



Legislation Text

File #: 24-053, Version: 1

TITLE:

ADOPTION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF COSTA MESA (CITY) AND THE COSTA MESA FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION (CMFA) AND THE ADOPTION OF ACCOMPANYING SALARY RESOLUTION FOR CMFA

DEPARTMENT: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE- HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION

PRESENTED BY: KASAMA LEE, HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

CONTACT INFORMATION: KASAMA LEE, HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER (714) 754-5169

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council:

1. Approve and Adopt the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Costa Mesa and CMFA.
2. Approve and Adopt Resolution Number 2024-XX revising the pay ranges for CMFA.
3. Authorize the City Manager and members of the City's Negotiation Team to execute the Memorandum of Understanding documents.

BACKGROUND:

In March 2020, mid-way through the budget development process, the City was faced with the impacts of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). As a result, numerous General Fund revenue sources were declining significantly, including tax revenues (e.g., sales tax, hotel tax, and business license tax, etc.).

At the July 21, 2020 City Council Meeting, a Side Letter Agreement with CMFA was approved to achieve the equivalency of a five percent (5%) furlough. The Side Letter Agreement also included the following key provisions:

- Equivalent of a 5% reduction to the flexible benefit contribution in FY 2020-21
- Extension of the current memorandum of understanding to June 30, 2024
- Guarantee of no layoffs in Fiscal Year 2020-21
- A one-time payment equivalent to reduction taken should the City receive stimulus funds in excess of \$40.5 million
- Conversion to 14 day FLSA work period effective the pay period that includes July 1, 2022
- "Me Too" Clause for salary adjustments in FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24

At the April 6, 2021 City Council meeting, the City Manager was authorized by City Council to enter into side letter negotiations for the sole purpose of eliminating the five (5%) percent furlough across all labor groups. Staff met with all of the City's employee associations to negotiate the elimination of the furlough and reimbursement of salary and benefit cuts already incurred. An agreement was reached with CMFA to amend the 2020 side letters.

The current collective bargaining agreement between the City and CMFA covered years 2017-2024 and is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2024. A series of collaborative and productive meetings between the City's designated negotiation team and CMFA's negotiation team were held, which resulted in the attached tentative Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment I).

ANALYSIS:

The City's Negotiation Team and CMFA Negotiation Team held several meetings to discuss the MOU and issues raised by both parties, including but not limited to wages and benefits. During the course of negotiations, the City Negotiation Team has met with the City Council to discuss the status and progress of negotiations and to receive direction specific to provisions under consideration. The negotiations were fully collaborative and were based on the shared interests of the CMFA employees and the City. The results of the negotiations have been compiled in a proposed Memorandum of Understanding.

The proposed Memorandum of Understanding takes into consideration specific objectives that align with the City Council's Strategic Plan Goals - *Recruit, Retain High Quality Staff and Strengthen the Public's Safety and Improve Quality of Life* and the City's current financial health as the proposed provisions have financial implications. A summary of the most significant MOU revisions is included below.

The following are the key provisions of the negotiated CMFA MOU:

- Term of MOU. Upon City Council adoption, the term of the MOU will be July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2027
- Salaries and Wages
 - Effective July 2024, a 5% increase
 - Effective July 2025, an additional 3.75% increase
 - Effective July 2026, an additional 3.75% increase
- Cost Sharing and Retirement Contributions
 - Effective July 2024 an increase of 1.25% of employee cost sharing (for a total employee cost sharing of 5%, and a total employee contribution of 14%), which will require future City Council approval to amend the City's current cost sharing agreement with CalPERS via Government Code 20516(a).
- Recruitment and Retention Pay
 - Effective July 2024, 7.5% for 20 years of sworn service
 - Effective July 2025, 5% for 15 years of sworn service
 - Effective January 2026, 2.5% for 10 years of sworn service

- Specialty Assignment Pay
 - Additional 10% paramedic assignment pay for a Fire Engineer or Fire Captain for maintaining paramedic certification when administratively assigned to EMS Management
- Education Pay/Certification Pay
 - Removal of BS/BA/120 units pay from the Certification program and set up as a separate education pay at 2.5% of top step Captain for BA and \$180 for 120 units.
 - Include additional certifications as part of the Certification program with no increase to the current maximum.

The CMFA Negotiation Team has reached a tentative agreement. The CMFA ratification process was completed with a unanimous vote as of February 2, 2024.

ALTERNATIVES:

The parties to this agreement considered a variety of issues in the context of good faith negotiations in accordance with Government Code Section 3500, et seq. (Meyer-Milias-Brown Act). The CMFA members have ratified the tentative agreement. This MOU represents the successful conclusion of labor negotiations, and alternatives need not be considered as a result of collaborative efforts expended.

FISCAL REVIEW:

The Fiscal Impact Analysis prepared pursuant to the City Council Policy 300-8 Transparency in Labor Negotiations recognizes the CMFA Fiscal Year 2024-2025 increase is estimated at \$1.5 million that will take effect during the payroll cycle inclusive of July 1, 2024, and will be included in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget. The estimated annual fiscal impact to the City's future budget is \$0.9 million, and approximately \$3.2 million for the life of the contract.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City's special counsel, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore (LCW) and City Attorney's Office have reviewed the agreements and resolutions and this report and approved them as to form.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS AND PRIORITIES:

The proposed MOU and salary range adjustments support the City's Strategic Plan Goals To Recruit and Retain High Quality Staff and Strengthen the Public's Safety and Improve the Quality of Life.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends the City Council:

1. Approve and Adopt the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Costa Mesa and CMFA.
2. Approve and Adopt Resolution Number 2024-XX revising the pay ranges for CMFA.

3. Authorize the City Manager and members of the City's Negotiation Team to execute the Memorandum of Understanding documents.