

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST
AND
LAKEHURST POLICE ASSOCIATION
AN AFFILIATE OF FOP NEW
JERSEY LABOR COUNCIL

JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026

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PREAMBLE

THIS AGREEMENT, made this__day of_____, 2014, by and between the BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST (hereafter "the Employer"); and the LAKEHURST POLICE ASSOCIATION an affiliate of the FOP New Jersey Labor Council (hereafter "the Association");

WHEREAS, the parties have carried on collective bargaining for the purpose of developing a contract covering wages, hours of work, and other terms and conditions of employment; and

WHEREAS, the parties have determined it is in their collective best interests to enter into a new contract to be effective January 1, 2024 thru December 31, 2026 under the terms and conditions set forth herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and mutual agreements hereafter contained, the parties hereto agree with each other with respect to the Employees of the Employer recognized as being represented by the Association, as follows:

ARTICLE 1 DEFINITIONS

- A. "Employer means the Borough of Lakehurst.
- B. "Association" means the Lakehurst Police Association, an affiliate of the NJ FOP Labor Council.
- C. "Employee" means a sworn, full-time Police Officer, Sergeant, or Lieutenant of the Police Department of the Borough of Lakehurst, not including school crossing guards, SLEO I or SLEO II officers.
- D. "Department" means the Police Department of the Borough of Lakehurst.
- E. "Chief" means the Chief of Police of the Borough of Lakehurst.
- F. "Grievance" means such disputes arising under and covered by the Grievance Procedure in Article 21.
- G. "Grievant" means a person who has filed a grievance as herein before defined.
- H. "Immediate Family" shall include spouse, child/stepchild, parent/step-parent, mother, father, mother in-law, father in-law, grandparent/step-grandparent, siblings, civil/domestic partners and those family members who regularly reside in the employee's household that said employee has legal guardianship over.

- I. "Borough Council" means the Borough Council of the Borough of Lakehurst.
- J. "Education Credit" is based on advanced in-service training at a rate of one (1) training day equals one (1) credit.
- K. "Union" shall mean the New Jersey FOP Labor Council.

ARTICLE 2 ASSOCIATION RIGHTS AND RECOGNITION

The employee hereby recognizes the Association as the exclusive representative for full-time Police Officers, Sergeants, and Lieutenants (hereafter "the Employees" of the Lakehurst Police Department). The Association shall have all those rights hereafter set forth.

- A. The Administration shall withhold FOP Dues from each FOP Lodge 179 member's pay in an amount authorized by FOP Lodge 179. Dues shall not be withheld from Officers who are not members of FOP Lodge 179 as of June 27, 2018. The FOP will deliver to the administration a request for payroll deduction signed by each new FOP Lodge 179 member or any non-member who voluntarily requests to continue to pay dues. Any new Officer may submit the form at the time of his/her hiring.
- B. The Union shall indemnify, defend and save the Borough harmless against any and all claims, demands, suits or other forms of liability that shall arise out of or by reason of action taken by the Borough in reliance upon salary deduction authorization cards as furnished by the Union to the Borough, or reliance upon the official notification on the letterhead of the Union and signed by the President of the Union, advising of the names of employees to have deductions made. This shall include any future change in employees, change of amount to be deducted, or other requested action in respect to this section.
- C. The duly authorized representative of the Association will be permitted to attend NJ State and National FOP Conventions as provided in NJSA 40A:14-177; also the president of the Association or his designee shall have reasonable release time from duty with pay to handle and process grievances or other labor matters with the employer.
- D. The Borough of Lakehurst and the FOP agree to abide by the tenants of the Workplace Democracy Enhancement Act.

ARTICLE 3 MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

- A. The Association recognizes that there are certain functions, responsibilities, and

management rights exclusively reserved for the Employer. The rights, powers and authority possessed by the Employer prior to the signing of this Agreement are retained exclusively by the Employer, subject only to such limitations as are specifically provided in this Agreement. Such rights, powers and authority shall include, but are not limited to:

1. The right of the Chief to establish Departmental rules and regulations.
 2. The right of the Chief to direct the work of the Employees, including the schedule of overtime work, in the manner most advantageous to the Employer, and consistent with the applicable provisions of this Agreement.
 3. The right of the appropriate authority to hire, promote, assign, transfer and retain Employees.
 4. The right of the appropriate authority to demote, suspend, discipline, or discharge Employees for proper cause.
 5. The right of the appropriate authority to relieve Employees from duties for legitimate reasons, such as budgetary considerations.
- B. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to deny or restrict the Employer of its rights, responsibilities, and authority under R.S. 40A:1-1, et seq. or any national, state, county, or local laws and regulations.
- C. The parties recognize that the exercise of managerial rights is a responsibility of the Employer on behalf of the taxpayers and that the Employer cannot bargain away or eliminate any of its managerial rights.

ARTICLE 4 NEGOTIATION OF SUCCESSOR AGREEMENT

Both parties agree to commence negotiations for the year 2027 no later than September 1, 2026, unless this date is mutually extended. After negotiations commence, the parties agree to meet at least once a week, unless they mutually agree otherwise. In the event negotiations are not completed for a new agreement on or before the expiration date of this agreement, the parties agree that this agreement shall remain in full force and effect until such time as a new agreement is reached.

ARTICLE 5 SALARIES

A. Base Salary Guides

1. See Attached salary table guide (Appendix A)

- B. An Employee shall move to the next step in the Salary Guide on January 1st of each year.
- C. An Employee may receive a merit advancement, time waived and without prejudice, upon written recommendation to the Employer by the Chief and consent of the Mayor and Borough Council.
- D. Per annum salaries shall be paid twice a month on the 15th and 30th. In the event the 15th or 30th falls on a weekend or holiday, the payment will be made the first available day prior to the weekend or holiday.

ARTICLE 6 WORK HOURS

- A. The daily scheduling shall be at the discretion of the Chief of Police. The Chief will post a quarterly schedule for the department two weeks prior to the beginning of the quarter.
- B. No change in the work schedule of an Employee, except in cases of emergency (i.e. sick leave) shall occur unless the Employee is provided with forty-eight (48) hours advance written notice of same.
- C. In the event the Police Chief, after consultation with the Employer changes the work schedule of an Employee without providing forty-eight (48) hours advance written notice, absent an emergency, the Employee shall be compensated at a rate of regular pay plus one-half (1/2) for that period of time worked prior to receiving forty-eight (48) hours advance written notice.
- D. In the event the Police Chief, after consultation with the Employer changes the 10-hour work schedule of an Employee to an 8-hour work schedule and provides forty-eight (48) hours' advance written notice, the Employee shall be entitled to a differential equal to 2.5% of the Employee's base salary, per diem, for each 8-hour day worked to be paid retroactive to day one.
- E. The additional compensation referred to in Paragraphs C and D above shall not apply to training.

ARTICLE 7 OVERTIME AND RECALL

- A. An Employee working in excess of his/her regular hours of duty shall be paid at the rate of time and one half (1 ½) for the time worked.
- B. Recall will be a minimum of four (4) hours. Recall time will be at a rate of time and

one half (1 ½). No overtime will be paid for inspections.

1. An Employee may be held past their shift and work until relieved from duty, Employees will be paid hour of hour at the rate of time and one half (1 ½) until relieved.
 2. The Employee may opt to stay for the full four (4) hours or recall or may choose to leave after their assigned task is completed and receive time and one half (1 ½) for the actual time spent recalled.
- C. Employees shall be entitled to time and one half (1 ½) for court time worked with a two (2) hour minimum. Personnel required to appear before a court or agency while not available for regular duty because of an on-the-job injury shall not be given additional compensation for such an appearance.
- D. Off-duty officers who are required to attend training or non-disciplinary meetings shall be compensated with compensatory time of an hour and one half (1 ½) for a one (1) hour basis.
- E. Supervisors shall receive a yearly stipend of \$2,750.00 to be paid on March 1st of each year in lieu of overtime or compensatory time of being on call to provide telephone or other assistance during their off-duty hours to other members of the department. If the supervisor is recalled physically back into work, then they shall receive recall pay. The Chief of Police shall designate up to four (4) senior police officers (non-Sergeants) to be supervisors.
- F. Officers assigned to the position of Detective shall receive a yearly stipend of \$2,500.00.

ARTICLE 8 HOLIDAYS

- A. There shall be thirteen (13) paid holidays per annum:

New Years Day	Veterans Day
Martin Luther King Day	Thanksgiving Day
Presidents Day	Memorial Day
Independence Day	Good Friday
Easter Sunday	Christmas Day
Labor Day	Election Day
Columbus Day	

Holiday pay for the aforementioned holidays shall be included in the employee's base salary and be in addition to the compensation provided by Article 5 of the Agreement.

- B. Those Employees who actually work on any of the above-mentioned holidays shall

receive time and one half (1 ½) pay for a full working tour on that day.

- C. An Employee on a leave of absence (i.e. non-work-related injury leave) shall not be eligible for paid holidays, which fall during the Employee's leave of absence.

ARTICLE 9 PERSONAL DAY

- A. Employees covered under this Agreement shall be allowed four (4) days of personal leave annually, not deducted from sick leave, with the approval of the Chief. The form for requesting such leave shall contain an indication whether the personal leave is "religious", "business", or "personal".
- B. A request for personal leave must be made to the employee's department head at least three (3) days prior to the date taken (except in cases of emergency). Personal leave will be granted at the discretion of the department head in order to maintain an efficient work operation.
- C. After an employee completes their probationary period, they will be granted personal days on a prorated basis.
- D. Personal days shall not accumulate from year to year unless denied by the Chief, then the denied day will be paid at time and one half (1 ½) if it cannot be taken prior to the end of the year. All requests for personal days will be submitted by December 1 of each year.
- E. Temporary Employees and part-time Employees are not eligible for this benefit.
- F. One personal day, with the approval of the Chief of Police, may be carried into the next calendar year. The request to carry over a personal day must be made in writing and submitted to the Chief of Police no later than November 1st.

ARTICLE 10 BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

Bereavement Leave is to be considered time from death notification forward in continuous workdays. Bereavement leave is for the mental well-being of the Employee and/or to permit time for necessary functions related to the death and bereavement process only.

- A. In the event of death in an Employee's immediate family, the Employee shall be granted time off without the loss of pay from the day of the death or the day of the funeral, but in no event shall the leave exceed four (4) working days.
- B. In the event of the death of an Employee's aunt, uncle, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law, the Employee shall be granted time off without loss of pay from the day of the

death or the day of the funeral, but in no event shall the leave exceed three (3) working days.

- C. Reasonable verification of the event may be required by the Employer.
- D. Any personal day or vacation day previously scheduled during initial bereavement leave will not be charged to the Officer unless he requests additional bereavement leave.
- E. An Employee may make a request of the Chief of his/her designee for time off to attend a funeral separate and distinct from bereavement leave. Such a request, if granted by the Chief or his/her designee, shall be charged, at the option of the Employee, either as a personal day or against accumulated compensatory time off.
- F. In the event that bereavement leave is not available to an employee pursuant to the above paragraphs, the employee may request to utilize other accumulated leave subject to the approval of the Chief of Police, which said approval shall not be unreasonably denied.

ARTICLE 11 VACATIONS

- A. Vacations are to be granted in accordance with the following scale, based on the actual workday:

Less than 1 year completed service	1 working day per month of
1 year completed	12 working days
3 years completed	15 working days
7 years completed	18 working days
10 years completed	20 working days
15 years completed	25 working days

- B. Requests for the taking of accrued vacation time shall be in writing and addressed to the Chief at least two (2) weeks in advance of the time the vacation is to commence. The Chief shall act on such request at his discretion and consistent with scheduling, manpower, and Department rules regarding seniority.
- C. An Employee on a leave of absence (i.e. non-work-related injury) shall have his/her vacation leave for the year pro-rated for the time absent.
- D. The value of any accrued vacation time at time of retirement or death while still employed by the Borough shall be paid to the employee, the employee's estate or specified beneficiary; however, vacation days may only accrue as permitted by law.

ARTICLE 12

ACTIONS AGAINST OFFICERS

Except in disciplinary cases, whenever an action is brought against an Employee covered by this Agreement for an act of omission arising out of or incidental to the performance of his/her duties, the Employer shall defray the costs of defending such action. The Employee may select his/her own counsel and the Employer shall reimburse the Employee for reasonable attorney fees. In case of a civil action, the Employer shall pay any adverse judgment, and save harmless and protect the Employee from any financial loss resulting therefrom. The Employee shall submit to the Mayor and Borough Council for approval the name of the attorney he/she selects and the estimated fees. Such approval is not to be unreasonably withheld and is to be given with two (2) weeks of submission of the name of the attorney and the estimated fee.

ARTICLE 13

INSURANCE

- A. The Employer shall provide Employees with personal injury and liability insurance as well as false arrest coverage.
- B. The Employer currently provides insurance under the New Jersey State Health Benefit Plan (NJSHBP) and shall continue to provide Employees covered by this Agreement, and their dependent spouses or civil union partners and dependents were applicable, with an insurance plan comparable to NJSHBP. The base plan for employees who commenced employment prior to January 1, 2007 shall be Direct 10. The base plan for all other employees shall be Direct 15. If employees utilize mail-in prescription service, wherever possible, as provided by the Borough, co-payment will be the minimum established by the carrier.
- C. For any health, dental or related services coverage provided by the Employer to the Employees covered by this Agreement, the Employees shall contribute that percentage of the cost of provided plan as per Chapter 78.
- D. The Employer retains the right to change the insurance carriers as long as substantially similar benefits are provided.
- E. The FOP will be given 30 days to review the new coverage prior to change.
- F. Upon retirement (either disability or after 25 years of service) the employer paid health plan in effect for current employees (e.g. family – including spouse at the time of retirement, single, etc.) will be maintained, while eligible, for the retiree until Medicare assumes responsibility at which time the employer's insurance shall become secondary for the life of the retiree. This shall be non-revocable for any retiree gaining the benefit. Annually the retiree shall provide a statement of entitlement for their dependents. Insurance coverage will be modified as dependents become ineligible.

Coverage will be increased in the future. Any employee prohibited from being enrolled in an insurance plan because of marital/dependent status who serves 25 years as an employee of the Borough shall be provided retirement benefit at a cost consistent with the State law at the time of retirement if an event occurred that would terminate the existing dependent coverage.

- G. For any Employee whose spouse or civil union partner has similar available coverage through the Employer, or is provided coverage with NJSHBP through any employer, that Employee shall determine, on a yearly basis as directed by the Employer, whether the Employee or the Employee's spouse or civil union partner shall be offered coverage through the Employer.
- H. If the Employee elects to use the health benefits of the spouse, he/she will be paid by the Borough the lesser of \$5,000.00 or 25% of the Borough's cost of purchasing the plan. The payment is not permitted if the spouse obtains coverage through NJSHBP. This shall be a monthly adjustment, not part of normal compensation, and shall not be used to establish a new base salary.

*Upon becoming eligible for Medicare, the municipal provided insurance shall become supplemental to the Medicare A & B policy.

ARTICLE 14 PENSION

Enrollment in a retirement system is covered by state law.

ARTICLE 15 SICK LEAVE

- A. Permanent full-time Employees covered by this Agreement shall be granted sick leave with pay at the rate of one (1) working day for every month of service, based on the number of hours of the Employee's scheduled workday, during balance of the first calendar year of employment, and fifteen (15) working days in every calendar year of service thereafter. The sick time not taken shall be cumulative from year to year to a maximum of three hundred sixty-five (365) days. Upon request by an Employee, an annual report shall be submitted to the Employer showing accumulated time at the end of the calendar year.
- B. Employees hired prior to May 21, 2010 may "sell back" a maximum of fifteen (15) days of sick time per year (150 hours) providing written notification to the employer of their intention by October 1st of the year in which the payment is received. Any employee opting to sell back sick time must maintain a minimum of thirty (30) days of sick leave in their sick leave bank. Providing that these conditions are met and verified by the employer, payment will be made on or about the first pay period of November (November 15th).

C. In the event an illness requires an Employee to take in excess of three (3) consecutive accumulated sick days, the Employee shall submit to the Chief a written statement from his/her treating physician confirming the illness and whether such illness requires the Employee to remain at home and away from duty. In the event an Employee takes in excess of ten (10) consecutive accumulated sick days, the Employer shall have the right to have the Employee periodically examined by a Borough-appointed physician to determine the nature of the illness and whether such illness requires the Employee to remain at home and away from duty.

D. Retirement Benefits:

1. Employees who retire (within the meaning of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System) whether through disability retirement or with twenty-five (25) years of service to the Employer, shall receive their accumulated sick days as pursuant to NJ Law. Should the Department be abolished or if Employees are laid off (within the meaning of the New Jersey Department of Personnel Rules and Regulations), the Employees shall receive payment for unused sick days regardless of years of service.
2. Employees hired after May 21, 2010 who retire (within the meaning of the Police and Fireman's Retirement System) whether through disability retirement, or with twenty-five (25) years of service to the Employer, shall receive payment equivalent to one half (1/2) of their accumulated sick time with a cap of \$15,000.00 (fifteen thousand dollars). Employees hired prior to May 21, 2010 are exempt from the cap limitation on sick time sell back.

E. Sick leave is hereby defined to mean the absence of from post or duty because of illness, accident, or exposure to a contagious disease requiring isolation. This sick leave is not intended for worker's compensation matters.

F. No Employee shall be allowed to work if he/she will endanger the health and wellbeing of other Employees and, if the Employee's condition warrants, the Employee may be directed to take sick leave. The Department Head may direct the Employee to the Borough's medical physician for an opinion as to the Employee's eligibility to be absent from work. The Employer's obligation shall be limited to the sum not reimbursed by the Employee's insurance carrier.

G. Sick leave with pay shall not be allowed under the following conditions:

1. When, in the opinion of the Borough's medical physician, the disability or illness is not of sufficient severity to justify the Employee's absence from duty.
2. When the Employee does not report to the Borough's medical physician in a reasonable time as ordered by the Department Head.

H. The Department Head shall consider the Borough's medical physician's

recommendations and the attending physician's recommendations as to the justification for the absence from duty on account of disability or illness or of the fitness of the Employee to return to duty. Where a difference of professional opinion between the Borough's medical physician and the Employee's personal physician exists, the Department Head reserves the right to require the Employee to submit to an examination by a third doctor at the Employer's expense. The Employer's obligation shall be limited to the sum not reimbursed by the Employee's insurance carrier.

- I. If an employee is absent from work for reasons that entitle him/her to sick leave, the Department Head or designee (i.e. on duty Patrolman or Supervisor) shall be notified as early as possible, but no later than two (2) hours prior to the start of the scheduled work shift. Failure to appropriately notify (as detailed in this paragraph) the Department Head or designee may be cause for denial of the use of sick leave for the absence and may constitute cause of disciplinary action.
- J. An Employee absent for five (5) consecutive days or more who does not notify the Department Head or some other reasonable representative of the Employer on any of the first five (5) days may be subject to discipline in accordance with the New Jersey Attorney General's Internal Affairs Policies and Procedures.
- K. Habitual absenteeism or tardiness may be cause for discipline up to and including discharge subject to the New Jersey Attorney General's Internal Affairs Policies and Procedures.
- L. An Employee who calls in sick and engages in outside employment shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the New Jersey Attorney General's Internal Affairs Policies and Procedures.
- M. **Maternity Leave:** Unless otherwise required by the Family and Medical Leave Act, the New Jersey Family Leave Act, the New Jersey Paid Sick Leave Act or other applicable law, to the extent same are applicable, the Borough shall provide female officers with leave during any period of disability related to her pregnancy and/or childbirth. Officers shall utilize accumulated sick time during any such disability leave period. If no sick time is available, the aforementioned disability leave shall be unpaid. Following recovery from any pregnancy/childbirth-related disability, an officer shall be entitled to up to twelve (12) weeks of unpaid leave. The Borough shall continue the officer's health insurance during this period and the officer shall continue to make any required contributions to the cost of health insurance.
- N. **Compensatory Time Sell Back:** Employees hired after May 21, 2010 who are not allowed to "sell back" sick time may "sell back" a maximum of 80 hours of compensatory time per year providing written notification to the Employer of their intention. Once the request is approved the payment will come in the next available pay period. Any employee opting to "sell back" compensatory time is limited to one (1) opportunity per calendar year to sell back time.

ARTICLE 16 INJURY LEAVE

- A. In the event an employee becomes disabled by reason of work-related injury or disabling illness and is incapable of performing their duties, then in addition to any sick leave benefits provided herein, the employee shall be entitled to receive full pay less any worker's compensation benefits for a period up to one year.
- B. An Employee who is injured, regardless of severity, while working must make an immediate report, prior to the end of his/her shift, to the immediate supervisor. Failure to report such injury may result in the failure of the Employee to receive compensation under this Article.
- C. An Employee shall be required to present evidence by a certificate of a physician that he/she is unable to work, and the Borough may reasonably require the Employee to present such a certificate from time to time.
- D. If the Employer does not accept the certificate of the physician, the Employer shall have the right, at its own cost, to require the Employee to obtain an examination and certification of fitness by a Borough-appointed physician.
- E. Following commencement of injury leave, the Employee shall be examined by a Borough-appointed physician on a monthly basis. Should the Employee not demonstrate improvement or a likelihood of returning to work, the Borough may file an accidental disability involuntary retirement application. Nothing shall preclude the Borough from filing such an application at an earlier time.
- F. In the event the Borough physician certifies an Employee fit to return to duty, injury leave benefits granted under this Article shall be terminated. If, however, the Employee disputes the determination of the Borough physician, then the Employer and Employee shall mutually agree upon a third physician, who shall then examine the Employee. If the determination of the third physician also certifies that Employee fit to return to duty, injury leave benefits granted under this Article shall be terminated.
- G. In the Employer can prove that an Employee has abused his/her privileges under this Article, the Employee will be subject to disciplinary action by the Employer up to an including termination.

ARTICLE 17 CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

The Employer shall provide each Employee with an initial clothing issue. The initial clothing issue shall be defined as:

Two	Class A Pants
Two	Class A Long sleeve shirts
Two	Class A Short sleeve shirts
Two	Class B Pants
Two	Class B Long sleeve shirts
Two	Class B Short sleeve shirts
One	Coveralls
One	Crew Neck sweater
One	Raincoat/hat cover
One	Spring Jacket
One	Leather winter coat
Two	Uniform ties
One	Winter fur hat
One	Class A hat
One	Pair of boots
One	BW Gun belt
One	BW magazine pouch
One	BW handcuff case
One	BW OC spray holder
One	BW Security holder
Four	BW belt keepers
One	Set of Lakehurst Police Dept. collar devices
One	Name plate/with "Serving Since" attachment
One	Tie bar
One	Breast Badge
One	Hat Badge
One	PR-24/or Expandable straight baton w/holder
One	Pair of Peerless handcuffs

- A. Each employee will be given either a cleaning allowance or a cleaning credit (Borough's option) in the amount of eight hundred \$800.00 per year for cleaning of uniforms. Beginning in an employee's second year of employment, in addition to the cleaning allowance, an employee will be given one thousand (\$1000) dollars per year for the replacement of uniforms and equipment. Items that are damaged due to a single incident in the line of duty will be replaced or repaired, at the Chief's discretion, and will not be charged against the allowance.
- B. If the Borough changes uniforms at its behest the cost shall be borne by the Borough. If FOP Lodge 179 suggests a change agreed to by the Borough, the cost of the change will be borne by the officers, clothing allowance may be used towards the cost.
- C. The Employer shall reimburse for any damage or destruction (caused through no negligence of an officer) of clothing or personal articles worn on duty in the Borough.

- D. Requests for reimbursement shall be in writing and submitted to the Chief, along with proof of reasonable replacement costs. The Employee shall surrender the item for which reimbursement is requested to the Chief and it shall become the property of the Employer upon payment to the Employee of the reasonable reimbursement sum.

ARTICLE 18 DEDUCTION PLAN

- A. The Employer agrees to establish through the Borough Treasurer a credit union payroll deduction plan (at no cost to the Employer) for use by those Employees wishing to enroll.
- B. The Employer agrees to establish a Flexible Spending Account for the qualified medical expenses of the employee for use by those Employees desiring to participate, as such plans are defined by I.R.S. §125.

ARTICLE 19 LONGEVITY PLAN

Effective January 1, 2019 longevity was negotiated out of the contract and will no longer be paid to any member. Longevity was removed in exchange for salary raises.

ARTICLE 20 WORKING CONDITIONS

- A. The Employer shall furnish to each Employee protective crash-type headgear approved for use in motor vehicles.
- B. The Employer shall provide and maintain all on-duty firearms and ammunition as well as ammunition for one (1) off-duty weapon (limited caliber of weapons authorized by the department) for each officer pursuant to Departmental rules and regulations.
- C. The Employer shall furnish a municipal vehicle for job-related travel outside of the boundaries of the Borough when such travel and use is authorized by the Chief.
- D. If a municipal vehicle is unavailable and an Employee must use his/her personal vehicle, the employee will receive the IRS rate for personal vehicle usage with prior of the Chief of Police.
- E. FOP Lodge 179 recognizes the need to establish rules and regulations for the proper administration of the Department. Accordingly, the Employer and FOP Lodge 179 recognize Borough Ordinance XIV as the governing rules of the Department, except those provisions as amended by this instrument. Where an issue is not directly addressed by Ordinance XIV or this instrument, the New Jersey Department of Personnel rules and regulations shall apply.

ARTICLE 21

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A. PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this procedure is to secure, at the lowest possible level of administration, an equitable solution to the problems that may arise affecting the terms and conditions of employment under this Agreement.
2. Nothing herein shall be construed as limiting the right of an Employee having a Grievance to discuss the matter informally with an appropriate member of the Department.

B. DEFINITION

1. With regard to Employees, the term "Grievance" as used herein means as appeal by an individual Employee, or the officer on behalf of an individual Employee or group of Employees, from the administrative decisions affecting them, excluding re-employment. With regard to the Employer, the term "Grievance" as used herein means a complaint or controversy arising over the interpretation, application, or alleged violation of the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
2. With respect to Employee Grievances, no Grievance may proceed to binding arbitration unless it constitutes a controversy arising over the interpretation, application, or alleged violation of the terms and conditions of this Agreement, excluding issues of re-employment controlled by statute or administrative regulation incorporated by reference in this Agreement, either expressly or by operation of law, may only proceed to advisory arbitration.

C. PROCEDURE

1. Time Limits: Since it is important that a Grievance be processed as rapidly as possible, the number of days indicated at each level should be considered as a maximum and every effort should be made to expedite the process. The time limits specified may, however, be extended by mutual agreement only. When a Grievance is acted upon, the decision shall be reduced in writing and the Grievant shall be notified thereof. If a Grievance is not acted upon by expiration of the maximum time limit, the Grievant shall have the right to automatically move the Grievance to the next level, without notice to the person not acting upon the Grievance. When moving the Grievance to the next level, the Employee shall indicate that the Grievance was not acted upon below within the maximum time limit. An Employee shall not be subject to discipline for failing to follow the chain of command when the Employee moves a Grievance to the next level when the same was acted upon below.

2. Level One-Line Supervisor: The Grievant or the Association shall institute written action under the provisions of hereof within five (5) calendar days after the event giving arise to the Grievance occurred, or after the receipt of notice, and an earnest effort shall be made to settle the differences between the Grievant and the immediate supervisor for the purpose of resolving the matter informally. Failure to act within said five (5) calendar days shall be deemed to constitute an abandonment of the Grievance.
3. Level Two-Chief of Police: The Grievant shall submit his/her Grievance to the Chief as provided above. If the Grievant is not satisfied with the disposition or no decision has been rendered in writing with ten (10) working days after the Grievance was delivered, the Grievant shall, within a reasonable time, file the Grievance in writing with the Public Safety Committee (Level Three).
4. Level Three-Public Safety Committee: Upon receipt of the written Grievance, the Public Safety Committee shall, within twenty (20) days, set the matter down for hearing, at which time all relevant evidence shall be presented. Within twelve (12) working days of the conclusion of the hearing, the Public Safety Committee shall issue its decision, setting forth its findings and conclusions.
5. Level Four-Arbitration:
 - a. If the Grievant is not satisfied with the disposition at Level Three, or no decision has been rendered within the time period provided in Level Three, the Grievant may request in writing that the Association submit the Grievance to arbitration.
 - b. The Grievant shall submit his/her grievance in wiring to Association Chaiman within five (5) days after the decision by the Public Safety Committee requesting that the Grievance be submitted to arbitration within ten (10) days after receipt of a request by the Grievant.
 - c. Within ten (10) days after such written notice of a submission to arbitration, the Borough Council and the Association shall attempt to agree upon a mutually acceptable arbitrator and shall obtain a commitment from the arbitrator or obtain such a commitment within a specified period. A list of arbitrators may be requested from the Public Employment Relations Commission by either party. The parties shall then be bound by the rules and procedures of the Public Employment Relations Commission in the selection of the arbitrator.
 - d. The arbitrator so selected shall confer with the representatives of the Borough Council and the Association and hold hearings promptly. The arbitrator shall issue his/her decision no later than twenty (20) days from the date of the close of the hearings or, if oral hearings have been waived, then from the date of the

final statements and proofs on the issues are submitted to the arbitrator. The arbitrator's decision shall be in writing and shall set forth his/her findings of fact, reasoning, and conclusions on the issue submitted. The arbitrator shall be without power or authority to make a decision that requires the commission of an act prohibited by law and that is violative of the terms of this Agreement. Such a decision shall be final and binding.

- e. The costs of the services of the arbitrator, including per-diem expenses, if any, and actual necessary travel subsistence expenses, shall be borne equally by the Borough Council and the Association. Any other expenses incurred shall be paid by the party incurring same.

D. RIGHTS OF REPRESENTATION:

1. A Grievant shall be represented at all stages of the Grievance Procedure by him/herself or, at the Grievant's option, a representative selected or approved by FOP Lodge 179. When a member is not represented by the Association, the Association shall have the right to be present to state its view at all stages of the Grievance Procedure.
2. No reprisals of any kind shall be taken by the Borough Council, the Chief, or Association against the party in interest, a representative, an Employee, or any other participant in the Grievance Procedure by reason of such participation.

E. MISCELLANEOUS:

1. If a Grievance affects a group of members, the Association may submit such grievance in writing to the Chief and the processing of the Grievance shall be commenced to Level Two. The Association may process an appropriate Grievance through all levels of the Grievance Procedure even though the Grievant does not wish to do so.
2. Documents, communications, and records dealing with the processing of a Grievance shall be filed in a separate Grievance file and shall not be kept in the personnel file of any of the participants.
3. Forms and filing Grievances, serving notices, and other forms as may be required in the Grievance Procedure shall be prepared jointly by the Chief and the Association and appropriately distributed so as to facilitate operation of the Grievance Procedure.
4. Employees, including the Grievant, shall continue under the direction of the Chief, regardless of any pending Grievance, until such Grievance is properly determined.

ARTICLE 22

SEPARABILITY AND SAVINGS

In the event that any federal or state legislation, governmental regulation, or court decision causes invalidation of an Article of Section in this Agreement or supersedes an Article of Section of this Agreement other Articles and Sections not so invalidated shall remain in full force and effect.

ARTICLE 23

NON-DISCRIMINATION

- A. The Employer and the Association agree that there shall be no discrimination against an Employee because of race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, or political affiliation, as provided by applicable law.
- B. The Employer and the Association agree that Employees covered under this Agreement have the right without fear of penalty or reprisal, to form, join, and assist an Employee organization or to refrain from such activity. There shall be no discrimination by the Employer or the Association against an Employee because of the Employee's membership or non-membership or activity or non-activity.
- C. The Association and its members shall have the right to hold Association Meeting on Lakehurst municipal property. On-duty members may participate in the meetings so long as it does not interfere with their availability for duty.

ARTICLE 24

EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

- A. No officer shall be disciplined, reduced in rank, or denied any advantage without just cause. In all cases, an action taken or recommended by either the Chief or an agent of the Employer shall not be made public and shall be subject to the Grievance Procedure set for in Article 21.
- B. An action concerning discipline shall be subject to the progressive discipline policy, except those actions which serious violations of the Police Department Rules and Regulations or any local or state law. Progressive discipline will be adhered to in accordance with the NJ Attorney General's Guidelines Policies and Procedures on Internal Affairs.
- C. Any time an officer is called before the Borough Council regarding an action which could adversely affect the continuation of employment of that officer, the officer shall be given notice of the meeting and reasons for same and shall have a representative of the Association and/or attorney present to advise him/her at the meeting of the Borough Council.
- D. The parties hereby acknowledge the command responsibility of the Chief and the

responsibilities and duties of that office.

- E. In no case shall an officer be evaluated with deficiencies without the opportunity of the least ninety (90) days to correct any or all deficiencies noted on an evaluation.
- F. Each officer shall have the opportunity to review and photocopy his/her personnel folder at least once every six (6) months by making such request in writing to the Municipal Administrator. In all cases, no materials shall be placed in the personnel folder of an officer relating to disciplinary action without the officer's knowledge or without the initials of the officer on the copy received from the Employer. The Employee may submit a written response or explanation to rebut anything in the file within thirty (30) days from the reviewing their file or notification of an inclusion into their file.
- G. The Employer agrees that the terms, conditions, and benefits of employment not covered by this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect at their highest standards.
- H. The Police Department agrees to follow Attorney General Guidelines and/or Ocean County Prosecutor Guidelines for internal investigations and/or citizen complaints.

ARTICLE 25

MAINTENANCE OF WORK OPERATIONS

- A. The Association hereby covenants and agrees that, during the term of this Agreement, neither the Association nor any of its members, nor any person acting on its behalf, will cause, authorize, or support the participation in a strike (i.e. the concerted failure to report for duty or willful absence of an Employee from his/her position, or stoppage of work, or absence in whole or in part from the full, faithful, and proper performance of an Employee's duties of employment) work stoppage, slowdown, walkout, or other illegal job action against the Employer.
- B. The Association agrees that it will make every reasonable effort to prevent its members from participating in a strike, work stoppage, slowdown, walkout, or other activity aforementioned, or from supporting such activity by any other Employee or group of Employees of the Employer; that it will publicly disavow each action, and order the members who participate in such activities to cease and desist from same immediately and to return to work; and that it will take such step as may be necessary under circumstances to bring about compliance with the Police Department Rules and Regulations.
- C. The rights of the both the Association and the Employer shall be respected, and the provisions of this agreement for the orderly settlements of all questions regarding such rights shall be observed.

ARTICLE 26
FULLY BARGAINED AGREEMENT

This Agreement represents and incorporates the complete and final understanding and settlement by the parties of bargainable issues which were or could have been the subject of negotiations. During the term of this Agreement, neither party will be required to negotiate with respect to any such matter, whether or not covered by this Agreement, and whether or not within the knowledge or contemplation of either or both parties at the time they negotiated or signed this Agreement, subject to Chapter 123 of the Laws of the State of New Jersey.

ARTICLE 27
LIASON COMMITTEE

- A. At either the request of the Borough Council, Municipal Administrator, or the Association, liaison meeting may be called for the good of the Department. The purpose of above-mentioned meetings shall be to better promote harmonious Employer/Employee relations between the members of the Department and the Borough Council.
- B. Members of the Association agree to attend said meeting at no overtime or call-in time cost to the Employer.
- C. On-duty members of the Association shall be permitted to attend said meeting so long as they are available to respond to call, etc.

ARTICLE 28
EMPLOYEE SERVICE OBLIGATION

- A. Employees shall agree to a term of employment of a minimum of two (2) years. Should an Employee resign prior to completion of this obligation, the Employee shall reimburse the Employer for the expenses incurred to provide the Employee with basic police training (cost of training and salary paid while receiving training); uniforms; physical and psychological examinations; soft body armor; and any other expenses incurred not related to salary while actually working the streets.
- B. In addition to this Article, a separate instrument between the Employee and the Employer will be signed and witnessed by an Association delegate.
- C. Within two (2) weeks' notice of resignation, an itemized listing of such expenses shall be furnished to the Employee and a payment schedule developed.

ARTICLE 29
EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

- A. An Employee shall receive a \$35.00 per Educational Credit for advanced training. Advanced training must be recognized by the P.T.C.; N.J.S.P.; New Jersey Department of Personnel; or the U.S. Department of Justice. The Employee must present documentation of successful completion of the course; proof of training must be submitted by October 1st; and payment by separate check shall be made on November 1st. There shall be a maximum payment of \$2,500.00 per eligible officer.
- B. An Employee who engages in a college education will be reimbursed up to a maximum of \$750.00 per semester, and with a calendar year cap of \$1,500.00 for tuition and books. College credits must be from an accredited, Department of Education approved school. The Employee must provide the Borough Administrator with prior notification of the course. Courses must be in the law enforcement field or required for a degree in law enforcement, either supervisor or management. The Employee must maintain a "B" average or better to qualify for reimbursement. Effective January 1, 2016, Employees with advanced degrees shall receive the following educational annual stipends:

Associate's Degree	\$750.00
Bachelor's Degree	\$1,200.00
Master's Degree	\$1,500.00

- C. No Employee hired after January 1, 2011 shall be eligible for the benefits provided in this Article until the Employee has completed one full year of employment.

ARTICLE 30
SENIORITY

- A. At all times relevant hereto, seniority shall be determined initially by rank and secondarily by the actual time an Employee has been employed by the Employer, except in regard to layoffs when seniority shall be determined by the rules and regulations promulgated by the New Jersey Department of Personnel.
- B. Overtime for all sworn officers and all extra-duty assignments (e.g. Drunk Driving grants) shall be offered on a rotating basis beginning with the Employee with the most seniority. Exceptions to this policy may occur with regard to Employees who possess specialized skills for the particular overtime or extra-duty assignments, such as traffic safety, investigations, or school programs). Overtime shall be offered on a rotating seniority basis. The first overtime call of the year goes to the senior most available officer. Each officer is to be called and the time documented. If there is no answer a message is to be left with the time and description of overtime. Calls continue until an officer accepts the overtime. Next overtime call starts with the next officer who is after the officer who took the previous overtime. In the event that no officer accepts the overtime an on-duty officer will be held over.

- C. Unless capped by the funding agency all extra duty assignments funded by the grants or outside contractors will be paid at a flat rate of \$90.00 per hour. This amount may be increased at the sole discretion of the Borough. On all municipal projects requiring an officer, the officer's regular overtime rate, not to exceed \$50.00 per hour, shall apply.

ARTICLE 31 ALTERNATE ROUTE PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT

The Borough of Lakehurst shall reimburse the cost of the Police Academy tuition (not to exceed \$3,500.00) for those members who were hired, directly by the Borough of Lakehurst, through the Alternate Route Program within one (1) month after the member has completed two years of service with the Borough of Lakehurst Police Department. No other fees (e.g. ammunition of qualification) shall apply to this provision.

ARTICLE 32 POLICE LICENSING

The Borough of Lakehurst shall reimburse the members of FOP Lodge 179 for any fee paid toward the initial payment and subsequent renewal of the officers' police license to be issued by the State of New Jersey. The Borough shall not reimburse any late fees.

ARTICLE 33 DUTY WEAPON BUY BACK PROGRAM

The Borough of Lakehurst Police Department shall afford members receiving a bonified PFRS/PERS LEO retirement an opportunity to transfer ownership of his/her department issued duty weapon to his/herself upon retirement. All applicable firearms purchasing fees shall be the responsibility of the retiring member. The sale of the firearm shall be compliant with all Federal and NJ State firearms purchasing laws.

ARTICLE 34 ADDITONAL DUTIES

Any member of the Lakehurst Police Department assigned to the following additional duties shall receive the following annual stipends:

- Field Training Officer – up to but no more than three (3): \$1,500.00
- Drug Recognition Evaluator – no more than one (1): \$1,500.00
- Certified Emergency Medical Technician: \$1,500.00

Stipends listed in this article shall be paid to the members the first pay period of November of each year.

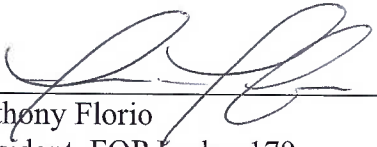
**ARTICLE 35
DURATION**

This Agreement shall be in full force and effect as of January 1, 2024 and shall remain in full force and effect up to and including December 31, 2026 without any re-opening date. This Agreement shall continue in full force and effect from year to year thereafter, until one party or the other gives notice, in writing, no sooner than one hundred fifty (150) days nor no later than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the expiration of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals at the Borough of Lakehurst in the State of New Jersey on this _____, 2024.

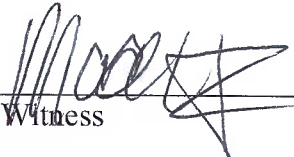
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE
LODGE 179
An affiliate of the FOP New Jersey
Labor Council

BOROUGH OF LAKEHURST

By: 

Anthony Florio
President, FOP Lodge 179

By: _____
Harry Robbins
Mayor



Witness

Witness

Appendix A

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Probationary	43,059.15	44,781.52	46,124.97	47,508.72
Step 2	46,371.39	48,226.25	49,673.04	51,163.23
Step 3	49,683.64	51,670.99	53,221.12	54,817.75
Step 4	52,995.88	55,115.72	56,769.19	58,472.27
Step 5	56,308.12	58,560.44	60,317.25	62,126.77
Step 6	59,620.36	62,005.17	63,865.33	65,781.29
Step 7	62,932.61	65,449.91	67,413.41	69,435.81
Step 8	67,348.93	70,042.89	72,144.18	74,308.51
Step 9	70,661.17	73,487.62	75,692.25	77,963.02
Step 10	75,077.49	78,080.59	80,423.01	82,835.70
Step 11	81,701.98	84,970.06	87,519.16	90,144.73
Step 12	91,497.99	95,157.91	98,012.65	100,953.03
Sergeant	106,562.73	110,825.24	114,150.00	117,574.50
Lieutenant	111,890.86	116,366.49	119,857.49	123,453.21