

**Collective Bargaining Agreement  
Between the**



**and the**

**Claremont Firefighters  
IAFF Local 1571**

**EFFECTIVE:**

**July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2026**

# City of Claremont Fire Union Contract

## Article 1 Preamble

The City of Claremont, (hereinafter referred to as the "City"), and Local Union IAFF 1571 (Hereinafter referred to as the "Union"), hereby agree as follows:

## Article 2 Purpose

The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth agreements reached between the City and the Union with respect to wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment for employees in the bargaining unit described in the Recognition Article. This contract is comprised of model language and union specific language. To the degree there is any conflict between the model and union specific language, the union specific language shall control. The parties recognize that although some of the contract provisions contained herein is similar or identical to other union agreements, that this is an independent agreement.

## Article 3 Recognition

3.1 The City recognizes the Union as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for the purpose of collective bargaining on matters of wages, hours, and other conditions of employment for all employees. The Union recognizes the necessity of the City to operate within its budget as set by the City Council.

3.2 The term "Employees" as used includes all positions identified in the PERLB Certification:

**\* PERLB case #F-0107, dated February 12, 1976 or as otherwise modified by agreement and/or order of the PERLB. (FIRE)**

3.3 The Union agrees to represent all employees in the Bargaining Unit without discrimination and without regard to membership in the Union. However, this shall not prevent the City Manager, department heads or assistant department heads from communicating or consulting with any employee or group of employees in their normal supervisory capacity as municipal officials.

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3.4 The City and the Union each reserves the right to act hereunder by Committee (which Committee shall be reasonable in number), or designated representative. This provision shall not be construed to allow the City to modify terms and conditions of employment except as otherwise permitted by law.

3.5 The inclusion or exclusion in the bargaining unit of new personnel classifications established by the City shall be preceded by discussion with the Union.

3.6 The City recognizes the Union as the exclusive bargaining agent only for the following full-time employees:

- Firefighters
- Lieutenants
- Fire Prevention Officer
- Fire Alarm Superintendent (firefighter)

3.7 Excluded from the recognition under this Agreement are:

- Chief
- Deputy Chief(s)
- Captains
- Secretary to the Chief

### **Article 4 Non-Discrimination**

The City agrees not to discriminate against a member of the Union because of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, national origin, ancestry, age, familial status, sexual orientation, handicap, disability, veteran status, or any other class protected by law, for membership or non-membership in the Union. The parties agree that this article shall not be construed to limit or abrogate any employee's rights otherwise protected by law.

### **Article 5 No Strike Clause**

5.1 Under no circumstances will the union cause, encourage, sponsor, or participate in any strikes of any kind, stoppage of work, slow-downs, or any kind of interference with, or interruptions of, the City's business by the Union or its members. In the event of any such activity, the City shall not be required to negotiate on the merit of the dispute that gave rise to

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such activity until any and all such activity has ceased. There shall be no lockout, partial or total, by the City.

5.2 Should any employee or group of employees covered by this Agreement engage in any activity prohibited by Section 5.1 of this Article, the Union shall forthwith disavow any such activity and shall use all means to induce said employees or group of employees to terminate such activity forth-with. It is understood that any employee violating this Article may be subject to disciplinary action.

**Article 6  
Management Clause**

Except as specifically limited or abridged by the terms of this Agreement, the management of the City of Claremont in all phases and details shall remain vested exclusively in the Employer and its designated agents. The Employer and its agents shall have jurisdiction over all matters concerning the management of the City of Claremont, including but not limited to: the exercise of all of the rights, responsibilities and prerogatives that are inherent in the Employer or its agents by virtue of any statutes and/or ordinances, as well as the right, responsibilities and prerogatives relating to, including, but not limited to the direction of workforce, the establishment of proper rules and regulations, the right to hire, supervise, discipline or discharge for just cause, relieving employees from duty for lack of work and/or funds, the right to decide classifications, the right to abolish positions, the right to determine the methods, processes and manner of performing work and the general control of all operations of the City of Claremont in all its phases and details as well as all rights retained by virtue of including, but not limited to, New Hampshire RSA Chapter 273-A, and any other provision(s) of the Revised Statutes Annotated or other laws. It is agreed that these enumerations of management rights shall not be deemed to exclude other management rights not specifically herein enumerated.

**Article 7  
Union Rights**

7.1 It shall be the right of the Union to present and process grievances of its members whose wages, hours or working conditions are changed as a result of Management's actions. All grievances, negotiations, and arbitrations shall be conducted during normal business hours or at mutually agreeable times.

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The representatives shall be:

President  
Vice President

7.2 An alternate shall be permitted to assume the duties of the President or Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary. The alternate may also serve as a member of the negotiating team. The Union shall advise the City of the names of the employees holding Union Office. Union officials, as described above, shall be permitted to process grievances during their scheduled hours of duty subject to reasonable time place restrictions. The Union President, Vice President, or other Union official shall be permitted up to a total of eighty-four hours (84) in accordance with the use of leave policy currently in effect (i.e. drop down one at time of request without having to provide self-coverage), for the purpose of attending state or national meetings, conventions, or seminars.

7.3 The Union may post notices on the bulletin boards or any adequate part thereof in places and locations where the Department for employees to read posts notices. All such notices shall be on Union stationary, signed by an official of the Union and shall only be used to notify employees of matters pertaining to Union affairs. The notices may remain posted for a reasonable period of time.

7.4 Union Officers may utilize the Employer's electronic mail system, or other modes of correspondence, provided that the employee's normal workstation and/or duties involve the use of computers and/or access thereto. Nothing herein shall be construed to require the city to provide access to computers for employees whose normal job functions do not require access.

7.5 Union Officers/members shall be allowed the use of meeting facilities/rooms/station for discussion when appropriate notification is given, as long as the space is available.

7.6 The Union shall be allowed to make a reasonable number of copies for Union Business free of charge. A specific code will be provided and implemented for this purpose.

### **Article 8 Union Dues**

Upon completion of the probationary period, all employees of the bargaining unit may become a member and remain in good standing in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the

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Union, during the terms of this Agreement or any mutually agreed upon extensions thereof. The Union agrees to provide the City with a current copy of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Union.

The City agrees to deduct from the pay of each member of the bargaining unit the current union dues as certified to the City by the Treasurer of the Union. Dues deductions shall be made each pay period. *Such dues deductions shall commence upon hire.*

The City shall send the amount deducted, with a list of those who had dues deducted, once each month, no later than the fifteenth calendar day of the following month, to the Local Treasurer. The Union agrees to keep the City informed of the correct address where the dues are to be sent.

The Union will keep the City informed of the correct name and address of the Treasurer of their local Union. The Union also agrees to keep track of probationary periods and inform the payroll department of new members, by submitting a signed authorization form from each employee of the beginning and ending periods of union dues deductions. In the event that the employee has no check coming to him/her, or if his/her check is not large enough to satisfy the dues then no deduction will be made from that employee. In no case will the City attempt to collect fines or assessments for the Union beyond the regular dues of dues-paying bargaining unit members.

Any employee who is not a member of the Union (non-dues paying) and is covered by this agreement, who requests representation from the Union, shall pay directly to the Union the full fair cost of such representation, to include all fees, as determined by the Union. The City has no responsibility concerning any full fair cost payment arrangement between the Union and a non-dues paying bargaining unit member. In no case will the City attempt to collect fees for the Union beyond the regular dues.

### **Article 9 Probationary Employees**

9.1 All newly hired employees must serve a probationary period of one year from the date of hire. During such probationary period, such employees shall be entitled to the benefits of this Agreement, however, Articles 26 and 27 shall not apply. Nothing herein shall be construed to abrogate or limit the application of section 9.2.

9.2 Probationary employees may be disciplined, including but not limited to, suspended or terminated for any reason and at any time by the Employer, in its sole discretion and neither the

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employee so disciplined, suspended or terminated, nor the Union, shall have recourse to the grievance procedure concerning any such discipline, suspension or termination.

9.3 All employees whose positions require licensing or certification must be licensed or certified as a condition of continued employment within 6 months after the end of their probationary period unless otherwise extended by state licensing or certifying authority.

### **Article 10 Seniority, Promotions, Demotions and Vacancies**

10.1 There shall be two types of seniority, which are Departmental Seniority and Classification Seniority.

1. Departmental Seniority is based on the time an employee has been assigned to the Fire Department. Employees shall accrue Departmental Seniority from the date they are employed in any full-time job within the department. Seniority shall be established from day of notification of full-time employment. Such date shall be recorded by the City as part of the personnel file.
2. Classification Seniority is based on the time an employee has been assigned to a particular Classification and employees shall accrue Classification Seniority from the date they are assigned to a particular grade classification. For purposes of this section, the classification shall be: Lieutenant, Firefighter, and Fire Prevention Officer.

10.2 Probationary employees shall not be covered by this Article until they have completed the initial probationary period of one year and have become either regular full-time (or regular part-time employees/Clerical Union only) at which time their seniority shall be computed from their date of original hire by the City.

10.3 In the event of a lay-off or reduction in the work force, such lay-off or reduction shall be governed by a combination of seniority and performance. Each employee shall be evaluated each year and shall be given an overall score between 1- 100, with the higher number indicating better performance. In determining layoff and/or recall, the Employer shall add together the employee's last three years of evaluation scores. The employer shall also multiply the employee's complete years of service times 20 points per year. After arriving at these two aggregate numbers (performance and seniority), the employer shall then multiply the seniority number by .60 (60%) and multiply the performance number by .40 (40%). The resultant numbers shall be added to together and the employee with the lowest combined score shall be laid off.

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Examples:

Employee	Evaluations	Seniority	Weighted Eval.	Weighted Sen.	Total
#1	70,70,70	10 Years	84	120	204
#2	70,70,70	7 Years	84	84	168
#3	80,75,70	6 Years	90	72	162
#4	90, 90,85	5 Years	106	60	166
#5	95,95,95	3 Years	114	36	150

A committee comprised of equal numbers of Union and Management representatives shall be formed to develop a citywide evaluation instrument(s). Until the new evaluation system has been in effect for three years, the evaluations done under the new system shall be averaged and any number of years short shall be imputed from an average of the available prior evaluation scores. Thus, if only two years of evaluations are available at the time of the layoff, then averaging the first two years shall determine the third year. In the event total scores are equal, the least senior employee shall be laid off first. If layoffs must occur prior to the completion of the first evaluations under the new evaluation instrument(s), then the language previous agreement shall control.

10.4 Employees shall be recalled for up to 18 months. Employees will be recalled in reverse order, with the last person laid off recalled first. Employees recalled shall not lose their seniority. Notice of recall shall be sent, by certified mail, to the laid-off employee's last known address as shown on the City's records. The recall notice shall give the employee a minimum of 14 calendar days on which to return.

10.5 An employee's seniority shall be lost for, but not limited to, the following reasons:

- a. Discharge
- b. Voluntary quit, resignation or retirement
- c. Failure to respond to a notice of recall as specified.
- d. Illness or injury not covered by Workers' Compensation resulting in an inability to perform an employee's regular work with the City which lasts longer than the approved leave of absence.



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10.6 An employee who is hired for only a limited period of time to fill a vacant regular full-time (or part-time/Clerical Union only) employee's position, not to exceed one (1) year, shall not be entitled to the terms of this Agreement.

10.7 Posting of all vacancies and new positions shall occur within seven (7) calendar days from the date that the vacancy occurs. If a vacancy occurs and there will be a delay in filling due to monetary shortages or other stated reasons, the length of the delay shall be posted within seven (7) calendar days. All vacancies and new positions shall be open to application by Union employees. Employees may submit their applications to the Director and/or the Human Resources Manager. Status Change applications for employment shall be filled out by the individual seeking the promotion or transfer. The Director shall be responsible to distribute the applications to the Human Resources Department within seven (7) calendar days of the closing date. The closing date will be specified on each posting. The City of Claremont reserves the right to repost any position if it feels it is in the City's best interest. The position will be awarded to the most qualified by job description as determined by the department head/superintendent along with the Human Resources Manager. If two or more employees are equally qualified for the position, the employee with the most seniority shall be given preference. Promotions shall be subject to a one-year probationary period.

10.8 Employees in the department where a vacancy occurs who are absent during the entire posting period shall be automatically placed on the list for consideration for the position(s) posted, provided, however, that such employee may, at their discretion, have their names removed from the list within seven (7) calendar days of returning to work, and provided further, that if the position has to be filled, at the discretion of the employer, prior to the time an employee can return, then the employee's name will be removed from the list.

10.9 An employee transferred from another division or promoted to a new position shall have a one-year probationary period. If the employee fails to gain seniority in the new position by the supervisor's appraisal, the employee may return to the position the employee left, displacing the least senior person in that classification.

10.10 To be eligible for a lieutenant promotion an employee must serve a minimum of three (3) years in grade.

10.11 A notice of promotional examinations shall be posted on all station bulletin boards at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to competitive examination date.

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10.12 All promotional examinations for Lieutenant will be administered by the New Hampshire Fire Standards and Training Division or another institution/individual mutually agreed to by the parties and may include practices and procedures consistent with the Claremont Fire Department operations.

10.13 Examinations for Lieutenant will be sixty percent (60%) written and forty percent (40%) oral board examination. In both the written and combined score, a mark of seventy percent (70%) will be considered passing. A passing grade on the written examination will be a pre-requisite to participate in the oral board portion.

10.14 Employees shall be selected for promotion to Lieutenant in the following manner. (After attaining a passing score of seventy percent (70%), one-half (1/2) point for each year of seniority will be added. This will determine the total examination score. Once an employee has attained a total passing examination score, he shall be considered qualified and eligible for a period of one year for promotion to the rank for which the employee was examined). The Fire Chief will make the final selection from the top three (3) candidates. After being appointed to a higher rank, an employee will be considered probationary in that position and can be demoted for a period of nine (9) months.

10.15 No later than fourteen (14) calendar days after a promotional examination is given, the Fire Chief shall post a list of names with examination scores and seniority points awarded to all qualified and eligible participants.

10.16 All temporary promotions to a higher classification within the Claremont Fire Department shall be based on seniority within the group providing promotional criteria, as defined in Article 10, are met.

### **Article 11 Safety**

11.1 The City shall have the right to make regulations for the health and safety of its employees during their hours of work. Representatives of the City and the Union (RSA 281-A:64 Joint Loss Management Committee) may meet the first Tuesday of each even numbered month to discuss such regulations and problems that may need attention. The Union agrees that its members shall comply with the City's rules and regulations relating to safety, economy and efficiency of services to the City and to the public.

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11.2 The Union's safety committee shall consist of the Union chairperson and/or a representative from each of the following areas:

- Fire
- Police
- City Hall
- Parks & Recreation
- Public Works

One of the representatives shall act as a committee chairperson and will conduct the meetings.

11.3 The Union and its members agree to exercise proper care and to be responsible for all City property issued or entrusted to them.

11.4 The City shall provide to all employees the following items (if required): hard hats, rain gear, rubber boots, safety vest, eye protection, ear protection, turnout gear, and other such gear as required by each dept., and such at no cost to the employee. Employees shall sign for this personal equipment. Unserviceable personal equipment provided by the City may be returned for replacement at no cost to the employee. Notwithstanding, employees shall reimburse the City for any equipment that is lost or damaged due to destructive and/or wanton conduct. The Department head/Chief shall have the discretion to waive reimbursement.

11.5 Employees shall not store personal items or equipment in City-owned vehicles without the prior approval of the Department head/Chief. Notwithstanding, employees that elect to bring such property to work assume the risk of loss.

11.6 Any employee injured on the job shall be directed to the Urgent Care Unit at Valley Regional Hospital whenever practicable for a medical checkup. This responsibility shall be administered by the supervisor/foreman or the department head/superintendent. The current City accident reporting policy shall be followed.

11.7 The Union may appoint a representative who shall have the right to consult with the Department in regard to the design/purchase of new/used Department apparatus. The Parties acknowledge that the ultimate decision concerning the design/purchase of new/used Department apparatus remains a management right.

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**Article 12  
Holidays**

12.1 The following shall be observed as paid holidays:

New Year's Day	Thanksgiving Day
President's Day	Day after Thanksgiving
Memorial Day	Day before Christmas
Independence Day	Christmas Day
Labor Day	Floating Holiday
Veteran's Day	

12.2 Employees shall be paid at their regular hourly rate (fire @10 hrs.) for each of the above listed holidays whether or not the employee is on sick or vacation leave.

The employees who are scheduled to work and actually work in the emergency services departments (fire and police) on New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and/or Christmas Day shall be paid at the rate of one and one-half (1 ½) times their standard hourly rate. (Prior to December 15, fire and police department employees shall notify their Chief (or designated representative) of their wish to have all holiday pay to be paid as due, or to be paid for all holidays in a lump sum (one check) on or before December 1, of the following year.)

**Article 13  
Leave Provisions**

13.1 Sick Leave: Each full-time employee shall accrue twelve hours of sick leave for each month worked. Probationary employees may accrue sick leave but are not entitled to use the accumulated sick leave until three months of their probationary period has been completed. Workers' Compensation leave shall be considered time worked for purposes of this Section. Sick leave may be accumulated to a maximum of four hundred fifty (450) hours. Employees who have more than four hundred fifty (450) hours accumulated on December 12, 1995 (Fire) shall retain and be permitted to maintain their accumulated **hours**. Further, employees that are recalled shall retain all sick days accrued as of the date of layoff. Accumulated sick leave is lost when the employee leaves the City service, except as provided for herein. In the event of the death of an employee caused by or from the performance of the employee's duty, the City shall pay the employee's designated beneficiary one hundred percent (100%) of the employee's designated sick leave.

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13.2 Sick leave is granted because of illness or off-duty accident of the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family, requiring the employee to stay home. Sick leave shall be used in blocks with a three (3) hour minimum. However, employees who leave work will have the actual hours taken deducted from their accumulated sick leave hours. In order to be paid sick leave, the employee must notify the Department Head prior to the beginning of the employee's scheduled time to work, except for good cause shown. The employee may be required to furnish proof of sickness by a doctor's excuse or Priority Care at the City's expense. Employees who have been absent for five consecutive calendar days will be placed on family medical leave (FMLA). If it is later determined to be that the absence was due to a work-related injury, all FMLA leave shall be credited back to the affected employee. Each employee placed on FMLA due to a non-work-related illness or injury shall be required to obtain a return to full duty work status without restrictions (fitness for duty/per employee's job description) prior to returning to work. This paperwork must be submitted to and approved by the Human Resources Manager prior to the beginning of the employee's shift. This requirement shall not be construed to prohibit any bona fide request for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Employees who are placed on, or have requested FMLA leave, must keep their Director/Supervisor and Human Resources Manager informed of their medical status.

13.3 Each regular full-time employee completing a full calendar year of employment with no sick time used shall be entitled to two (2) vacation days (20 hours) in addition to the employee's accrued vacation during the following calendar year. Employees taking 24 hours or fewer of sick time during the calendar year shall be entitled to one (1) additional vacation day (10 hours) during the following calendar year.

### **Article 14 Bereavement Leave**

14.1 Bereavement leave of five working days **(or two 24- hour shifts for fire equal to 48 hours)** with pay shall be granted to an employee in the event of death of his/her:

Spouse

Father

Mother

Child (Or) a relative domiciled in the employee's household

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14.2 Special leave of two (2) working days (**or one 24-hour fire shift**), with pay, shall be granted an employee in the event of the death of the employee's or his/her spouse's:

Father	Mother
Grandchild	Uncle
Grandmother	Aunt
Grandfather	Sister (Including in-law)
Brother (Including in-law)	

14.3 Under extenuating circumstances, additional days, with pay, may be granted with written approval of the City Manager.

**Article 15  
Personal Days**

Personal Days: Full time employees shall be entitled to two (2) non-cumulative Personal Days (twenty-four (24) hours) each calendar year. These days may not be carried over into the following year. Personal days may be taken at any time provided the shift is at full complement or adequate coverage is provided for within the department. Personal days may be taken in their entirety or in six (6) hours blocks.

**Article 16  
Injury Leave**

16.1 Injury leave, as distinguished from sick leave, shall mean any paid leave given to an employee due to absence from duty caused by an accident or injury that occurred while the employee was on duty. Employees of the City are covered by Worker's Compensation Insurance. Since Worker Compensation benefits do not provide payment of the employee's entire regular net pay, the City will augment the Workers Compensation payments up to the employee's regular (42 hours) forty-two net pay for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months. Any funds used to augment Workers Compensation payments after the first twelve months shall be deducted from an employee's accumulated sick leave. If an employee has used all of his/her sick leave, then vacation time, personal time, and/or earned time will be substituted to the extent available.

16.2 Except as provided for herein, in the case of injuries causing temporary total disability, the City will use the employee's sick time pay to pay the employee's entire regular pay during such periods when payments are not covered under the Worker's Compensation Insurance. If the

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employee does not have sick time available then any paid leave such as vacation time, personal time and/or earned time will be used to supplement the employee's wages up to net pay. In the event of injuries causing temporary total disability, the City will supplement the payments made by the Worker's Compensation, so that it will equal the employee's regular (42 hours/) Net Pay. Net Pay is defined as the amount of Pay an employee receives for (42 hours) hours of work after necessary deductions such as Federal Income Tax, Pension, Social Security, Health Insurance, Dental Insurance, and Union Dues etc. In the event of permanent total disability or death resulting from an accident received on the job, these supplemental payments will be made subject to the same rules and regulations as Worker's Compensation Insurance and shall not be payable if the accident is due to intoxication or willful misconduct on the part of the employee.

16.3 Employees within the same Department may contribute up to a total of forty 42 hours of sick leave per year to any other employee(s) within the same Department who suffers from a serious health condition and has exhausted all their available leave, excluding one week of vacation. Any employee who suffers from such a serious health condition and is about to exhaust all their available paid leave, excluding one week of vacation, is entitled to make a request in writing to the Sick Leave Donation Committee requesting additional days. Any employee who suffers from such a serious health condition and has exhausted all their available paid leave, excluding one week of vacation, may accept from other employees within the Department up to a total of up to two hundred fifty-two (252) additional hours of sick leave during any twelve-month period.

16.4 Upon receiving a request for additional sick leave, the Sick Leave Donation Committee shall determine eligibility. The eligibility determination shall be subject to the grievance process up to but not including arbitration. If it is determined that the union employee in question is eligible, the Committee shall post a notice of the request. Any employee wishing to donate sick leave to another union employee within the same Department, must communicate to the Human Resource Manager, in writing, the number of hours the employee wishes to donate. In order to be eligible as a donor, the employee in question must maintain a minimum of two hundred hours (20 days) of accumulated sick leave. Further, the employee who donates sick leave shall have the option of donating anonymously. The Sick Leave Committee shall not divulge the identity of any employee (s) who does or does not donate sick leave without their consent.

16.5 The Sick Leave Committee shall be comprised of the Human Resource Manager, the Director of Finance, and two union employees. The union members shall be designated at the beginning of each year and shall be selected by the union stewards/presidents of all four collective bargaining units. The union employee members shall be rotated from year to year to

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ensure that there is equal member participation amongst all collective bargaining units. No more than one union employee may serve from each collective bargaining unit at any one time. All determinations of eligibility shall require a majority vote of the members of the Sick Leave Committee.

16.6 This policy incorporates the definition of serious health condition as defined by the Family Medical Leave Act. Notwithstanding, and for the purposes of this provision, donated sick leave shall only be available for the employee's own health condition and not to care for a member of the employee's family or for the birth or adoption of a child, unless the family member or child in question suffers from a life-threatening health condition that requires constant, continuous, and immediate care. Donated sick time shall not be considered as "used" for the purposes of determining eligibility for any sick leave incentives.

**Article 17  
Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)**

17.1 Written medical leaves of absence without pay shall be granted by the Human Resources Manager for a period not to exceed twelve (12) work weeks in any twelve (12) month period, for qualifying reasons, as outlined in the Family Medical Leave Act. Medical leaves of absence shall only be granted to employees who have at least 1,250 hours of service, for purposes of a serious health condition of the employee, spouse, child or parent, or because of the birth of the employee's child or the placement of the employee's adopted child. While on medical leave, each employee must keep the Human Resources Manager or his/her designee advised as to the medical recovery progress. To be eligible for leave without pay for medical reasons, the medical condition of the employee or of the family members for which leave is taken must be certified with a physician's written medical statement.

17.2 During a medical leave of absence without pay, an employee shall have no loss of health, dental, life, or short-term disability benefits but will not continue to accrue any paid leave benefits while out on medical leave. Health and Dental insurance benefit payments will be paid by the City in accordance with the established level of contribution during periods when the employee is on medical leave without pay. The employee shall be responsible for payment of the employee's share of said insurance benefit payments.

17.3 A medical leave of absence may be requested by the employee if the employee is aware ahead of time of a problem and/or a condition that qualifies for family medical leave (FMLA). However, even if the employee does not request FMLA, the employer may nonetheless designate



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the leave as FMLA, at its sole discretion, thereby activating the twelve-week period. It is the responsibility of the employee to keep the Human Resources Manager or his/her designee informed as to the medical status of the employee. The employee must use paid leave during this medical leave if paid leave exists on behalf of the employee. The employee will maintain the option as to which leave bank he or she utilizes while on the paid leave. If the paid leave should be exhausted prior to the employee returning to work, then the remainder of the family medical leave will continue to be unpaid. During the unpaid leave of absence, it will be the employee's responsibility to pay the normal weekly contributions to health, dental and additional contributions (except union dues) on his/her behalf. Should the employee not be eligible for short-term disability benefits, it will be the employee's responsibility to maintain health coverage at COBRA rates until his/hers return to work. Any employee, who does not return promptly to work, once released back to full duty, may be dismissed for cause. It shall also be cause for the employer to collect full cost of insurance benefits from that employee should he/she not return back to work.

17.4 Upon expiration of the leave, the employee shall be reinstated to the same or an equivalent position to that held before the leave was granted. Failure of the employee to report promptly for work at the expiration of the leave shall be cause for dismissal.

**Article 18  
Authorization Leave**

18.1 Employees may, with the approval of the Chief and with consideration of the good of the department, and approval of the City Manager, be granted a leave of absence. The granting of such leave shall protect the employee's existing continuous service for the leave period. However, if the employee has paid leave time accrued at the time of the request, or accrues such time during the period of leave, prior to commencing unpaid leave, then the employee must use the paid leave prior to the permission of the unpaid leave. Leaves of absence will not be granted to permit employment elsewhere. Authorized leave of absence with protected seniority shall not be permitted for periods in excess of ninety (90) days, except in unusual and deserving cases, which shall be determined by the City Manager, Chief, and Human Resources Manager. The employee loses all benefits provided by the City during such time however, the employee may elect to continue health and dental coverage as his/her expense at current COBRA rates.

18.2 Maternity Leave. Pursuant to Federal law, the City agrees to grant employees covered by this agreement leaves of absence, for periods not to exceed twelve (12) weeks, for Maternity Leave. The employee must use any accumulated paid leave time during this Maternity Leave.

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The employee will maintain the option as to which leave bank is utilized. If the paid leave should be exhausted prior to the employee returning to work, then the remainder of the Maternity Leave will be unpaid. If the employee who is requesting a leave of absence accrues paid leave time anytime during the requested leave of absence, then the paid leave time will be issued to the employee with the remainder of the leave to be unpaid. This leave may be extended in unusual and deserving cases.

### **Article 19 Military Leave**

Any full-time employee is entitled to seventeen (17) calendar days leave without pay annually for duty with the reserve components of the Armed Forces of the United States of America or the National Guard. This shall not affect the employee's annual vacation. The City will pay a full-time employee for such service in the military, the difference between the military earnings, and regular pay for the period. In order to qualify for this payment, the employee must first submit documentation verifying the amount received from the military. The City agrees to comply with current Federal law pertaining to the privileges of employees ordered to extended active duty by the United States Government.

### **Article 20 Jury Duty**

20.1 An employee called as a juror or witness shall be paid the difference between the fee received for such service and the amount of straight time earnings lost by reason of such service.

20.2 Employees who are called to jury duty and are excused from jury duty for a day or any portion thereof during their normal work schedule shall be required to report to their regular work assignment as soon as it is reasonably possible after being excused.

20.3 Satisfactory written evidence of such service must be submitted to the employee's immediate supervisor. Any fire employee that, while on jury duty, must work a scheduled evening shift and is called out to respond to an emergency for more than two hours, shall be relieved of reporting to work the following evening, if scheduled, and shall lose no pay.

20.4 Payment of meals and/or mileage shall not be considered as part of the fee for this Section.

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**Article 21  
Vacations**

21.1 All full-time employees are entitled to vacation after completing one full year of employment. The employee's anniversary date of hire shall be used to determine the amount of vacation time due until the vacation time is banked on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. After the employee has completed one full calendar year from date of hire, pro-rated, the employee's anniversary date shall be changed to January 1(calendar year) and that said date shall be used there-forward to determine the amount of vacation time the employee is entitled to. A day shall be defined as ten (10) hours. Vacation pay will be based on an employee's base pay on the following basis:

TIME IN SERVICE	HOURS VACATION PER YEAR
From one (1) year to four (4) years	One Hundred Ten (110) hours
Five (5) years	One Hundred Twenty (120) hours
Six (6) years	One Hundred Thirty (130) hours
Seven (7) years	One Hundred Forty (140) hours
Eight (8) years	One Hundred Fifty (150) hours
Nine (9) years	One Hundred Sixty (160) hours
Ten (10) years	One Hundred Seventy (170) hours
Eleven (11) years	One Hundred Eighty (180) hours
Twelve (12) years	Two Hundred (200) hours
Thirteen (13) years	Two Hundred Ten (210) hours
Fourteen (14) years	Two Hundred Twenty (220) hours
Fifteen (15) to nineteen (19) years	Two Hundred Thirty (230) hours
Twenty (20) to twenty-four (24) years	Two Hundred Fifty (250) hours
Twenty-five (25) or more years	Two Hundred Seventy (270) hours

21.1.1 For purposes of pro-rating the first year of employment, employees starting the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month or prior shall receive the full month of vacation for that month. Employees starting the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month or after shall be pro-rated beginning the first of the following month.

21.2 All vacations shall be subject to the approval of the Chief. During the first week of January of each year a list showing the amount of vacation time for which each employee is eligible shall be posted by the Fire Chief in order that a vacation schedule for the year can be established with priority for vacation assignment being made from the established seniority list by no later than April 1. No more than two calendar weeks taking in succession by any member

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of the Union shall be posted by any member from Memorial Day through Labor Day except by ~~written permission of the Fire Chief under extenuating circumstances.~~ The vacation period and schedule shall be set by the Fire Chief. Vacation days may be taken with no prior notice upon approval of the Fire Chief or Shift Commander in accordance with the needs of the department. Employees are eligible for recall immediately following their vacation time. If an employee's vacation time is denied or canceled due to non-emergency shift coverage: illness, injury, schools; that employee may have the option of having the number of days canceled carried over in addition to Article 21.3 or receive the amount of vacation canceled paid at their regular hourly rate.

21.3 All employees shall be required to take their vacation during the calendar year. Up to fifty (50) hours of vacation may be carried over. For employees with five (5) or more years of service, up to one hundred (100) hours may be carried over to the next fiscal year, with prior written notification to the Fire Chief by December 15<sup>th</sup>. All vacation time may be taken one day or several days at a time. A week's vacation does take priority over one day or several days of vacation. Notwithstanding, this limitation in carry-over of vacation days shall be suspended in the year preceding retirement from the City of Claremont, provided however, that the employee in question qualifies for retirement in accordance with Article 31.2 and/or Article 31.3 herein on the anticipated date of separation. The employee must submit written notification to the City of the intent to retire at least one year in advance in order to qualify for the suspension of the limitation on carry over vacation days.

21.4 An employee who has retired from City service shall be granted the full amount of the employee's accrued leave to include all time rolled over and front-loaded in January of the retirement year. An employee who has resigned from City service shall be granted a prorated sum total of the employee's leave based on months worked. The payout calculation would include dividing the sum of vacation hours frontloaded in January, dividing that number by 12, and multiplying by the total months of that calendar year the employee worked. Credit for a month will be given if the employee works on or after the 15<sup>th</sup> of that month.

21.5 In the event of the death of an employee, the City will pay all the employee's earned wages, vacation, accumulated sick days and pro-rated longevity pay to the employee's designated beneficiary or estate if there is no beneficiary. The insurance carrier will pay the life insurance benefit. It is the responsibility of the employee to notify the Human Resources office in writing of any change in beneficiary.

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21.6 Vacations may be taken in weekly increments or on a per day basis both requiring at least twenty-four (24) hours advance approval from the Chief as in Section 21.2 above. Notwithstanding, no notice shall be required in the Fire Department when the shift in question is at full complement.

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**Article 22  
Short Term Disability**

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22.1 The City shall provide short-term disability income insurance after the employee has served two (2 years) of continuous employment with the City. Short-term disability coverage will become effective the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month following the employee's 2<sup>nd</sup> year anniversary. Short-term disability shall consist of the following:

- (1) Two-thirds of the employee's base income, paid by the insurance carrier, up to a maximum allowable benefit (cap) of \$750.00.
- (2) Twenty-six (26) weeks of coverage,
- (3) Forty-five (45) day waiting period,
- (4) Disability payments are solely the responsibility of the insurance carrier.

All disabilities shall be verified by a medical doctor's statement as to the length of time and the severity of the disability. The City may request a second opinion at its expense. Disability coverage shall not apply to injuries covered by Workmen's Compensation Insurance. Health insurance coverage shall remain in force for the employee with the employee paying the employee's contribution in accordance with Section 17.3, above.

22.2 Any funds the employee uses to augment Short Term Disability payments shall be deducted from the employee's accumulated sick leave. If an employee has used all of his/her sick leave, then vacation time, personal time, and/or earned time will be substituted to the extent available.

22.3 The City reserves the right to change, at its discretion, from time to time, insurance carriers; provided any insurance carrier selected shall be licensed to do business in the State of New Hampshire and shall provide insurance coverage that is as relatively similar as possible. The City will inform the Union of any prospective change of carrier 90 days in advance.

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## **Article 23 Health Insurance**

23.1 The City shall make health insurance available to each regular full-time employee. The City will provide the following plan: AB20 RX10/20/45 in accordance with the benefit summary set forth in addendum "A".

a. The City shall pay 90% of the cost of the AB20-RX10/20/45 policy for the employee and his/her qualified family members hired after November 9, 2013 and prior to December 13, 2017 12/13/17.

b. The City shall pay 80% of the cost of the AB-20-RX10/20/45 policy for the employee and his/her qualified family members hired after December 13, 2017 12/13/17.

23.1.1 Notwithstanding the provision above, the City reserves the right to change carriers so long as the coverage is comparable to the current coverage offered as of the effective date of this Agreement.

23.2 Employees currently enrolled in the BlueChoice health plans offered by the city shall be responsible for the additional cost of such a policy, to be deducted on a weekly basis through payroll deductions. These plans shall only be available to employees who are on such plan as of June 30, 2022. Employees may only change enrollment during the open enrollment period unless circumstances allowed by the insurance company dictate otherwise.

23.3 The Parties recognize that the increasing health insurance premium costs are adversely affecting both the City and the Employees. The City and the Union have determined that there is a need to consider other providers and/or coverage options and will convene a joint Union/Management committee to explore and assess any such options.

23.4 Any employee who does not enroll in the City's health care plan shall receive a lump sum payment equal to one-half (1/2) the cost of the City's share of the AB 20 RX 10/20/45 for a single person allotment (pro-rated if the employee has not completed a full calendar year) that the City is required to pay under this article. Payment shall be made in November of each year. Any employee taking advantage of this provision shall provide proof of other health insurance by January 1 of each year, to the Human Resources Manager.

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23.5 Any excise tax imposed upon the City pursuant to the Affordable Care Act shall be shared equally (50/50%) with union members on a pro-rata bases basis.

23.6 The City reserves the right to offer additional plans.

**Article 24**

**Dental**

The City shall provide the Delta Dental Insurance Option 3E program or a similar plan for all regular full-time employees. Employees opting for a two-person or family plan shall be responsible for the additional cost of such a policy to be deducted on a weekly basis through payroll deductions.

**Article 25**

**Life Insurance**

The City shall provide each regular full time, non-probationary period employee, a life insurance policy equal to one year's salary, to the next highest one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) of the employee's base pay. Coverage will become effective the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month following the employee's anniversary date of hire.

**Article 26**

**Disciplinary Events**

26.1 All disciplinary actions shall be applied in a fair manner and shall be consistent with the infraction for which the disciplinary action is being applied.

26.2 Except as provided in Article 9 (initial probation) above, all discipline shall be for just cause and the employee must be given the reason for such discipline. A copy of any discipline reduced to writing shall be given to the employee and the Union Steward/President at the time of imposition of the discipline.



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26.3 Disciplinary actions shall normally follow this order, but shall not be so limited in their application:

- a. Verbal warning,
- b. Written warning,
- c. Suspension, without pay,
- d. Demoted or Discharge.

26.4 An employee may be disciplined for, but not limited to, the following conduct:

- a. Misconduct during employment,
- b. Incompetence or inefficiency,
- c. Failure to perform assigned duties,
- d. Disobedience to the employee's supervisor,
- e. Intoxication or consuming alcoholic beverages or drugs while on duty,
- f. Conviction of a felony,
- g. Failure to observe rules and regulations,
- h. Unauthorized absence from duty.
- i. Loss of driver's license, unless the employee has sufficient vacation time to cover the length of time that the driver's license is lost.
- j. Abuse of sick leave, demonstrated by a pattern of meritless call-outs.

26.5 The service record of an employee still employed by the City, disciplined under the provisions of this Article, shall be cleared after a period of two (2) years of good conduct if disciplined with a verbal or written warning, and after four (4) years of good conduct if disciplined with a suspension or demotion.

**Article 27  
Grievance Procedures**

27.1 The purpose of the grievance procedure shall be to settle all employee grievances on the lowest practical level as quickly as possible to insure efficiency and high employee morale. A grievance for the purposes of this Agreement shall be a complaint or claim arising between the employer and the employee regarding the meaning or application of this Agreement. Grievances arising out of matters covered by the Agreement shall be processed in the following manner:

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Step 1

~~A. Any grievance shall be filed with the Chief and Union President/Chairman or Union Steward not later than 14 calendar days from its occurrence or the date when the aggrieved had reasonable notice of such grieved action or such grievance will be invalid and shall not be given any consideration. The written grievance shall state the date and time of the incident, a description of the incident, and the applicable part(s) of this Agreement.~~

B. A meeting shall be held between the aggrieved employee, the Chief, and the Union Steward within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the written grievance. A written decision shall be rendered within seven (7) calendar days of the meeting.

Step 2

C. In the event that the disagreement between the employee and the employer has not been settled at level (B) above, the decision may be appealed within fourteen (14) calendar days to the City Manager. A meeting shall be held between the aggrieved employee, the Union Representative, and/or the Union Steward, the Chief, and the City Manager or the City Manager's designee. This meeting shall be held within seven (7) calendar days after a written notice requesting such a meeting and a written decision shall be made by the City Manager or the City Manager's designee within seven (7) calendar days after such a meeting. These Step 2 decisions shall be mailed to the home address of the Grievant and the Claremont Chairperson of the Local Union.

Step 3

D. In the event that the dispute between the employee and the employer has not been settled at level (C) above, the decision of the City Manager or the City Manager's designee may be appealed by Union upon filing a demand for arbitration within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the City Manager's decision. The demand for arbitration shall be filed with the New Hampshire Public Employees Labor Relation Board or any mutually agreed substitute arbitrator or arbitration tribunal. The expense of the arbitrator's service shall be borne equally by the two (2) parties. Each party shall bear the expense of their own representation. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on both parties as to issues of fact only and the parties may appeal issues of law to a Court of competent jurisdiction as provided for by law.

27.2 The specified time periods may be extended for valid reasons only and by mutual consent of both parties involved except Section 13.1(D).

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## **Article 28 Drug and Alcohol Policy**

28.1 Employees shall not possess, use, or sell illegal controlled substances or alcoholic beverages while on duty or while acting in an official capacity for the City.

28.2 Employees shall not report to work or attempt to work while under the influence of alcoholic beverages or controlled illegal substances.

28.3 The Chief may enforce this policy by requiring employees to submit to drug and alcohol tests, upon reasonable articulable suspicion that an employee is under the influence of illegal controlled substances or alcoholic beverages. Reasonable suspicion must be initially determined by or confirmed by the Chief or the Chief's designee.

### **Section 1 – Grounds for Testing**

A. When a Department Head, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Commanding Officer (police or fire) or Supervisor has reasonable suspicion to believe that a member or employee is using or is under the influence of an alcoholic or other intoxicating beverage, controlling substance, or narcotic drug while on duty, the commanding officer, or supervisor shall notify the member/employee's Department Head, Police Chief or Fire Chief. The member or employee may then be ordered by his/her Department Head, Police Chief or Fire Chief to submit to testing to detect the presence of alcohol, controlled substance, or narcotic drugs in the body.

B. When a Department Head, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Commanding Officer (Police & Fire), or Supervisor has reasonable suspicion that a member or employee is illegally using controlled substance or narcotic drug while on duty by the department, (Police & Fire only on or off duty,) the commanding officer or supervisor shall notify the member/employee's Department Head, Police Chief, or Fire Chief. The member or employee may then be ordered by the Department Head, Police Chief, and Fire Chief to submit to toxicology testing designed to detect the presence of controlled substances or narcotic drugs in the body.

### **Section 2 Member/Employees Obligations:**

A member or employee's refusal to submit, when and where so ordered, to toxicology testing may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal.

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If required by the person or agency conducting toxicology tests, the member or employee shall sign a consent form authorizing the release to the Human Resources Department.

### **Section 3 Procedures for Testing:**

The toxicology tests performed shall be a urine (GCMS) or blood test, at the choice of the member or employee, or if no choice is made, at the direction of the Department's Director/Chief ordering the test.

- A. Three samples urine or blood will be drawn at the time of testing.
- B. If the results of the testing of the first sample are found to be positive, a second test involving the second sample will be made to confirm the results of the first test.
- C. If the results of the testing of the first sample are found to be negative, a second test involving the second sample may be made at a different certified laboratory at the discretion of the Department Head/Chief to confirm the results of the first test.
- D. The third sample shall be retained so the member/employee can have the sample independently tested, at his/her expense, if so desired.
- E. If the results of the first and second test differ and an additional test is required at the discretion of the Department Head/Chief, the third sample that was independently tested at the expense of the member/employee shall be the determining test. If the member/employee decides not to have the third sample independently tested, then the Department Head/Chief may order the third sample tested and that test shall be the determining test.
- F. If the Department Head/Chief decides not to require an additional test when the results of the first two differ, the test shall be deemed inconclusive.
- G. The subject member/employee of the toxicology test may, upon request, receive a copy of the report, provided, however, that the Department Head/Chief, upon request received a copy of the report of the test results of the independent toxicology test from the subject member/employee.
- H. All evidentiary samples of blood and or urine/ shall be handled according to standard practices and departmental policies and procedures.

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**Section 4 Employee Rights:**

- A. Results of toxicology test for alcohol, controlled substances, and narcotic drugs may be the cause for departmental disciplinary actions, but will otherwise be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law, unless the member/employee consents otherwise.
  
- B. The Department Head/Chief who orders the test shall inform the member or employee that results of toxicology tests for alcohol, controlled substances, and narcotic drugs shall not be used in any criminal investigation or prosecution. Employees shall be extended Garrity rights to prevent the use of any testing results in any criminal proceeding.
  
- C. The urine testing procedure shall be so designed that members or employees are allowed to provide the sample in a manner which does not unreasonably subject them to embarrassment or humiliation.
  
- D. The investigator shall inform the member/employee of the name of the complainant and the nature of the complaint, if it has not already been done, prior to ordering a member/employee to submit to a toxicology test.

**Section 5 Miscellaneous:**

Members and employees who seek voluntary assistance for alcohol and substance abuse shall not be disciplined merely for seeking such assistance.

**Article 29  
Longevity**

29.1 Longevity pay will be paid to all full-time employees, in one lump sum payment in November, based on the employee's anniversary date of hire and the following table:

Five (5) to nine (9) years of service	\$300.00
Ten (10) to fourteen (14) years of service	\$400.00
Fifteen (15) to nineteen (19) years of service	\$500.00
Twenty (20) years of service and over	\$600.00.
Twenty-five (25) years of service and over	\$700.00

29.2 Employees must be employed with the City of Claremont at the time longevity is paid (as of November 1 of said year) to be eligible for the longevity payout. Retiring employees who meet all the retirement eligibility requirements set forth by NHRS shall receive their longevity

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payment at the time of their retirement as long as that money has been allocated in the current year's budget.

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### **Article 30 Mileage**

Employees required or requested to use their personal vehicles in the course of their duty for City business shall be reimbursed at the standard rate allowed under the Internal Revenue Code. Vehicle use must be approved by the Chief and every attempt must be made to secure a City vehicle for use prior to approving the use of personal vehicles. In the event that an employee is using his/her own personal vehicle on City business, all safety procedures (i.e. seatbelt usage) must be followed.

### **Article 31 Retirement**

31.1 All bargaining unit employees shall participate in the New Hampshire State Employee's Retirement System as a condition of employment.

31.2 After twenty (20) years satisfactory service with the City of Claremont, and State Retirement Age (in accordance with RSA 100-A:1 et seq) or upon State Approved Disability, City employees upon retirement shall be paid one hundred percent (100%) of their individual accumulated sick leave as a retirement severance adjustment.

31.3 NHRS Group 1 employees who have reached the age of sixty (60), or NHRS Group 2 employees who have reached age forty-five (45) or greater, and who have completed **at least ten** (10) years satisfactory service with the City of Claremont shall, upon retirement, be paid fifty percent (50%) of their individual accumulated sick leave or one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), whichever is greater, as a retirement severance adjustment.

### **Article 32 Payroll**

Payroll will be paid weekly on Fridays. Direct deposit will be available to those individuals electing to sign-up for this benefit through the payroll office.

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**Article 33  
Overtime Pay**

33.1 All employees covered by this Agreement shall be assigned to four (4) groups and each group shall be scheduled for 24-hour shifts starting at 7:00 AM and continuing until 7:00 AM the following morning, followed by 48 hours off. A second 24-hour shift (starting at 7:00 AM and continuing until 7:00 AM the following morning) will be followed by 96 hours off. This pattern (24 on/48 off/24 on/96 off) will continue with each group being offset to provide uninterrupted fire department coverage for the City of Claremont.

33.2 Overtime Duty. The Fire Chief may order any employee to work a reasonable number of extra shifts of duty or overtime. While off duty, all employees may remain in contact with the fire department, to the extent feasible and reasonable, by means of radio equipment provided by the City, to facilitate recall to duty. The City shall assign extra shifts of duty and overtime on a fair and equitable basis as practical to meet the needs of the department; provided, if any employee consistently fails to respond to recalls for overtime duty, that employee may be denied further overtime duty. The City and Union shall establish a committee, with equal representation, to study the use of qualified call fire personnel to cover critical shifts. The Committee shall issue a report and the parties shall reopen the negotiations for the limited purpose of considering this issue and this issue only.

33.3 Overtime Pay. Employees shall be paid overtime for all hours worked in excess of their regular duty hours, as specified in Paragraphs 33.1 & 33.9 herein. Sick time shall not be taken into consideration for the purposes of determining hours worked. The exclusion of sick time calculation shall not apply in the case of emergency callbacks. Overtime pay shall be one and one-half (1 1/2) times the employee's standard hourly rate, computed to the nearest one-fourth (1/4) hour, provided, an employee shall be paid for a minimum of three (3) hours for each period of overtime duty, with the exception of time annexed to the end of the employee's shift.

The work period for the purpose of the FLSA is eight (8) days. The work period does not affect the overtime payment as agreed to in this contract. It is simply recognition of the work period required under the FLSA. The City of Claremont and IAFF 1571 agree that a normal workweek will be paid at 42 hours per week (normal work period averaged over 46 days), but not to exceed the 61 hours allowed by FLSA during any 8-day work period under the 7(k) exemption.

33.4 The Chief or Shift Commander may grant the request of any two employees to exchange shifts of duty or days off. When said request has been granted, the individual who is to provide coverage of the absent party will be responsible to the department to provide said coverage and

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shall be caused to forfeit in payment an amount equal to the hours or coverage the individual may have failed to provide.

33.5 Employees shall be allowed to accrue compensatory time off in lieu of paid overtime. Compensatory time shall be at the rate of one and one-half (1 1/2) hours for each overtime hour worked. The maximum allowable hours to be accrued shall be forty-five (45) hours. This accrued compensatory time must be used within a three (3) month period, and if not, shall be converted to cash and paid to the employee in addition to his regular weekly pay. Each employee must have approval of the Fire Chief or group officer to receive compensatory time. Compensatory time off may be taken anytime if group is at full strength. When the Fire Prevention Officer (FPO) is on duty during the FPO's normal duty hours, the FPO shall be counted toward the number of employees necessary for the group to be at full strength. An employee off on compensatory time is not subject to recall to regular duty.

33.6 Any Employee who is temporarily assigned or promoted to a position or higher classification shall be paid the mid salary rate of the higher position or classification. This acting time provision only applies in cases of extended sick leave, department injury or vacancy of more than one tour of duty, and shall not apply to vacations or any other leave with pay. No Union benefits shall be affected during this time in an acting position. A tour of duty is defined as 24 hours on, 48 hours off, and 24 hours on.

33.7 Light duty work from other areas can be done at the Fire Department if under the direction of the Fire Chief. Employees assigned light duty work shall not suffer a reduction in pay due to the nature of the work assigned.

33.8 Any change of Group assignments shall be posted fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the effective date.

33.9 The Fire Prevention Officer shall work Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 12:36 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., an average of forty-two (42) hours per week.

33.10 An employee on light duty due to work related injuries or illnesses and/or worker's compensation shall continue to receive all privileges and compensated benefits during the employee's light duty assignment. The development of light duty assignments shall conform to New Hampshire law. To the extent that the available light duty assignment, consistent with the employee's capabilities as determined by the treating physician, the provisions of Section 33.1 of this Agreement shall not apply. A physician's statement will determine fitness for light duty



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assignments. Light duty assignments are temporary. Employees on light duty shall not work more than forty-two (42) hours in a work week. Employees on light duty shall not be eligible for extra overtime assignments. (see offer in 38.11).

Employees assigned to light duty shall receive as much notice as is practical before the start of the light duty assignment.

33.11 When a position becomes vacant in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 33.6 above, in excess of one complete tour of duty, that position shall be filled by the means of a temporary assignment. On the first day of the second tour of duty, the Chief shall temporarily assign the next most senior ranked employee within the then current shift to fill the vacant position. If that employee refuses the temporary assignment, the Chief shall temporarily assign the next most senior ranked employee and so on given that the employees are eligible and qualified to perform the duties for that position. If no temporary assignment can be made the acting position shall remain vacant until section 33.12 applies. This shall apply to any temporary or vacant Captain position.

33.12 If the vacancy occurs beyond three (3) tours of duty, on the last day of the third (3) tour, the vacancy shall be posted and all qualified employees shall have an opportunity to apply. The posting shall remain for eight (8) calendar days. At the end of the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) calendar day, the Chief shall make a temporary promotion and the individuals so promoted shall assume the duties as soon as practicable. If the promotion requires a reassignment and/or shift change, then the promotion shall go into effect fourteen (14) calendar days later as required by paragraph 33.8 above. Paragraphs 10.11 – 10.16, inclusive, shall not apply temporary promotions or assignments set forth herein. Once a vacancy becomes filled, the position will be reposted and filled in accordance with the requirements of Paragraphs 10.11 - 10.16, inclusive.

33.13 Private Details: Private detail extra duty will be paid at the rate of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per hour. A Minimum of three (3) hours shall be paid for all Details.

### **Article 34 Educational Seminars and Conferences**

At the discretion of the Chief, City employees may attend educational conferences and/or seminars. The City will pay for the fee (if any) of the conference/seminar that the employee plans to attend. The City will also provide transportation if at all possible (with the use of a City vehicle) or reimburse the employee with mileage at the rate of the current IRS rates. The City (through department expense sheets) will reimburse employees up to the New Hampshire standard rate listed on the U.S. General Services Administration website, with submission of

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receipt(s). Tips and alcohol are not eligible for reimbursement. If meals are included/provided for at the conference/seminar then employees will not be eligible for meal reimbursement. Employees may elect to stay for the complete course however, if with traveling time, the employee fails to return to work prior to his/her regularly scheduled hours, overtime will not be paid unless overtime is authorized in advance prior to the seminar. If the Department requires the employee to attend the conference/seminar to obtain and/or maintain certifications, then the employee will receive overtime if he/she returns back to their department after his/her regularly scheduled hours. Signed authorization for overtime must be approved prior to the conference/seminar.

**Article 35  
Educational Reimbursements/Fringe Benefits**

35.1 An annual educational bonus, which is non-cumulative for the two Fire Officer categories, shall be paid the first Friday in November to all eligible members of the Unit as follows:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| (a) Fire Officer/Fire Officer I  | <b>\$350.00</b>     |
| (b) Career Firefighter Level Two as defined by NHFST prior to 1/98 and as currently defined by NHFST,  | <b>\$275.00; or</b> |
| (c) Career Firefighter Level Three as defined by NHFST prior to 1/98 and as of 1/99 as Rescue Specialist or equivalent designation given by NHFST, | <b>\$450.00;</b>    |
| (d) Fire Science or Protection Degree,   | <b>\$600.00</b>     |
| (e) Fire Officer II or Fire Investigator   | <b>\$650.00</b>     |
| (f) National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians<br>(EMT) B  | <b>\$850.00</b>     |
| (g) National Registry of Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians<br>(AEMT)  | <b>\$1,000.00</b>   |
| (h) National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians<br>(EMT) P  | <b>\$1,250.00</b>   |

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The City agrees to provide reimbursements to full time employees who complete approved courses relative to their current responsibilities or as part of an approved career development program based upon the following standards: the cost of course tuition and books, but not to exceed \$1,500 per employee in a calendar year and not to exceed the total budgeted amount for this program.

Courses must be approved in advance by the appropriate Department Head/Chief as related to the employee's job, or as part of a career development program. Approval must be obtained through the Human Resources Dept./Payroll Dept. in accordance with a payroll deduction form (attached see addendum form "B") being completed and signed by the employee.

Once a course has been approved as meeting the requirements, an advance will be made to the employee for up to one-half (1/2) of the authorized cost of the course tuition and books, not to exceed \$750.00 based upon the employee's length of service and eligible authorized cost(s). The remainder of the course reimbursement, not to exceed \$750.00, will be paid to the employee upon presentation of a certification/grade and employee's eligible length of service.

Full time employees who have one (1) to three (3) years, of employment with the City, will receive 50% reimbursement of the authorized course. (Grade must be C or higher, or P in a pass or fail (F) grading system). Full time employees, who have four (4) or more years of service with the City, will receive 100% reimbursement of the authorized course with an A or B average and 75% reimbursement of the authorized course with a C average. Grades below a C will receive no reimbursement. Any employee failing to satisfactorily complete a course shall have the one-half (1/2) advance payment deducted from the employee's paycheck in equal amounts, not to exceed \$50.00 in any one week. In the event that the employee terminates prior to the payback, the employee will have the balance due taken from their final paycheck.

If the employee's failure to attain a passing grade is due to a work-related injury or job assignment (at the direction of a superior with knowledge of the conflict), reimbursement shall not be required. The Department Head/ Chief may waive reimbursement under extenuating circumstances.

Approvals for courses shall be considered on the basis of relevancy of the course, number of full-time employees applying and funds available.

If a course is paid for in whole or in part through Federal, State, or other scholarship programs, then the city will reimburse for such a course to the extent the scholarship did not cover the entire cost of such course, it being the intent of the Section to eliminate double payments for any course.

Educational expense shall include: tuition, registration, and books. This provision shall not apply to educational expenses required to maintain certifications or licenses required by the employee's job description or for skills that are otherwise advantageous to the City as determined by the Department Head/Chief.

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Fire Union Contract**

The restrictions and requirements set forth above shall not apply to courses that the City requests any employee to take during duty time.

**Article 36  
Successor Agreement**

36.1 On or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the final year of this contract, the Union and/or the City may, in writing, by certified mail return receipt requested, notify the other of its desire to terminate or modify the terms and conditions of this Agreement and shall submit to the other its demands on negotiable items. If proper notice is given, the parties shall, no later than September fifteenth, meet, confer and negotiate in accordance with the procedures set forth hereinafter in a good faith effort to reach a mutual understanding and agreement.

36.2 The negotiating committees of the City and the Union shall have authority to reach a complete agreement, subject to ratification by Union membership and ratification of all cost items by the Claremont City Council.

36.3 If, after discussion of all negotiable matters, the parties fail to reach agreement of any negotiable subject put before them, or the parties have not reached agreement on a contract, either party may declare an impasse in accordance with provisions of applicable State Statutes.

**Article 37  
Wages**

37.1 The firefighter classification shall consist of three (3) levels: the entry level (C), the level upon certification to the career level by the New Hampshire Fire Standards and Training Committee or six (6) months in grade (B), and the maximum level after one year of service (A). The remaining classifications shall consist of two (2) levels: the entry level (B), and the maximum level after 9 months of service.

37.2 Effective the first full pay period after July 1, 2023, member of the Union shall receive a 4% increase and be paid *in* accordance with the following weekly schedule:

Classification ion	C	B	A
Fire fighter	\$937.16	\$974.66	\$1,012.12

**City of Claremont  
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Superintendent		\$1,091.80	\$1,126.48
Lieutenant		\$1,119.90	\$1,138.67

37.3 Effective the first full pay period after July 1, 2024, member of the Union shall receive a 2.50% increase and be paid *in* accordance with the following weekly schedule:

Classification	C	B	A
Firefighter	\$960.59	\$999.03	\$1,037.42
Superintendent		\$1,119.10	\$1,154.64
Lieutenant		\$1,147.90	\$1,167.14
\$1,500 retention bonus, less applicable withholdings, at end of Contract year provided Employee remains employed with City at end of Contract year. This bonus expires at end of Contract year.			

37.4 Effective the first full pay period after July 1, 2025, member of the Union shall receive a 2.25% increase and be paid *in* accordance with the following weekly schedule:

Classification	C	B	A
Firefighter	\$982.20	\$1,021.51	\$1,060.76
Superintendent		\$1,144.28	\$1,180.62
Lieutenant		\$1,173.73	\$1,193.40
\$1,500 retention bonus, less applicable withholdings, at end of Contract year provided Employee remains employed with City at end of Contract year. This bonus expires at end of Contract year.			

**Article 38  
Immunization**

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Fire Union Contract**

All employees covered under this Agreement may be inoculated at the City's expense against the HIV virus (when available) and for Hepatitis B. It is understood that the intent of this Article is for the City to pay solely for the vaccine and medical personnel involved with administering the inoculations. Each employee will be tested annually, at the City's expense, for Tuberculosis.

**Article 39  
Personnel file**

All employees shall have the right to inspect his/her personnel file on reasonable notice and at reasonable times. All employees shall be entitled to a copy of each document in his/her personnel file.

**Article 40  
Residency**

All employees shall reside within the City of Claremont, or in a location within no more than 15 miles from the Fire Headquarters.

**Article 41  
Uniforms**

41.1 Each member of the Union shall have an annual issue of clothing sufficient to meet the uniform requirements of the Departmental Rules and Regulations. The Departmental Rules and Regulations shall allow the wearing of polos and duty shorts from April through October. Uniform of the day or acceptable dress shall be allowed to be worn when reporting to and from regularly scheduled tours of duty except that all members of the Union shall be in required uniform at the start of the tour of duty. All employees shall be issued turnout gear meeting current N.F.P.A. standards. The use of non-issued turnout gear meeting current N.F.P.A. standards shall be permitted, with the approval of the Fire Chief.

41.2 The Claremont Fire Department will allow career personnel to clean department issued work uniforms in the laundry facility on the second floor of the fire station dedicated for department linen. Necessary laundry supplies, such as soap and bleach, will be provided by the department. Personnel using departmental laundry facility for cleaning their uniforms will do so at any time on the night and weekend shifts as long as emergency work, scheduled details, or other assigned duties are given priority.

**Article 42**

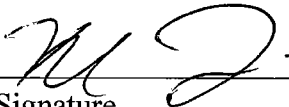
**City of Claremont  
Fire Union Contract**

**Duration**


42.1 This Agreement shall be effective upon signing and shall remain in full force and effect through June 30, 2026. It shall be automatically renewed from year to year thereafter unless either party shall notify the other party in writing, not later than one hundred twenty (120) calendar days prior to the City's budget submission date that it desires to modify this Agreement. The City's current budget submission date is May 2.

42.2 This Agreement may be modified or amended at any time with the mutual consent of both parties. Requests for amendments or modifications shall be in writing.

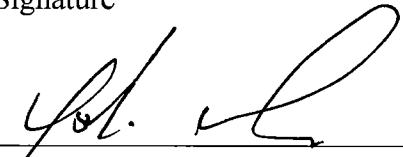
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals this 15<sup>th</sup>  
day of June, 2023.

  
Signature

6/7/23  
Kyle Lizotte  
Union President

  
Signature

6/7/23  
Michael Snide  
Union Treasurer

  
Signature

6/15/23  
Yoshi Manale  
City Manager

**City of Claremont  
Fire Union Contract**

**Addendum A**

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**City of Claremont  
Fire Union Contract**

**Appendix A  
Medical**

AB20



**Access Blue New England<sup>SM</sup>  
Cost Sharing Schedule**

*This Cost Sharing Schedule is an important part of Your Subscriber Certificate and is an outline of Your coverage. Do not rely on this outline alone. Keep this schedule with Your Certificate because it contains important information about coverage and limitations. Please read Your Subscriber Certificate carefully as important terms and limitations apply.*

**Cost Sharing Summary**

<b>Cost Sharing Summary</b>	
<b>Visit Copayment</b> Applies each time You visit Your Primary Care Provider (PCP) or Network obstetrical/gynecological specialist.	\$20 per visit
<b>Specialty Visit Copayment</b> Applies each time You visit a specialist. This Copayment also applies each time You visit a Network Provider at a Network Walk-In Center for diagnosis, care and treatment of an illness or injury.	\$20 per visit
<b>Emergency Room Copayment</b>	\$100 per visit
<b>Urgent Care Facility Copayment</b> Applies each time You visit a licensed hospital's Network urgent care facility for diagnosis, care and treatment of illness or injury.	\$50 per visit
<b>Standard Deductible</b>	N/A
<b>Standard Coinsurance</b>	
<b>Coinsurance Maximum</b>	
<b>Durable Medical Equipment, Medical Supplies and Prosthetics</b>	
<b>Deductible</b> <b>Coinsurance</b>	N/A 20%
<b>Out-of-Pocket Limit*</b> Includes all Deductibles, Coinsurance, and Copayments You pay during a year. It does not include Your premium or charges for noncovered services.	\$5,000 per Member, per year \$10,000 per family, per year

\*Once the Out-of-Pocket Limit is satisfied, You will not have to pay additional Deductibles, Coinsurance, or Copayments for the rest of the year.

Please note that throughout this schedule any reference to year means calendar year.

# City of Claremont Fire Union Contract

**HealthTrust**

## Your Personal Prescription Benefit Program

**CVS/caremark**

	RETAIL PHARMACY	MAIL SERVICE PHARMACY
	For immediate or short-term medication needs*	For maintenance or long-term medication needs*
<b>YOU WILL PAY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$10 for each generic medication</li> <li>• \$20 for each preferred brand-name medication**</li> <li>• \$45 for each non-preferred brand-name medication**</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$10 for each generic medication</li> <li>• \$20 for each preferred brand-name medication**</li> <li>• \$45 for each non-preferred brand-name medication**</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$0 for contraceptives, contraception devices, emergency contraception and certain preventative medications. (Brand-name medications with direct generic equivalents will require an applicable copayment.)</li> </ul>	
<b>OUT-OF-POCKET LIMIT</b>	\$1,600 per individual. Includes out-of-pocket costs for prescription expenses during a calendar year.	
<b>DAY SUPPLY LIMIT</b>	Up to a 34-day supply	Up to a 90-day supply
<b>REFILL LIMIT</b>	One initial fill plus two refills for maintenance or long-term medications. For each additional fill you will pay 100% of the prescription cost.	None
<b>PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED</b>	Botox and Myobloc for non-cosmetic purposes only; Wellbutrin and its generics (all forms of Wellbutrin and its generics are not covered for use as a smoking deterrent); Specialty Medications; Compound Medications	
<b>TOBACCO CESSATION</b>	Your plan covers prescription medication and some over-the-counter products designed to eliminate tobacco use. Coverage is available through your retail and mail service benefit subject to the cost sharing components and dispensing limitations of your plan. To be eligible for the coverage you must be age 18 or older. Contact Customer Care or log on to <a href="http://www.caremark.com">www.caremark.com</a> to find out more about which prescription medications and over-the-counter products are covered under your plan.	

\*Your plan may have coverage limits, be subject to dispensing limitations and may not cover certain medications. Please contact CVS/caremark at 1-888-726-1631 or log on to [www.caremark.com](http://www.caremark.com) for the most up-to-date plan information.

\*\*When a generic equivalent is available but the pharmacy dispenses the brand-name medication for any reason other than a doctor's "dispense as written" or equivalent instructions, you will pay the generic copayment plus the difference in cost between the brand-name and the generic.

### Where to Fill Your Prescriptions

Choosing where to fill your prescription depends on whether you are ordering a short-term or long-term medication:

**Short-term medications** are generally taken for a limited amount of time and have a limited amount of refills, such as an antibiotic. You can fill prescriptions for these medications at any pharmacy in the CVS/caremark retail network.

- Choose from more than 64,000 network pharmacies nationwide, including over 20,000 independent community pharmacies
- Find a participating pharmacy at [www.caremark.com](http://www.caremark.com)

**Tip:** To avoid filling out claims paperwork, bring your Prescription Card with you when you pick up your prescription and use a pharmacy in the CVS/caremark retail network. Additional Prescription Cards may be obtained by calling Customer Care toll-free at 1-888-726-1631.

**Long-term medications** are taken regularly for chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, asthma, diabetes or high cholesterol. You will generally save money by using mail service for these prescriptions. Choose one of four easy ways to start using the CVS Caremark Mail Service Pharmacy:

1. Fill out and send in a mail service order from - use the one included with your welcome kit or print one at [www.caremark.com](http://www.caremark.com)
2. Use the FastStart\* tool found on [www.caremark.com](http://www.caremark.com)
3. Call FastStart\* toll-free at 1-800-875-0867
4. Ask your doctor to call in the prescription through the toll-free FastStart\* physician number at 1-800-378-5697

### Customer Care

If you have questions about your prescriptions or benefits, you can contact Customer Care 24 hours a day, seven days a week, toll-free at 1-888-726-1631 or by e-mail at [customerservice@caremark.com](mailto:customerservice@caremark.com). For Telecommunication Device assistance, please call toll-free 1-800-863-5488. Caremark.com is also available to help you manage your prescription drug benefits. By registering online, you can order mail service refills, check order status, price medications, and much more.

Your feedback is important as it helps us improve our service. Please contact us with any questions or concerns at 1-888-726-1631. Your privacy is important to us. Our employees are trained regarding the appropriate way to handle your private health information.

To contact HealthTrust, please call toll-free at 1-800-527-5001 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (EST) Monday through Friday or visit [www.healthtrustnh.org](http://www.healthtrustnh.org). HealthTrust Enrollee Services Representatives are available for issues or concerns with enrollment or eligibility, and any other prescription benefit-related inquiry.

For further information or questions, you may also e-mail Enrollee Services at [enrolleeservices@healthtrustnh.org](mailto:enrolleeservices@healthtrustnh.org).

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