

COLLECTIVELY BARGAINED AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE CITY OF ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA  
AND  
THE ALTOONA CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

JANUARY 1, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2028

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## **AGREEMENT**

**EXECUTED** this 21<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2025, by and between the **CITY OF ALTOONA**, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, being a third-class City of Blair County, Pennsylvania (herein called "City") and the **ALTOONA CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT**, (hereinafter called "Police Department").

**WHEREAS**, Police Officers employed by a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have the right to bargain collectively with their public employer concerning the terms and conditions of their employment in accordance with the provisions of the Act of June 24, 1968; and

**WHEREAS**, as the result of collective bargaining the parties have reached an accord concerning the terms and conditions of their employment for the three (3) year period commencing on January 1, 2026; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the promises and mutual covenants contained herein, the parties hereto intending legally to be bound hereby, agree as follows:

### **ARTICLE I – RECOGNITION**

The City hereby recognizes and acknowledges the Fraternal Order of Police, Mountain City Lodge No. 8 as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for the purpose of establishing wages, hours, and other conditions of employment for all members of the Altoona Police Department defined herein or legally determined to be the Unit Members.

### **ARTICLE II – MANAGEMENT RIGHTS**

Section 1: The management and direction of the police force including the right to hire, suspend, discharge for proper cause, reduce or increase the number of Patrol Officers, designation of the area to be policed, discipline for cause, equipment requirements, and all other similar matters relating to the police force shall be and remain the power and responsibility of the City. Except as modified by this Agreement, all laws, ordinances, and regulations, now in effect or hereafter adopted, relating to policemen shall be deemed to be effect. All rules, regulations, and practices relating to the internal management of the police force, presently or hereinafter in effect, shall be enforced by the Chief of Police and its designated officers.

Section 2: The City agrees that it cannot and will not hire any part-time employees to perform services normally associated with the duties of Unit Members.

### **ARTICLE III – EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

The parties hereto agree not to discriminate against any employee on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation and gender identity), national origin, age (40 years and older), non-job-related handicap or disability, genetic information, political or Union affiliation, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state or local laws.

### **ARTICLE IV – DEFINITIONS**

- 1) Unit Member – All full-time Police Officers, including but not limited to, Lieutenants, Sergeants, Corporals and Patrol Officers employed in the Altoona Police Department (hereinafter referred to either as “Unit Member” or “Policemen”). The Chief of Police and Deputy Chief of Police are not Unit Members.
- 2) Work Day – Eight (8) continuous hours in a twenty-four (24) hour period.
- 3) Work Week – Five (5) continuous days in a seven (7) day period preceded by and followed by two (2) continuous relief days.
- 4) Annual Salary – Defined as base wages, longevity payments, overtime earned up to \$7,500 dollars per year as per this Agreement, and any payment received for holidays.
- 5) Normal Retirement – Retirement in conformance with ss94-22, (A,1) of the City’s Code of Ordinances.
- 6) Probationary Period – All initial appointments to positions in the Altoona Police Department shall be for a probationary period of at least one (1) year, and not to exceed eighteen (18) months following completion of the Act 120 Training Academy, if applicable. The Chief of Police shall investigate the adjustment, performance, and the general acceptability of each probationer to determine whether such probationer is fully qualified for permanent appointment. The Chief of Police shall make the final decision to retain or reject the probationer and will notify the probationer, in writing of that decision.

## ARTICLE V – MONETARY COMPENSATIONS

### Section 1: Wages

- A. The wage rates in effect from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028 are as follows:

<u>Effective 1/1/2026 – 8%</u>	<u>Annual</u>
Base Rate, Full Patrol Officer	\$76,032.91
Corporal	\$84,771.41
Sergeant	\$89,630.83
Lieutenant	\$94,490.25

<u>Effective 1/1/2027 – 7%</u>	<u>Annual</u>
Base Rate, Full Patrol Officer	\$81,355.21
Corporal	\$90,705.41
Sergeant	\$95,904.99
Lieutenant	\$101,104.57

<u>Effective 1/1/2028 – 5%</u>	<u>Annual</u>
Base Rate, Full Patrol Officer	\$85,422.97
Corporal	\$95,240.68
Sergeant	\$100,700.24
Lieutenant	\$106,159.80

- B. The wages for a new hire shall continue to be calculated as a percentage of the base wage of a full Patrol Officer as set forth below.
- 1) All newly hired officers with the Altoona Police Department who are required to attend the Police Academy will be compensated at seventy-five percent (75%) of the current wage rate of current top Patrol Officer for the duration of their time attending the Police Academy. Upon completion of the Police Academy, the newly hired officer will be paid according to the following schedule:

2) The base wage for a Unit Member hired after the date of execution of this Agreement who is classified as a starting Patrol Officer shall, in each calendar year, be calculated at the rate of eighty-five percent (85%) of the base rate for full Patrol Officer; a second year Patrol Officer base wage rate shall be calculated as ninety percent (90%) of that received by a full Patrol Officer in the year that he or she becomes a second-year Patrol Officer; a third-year Patrol Officer's base wage shall be ninety-five percent (95%) of that received by a full Patrol Officer in the year that he or she becomes a third-year Patrol Officer; and a fourth-year Patrol Officer shall be one-hundred percent (100%) of that received by a full Patrol Officer in the year that he or she becomes a fourth year Patrol Officer, and shall thereafter be considered a full Patrol Officer. All Patrol officers who are not yet full-Patrol Officers at the time of execution of this Collective Bargaining Agreement shall be paid according to this schedule.

3) Each incremental increase shall occur on the anniversary date of the Unit Member's employment with the City of Altoona. After attaining full Patrol Officer status, any salary increase shall become effective on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the given year.

- C. 1) All employees hired on or after January 1, 2022 will sign a four-year commitment agreement with the City of Altoona. All such employees will be required to reimburse the City of Altoona for the following costs:
- a. Actual amount the City paid for Academy tuition, if applicable
  - b. Actual amount the City paid for lodging during the Academy, if applicable
  - c. Actual amount the City paid for mileage to and from the Academy, if applicable
  - d. Actual amount the City paid for meals during the Academy, if applicable
  - e. Actual amount the City paid for initial clothing and equipment costs
  - f. \$1,000 toward the total cost of the Field Training Program
- Reimbursement to the City of Altoona by newly hired employees who fail to comply with the four (4) year commitment contract will be as follows:

100% if the employee leaves within the first two (2) years of employment.

75% if the employee leaves within the third year of employment.

60% if the employee leaves within the fourth year of employment.

- 2) All employees hired prior to January 1, 2022 will maintain the financial commitment schedule agreed to at the time of hire.

*Note: an exception to reimbursement by the employee to the City would be granted as the consequence of a catastrophic event. A panel consisting of Union and City members will determine if individual circumstances merit such an exception.*

- D. When a Unit Member is temporarily assigned to perform the same duties, and given the authority normally held by an officer in higher rank, that officer shall be paid the base rate of the next higher grade about their own payrate and the longevity pay of their regular grade for all hours worked. An example of an applicable scenario would be when a Patrol Corporal acts as the Patrol OIC due to no Patrol Sergeants working on the shift. In the case of a Sergeant assigned to perform the duties of a Lieutenant, this temporary pay rate shall apply only when the Lieutenant is unavailable and when the Chief, or the Chief's designee, has specifically advised that Sergeant that they will be assuming that Lieutenant's command and authority.
- E. When a Unit Member is promoted to a higher rank, he or she shall be compensated at the salary level of that higher rank from the first day of service even though he/she may be serving during a probationary period.
- F. Any Unit Member that is mandated to come to work on a scheduled day off will receive a minimum of four (4) hours compensation as well as an additional day off. That additional day off shall be scheduled on a date mutually agreed upon by the employee and their supervisor, and in accordance with the Police Department's time off policy. This section does not apply to those employees called to report to court (see Court Time in Section 4 of this Article).
- G. Unit Members designated as Field Training Officers (FTO) shall receive a lump-sum of fifteen-hundred dollars (\$1500.00) per year; paid biweekly across twenty-six (26) pay cycles and prorated as needed; not to include supervisors; in addition to all other wage benefits.

- H. Tour Commanders shall be paid two-thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) per year; paid biweekly across twenty-six (26) pay cycles and prorated as needed; in addition to all other wage benefits.

#### Section 2: Overtime

- A. The City shall pay one and one-half (1 ½) times the base salary including any increments for longevity, night differential or other base pay additions for all hours required in excess of eight (8) hours per day or forty (40) hours per week. For purposes of calculating overtime, the workweek shall begin at 12 AM on Saturday and end at 11:59 PM on Friday of any week.

*Note: Nothing in this Section shall preclude an officer from receiving pay at the overtime rate for reimbursable work performed for a third-party (for example, drug task force work) where that payment does not have an economic impact on the City).*

- B. Employees shall have the right to elect and utilize compensatory time in lieu of overtime in accordance with departmental policy. An employee shall be permitted to accumulate no more than eighty (80) hours of compensatory time. Once an employee has accumulated the maximum hours of compensatory time, they must be paid for any overtime worked.

#### Section 3: Longevity

- A. A Unit Member employed prior to January 1, 2014 shall receive a longevity pay increment according to the following schedule:
- 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Years of Service - Two and one-half percent (2 ½%) of base pay/year
  - 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Years of Service – Four and one-half percent (4 ½%) of base pay/year
  - 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Years of Service – Six and one-half percent (6 ½%) of base pay/year
  - 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Years of Service – Eight and one-half percent (8 ½%) of base pay/year
  - 26<sup>th</sup> Year and all Subsequent Years of Service – Ten and one-half (10 ½%) of base pay/year
- B. Unit Members employed by the City on or after January 1, 2014 shall receive a longevity pay increment according to the following schedule:
- 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Years of Service - Two and one-half percent (2 ½%) of base pay/year
  - 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Years of Service – Four and one-half percent (4 ½%) of base pay/year
  - 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Years of Service – Six and one-half percent (6 ½%) of base pay/year



21<sup>st</sup> Year and all Subsequent Years of Service – Eight and one-half percent (8 ½%) of base pay/year

Section 4: Court Time

- A. Any officer required to be in attendance in the Court of Common Pleas, magisterial or coroner's hearing during non-duty hours shall receive compensation for those non-duty hours one and one-half (1 ½) his/her hourly rate, or in the alternative, compensatory time off, at the officer's sole discretion. For this purpose, the officer's hourly rate shall be determined by dividing the base salary including any increments for longevity, night differential or other base pay additions by 2080 hours. Any officer required to be in attendance in the Court of Common Pleas, magisterial or coroner's hearing during non-duty hours shall receive compensation for those non-duty hours at time and one-half (1 ½) of the officer's hourly rate with a minimum guarantee of three (3) hours compensation.
- B. In the event that any officer shall receive notice to appear before the aforementioned courts or hearing boards on a day which would fall within a scheduled vacation period and that notice is received by the officer prior to the beginning of the subject vacation period, the officer shall, at his/her discretion, be permitted to reschedule his/her vacation in its entirety.
- C. In an effort to minimize the time spent in court and to maximize the efficiency of the department, the City agrees that it shall assign a full-time liaison officer whose duties shall include the coordinating of officer's court appearance such that will minimize the time that is required by the officers to be spent as court time.

Section 5: Stand-By Pay

- A. The City shall compensate officers on stand-by duty time at one-quarter (1/4) pay for stand-by time. Stand-by time shall be defined as "the placing of an officer on alert for active street duty necessitated by a compelling crime preventative or enforcement situation". The period of stand-by time shall commence at such time the officer receives notice from an appropriate superior officer that the alert and shall not terminate until such time as he/she receives a countermanding order from an appropriate superior officer.

#### Section 6: Night Differential

- A. A Unit Member scheduled to work any hours between 4:00 P.M. and 12:00 A.M. shall receive in addition to his/her base pay, a night differential in an amount equal to two and one-half percent (2 ½%) of his/her hourly wages, the same being for this purpose his/ her base yearly wage plus any longevity increments divided by 2080 hours. A Unit Member scheduled to work any hours between 12:00 A.M. and 8:00 A.M. shall receive in addition to his/her base pay, a night differential in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of his/her hourly wages, the same being for this purpose his/her base yearly wage plus any longevity increments divided by 2080 hours.

#### Section 7: Educational Recognition

- A. All Unit Members attaining at least sixty (60) college credits shall be paid an educational differential of two-hundred dollars (\$200) and those Unit Members attaining at least one-hundred twenty (120) college credits shall receive an educational differential of four-hundred fifty dollars (\$450) as long as the college credits earned are in subjects related to law enforcement and the Police Officer has maintained a minimum of a "C" average. Unit Members shall be entitled to the educational differential regardless of when the credits shall have been earned.
- B. The City shall establish annually a ten-thousand-dollar (\$10,000) education reimbursement fund. Unit Members who successfully complete a higher education course related to their law enforcement duties while on the active-duty roster of the Altoona Police Department shall be eligible for reimbursement from this fund for sums expended for tuition and books for this course. Reimbursement shall be made in December, and in the event, there are claims for benefits exceeding the maximum annual allocation of \$10,000, Unit Members shall be eligible for a pro-rata reimbursement based upon the cost of the tuition and books. In no event shall the City be required to pay more than \$10,000 annual for educational reimbursement. Any amount not utilized for educational reimbursement in the year allocated shall not carry over, but shall instead be available for use by the City in its discretion.

## Section 8: Canine Program

- A. Participation in the Canine Program will be governed by the Canine Program Policy. Officers who meet the qualifications outlined in the Altoona Police Department (APD) Canine Policy may elect to apply to be selected to become a handler. All officers selected to be a handler will sign a five-year Commitment Agreement with the City of Altoona.
- B. The Commitment Agreement will require all selected employees to reimburse the City of Altoona for the Actual amount paid for the APD Canine if the canine is unable to be reassigned, at the discretion of the Police Chief.
- C. The Commitment Agreement will require all selected employees to reimburse the City of Altoona the actual amount paid for the training of both the canine handler and the canine, at the discretion of the Police Chief.
- D. The Commitment Agreement will require all selected employees to reimburse the City of Altoona for the actual amount paid for any items provided and not returned to the City of Altoona upon termination of employment, if the items are unable to be reused or reassigned at the discretion of the Police Chief.
- E. Reimbursement to the City of Altoona by canine handlers who fail to comply with the five-year commitment contract will be as follows:
  - 100% if the employee leaves in the first two (2) years of the agreement.
  - 80% if the employee leaves in the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) year of the agreement.
  - 75% if the employee leaves in the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) year of the agreement.
  - 50% if the employee leaves in the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) year of the agreement.
- F. An employee will not be responsible for the re-payment of the commitment contract if the employee or canine die prior to the commitment contract.
- G. In the event of the employee's death, the employee's family may elect to take custody of the police canine, at the discretion of the Chief of Police.
- H. An exemption to reimbursement by the employee to the City would be granted as the consequences of a catastrophic event. A panel consisting of Union and City members will determine if individual circumstances merit such an exception.
- I. Canine handlers will be compensated in compliance with the Garcia Ruling, twenty (20) minutes a day for at home care of the APD canine. This will be paid

at time and half (30 minutes) for a total compensation of three and one-half (3.5) hours per week. This compensation will be paid as overtime pay.

- J. The Canine Program will be administered in accordance with the Altoona Police Department Canine Policy, which may be revised from time to time in sole discretion of the City; provided, however, any changes in the Policy shall not be inconsistent with this Article V, Section 8.

## **ARTICLE VI – HEALTH BENEFITS**

### Section 1: Health Insurance

Effective January 1, 2017, the, the base plan of insurance shall be a Qualified High Deductible PPO Insurance Plan (a summary of benefits for the plan is attached hereto)<sup>12</sup>. Each eligible employee shall establish a Health Savings Account (HSA) in conjunction with the Qualified High Deductible Plan whereby the annual deductible amounts shall be \$1,750.00 for individual coverage and \$3,500.00 for family coverage; where family coverage shall be defined as coverage that includes any category other than individual coverage. The City shall pay \$1,100.00 of the health insurance deductible annually for individual coverage and \$2,200.00 annually for family coverage. Any Unit Member who is ineligible to contribute to a Health Savings Account in any year of this Agreement shall receive the City's contribution for the year paid in a separate check in January of each year of ineligibility.

The City of Altoona maintains the ability to change plans or carriers provided equivalent coverage can be obtained. Equivalent in this context shall not mean exactly the same, but rather shall mean a plan when, considered as a whole, offers benefits that are comparable to the plan in effect. Any proposed change from the current carrier will require the City to meet, discuss, and agree on said change with the F.O.P. Wage Committee. Unit Members may waive the health insurance provided herein, in its entirety, under the following procedures:

- A. The waiver shall be made in writing on a form provided by the City and shall be effective as of the first day of the month following a Qualifying Life Event, and following the City's receipt of such waiver.

- B. Provided that written notice of at least thirty (30) days is first given, the Unit Member shall be permitted to revoke said waiver without limitation as of January 1 and July 1 of each year. However, notwithstanding said limitations, the Unit Member shall be permitted to revoke such waiver as of the first day of the month following a Qualifying Life Event. A Qualifying Life Event shall be defined as marriage, divorce, birth or adoption of a child, death of a spouse or qualifying dependent, or starting or ending of a spouse's employment.

#### Section 2: Dental Coverage

As of January 1, 2014, the City shall maintain and pay for the United Concordia or a comparable full dental program currently in effect for Unit Members and their dependents, the same of which shall include the basic supplemental coverage for routine, prosthetics, periodontics and orthodontic care. Any employee enrolling in dental coverage for a dependent(s) over the age of eighteen (18) years old must ensure that the dependent(s) is enrolled as a full-time student in a post-secondary training program to qualify for coverage. The employee will be required to submit a Dependent Certification, proof of full-time student enrollment status, and must be under the age of 26 to be eligible for dental coverage.

#### Section 3: Prescription Drugs

Prescription drug coverage is provided as a component of the Health Insurance Plan.

#### Section 4: Vision Care

As of January 1, 2014, and subject to change as set forth in Section 7 below, the City shall maintain and pay for the Vision Care coverage in effect for Unit Members and their dependents, which is currently the same vision coverage offered to the City Firefighters.

#### Section 5: Health Care Coverage for Widows & Children

The widow and dependent children of a Unit Member who dies from illness or injury received in the line of duty shall be eligible to participate in the same health care benefits as may be provided to current employees in the bargaining unit, which shall change from time to time. Such benefits shall remain in effect under the terms of the policy as if the member were alive.

## Section 6: Health Care Premium Payments

- A. Effective January 1, 2026, all bargaining Unit Members must pay a monthly premium payment to maintain health care coverage. Dental and Vision coverage is provided by the City at no cost to the Unit Member. In addition, employees will be responsible for cost sharing increases for their monthly health insurance contributions as follows:

Effective on or after January 1, 2026 as follows:

- (1) Employees will contribute ten and three-quarters (10.75%) percent of the total healthcare cost (healthcare premium plus the City's HSA contribution) cost per year.
  - (2) For any increases effective January 1, 2027, employees will contribute eleven and one-half (11.5%) percent of the total healthcare cost (healthcare premium plus the City's HSA contribution) cost per year.
  - (3) For any increases effective January 1, 2028, employees will contribute twelve and one quarter (12.25%) percent of the total healthcare cost (healthcare premium plus the City's HSA contribution) cost per year.
- B. An employee who waives health insurance coverage shall receive twenty percent (20%) of the savings enjoyed by the City by reason of the waiver. Where both an employee and his/her spouse are employed by the City, each shall receive ten percent (10%) of the savings if each elect's individual coverage rather than husband/wife coverage. There shall continue to be no waiver applicable where both a husband and wife are employed by the City and one elects coverage that is applicable to both. The same provisions shall be available to any retiree who elects to exchange sick leave for post-retirement health care, but chooses to opt-out of coverage under the City's health care plan in accordance with the provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and only if such retiree meets all of the other criteria for such payment as described in this Collective Bargaining Agreement (Article VIII, Section 7).

It is the intent of the parties that this opt-out arrangement will qualify as an “eligible opt-out arrangement” and that the Affordable Care Act and related regulations will not require opt-out payments to be counted as an employee contribution for the purposes of determining whether an offer of coverage is affordable. It is likewise the intent of the parties that opt-out payments shall not render the City’s offer of coverage to any employee “unaffordable” as defined by the Affordable Care Act and related regulations. Should the amount of a potential opt-out payment to an employee render the City’s offer coverage to that employee, or any other employee, unaffordable as defined by the Affordable Care Act and related regulations, then the amount of the opt-out payment shall be reduced by the amount necessary to ensure that the City’s offer of coverage to that employee, or any other employee, is affordable.

#### **ARTICLE VII – DISABILITY INSURANCE**

The City shall cover each Unit Member with a revised policy of Long-Term Disability Insurance providing coverage as set forth in Addendum I attached hereto and incorporated herein as if the same had been set forth at length. The cost of such insurance shall be \$3.25 per pay (or \$6.50 per month) for each Unit Member.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – SICK LEAVE**

Section 1: Beginning January 1, 2014, all Unit Members will accrue fifteen (15) sick days per year. These days shall begin accruing after the employee’s initial thirty (30) days of employment and will accrue on a pro rata basis monthly and only when the employee works seventy-five percent (75%) of their scheduled days that calendar month (the 75% shall be calculated by including hours actually worked, plus hours paid as vacation leave, compensatory time, personal leave, holidays, jury duty leave, bereavement leave, and required military leave. Members will be permitted to bank all sick leave annually up to a maximum of two-hundred fifty (250) days. Any Unit Member that has an accumulation of more than two-hundred fifty (250) days as of December 31, 2013 shall be entitled to maintain a maximum accumulation of the total number of days accumulated as of December 31, 2013, not to exceed three-hundred (300) days.

Section 2: Proof of illness will be required if the employee is absent in excess of three (3) consecutive duty days. Employees unable to work a full shift must use sick time, or substitute other compensable time, upon receiving the written approval of their supervisor. A Unit Member shall be entitled to use up to a maximum of five (5) sick days, or forty (40) hours, of their sick leave entitlement in each calendar year for the purpose of attending to members of the Unit Member's immediate family who are sick. For the purpose of this paragraph, "immediate family" shall mean spouse, child(ren), parents or in-laws. Proof of such illness will be required if the employee is absent due to the care of an immediate family member in excess of three (3) consecutive duty days.

Section 3: Only upon Normal Retirement, or disability retirement, shall a Unit Member be eligible to receive payment for unused accumulated sick leave. This provision notwithstanding any other limitation to this benefit outlined elsewhere in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Unit Members hired on or after January 1, 2014 shall not be eligible for post-retirement health care.

Upon Normal Retirement, or disability retirement, Unit Members may elect one of the following options:

- A. In exchange for one-hundred fifty (150) days, a Unit Member hired before January 1, 2014, who is eligible to receive post-retirement health care shall receive the same basic health plan as provided to the City's then current employees under the same terms and conditions applicable to current employees. The eligible retiree shall have the right, for the retiree and his or her spouse, if applicable, to participate in the same health care benefits as may be provided to current employees in the bargaining unit, which shall change from time to time. The City shall pay for the retired employee electing individual coverage the amount the City pays for individual coverage for the City's current employees, which shall change from time to time. The City shall pay for an employee electing employee and spouse coverage the amount the City pays for employee and spouse coverage for the City's current employees, which shall change from time to time. The retired employee shall pay the balance of the cost of coverage. In addition, a Unit Member who elects to receive post-retirement health care and exchanges



one-hundred fifty (150) sick days will be compensated at a rate of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each unused sick day in excess of one-hundred fifty (150) days. The City's obligation to provide post-retirement health care under this Article shall cease upon the retiree reaching sixty-five (65) years of age.

- B. Upon Normal Retirement, or disability retirement, a Unit Member may elect NOT to exchange one-hundred fifty (150) days of his or her accumulated sick leave for post-retirement health care, and in such election shall not be eligible for post-retirement health care. Unit Members will be compensated at fifty percent (50%) for the first one-hundred fifty (150) days, and fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each unused sick day in excess of one-hundred fifty (150).
- C. Upon Normal Retirement, or disability retirement, an eligible Unit Member with less than one-hundred fifty (150) sick days will be paid at fifty percent (50%) of his/her accumulated sick leave only if the Unit Member with less than one-hundred fifty (150) sick days is in good standing within the Police Department on the date of his/her Normal or disability retirement.

Section 4: In order for a Unit Member to receive value for accumulated sick leave, either in the form of cash or as post-retirement medical insurance benefits, the Unit Member must be in good standing within the Police Department on the date of his/her Normal Retirement or termination of employment. If, on the date of his/her Normal Retirement or termination of employment, the Unit Member has been charged with misconduct in an internal investigation or has been charged with a crime by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the misconduct or crime, if proven, would provide grounds to discharge the Unit Member from the department, the sick leave retirement benefit outlined within Article VIII shall not be paid until final determination of the charges. If the charges are substantiated, either through proof of a material violation of departmental rules and regulations which would have permitted the discharge for cause or conviction of a misdemeanor of the third degree or greater crime, the Unit Member's right to post-retirement economic benefits from accumulated sick leave shall be forfeited.

Section 5: Any Unit Member who retires and is eligible to participate in another health plan that is, when considered in its totality, comparable to the health plan available to current employees, shall not be eligible to participate in the City's plan, and shall not receive an opt-out or waiver

payment, but shall be required to participate in that other plan and no opt-out shall be available. A retiree shall continue to have the right to request reinstatement to health insurance, if the retiree elects not to receive the medical insurance retirement coverage, or if a retiree who was not eligible for it because of other available health insurance as described in this paragraph later becomes eligible, and the same shall be provided in accordance with the Employment Agreement in effect as of the date of the retiree's request.

Section 6: If a Unit Member is eligible for Normal Retirement and has accumulated one-hundred fifty (150) sick days but dies prior to the opportunity to formally request post-retirement health benefits, the widow of the Unit Member shall be eligible for the post-retirement health insurance benefits as if the officer had retired and elected to receive such benefits, at his/her option, subject to any limitations imposed by the carrier.

Section 7: The option to elect post-retirement medical coverage shall only be available to Unit Members hired before January 1, 2014, who shall have accumulated at least one-hundred fifty (150) sick days on the date of his or her Normal Retirement. In the event that, at any time prior to Normal Retirement, an officer shall have accumulated the one-hundred fifty (150) days, but shall have then depleted his/her sick leave prior to retirement due to any extended illness or injury which shall require the officer to be absent from work for a period in excess of thirty (30) days, the officer shall still be eligible to make election to waive payment of his/her accumulated sick leave and banked leave in exchange for post-retirement medical coverage. The parties will establish a committee with one member of management and one member appointed by the police to develop rules on applicability of this section to prevent abuse.

Section 8: In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed on February 11, 2021 regarding COVID-19, Act 17 days shall not count as "hours worked" for the purpose of satisfaction of the seventy-five percent (75%) requirement in Section 1 of this Article;

- A. Each Act 17 day, however, shall reduce the number of hours for which an Officer is normally scheduled to work in that month by eight (8) hours, for the purposes of calculating the seventy-five percent (75%) "hours worked" requirement to earn paid sick leave under this Article. For example, an Officer who is normally scheduled to work one-hundred sixty (160) hours in a month, and who uses one Act 17 day, shall have their hours normally scheduled to work for that month reduced to one-hundred

fifty-two (152) hours for purposes of calculating the seventy-five percent (75%) "hours worked" requirement to earn that month's allotment of paid sick leave.

- B. In situations where application of the language in paragraph A above regarding Act 17 days would reduce the number of hours the employee is normally scheduled to work to zero, the employee shall not earn that month's allotment of paid sick leave.

## **ARTICLE IX – HOLIDAYS**

Section 1: Unit Members shall receive holiday pay based upon the following guidelines:

- A. For purposes of this Article, holidays are NOT defined as "relief days". In lieu of any and all holidays, in addition to his/her annual rates, all Unit Members will be paid for twelve (12) holidays the first week of November of each year in a pay separate from the regular pay. This earning type will be subject to the five percent (5%) pension contribution and be counted as part of the Unit Member's salary for the purpose of calculating the Unit Member's pension benefit. Unit Members will be paid his/her regular rate of pay for eight (8) holidays, and one and one-half (1 ½) times his/her regular rate of pay for four (4) holidays.
- B. Unit Members will not be permitted to bank holidays.
- C. In the event of resignation or retirement, the Officer's last day of work would need to be on or after the 20<sup>th</sup> of that month to be paid for that month's holiday. Officer's retiring or resigning prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month would not be paid for that month's holiday.

## **ARTICLE X – VACATIONS**

Section 1: Effective January 1, 2026, Unit Members shall receive vacation based upon the following schedule:

One (1) year of service – ten (10) days  
Five (5) years of service – fifteen (15) days  
Ten (10) years of service – twenty (20) days  
Fifteen (15) years of service – twenty-five (25) days

Vacation shall be awarded on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the anniversary year.

Section 2: Unit Members will have the ability to float all vacation time, but all vacation usage requirements remain in effect and vacation shall be a “use it or lose it” benefit that shall not be carried over from year to year.

Section 3: Seniority shall prevail in the individual selection of said vacation by all Patrol Officers by shift. Ranking Patrol Officers will also be scheduled on the basis of seniority, so long as it does not conflict with the efficient operation of the Police Department.

Section 4: Selection of vacation periods by ranking officers shall provide preference on the basis of the highest rank and proceeding downward to the lowest rank. In any event, the scheduling of vacation by members of the Police Department shall be subject to and at the discretion of the Chief of Police to provide the maximum protection of the citizens of the City.

Section 5: Partial or divided vacation periods shall be granted at the discretion of the top officer of the respective platoon with final approval of the Chief of Police.

Section 6: During any emergency or emergencies that may arise, all vacationing members of the Police Department shall be subject to recall to duty immediately upon announcement of said emergency or emergencies.

Section 7: In the event of death of a member of the Police Department eligible under this Agreement, all accrual of unused vacation time to the date of death which may be due to the Unit Member will be promptly paid into his or her estate.

Section 8: In no event will vacation benefits carry-over from one year to the next.

## **ARTICLE XI – PERSONAL DAYS**

Each Unit Member shall be entitled to four (4) personal days per year. Said days shall be granted upon reasonable notice and with the approval of the Commanding Officer. Personal time shall be a “use it or lose it” benefit that shall not be carried over from year to year.

## **ARTICLE XII – LEAVE OF ABSENCES**

Section 1: FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) shall be provided in accordance with the policies of the City of Altoona and applicable state and federal laws.

Section 2 : Parental Leave for eligible Unit Members for the birth (or adoption) of a baby (or child) are as follows:

- A. Female (birthing) Officers shall be paid for up to two (2) weeks/eighty (80) hours; Female (non-birthing) Officers shall be paid for up to one (1) week/forty (40) hours and Male Officers shall be paid for up to one (1) week/forty (40) hours of paid time off.
- B. Officers must successfully complete their probationary period to be eligible.

### **ARTICLE XIII – BEREAVEMENT LEAVE**

All eligible Unit Members are entitled to paid time off to grieve the loss of a family member or loved one and to manage necessary arrangements. Any Unit Member who wishes to take off due to the death of a family member should notify his or her supervisor or director immediately.

Paid bereavement leave shall be provided to each unit member as follows:

Death of a spouse, child, parent, or guardian	Four (4) days
Death of a sibling, Mother-in-law, Father-in-law	Three (3) days
Death of a grandparent, grandchild, grandparent-in-law, step-parent, step-child, brother-in-law, sister-in-law	Two (2) days
Death of an aunt, uncle, niece, or nephew	One (1) day

### **ARTICLE XIV – LIFE INSURANCE**

The City shall, at its expense, provide each Unit Member with a \$50,000 “term” life insurance policy which shall include a double indemnity clause for accidental death.

### **ARTICLE XV – CLOTHING/CLOTHING MAINTENANCE & EQUIPMENT**

Section 1: Each Unit Member who has completed one (1) year of service shall receive one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200.00) for the purpose of replacing or supplementing his/her uniform or any other items required to be worn or utilized by the officer in the performance of his/her duties. Although receipts related to disposition of these one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200) will not be required, Unit Members are expected to use this money solely for the purpose of replacing or supplementing his/her uniform or any other items required to be worn or

utilized by the officer in the performance of his/her duties. This allowance shall be delivered to, and administered by, the Mountain City Lodge No. 8, the Fraternal Order of Police. One (1) approved flashlight and one (1) pair of boots shall be included in the initial clothing issue to newly hired officers.

Section 2: If a Patrol Officer shall serve more than one (1) year in plain clothes, he/she shall, if reassigned to uniform duty, receive, in addition to the uniform allowance then in effect, a sum sufficient to purchase two (2) complete uniforms or such portion thereof as may be necessary. For the purpose of this paragraph, a “complete uniform” shall consist of the following:

- A. Two (2) pair of winter pants
- B. Two (2) pair of summer pants
- C. Two (2) winter shirts
- D. Two (2) summer shirts

Section 3: Any article of clothing or piece of equipment damaged or lost by an officer during the performance of his/her duty shall be replaced by the City at its sole expense, unless such damage or loss shall be caused by the officer’s gross negligence. Any monies expended hereunder shall be in addition to the clothing, clothing maintenance, and equipment allowance and shall not be chargeable thereto.

Section 4: For the purposes of bullet proof vest replacement only, the City agrees to replace these vests for officers as the warranties for the vests expire.

## **ARTICLE XVI – FOP LODGE OFFICIALS**

Section 1: The City will allocate a total of twenty (20) days per year to be utilized as paid absence for the purpose of carrying out official duties by and of the following:

- A. FOP Lodge Officials
- B. FOP Official Lodge Designates
- C. FOP Wage Committee Members

Section 2: The allocation of the days in the amount aforesaid, shall be at the sole discretion of the officer of the FOP.

## **ARTICLE XVII – PROMOTIONS**

Promotions in the Police Department are governed by amendments to the Third-Class City Code and, in particular, the provisions of the Third-Class City Code governing civil service in police departments. Future promotions in the Police Department shall be governed by the Third-Class City Code and its provisions applicable to civil service promotions in a Third-Class City police department.

## **ARTICLE XVIII – CIVIL & CRIMINAL SUITS**

Section 1: The present policy covering civil liability of officers shall be continued in effect without change.

Section 2: The City will pay all counsel fees and record costs for a Unit Member who is required to defend himself against criminal charges arising out of the performance of his/her duties, provided however, if the proceeding ends in a judicial determination or plea which recognizes that the officer is guilty of the offense charged, said Unit Member shall not be entitled to the reimbursement provided herein. If the criminal proceeding terminates in a manner which is not a finding of innocence or a finding of guilt, the City may, at its option, challenge the Unit Member's right to reimbursement by initiating an Arbitration in accordance with the provisions of Step 4. of Article XIX, Grievance Procedure. Such challenge must be initiated within thirty (30) days from the date of the termination of the criminal proceeding and if not initiated within that time period, the City shall have been deemed to have assented to its obligation to pay the counsel fees and costs described herein.

Section 3: The Unit Member shall have the sole discretion in the selection of counsel from among members of the Blair County Bar Association. If there is any dispute concerning fees charged by counsel, such dispute shall be settled, with final and binding effect, by the appropriate committee of the Blair County Bar Association.

## **ARTICLE XIX – GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

Any grievance which a Unit Member may have concerning his/her rights under this contract shall be resolved in accordance with the following procedure:

Step 1: The grievance shall first be discussed between the grievant and the company commander. A representative of Mountain City Lodge No. 8, Fraternal Order of Police may be present at this discussion if the grievant desires. If the grievance is not resolved at this step within seven (7) days the grievant may utilize Step 2 hereof.

Step 2: The grievance will be presented in writing to the Chief of Police for his/her consideration and determination. The Chief shall then meet with a representative of Mountain City Lodge No. 8 to discuss the grievance and attempt to resolve it. If the grievance remains unresolved for fourteen (14) days, the grievant may utilize the procedure of Step 3 hereof.

Step 3: The grievance will be forwarded to the City Manager of Altoona for his/her consideration and disposition. The City Manager and/or his/her designated representative shall meet with representatives of Mountain City Lodge No. 8 to discuss the grievance and attempt to resolve it. If the parties are not able to negotiate a satisfactory solution of the grievance within thirty (30) days of it being brought to Step 3, either party may file for binding arbitration in accordance with Step 4.

Step 4: If direct negotiations on the grievance fail to result in a satisfactory settlement, either party may file for binding arbitration by submitting a request to the American Arbitration Association and filing a notice of the request with the City Clerk and the Mountain City Lodge No. 8. The parties shall follow the procedures of the American Arbitration Association in selecting a neutral arbitrator to hear the grievance and shall follow the rules of the American Arbitrator Association in the course of the arbitration hearings. The arbitrator shall have no powers to add to or subtract from the Collective Bargaining Agreement, but his/her decisions shall be final and binding. Each party will be responsible for the costs involved in presenting its case before the arbitrator; the cost of the arbitrator and any costs of the hearing shall be shared equally between the parties.

Any Unit Member who is the subject of disciplinary action which is not of a nature which would permit an appeal and ultimate review by the Court of Common Pleas of Blair County, Pennsylvania shall have the right to challenge the discipline received utilizing the arbitration procedures set forth in Section 1 of this Article XVIII.



## **ARTICLE XX – DUES DEDUCTION**

The City agrees to deduct regular dues from the pay of those employees who individually request in writing that such deductions be made. The amounts to be deducted shall be certified to the City by the FOP and the aggregate deductions of all employees shall be remitted together with an itemized statement to the FOP no later than ten (10) days after said deductions are made.

## **ARTICLE XXI – WAIVER OF RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT**

Unit Members shall not be required to live in the City, but shall be required to have no more than a forty-five (45) minute response time from their residence.

## **ARTICLE XXII – TEMPORARY DISABILITY**

Section 1: If a Unit Member is receiving full benefits under the Pennsylvania Heart and Lung Act by virtue of the fact that he or she is temporarily fully disabled, the Unit Member shall not be permitted to work at any other employment during the hours which, absent his or her qualifying injury or illness, the Unit Member would have been scheduled for duty in the Police Department.

Section 2: The City may, at its option, establish a light duty job that can be filled by Unit Members who are receiving heart and lung disability benefits. If a light duty position is available for a Unit Member who is temporarily fully disabled, the City shall provide the Unit Member with a written description of the light duty job functions and the physician currently treating the Unit Member shall determine if that Member can fulfill those functions. The determination of the physician is final and not appealable by either party. Such light duty shall be provided in accordance with the regulations set forth in Exhibit “A” attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 3: An employee who is eligible for or claiming heart and lung benefits under the Heart and Lung Act shall be required to treat with a health care provider specified on a panel of health care providers identified by mutual agreement between the City and the Union for such purposes for an initial period of ninety (90) days following their injury to be eligible for benefits under the Act. Any employee who is receiving heart and lung benefits will not be permitted to work at other employment.

### **ARTICLE XXIII – ANNUALIZATION OF BENEFITS**

Following completion of a Unit Member's first full year of service, any benefit provided to a Unit Member hereunder which is dependent upon length of service shall be effective for the Unit Members on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the anniversary date of hire shall entitle him or her to the benefits.

### **ARTICLE XXIV – SEPARABILITY CLAUSE**

In the event that any term or provision of this Agreement is found to be inconsistent with existing statutes, the provisions of such statutes shall prevail and if any terms or provision herein is found to be invalid and unenforceable by a court or other authority having jurisdiction, then such provision shall be considered void, but all other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

### **ARTICLE XXV – UNLAWFUL BENEFITS**

In the event that any of the items provided for in the contract or otherwise provided for as part of the "AS IS" benefits are deemed unenforceable by the City or are declared unlawful, then the total value of the said benefits to the police force will be computed and paid to all members of the Police Department on a per capita basis as part of each officer's annual salary. In the event of a dispute over the value of any benefit such dispute shall be resolved by a single arbitrator chosen by the American Arbitration Association.

### **ARTICLE XXVI – INTEGRATION**

This Collective Bargaining Agreement constitutes a full and complete agreement between the parties and confirms there are no other side agreements or binding past practices. All past practices not incorporated into this CBA are null and void. This CBA represents the entire agreement between the parties with respect to terms and conditions of employment.

### **ARTICLE XXVII – HEADINGS**

Any headings preceding the text of the several articles hereof are inserted solely for convenience and shall not constitute a part of this Agreement, nor shall they affect its meaning, construction, or effect.

## **ARTICLE XXVIII – PENSION & POST-RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

Section 1: The salary computation utilized to determine pension benefits shall include overtime worked by the individual up to a maximum of \$7,500 per year.

Section 2: Each and every Unit Member who reaches the point of eligibility shall receive the maximum pension service increment allowed by law.

Section 3: A Unit Member's right to pension benefits shall vest after twelve (12) years of service with a benefit calculated in accordance with the pension plan ordinance.

Section 4: The vesting schedule applicable to employees hired before January 1, 2014 and the one-hundred percent (100%) surviving spouse benefit shall be continued and shall be the lone exceptions to the base Third Class City Code pension benefit available to employees hired on or after January 1, 2014. The parties also agree that any reference to a killed-in-service benefit, if any, shall be eliminated as a benefit is now covered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania pursuant to Act 51 of 2009.

## **ARTICLE XXIX – REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The City shall have the right to enter a regional police department but shall be required to bargain with the Union regarding the impact of that decision.

## **ARTICLE XXX – DURATION**

Pursuant to the requirements of Act 111, this Agreement shall be binding upon the parties hereto, their successors and assigns from January 1, 2026 to, and including, December 31, 2028 and thereafter from year to year unless modified by agreement or arbitration under the terms of Act 111.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto, vested with authority to do so, have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and date first above written.

ATTEST:

Deputy Kimberly A. Carrier  
City Clerk

CITY OF ALTOONA:  
[Signature]  
City Manager

CITY OF ALTOONA:  
[Signature]  
Human Resources Director

ATTEST:

gp' 267  
Fraternal Order of Police, Mountain  
City Lodge No. 8

ALTOONA POLICE DEPT.:  
[Signature]  
President – Fraternal Order of Police,  
Mountain City Lodge No. 8

## **EXHIBIT "A"**

### **LIGHT DUTY REGULATIONS**

A. This Section shall apply to all injuries or illnesses received by members of the bargaining unit while on duty.

B. An employee who is temporarily unable to perform, without restriction or limitation, all of the duties and responsibilities of his/her position may be required to perform "light duty" employment responsibilities in strict accordance with the terms of this Section.

C. As used in this Section, the term "light duty" shall mean the temporary full time or part time employment duties and responsibilities of a lesser degree and/or nature than those historically performed by the temporarily disabled employee, but are only of the nature and scope traditionally performed by fully capable members of the bargaining unit. Such duties shall be performed without requiring the wearing of a uniform, shall be non-confrontational in nature, shall be on the same shift as the employee was working at the time of the injury and shall be consistent with the rank of the injured bargaining Unit Member. Under no circumstances shall "light duty" include, in whole or in part, employment duties other than those historically performed by the bargaining unit, that are demeaning to the disabled employee, that are unnecessary to the operation of the Department or are intended solely for the purpose of providing "make work" tasks that had not been performed by fully capable bargaining Unit Members in the past.

D. The determination of whether, and the extent of which (if at all), a disabled employee may perform light duty work shall in the first instance be made in writing by the employee's treating physician. If a difference of opinion on that issue exists between the employee's physician and a physician designated by the City, the employee shall submit to an examination by a third physician, the fee of which shall be paid by the City, agreed upon by the parties who will render an opinion as to whether, and the extent to which (if at all), a disabled employee may perform light duty work within the meaning of this Section. If the parties cannot reach agreement on the identity of the third physician, the treating physician and that designated by the City shall be requested to designate a third physician. The decision of the third physician shall be final and binding on all concerned.

E. In the event that there should exist more temporarily disabled bargaining Unit Members than light duty positions available, the light duty position shall first be offered by seniority to the qualified (as determined by the treating physician) employees. If light duty positions should remain after being thus offered, they may then be assigned to qualified employees by inverse seniority.

F. The City shall identify and describe in writing any proposed light duty position which it proposes to assign to an injured bargaining Unit Member, including all duties and responsibilities thereof, the hours of work and any other salient characteristics thereof. Any future additions to such position shall be established only by mutual agreement with the Union. Such descriptions shall be the sole reference utilized by a physician in reaching a determination as to the circumstances, if any, that an employee is eligible for assignment to light duty under this Section.

G. An employee who is performing light duty assignments under this Section shall, upon prior notice to the Department, be permitted, without loss of pay or benefits, reasonable time during the work day to attend a medical or rehabilitation appointment.

H. The employee shall be required to provide the City with periodic reports from the attending physician describing the extent and anticipated duration of his/her recuperation and/or rehabilitation.

I. An employee shall never be required or permitted to perform light duty where either the nature of the duties or the physical limitations of the disabled employee would in any manner or degree expose either that employee or any other member of the bargaining unit to danger, or threat of the same, of any nature, or where such duties are performed, or the performance of the same, by the disabled employee would violate the contractual rights of any other member of the bargaining unit.

J. Nothing in this Section shall serve to diminish or in any manner waive the affected employee's rights and benefits under any applicable law.

K. Employees who are performing light duty as a result of a disability caused by a Heart & Lung Act injury or illness shall continue for purposes of taxation to be carried as receiving Heart & Lung Act benefits for the duration of the disability, so long as the illness or injury is not "permanent" as defined in that Act.

L. The City shall not be required to continue any employee in a light duty position for longer than six (6) months. It is not the intent of the City to create any permanent light duty positions, but rather to utilize such positions for employees who are temporarily unable to perform their full duties.

**ADDENDUM I**  
**CITY OF ALTOONA**  
**LONG-TERM DISABILITY OPTION FOR POLICE**

<b><u>Current Plan</u></b>	<b><u>Current Plan</u></b>
LTD Income Benefit	60%
Insured Pre-Disability Earnings	\$3,333
Maximum Monthly Benefit	\$2,000
Minimum Monthly Benefit	\$100
Benefit Waiting Period	180 Days
Maximum Benefit Period	To Age 65
Own Occupation Period	24 Months
Evidence of Insurability Required	Yes, for late applicants
Employer Contribution	85%



**ADDENDUM II**  
**CITY OF ALTOONA**  
**CODE OF ORDINANCES ss94-22 (A, 1)**

Every officer who is a member in good standing of the Police Pension Fund Association, who shall have been a dues paying member for a continuous period of 20 years, excepting those officers whose service is interrupted by their service in the Armed Forces of the United States, and were employed by the City as an officer prior to January 1, 2014, meets the age requirement, if any, as set forth in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and its Police Officers, may be entitled to retire and eligible for pension upon recommendation of the Police Pension Fund Association. Every officer hired on or after January 1, 2014, who retires and is a member in good standing of the Police Pension Fund Association, who shall have been a dues paying member for a continuous period of 20 years, excepting those officers whose service is interrupted by their service in the Armed Forces of the United States, and who shall have attained the age of 50 years, may be entitled to retire and eligible for pension upon recommendation of the Police Pension Fund Association. With the exception of those members hired on or after January 1, 2014, upon such recommendation, the Police Pension Fund Board shall then direct that the said retiring member shall be paid out of the Police Pension Fund, payable in monthly installments, a pension determined by the rate of the monthly pay of the member at the date of injury, death, honorable discharge or retirement or the highest average salary which the member received during any five years of service preceding injury, death, honorable discharge or retirement, whichever is the higher, and except as the service increments shall not in any case exceed in any year one-half the annual pay of such member computed at such monthly or average annual rate, whichever is the higher, and if so entitled to, in addition, a service increment, which sum shall be obtained by computing the number of whole years after having served the minimum required by this article and multiplying the said number of years so computed by an amount equal to 1/40 of his or her retirement or pension allowance which has become payable to such member in accordance with the provisions of this article. For those members hired on or after January 1, 2014, upon the recommendation of the Police Pension Fund Association, the Police Pension Fund Board shall then direct that the said retiring member shall be paid out of the Police Pension Fund, payable in monthly installments, a pension determined

by the rate of the monthly base wage of the member at the date of injury, death, honorable discharge or retirement which shall not in any case exceed in any year one-half the annual base wage of such member computed in accordance with the provisions of this article.