



AGREEMENT
Between the

CITY OF DULUTH
and
LOCAL 101 INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OFFIRE FIGHTERS

2003



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THIS AGREEMENT, executed the _____ day of _____, 2004, is entered into by and between the CITY OF DULUTH, hereinafter called the "Employer", and LOCAL 101, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS, hereinafter called the "Union".

ARTICLE 1 - PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT

1.1 The intent and purpose of this Agreement is to:

A. Establish certain hours, wages and other terms and conditions of employment, and

B. Establish procedures for the resolution of disputes concerning the interpretation and/or application of this Agreement.

1.2 The Employer and the Union, through this Agreement, continue their dedication to the highest quality fire protection to the citizens of Duluth. Both parties recognize this Agreement as a pledge of this dedication.

ARTICLE 2 - DEFINITIONS

2.1 Administrative Assistant means the Administrative Assistant to the Mayor of the City of Duluth, or the person designated in writing by the Administrative Assistant.

2.2 Annual Pay means the employee's basic monthly pay added to his/her longevity award as provided for in Article 14, his/her public service duty and E.M.T. allowance as provided for in Article 15, and his/her educational credit allowance as provided for in Article 16, multiplied by 12.

2.3 Appointing Authority means the Administrative Assistant, Chief, Deputy Chief or acting Chief.

2.4 Assignment means an instruction from the employer to an employee directing the employee to perform work in the same department and in the same job classification.

2.5 Basic Hourly Rate means the employee's basic annual pay divided by 2920 for employees whose normal work week is fifty-six (56) hours, or divided by 2080 for employees whose normal work week is forty (40) hours.

2.6 Basic Monthly Pay means the employee's monthly salary provided for in Appendix I of this Agreement, but does not mean monthly compensation.

2.7 Board means the Civil Service Board of the City of Duluth.

2.8 Chief means the Chief of the Duluth Fire Department.

2.9 Continuously employed means a period of employment which has not been interrupted by more than thirty (30) calendar days at any one time, except by authorized leave of absence, sick leave, vacation or military leave of absence, absence due to injury compensable under worker's compensation, or for a period, not to exceed two years, while on long-term disability.

2.10 Day means for sick leave and holiday purposes a period of twelve (12) consecutive hours for employees whose normal work week is fifty-six (56) hours and eight (8) hours for employees whose normal work week is forty (40) hours.

2.11 Demonstration -- The act, process or means of showing to the public, away from the firehall, the operation; apparatus; equipment; or techniques of the fire service/emergency medical service. Example: The viewing of equipment/apparatus, etc., in a parade, or parking at a public function would not be considered a demonstration. The showing of the operation of equipment/apparatus or the proper techniques of the fire service/ of emergency medical care would be considered a demonstration.

2.12 Demotion -- instruction from employer to employee that the employee shall work in a different job classification, which classification is in a lower salary range than the one the employee had been in before receiving the instruction.

2.13 Emergency means situations so defined by the Chief or an authorized person acting in his/her absence.

2.14 Employee means a member of the formally recognized bargaining unit represented by the Union and defined as a public employee in Minnesota Statutes.

2.15 Fire Department means the Duluth Fire Department.

2.16 Full-time Employee - An employee who is employed at least 35 hours per week.

2.17 Grievance means a dispute or disagreement as to the interpretation or application of the terms of this agreement.

2.18 Grievance Committee means not more than three (3) members of the Union designated by the Union to process grievances.

2.19 The term job related injury shall mean an injury suffered by an employee that arises out of and in the course of employment by the employer City of Duluth, exclusively. The term "job related disability" shall mean a medical disability arising out of and in the course of employment by the employer City of Duluth, exclusively.

2.20 Non-duty disability - a physical condition which renders an employee incapable of performing work assigned to him/her by the employer, and which is not compensable under the worker's compensation law.

2.21 Personnel Director means the Administrative Assistant of the City of Duluth.

2.22 Position - a job which the employer has determined shall be performed by one person in a single job classification.

2.23 Secretary means the Secretary of the Civil Service Board as defined by Chapter 13 of the Duluth City Code.

2.24 Shift means an eight (8) hours work period for personnel whose normal work week is forty (40) hours and a twenty-four (24) hour work period for personnel whose normal work week is fifty-six (56) hours.

A. Afternoon shift means a shift starting between 1:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

B. Night shift means a shift starting between 9:30 p.m. and 5:30 a.m.

2.25 Work group means the "A", "B" or "C" Shift.

ARTICLE 3 - RECOGNITION

3.1 The Employer recognizes the Union as the exclusive bargaining representative of all personnel working in the job classifications listed in Appendix I of this Agreement, and who are public employees as defined by P.E.L.R.A.

ARTICLE 4 - DUES CHECKOFF

4.1 The Employer shall deduct each month an amount sufficient to provide the payment of regular dues established by the Union from the wages of all employees authorizing such deduction, in writing, and remit such deductions to the appropriate officer designated by the Union. The Union shall indemnify and hold harmless the employer for and from any claims for wrongful dues deduction which is occasioned by Union action or neglect.

ARTICLE 5 - MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

5.1 The Employer and Union recognize and agree that except as expressly modified in this Agreement, the Employer has and retains all rights and authority necessary for it to direct and administer the affairs of the Fire Department and to meet its obligations under federal, state and local law, such rights to include, but not be limited to those rights specified in Minnesota Statutes, Section 179A.07, Subd 1; the right to direct the working forces; to plan, direct and control all the operations of the Fire Department; to determine the methods, means, organization and number of personnel by which such operation and services are to be conducted; to assign and transfer employees; to schedule working hours and to assign overtime; to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations; and to change or eliminate existing methods of operation, equipment or facilities.

ARTICLE 6 - SAVINGS CLAUSE

6.1 This Agreement is subject to the Laws of the United States and the State of Minnesota, and the Charter of the City of Duluth. In the event any provision of this Agreement shall be held to be contrary to such laws by a court of competent jurisdiction from whose final judgment or decree no appeal has been taken within the time provided, such provisions shall be voided. All other provisions shall continue in full force and effect. The voided provision shall be renegotiated at the request of either party.

ARTICLE 7 - HOURS OF WORK

7.1 For employees scheduled to work a 56-hour schedule, including those working in the positions of Assistant Fire Chief, Fire Captain, Fire Equipment Operator and Fire Fighter the normal

work week shall be an averaged fifty-six (56) hours. Such work week shall be based on scheduled twenty-four (24) hour shifts; provided, however, that the normal work week for such employees may exceed an averaged fifty-six (56) hours over the period of a calendar year when such excess hours result from use by the Employer of a schedule making use of a three (3) platoon system, with each platoon scheduled to work eight (8) twenty-four (24) hour shifts in a twenty-four (24) day cycle.

7.2 For employees scheduled to work a 40-hour schedule, including those working in the positions of Fire Inspector, Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshal, Fire Equipment Mechanic, and for employees assigned to the shop section of the Fire Department, or assigned to work in the Fire Department training office or Fire Prevention office, the normal work week shall be an averaged forty (40) hours and the normal work day shall be eight (8) hours.

7.3 For employees scheduled to work a 40-hour schedule, flexible scheduling of the normal work week may be allowed when the changed schedule does not result in increased cost, and is approved by the Chief and the employee requesting a schedule change. However, the normal work week shall remain an averaged forty (40) hours. Shift Differential pay shall not be paid to an employee while working a flexible schedule.

7.4 Employees may earn compensatory time off in lieu of overtime when approved by the Chief and the employee. Employees may take compensatory time off only when approved by the Chief.

ARTICLE 8 - SALARY PROGRESSION

8.1 The monthly salaries shall be as indicated in Appendix I.

8.2 An employee assigned to work in a job classification different from his/her own, shall, while assigned to work in such different classification, be compensated at the pay range provided for such different classification at the same step within such pay range as such employee is at within his/her own classification at the time such assignment is made.

8.3 When an assistant chief is assigned to work in the position of Assistant Chief for Squad #251, he/she shall be paid according to the pay range for Assistant Chief I in Appendix I of this agreement.

8.4 When an Assistant Chief is assigned to work in the position of Assistant Chief for Squad #252, he/she shall be paid according to the pay range of Assistant Chief II in Appendix I of this agreement.

8.5 An employee appointed to a permanent position in the classified service from a civil service employment list (open examination) shall be placed in Step A of the appropriate pay range as determined by this article except when otherwise recommended and justified by the Chief with the approval of the Administrative Assistant.

8.6 A person performing the function of Training officer shall be paid, at the minimum, at the rate of pay range 231, Step E.

8.7 Pay ranges shall be five percent (5%) apart using range 226, Step E as a base. Each pay range increase shall be calculated by using the total of the range below it plus five percent (5%).

8.8 Starting pay for employees covered by this contract shall be ninety percent (90%) of the pay in Appendix I of Firefighter, Step A. After completion of twelve (12) months, pay shall be increased by one-half of the difference between ninety percent (90%) of the pay of Firefighter, Step A and Firefighter, Step E. After twenty-four (24) months, the pay shall be that of Firefighter, Step E.

8.9 In addition to all other compensation paid to an employee pursuant to this agreement, employees may be paid additional compensation, or granted additional benefits, from time to time in accordance with the rules and regulations of the City Employee Suggestion Awards Program. The rules and regulations for such program shall be established by the Mayor and shall be effective upon the filing of a copy of such rules and regulations in the Office of the City Clerk. The Mayor may amend such rules and regulations from time to time and such amendments shall be effective thirty (30) days after filing a copy thereof in the Office of the City Clerk.

8.10 FLSA Calculation. The Employer shall calculate any amount of pay owing to an employee due to operation of the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act. In making the calculation, the Employer shall consider time off on a duly scheduled vacation to be time worked.

8.11 Deferred Compensation. For deferred compensation see Article 17-1(d).

8.12 When an employee is directed by the Employer to appear in court during a time when the employee is not scheduled to work, the employee shall be paid at his or her normal rate of pay for time spent at the court appearance.

ARTICLE 9 - OVERTIME - MANPOWER SHORTAGE

9.1 Except as provided in Article 10, employees whose normal work week is fifty-six (56) hours who work hours in excess of their normal work week because of a manpower shortage in the Department shall be compensated for such excess hours worked at the rate of one and one-half (1½) times their basic hourly rate.

9.2 Employees who work hours in excess of their normal work day or work week shall be compensated for such excess hours at the rate of 1.5 times the employee's hourly rate in the position being filled during the overtime.

9.3 Insofar as practicable, without reducing efficiency of work performance, opportunities to work overtime covered by this article shall be distributed as equally as practicable among employees, provided the employees are qualified to perform the specific overtime work required. If an employee establishes that he/she has not received his/her fair share of overtime, such employee shall have preference to future overtime until reasonable balance is re-established.

9.4 Overtime refused, shall, for distribution purposes, be considered as overtime worked, unless a valid excuse is certified by the Chief or his/her designated agent. Overtime either refused or worked on Christmas Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day or New Year's Day, as such holidays are defined in Minnesota Statutes Annotated, 1971, Section 645.44, Subd. 5, shall not, for distribution purposes, be considered as overtime worked or refused.

9.5 Overtime is to be computed to the nearest fifteen (15) minutes.

9.6 A record of all overtime worked/earned in shifts or refused shall be made available to the Union and sent out to each firehall every three months.

9.7 Employees who, at the request of the employer, return to work overtime shall receive a minimum of two (2) hours' pay, each time they report. Employees who are requested in writing to attend required training outside their scheduled shift shall receive overtime for their actual time spent in training rounded off to the nearest fifteen (15) minutes.

ARTICLE 10 - OVERTIME - FIRE EMERGENCY

10.1 Employees who work hours in excess of their normal work week because they are called back for a fire or are required to continue work at the scene of a fire after completion of a regularly scheduled shift shall be compensated for such excess hours worked at the rate of one and one-half (1½) times their basic monthly pay, their monthly public service duty allowance prescribed by Paragraph A of Article 15, their EMT pay, and their longevity award provided by Article 14, multiplied by 12 and divided by 2080. Employees called back on Christmas shall be compensated at the rate of two (2) times their basic monthly pay, their monthly public service duty allowance prescribed by Paragraph A of Article 15, and their longevity award provided by Article 14, multiplied by 12 and divided by 2080.

10.2 Employees who are called back for a fire shall receive a minimum of four (4) hours pay at the rate specified in this article.

10.3 Fire emergency overtime pay shall be paid at the 40 hour schedule rate.

ARTICLE 11 - SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL

11.1 Employees whose averaged work week is forty (40) hours who work the night shift shall, in addition to regular pay and allowances, receive a pay differential of \$.40 per hour.

11.2 Employees whose averaged work week is forty (40) hours who work the afternoon shift shall, in addition to regular pay and allowances, receive a pay differential of \$.25 per hour.

11.3 No employee shall receive such shift differential for any time for which the employee will receive overtime compensation provided for in Articles 9 and 10 of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 12 - UNIFORM ALLOWANCE

12.1 Upon employment, the City will furnish to the employee two (2) uniforms, which shall consist of two (2) pairs of pants, one (1) cold weather jacket, one (1) warm weather jacket, two (2) dress shirts, one (1) hat and one (1) tie.

12.2 Effective on January 1, 1992, the pay provided for in the appendix, and in this agreement, includes an amount to compensate employees for the purchase or replacement of worn or damaged items of uniform and for the purpose of cleaning uniforms.

12.3 Uniform clothing worn by an employee shall be kept neat, clean, pressed, and shall not be worn if threadbare, stained or otherwise determined unserviceable by an employee's supervisor.

12.4 Management shall determine the required uniform. If management requires a different style of uniform more often than once each 10 years, the employer shall furnish a new initial issue to each affected employee.

ARTICLE 13 - HOLIDAYS - PERSONAL LEAVE

13.1 Employees whose averaged work week is fifty-six (56) hours shall receive eleven (11) days off with pay in lieu of time off for holidays, and shall receive two shifts off with pay for personal leave, except that employees who work only part of a calendar year shall receive a proportional number of days or shifts off. Days off in lieu of holidays may continue to be scheduled in conjunction with vacations. Holidays are: New Year's Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, Veterans' Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Columbus Day, the Friday following Thanksgiving and Memorial Day.

13.2 Employees whose averaged work week is forty (40) hours shall receive eleven (11) 8-hour days off with pay in lieu of time off for holidays, and shall receive four (4) 8-hour days off with pay for personal leave, except that employees who work only part of a calendar year shall receive a proportional number of days off. Any such employee who is required to work a shift which commences on New Year's Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving or Christmas shall receive additional compensation equal to four (4) hours of pay at the employee's basic hourly rate. Forty-hour employees must use all four of their personal leave days before the end of the calendar year or they are lost, except in special circumstances the Administrative Assistant may

authorize a carry over of one day into the next year. Employees whose scheduled work week is 40 hours shall receive the holidays listed in Article 13.1, above.

13.3 Any employee whose averaged work week is fifty-six (56) hours, and who during the calendar year does not use all of the personal leave with pay authorized by this article, shall be compensated for such unused leave, such hourly rate shall be the same as that used for calculating overtime pay for service rendered pursuant to Article 9.

13.4 Personal leave days must be scheduled with supervisor's approval and according to the schedule system contained in this article. Personal leave days will be made available for scheduling for each employee in the same manner as vacation days, but only in a way that a maximum of two employees each day may be off of work while using personal leave days pursuant to this method of scheduling. (See Article 36)

13.5 After this two employee-per-day limit is met, if an employee desires to take a personal leave day off, he or she may do so by securing a replacement for himself or herself in the same manner as trades are arranged, except that his or her replacement will receive overtime pay instead of time in return. As in trades, the Captain and Assistant Chief both must approve and the work schedule must be changed before it is effective. Every attempt shall be made to give at least 24 hours notice of this arrangement.

13.6 The City may use available workers being paid straight time to provide the adequate work force when employees are off work or on personal leave.

13.7 Any 56-hour employee who is required to work a shift which commences on the legal holidays of Christmas Day (December 25), New Years Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Veterans Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents Day, Columbus Day, and Memorial Day shall receive additional compensation equal to six (6) hours pay at the employees basic hourly rate.

ARTICLE 14 - LONGEVITY ALLOWANCE

14.1 In addition to the monthly pay prescribed herein, any employee who has been continuously employed by the City in the Fire Department for a number of qualified pay periods, the total of which is not less than eight (8) years, shall receive from and after the beginning of the next pay period following completion

of his/her eighth year of service, a monthly longevity award equal to four percent (4%) of his/her basic monthly pay, and any employee who has been continuously employed by the City in the Fire Department for a number of qualified pay periods, the total of which is not less than sixteen (16) years, shall receive from and after the beginning of the next pay period an additional monthly longevity award equal to four percent (4%) of his/her basic monthly pay; provided, however, that any person employed in the Fire Department on October 1, 1977 shall receive a monthly longevity award equal to eight percent (8%) of his/her basic monthly pay from and after the beginning of the next pay period after having been continuously employed by the City for a number of qualified pay periods, the total of which is not less than sixteen years.

14.2 Such longevity award shall be computed to the nearest dollar per month.

14.3 The term "qualified pay period" shall mean any regular minimum period of time at the end of which full-time employees of the City are regularly paid and during which the employee was employed and/or paid by the City for not less than three-fourths (3/4) of the normal working hours of the position he/she then occupied.

ARTICLE 15 - PUBLIC SERVICE DUTY AND E.M.T. ALLOWANCE

15.1 In addition to the monthly pay prescribed in this Agreement, each employee shall be paid an additional amount of money each month as a public service duty allowance, said allowance to compensate, in part, for off-duty employees having a continuing duty to report and aid in the control of fires, as directed by the Chief, and for inspection of residential, commercial and all public buildings in order to protect the safety of the City of Duluth. Such additional amount of money shall be equal to four and one-half percent (4½%) of each employee's basic monthly pay.

15.2 Employees hired before January 1, 1980 shall attend on-duty Emergency Medical Technician training sessions as the employer directs.

15.3 Employees hired after January 1, 1980 shall attend on-duty emergency medical technician training sessions as the employer directs; and, in addition, those who become or have become registered Emergency Medical Technicians shall maintain as

current that certification and registration. The employer shall provide reasonable training opportunities necessary to maintain the registration, and shall pay the registration fee.

15.4 Each employee shall receive monthly two and one-half percent (2½%) of his or her basic monthly pay as pay for E.M.T. training.

ARTICLE 16 - EDUCATIONAL CREDIT ALLOWANCE

16.1 In addition to the monthly pay and the additional longevity and public service duty allowances described herein, employees shall receive One Dollar (\$1.00) per month per credit for eligible courses successfully completed, and approved by the National Board of College Accreditation, if the employees were eligible to receive this pay on July 1, 1988.

16.2 The employer will reimburse to the employee the cost of tuition, credit transfer fees, and required books used in the successful completion, and attendance at, the Fire Technology and Administration program offered at Duluth Technical Institute. The employee shall, upon request, furnish proof of actual cost incurred, successful completion, and attendance.

16.3 The employer will reimburse to the employees a maximum of \$15.00, each month, of the actual cost for the use of facilities involved in the employee's participation in an approved physical fitness training program. The employee shall be responsible for furnishing, upon demand, proof of actual costs incurred and training activities engaged in.

ARTICLE 17 - HOSPITAL-MEDICAL INSURANCE

17.1 During the period of this Agreement, the Employer will provide employees hospital-medical insurance coverage containing the same level of benefits as provided under the three hospital-medical insurance plans in effect on 1-1-93.

(a) The Employer agrees to pay for the employees without claimed dependents the cost of the single employee approved fee-for-service or H.M.P. or comprehensive plan selected by the employee.

(b) The Employer agrees to pay the entire premium as the cost of medical insurance for employees eligible for and enrolled in an approved family hospital-medical insurance plan not to exceed the amounts contained in the following chart:

YEAR	FEE FOR SERVICE (PLAN 1)	H.M.P. PLAN (PLAN 2)	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (PLAN 3)
2000	\$500.00	\$540.00	\$560.00
2001	\$500.00	\$580.00	\$610.00
2002	\$500.00	\$620.00	\$660.00

The Employer shall deduct from each eligible and enrolled employee's salary or wages the amount by which the monthly premium cost of that employee's selected hospital-medical plan family-dependent coverage exceeds the limit on the Employer's contribution that is stated in this paragraph.

(c) Premiums shall be established by November 1 of the prior year, to be in effect January 1 of each year for twelve (12) consecutive calendar months.

(d) Beginning January 1, 2000, each employee who has been continuously employed by the City for at least 90 days may, during the open window for insurance selection or at the time of a life event, designate \$150 of the monthly employer contribution available for the employee's family-dependent medical coverage premium to be used as a contribution to the monthly cost of a qualifying and approved deferred compensation plan. This contribution shall be \$175 in 2001 and \$200 in 2002. An employee without family-dependent coverage may, during the open window period for insurance selection or at the time of a life event, designate a qualifying and approved deferred compensation plan for him or her to which the employer shall, each month, contribute the amounts indicated in the following table:

YEAR	FEE FOR SERVICE (PLAN 1)	H.M.P. PLAN (PLAN 2)	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (PLAN 3)
2000	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$165.00
2001	\$175.00	\$175.00	\$200.00

2002

\$200.00

\$200.00

\$235.00

(e) If any bargaining unit receives a higher insurance cap, the higher cap will be applied to the Firefighters agreement.

(f) Any member of the bargaining unit covered by this contract who had family health insurance coverage through the Employer for six (6) months or more in 2003, shall receive a Five Hundred dollar (\$500) health insurance cost of living adjustment upon council approval of this contract.

17.2 Hospital-medical insurance coverage shall become effective ninety (90) calendar days from date of hire.

17.3 While an employee is entitled to receive long-term disability income protection pursuant to Article 25 of this Agreement, the Employer shall maintain such hospital-medical insurance coverage for such employee as it does for active employees. Beginning October 1, 1995, such an employee may choose, at the regular time for open enrollment, to have either said active employee coverage or retired employee coverage as set out in Article 18.

17.4 Any proposed change in the hospital-medical insurance coverage or benefit shall be negotiated with the Union.

17.5 The Employer will include the following provisions in its fee-for-services hospital-medical insurance plan, the cost for which shall be paid by the Employer up to the limit set forth in paragraph one, above:

(a) The major medical limit is increased to \$1,000,000 per lifetime.

Counseling for diabetes, weight control, and genetics will be covered when provided by qualified medical professionals.

(b) One general physical examination and/or pulmonary capacity test per year will be provided for each person otherwise covered by the plan; coverage for such physical examinations is limited to \$150.00 per person. If required by a physician, additional examinations or other procedures shall be covered.

(c) A mandatory ambulatory surgery schedule will be included as per a listing received from Blue Cross/Blue Shield. If an employee elects in-patient surgery when not medically necessary, the employee shall pay the difference in cost. If a determination is made by a qualified physician that such surgery should be performed as an in-patient procedure because of medical necessity, such surgery shall be covered as in-patient surgery.

(d) A second opinion by a qualified physician shall be required for elective surgery. The employee may, after obtaining a second opinion, elect the surgery whether or not the second physician concurs.

(e) Oral contraceptives shall not be covered by the fee-for-service plan.

(f) A family or employee participating in the medical insurance plan shall be responsible for payment of \$3.00 of the cost of each drug prescription filled during the calendar year, accumulated up to a maximum participant payment of \$100 each year per participant family, and 50¢ participant payment for each prescription filled thereafter. This paragraph is effective when this agreement is approved by the City Council.

(g) If a plan participant discovers a mistake in a hospital-medical billing, and this discovery results in a money saving to the plan, the participant shall receive from the employer one-half the amount of the saving.

17.6 The Employer will include the following provisions in the Plan 3 Comprehensive Plan:

(a) Lifetime benefit is \$2,000,000.00.

(b) Bone marrow, heart, liver, kidney, heart/lung, pancreas transplants.

17.7 The dependents of a deceased-active employee shall receive hospital-medical insurance to the same extent as active employees, the spouse's coverage ceases when the spouse dies or remarries. The minor dependent coverage ceases when each attains the age of 21 years, or, if the dependent is a full-time student, the age of 23 years.

17.8 Group Health Fund.

The City shall establish and maintain a Group Health Fund for the purpose of funding health care costs. All monies appropriated by the City or contributed by plan participants and by other agencies to finance health care or dental care costs under the City's plans shall be paid into such Fund monthly. Monies in the Group Health Fund shall only be expended for payment of health care expenses, purchase of health and dental insurance (including stop loss insurance), payment of expenses incurred in the administration of the City's health care and dental care programs, and other health-related expenses incurred as determined by the Health Insurance Labor-Management Committee. The following expenses are examples of, but not necessarily all of the expenses that shall not be paid from the Group Health Fund: Payments made pursuant to the Worker's Compensation laws and the cost of physical exams of, or medical services for, employees which exams or services are required by the City or another governmental agency. Any funds expended from the Group Health Fund that are later determined by the Employee Benefits Administrator or through court action, arbitration, or mediation to have been more correctly charged to Worker's Compensation shall be promptly reimbursed to the Group Health Fund. Reimbursements from stop loss insurance shall be promptly deposited in the Group Health Fund.

The City shall invest reserves in the Group Health Fund to the same extent and in the same manner as it invests reserves in its other funds. Any interest or other return earned through investment of monies in the Group Health Fund shall be credited to such Fund.

If monies in the Group Health Fund are at any time insufficient to pay the expenses described in this Article, the City shall provide sufficient monies to such Fund to cover the deficit. Such monies shall be returned to the City from the Fund as soon as possible and in any event no later than the subsequent calendar year.

The City shall deliver to the members of the Committee each month a summary report of expenditures from the Group Health Fund for the prior month and a detailed report each quarter.

17.9 Health Insurance Labor-Management Committee.

It is jointly agreed between the Union and the City that the goal of the two parties is to establish a joint labor-management committee that will administer the health insurance plan of the City, all collective bargaining units, and eligible sub-groups.

The Health Insurance Labor-Management Committee shall be comprised of the following even number of voting members, equally divided between union and management representatives:

1.) One member selected by each of the City bargaining units adopting this agreement, and one additional member selected by the Basic Unit, should it adopt this agreement;

2.) The Administrative Assistant of the City or his/her designee; and

3.) The Director of Finance, the Director of Administrative Services, and as many other department heads, or their designees, selected by the Administrative Assistant of the City, as are necessary to balance the Committee evenly between bargaining unit and management representatives;

4.) There shall be one non-voting member selected by the City's retiree's organization.

5.) Because of the complex nature of the subject matter covered, alternate members as well as regular members are encouraged to attend all meetings.

The Health Insurance Labor-Management Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

1.) The power to establish by-laws for its organization and operation. The Committee shall attempt consensus in all actions, but failing that, the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present and voting at any meeting shall be required.

2.) The power and duty to determine the number and type of health insurance plans and the benefit levels in such plans that will be offered to City employees and others participating in the City's health insurance program. The Committee cannot delete or change health plans or health benefit levels set out in the labor contracts in 1994 without the agreement of the specific union(s) concerned, and the necessary approvals or ratification.

3.) The power and duty to determine the estimated costs of the health insurance plans that are offered to City employees and others. In making this determination, the Committee shall rely on the calculations of the City's health plan administrator and/or the calculations of a professional insurance consultant or actuary.

4.) The power and duty to determine the appropriate level of premium stabilization reserves to be maintained in the City's Group Health Fund.

5.) The power and duty to determine the need for stop-loss insurance.

6.) The duty to recommend City participation in wellness and other health promotion programs that would be funded by the Group Health Fund.

7.) The power and duty to establish premium rates for the various classes of participants in each of the health insurance plans offered to City employees and others that will generate sufficient monies to fund the City's health insurance program and maintain the reserve level established for the Group Health Fund. The Committee shall use the following formula to determine such rates:

a. Determine the dollar cost of paid claims during the previous 12 months, less actual and unpaid stop loss reimbursements, ending September 30th-

b. Project the claims cost for the current calendar year, using the City plan administrator's experience-based future cost adjustment factor and/or other indicators of future cost trends from credible third-party sources.

c. Add to b. the estimated cost of administering the health plans in the next calendar year, along with the estimated cost of any stop-loss insurance and wellness or other health promotion programs being recommended by the Committee for that calendar year.

d. Add to or subtract from c. the amount of any increase or decrease in the level of premium stabilization reserves being implemented, Group Health Fund surpluses or deficits present or desired, or reimbursements to the City required. The Committee shall establish the desired reserve or surplus level and rate of accumulation annually.

e. Calculate the expected income for the next calendar year which would be realized if the previous year's premium rates were continued.

f. Calculate the percentage difference, positive or negative, between the amount calculated in e. and the amount calculated in d.

g. Multiply the current premium rates by the percentage calculated in f.

8.) The power to recommend the selection of insurance consultants or actuaries hired by the City to assist the Health Insurance Labor-Management Committee.

9.) The power and duty to recommend the selection of the third-party administrator for the City's health and dental plans.

The City and Union acknowledge the need for the Health Insurance Labor-Management Committee to provide premium rates for the following calendar year by November 1st of the current year. If the Committee fails to perform this duty by the date required, the parties agree that the City may make the necessary determinations based upon the recommendations of the City's health plan administrator and/or insurance consultants under contract with the City.

ARTICLE 18 - HOSPITAL-MEDICAL INSURANCE-RETIRED EMPLOYEES

18.1 Any employee who retires from employment with the City on or after January 1, 1983, after having been employed by the City for twenty (20) years, and after having been employed by the City for such total time so as to be qualified by such employment to receive retirement benefits from the Public Employees Retirement Association, the Duluth Firemen's Relief Association, or who is receiving a disability pension from one of the above organizations, shall receive hospital-medical insurance coverage to the same extent as active employees, subject to the following conditions and exceptions:

18.2 Any person who retires after December 31, 1985, seeking benefits pursuant to this Article, is 65 years of age or older, and who is eligible to obtain Medicare Coverage B must obtain it, or lose any benefits hereunder.

18.3 The City will provide any such eligible retired employee without claimed dependents the following coverage without cost to such retiree:

(a) The approved fee-for-service coverage provided active employees.

18.4 (a) Effective December 31, 1987, any eligible employee who retires with, or without, claimed dependents, the City will provide at the employee's option, without cost to the retiree, the approved fee-for-service (Plan 1) or approved H.M.P. (Plan 2) or comprehensive plan (Plan 3) coverage provided active employees. However, the approved fee-for-service or H.M.P. coverage shall be subject to an annual deductible amount of \$650. The \$650 deductible does not apply to Plan 3. The employee shall indicate, on or before the day of retirement, which plan he or she chooses. If no covered plan participant receives benefits during a calendar year, any portion of the deductible amount which is accrued for services rendered in the last three calendar months of that calendar year shall be applied toward the deductible amount for the following calendar year.

(b) Effective December 31, 1987, for each year (26 equal pay periods) that a fee-for-service covered employee has used six or less twelve hour days as paid sick days (excluding sick days resulting from on-the-job injuries or funeral leave), the employee will receive credit for one calendar year's use of the deductible established in paragraph (a) above, that applies to the retired employee, but not to dependents, upon retirement. There shall be a continuous year for year exchange of controlled sick leave use for credit toward retired employees insurance deductible, beginning with the first day of the retiree's enrollment for retiree medical insurance benefits. This paragraph will be retroactive for current employees to date of hire and employees shall receive year for year credit for years of service through 1979. Enrollment occurs when retiree insurance coverage goes into effect.

(c) Employees hired after January 1, 2000 who retire and qualify for retiree health coverage shall receive benefits under the comprehensive plan (Plan 3) only.

(d) Any employee who qualifies for retirement benefits as set out in Article 18.1, above, and has been employed by the City for at least 15 years but less than 20 years, and retires, shall receive retiree hospital-medical coverage under comprehensive plan (Plan 3) only.

18.5 Such coverage shall be for the life of the retiree, but if the retiree dies before his or her spouse, such coverage shall be continued for such spouse until he or she dies or remarries, but any such coverage for such surviving spouse shall not include coverage for any dependent of such surviving spouse.

18.6 If any such covered retiree or spouse becomes the beneficiary of any hospital-medical coverage provided by another employer in connection with such retiree's or spouse's employment by or retirement from employment by another employer, the City's obligation to provide the coverage indicated alone shall be only to the extent that the City's coverage exceeds such other coverage.

18.7 Any person purchasing medical insurance coverage pursuant to a former, or this, agreement may continue to do so. When any such person ceases to so purchase medical coverage, the employee shall no longer have any right to participate in any insurance plan or group created by this, or successor, labor agreement. This paragraph shall become inoperative when no former employee is buying insurance coverage as here provided.

ARTICLE 19 - DENTAL INSURANCE

19.1 The Employer agrees to make the same dental care coverage available to all eligible employees as it currently makes available for employees of the Basic and Supervisory collective bargaining units of the City, but the Employer agrees to pay only the entire cost for single coverage for each eligible employee. To be eligible for this coverage, an employee must be continuously employed for at least 90 days as a permanent employee. The Employer and the Union agree that any change in such coverage shall only be done through negotiations.

19.2 When an employee elects to take family dental coverage, the employee shall maintain such coverage for not less than two consecutive years. The employee may cancel family dental coverage any time after the two consecutive year period. If an employee again elects to take family dental coverage after canceling from a previous period, the employee must again maintain the family dental coverage for another two consecutive year period. Employees will only be allowed to elect family dental coverage at the time he or she becomes eligible for single dental, or at the time of an open enrollment period for health care plans.

19.3 The employee has the option to increase the annual dental insurance maximum benefit to \$1,500 per person. The employee will pay the additional cost of the benefit increase above what the City provides in Articles 19.1 and 19.2.

ARTICLE 20 - TERMINATION PAY

20.1 When an employee leaves City employment, he or she shall be paid in full on the payroll covering the last day he or she actually worked for his/her salary due, plus the value of accumulated vacation time, and unused compensatory time off earned, such value to be calculated based on his/her basic hourly rate at the time of his/her termination.

ARTICLE 21 - PAY PERIODS

21.1 All employees shall be paid every two (2) weeks, and payment, by way of paycheck or direct deposit to the employee's account, for each two (2) week period shall be made not later than the Friday next following such two (2) week period. If any such Friday occurs on a holiday, checks shall be distributed on the working day next prior to such holiday. The amount of pay for each such two (2) week period shall be determined by multiplying the employee's basic hourly rate by 112 for those employees whose normal work week is fifty-six (56) hours and by 80 for those employees whose normal work week is forty (40) hours. Employees shall be notified in January of the dates of deduction-free pay checks in that year. For the purpose of administration and bookkeeping, vacation and holiday time may be converted to hours.

ARTICLE 22 - WORKER'S COMPENSATION

22.1 An employee who suffers an injury compensable under the Worker's Compensation Act and is absent from work as a result thereof, shall be paid an amount by the Employer during such absence equal to the difference between the amount received by him or her under the Worker's Compensation Act and the amount he/she would have received if he/she were regularly employed, subject to the following:

22.2 For each day of absence the employee shall be charged for three-fifths (3/5) of a day of sick leave. When the employee's sick leave and vacation time have been exhausted, he/she shall no longer receive any salary from the Employer while

absent from work, except as otherwise provide by Article 25 of this agreement.

ARTICLE 23- VACATION

23.1 Any employee who has been continuously employed by the City for less than six (6) years as a classified employee shall be credited with 1.00 days of vacation for his/her first and each additional full month of service as an employee; however, any such employee shall be credited with such amount of vacation time for the month in which he begins employment with the City only if he/she begins such employment on or before the tenth day of such month. Effective the first day of the month after having been continuously employed for six (6) years as a classified employee, such employee shall be credited with 1.50 days of vacation for each full month of service. Effective the first day of the month after having been continuously employed for twelve (12) years as a classified employee, such employee shall be credited with 1.92 days of vacation for each full month of service. Effective the first day of the month after having been continuously employed for twenty (20) years as a classified employee, such employee shall be credited with 2.33 days vacation for each full month of service. Vacation time allowed under this section shall be at full pay. For any employee who works a fifty-six (56) hour week, each day of vacation accumulated hereunder shall entitle the employee to 11.2 hours off.

23.2 During any calendar year there shall be no limitation to the amount of vacation time that any employee may accumulate. However, as of December 31 of each year the maximum amount of unused vacation time that any employee may have accumulated shall be four hundred seventy (470) hours for employees with less than twenty-five (25) years of continuous employment with the City. Employees hired before December 31, 1993, with twenty-five (25) years or more of continuous employment with the City, shall be allowed to accumulate eight hundred fifty (850) hours. Employees hired after December 31, 1993, with twenty-five (25) years or more of continuous employment with the City, shall be allowed to accumulate seven hundred (700) hours. Any amount in excess of the maximum allowable amount will be forfeited at midnight on December 31. If an employee with less than 25 years of service on December 31, 1993, has a bank larger than 470 hours, the employee's maximum allowable amount shall be at the banked amount on December 31, 1993.

23.3 No employee shall be allowed to use vacation time and no employee shall be compensated for vacation time until he/she

has been continuously and satisfactorily employed in the classified service of the City for not less than six (6) months. Vacation time shall be used under the guidelines of the vacation schedule.

23.4 In the event of death of any employee, any vacation time accumulated to the credit of such deceased employee shall be compensated for in cash and shall be paid in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 181.58, as amended.

ARTICLE 24 - SICK LEAVE

24.1 Any employee who has been continuously employed by the City for not less than six (6) months in the classified and/or unclassified service shall be granted up to 120 working days of sick leave with full pay (paid sick leave) during a calendar year, except that such minimum requirement of six months shall not be applicable in connection with any illness or injury arising out of and in the course of employment by the City. A labor-management committee consisting of the City Personnel Director, a union representative, and the Fire Chief or his/her designee, may grant, in writing, up to an additional one hundred twenty (120) days of sick leave if warranted by the employee's documentation of a serious need for such extension. When an employee is unable to or indisposed to report for duty for any of the reasons specified in Section 3 of this article, he or she shall immediately report such fact to his or her immediate supervisor. To qualify for paid sick leave, the employee must report off prior to his or her starting time, but must immediately report off when leaving his or her duties.

24.2 If an employee's use of paid sick leave reasonably appears to the Appointing Authority to be unjustified, he or she may direct in writing to such employee, for the current or any subsequent absence by the employee claimed to be allowable as paid sick leave, to furnish written explanation by a physician to justify the absence on paid sick leave; failure to furnish written explanation shall preclude the employee from being allowed the absence as paid sick leave, but the employee may appeal the directive to the Personnel Director.

24.3 For purposes of this article, sick leave is defined to mean the absence of an employee because of illness or injury, exposure to a contagious disease, attendance upon a member of the immediate family, or death in the immediate family of the employee; provided no employee, unless officially assigned to special duty, shall be granted paid sick leave for any injury or

illness resulting from any gainful employment on any job which is subject to the provisions of the worker's compensation laws of any state, other than regular City employment.

(a) Illness in Family. Upon request, one (1) shift of paid sick leave shall be allowed for care or attendance upon a member of the immediate family for critical illness, provided, however, two (2) shifts of paid sick leave shall be allowed for this purpose if supported by a written statement (explaining why the employee's attendance is necessary) from the attending physician. This use of paid sick leave is for emergencies when advance arrangements cannot be made and is limited to members of the immediate family who reside in the employee's household.

(b) Funeral Leave. Upon request, a maximum of three (3) shifts of paid sick leave shall be granted an employee for a death in the immediate family if the distance to the location of the funeral exceeds five hundred (500) miles from Duluth. Upon request, a maximum of two (2) shifts of paid sick leave shall be granted if the distance to the location of the funeral is less than five hundred (500) miles from Duluth. If the employee's absence exceeds the allowed time, the excess time shall be charged to vacation or compensatory time off. Article 37 of this agreement shall not apply to the taking of vacation of this purpose.

For the purposes of this section, immediate family is defined to include only any parent, child, brother, sister, spouse, grandparent, grandchild, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, or ward of the employee, and any parent or grandparent of the employee's spouse.

Absence for any funeral of other than a member of the immediate family may be granted on paid sick leave, at the discretion of the chief or his or her designee.

(c) Medical Appointments. An employee must obtain prior approval from the appointing authority for the purpose of medical, dental, or optical examination or treatment, when such examination or treatment cannot be scheduled other than during working hours. Such absence on paid sick leave shall be approved only when the employee has made a diligent effort to have such examination or treatment prior to his or her normal working hours, after work, or on a day off.

(d) Paid Sick Leave on Vacation. Except as provided in this article, paid sick leave will not be allowed during a previously scheduled vacation unless the employee is under the

care of a physician because of an unexpected injury or illness and the employee furnishes to the Chief a certificate, signed by the physician, indicating the number of days the employee was actually confined to his or her home or hospital or the Fire Chief approves use of sick leave on vacation when the employee is not confined. The employee will then receive paid sick leave for those days spent confined. If the employee is exposed to a contagious disease and confined under doctor's orders, such employee will be granted paid sick leave in lieu of vacation. There will be no sick leave granted to an employee who is on leave of absence.

(e) Employee Assistance Program. Any approved absence for participation in the Employee's Assistance Program shall be allowed as paid sick leave. An employee's department head may approve reasonable use of paid sick leave so that an employee can participate in a family involvement program involving chemical dependency treatment of the employee's spouse or child.

24.4 Whenever an employee is absent on sick leave in excess of two (2) working shifts for a fifty-six (56) hour employee or three (3) days for a forty (40) hour employee, the appointing authority shall direct such employee to furnish written explanation by a physician to justify such absence on paid sick leave; failure to furnish such written explanation shall preclude the employee from being allowed such absence as paid sick leave. This section shall not apply to funeral leaves.

24.5 During any period an employee is absent from work on paid sick leave, he shall not be employed or engage in any occupation for compensation outside of his/her regular City employment except for job related work such as performing duties for the Union or for the Employees' Relief Association or Credit Union. Violation of the provisions of this paragraph by any employee shall be grounds for suspension of such employee without pay for not to exceed twice the number of days or portions thereof on which such violation has occurred.

24.6 Injured or Disabled Employees - Light Duty. Whenever an employee suffers an injury or disability results in the employee's inability, in excess of three (3) shifts, to perform all the duties of his or her position, the employer may, if such employee is capable of performing the work of any other position or any, including his/her own, position modified to accommodate medical restrictions, within the existing work structure of the fire department, assign or transfer the employee to such other position as the employer determines would result in the most effective use of the employee. The employee shall receive total

monthly compensation at his/her current monthly salary. Assignment or transfers under this paragraph shall expire at such time as the employee is able to perform the regular duties of the position held before injury or disability, but the employer may terminate the assignment earlier and allow the employee to receive sick leave, up to the maximum allowed in this contract, or disability benefits that are available.

24.7 Employees normally scheduled to work a 56 hour week, who are assigned, pursuant to Article 24.6, to work a 40 hour week, when scheduled to work a holiday, shall have the option of working the holiday, using vacation, compensatory time, or sick leave.

24.8 If an assignment under this provision is refused by an employee, and justification for the refusal is not provided by the employee's treating physician, or a medical doctor furnished by the employer to evaluate the medical condition, paid sick leave, or other benefits otherwise available to the employee, will be unavailable to him or her. In case of a dispute as to whether the employee can perform assigned work, the employer may use its own doctors or other experts to evaluate the employee's medical condition, or work capacity.

ARTICLE 25 - LONG TERM DISABILITY INCOME

25.1 Any employee who has been continuously employed by the City for not less than six (6) months in the classified and/or unclassified service shall be eligible for long term income protection to age 70 for disability; however, there shall be no such protection for total disability caused by any injury or illness for which the employee received professional medical care or treatment within ninety (90) consecutive days prior to when the employee otherwise becomes eligible for such protection, unless ninety (90) consecutive days elapse from the time when the employee otherwise would be eligible for such protection and during such ninety (90) consecutive days the employee neither receives nor required professional medical care or treatment for such injury or illness.

25.2 For the purposes of this Article, disability means that which is caused by illness or injury which occurs during the employee's term of employment and which prevents the employee from performing the major tasks of the employee's position.

25.3 Payment of benefits pursuant to this article to a disabled employee shall commence when the employee exhausts his

or her allowance of 120 days of sick leave with full pay provided by Article 24 of this Agreement. The amount of such payments shall be 65% of the employee's basic hourly rate as of the time commencement of such protection, but shall not exceed an amount equivalent to a monthly rate of pay of \$3,500; however, for any pay period, the amount of such protection shall be reduced by any amount that the employee receives for such pay period as a retirement or disability pension from the Public Employees Retirement Association, the Duluth Firemen's Relief Association, the Duluth Police Pension Association, or from the federal government pursuant to the federal Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance Act, and by any other insurance or disability annuity payment, and by any amount that the employee receives as worker's compensation in lieu of wages or salary. Any cost of living adjustment to any amount received as a retirement or disability pension or as worker's compensation shall not be used to reduce the amount of such protection. The amount of such protection for any pay period shall also be reduced by any amount that the employee receives as wages or salary during that pay period, but only when the total amount that the employee has received for wages or salary during the calendar year exceeds \$5,000.

25.4 Payments of benefits due under this article shall be calculated for each regular pay period, and shall be paid for the period at the same time as employees are then paid pursuant to Article 22 of this Agreement. For any pay period the City may deduct from the payment of benefits any amount which the employee previously received as payments of benefits but to which the employee was not entitled because of the provisions of this Article.

25.5 As benefits due under this article the employer may offer to any employee who is disabled, an assignment within the work structure of the Fire Department, at such employee's present rate of pay, to any position, or one with tasks or equipment modified to accommodate employees medical restrictions, in his or her present or lower classification, the duties of which the employee is medically able to perform. Such assignment shall not result in the denial of promotion to, or the layoff of, a classified employee.

25.6 Within 24 months from the date of commencement of LTD benefit payments, if the employee is still receiving benefits pursuant to this article, the employee shall:

(a) Return to the position with the City which the employee occupied when he or she became disabled; or return to a position with the City, which may have tasks or equipment modified to accommodate the employee's medical restrictions, for which the employee is qualified, if such position is available; but only if the employee provides written information from a physician, chosen and compensated by the City, which indicates that the employee is then capable of performing the duties of such position; or

(b) Request rehabilitation or retraining designed to return the employee to other work which produces an economic status as close as possible to that enjoyed by the employee before the illness or injury; the costs of such rehabilitation and/or retraining shall be borne by the City; such rehabilitation or retraining may include, but is not limited to, medical evaluation, physical rehabilitation, work evaluation, counseling, job placement, and implementation of on-the-job short-term training; or

(c) Apply for continuing permanent total disability status. Total disability (as defined in Minnesota Statutes 176.101, Subd. 5) means the total and permanent loss of the sight of both eyes, the loss of both arms at the shoulder, the loss of both legs so close to the hips that no effective artificial member can be used, complete and permanent paralysis, total and permanent loss of mental faculties, or any other injury or illness which totally incapacitates the employee from working at an occupation which brings him or her an income.

25.7 Receipt of long-term income protection benefits shall cease at the expiration of 24 months from the date of commencement of LTD benefit payments unless the employee has complied with Part 25.6 of this Article and has been determined to be returned to work, rehabilitated and/or retrained, or eligible for continuing total disability benefits because he or she is disabled as defined in paragraph 25.6(c). Such determination shall occur upon the occurrence of both of the following:

(a) Medical verification by the employee's treating physician and a physician appointed by the City that the determination is consistent with the employee's medical condition. In event of disagreement, a third person mutually agreed upon by the employee and the City shall act as arbitrator. The arbitrator's decision as to whether the determination is

consistent with the employee's medical condition shall be binding on both parties.

(b) Approval by the City Disability Board. The Long Term City Disability Board shall consist of one (1) State of Minnesota Worker's Compensation Judge, one member of the bargaining unit appointed by the union, and the personnel director.

ARTICLE 26 - LIFE INSURANCE

26.1 The Employer shall pay the full cost of \$50,000 group term life insurance for each eligible employee. All employees shall receive such life insurance coverage on the first day of the calendar month following completion of six (6) months service.

26.2 Such insurance terminates on the last day of the month in which an employee terminates his/her employment. Employees are responsible to contact the Auditor's office at least one (1) month prior to retirement to verify any insurance benefits due after termination.

26.3 While an employee is entitled to receive long-term income protection pursuant to Article 25 of this Agreement, the Employer shall maintain such life insurance coverage for such employee as it does for active employees.

ARTICLE 27 - LIFE INSURANCE - RETIREES

27.1 The Employer shall pay full cost of term life insurance for any employee who retires from employment with the City on or after January 1, 1983, after having been employed by the City for such total time so as to be qualified by such employment to receive retirement benefits from the Public Employees Retirement Association, the Duluth Firemen's Relief Association, or the Duluth Police Pension Association. The amount of such insurance coverage shall be \$6,250.

ARTICLE 28 - LEAVES OF ABSENCE

28.1 Any employee who is mentally or physically incapacitated to perform his/her duties or who desires to engage in a course of study such as will increase his/her usefulness on his/her return to the City, or who for any reason considered good by the Chief desires to secure leave from his/her regular duties, may, on written request approved by the Chief, be granted special

leave of absence without pay for a period not exceeding one (1) year, provided, however, any leave that exceeds thirty (30) calendar days must also be approved by the Personnel Director.

28.2 Any employee asking for special leave without pay shall submit his/her request in writing, stating the reasons why in his/her opinion the request should be granted, the date when he desires the leave to begin and the probable date of his/her return.

28.3 For each separate case of special leave without pay, the Chief shall, at the time he/she approves the leave, determine whether the employee granted such leave shall be entitled to his/her former position on his/her return from such leave or whether his/her name shall be placed on the re-employment list for the class.

28.4 No leaves without pay over thirty (30) days will be granted until the employee has used all accumulated vacation and accrued compensatory leave.

28.5 No benefits or seniority shall be accrued by the employee during such leave, however, any employee wishing to be covered under the City's insurance plans may for the first six (6) months of such leave pay both the employee's and the employer's share of the cost of coverage. No sick leave will be granted to an employee on a leave of absence.

28.6 A member of the Union accepting the appointed position of Fire Chief or Deputy Fire Chief shall be on a leave of absence during the period of such appointment and upon the expiration of such appointment shall be reinstated to the class he/she held prior to such appointment.

28.7 Military leave shall be handled as governed by appropriate Federal and State laws.

28.8 Maternity leave shall be granted in accordance with Minnesota state law.

ARTICLE 29 - DEMOTIONS

29.1 Upon the request of an employee or by the appointing authority an employee may be reclassified from a higher to a lower position, which in the discretion of the appointing authority, the employee is eligible to fill.

29.2 The appointing authority proposing the demotion of an employee shall make his/her recommendation in writing to the Civil Service Board, and shall supply the future date on which the proposed demotion is to become effective, the class to which it is proposed to demote the employee, the new rate of pay, and any other information that the Civil Service Board may require, including specific reasons for the demotion. The recommendation shall also advise the employee that he/she may grieve pursuant to Article 35 of this agreement if he/she does not agree with the appointing authorities recommendations.

ARTICLE 30 - DISCIPLINE AND DISCHARGE

30.1 An employee who is removed from his/her position while on probation shall have the right to revert to the last position in which he/she completed a probation period.

30.2 Any employee who has completed the probationary period may be suspended without pay, discharged or disciplined only for just cause. Discipline may be grieved by the employee through the regular grievance procedure as provided in Article 35. Under normal circumstances, disciplinarye shall be progressive in application and shall include only the following: 1) Written Reprimand; 2) Suspension; 3) Involuntary Demotion; 4) Removal. Except in the case of a severe or dangerous breach of discipline (such as refusing to carry out lawful reasonable orders during an emergency situation), any suspension, involuntary demotion, or removal action shall be preceded by a warning.

30.3 The Chief or any supervisor acting for him/her, may for disciplinary purposes, suspend without pay any employee under his or her supervision in his or her department for one or more periods aggregating not more than thirty (30) calendar days in a calendar year. He/she shall as soon as practicable give written notice to the employee stating the reason for the suspension, the duration thereof, and advise the employee that he/she may grieve pursuant to Article 35 if he/she disagrees with the action. He/she shall personally deliver such written notice to the employee or mail it to his/her last known address by certified mail.

30.4 The Chief, any member of the Board, or the Personnel Director may file written charges, in duplicate, to the Personnel Director asking for the removal of any employee. Any charge filed against any employee shall state specifically the act or acts constituting cause for removal. Upon receiving any such charge the Personnel Director shall forthwith mail one (1) copy

by certified mail to the last known address of the employee and advise the employee he/she may grieve pursuant to Article 35 if he/she disagrees with the action.

30.5 Discipline involving physical fitness or smoking standards.

The union and the employer agree that the purpose of the administration of physical fitness standards or tobacco use standards is to assure that a good faith effort is made to protect the health of employees who have passed probation, and to facilitate their continued employment.

30.6 The Chief, or his or her designee, may, for work related reason, stated in writing to the employee, require an employee to submit to a medical examination to determine an employee's medical fitness to do the tasks of his/her employment, and be present at the work place. The employer will pay the cost of the examination. The employer will schedule the examination during regular work hours. The employee may refuse the first examiner chosen by the employer. The examiner's findings will be reported to the employee.

ARTICLE 31 - UNION NOTIFICATION

In the case of any reprimand, the employee shall have the right to have a union representative present. Further, if any employee shall have any letter of notice served to him/her by the employer in regards to any discipline or warning, the Union shall be served with the notice, by way of department mail, at the same time that the employee is served.

ARTICLE 32 - RESIGNATIONS

32.1 Any employee who wishes to resign in good standing shall give the Chief written notice of at least four (4) weeks, unless the Chief consents to his/her leaving on shorter notice. Such notice of resignation shall be forwarded forthwith to the secretary by the Chief, together with a report as to the character of the employee's service.

32.2 If any employee resigns without giving the required notice, the secretary shall enter that fact on his/her roster card, and such failure to give the required notice may be considered sufficient reason for rejecting any future application from him/her to enter tests.

32.3 Any employee who has resigned after giving proper notice may, within thirty (30) days after termination of employment, and with the consent of the Chief withdraw his/her resignation and be restored to the position vacated if such position is still vacant or is filled by a provisional employee; if it is not thus available, he/she may, upon written request to the Administrative Assistant, have his/her name placed on the re-employment list for the appropriate class.

32.4 Any employee who is absent from duty for two (2) scheduled work shifts without securing leave from the Chief or without notifying him/her of the reason for his/her absence and the time when he/she expects to return, or who fails to notify the Chief of his/her readiness to resume his/her duties within five (5) days after the expiration of a leave of absence, shall be considered to have resigned, and such resignation shall be treated as a resignation without notice and a report thereof made to the Administrative Assistant.

ARTICLE 33 - LAYOFFS

33.1 When the employer determines it is desirable, in order to obtain efficiencies, or for other causes for which no employee is at fault, to reduce the number of employees within a certain class, the Chief shall act in accordance with this Article.

33.2 Temporary, provisional, and substitute employees in such class in the department shall first be terminated. Then such reduction shall be made on the basis of seniority; the employee with the least seniority in such class shall be the first to be displaced from such class and so on. Any employee displaced from such class shall be demoted to the next lower class in which he completed the probation period. Employees shall have their seniority from any reduced classification added to their lower classification seniority for determination of seniority in the lower classification.

33.3 The above described procedure shall be re-applied, as is necessary, through to the lowest class; when there is no lower class to which to demote an employee, an employee who would otherwise be demoted shall be laid off.

33.4 If persons in a class from which a demotion is to be made have equal seniority in such class, seniority between or amongst such persons shall be determined by the total time such persons have been employed in the classified service by the City.

33.5 The name of any employee who is demoted or laid off pursuant to this section shall be placed on the re-employment list for each class from which he/she is laid off. This paragraph shall not be applicable to any temporary or provisional employee.

33.6 Demotions or layoffs of an employee made pursuant to this article shall not be deemed to be a removal which is subject to Article 31.

ARTICLE 34 - RE-EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

34.1 The name of any person who has been laid off shall be placed on the re-employment list.

34.2 The names shall be arranged on the re-employment list for each class, in which they completed a probationary period, in the order of their total seniority in that and higher classes; provided, that if any employee has not been re-employed, the Personnel Director shall, on or about the anniversary date of the layoff, contact each person laid off by certified mail to determine if such person is interested in re-employment. If the person is no longer interested, or without giving a satisfactory reason, refuses to accept an appointment offered him/her, the Personnel Director may remove his/her name from the re-employment list.

ARTICLE 35 - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

35.1 An employee or group of employees with a grievance shall within thirty (30) calendar days after the first occurrence of the event giving rise to the grievance present such grievance through the Grievance Committee in writing to the Chief, or in the Chief's absence, to his or her authorized representative.

35.2 The Chief or his or her authorized representative shall present the Employer's position in writing to the employee or employees and the Grievance Committee within seven (7) calendar days after receipt of such grievance. Grievances not resolved within the Fire Department must be presented by the employee or employees through the Grievance Committee in writing to the Personnel Director within twelve (12) calendar days after the Chief has given his or her reply to such grievance. The Personnel Director shall reply to the aggrieved employee or employees and the Grievance Committee within twelve (12) calendar days after receipt of such grievance. The resolution of grievances settled by the procedures set forth in this paragraph

shall be reduced to writing and signed by the employee or employees, the Grievance Committee and the Employer.

35.3 If the grievance is not settled in accordance with the foregoing procedure, the Grievance Committee may, within nine (9) calendar days after receipt of the reply of the Personnel Director submit the grievance to arbitration by serving notice in writing of such submittal upon the Personnel Director. The parties shall attempt to agree upon an arbitrator within seven (7) calendar days after submittal of the grievance to arbitration and in the event the parties are unable to agree upon an arbitrator within said seven (7) day period, either party may request the Public Employment Relations Board of the State of Minnesota to submit a panel of five (5) arbitrators. The parties shall each have the right to alternately strike two (2) names from the panel. If the parties are unable to agree on who shall strike the first name, the question shall be decided by a flip of the coin. The remaining person shall be the arbitrator. The arbitrator shall be notified of his/her selection by a joint letter from the parties requesting that he/she set a time and a place for a hearing on the grievance, subject to the availability of the parties.

35.4 The arbitrator shall have no right to amend, modify, nullify, ignore, add to, or subtract from the provisions of this Agreement. He/she shall consider and decide only the specific issue(s) submitted to him/her in writing by the parties, and shall have no authority to make a decision on any other issue not so submitted to him/her. More than one (1) grievance may be heard by the same arbitrator by mutual written agreement of the parties. Either party may, if it desires, submit a brief to the arbitrator setting forth its position with respect to the issue(s) involved in a grievance. The arbitrator shall be without power to make decisions contrary to or inconsistent with or modifying or varying in any way the application of laws and rules and regulations having the force and effect of law. The arbitrator shall submit his/her decision in writing to the parties and shall file a copy of such decision with the Bureau of Mediation Services of the State of Minnesota. The decision shall be based solely upon his/her interpretation of the meaning or application of the express terms of this Agreement to the facts of the grievance presented.

35.5 The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding upon the parties, except that an appeal may be taken to the District Court on the grounds that the order of the arbitrator violates the provisions of Minnesota Statutes

Annotated, Section 179.72, Subd. 7, or its successor, relating to the scope of such order.

35.6 The fee and expenses of the arbitrator shall be divided equally between the parties. Each party shall be responsible for compensating its own witnesses. If either party desires a verbatim record of the arbitration proceedings, it may cause such a record to be made, providing it pays for the record. If both parties desire a verbatim record of such proceedings, the cost shall be shared equally.

35.7 If a grievance is not presented within the time limits set forth above, it shall be considered waived. If a grievance is not appealed to the next step within the specified time limit or any agreed extension thereof, it shall be considered settled on the basis of the Employer's last answer. If the Employer does not answer a grievance or an appeal thereof within the specified time limits, the employee or employees or Grievance Committee may elect to treat the grievance as denied at that step and immediately appeal the grievance to the next step. The time limit in each step may be extended by mutual written agreement of the parties involved in each step.

35.8 All documents, communications, and records dealing with a grievance shall be filed separately from the personnel files of the employees involved.

35.9 Access to all information necessary to the determination and processing of a grievance shall be made available to all participants.

ARTICLE 36 - SENIORITY - VACATION AND PERSONAL LEAVE RIGHTS; ASSIGNMENTS

36.1 For purposes of this Agreement, seniority shall be determined by the employee's length of continuous full-time service with the Fire Department. The term "continuous service", as used in this article, shall mean a period of employment which has not been interrupted by more than thirty (30) days at any one time, except by authorized leave of absence.

36.2 If two or more employees who were hired after January 1, 1983, have the same length of continuous service, any such employee with the highest score on the civil service eligible list from which he/she was appointed shall be deemed to have the most seniority, and so on. If two or more employees have the

same length of continuous service and the same such scores, their seniority shall be determined by drawing lots.

36.3 Subject to the Chief's right to determine the time at which vacation and personal leave with pay may be taken, vacation and personal leave selection rights shall be determined within work groups by seniority. Vacations will be picked one week at a time (4 - 24 hour shifts) according to seniority by shift. If it should be necessary to move a previously picked vacation because of permanent change in work group, the employee shall be given the vacation that most closely approximates the same time period of original vacation. A vacation shall be deemed four (4) consecutive shifts or as many consecutive shifts as employee has remaining vacation time.

36.4 The Employer and Union agree with the principle that seniority shall be a factor in making assignments.

ARTICLE 37 - MISCELLANEOUS

37.1 The Employer agrees to continue providing training material, safety equipment, rubber boots, hygienic supplies, and supplies and materials for cleaning and maintaining the fire stations at the same level as provided during 1978.

37.2 The Employer agrees to keep the firehalls structurally safe and sound.

37.3 Employees shall be permitted, at their expense, to have one private phone in each firehall, which shall be used solely for non-business matters.

37.4 In the event an employee reports to his/her duty station and is thereafter assigned to a different fire station, the Employer agrees to provide such employee with transportation to such different station and back to his/her original duty station after completion of his/her assignment.

ARTICLE 38 - SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO 24-HOUR SHIFTS

38.1 The parties agree that the working of the 24-hour shifts contemplated by this Agreement for employees on a fifty-six (56) hour week creates a need for granting certain special working conditions and employee privileges to such employees. With the understanding between the parties that these special working conditions and privileges may not be appropriate

should the employees no longer be working 24-hour shifts, the Employer agrees that the following provisions shall be applicable to employees working 24-hour shifts:

38.2 Employees may exchange work shifts with a qualified employee after obtaining permission from the employer. All trades permitted under this paragraph must be paid back in whatever manner is necessary to avoid the payment of overtime wages.

38.3 Employees may keep present and like recreational equipment in the firehalls and make use of such equipment at times when they are not assigned to work duties.

38.4 Employer will provide sanitary, safe, and habitable quarters for employees in areas where they live in the firehalls.

38.5 Employees may use the beds in the firehalls between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. throughout the week and between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and the legal holidays designated in Article 13.

38.6 The employer shall determine whether a fire demonstration or first aid demonstration to the public shall be presented. If a demonstration is to be presented, the employer shall ask for volunteers to make the demonstration. Participation in such a demonstration by an employee shall be purely voluntary on the employee's part. The employer shall not require participation by an employee. If an employee refuses to participate he/she shall not be subject to penalty or disciplinary action. When an employee voluntarily participates, he/she shall not receive overtime, special pay, nor shall he/she receive any compensatory time off as a result of his/her participation. This paragraph does not apply to employees working on the forty (40) week schedule whose regular job includes giving demonstrations.

38.7 The employer shall provide on-site parking at all fire stations. There shall be no cost to the employee for parking.

ARTICLE 39 - SAFETY

39.1 The Union has requested that certain existing operating procedures be made a part of this Agreement because it believes that these operating procedures are important to the safety of its members. The Employer does not wish to make these operating procedures a part of this Agreement because of the potential

difficulty it may have in changing such procedures in the future. However, because the Employer recognizes that there are certain unique hazards associated with fire service and because the Employer wishes to insure that appropriate consideration be given to the matter of the safety of the fire fighters, and because the Employer wishes to take advantage of the knowledge and ideas possessed by fire fighters, it agrees that it shall not change the operating procedures listed below without having first conducted a conference on the subject with representatives of the Union. The operating procedures referred to are as follows:

39.2 A minimum of two (2) employees shall be assigned at all times to engine companies in the Gary-New Duluth, Woodland and Lakeside fire stations, as long as the employer maintains engine companies in these locations.

39.3 A minimum of three (3) employees shall be assigned at all times to ladder companies and engine companies not covered by paragraph 1, above, except that one (1) employee may be assigned to the Park Point fire station engine company.

39.4 At least two (2) engine companies or one (1) engine company and one (1) ladder company shall respond immediately to all fire alarms indicating a structural fire, if at the time of such alarm all engine and ladder companies are available for service.

39.5 At #4 Fire Station the employer has two units of equipment: One Quint Rig, and one Rescue Squad #244. The manning levels to be maintained on these units is: Two employees on Squad #244 and three employees on the Quint Rig. When the Quint unit is planned to be used as a combined engine and ladder unit, it will be operated by a five employee team, including the three employees whose regular work assignment is to the Quint Rig. When the Quint unit is operated by only the three employees who are assigned to it, rather than a five employee team, it shall operate as a ladder company or an engine company.

ARTICLE 40 - REST PERIOD

Employees whose normal work week is forty (40) hours shall be permitted a rest period of fifteen (15) minutes during each one-half (½) shift. Such rest period will be taken at such time as is established by the Chief.

ARTICLE 41 - NO STRIKE PROVISION

41.1 Neither the Union, its officers or agents, nor any of the employees covered by this Agreement will engage in, encourage, sanction, support or suggest any strikes, slow downs, mass resignations, mass absenteeism, the willful absence from one's position, the stoppage of work or the abstinence in whole or in part of the full, faithful and proper performance of the duties of employment for the purpose of inducing, influencing or coercing a change in the conditions or compensation or the rights, privileges or obligations of employment. In the event that any employee violates this article, the Union shall immediately notify any such employee in writing to cease and desist from such action and shall instruct them to immediately return to their normal duties. Any or all employees who violate any of the provisions of this article may be discharged or otherwise disciplined.

ARTICLE 42 - EMPLOYER TO DEFEND AND INDEMNIFY EMPLOYEES

42.1 The Employer and the Union recognize the Employer's responsibility to defend and indemnify employees as required by Chapter 466 and by Section 471.86 of Minnesota Statutes.

ARTICLE 43 - COMPLETE AGREEMENT AND WAIVER OF BARGAINING

43.1 The parties acknowledge that the provisions contained in this Agreement constitute the entire agreement between the parties, and that the provisions of this Agreement are not subject to renegotiation, except with the mutual consent of the parties.

ARTICLE 44 - UNRESOLVED ISSUES

44.1 The parties agree to meet and confer in the insurance committee for appropriate changes in the medical insurance plan, and long term disability plan, or the effects of state or federal legislation, to achieve reasonable and conservative cost containment suggestions, and then, upon request ~~or~~ of either party, negotiate contract changes, if possible.

44.2 The parties will also continue to meet and confer, or upon request of either, to meet and negotiate, upon the issues of long term disability plan or in the relationship between PERA and union members.

ARTICLE 45 - DURATION OF AGREEMENT

45.1 This Agreement shall be effective as of the 1st day of January, 200~~0~~3, and shall remain in full force and effect through the 31st day of December, 200~~2~~3, and after that date the agreement survives until the parties agree to a new contract, as provided by law.

ARTICLE 46 - DISTRIBUTION OF COPIES OF AGREEMENT

46.1 The Employer shall give to each present employee, and to each new employee when he or she is hired, a copy of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 47 - JURY DUTY

47.1 Any employee shall receive a leave of absence with pay for any required appearance for jury duty; however, if the employee is released from such duty prior to the expiration of his or her normal shift, he or she shall immediately return to his or her job and continue his or her duties as an employee.

ARTICLE 48 - HAZMAT TEAM

48.1. Each employee assigned to the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team must remain qualified as required by the Employer. The Employer shall provide training that it requires.

48.2. Employees responding to hazardous materials incidents, while inside or outside the geographic city limits of Duluth, shall be covered by the same terms and conditions of employment and contract provisions in this contract. The only exceptions to these provisions are those specifically stated in this article.

48.3. When the Employer directs the hazmat team to respond to an incident outside the geographic limits of the city of Duluth, each employee on the responding team shall be paid two and one-half (2½) times his or her regular rate of pay.

48.4. Team members shall be subject to the following provision.

(a) Members of the hazmat team may be required when making trades to trade with equally qualified hazmat team member when necessary to maintain minimum team strength.

(b) A seniority based bid for a job assignment to a vacant position may be denied if it would result in a shortage of qualified hazmat personnel on a given shift. However, the manpower pool will be used to balance hazmat team members whenever possible.

(c) Members of the hazmat team may be denied an open vacation pick if it would result in shortage of qualified hazmat personnel on a given shift. However, the manpower pool will be used to balance hazmat team members whenever possible.

(d) Team members shall be chosen from qualified employees by seniority by shift.

48.5 The Employer may change, expand, or terminate the hazmat program as an exercise of its management rights, without any requirement to meet and negotiate about the effects of its decision. The implementation of the program is dependent upon the department's needs and resources and the availability of state funding. The parties specifically agree that the operation of this program shall not be construed as a binding practice of the parties. The Employer reserves all its management rights. During the time the Employer is operating a hazardous materials team, it will be bound by this labor contract as far as pay rates, seniority, and benefits are concerned, as specified above. This section specifies that the program may be changed or eliminated without negotiation, but the effect of any such change on any employee will be administered according to this contract, and no contract rights will be lost by any employee.

48.6 Station uniforms and personal articles of clothing shall be replaced if damaged during the team's response to hazardous material event.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement the day and year first above written.

CITY OF DULUTH

LOCAL 101, INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS

By _____
By _____
 Mayor

Its President

Attest _____
By _____
 City Clerk

Its Secretary

By _____
 Administrative Assistant

Approved as to form:

 Deputy City Attorney

APPENDIX I

<u>TITLE</u> <u>CLASS NO.</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>J O B</u>
Fire Equipment Mechanic 4122	226	
Fire Fighter 4401	226	
Fire Equipment Operator 4109	227	
Fire Inspector 4110	228	
Fire Captain 1713	228	
Deputy Fire Marshal 3209	230	
Training Officer Classified	231	N o t
Assistant Fire Chief II 1329	231	
Fire Marshal 1333	233	
Assistant Fire Chief I 1329	233	

Effective January 1, 2003, the monthly salaries of employees in the various pay ranges shall be as follows:

2003 BASIC MONTHLY PAY

Range No. Step D	Step A Step E	Step B	Step C
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226	90% of 3127	2814	3278	
3742				
227				3929
228				4125
229				4331
230				4548
231				4775
232				5014
233				5265