

RESOLUTION NO. 41-24

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AUTHORIZING
AND APPROVING CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BRIDGETON AND
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL NO. 4822**

WHEREAS, the City of Bridgeton and International Association of Firefighters Local No. 4822 (IAFF Local No. 4822) negotiated with respect to a new collective bargaining agreement between the City and IAFF Local No. 4822; and

WHEREAS, a form of collective bargaining agreement has been reached between the City of Bridgeton and IAFF Local No. 4822; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bridgeton is desirous of approving the aforesaid collective bargaining agreement between the City of Bridgeton and IAFF Local No. 4822; and

WHEREAS, an agreement arrived at by collective bargaining procedures is exempt from the bidding requirements of the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1, et seq.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Bridgeton that the Mayor or Business Administrator as his designated representative and City Clerk, be and are hereby authorized to execute an agreement between the City of Bridgeton and IAFF Local No. 4822 upon final ratification by the members of IAFF Local No. 4822, the terms of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of the aforementioned agreement shall remain on file in the Office of the City Clerk for inspection by the public.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton held on the 20th day of February, 2024.

ATTEST:

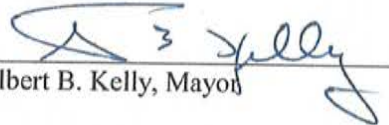


Miriam Garcia,
Deputy Municipal Clerk



Edward Bethea, Council President

APPROVED:



Albert B. Kelly, Mayor

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BRIDGETON
AND
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS
LOCAL NO. 4822**

JANUARY 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2030

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THIS AGREEMENT entered into this ____ day of _____, 2024, by and between the CITY OF BRIDGETON, in the County of Cumberland, a Municipal Corporation of the State of New Jersey, hereinafter referred to as the “EMPLOYER”, or The “CITY”, and INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 4822, also known as the Bridgeton Professional Firefighters Association, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the “Local.”

ARTICLE 1
PURPOSE AND INTENT

The general purpose of this Agreement is to set forth terms and conditions of employment to promote orderly and peaceful labor relations for the mutual interest of the City of Bridgeton in its capacity as an employer, the firefighters, the association, and the people of the City of Bridgeton.

The parties recognize that the interest of the community and the job security of the firefighters depend upon the employer’s success in establishing a proper service to the community.

To these ends, the employer and the association encourage to the fullest degree, friendly and cooperative relations between the respective representatives at all levels and among all firefighters.

ARTICLE 2
RECOGNITION OF LOCAL

Pursuant to and in accordance with all applicable provisions of Chapter 303 of the Laws of 1968 (N.J.S.A. 34:13A-5.1 et seq.), the employer does hereby recognize the Local as the sole and exclusive representative of all regularly employed paid firefighters employed by the City of Bridgeton except that this representation shall not extend to paid superior fire officers.

ARTICLE 3
DEFINITIONS

City	City of Bridgeton, in the County of Cumberland, a Municipal Corporation of the State of New Jersey
Department	the Department of Fire as defined by the Code of the City of Bridgeton or any successor ordinance or organization in the City of Bridgeton providing fire suppression, EMS and fire inspection services.
Fire Chief	Designated head of the Fire Department
Firefighter	Any firefighter covered under this agreement
Fire Officer	Supervisory firefighter (Superior Officer) working in the Department of Fire as defined by N.J.S.A. 34:13A-1 et seq. and that are not covered under this agreement
Local	International Association of Firefighters Local 4822, also known as the Bridgeton Professional Firefighters Association, Inc.

Platoon	The combination of firefighters and fire officers assigned to a specific shift
Shift	The designated work group (i.e. "A" Shift, "B" Shift, "C" Shift, etc.) that firefighters and fire officers are scheduled to work
Tour	One tour shall comprise a 24-hour work period
Half Tour	One half tour shall comprise a 12-hour work period.
Certified Fire Inspectors	Those firefighters who hold valid New Jersey DCA Fire Inspector or Fire Official certifications and are assigned inspectors in accordance with this contract.

ARTICLE 4 MANAGEMENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is recognized that the management of the Department of Fire, the control of properties and the maintenance of order and efficiency is solely a responsibility of the City. Accordingly, the City retains the rights, including but not limited to hire, suspend, or discharge for just cause, assign, promote or transfer to determine the amount of overtime to be worked, to relieve firefighter from duty because of lack of work or for other legitimate reasons; decide the number and location of its facilities, stations, etc., determine the work to be performed within the unit, maintenance and repairs, amount of supervision necessary, machinery and tool equipment, schedules of work, together with the selection, procurement, designing, engineering and the control of equipment and materials; purchase services of others, contract or otherwise, except as they may be otherwise specifically limited in this Agreement and to make reasonable and binding rules which shall not be inconsistent with this Agreement.

ARTICLE 5 MEMBERSHIP, DUES DEDUCTION AND REPRESENTATION IN LIEU OF DUES

Membership

Neither membership in the Local nor non-membership shall be a condition of employment or continued employment. The Local agrees that there shall be no discrimination, intimidation, restraint or coercion by its officers, agents, or members against any firefighter who refuses or fails to join the Local. The Local shall indemnify and save the City harmless against all claims, demands, suits, or other forms of liability, which may arise by reason of any action taken.

Dues Deduction

The employer agrees to deduct from the wages of any firefighter covered by this agreement, all union membership dues and initiation fees or agency fees uniformly required, if any, as provided in a written authorization form used by the employer herein, provided that the said form shall be executed by the firefighter. Written authorization for union dues or agency fees deduction shall remain in full force and effect during the period of this contract, but union fees may be withdrawn at any time by the filing of notice

of such withdrawals with the Comptroller of the Employer, or other proper disbursing officer. The filing of this notice of withdrawal shall be effective to halt deductions as of January 1st or July 1st next succeeding date on which notice of withdrawal is filed. The employer agrees to provide this service without charge to the union.

ARTICLE 6 UNION REPRESENTATION

The Local President or designee shall be permitted time, with the permission of the Appropriate Authority or Fire Chief, or his duly authorized representative, during regular working hours for the purpose of investigating or processing grievances.

ARTICLE 7 BULLETIN BOARD

The City shall provide a space at least three feet by five feet for bulletin boards to be used by the Local in the firehouse at convenient locations accessible to firefighter.

The City shall provide a space for the Local to maintain a filing cabinet at convenient locations accessible to firefighter. The cabinet shall be allowed to be locked by the Local.

The Local shall be permitted to use the firehouse and other fire department locations as a meeting place for union business.

ARTICLE 8 SENIORITY LIST

The City shall establish a Seniority List on an annual basis employing Civil Service regulations to determine seniority via date of permanent appointment within the Fire Division of the City of Bridgeton. As long as it does not conflict with Civil Service regulations, date of hire for transferred firefighter shall be the date of permanent appointment of transferred fire fighter to the Fire Division of the City of Bridgeton. The Seniority List shall be displayed in an area viewable at all times by firefighter.

ARTICLE 9 VACATIONS

Vacation Period

Vacations will, insofar as possible, be granted at the time most desired by firefighter according to their seniority per shift. No more than one (1) firefighter may be on vacation at the same time unless the Department Head is satisfied that he has sufficient personnel to operate efficiently. Firefighters shall submit a vacation schedule no later than March 1st to achieve the preceding. The Fire Chief, at his sole discretion, may schedule any vacation time for firefighters that has not been scheduled by March 1st. A firefighter may divide his vacation tours into twelve (12) hour segments. Additionally, firefighters may divide their vacation tours into four (4) hour segments provided the time is used to attend college classes

that are directly related to a college degree in Fire Science. This is limited to one (1) class per calendar year.

Eligibility

Firefighter shall receive the following paid vacations based upon their period of employment:

90 days to 1 year – One (1) tour for every three (3) months of employment retroactive to the date of hire.

1 year to end of 5 years – Six (6) tours

6 years to end of 10 years – Seven (7) tours

11 years to end of 15 years – Eight (8) tours

16 years to end of 20 years – Eleven (11) tours

21 years to end of 25 years – Twelve (12) tours

25 years to end of career – Thirteen (13) tours

To qualify for a full vacation in any given year, a firefighter must have been continuously employed for his employment year. Firefighter who are employed less than a full year shall receive a prorated vacation. Vacation days that are awarded due to a firefighter's period of employment (see above) will not be prorated.

If a firefighter becomes sufficiently ill so as to require in-patient hospitalization while on vacation, he shall charge such period and the recovery post period to his sick leave. Any unused vacation time resulting from the pressure of work as determined by the Fire Chief and approved by the Business Administrator may be carried forward into the next succeeding year.

When mutually acceptable to the Employer and a firefighter, the Employer may buy back the lump sum of twenty-four hours of accrued vacation leave at said firefighter rate of pay. This sell back by the firefighter may be exercised one time during the calendar year. Neither the Employer nor any firefighter requires the other to exercise this option.

ARTICLE 10 PERSONAL TOUR

Firefighters from the start of employment to the end of Year 10 shall receive three (3) Personal Days each year; Firefighters from Year 11 to end of Career shall receive four (4) Personal Days, which will, insofar as possible, be granted at time most desired by firefighter according to their seniority. No more than one firefighter may take a personal day at the same time unless the Department Head is satisfied that he has sufficient personnel to operate efficiently. Firefighter will give notice of taking personal day at least 3 hours in advance and shall be taken only with approval by the Department Head.

The Battalion Chief or designated officer will approve personal days with less than three (3) hours advance notice under emergent circumstances regardless of staffing. Proof of the emergent situation may be required. Firefighter who are employed less than a full year shall receive prorated personal days.

Personal Days may not be carried from year to year. At the firefighter's option, personal tours can be divided into twelve (12) hour segments.

For time pro-rated due to a firefighter not working a full year, any amount of time pro-rated may be taken in the number of hours pro-rated. For example, a new hire who earns 2 hours of personal leave, may take those two hours of personal leave and is not subject to the 12-hour requirement.

ARTICLE 11 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A permanent full-time firefighter who has worked for the City for a minimum of twelve (12) consecutive months may request leave without pay for a period not exceeding three (3) months during a fiscal year for specific personal reasons, or other reasons deemed in the best interest of the City. Applications for leave without pay must be submitted in advance, in writing, to the firefighter's Department Head, stating the firefighter's reason for requesting such leave and containing a statement that they intend to return to the City's service after expiration of such leave. The leave request must be recommended by the Department Head and Business Administrator and approved by the Mayor. A leave of absence without pay shall not be considered for approval if the firefighter has paid leave available to utilize.

Any leave of absence without pay granted in this Article shall be in accordance with the Federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and/or the Family Leave Act (FLA) and shall not be in addition to those regulations.

Maternity Leave

A leave of absence without pay not exceeding three (3) months shall be granted for maternity leave purposes.

Upon written request and certification from the firefighter's physician that additional time is needed, the City, in its sole discretion, may extend maternity leave beyond three (3) months.

During the period of a leave of absence without pay, an firefighter shall not continue to accrue seniority, but shall not lose any seniority already accrued. A firefighter shall not accrue vacation, sick or personal time during the leave of absence without pay.

ARTICLE 12 LIFE INSURANCE

The City shall maintain a term life insurance policy of \$8,000 for each firefighter.

ARTICLE 13 FUNERAL LEAVE

Firefighters within the Bargaining Unit shall be entitled to a bereavement leave of absence with pay due to a death of a member of said firefighter's immediate family or household as follows:

TWO TOURS LEAVE

Spouse
Parent
Child
Sibling
Grandchild
Grand Parent
Step Child
Significant Other*
Mother-In-Law
Father-In-Law

ONE TOUR LEAVE

Uncle
Aunt
Niece
Nephew
Brother-In-Law
Sister-In-Law
Son-In-Law
Daughter-In-Law
Spouse's Grandparent

* Significant Other: shall be defined as a person with whom the firefighter lived as a spouse or shared a domicile such as a life partner. It does not include roommates, friend or persons with whom the subject had other than a committed relationship and active relationship. Any firefighter who has been actively divorced for over 364 days may only use one (1) day of leave for funeral leave of that significant other.

ARTICLE 14 VETERANS

Nothing in this Agreement shall abridge the right and preferences of veterans and members of the Armed Forces Reserves, as provided by Federal, State, and Local Laws.

ARTICLE 15 HEALTH BENEFITS

The City shall provide the following health benefits for all permanent firefighters and their dependents, beginning on the first day of the third month after two (2) months of active employment:

A. Until December 31, 2016, Hospitalization, Major Medical, and Health Maintenance Organization coverage through the New Jersey State Health Benefits Plan (NJSHBP), as it exists or as modified by the State Health Benefit Program (or any other substantially similar health benefit plan), including any changes in co-pays or deductibles that may be implemented by the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program, for all firefighters and eligible dependents covered by this agreement. The City agrees to pay the cost of the NJSHBP Plan selected by firefighters.

Effective January 1, 2017, the base plan to be offered to firefighters by the City shall be the Horizon HMO (#011) Plan. The City shall continue to offer the other plans available through the NJSHBP.

B. The City retains the right, at its option, to change any of the existing insurance plans or carriers providing such benefits, so long as the level of benefits provided to the firefighters and their eligible dependants is substantially similar. The City further reserves the right, at its option, to self-insure any of said plans and coverages so long as the level of benefits provided to the firefighters and their eligible dependents is substantially similar.

C. Firefighters shall contribute to the costs of Health Benefits Insurance Plan coverage in accordance with P.L. 2011, chapter 78.

D. The Employer agrees to provide a prescription plan for the firefighters their spouses and/or eligible dependents. Currently, a Prescription Plan is provided through the New Jersey State Health Benefits Plan. Co-pays for generic prescriptions are per current State Health Benefit rates and are subject to future additional changes to reflect the then applicable State Health Benefit Plan prescription co-pays.

In the event the City no longer provides prescription coverage under the State Health Benefits Plan, then in such event the co-payment for Prescription Plan shall be \$10.00 for mail in prescriptions, \$15.00 for generic drugs and \$25.00 for brand name drugs. Reduced cost for prescriptions shall be available through a mail order system.

The City retains the right, at its option, to change the Prescription Plan provider so long as the level of benefits provided to the firefighters and their eligible dependents is substantially similar.

E. Medical Coverage After Retirement

IAFF Local 4822 Bridgeton Professional Firefighters Association, Inc., agree that health and prescription benefits after retirement with 25 years or more will fall under Public Law Chapter #330, which was signed into legislation in 1998. This provides contributory managed health care benefits for members of the Local.

ARTICLE 16 DENTAL PLAN

The parties acknowledge that there is presently no dental plan implemented by the City for City firefighters, but the parties do further agree that if the City implements any dental plan for any City firefighters at the time the City shall implement said dental plan for members of the Local.

ARTICLE 17 ABSENCE WITHOUT LEAVE

An absence of any firefighter from duty, including any absence for a single tour or part of a tour that is not authorized by a specified grant of leave of absence shall be deemed to be an absence without leave. Any such absence shall be without pay and may be subject for disciplinary action. In the absence of such disciplinary action, any firefighter who absents himself for three (3) consecutive tours without leave shall be deemed to have terminated his employment. Such action may be reconciled by a subsequent grant of leave at the option of the Department Head and approved by the Business Administrator.

ARTICLE 18 INTERFERENCE WITH WORK

The Association agrees to refrain from engaging in any strike, work stoppage, slowdown or interference of any kind with the operations of the City during the terms of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 19 WORK ASSIGNMENTS

Firefighters shall perform any reasonable work assignments made by supervisors, so long as they suffer no reduction in their rate of pay and the assignments are in their job description as described by the State Civil Service Commission.

A firefighter assigned as an acting officer by the Chief of Fire or his designee shall be paid commensurate with that particular assignment for the time assigned. The City agrees to assign as acting officer the most senior firefighter normally assigned to the shift who is on the current promotion list. If a current promotional listed firefighter is not available then the senior firefighter on the shift will be assigned as the acting officer.

In the event a Firefighter receives acting officer pay, the firefighter shall receive acting officer pay that recognizes the Firefighter's associate's or bachelor's degree by placing him on the appropriate Officer scale for compensation.

Acting pay for all firefighters shall be as follows:

2024 FMBA 252 Captain Salary Scale Step One:

No Degree - \$ 102,038.00

Associates - \$ 103,317.00

Bachelors - \$ 104,600.00

2025 – 2030 – Step One of FMBA 252 Captain scale or \$5,000, whichever is greater

No retroactive adjustments to acting officer pay shall be made. New rates shall apply upon ratification of Agreement by both parties.

The Union recognizes the City's prerogative to assign personnel, however, to the extent possible, the parties agree that the least senior firefighters on the platoon shall be assigned to the ambulance. For the purposes of this paragraph, a firefighter not normally assigned to the shift shall not be considered when determining seniority.

ARTICLE 20 SHIFT ASSIGNMENT

A. Firefighters shall work 24 hours on duty followed by 48 hours off duty. The 24-hour period of work shall be referred to as one tour. This schedule reflects the 19-day work schedule as defined by Article 22 [Overtime Pay and Compensation Time] that abides by section 207(k) of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Firefighters shall begin their tour at 0700 hours and end at 0700 hours the following day (Deviation may be made by the Fire Chief to meet Departmental requirements.)

B. Firefighters shall each be assigned to a shift. Fifteen (15) days notice shall normally be given before a firefighter is moved from one shift to another except in the case that an injury or illness requires the shift change then six (6) days notice shall be given. The notice time may be reduced when it is mutually agreed upon between the City, the Local and the firefighter. Probationary firefighters shall not need notice.

C. Exchange of Duty - Firefighters may exchange tours of duty or partial tours of duty. Requests for exchanges shall be made in writing at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance or as soon as practicable and shall be submitted to immediate supervisor with a copy to the Fire Chief. Exchanges shall not impact or alter mandatory training, nor shall they cause overtime or additional compensation. Anything deviating from these parameters must receive the express written approval of the Fire Chief.

Exchange of duty between firefighter shall be done in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act.

ARTICLE 21 WAGES

All Step movement, as previously provided, shall continue upon expiration of this agreement, until a successor agreement is ratified by the parties.

Effective and retroactive to January 1, 2024, the new 17 step wage guide, with Academy Step shall be in place. There shall be one (1) base wage guide.

For those with college degrees the related compensation will be added as pensionable 'other compensation' outside of the base wage guide and compensation will be reflected within the respective employee's overtime rate.

The Degree pay will be effective on a forward basis within the following available payroll cycle post receipt of written documentation to Administration, such documentation to be provided within 30 days of Graduation or earning credits, no retro pay will be provided for late submissions.

An individual within the Academy Step does not count towards the State minimum staffing requirements for the Fire Division.

Academy Step

Effective January 1, 2024 any employee who does not meet the minimum qualifications of the NJ Division of Fire Safety as a Firefighter 1 and/or certified by the Office of Emergency Medical Services as an Emergency Medical Technician shall be placed on the Academy Step. Upon completion of the minimum qualifications and any other required departmental training, the employee shall be moved to Step 1 of the wage guide.

2024

Effective January 1, 2024, the wage guide shall be as attached with employees in Steps 1 through 16 moving one step and employees on Step 17 remaining on Step 17. Those with an Associate's Degree shall receive an additional \$1,300. Those with a Bachelor Degree shall receive an additional \$2,600. The

degree pay shall be counted as “other compensation”, which shall be pensionable and within the respective overtime rate. *See above for Academy Step.

2025

Effective January 1, 2025, the wage guide shall be as attached with employees in Steps 1 through 16 moving one step and employees on Step 17 remaining on Step 17. Those with an Associate’s Degree shall receive an additional \$1,300. Those with a Bachelor Degree shall receive an additional \$2,600. The degree pay shall be counted as “other compensation”, which shall be pensionable and within the respective overtime rate. *See above for Academy Step.

2026

Effective January 1, 2026, the wage guide shall be as attached with employees in Steps 1 through 16 moving one step and employees on Step 17 remaining on Step 17. Those with an Associate’s Degree shall receive an additional \$1,300. Those with a Bachelor Degree shall receive an additional \$2,600. The degree pay shall be counted as “other compensation”, which shall be pensionable and within the respective overtime rate. *See above for Academy Step.

2027

Effective January 1, 2027, the wage guide shall be as attached with employees in Steps 1 through 16 moving one step and employees on Step 17 remaining on Step 17. Those with an Associate’s Degree shall receive an additional \$1,300. Those with a Bachelor Degree shall receive an additional \$2,600. The degree pay shall be counted as “other compensation”, which shall be pensionable and within the respective overtime rate. *See above for Academy Step.

2028

Effective January 1, 2028, the wage guide shall be as attached with employees in Steps 1 through 16 moving one step and employees on Step 17 remaining on Step 17. Those with an Associate’s Degree shall receive an additional \$1,300. Those with a Bachelor Degree shall receive an additional \$2,600. The degree pay shall be counted as “other compensation”, which shall be pensionable and within the respective overtime rate. *See above for Academy Step.

2029

Effective January 1, 2029, the wage guide shall be as attached with employees in Steps 1 through 16 moving one step and employees on Step 17 remaining on Step 17. Those with an Associate’s Degree shall receive an additional \$1,300. Those with a Bachelor Degree shall receive an additional \$2,600. The degree pay shall be counted as “other compensation”, which shall be pensionable and within the respective overtime rate. *See above for Academy Step.

2030

Effective January 1, 2030, the wage guide shall be as attached with employees in Steps 1 through 16 moving one step and employees on Step 17 remaining on Step 17. Those with an Associate’s Degree shall receive an additional \$1,300. Those with a Bachelor Degree shall receive an additional \$2,600. The degree pay shall be counted as “other compensation”, which shall be pensionable and within the respective overtime rate. *See above for Academy Step.

Anniversary Dates: Effective with the signing of this contract, step guide movement, if applicable, will occur on January 1 of any given year rather than the firefighter's anniversary date.

Members serving in the capacity of Emergency Management Coordinator shall receive a non-pensionable "other compensation" pay adjustment of \$3,000 annually for the period of time worked in the capacity of Emergency Management Coordinator. Once a base-pay adjustment has been made, it may only be removed upon written notice from the Mayor.

Members who are Certified Fire Instructors are not required to provide training unless they are assigned as an acting officer.

ARTICLE 22 OVERTIME PAY AND COMPENSATION TIME

Firefighters shall be paid based on an average 19-day work period as established by 7 (k) exemption Department of Labor comprised of 144 hours. Hourly rate shall be determined by dividing annual salary by 2912 hours, then the overtime rate shall be determined as time and one-half that rate. Any firefighter working more than his regularly scheduled hours during any work period, shall be compensated at time and one half for all hours on duty in any work period which exceeds 144 hours. The 19-day work schedule is established as follows:

Day:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	X	O	O	X	O	O	X	O	O	X	O	O	X	O	O	X	O	O	X

The 19th day of an firefighter's schedule is compensable only if the firefighter has not utilized sick, vacation, personal, comp, or other valid absence(s) prior to the 19th day. A tour of duty shall be comprised of 24 hours.

Firefighters covered by this agreement shall be given the first opportunity for overtime in non-supervisory positions.

The parties agree that compensatory time may be earned in lieu of paid overtime on a mutually agreed to case by case basis, but shall be calculated at time and one half. Fair Labor Standards Act rules shall apply.

Scheduling of Compensation Time Use - From January 1 to March 1 of each year, requests for use of compensatory time shall be submitted no less than 24 hours in advance of the requested day off, and no more than 30 days in advance of the requested day off. Beginning March 2 of each year, requests for use of compensatory time shall be submitted no less than 24 hours in advance. A request for use of compensatory time in the next calendar year (i.e., request submitted in December of 2015 for use in 2016) shall follow the same rules as if it were requested from January 1 to March 1 of the following year. For example, an firefighter cannot submit a request on December 31, 2016 for use of compensatory time on December 25, 2017. "Compensatory time may be accrued up to the maximum amount of time allowed by FLSA".

The procedure for filing overtime shall be as set forth in S.O.G. #1-125, revised 9/29/17, which shall be attached hereto as Exhibit C and made a part hereof. This Policy shall become a part of this Agreement and, to the extent it impacts the IAFF membership, shall not be changed without negotiating same with the Union.

The Union agrees to withdraw its Unfair Practice Charge regarding the distribution of overtime – Docket No.: CO-2017-199, with prejudice.

ARTICLE 22.1 WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Any firefighter injured in the line of duty shall receive the workers' compensation rate as determined by State Law as well as the City's rules and regulations. Additionally, the Employer shall pay the injured firefighter the difference between their normal rate of pay and the amount received from workers' compensation.

ARTICLE 23 LONGEVITY CLAUSE

Longevity has been deleted.

ARTICLE 24 STANDBY CLAUSE

The parties agree that if standbys are needed, that the City shall make every reasonable effort to reach full time men for said standby in order to have a minimum of half of the standby force to be comprised of full-time men. Standby time shall be paid at no less than time and one-half or as applicable under the FLSA 7K schedule exemption and shall be paid as close to the pay period worked as possible.

ARTICLE 25 RETURN TO DUTY CLAUSE

If any firefighter is called to return to duty after having physically completed his work shift and vacated the premises of his place of employment, then said firefighter shall be guaranteed a minimum of two (2) hours of pay for said return to duty.

If mandatory training is cancelled within 24 hours of the scheduled activity, firefighters that were mandated to attend the training shall be guaranteed a minimum of two (2) hours of pay.

ARTICLE 26 STATE CONVENTIONS AND DISTRICT MEETING AND SCHOOLING

A leave of absence with pay shall be given to the President and State Delegate of IAFF, to attend the State and/or National Convention of the IAFF. Such leave of absence shall be limited to two (2) tours. Costs for transportation and lodging shall be the responsibility of the IAFF.

A delegate may attend the District Meetings, State Convention or the State Executive Committee meetings and that delegate shall return to work upon completion of said meeting. A leave of absence with pay shall be provided for one delegate to attend listed meetings.

Firefighters may attend training and schools as required to maintain certification as an Emergency Medical Technician and Fire Inspector and Instructor certifications as approved by the Chief of Fire. If training is held during the normal hours of employment of the firefighter, the firefighter shall receive normal pay as if the firefighter were on the job. If required sessions are held during normal off hours of employment of the firefighter on a mutually agreed to case by case basis shall receive either overtime or compensation time. Optional training must be approved by the Chief of Fire and the firefighter on a mutually agreed to case by case basis shall receive either overtime or compensation time. Payment of overtime or compensation time shall be for the duration of the class only and travel time is not compensable.

ARTICLE 27 SEVERANCE PAY

It is stipulated and agreed that firefighters who retire having accumulated sick days and/or tours, shall be compensated up to \$15,000. The amount to be compensated shall be computed by multiplying one-half the accumulated sick hours times the hourly rate of said firefighter at the time of his retirement. No payment shall be made for any employee hired on or after 5/21/10 unless the employee has retired pursuant to N.J.S.A. 11A:6-19.2

If a firefighter shall die in the line of duty during the term of employment, the City shall pay severance pay as provided in this paragraph. The severance pay shall be computed and paid within one year of the date of death to the beneficiary predeceased the firefighter, to the firefighter's estate provided there are no legal issues that require additional time for the payment of severance unless prohibited by law.

ARTICLE 28 SICK LEAVE

Firefighters shall receive as sick leave, seven (7) tours of duty per year. Said tours do have to be utilized during the calendar year, but may accumulate thereafter. Sick leave use shall be calculated on an hour for hour use basis. To qualify for a full allowance of seven (7) tours of duty per year sick leave, a firefighter must have been continuously employed for the full employment year. After the accumulation of more than four tours of unexcused sick leave in a calendar year the firefighter shall provide acceptable medical evidence from a physician substantiating each additional use of sick leave absence in that calendar year. Firefighters who were employed less than a full year shall receive prorated sick leave.

ARTICLE 29 DONATED LEAVE PROGRAM

Donated sick leave program shall be in accordance with the City of Bridgeton Personnel Manual effective as of the date of signing of this agreement.

ARTICLE 30 COLLEGE CREDITS

Firefighters shall receive pay for an Associate's Degree or for a Bachelor's Degree for those degrees related to the job, as determined by the City. Firefighters who have credits equal to or greater than 60 but do not have an Associate Degree will be eligible for the Associate Degree pay if 50% or greater of those credits are in Fire Science. Compensation for an Associate and Bachelor Degree will be considered as 'other compensation' outside of the base wage scale.

ARTICLE 31 PERSONNEL REGULATIONS

Except as this Agreement shall otherwise provide, all terms and conditions of employment applicable on the effective date of this Agreement shall continue to be so applicable during the terms of this Agreement. Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, nothing contained herein shall be interpreted and/or applied so as to eliminate, reduce or otherwise detract from any firefighter benefit existing prior to its effective date.

It is understood and agreed that the City Personnel Regulations and the Fire Department Rules and Regulations and Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines adopted by the City of Bridgeton, as applicable, shall apply in all cases and for all matters not covered by this Agreement.

ARTICLE 32 NEW JERSEY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

This contract is intended to comply with statutes, rules, and regulations of the New Jersey Civil Service Commission and in the event, there is a conflict, the Rules of the New Jersey civil Service Commission shall apply.

ARTICLE 33 NEW JERSEY STATUTES RELATING TO FIRE

This Agreement is intended to comply with all New Jersey Statutes relating to fire and Fire Departments and, in the event, there is a conflict, the New Jersey Statutes shall apply.

ARTICLE 34 OTHER EMPLOYMENT

No member of the Association shall engage in any other form of employment, without having obtained prior approval of the Fire Chief of the City of Bridgeton, who shall give such permission only upon ascertaining that said employment will not in any way interfere with said member's employment with the

Fire Department of the City of Bridgeton and upon being assured that said employment will not bring discredit to said Fire Department.

ARTICLE 35 PRESENTING A GRIEVANCE

Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to secure, at the lowest possible level, an equitable solution to the problems which may arise affecting the terms and conditions of employment of firefighters as outlined in this agreement.

Nothing herein shall be construed as limiting the right of any firefighter having a grievance to discuss the matter informally with any appropriate representative of the Employer provided however that the Employer furnishes the Local with written notice of same in the event of a resolution.

Definition

The term "grievance" as used herein means any dispute or controversy arising over the interpretation, application or alleged violation of the terms and conditions of this Agreement, or the appeal of a minor disciplinary matter only and may be raised by the Local on behalf of an individual firefighter or group of firefighters or the Employer.

Steps to the Grievance Procedure

The following constitutes the sole and exclusive method of resolving grievances between the parties covered by this Agreement and shall be followed in its entirety unless any step is waived by mutual consent of the aggrieved party and the Employer's representative and the waiver of any step acts only as a waiver of the individual step.

STEP ONE

The Local on behalf of the aggrieved firefighter or firefighters, or the City, shall institute action under the provisions hereof within ten (10) calendar days of the occurrence of the grievance, and an earnest effort shall be made to settle the differences between the Local and the Fire Chief, for resolving the matter informally. Failure to act within said ten (10) calendar days shall be deemed to constitute an abandonment of the grievance.

The Fire Chief shall render a written decision within ten (10) calendar days after the receipt of the grievance and serve a copy of said decision to the Local and the Mayor.

STEP TWO

In the event the grievance has not been resolved in or at Step One, the Local shall, in writing and signed, file the grievance with the Business Administrator within ten (10) calendar days following the determination of Step One. The written grievance at this step shall contain the relevant facts and a summary of the preceding oral discussion, the applicable Section of this Contract violated, and the remedy requested by the grievant.

The Business Administrator shall render a written decision within fifteen (15) calendar days from receipt of the grievance.

STEP THREE

In the event the grievance has not been resolved in or at Step Two, the Local may, in writing and signed, request a hearing before the Mayor and the Business Administrator, within ten (10) calendar days following the determination at Step Two.

The Business Administrator shall render a written decision within fifteen (15) calendar days from receipt of the grievance.

STEP FOUR

In the event the grievance has not been resolved in or at Step Three the matter may be referred to arbitration as hereinafter provided

ARBITRATION

In the event that the Employer or the Local desires to submit a grievance to arbitration, the following procedure shall be followed:

1. The party demanding arbitration shall serve written notice of its intention to arbitrate on the other Party (ies) within ten (10) working days following receipt of the Mayor and Business Administrator's determination.
2. The party demanding arbitration shall file a request of arbitration with the New Jersey Public Firefighters Relations Commission. Such arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of said Commission.
3. The costs of the services of the arbitrator shall be borne equally by the Employer and the Local
4. The decision of the arbitrator shall be in writing.
5. The decision of the arbitrator shall be the final administrative step of the Employer and the Local.

Miscellaneous

1. A failure to respond at any Step in this procedure by the Employer or its agents shall be deemed a negative response and upon the termination of the applicable time limits the grievant may proceed to the next step.

2. Unless extended by mutual agreement in writing, the failure of the firefighter to observe the time limits herein shall constitute abandonment of the grievance and settlement on the basis of the last City answer.
3. Firefighters shall have an election as to whether they shall pursue remedies under Civil Service or under the grievance procedure set forth herein.
4. Action beyond Step One of the grievance procedure shall constitute an election to pursue remedies under the Contract.
5. Action in the form of an appeal to the Civil Service Commission shall constitute an election to pursue remedies under Civil Service.
6. Firefighters covered by this Agreement shall have the right to process their own grievance without representation.
7. Upon prior notice to and authorization of the Fire Chief, the Local President or designee shall be permitted as members of the Grievance Committee to confer with firefighters and the City specific grievances in accordance with the grievance procedure set forth herein during work hours of firefighters, without loss of pay, provided, the conduct of such business does not diminish the effectiveness of the City of Bridgeton or requires the recall of off-duty firefighters

ARTICLE 36 CLOTHING ALLOWANCE AND MAINTENANCE

The City will provide annually, to the extent needed as determined by the Chief or his designee, the following:

2 Summer Uniforms consisting of:
Two (2) Short Sleeve Button Up Shirts
Two (2) Pair of Pants

2 Winter Uniforms consisting of:
Two (2) Long Sleeve Button-up Shirts
Two (2) Pair of Pants

In addition, on an as needed basis – but not more often than annually – the City will provide the following:

One Winter Hat
One Summer Hat
One Job Shirt

The City shall also provide, annually, four (4) T-Shirts which may be long sleeve or short sleeve. The City shall also provide one pair of boots up to \$200.00 or \$400.00 on a biennial basis.

Class A Dress Uniform

New firefighters shall be provided with a Class A Dress Uniform at the completion of one (1) year of service to the City of Bridgeton. The City will replace the Class A Uniform components and dress shoes upon condition when requested by the firefighter and approved by the Chief of Fire. Any firefighter who, as of the date of the signing of this Agreement, has not received their initial issue of a Class A Uniform and has completed at least one year of service to the City of Bridgeton shall receive a Class A Uniform as soon as is practicable upon execution of this Agreement.

Clothing Maintenance: Clothing maintenance has been eliminated through negotiations.

ARTICLE 37 MEMBER SERVING IN CAPACITY OF K-9 HANDLER

Provision for K-9 handler has been deleted

ARTICLE 38 BREACH OF CONTRACT EFFECT

The waiver of any breach or condition of this Agreement by either party shall not constitute a precedent in the further enforcement of the terms and conditions herein.

ARTICLE 39 SAVINGS CLAUSE

It is understood and agreed that if any part of this Agreement is in conflict with the Law, that such part shall be suspended and the appropriate mandatory provision shall prevail and the remainder of the Agreement shall not be affected thereby.

ARTICLE 40 RATIFICATION BY LOCAL AND FIREFIGHTERS

The Local hereby represents that solely firefighters ratified this Agreement of the City of Bridgeton, Department of Fire, employed pursuant to the terms of this Agreement and that no members of the Local who are not covered by this Agreement took part in the ratification proceedings. The Local further agrees that upon the adoption of any new Agreement, which shall be substituted for this Agreement, or any part thereof, said Agreement will be ratified only by persons who are employed pursuant to the terms of this Agreement or the new Agreement.

ARTICLE 41 EMBODIMENT OF AGREEMENT

This document constitutes the sole and complete Agreement between the parties, and embodies all terms and conditions governing the employment of firefighters represented by the Local. The parties acknowledge they have had the opportunity to present and discuss proposals on any subject which is (or may be) subject to collective bargaining provided, however, that upon mutual agreement of the parties,

which shall be in writing, the parties may further amplify or interpret the terms of this Agreement. Any prior commitment or agreement between the City and the Local of any individual firefighter covered by this Agreement is suspended.

ARTICLE 42 WRITTEN AGREEMENT

A written agreement signed by all parties shall be completed within ninety (90) days after approval of the budget. One hundred fifty (150) days prior to the expiration date of this Agreement, the parties shall meet to discuss and negotiate regarding the terms and conditions of a new Agreement or the extension of this Agreement, provided that should the Public Firefighters Relations Commission fix another time to commence negotiations, the rules of the Public Firefighters Relations Commission shall apply.

ARTICLE 43 COURT TIME

- A. Any off-duty firefighter required to appear in any court of competent jurisdiction, including New Jersey State Departmental Division hearings, on City business shall be compensated a minimum one and one-half hours at the overtime rate of pay portal to portal. No call-in pay shall be provided to a firefighter.
- B. Firefighters required to serve on jury duty will be granted leave without loss of pay. The firefighter is required to return to work after being dismissed for the day, provided they are not required to return to jury duty the next day. If a firefighter must report to jury duty the morning that their shift ends, the firefighter will be dismissed from work at 2100 hours the previous day.

This MOA is subject to the ratification of the members of the IAFF and approval of the City of Bridgeton. The bargaining members of the IAFF and the City represent that it will recommend approval of the terms of the MOA to their respective constituents.

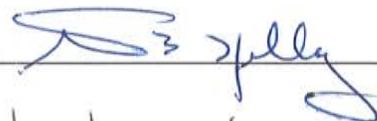
ARTICLE 44 TERM OF AGREEMENT

Seven Years – January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2030

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these presents to be signed on the day and year first above written.

ATTEST:

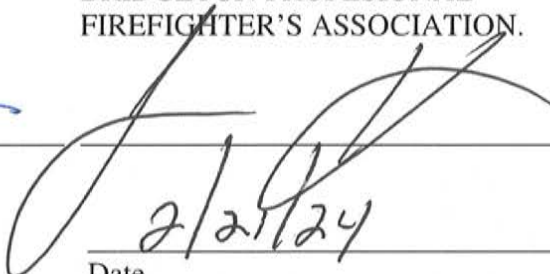
THE CITY OF BRIDGETON IN THE
COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND


Mayor

2/21/2024
Date

ATTEST:

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS
LOCAL 4822
BRIDGETON PROFESIONAL
FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION.


2/21/24
Date

**CITY OF BRIDGETON
IAFF 4822
BASE WAGE GUIDE**

		ANNUAL % INCREASES						
		2.75%	3.00%	3.00%	3.25%	3.50%	3.50%	3.75%
STEP	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Academy	n/a	45,000.00	46,350.00	47,740.50	49,292.07	51,017.29	52,802.89	54,783.00
1	45,585.00	46,838.59	48,243.75	49,691.06	51,306.02	53,101.73	54,960.29	57,021.30
2	48,596.00	49,932.39	51,430.36	52,973.27	54,694.90	56,609.23	58,590.55	60,787.69
3	51,607.00	53,026.19	54,616.98	56,255.49	58,083.79	60,116.72	62,220.81	64,554.09
4	54,618.00	56,120.00	57,803.59	59,537.70	61,472.68	63,624.22	65,851.07	68,320.48
5	57,629.00	59,213.80	60,990.21	62,819.92	64,861.57	67,131.72	69,481.33	72,086.88
6	60,640.00	62,307.60	64,176.83	66,102.13	68,250.45	70,639.22	73,111.59	75,853.28
7	63,651.00	65,401.40	67,363.44	69,384.35	71,639.34	74,146.72	76,741.85	79,619.67
8	66,662.00	68,495.21	70,550.06	72,666.56	75,028.23	77,654.21	80,372.11	83,386.07
9	69,673.00	71,589.01	73,736.68	75,948.78	78,417.11	81,161.71	84,002.37	87,152.46
10	72,684.00	74,682.81	76,923.29	79,230.99	81,806.00	84,669.21	87,632.63	90,918.86
11	75,695.00	77,776.61	80,109.91	82,513.21	85,194.89	88,176.71	91,262.89	94,685.25
12	78,706.00	80,870.42	83,296.53	85,795.42	88,583.77	91,684.21	94,893.15	98,451.65
13	81,717.00	83,964.22	86,483.14	89,077.64	91,972.66	95,191.70	98,523.41	102,218.04
14	84,728.00	87,058.02	89,669.76	92,359.85	95,361.55	98,699.20	102,153.67	105,984.44
15	87,739.00	90,151.82	92,856.38	95,642.07	98,750.44	102,206.70	105,783.94	109,750.83
16	90,750.00	93,245.63	96,042.99	98,924.28	102,139.32	105,714.20	109,414.20	113,517.23
17	93,757.00	96,335.32	99,225.38	102,202.14	105,523.71	109,217.04	113,039.63	117,278.62