARTICLE XXVII**

## **HEADINGS**

**27.01.** It is understood and agreed that the use of headings before articles and sections is for convenience and only that no heading shall be used in the interpretation of said article or section nor effect any interpretation of any article or section.

**ARTICLE XXVIII****GENDER AND PLURAL**

**28.01.** Whenever the context so requires, the use of words herein in the singular shall be construed to include the plural, and words in the plural, the singular, and words whether in the masculine, feminine or neuter gender shall be construed to include all of said genders. By the use of either the masculine or feminine genders it is understood that said use is for convenience purposes only and it not to be interpreted to be discriminatory by reason of sex.

**ARTICLE XXIX****OBLIGATION TO NEGOTIATE**

**29.01.** The Employer and the Union acknowledge that during negotiations which preceded this Agreement, each had the unlimited right and opportunity to make demands and proposals with respect to any subject or matter not removed by law from the area of collective bargaining/negotiations and that the understandings and agreements arrived at by the parties after the exercise of that right and opportunity are set forth in this Agreement.

**29.02.** Therefore, for the life of this Agreement, the Employer and the Union each voluntarily and unqualifiedly waives the right, and each agrees that the other shall not be obligated to negotiate collectively with respect to any subject or matter referred to, or covered in this Agreement, or with respect to any subject or matter not specifically referred to or covered in this Agreement, even though such subjects or matters may not have been within the knowledge or contemplation of either or both of the parties at the time they negotiated and signed this Agreement.

**ARTICLE XXX****TOTAL AGREEMENT**

**30.01.** This Agreement represents the entire agreement between the Employer and the Union and unless specifically and expressly set forth in the express written provisions of this Agreement, all rules, regulations, benefits and practices previously and presently in effect may be modified or discontinued at the sole discretion of the Employer.

**30.02.** If the City exercises a right pursuant to this Article XXX to modify or discontinue a matter as permitted herein, the Union may cause the City's action or proposed action to be placed on the agenda of a regular quarterly meeting of the Labor-Management Committee for consideration as provided in Article XXVI of the Agreement. Notwithstanding such referral, the City is not inhibited thereby or delayed in taking action permitted by Article XXX either before or after consideration of the matter in the Labor-Management Committee.

**ARTICLE XXXI****CONFORMITY TO LAW**

**31.01.** This Agreement shall be subject to and subordinated to any applicable present and future Federal and state laws, and the invalidity of any provision(s) of this Agreement by reason of any such existing or future law shall not affect the validity of the surviving provisions.

**31.02.** If the enactment of legislation, or a determination by a court of final and competent jurisdiction (whether in a proceeding between the parties or in one not between the parties but controlling by reason of the facts) renders any portion of this Agreement invalid or unenforceable, such legislation or decision shall not effect the validity of the surviving provisions of this Agreement, which shall remain in full force and effect as if such invalid provision(s) thereof had not been included herein.

**ARTICLE XXXII**

**PART-TIME EMPLOYEES**

**32.01** For the duration of this agreement, in the event of lay-offs, all part-time employees must be laid off before any bargaining unit employees.

**ARTICLE XXXIII**

**DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

**33.01.** This procedure shall apply to all non-probationary employees covered by this Agreement.

**33.02.** All employees shall have the following rights:

- A. An employee shall be entitled to representation by a Union representative at each step of the disciplinary procedure.
- B. An employee shall not be coerced, intimidated, or suffer any reprisals either directly or indirectly that may adversely affect his hours, wages, or working conditions as the result of the exercise of his rights under this procedure.

**33.03.** An employee may resign following the services 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 be terminated.

**33.04.** Discipline shall be imposed only for just cause. Discipline will normally be applied in a corrective, progressive and uniform manner subject to review on a case-by-case basis. Progressive discipline shall take into account the nature of the violation, the employee's prior history of discipline and the employee's record of performance and conduct. The specific acts for which discipline is being imposed and the penalty proposed shall be specified in the Notice of Discipline. The notice served on the employee shall contain a reference to dates, times and places, if possible.

Forms of disciplinary action may include:

- Verbal warning (time, date and incident recorded);
- Written reprimand;
- Working suspension;
- Suspension;
- Fines (not in excess of 40 hours pay or paid leave);
- Demotion;
- Discharge.

An employee who is given a working suspension shall be required to report to work to serve the suspension and shall be compensated at the regular rate of pay for hours worked. The working suspension shall be recorded in the employee's personnel file in the same manner as other disciplinary actions having the same effect as a suspension without pay for the purpose of recording disciplinary actions.

An employee who is given a fine shall have the option of using available paid leave (i.e., vacation, personal leave, sick leave bonus days, compensatory time) in lieu of a cash fine, provided the employee has such leave time accrued.

**33.05.** Where the Chief seeks as a penalty the imposition of a working suspension, a fine, a suspension without pay, a demotion or removal from service, notice of such discipline shall be made in writing and served to the employee personally or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested.

**33.06.** Except as provided in Section 33.12, discipline shall not be implemented until either:

1. The matter is settled, or
2. The employee fails to file a grievance within the time frame provided by this procedure, or
3. The penalty is upheld by the arbitrator or a different penalty is determined by the arbitrator.

**33.07.** The Notice of Discipline served on the employee shall be accompanied by written statement that:

1. The employee has a right to object by filing a grievance within five (5) working days of receipt of the Notice of Discipline;
2. The Grievance Procedure provides for a hearing by an independent arbitrator as its final step;
3. The employee is entitled to representation by a Union representative at ever step of the proceeding;

**33.08.** If a grievance is filed and pursued within the time frames provided below, no penalty can be implemented, except as provided in Section 33.06 and 33.12, until the matter is settled or the arbitrator renders a determination.

**33.09.** The following administrative procedures shall apply to disciplinary actions:

- A. The Chief and the employee involved are encouraged to settle disciplinary matters informally. Each side shall extend a good faith effort to settle the matter at the earliest possible time. The Chief is encouraged to hold an informal meeting with the employee for the purpose of discussing the matter prior to the formal presentation of written charges. The specific nature of the matter will be addressed, and the Chief may offer a proposed disciplinary penalty. The employee must be advised before meeting that

she/he is entitled to representation by the Union during the initial discussion.

- B. If a mutually agreeable settlement is not reached at this informal meeting the Chief will, within ten (10) working days, prepare a formal Notice of Discipline and present it to the employee. If no informal meeting is held, the Chief may just prepare a Notice of Discipline and present it to the employee. The Notice of Discipline will include advice as to the employee's rights in the procedure, and the right of representation.
- C. Upon receipt of the Notice of Discipline, the employee may choose to accept the proposed discipline or to appeal by filing a grievance with the Mayor, pursuant to Step 4 of the Grievance Procedure. The appeal must be filed at Step 4 within five (5) working days from receipt of the Notice of Discipline.

**33.10.** A failure to submit an appeal within the above time limit shall be construed as an agreement to the disciplinary action by the effected employee and Union. All subsequent appeal rights shall be deemed waived.

**33.11.** A disciplinary matter may be settled at any time. The terms of the settlement shall be agreed to in writing. An employee executing a settlement shall be notified of the right to have a Union representative or to decline any such representation. A settlement entered into by an employee shall be final and binding on all parties. The Union shall be notified of all settlements.

**33.12.** An employee may be suspended with pay at any time during the process. A working suspension, suspension without pay, a termination, a demotion, or fine (up to five (5) days) may be imposed concurrent with or subsequent to the decision at Step 4 of the Grievance Procedure.

**33.13.** The Union on behalf of all the employees covered by this Agreement and its own behalf, hereby waives any and all rights previously possessed by such employees to a Safety Director's Inquiry and to appeal any form of disciplinary action (e.g., suspensions, fines, demotion or discharge) to any Civil Service Commission.

## **ARTICLE XXXIV**

## **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

**34.01.** Every employee shall have the right to present his grievance in Accordance with the procedures provided herein, free from any interference, coercion, restraint, discrimination or reprisal and except at Step 1, shall have the right to be represented by a person of is own choosing at all stages of the Grievance Procedure. It is the intent and purpose of the parties to this Agreement that all grievances shall be settled, if possible, at the lowest step of this procedure.

**34.02.** For the purposes of this procedure, the below listed terms are defined as follows:

- a) Grievance - A "grievance" shall be defined as a dispute or controversy arising from the misapplication or misinterpretation of the specific and express written provisions of this Agreement.
- b) Aggrieved Party – The "aggrieved party" shall be defined as only an employee or group of employees within the bargaining unit actually or the Union filing a grievance
- c) Party in Interest – A "party in Interest" shall be defined as any employee of the Employer names in the grievance who is not the aggrieved party.
- d) Days – A "day" as used in this procedure shall mean calendar days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and the holidays as provided in this Agreement.

**34.03.** The following procedures shall apply to the administration of all grievances filed under this Grievance Procedure.

- a) Except at Step 1, all grievances shall include the name and position of the aggrieved party; the identity of the provisions of this Agreement involved in the grievance; the time and place where the alleged events or conditions constituting the grievance took place; the identity of the party responsible for causing the grievance, if known to the aggrieved party; and a general statement of the nature of the grievance and the redress sought by the aggrieved party.
- b) Except at Step 1, all decisions shall be rendered in writing at each step of the Grievance Procedure. Each decision shall be transmitted to the aggrieved party and his representative, if any.
- c) If a grievance affects a group of employees working in different work locations, with different principals, or associated with an employer-wide controversy, it may be submitted at Step 3.
- d) The preparation and processing of grievances shall be conducted only during non-working hours.
- e) Nothing contained herein shall be construed as admitting the right of any employee having a grievance to discuss the matter informally with any appropriate member of the administration and having said matter informally adjusted without the intervention of the Union, provided that the adjustment is not inconsistent with the terms of this Agreement. In the event that any grievance is adjusted without formal determination, pursuant to this procedure, while each adjustment shall be binding upon the aggrieved party and shall, in all respects, be final, said adjustment shall not create a precedent or ruling upon the Employer in future proceedings.

- f) The aggrieved party may have a Union representative represent him at any step of the Grievance Procedure.
- g) This Grievance Procedure shall be the sole and exclusive procedure for remedies sought for alleged violations of this bargaining agreement
- h) The time limits provided herein will be strictly adhered to and any grievance not filed initially or appealed within the specified time limits shall be deemed waived and void. If the Employer fails to reply within the specified time limit, the grievance shall automatically move to the next step by default. The time limits specified for either party may be extended only by written mutual agreement.
- i) This procedure shall not be used for the purpose of adding to, subtracting from, or altering in any way, any of the provisions of this Agreement.
- j) No other management representative participating in any of the various lower steps of the Grievance Procedure shall have the power to settle the grievance in question until such proposed settlement is approved by the Chief.

**34.04.** All grievances shall be administered in accordance with the following steps of the Grievance Procedure.

Step 1: An employee who believes he may have a grievance shall notify his immediate supervisor of the possible grievance within five (5) days of the occurrence of the facts giving rise to the grievance. The Supervisor will schedule an informal meeting with the employee and his director, if the director's presence is requested by the employee, within five (5) days of the date of the notice by the employee. The supervisor and the employee, along with the employee's director will discuss the issues in dispute with the objective of resolving the matter informally. The supervisor shall give his answer within (5) days of the meeting.

Step 2: If the aggrieved party initiating the grievance is not satisfied with the decision at the conclusion of Step 1, a written appeal of the decision may be filed with the Captain within five (5) days from the date of the rendering of the decision at Step 1. The Captain shall convene a meeting within ten (10) days of the receipt of the appeal. The meeting will be held with the aggrieved party and his representative, if he requests one. The Captain shall issue a written decision to the employee's representative, with a copy to the employee if he requests one, within ten (10) days from the date of the meeting.

Step 3: If the aggrieved party initiating the grievance is not satisfied with the decision at the conclusion of Step 2, a written appeal of the decision may be filed with the Chief of Police within five (5) days from the date of the rendering of the decision at Step 2. The Chief of Police shall convene a meeting within ten (10) days of the receipt of the appeal. The meeting will be held with the aggrieved party and his representative, if he requests one. The Chief shall issue a written decision to the employee's representative,

with a copy to the employee if he requests one, within ten (10) days from the date of the meeting.

Step 4: If the aggrieved party is not satisfied with the written decision at the conclusion of Step 3, a written appeal of the decision may be filed with the Mayor within five (5) days from the date of the rendering of the decision in Step 3. Copies of the written decisions shall be submitted with the appeal. The Mayor or his designee shall convene a meeting within ten (10) days of the receipt of the appeal. The meeting will be held with the aggrieved party, his representative and any other party necessary to provide the required information for the rendering of a proper decision. The Mayor or his designee shall issue a written decision to the employee's representative with a copy to the employee if the employee requests one within fifteen (15) days from the date of the meeting. If the aggrieved party is not satisfied with the decision at Step 4, he may proceed to arbitration pursuant to the Arbitration Procedure herein contained.

## **ARTICLE XXXV**

## **ARBITRATION PROCEDURE**

**35.01.** In the event a grievance is unresolved after being processed through all of the steps of the Grievance Procedure, unless mutually waived or having passed through the various steps by timely default of the Employer, then within ten (10) days after the rendering of the decision at Step 3 or a timely default by the Employer at Step 3, the Union may submit the grievance to arbitration. Within this ten (10) day period, the parties will meet to attempt to mutually agree upon an arbitrator selected from the permanent panel created by this procedure. If such agreement is not reached, then the panel member's names will be stricken alternatively until one (1) name remains who shall be designated the arbitrator to hear the grievance in question.

**35.02.** The arbitrator shall have no power or authority to add to, subtract from, or in any manner, alter the specific terms of this Agreement or to make any award requiring the commission of any act prohibited by law or make any award that itself is contrary to law or violates any of the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

**35.03.** The arbitrator shall not decide more than one (1) grievance on the same hearing day(s), except by mutual written agreement of the parties.

**35.04.** The hearing or hearings shall be conducted pursuant to the "Rules of Voluntary Arbitration" of the American Arbitration Association.

**35.05.** The fees and expenses of the arbitrator and the cost of the hearing room, if any, will be borne by the party losing the grievance. All other expenses shall be borne by the party incurring them. Neither party shall be responsible for any of the expenses incurred by the other party.

**35.06.** The arbitrator's decision and award shall be in writing and delivered within thirty (30) calendar days from the date the record is closed. The decision of the arbitrator shall only be binding upon the parties.

**35.07.** There is hereby created a permanent panel of arbitrators to be used for the selection of an arbitration pursuant to this Arbitration Procedure. Those individuals placed on this panel shall be: 1) John Meredith, Esq.; 2) Dr. Harry Graham; 3) Nels Nelson; 4) Dennis Minni, Esq.; and 5) James Mancini, Esq.

**35.08.** The Union agrees to indemnify and hold the Employer harmless against any and all claims, demands, suits or other forms of liability that may arise out of any determination that the Union failed to fairly represent a member of the bargaining unit during the exercise of his rights as provided by the Grievance and Arbitration Procedures herein contained.

**ARTICLE XXXVI**

**SHIFT ASSIGNMENT**

**36.01.** All employees in the classification of Sergeant or Lieutenant, while assigned to the uniformed field patrol forces, at the discretion of the Employer, shall select their assignments in four (4) month periods starting January 1, May 1 and September 1 each year on the basis of classification seniority. The bid will be posted 30-days prior to the start date for that period and remain open for selection for 21-days. Any employee who has not participated in the bid selection within the time frame herein will be assigned by the Employer to an open slot.

**36.02.** Nothing contained herein shall limit the discretion of the Employer to determine the number of employees to be assigned to each patrol team, division, unit, bureau or specialized position, or the discretion of the Employer to assign and transfer employees to meet the requirements of the Department.

**ARTICLE XXXVII**

**RESIDENCY**

Deleted Article

**ARTICLE XXXVIII**

**FILLING OF POSITIONS**

This article shall govern the manner in which vacancies in Division special assignments are filled.

**38.01.** For purposes of this article "Division Special Assignments" are defined as those assignments that are specialized in nature and/or ordinarily require specialized training before an Officer can participate or be assigned to the specialized duty. Such assignments include, but are not limited to: Detective, Special Response Team, School Resource Officer, DARE, Bicycle Patrol, Field Training Officer, Canine Officer and various training instructors.

**38.02. Posting / eligibility:** When the Employer determines to fill a vacant assignment, such vacancy shall be posted on the Division bulletin board for a period of not less than ten (10) calendar days. The posting shall include the title of the position, the duties and responsibilities, and the minimum qualifications and requirements for participation.

It is understood and agreed that the Chief has the authority to define or establish the qualifications for the positions.

Posting shall include the criteria for the position. The criteria for selection may include, but is not limited to, knowledge required for the position, demonstrated ability to achieve goals, education, experience, work record, disciplinary record and seniority.

**38.03. Applicants / Bargaining unit:** Bargaining unit employees interested in applying for the vacant position shall submit an application, on a Division approved form, to the Employer within the posting period. The Employer shall not be obligated to consider any applications submitted after the posting period or received from applicants who do not meet the minimum qualifications for the job.

Employees shall be responsible for submitting information and documentation of training, experience, education, and other relevant information supporting their application for a vacancy.

**38.05. Selection process:** The Chief shall select the most qualified employee for the vacant position based on the qualifications of the applicants as specified in the job description and job posting. The Chief may consider the following in the selection (in rank order of their importance): needs of the Division, requirements of the position, recommendations of unit supervisors, career aspirations of the applicants, qualifications and training, relevant education, work history, experience, interviews with the applicants and seniority. In the event two or more employees are relatively equally qualified, the position shall be awarded to the employee with the most seniority.

**38.06. Temporary appointments:** Nothing in this Article shall be construed to limit or prevent the Employer from temporarily filling a vacant position pending the Employer's determination to fill the vacancy on a permanent basis. Such temporary vacancy and appointments shall ordinarily not exceed ninety (90) days but may be extended for cause shown. No employee shall be given an advantage in the selection process due to the fact that the Employee served temporarily in the position. This MOU allows the Chief of Police to temporarily appoint one Division Lieutenant as commander of the Detective Bureau for the period that this MOU is in effect. It is understood that this period may exceed the 90-day time period set forth in this section.

**38.07. Grievance action:** Any grievances concerning filling of vacancies made pursuant to this Article may be filed directly at Step four (4) of the grievance procedure.

**38.08. Release time:** Employees who are on duty shall be given time without loss of pay to participate in this process if such process occurs during the employee's work hours.

## ARTICLE XXXIX

## PROMOTIONS

**39.01.** The City of Ashland Civil Service Commission rules and requirements shall govern the process by which promotions in rank are filled. All promotions to the rank of Lieutenant shall be filled by competitive examination.

**39.02.** *Eligibility:* No Officer shall be eligible to take a promotional examination without serving for two years in grade with the Ashland Police Division in the next lower rank provided there are a sufficient number of eligible employees to make the examination competitive. In the event there is not the requisite number of employees to make the examination competitive, the examination will be open to the next lower rank to make it competitive.

**39.03.** *Posting:* When the Employer determines a vacancy in the position of Sergeant or Lieutenant exists, such vacancy shall be posted at least Thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of the testing process. The posting shall be on the Division bulletin board for a period of not less than ten (10) calendar days. The posting shall include the title of the position, a copy of the City of Ashland Job Description, and the minimum qualifications required.

**39.04.** The initial posting shall include information on the testing process as well as the list of reference material that will be utilized in preparation for the testing procedure. At least one full set of testing materials will be purchased by the Police Division and made available in the Division's Library for use by Officers.

**39.05.** The City Director of Human Resources, acting for the Civil Service Commission, is responsible for determining eligibility for promotion. Officers will be contacted by the director of Human Resources to determine whether they are eligible and whether the Officer will participate in the examination process. The Employer is not obligated to consider qualifications for the position.

**39.06.** The Civil Service Commission shall have control of all examinations, acting through the Director of Human Resources, who is the administrative Secretary of the Commission. The Director of Human Resources shall have the authority to determine the testing process. The Chief of Police and one current member of the vacant rank to be tested for, shall participate in the testing process design. The Director of Human Resources has the authority to designate or contract on behalf of the Commission for special examiners or test as required.

**39.07.** The promotional process shall be made up of the following:

- Oral examination (oral board and /or assessment center) which is 50% of the total score.
- PRADCO assessment which is 50% of the total score.
- Total score will constitute the combination of the Oral examination and the PRADCO assessment plus the seniority points referenced in 39.11 below.

~~When more than one test is to be used as part of the examination process, or where a test is made up of two (2) or more distinct parts, the relative weight of each part of the examination shall not exceed a sixty percent (60%) of the total examination score. The weight of each part of the examination shall be determined prior to the test being given.~~

**39.08.** The Bargaining unit will be informed of the recommended examination process, and before the process begins, the Bargaining Unit will be given the opportunity to give their input on the process and endorse it. In situations where the Bargaining Unit does not agree with the examination process, appeal of the Commission's determination of the process is final.

**39.09.** The testing process will commence immediately after the conclusion of the Thirty day posting period as outlined in section 3, except when the process is appealed as provided for in section 8. Upon commencement of the testing process, it shall be conducted without undue delay. ~~Candidates must successfully complete all phases of the examination process to be considered for promotion.~~

**39.10.** Questions and/or appeals regarding individual questions and/or parts of any examination shall be handled under Civil Services rules through the Director of Human Resources.

**39.11.** *Seniority credit:* Seniority credit shall be calculated and added to the candidate's examination score, in accordance with Civil Service rules.

**39.12.** *Promotional list:* Upon completion of all phases of the testing process, the Director of Human resources shall compile all the scores and present them to the Civil Service Commission for certification. The certified list shall be utilized to fill all vacancies which become available within one (1) year from the date the list is certified. The promotional list can be extended by the City with Civil Service Commission approval for an additional year (2 year maximum for list).

**39.13.** *Selection process for Lieutenant:* The Chief shall fill the promotional vacancy by selecting the candidate(s) from the certified list in the order in which they appear from highest to lowest. The promotional vacancy shall be filled within 30 days of the receipt of the certified list. In the event two (2) or more employees receive identical test scores, the Chief shall select the candidate with the most seniority.

**39.14.** *Testing process for Captain and Chief of Police:* The testing and selection process for the positions of Captain and Chief of Police shall be governed by and determined through the rules and regulations of the City Civil Service Commission.

**39.15.** *Grievance Action:* Grievances concerning filling of a Lieutenant's vacancy made pursuant to this Article are limited to the following:

- Calculation and award of seniority credit
- Calculation process of final scores
- Final Selection

Grievances made pursuant to this Article may be filed directly at Step four (4) of the grievance procedure.

**39.16. Release Time:** Employees who are on duty shall be given release time without loss of pay to participate in this process if such process occurs during the employee's work hours.

**39.17. Temporary appointments:** Nothing in this Article shall be construed to limit or prevent the Employer from temporarily appointing an Officer to fill a vacant position pending the Employee's determination to fill the vacancy on a permanent basis. No Officer shall be given an advantage in the testing process due to the fact that the Officer served temporarily in the position.

**39.18.** ~~This MOU allows the City of Ashland not to post or test for eligibility on Division Lieutenant during the period this MOU is in effect. For the purposes of clarity, there will be two Patrol Bureau Lieutenants and one Detective Bureau Lieutenant during the period this MOU is in effect.~~

~~39.19. It is understood that the 10 hour shift schedule for the Lieutenants is being conducted on a trial basis for up to one year at which time it will be reviewed. In addition, quarterly reviews will be conducted to judge the effectiveness of the schedule based on the criteria set forth below and agreed upon by the parties. It is understood that based on those quarterly reviews, changes and/or additions to this memorandum of understanding may be requested and evaluated. It is the intent of the administration of the Police Division to fully evaluate this schedule for the full one year period but it is understood that nothing in this memorandum prevents the City from reverting to 8 hour shifts at the City's sole discretion based on the needs of the Division and the City. If the evaluation of the effectiveness and practicality is satisfactory, the administration will strongly consider extending the 10 hour shift schedule beyond the trial period.~~

Measurement criteria attached.

## **ARTICLE XL**

### **DURATION**

**40.01.** This agreement shall become effective on January 1, 2025 and shall continue in full force and effect, along with any amendments made and annexed hereto, until midnight, December 31, 2027.

**ARTICLE XLI****EXECUTION**

41.01. WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be duly executed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025.

FOR THE OPBA:

Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent  
Association

LT. JD #158

Joseph M. Grechus

FOR THE EMPLOYER:

City of Ashland, Ohio

Matt Miller  
Matt Miller, Mayor

Approved as to form and correctness:

Richard P. Wolfe II,  
Director of Law

## EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

You have been served with a Notice of Discipline. Under the labor contract you have rights as listed below. PLEASE READ THESE RIGHTS THOROUGHLY BEFORE YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH ANY PROPOSED DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

If, after reading your rights and discussing the matter with your Union representative, you agree to the proposed discipline, you may simply sign this form at the bottom to note your agreement, and return it to the Chief of Police.

If you disagree with the discipline, you should state your reasons in writing in the space provided below, and return this form to the Mayor within 5 working days of receipt of the Notice of Discipline.

## RIGHTS

1. You are entitled to representation by the Union to represent you at each step of this procedure.
2. You have the right to object to the proposed discipline by filing a disciplinary grievance within 5 working days of receipt of the proposed discipline with the Mayor.
3. If you file your objections, the Mayor will schedule a formal meeting within 10 working days of receipt of this form to discuss the matter. You may have representation at this meeting.
4. The Mayor will report his/her decision within 5 working days following the close of the hearing.
5. You will have 10 working days after receipt of the Mayor's decision in which to appeal the decision pursuant to the Grievance Procedure.
6. No recording will be made of discussions or questioning unless you are informed and are provided a copy of the transcript or record within at least 5 working days prior to the date of the arbitration. Cost of the record or transcript shall be paid by the party requesting the copy of the transcript.
7. The cost of the arbitrator will be paid by the losing party.



## NOTICE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

To:

From:

Date:

**Subject: Proposed Disciplinary Action**

You are hereby notified that your Employer proposes to take the following disciplinary action against you:

You have certain rights regarding the appeal of the above proposed disciplinary action. Please read the attached information regarding these rights.

Chief of Police

# **Confirmation of Receipt**

**THE OHIO PATROLMEN'S  
BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION  
(Sergeants and Lieutenants)  
Contract**

I, (print name) \_\_\_\_\_,  
acknowledge receipt of a copy of the OPBA (Sergeants and Lieutenants) contract  
which expires 12/31/2027.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_