

RESOLUTION RATIFYING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (AFSCME), OHIO COUNCIL 8, LOCAL 3781 AFL-CIO

WHEREAS, The Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners have been negotiating with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Ohio Council 8, Local 3781; for representation of certain employees of the Ashtabula County Commissioners in collective bargaining procedures; and

WHEREAS, On December 9, 2024 a union vote was taken for the ratification of a three-year bargaining agreement effective retroactive to January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027, said agreement being ratified by a majority vote of the union membership; and

WHEREAS, the recommendation of Janet Discher, County Administrator, is that the Board may now ratify the collective bargaining agreement and the Board concurs with that recommendation; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, that the agreement between the Ashtabula County Commissioners and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Ohio Council 8, Local 3781 for union representation for certain employees of the Commissioners Departments is hereby ratified.

**ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CERTIFICATION PAGE**

Resolution No. 2025-58

January 22, 2025

**RESOLUTION RATIFYING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ASHTABULA COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS AND THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND
MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (AFSCME), OHIO COUNCIL 8, LOCAL 3781 AFL-CIO**

Upon the motion of Kathryn L. Whittington, seconded by Casey R. Kozlowski.

VOTE:

J.P. Ducro IV

Aye

Casey R. Kozlowski


Aye

Kathryn L. Whittington

Aye

CERTIFICATE OF CLERK

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution acted upon and duly passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, on the date noted above.



Crystal Sturgill, Clerk of the Board
Board of County Commissioners
Ashtabula County, Ohio

Acting

AGREEMENT

between

**THE ASHTABULA COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

and

**AFSCME, OHIO COUNCIL #8
LOCAL #3781, AFL-CIO**

January 1, 2025 to

December 31, 2027

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ARTICLE 1 PREAMBLE/PURPOSE

1.01 This Agreement, entered into by the Ashtabula County Commissioners, hereinafter referred to as the “Employer” and the Ohio Council 8, AFSCME, AFL-CIO Local 3781, hereinafter referred to as the “Union”, has as its purpose the following:

To comply with the requirements of Charter 4117 of the Ohio Revised Code; and to set forth the full and complete understandings and agreements between the parties governing the wages, hours, terms and other conditions of employment for those employees included in the bargaining unit as defined herein.

ARTICLE 2 UNION RECOGNITION

2.01 The Employer recognizes the Union as the sole and exclusive representative for those employees included in the bargaining unit. Wherever used in this Agreement, the term “bargaining unit” shall be deemed to include: All employees hired at the discretion of the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners including the following positions: Inspector I, Inspector II, E 9-1-1 Coordinator/Planner Trainer, Customer Service Tech I, Utility Coordinator, Treatment Plant Operator I, Treatment Plant Operator II, Treatment Plant Operator III, Treatment Plant worker I, Treatment Plant Worker II, Treatment Plant Maintenance Mechanic, Sewer Inspector, Planner I, , Planner II, Grant Specialist, Dog Warden, Administrative Assistant, Administrative Secretary I, Administrative Secretary II, Account Clerk I, II and III, Maintenance Mechanic, Lead Maintenance Worker, Maintenance Worker II, Custodian/Maintenance Worker, Custodian, Clerical Specialist I, Clerical Specialist II, Clerk II and Lead Maintenance Coordinator/Sanitary, Wastewater Operator I, Wastewater Operator II, Wastewater Operator in Training, Distribution Tech I, Distribution Tech II, EMA Planner/Trainer, Dog Warden/Humane Agent, Wastewater Worker I, Wastewater Worker II. It is understood that this list of positions is for purposes of recognition only and does not obligate the Employer to fill the position. Employee classifications and pertinent pay grades at the time this Agreement was entered is attached as Appendix A.

2.02 Excluded from the bargaining unit shall be: all management-level employees, professional employees, confidential employees, casual employees, temporary, seasonal employees and supervisors as defined in the Act, all employees working at Eastern and Western County Court and all other employees of the Employer.

2.03 Should new positions be established; the Employer will notify the Union as to the Employer’s determination as to the bargaining unit status of the position. Should the Union disagree with the determination; the parties will meet to review the issues. In the event the parties fail to reach agreement within thirty (30) days of notification, the issue may be submitted to the State Employment Relations Board by either party for final resolution.

2.04 The Employer shall establish wage rates for any new bargaining unit positions based upon an appropriate differential from existing positions. Should the Union disagree with the rate established, it may file a grievance at Step 3 of the grievance procedure.

ARTICLE 3 NON-DISCRIMINATION

3.01 The employer and the Union agree to comply with all applicable Federal, State and Local laws regarding non-discrimination based upon age, sex, race, color, creed, national origin, disability, gender identity, genetic information, military status, veteran's status, sexual orientation or ancestry. Further, neither the Employer nor the Union shall discriminate against any bargaining unit employee on the basis of membership or non-membership in the union.

3.02 The Employer and Union agree that the facilities of the Employer shall be free from sexual harassment in relationships between Employer and employee, and employee and the public.

ARTICLE 4 MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

4.01 The Union recognizes the right and authority of the Employer to administer the business of the County offices in addition to other functions and responsibilities which are required by law, the Union recognizes that the Employer has and will retain the full right and responsibility to direct the operations of the department, to promulgate reasonable rules and regulations and to otherwise exercise the prerogatives of management, which more particularly include but are not limited to the following:

- A. To manage and direct its employees, including the right to select; hire; promote; transfer; assign; evaluate; layoff and recall; or to reprimand, suspend, discharge, or discipline for just cause; to maintain order among employees;
- B. To manage and determine the location, type and number of physical facilities, equipment, programs and the work to be performed;
- C. To determine the department's goals, objectives, programs and services, and to utilize personnel in the manner designed to effectively meet these purposes;
- D. To determine the size and composition of the work force in the Employer's organizational structure, including the right to relieve employees from duty due to lack of work or lack of funds.
- E. To determine the hours of work and work schedule required to most efficiently operate.
- F. To determine when a job vacancy exists, the duties to be included in all job classifications, and the standards of quality and performance to be maintained.
- G. To determine the necessity to schedule overtime and the amount required thereof.
- H. To maintain the security of records and other important information.

- I. To determine and implement necessary actions in emergency situations.
- J. To maintain and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Employer's operations.
- K. To determine and implement necessary actions in emergency situations.

The above rights are subject to the restrictions and regulations governing the exercise of these rights as are expressly provided in this Agreement.

4.02 The Union recognizes and accepts that all rights and responsibilities of the Employer not specifically modified by this Agreement or ensuing Agreements shall remain the exclusive functions of the Employer.

ARTICLE 5 UNION REPRESENTATION

5.01 The Employer agrees to admit not more than two (2) Union staff representatives to the Employer's facilities during the Employers normal business hours, Monday through Friday. The staff representative(s) shall be admitted to the Employers facilities and sites, for the purpose of processing grievances or attending meetings as permitted herein, providing advance notice is given to the Employer. Upon arrival, the Union staff representative shall identify him/herself to the Employer or the Employer's designated representative. Such visitation shall not interfere with the work of employees, nor interrupt them from their normal work assignments.

5.02 The Employer shall recognize as Union Stewards all employees certified by the Union with the authority to process grievances and act on behalf of the Union. A list of certified Union Stewards shall be submitted to the County Administrator and shall remain in effect until a replacement list of certified Union Stewards is submitted. The Union shall be responsible for maintaining a current list on file with the Employer.

5.03 The Union shall provide to the Employer an official roster of its officers and local Union stewards which is to be kept current at all times and shall include the following:

- 1. Name
- 2. Address
- 3. Home telephone number
- 4. Union office held

No employee shall be recognized by the Employer as a Union representative until the Union has presented the Employer with written certification of that person's selection.

5.04 The investigation and writing of grievances shall be on duty time. If grievance hearings are scheduled during an employee's regular duty hours, Union officers, grievant(s), and employee witnesses whom are directly involved with the investigation and/or the grievance shall suffer no loss of pay while attending such hearings.

Reasonable time shall be granted to one (1) steward and the grievant(s) involved to investigate and write grievances during on-duty time. Use of such time shall be with prior approval of and notice to, the appropriate supervisors. Use of such time shall normally be during the last one and one-half (1 1/2) hour of the working day unless other times are mutually agreed to. Approval for the use of time shall not be unreasonably denied.

5.05 Rules governing the activity of Union representatives are as follows:

1. The Union agrees that no official of the Union, employee or non-employee, shall interfere, interrupt, or disrupt the normal work duties of other employees. The Union further agrees not to conduct Union business during working hours except to the extent specifically authorized herein. A steward shall notify his/her supervisor prior to leaving the workstation, indicating the reason and the member of management with whom he/she is meeting.
2. The Union shall not conduct Union activities in any work areas without notifying the supervisor in charge of that area of the nature of the Union activity.
3. The Local Union President or an authorized Union Local Official is permitted occasional and infrequent instances where he or she may discuss issues related to the administration of the Union Agreement without violating the terms of this agreement. Occasional and infrequent instances include short duration and does not keep a bargaining unit employee from performing duties related to his/her position.
4. The Union employee official (President, Vice-president or Steward) shall cease unauthorized Union activities immediately upon the request of the supervisor of the area where the Union activity is being conducted or upon the request of the Employee's immediate supervisor.

5.06 The Union shall have the right and opportunity to hold an orientation session with all newly hired employees. This orientation session shall be for the purpose of explaining the new employee's contractual rights and introducing him/her to the Union. The orientation will be held within twenty-eight (28) days of the employee's hire date and shall be during working hours at a time agreed by the employees' immediate supervisor, not to exceed one hour (1) in duration.

5.07 The Employer agrees to deduct voluntary contributions to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employee's International Union's Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality (PEOPLE) Committee from the pay of an employee, upon receipt from the Union of an individual written authorization card, voluntarily executed by the employee.

The contribution amount will be certified to the Employer by the Union. Monies deducted shall be remitted to the Union within ten (10) days of the date they are deducted. Payment shall be made to the Treasurer of PEOPLE and transmitted to:

AFSCME, AFL-CIO
P.O. Box 65334
Washington, D.C. 20035

The payment shall be accompanied by an alphabetical list of the names of those employees for whom a deduction was made and the amount of each deduction. This list must be separate and apart from the list of employees who had Union dues deducted and the list of employees who had fair share fees deducted.

An employee shall have the right to revoke such authorization at any time by giving written notice to the Employer and the Union. The Employer's obligation to make deductions shall terminate automatically upon receipt of revocation of authorization or upon termination of employment or transfer to a job classification outside the bargaining unit.

All PEOPLE contributions shall be made as a deduction separate from the dues.

5.08 This Agreement is entered into by the Ashtabula County Commissioners and Local 3781, AFSCME, Ohio Council 8, AFL-CIO, to ensure an environment of labor peace at the Employer's premises during the exercise by the Employer's employees of their rights under ORC 4117, the Ohio Public Employees Collective Bargaining Act, and to avoid any picketing or economic action directed against the Employer during any organizing campaign.

The Employer and the Union mutually recognize that Ohio law guarantees workers the right to form, join, or select any labor organization to act as the workers' exclusive bargaining representative for the purpose of collective bargaining with the Employer or to refrain from such activity.

The Employer agrees that it will not take any action, make any statement, hold any meeting or do anything which will directly or indirectly say or imply that the Employer opposes unionization by its employees. The Union agrees it will not coerce any worker in its efforts to obtain authorization cards.

If the Union provides written notice to the Employer of its intent to organize the Employer's employees, the Employer will not interfere with or deny the Union access to its premises.

Within five (5) working days following the receipt of the Union's written notice to organize the Employer's employees, the Employer will furnish the Union with a complete list of all workers in all job classifications in order for the parties to ascertain and agree upon an appropriate bargaining unit. The Employer will designate which workers are full time, part time, supervisory or management employees.

The Union may request recognition as the exclusive bargaining representative for all employees, excluding supervisors and managers. Within five (5) working days after this request, the parties will select an arbitrator who is mutually agreeable to both parties. The arbitrator will be a neutral third party who will conduct a card check of the authorization cards within ten (10) working days of the arbitrator's selection. If the card check shows a majority of the employees has selected or designated the Union as its bargaining representative, the Employer agrees it will not file an objection to any petition for voluntary recognition filed by the Union with the State Employment Relations Board to represent those employees or where appropriate will execute a joint petition for amendment of certification to accrete the employees into the existing bargaining unit.

The parties agree any disputes concerning the application or interpretation of this agreement will be referred to expedited arbitration. The arbitration will convene within ten (10) working days of the dispute. The arbitrator will be the neutral third party selected to conduct the card check. The arbitrator shall have the authority to order the non-compliant party to comply with this agreement.

ARTICLE 6 DUES DEDUCTION

6.01 The Employer agrees to deduct Union membership dues in accordance with this Article.

6.02 The Employer agrees to deduct regular Union membership dues once each pay period from the pay of any employee in the bargaining unit eligible for such deduction upon receiving written authorization signed individually and voluntarily by the employee. The signed payroll deduction form (see Appendix B) must be presented to the Employer by the employee or the Union. Upon receipt of the proper authorization, the Employer will deduct Union dues from the employee's check for the next pay period in which dues are normally deducted following the pay period in which the authorization was received by the Employer.

6.03 The Employer shall be relieved from making such Individual "check-off" deductions upon an employee's:

- (1) Termination of employment;
- (2) Transfer to a job other than one covered by the bargaining unit;
- (3) Layoff from work;
- (4) An unpaid leave of absence;
- (5) Written revocation of the check-off authorization.

6.04 The Employer shall not be obligated to make dues deductions from any employee who, during any pay period involved, shall have failed to receive sufficient wages to make all legally required deductions in addition to the deduction of Union dues.

6.05 The parties agree that neither the employees nor the Union shall have a claim against the Employer for errors in the processing of deductions, unless a claim of error is made to the Employer in writing within sixty (60) days after the date such an error is claimed to have occurred. If it is found an error was made, it will be corrected at the next pay period that the Union dues deduction would normally be made by deducting the proper amount.

6.06 The rate at which dues are to be deducted shall be certified to the Employer by the Treasurer of the Union during January of each year. One (1) month advance notice must be given the Employer prior to making any changes in an individual's dues deductions. The Employer shall remit the aggregate of Union dues deductions and a list of employees from whom dues have been deducted within ten (10) days of payroll date to: Ohio Council 8, 6800 North High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085-2512, Attention: Controller.

6.07 Employees who are members of the union may revoke their union membership at any time by giving written notice to the union of their desire to withdraw from the union. Revocation of union membership does not revoke union dues authorization, which may be revoked as set forth in Section 6.8.

6.08 Any bargaining unit member who has submitted a dues deduction authorization may withdraw the same by written notice to the Employer and the Union in accordance with the following: Any voluntary dues checkoff authorization shall be irrevocable for a period of one year from the date of the execution of the dues checkoff authorization and for year to year thereafter unless the employee gives the Employer and the Union written notice of revocation not less than ten (10) days and not more than twenty-five (25) days before the end of any yearly period. Copies of the employees' dues checkoff authorization cards are available from the Union upon request.

6.09 The Union hereby agrees that it will indemnify and hold the Employer harmless from any claims, actions or proceedings by any employee arising from deductions made by the Employer pursuant to this Article. Once the funds are remitted to the Union, their disposition thereafter shall be the sole and exclusive obligation and responsibility of the Union.

6.10 In the event any Federal or State legislative body reinstitutes fair share fees, the Union and Employer shall renegotiate this Article of the Agreement.

ARTICLE 7 NO STRIKE/NO LOCKOUT

7.01 The Employer and the Union agree that the Agreement provides machinery for the orderly resolution or grievances. The parties, therefore, agree to the following:

- A. The Union agrees that the local union will within two (2) weeks of the date of the signing of this Agreement, serve upon the Employer a written notice, which will list the Union's authorized representative who will deal with the Employer and make commitments for the Union.
- B. The Union further agrees that neither it, its officers, agents, representatives, or members will authorize, instigate, cause, aid, condone, or participate in any strike, sympathy strike, work stoppage, or any other concerted activities which interrupt the operations or services of the Employer by its members during the life of this Agreement.
- C. In the case of an unauthorized work stoppage or slowdown, the Employer may impose discipline without regard to the procedures or limits established under Section 4117.23 of the Ohio Revised Code. Employees who wish to grieve the imposition of discipline shall do so through the grievance procedure established herein, and may not appeal such discipline through the procedure established under Section 4117.23 of the Ohio Revised Code.

7.02 The Employer agrees that neither it, its officers, agents or representatives, individually or collectively, will authorize, instigate, cause, aid or condone any lockout of members of the Union.

ARTICLE 8 PROBATION PERIODS

8.01 Every newly hired employee will be required to successfully complete a probationary period. The probationary period for new employees shall begin on the first day for which the employee receives compensation from the Employer. The probationary period for newly hired full time employees shall be one hundred eighty (180) calendar days, and for newly hired part-time employees shall be one thousand fifty (1,050) hours of work. A newly hired probationary employee may be disciplined and/or terminated any time during his/her probationary period and shall have no right to appeal any discipline through the Grievance Procedure or to the State Personnel Board of Review.

8.02 A newly promoted employee will be required to successfully complete a probationary period in his/her newly appointed position. The probationary period for a newly promoted employee shall begin on the effective date of the promotion and shall continue for a period of ninety (90) calendar days for full time employees, and five hundred twenty-five (525) hours of work for part-time employees. A newly promoted employee whose performance is unsatisfactory may be returned to their former position any time during the probationary period.

ARTICLE 9 WORK RULES/REGULATIONS

9.01 The Union recognizes that the Employer, under this Agreement, has the right to promulgate reasonable work rules, regulations, policies and procedures, which regulate the conduct of employees, and the conduct of the Employer's services and programs. The Union and/or employees reserve the right to grieve the implementation of work rules, regulations, policies and procedures which violate this Agreement.

9.02 At least five (5) days prior to implementation of any employee work rule, regulation, policy, or procedure which affects members of the bargaining unit, the Employer shall post a copy and forward a copy to the President of the local Union or his/her designee.

9.03 The Employer recognizes and agrees that no work rules regulations, policies or procedures shall be maintained or established that are in violation or any expressed terms or provisions of this Agreement. The Union may request a special labor management meeting for the purpose of discussing the rules with management.

9.04 Management shall not perform the job duties of bargaining unit employees on a regular basis for the purpose of displacing bargaining unit employees; however, they may be assigned bargaining unit duties whenever the Employer determines it is necessary due to emergency or extreme conditions, or on a short term basis for the purpose of training.

ARTICLE 10 APPLICATION OF THE OHIO CIVIL SERVICE LAW

10.01 Except as otherwise expressly provided herein, Section 124.01 through 124.56 and section 9.40 of the Civil Service laws contained in the Ohio Revised Code do not apply to employees the bargaining unit. It is expressly agreed that the Ohio Department of Administrative Services and the State Personnel Board of Review shall have no authority or jurisdiction as it relates to employees in the bargaining unit.

ARTICLE 11 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

11.01 No form of disciplinary action will be taken against any employee, except for just cause.

11.02 To the extent practical, discipline shall be applied in a corrective, progressive, and uniform manner.

Progressive discipline shall take into account the nature of the violation, the employee's record of discipline, and the employee's record of conduct. A single act of serious misconduct may result in termination.

11.03 Whenever the Employer determines that an employee will be issued a written warning, lose time or pay, or be terminated for disciplinary reasons, the Employer shall serve a notice of discipline on the employee and the Union President. The notice will advise the employee of the exact nature of the charge and what form of discipline may be imposed. Such notice shall be sent to all parties within thirty (30) working days after the date the Employer has completed the investigation of the event necessitating or allegedly causing the disciplinary action. For this purpose, "Working days" shall be defined as Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. No discipline can be imposed until after the Notice of Discipline is delivered to the employee and the Union President.

The employee may be accompanied by a Union steward or officer during the disciplinary meeting. Should the employee not wish to be represented by the Union, a Union Representative shall be allowed in the disciplinary meeting as an observer, only. The employee shall have an opportunity to respond orally to the charges prior to discipline being imposed, or may have the Union Representative present his/her response. Any resolution to the disciplinary action by the employee and the Employer shall be consistent with the terms and provisions of this Agreement. An employee who receives a written warning, loses time or pay, or is terminated may file a grievance at Step 2 of the Grievance Procedure, and may have a conference with a Union steward or officer for the purpose of completing a grievance form prior to leaving the Employer's premises.

11.04 Records of disciplinary action shall cease to have force and effect or be considered in future discipline matters according to the following schedule:

Instruction and Cautioning	Twelve (12) months
Written Warning	Eighteen (18) months
Suspension	Twenty-four (24) months

In the event the employee is disciplined through Instruction and Cautioning or by Written Warning for a similar or related offense during the above time period, the previous record of disciplinary action will remain active until all records of discipline for a similar or related offense expire. If an employee receives a suspension, it will remain active until twenty-four (24) months have elapsed without any other disciplinary action of any type.

Previous disciplinary action involving past instances of racial or sexual harassment, theft, stalking, sale of drugs while on duty, workplace violence, or use of weapons will remain for future consideration.

11.05 The Employer agrees that all disciplinary procedures shall be carried out in private and in a businesslike manner.

11.06 Employees shall not lose holiday pay by virtue of being absent the day before and/or the day after the holiday if the absence is due to being on suspension.

11.07 An employee may request an opportunity to review their personnel record at a mutually agreeable time during the regular scheduled working hours of the Board of Commissioners Human Resource office. If the employee believes that any document, statement, or notation in their personnel file is inaccurate, they shall be given the right to place a statement of rebuttal or explanation within ten (10) days after notice to the Employer. Such statement shall not contain any defamatory or scurrilous attacks upon an employee, supervisor, or the Employer. No anonymous or unsubstantiated material of any type shall be included in the employees personnel file.

An employee may have an officer or representative member of the Union present when reviewing his/her personnel file. A request for copies of items included in the file will be honored. An employee may request removal of specific items in his/her file, which request would be subject to review by the Employer or designee on a case by case basis. Items will be removed as permitted by law. All items in the employees file with regard to complaints and investigations will be clearly marked with respect to final disposition. Employees shall be notified when written reprimands are placed in their personnel files.

11.08 Material contained in an employee's personnel file related to discipline or allegations of misconduct will not be used against the employee in subsequent disciplinary action unless the employee has seen and/or signed the material. The signing of any materials placed into an employee's personnel record is not to be construed as consent to its truthfulness, but only an acknowledgement that it has been seen.

ARTICLE 12 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

12.01 The grievance procedure is a formal mechanism intended to assure that grievances are promptly heard, answered and appropriate action taken to correct a particular situation.

12.02 The term “grievance” shall mean an allegation by an employee that there has been a breach, misinterpretation, or improper application of this Agreement.

12.03 A grievance under this procedure may be brought by any employee. Where a group of employees file a grievance involving a situation affecting each employee in the same manner, one employee selected by such group will process the grievance. However, all participating employees must sign the grievance. The Union may file a grievance on behalf of all members without individual signatures.

12.04 All grievances must be processed at the proper step in the progression in order to be considered at the subsequent step. Any grievance that is not timely appealed to the next step of the procedure will be deemed to have been settled on the basis of the Employer’s answer at the last completed step. Any grievance not answered by Management within the stipulated time limits shall be considered to have been answered in the negative and may be appealed to the next step of the Grievance Procedure. A workday, as used in this article, excludes Saturday, Sunday and the holidays set forth in Article 23.

12.05 The written grievance shall be submitted on the grievance form attached as Appendix C, which shall contain the following information:

1. aggrieved employee’s name;
2. aggrieved employee’s classification;
3. name of employee’s immediate supervisor;
4. date and approximate time of incident giving rise to grievance;
5. date grievance was first discussed;
6. date grievance was filed in writing at Step 1;
7. a statement as to the specific articles and sections of the Agreement violated;
8. a brief statement of the facts involved in the grievance; and
9. the remedy requested to resolve the grievance.

12.06 The time limitations provided for in this article may be extended by mutual agreement between Employer and the Union.

12.07 Grievances shall be processed in the following manner:

Informal Step:

An employee having a grievance will first raise the complaint verbally with the employee's Supervisor within ten (10) working days of the employee's knowledge of the incident giving rise to the grievance. The supervisor shall discuss the grievance with the employee and within ten (10) working days of their discussion respond to the employee in writing. If the employee is not satisfied with the response given by the supervisor, the employee shall, within ten (10) working days after receiving the written response, reduce the grievance to writing on the agreed form (Appendix C) and submit it at Step 1. Where an employee reports directly to the Department Head the grievance may be presented directly to Step 2.

Step 1 - Department Head:

The Department head, within ten (10) working days of receipt of a written grievance, shall schedule and notify the Union steward of a formal meeting with the employee filing the grievance. Prior to this meeting taking place, the Department Head shall make a complete and thorough investigation of all the allegations contained in the grievance. The Department Head shall provide the employee with a written response to the grievance within ten (10) working days of the meeting. If the employee is not satisfied with the written response from the Department Head, the employee may, within ten (10) working days, pursue the grievance to Step 2 of the procedure.

Step 2 - County Administrator:

The County Administrator or designated representative shall meet on a date mutually scheduled between the grievant, Union and County Administrator, but not more than ten (10) working days after appeal to Step 2, to discuss the grievance. Within ten (10) working days after the meeting, the County Administrator or designated representative shall provide the employee and the Union with a written response to the grievance.

Step 3 - Arbitration

The Union may request mediation of any issue that is not resolved at Step 2. The request must be made within ten (10) working days after the Step 2 response is issued. The Employer has ten (10) working days to respond to the request for mediation. If the Employer declines mediation, the Union must file a notice of intent to arbitration within ten (10) working days. If the Employer agrees to mediate the grievance, the time for appealing to arbitration is extended to ten (10) working days after mediation is complete. All mediation under this section will be conducted according to the following rules.

- Mediation will not be used unless agreed by both parties.
- Consent to mediate can be withdrawn by either party at any time.
- The mediator will be selected by mutual agreement, or failing that, by requesting a list of mediators from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and striking names with the Employer striking first, until one name remains. The cost for mediation will be shared equally by the Union and the Employer.

- The mediation will be informal, the mediator will be allowed to utilize all common mediation techniques, a verbatim record will not be kept, formal rules of evidence will not apply, and any written evidence submitted to the mediator will be returned at the conclusion of the mediation to the party submitting it.
- Should the grievance remain unresolved at the conclusion of mediation the mediator will provide an opinion of the likely outcome of the case at arbitration, however the opinion is not binding and inadmissible at a subsequent arbitration, as is anything said or done by the mediator.
- No offer of settlement made by either party during the mediation process can be referenced or introduced as evidence in a subsequent arbitration of the unresolved grievance.

In the event the grievance is not referred to arbitration within the time limits prescribed above, the grievance shall be considered resolved based upon the second step answer. If the grievance is timely referred to arbitration the following procedures apply.

If the grievance is not satisfactorily settled in mediation Step 3, the Union may submit the grievance to final and binding arbitration by submitting notice to the Employer within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the written answer at Step 3 of its intent to arbitrate and select an arbitrator for such grievance. In the event the grievance is not referred to arbitration within the time limits prescribed, the grievance shall be considered resolved based upon the third step reply.

The parties will obtain the arbitration list from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services.

The parties shall use the alternated strike method from the list of seven (7) arbitrators from the panel of arbitrators provided in this article. The party requesting the arbitration shall be the first to strike a name and alternate in this manner until one (1) name remains on the list. The remaining name shall be designated as the arbitrator to hear the dispute in question. All procedures relative to the hearing shall be in accordance with the rules and regulation of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

The Arbitrator shall hold the arbitration promptly and issue his/her decision within thirty (30) days from the date the record is closed. The arbitrator shall limit his/her decision strictly to the interpretation, application or enforcement of those specific articles and/or sections of this Agreement in question. The arbitrator's decision shall be consistent with applicable law.

The Arbitrator shall not have the authority to add to, subtract from, modify, change or alter any provision or terms of this Agreement, nor add to, subtract from or modify the language therein arriving at his/her determination on any issue presented that is proper within the limitations expressed herein.

The Arbitrator shall expressly confine him/herself to the precise issues submitted for arbitration and shall have no authority to determine any other issues so submitted to him/her or to submit observation or declaration of opinion which are not directly essential in reaching a decision on the issue in question.

Except in the instance where Management has established a new classification, the Arbitrator shall not establish any new or different wage rates not negotiated as part of the Agreement. In cases of discharge or of suspension, the arbitrator shall have the authority to recommend modification of said discipline. In the event of a monetary award, the Arbitrator shall limit any retroactive settlement to the date the incident giving rise to the grievance, but in no event more than twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the date the grievance was filed.

The question of arbitrability of a grievance may be raised by either party before the arbitration hearing of the grievance, on the grounds that the matter is non-arbitrable or beyond the Arbitrator's jurisdiction. The first question to be placed before the Arbitrator will be whether or not the alleged grievance is arbitrable. If the Arbitrator determines the grievance is within the purview of arbitrability, the alleged grievance will be heard on its merits before the same Arbitrator.

The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding upon the Union, the employee and the Employer. All costs directly related to the services of the Arbitrator shall be shared equally by the Employer and Union. Should the decision not affirm the position of either party, the Arbitrator shall determine which party shall pay the cost of the Arbitrator, or in what proportion the parties shall share the cost.

Expenses of any non-employee witnesses shall be borne by the party calling the witness. The fees of court reporters shall be paid by the party asking for one; such fees shall be split equally if both parties desire a court reporter recording, or request a copy of any transcript.

Any employee may have one (1) employee Union representative at Step 1. and one (1) employee Union representative and one (1) non-employee Union official at Step 2. The employee may be represented by one (1) employee Union official and any non-employee Union Official at Step 3. Employee representatives, witnesses, and the grievant will be paid for regularly scheduled work hours spent in any grievance hearing or arbitration.

12.08 Presentation or appeal of a grievance to the Employer may be made by the appropriate Union official or employee on duty time. The Employer representative, Union representative or employee shall sign the grievance indicating date or the receipt, and a copy shall be provided to the other party(s).

Where an employee does not elect to be represented by the Union at any step of the grievance procedure, the Union shall have the right to be present at any grievance meeting without intervening. All grievances presented under such circumstances shall be resolved with the terms and provisions of this Agreement.

12.09 Any grievance that originates from a level above the first step of the grievance procedure may be submitted directly to the step or level from which it originates.

ARTICLE 13

SENIORITY

13.01 Seniority shall be computed on the basis of continuous service with the Employer. A termination of employment lasting less than thirty-one (31) days shall not constitute a break in service. Once service is broken, the employee loses all previously accumulated seniority.

13.02 New hires shall have no seniority during their probationary period of employment. However, upon completion of the probationary period, seniority shall be computed from the employee's first date of employment.

13.03 An approved leave of absence does not constitute a break in continuous service provided the employee follows the proper procedure for such leave and returns to active service immediately following the expiration of the approved leave or complies with alternate procedures in the leave of absence provisions of this Agreement. Likewise, a disciplinary suspension does not constitute a break in service.

13.04 Seniority shall be lost when an employee:

- A. Quits or resigns;
- B. Is discharged for just cause;
- C. Is laid off for the lesser of; eighteen (18) months, or the length of seniority at the time of layoff;
- D. Is absent without leave for three (3) or more work days unless proper excuse for the absence is shown or if no notice was given, a satisfactory excuse for the failure to give notice.
- E. Fails to report for work when recalled from layoff within ten (10) calendar days from the date on which the Employer sends the employee notice by registered mail to the employees last known address as shown on the Employer's records unless the time is extended in accordance with this Agreement.

13.05 The Employer agrees to submit to the Union annually on the anniversary date of this agreement a listing of the department, job classification, job classification date, rate of pay and seniority date of each bargaining unit employee. Seniority dates shall become official sixty (60) days after being submitted to the Union. Ties in seniority dates are to be resolved (one time only) by flip of a coin.

13.06 The Employer will provide the Union with an alphabetical list of the names and addresses of all employees in the bargaining unit within thirty (30) calendar days after the effective date of this Agreement, and annually thereafter for the term of this agreement.

13.07 The Employer will immediately provide the Union with a list of all new employees hired by the County within the bargaining unit and such lists shall contain their name, address, job classification, department and date of hire.

13.08 The Employer will within thirty (30) and no more than forty-five (45) days provide the Union with a list of employees in the bargaining unit who quit, retire, are terminated, granted a leave of absence, or are transferred out of the bargaining unit. The list shall contain the name, job classification, department and date of effected action.

ARTICLE 14

VACANCY, PROMOTIONS AND TRANSFERS

14.01 Whenever the Employer determines that a vacancy exists in the bargaining unit it shall notify the Union President, and if the position is not filled through recall from layoff, post a notice of the vacancy on the Employer's bulletin board for five (5) working days, and send a copy to the Union President. The Employer is not obligated to consider applications submitted after the posting date nor any applicants who do not meet the minimum job qualifications.

The "Notice of Vacancy" shall contain the following information: classification, department, pay range and qualifications for the job, a brief description of the job duties; effective date and expiration date of the posting. Bids for vacant positions shall be made on the Bidding Form attached as Appendix D.

Employees who may be leaving on vacation, sick leave or other authorized leave of absence may submit a bid or application for a vacancy that may exist or for any job the employee wishes to bid on for future consideration prior to commencing such leave. Additionally, a Union Steward may submit a bid on behalf of an Employee during such absence, provided the absent employee's signature is included on the bid.

14.02 All timely-filed applications shall be reviewed considering the following criteria: qualifications, experience, education, work record, documented job performance, active disciplinary record, ability to perform the essential functions of the job and seniority.

14.03 The Employer shall give preference to those qualified applicants who are in the same classification as the vacant position, and secondarily from those qualified applicants in the same department but different classification as the vacant position, and then to other bidders. The Employer is not obligated to consider employees making lateral transfers defined as same classification, same department, same supervisor, and same pay range.

14.04 The position shall be awarded to the individual who best meets the criteria in Section 14.2. If two (2) or more applicants are considered by the Employer to be substantially equal in meeting the established criteria, then seniority shall govern in awarding of the position. The Employer will provide the Union with the name of the person awarded the job. Should no employee of the bargaining unit qualify, the employer may fill the vacancy by any means.

14.05 An employee who is newly hired, promoted, or successfully bids on a different classification may not bid on another position for a period of twelve (12) months from the date the employee begins work duties in the job assignment, unless such time period is specifically waived by the Employer. Any employee who is promoted shall be compensated at the applicable higher rate of pay commencing upon the first day the employee permanently assumes the duties of the position.

14.06 Nothing herein shall be construed to limit or prevent the Employer from temporarily filling a position for a sixty (60) day period, pending the Employer's determination to fill the position. Such temporary appointments may be extended up to sixty (60) additional days at the Employer's discretion. Temporary vacancies known to exceed one hundred twenty (120) days, due to extended leaves of absence will be filled by the Employer, at its discretion, from the pool of applications received within five (5) days after posting the temporary position... If the vacancy exceeds six (6) months, the Union and Employer will meet to discuss whether the vacancy should be declared permanent.

The parties agree and understand that the determination to fill either a temporary vacancy or permanent vacancy is at the sole discretion of the Employer. The Employer will make every effort to fill vacancies in a timely manner.

14.07 Employees who are temporarily assigned to work in a lower classification shall continue to receive the rate of pay for their permanent classification. Employees who are temporarily assigned to classifications with pay rates above their permanent classifications for a period in excess of ten (10) consecutive workdays shall receive the greater of the step one rate for the higher position for all hours worked in such higher classification.

14.08 In general, employees will remain in their current classifications for the duration of this agreement except for promotions or mutually agreed classification changes, abolishment's, layoffs, transfers and temporary appointments.

ARTICLE 15 HOURS OF WORK/OVERTIME

15.01 This Article is intended to define the normal range of work hours for full-time employees and shall not be construed as a guarantee of work per day or per week. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as preventing the Employer from restructuring the normal work day or work week for the purpose of promotion efficiency or improving services; from establishing the work schedules of employees; or establishing part-time positions; nor shall it be construed to reduce the work week below the established hours for regular full-time employees. Such restructuring shall not be done in an arbitrary manner nor for the purpose of avoiding the payment of overtime.

The Employer and Union agree to establish a program allowing employees to flex regular work schedules at the request of a supervisor or the employee to accommodate work related circumstances. The agreed procedure is set forth in the attached "Flex Time Agreement." (Appendix E).

15.02 The normal work week for regular full-time employees shall be forty (40) hours per week.

15.03 Each employee of the bargaining unit will be granted a one-half (1/2) hour unpaid meal period during each regular work shift as scheduled by their immediate supervisor.

15.04 Each full-time employee shall be granted two (2) fifteen (15) minute rest periods with pay, which will be scheduled whenever practical, one (1) in the first and one (1) in the second half of the employee's regular work shift. Employees who extend their rest period may be subject to disciplinary action. Rest periods should be taken at a time and in a manner that does not interfere with the efficiency of the work unit. The rest period may not be used to cover an employee's late arrival to work or early departure, nor may it be regarded as accumulative if not taken.

15.05 Any employee required to work more than forty (40) hours in a work week, shall be compensated at one and one half (1 ½) times the normal hourly rate for all hours worked in excess of forty hours per week. At the employee's option, compensatory time may be granted in lieu of overtime payment. Compensatory time shall be earned at the rate of one and one half (1 ½) hours per hour worked for the hours in excess of forty (40). Vacation, holiday, personal and compensatory time shall be considered time worked for the purpose of overtime computation. Sick time shall not be considered time worked for the purposes of overtime computation.

15.06 No employee will maintain a compensatory time bank of more than one hundred twenty (120) hours. After one hundred twenty (120) hours are accumulated all overtime will be paid out with payroll during the following payroll cycle. Any unpaid compensatory time earned throughout the course of the year that has not been used by the employee, will be paid out in the last payroll of the calendar year. Management may authorize an employee to carryover forty (40) hours of compensatory time into the next calendar year. Approved carryover must be used by July 31st of the following year. Carryover requests must be made using Appendix J and must be completed and approved before the final payroll of the calendar year.

15.07 Compensatory time off will be granted at a time mutually convenient to the employee and the Employer. Requests for use of compensatory time must be submitted in writing using the Employer's standardized form for obtaining approval for leave and must be approved by the Employer prior to taking the requested time off.

15.08 All overtime shall be authorized by the supervisor or designee in advance of the overtime being worked. Unusual circumstances and situations may require employees to work overtime without having prior authorization. Whenever such unusual circumstances occur, the supervisor will determine if the overtime was warranted and if compensation is granted.

ARTICLE 16 CALL-IN PAY

16.01 A call-in is defined as an order or request to return to work at any time after an employee has been relieved from duty at the conclusion of a regularly scheduled workday until one hour before the next regularly scheduled starting time.

16.02 Employees will receive two (2) hours at time and one-half (1 ½) for all call-ins up to two (2) hours regardless of length of time spent on call-in.

Employees shall receive time and one-half (1 ½) for all call-in hours worked after the initial 2 hour call-in. Call-ins are defined in Article 16.1

Exception:

If the Call-In is handled via the phone and takes less than 15 minutes, the call-in will be compensated as a 3 hour Call-In only (minus the time and half for time spent on phone). If the call that is handled via the phone takes longer than 15 minutes, the call will be paid according to the above Call-In scenario.

ARTICLE 17 SICK LEAVE

17.01 Sick time shall be earned at the rate of 4.6 hours for each eighty (80) hours of service in active pay status, including paid vacation and sick leave, but not during a leave of absence or layoff to a limit of one hundred twenty (120) hours per year. Unused sick time shall accumulate without limit.

17.02 If illness or disability continues beyond the time covered by earned sick leave, the employee may be granted a disability leave or a personal leave or may use vacation in accordance with the appropriate section of this Agreement.

17.03 Sick leave shall be charged in minimum units of one half (1/2) hour. An employee shall be charged for sick leave only for days upon which he/she would otherwise have been scheduled to work. Sick leave payment shall not exceed the normal scheduled work day or work week earnings.

17.04 Uses of Sick Leave

A. Sick leave shall be granted to an employee upon approval of the Employer for the following reasons:

1. illness, injury or pregnancy related condition of the employee;
2. exposure of an employee to a contagious disease which could be communicated to and jeopardize the health of other employees as medically documented;
3. examination of the employee, including medical, psychological, dental or optical examination, by an appropriate practitioner, which cannot be reasonably scheduled during non-working time;
4. illness, injury or pregnancy related condition of an employee or the employee's spouse or significant other, children, daughter, son, parents, or a person who stands in loco parentis where the employee's presence is reasonably necessary for the health and welfare of the spouse or significant other, child, daughter, son, parents or person who stands in loco parentis;
5. examination, including medical, psychological, dental or optical of a member of the employee's immediate family by an appropriate practitioner, where the employee's presence is reasonably necessary.

B. Reasonably necessary time up to three (3) days sick leave may be granted to the employee for a family member's death including: brother, sister, spouse or domestic partner, child, daughter, son mother, father, loco parentis, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, grandparents, grandchildren, uncle and aunt, niece, nephew, step children, step parents and step siblings. Employee must complete and submit an Affidavit for Leave Due to Death in the Family as attached in Appendix I.

17.05 Sick leave may be used for personal illness, medical appointments, or caring for an ill family member. Employees are required to notify their supervisor when sick leave is needed. A doctor's note or other medical documentation will be required for sick leave of more than (2) two consecutive days. Unused sick leave is not paid out upon termination or resignation.

17.06 When an employee is unable to work, he/she shall notify his/her supervisor within one-half hour of the start of the shift.

17.07 Employees intentionally failing to comply with sick leave rules and regulations shall not be paid. Application for sick leave with intent to defraud will result in dismissal and refund of wages paid.

17.08 If medical attention is required, the employee shall be required to furnish a statement from a licensed physician, advanced nurse practitioner, physician's assistant or psychologist notifying the Employer that the employee was unable to perform his/her duties. Such physician statement shall be required for absence of three (3) or more consecutive work days due to illness. Whenever the Employer determines that there has been a patterned use or abuse of sick leave, it may require proof of illness in the form of a physician statement of disability or other proof satisfactory to the Employer to approve the use of sick leave. Failure to provide satisfactory proof may result in discipline.

17.09 The Employer may require an employee to take an examination, conducted by a licensed physician or psychologist selected by the Employer to determine the employee's physical or mental capability to perform the essential functions of the employee's position. If found not qualified to perform the essential functions of the job, the employee may be placed on sick leave or disability leave in accordance with the applicable provision. The cost of the examination shall be paid by the Employer. The employee may submit documentation from his physician or psychologist prior to being placed on leave. Disputes as to the employee's physical or mental health shall be determined by a licensed physician or psychologist mutually selected by the employee and the Employer. The fee of the mutually-selected physician or psychologist shall be shared by the Employer and employee.

17.10 Those employees covered under this Agreement who are eligible or who become eligible to retire shall be entitled to convert accrued but unused sick leave to cash payment on the following basis:

Employees may receive, after completion of ten (10) years of continuous service with the Employer, a cash payment in the amount of one (1) hour's pay for each four (4) hours of accrued but unused sick leave at the time of retirement. The maximum payment under this provision shall not exceed 240 hours of pay calculated at $\frac{1}{4}$ of 960 hours of sick leave.

17.13 A sick leave bonus of \$200 will be paid to bargaining unit members who have been employed since January 1st of that year and have used no more than eight (8) hours of sick time for the current year. Authorized funeral leave shall not count against the use of sick leave for purposes of this bonus.

Jury duty leave and authorized funeral leave shall not count against the use of sick leave, for purposes of this bonus.

Example:

2022 bonus will be included in the employees January 2023 paycheck.

17.14 All employees who use sick leave for a significant other must complete the required Affidavit of Domestic Partnership, attached as Appendix G, prior to approval.

ARTICLE 18 FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

18.01 An employee who has worked 1250 hours in a calendar year and has been employed by the County a minimum of twelve (12) consecutive months is entitled to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks leave in any calendar year for any of the following circumstances:

a. CHILD CARE LEAVE

- 1) the birth of the employee's child;
- 2) the adoption or receipt of a child into the employee's foster care;

For purposes of child care leave, the employee must take the leave within twelve months of the qualifying event.

b. FAMILY LEAVE

- 1) To care for an immediate family member with a serious health condition;
- 2) in the event that the employee has a "serious health condition".

"Serious health condition" is defined as a disabling illness, injury or impairment that requires in-patient care or continuing treatment by a health-care provider. Short-term conditions such as illnesses lasting only a few days or out-patient hospitalization requiring only a brief recovery period do not qualify. For purposes of this section, immediate family member is defined as spouse, parent, child or step-child.

18.02 An employee is required to use all accrued sick, vacation, personal days and other available paid leave prior to being placed on unpaid status. All paid leave will be included in the twelve (12) week FMLA leave period.

18.03 An employee who requests a medical leave of absence for illness, injury or any other medical condition must furnish a written statement from his/her physician confirming that he/she is disabled and unable to work and the expected date of return to work. A physician's release will be required before the employee is permitted to return to work from a personal medical leave. When an employee is requesting leave to care for a family member, the employee must furnish a statement from the family member's doctor confirming the condition, the necessity of the employee's care and the expected date of return to work. The Employer may require re-certification of disability or necessity of the employee's presence for care at any time during the leave. The employee is responsible for any cost of examination for certification or re-certification. The employee must comply with any request for certification or re-certification as soon as possible as a condition of leave approval, or continuation of leave.

The Employer may request the employee be examined by a physician of the Employers choosing at the Employer's cost. In case the Employer and employee's doctors disagree on the necessity of a leave the Employer, at the Employer's cost, will choose a third doctor to examine the employee. The third doctor's opinion will be final and binding on both the employee and the Employer.

18.04 When an employee is granted a maternity leave or a leave for planned medical treatment, the employee must give thirty (30) days' notice of the day the leave is expected to commence and the anticipated length of the leave. Employees are required to give as much notice as is practicable so that operational needs can be met. In the case of planned medical leave, the Employee is to schedule treatment to cause minimal disruption to services. An employee who is on leave for a specific time and who wishes to return to work prior to the end of the leave may do so only with the approval of the Employer.

18.05 The Employer will continue to pay the Employer's portion of the employee's health plan during the leave of absence. The employee is required to pay the usual employee portion by the first of any month in which the employee is not on the active payroll. If an employee does not return to work at the end of the Leave, he/she will be required to repay the Employer the amount paid to retain the employee's health care benefits during unpaid portion of the leave.

18.06 The employee may request a reduced leave schedule or intermittent leave schedule to be granted at the discretion of the Employer. An employee with serious medical condition may request a reduced schedule or intermittent leave, and may be temporarily transferred to a position that better accommodates the employee's schedule.

18.07 If it is discovered that a leave of absence granted, for a specific purpose is not being used for that purpose, Employer may cancel the leave and direct the employee to report to work and may take disciplinary action against the employee.

18.08 An employee who fails to return to work at the expiration or cancellation of an approved leave of absence, without satisfactory explanation to the Employer will be terminated and the Union President/or designee shall be notified. The employee's termination date will be established as the starting date of the approved leave of absence.

18.09 All absences of three days or more for reasons which qualify for leave under this Article shall be counted in determining the maximum twelve-week eligibility.

ARTICLE 19 LEAVES OF ABSENCE

19.01 Disability Leave and Disability Separation.

An employee who is unable to perform the duties of their position due to a disabling illness, injury or condition (including pregnancy and conditions related hereto), may, at the Employer's discretion, be granted a disability leave for up to six (6) months (including time for which the employee is eligible for Family and Medical Leave) upon presentation of appropriate medical evidence. At the sole discretion of the Employer, an additional disability leave up to six (6) months may be granted upon presentation of appropriate medical evidence. If the employee is unable to return to active work status within six (6) months due to the same or related disabling illness, injury, or condition, the employee may be given an involuntary disability separation under the Ohio Revised Code.

If an employee is placed on disability leave without pay and is subsequently given a disability separation, the total combined time of absence due to the disability shall not exceed three (3) years for purpose of reinstatement rights. Satisfactory written documentation substantiating the cause, nature and extent of the disabling illness, injury, or condition shall be required prior to the granting of a disability separation, unless the employee is hospitalized at the time the leave is to begin or the disability separation is given. If an examination is requested by the Employer the Employer shall bear the cost of the examination. Upon the employee's return from disability leave or disability separation, he shall be returned to the same or similar position within the employee's former classification. If no similar classification exists, then a layoff situation may occur pursuant to Layoff and Recall.

19.02 Personal Leaves of Absence.

An employee with more than one (1) year seniority may request an unpaid leave for any reason for up to six (6) months with the approval of the Employer. A leave of absence for public service or education may be granted for up to two (2) years. The request for a leave of absence must be submitted in writing for a specific period of time. Acceptable reasons for an unpaid leave of absence include:

- a. Voluntary service in any government sponsored program of public betterment.
- b. Family reasons that do not qualify under Family and Medical Leave (see Art. 18).
- c. Other reasons for good cause as determined by the Employer.

19.03 Education Leave.

An employee who has completed at least one (1) year of service with the Employer may be granted an educational leave for a maximum period of two (2) years for purposes of education, training, or specialized experience which would be of benefit to the Employer by improved performance at any level. An employee shall submit to the Employer pertinent information relating to the training for which the educational leave is requested.

19.04 Vacation Credit and Seniority During Leave.

An employee on leave of absence without pay does not earn sick leave or vacation credit. However, the time spent on authorized leave of absence is to be counted in determining length of service for purposes of extended vacation eligibility or other purposes where tenure is a factor. Seniority shall be established for all other purposes to Article 13, Seniority.

19.05 Abuse of Leave.

If a leave of absence is granted for a specific purpose, and it is found the leave is not actually being used for such purpose, the Employer may cancel the leave and direct the employee to report for work by giving written notice to the employee and may take disciplinary action against the employee.

19.06 Reinstatement from Leave.

Upon completion of a leave of absence, the employee is to be returned to the same or similar position within the employee's former classification. If the employee's former classification no longer exists, the employee shall exercise her rights pursuant to Article 24, Layoff and Recall.

19.07 Leaves with Pay.

A. Court Leave

The Employer shall grant full pay when an employee is summoned for any jury duty by the United States, the State of Ohio, or political subdivision. All compensation for jury duty must be refused by signing the proper County form, unless such duty is performed totally outside of normal working hours. An employee released from jury duty prior to the end of a scheduled workday shall report to work for the remaining hours, providing at least two (2) hours of work remain. Employees will honor any subpoena issued to them, including those for Worker's Compensation and Unemployment Compensation hearings. Employees will not be paid unless using vacation or personal time, when appearing in court for criminal or civil cases, when the case is being heard in connection with the employee's personal matters, such as traffic court, divorce proceedings, custody, appearing as directed with juvenile, etc.

B. Military Leave

Employees who are member of the Ohio National Guard, the State or Federal Militia, or are members of reserve components of the United States armed forces will be permitted all time off for duty purposes and compensated for performance as required by State and Federal law.

19.08 Health Benefits During Leave of Absence.

Employer paid health benefits will continue through the end of the month in which an unpaid leave of absence commences, and begins again on the first of the month following an effective return to work. For any time which Employer health benefits are not in effect, an employee may be eligible to pay for benefits under COBRA. Employees on paid leave of absence will continue to be covered by Employer paid benefits for the duration of the paid leave.

ARTICLE 20 UNION LEAVES/CONVENTIONS/CONFERENCES

20.01 Employee Union Officials shall be granted up to five (5) days leave each year to attend Union business. The five (5) days shall be with pay, subject to schedule requirements, without loss of benefits. This leave shall not be charged against any other leave. However, Union Associates and or Delegates may use vacation time, compensatory time, sick time or any other paid leave which the employee may be entitled to for the purpose of attending such meeting.

20.02 The employee must request Union Leave ten (10) calendar days prior to any such meeting.

20.03 Union leave shall not exceed a total of five (5) working days per calendar year for the Union regardless of whether Union official represent employees of the County Commissioners or Clerk of Courts.

20.04 The employee must notify the Employer of the time, date and place of the Union business that they are to attend.

**ARTICLE 21
BEREAVEMENT LEAVE**

21.01 An employee will be granted up to three (3) days of paid leave (regular hours) due to the death of a spouse or domestic partner, parent, brother, sister, child, grandchild, niece, nephew, mother in-law, father in-law, brother in-law, sister in-law, grandparents, step-children, step parents, and step siblings. Sick days may be used for any days needed above and beyond three (3) days as provided in Article 17.4 (B).

21.02 All employees who request bereavement leave for a significant other will be required to complete an Affidavit of Domestic Partnership, attached as Appendix G. Employees must also complete and submit an Affidavit for Leave Due to Death in the Family as attached in Appendix H.

**ARTICLE 22
VACATION LEAVE**

22.01 Full-time employees are entitled to vacation with pay after six (6) months of continuous service with the Employer. The amount of vacation leave to which an employee is entitled based upon length of service as follows:

<u>LENGTH OF SERVICE</u>	<u>VACATION</u>
after six (6) months	1 week
1 year but fewer than 5 years	2 weeks
5 years but fewer than 10 years	3 weeks
10 years but fewer than 15 years	4 weeks
15 years and up	5 weeks
25 years and up	6 weeks

22.02 No employee will be entitled to vacation leave or payment for accumulated vacation under any circumstances until he/she has completed 6 months of employment with the Employer. The rate of vacation pay shall be the employee's regular straight time hourly rate of pay in effect for the employee's regular job at the time the vacation is being taken.

22.03 Employees hired before July 5, 1987, shall be entitled to vacation service credit for all employment with the State of Ohio or any political subdivision of the State, providing the time between employment and reemployment does not exceed ten (10) years. Employees hired on or after July 5, 1987 shall be entitled to vacation credit only for time spent in employment with Ashtabula County, except no credit will be given for time service prior to a break in service lasting ten (10) or more years.

22.04 During the period of January 1 through January 31st, employees shall submit to the Employer, vacation leave requests for the ensuing twelve (12) months. Vacation leaves shall be awarded based on seniority and in accordance to the workload requirements as determined by the Employer, and such schedules shall not be arbitrarily adjusted to deny employees vacations or to cancel vacations. An employee who fails to make his/her vacation application during the appropriate period will be awarded vacation leave without regard to seniority and only when dates are open. The Employer or their designate shall have five (5) working days from January 31st or five (5) working days from receipt of the vacation request, to approve or disapprove the request and return a signed copy of the request to the employee.

22.05 The Employer reserves the right to limit the number of employees who may be granted vacation leave at any specific time in any given unit.

22.06 Once the vacation has been approved by the Employer, alteration or cancellation of vacation days by the Employer shall be based only on emergency needs.

22.07 Vacation leave shall be taken by an employee between the year in which it was accrued and the next anniversary date of employment. The Employer shall permit an employee to accumulate vacation from year to year, but no more than a total of two (2) years. This accumulation of vacation time must be approved in advance and must be in response to special circumstances as outlined in a written request submitted by the employee.

22.08 Employees shall forfeit their right to take or to be paid for any vacation leave in their credit which is in excess of the accrual for two (2) years. Such excess leave shall be eliminated from the employee's leave balance. Upon execution of this Agreement, employees who have accumulated vacation leave to their credit shall not lose said leave. Eligible employees may use such prior accrual within one (1) year from the date of execution of this Agreement. Failure to use such accrued vacation leave will result in forfeiture of the balance in excess of the two year accrual.

22.09 Days specified as holidays in this Agreement shall not be charged to an employee's vacation leave.

22.10 An employee is entitled to compensation at his/her current rate of pay for the prorated portion of any earned but unused vacation leave for the current year to his/her credit at time of separation.

22.11 In the case of the death of an employee, the unused vacation leave to the credit of any such employee shall be paid to deceased employee's spouse and then to the estate if no spouse survives.

22.12 An employee's accrued vacation and unused balance will be shown on the employee's bi-weekly payroll statement.

22.13 When a full-time employee works less than his/her regular scheduled hours in a pay period and the employee is not in active pay status during such absence, partial vacation credit will be applied.

22.14 Part-time service with the Employer will be credited on a prorated basis for the purpose of determine length of service.

22.15 Current employees shall not lose any previously granted prior service credit due to the provision of this Article.

ARTICLE 23 HOLIDAYS

23.01 All full-time employees covered under this Agreement shall be entitled to the following paid holidays:

New Year's Day	1 st of January
Martin Luther King Day	3 rd Monday of January
President's Day	3 rd Monday of February
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
Juneteenth Day	June 19 th each year
Independence Day	4 th of July
Labor Day	1 st Monday in September
Columbus Day	2 nd Monday in October
Veterans Day	11 th of November
Thanksgiving Day	4 th Thursday in November
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday immediately following Thanksgiving
Christmas Eve	24 th of December – Courthouse to close at 12:00 p.m. If holiday falls on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday; Employees to get 4 hours of holiday pay
Christmas Day	25 th of December

23.02 In the event that the aforementioned holidays fall on a Saturday, the Friday immediately preceding shall be observed as the holiday. In the event any of the aforementioned holidays fall on a Sunday, the Monday immediately succeeding shall be observed as the holiday.

23.03 Full-time employees shall be paid for their normal scheduled hours at their straight time hourly rate for each of the holidays listed in Section 23.1, above, when no work is performed on such holiday.

23.04 Any work performed by a full-time employee on any one of the days listed in Section 23.01, either by callout or pre-arranged, shall be paid at the rate of one and one-half (1 ½) the straight time rate, in addition to holiday pay. Exceptions: If employee is called out on these (5) holidays (New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, or Christmas) they shall be paid double time for the time worked either callout or pre-arranged, in addition to their holiday pay.

23.05 For full-time employees covered by this Agreement to receive holiday pay for those days listed in Section 23.1, the employee must be in active pay status, and must work the scheduled day preceding the holiday and the scheduled day succeeding the holiday, except if excused due to funeral leave or sick leave with doctor's verification. Employees on any type of unpaid leave of absence are not entitled to holidays.

23.06 Part-time employees covered under this Agreement shall be paid at one and one-half (1 1/2) their regular rate of pay in addition to their regular rate of pay for all hours actually worked on any of the holidays listed in Section 23.1.

23.07 Each full-time employee on the active payroll as of January 1 of each year shall be entitled to four (4) personal days with pay in that calendar year. Personal days may be taken at a time agreed to by the employee and the Employer.

23.08 Full-time employees hired in the first quarter of the year will be granted two (2) personal days to be taken at a time agreed to by the employee and the Employer once a successful probationary period of 180 days has been completed. Employees hired April 1st or after will be granted one (1) personal day to be taken at a time agreed to by the employee and the Employer once a successful probationary period of 180 days has been completed. Part-time employees are not eligible for personal days.

23.09 Personal days are not cumulative and do not carry over from one calendar year to the next. Time taken for personal days are considered "time worked" for purposes of calculating overtime.

23.10 A newly hired probationary employee will not be entitled to any paid personal days as covered in Section 23.7 and Section 23.8. Only after the successful completion of the one hundred eighty (180) day probationary period is over will Sections 23.7 and 23.9 apply.

ARTICLE 24 LAYOFF AND RECALL

24.01 In any case of an anticipated layoff of bargaining unit employees, the Employer shall notify the Union of the impending layoff prior to service of notice to employees.

24.02 In the event of a layoff, affected employees shall receive written notice of layoff at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the effective date. The President of the Union or his/her designee shall be forwarded a copy of all layoff notices served on any employee the day of mailing or personal service.

24.03 The Employer shall, within each classification affected, lay off employees in order of seniority. Layoffs shall occur in the following order in the classification(s) affected:

1. seasonal, temporary employees; and intermittent employees;
2. student employees;
3. probationary employees;
4. permanent employees in the inverse order of their seniority as defined in this Agreement.

Layoff of part-time and full-time employees shall occur in inverse seniority in the classification and the employment status or each group affected by the reduction in force.

Full-time employees affected by a layoff may exercise bumping rights at their option against part-time employees with less seniority within the classification. Failure to exercise bumping right shall not cause the Employer to challenge any application for unemployment compensation benefits.

24.04 An employee receiving notice of layoff shall have five (5) work days following receipt in which to exercise their right to bump any employee with less Employer seniority in the same or lower rated classification that the affected employee is qualified to perform without training. An employee who bumps into a lower rated classification will be compensated at the lower rate of pay and benefits. An employee who is bumped from their position shall have five (5) work days in which to exercise their bumping rights in a similar manner. An employee who does not have sufficient seniority to bump another employee shall be laid off and placed on the appropriate recall list. The form for "Notice of Bumping" is attached hereto as Appendix F.

With reference to Section 24.05

24.05 When employees are laid off, the Employer shall create and maintain a layoff and recall list for each classification. The Employer shall recall employees according to seniority, beginning with the most senior employee in the classification, and then to any classification where the employee has the skill, ability, and qualifications to perform the work with minimum training, as determined by the Employer. Employees shall be on recall for a period of twelve (12) months. The President of the Union or designee shall be forwarded a copy of all recall lists and a copy of all changes and amendments thereto at the time of posting and as changes, amendments are made by the Employer.

In the event an employee refuses recall to a classification other than that from which he was laid off, the employee will not lose recall rights for the original classification. However, if the employee refuses recall to his/her original classification (that from which he/she was placed on layoff), the employee will be removed from the recall list.

24.06 Notice of recall will be sent to the employee by registered mail with a copy to the Union. The Employer will be deemed to have fulfilled its obligations by mailing the recall notice by registered mail, return receipt requested, to the last mailing address provided by the employee.

The recalled employee will have up to seven (7) calendar days following mailing of the recall notice to notify the Employer of their intent to return to work, and shall have ten (10) calendar days following mailing of the recall notice in which to report for duty, unless a different date for return is otherwise notified in the notice beyond the ten (10) calendar days. Failure to comply with the time limits as established herein will result in an employee's loss of recall rights. In the event of extenuating circumstances such as illness, injury or other good cause preventing the employee from returning or giving notice within the time limit above, the Employer may grant a reasonable extension not to exceed thirty (30) days. In the event such illness or injury precludes an employee from returning to work within the time limit above (including extension), such employee shall be by-passed for recall, but shall remain on the recall list for the length of the employee's seniority at the time of layoff, but not to exceed eighteen (18) months.

In the event there is a tie in seniority date of two (2) or more employees, then preference shall be determined by draw.

ARTICLE 25 JOB DESCRIPTIONS

25.01 Each job description shall list the major or central duties of the particular position and shall automatically include all functionally related duties, whether listed or unlisted.

25.02 The Employer agrees to provide a copy of the appropriate job description to each employee when hired, transferred, demoted, or promoted into a classification. Whenever a job description is substantially changed or altered, affected employees shall receive a copy of the new job description.

25.03 The Employer agrees to provide the Union with a copy of the table of organization and to make available the current job descriptions for all classifications within the bargaining unit.

25.04 The Employer may evaluate the responsibilities and duties of a job to reclassify it. An incumbent shall not suffer loss of compensation as a result of such a reclassification, however, if such an evaluation indicates that the position merits a lesser rate of pay, the newly established rate of pay shall become effective when the position is filled with a new or different employee.

ARTICLE 26 LABOR/MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

26.01 In the interest of effective communications, either party may at any time request a Labor-Management Conference. Such request shall be made in writing and be presented to the other party five (5) calendar days in advance of the requested meeting date. The written request shall include an agenda of items the party wishes to discuss and the names of those representatives who will be attending. A Labor-Management Conference shall be scheduled within ten (10) days of the date requested, but no more frequently than quarterly unless both parties agree to meet more frequently.

26.02 The purpose of such meeting shall be limited to:

- A. Discuss the administration of this Agreement;
- B. Notify the Union of changes made by the Employer which affect employees;
- C. Discuss grievances which have not been processed beyond the final step of the grievance procedure when such discussions are mutually agreed to by the parties;
- D. Disseminate general information of interest to the parties;
- E. Give the Union representative the opportunity to share the views of their members and/or make suggestions on subjects or interest to their members;
- F. Discuss ways to increase productivity and improve efficiency;
- G. Consider and discuss health and safety matters relating to employees;
- H. Discuss matters pertaining to the administration of the non-discrimination provisions of this Agreement.

26.03 Minutes of the meetings shall be taken by an Employer representative, typed and distributed to the participants and to the Board of Commissioners within five (5) working days of the meeting.

26.04 There shall be no more than three (3) Union representatives in attendance at the Labor/Management Conference. There shall be no more than four (4) management representatives at the conference.

ARTICLE 27 SAFETY AND HEALTH

27.01 The Employer shall make reasonable attempts to maintain a safe and healthful workplace and comply with applicable safety laws, rules and regulations.

27.02 Occupational safety and health is the mutual concern of the Employer and the Union. In this regard, the Union will cooperate with the Employer in encouraging employees to observe applicable safety laws, rules and regulations.

27.03 Employees shall follow all departmental safety rules, regulations, and methods.

27.04 Employees will promptly report to their immediate supervisor conditions alleged to be unsafe using the Safety and Health Issue Reporting Form attached to this contract as **Appendix I**. The supervisor will investigate the report and correct the condition(s) as promptly as warranted and determine whether such condition does in fact present a significant threat to the safety or health of the employee(s) involved and, if necessary, initiate appropriate corrective action. If an employee disagrees with the supervisor's determination or action the employee may file a grievance at the Step 2.

27.05 Safety and health matters of mutual concern will be addressed at the labor-management conferences.

ARTICLE 28 UNION BULLETIN BOARDS

28.01 The Employer shall provide the Union space for bulletin boards at all sites for the purpose of posting Union sanctioned and approved notices and communication. The Union assumes any and all responsibilities and liability for any notices posted on the bulletin board.

28.02 The material posted shall relate to but not be limited to:

- A. Union recreational and social affairs;
- B. Union meetings
- C. Union appointments;
- D. Notice of nominations and elections;
- E. Results of elections; and
- F. Any other material authorized by the Local Union President.

28.03 It is agreed that no material may be posted on the Union bulletin board at any time which contain personal attacks upon any other member or any other employee, derogatory attacks upon the administration or management or attacks and/or any comments regarding a candidate for public office.

ARTICLE 29 HEALTH COVERAGE

29.01 For the term of this Agreement, the Employer agrees to continue to provide hospitalization coverage at the same level and at the same cost as established by the County Commissioners for non-bargaining unit employees of the County.

29.02 The Employer will continue to pay ninety percent (90%) of the premium for the primary plan (basic health insurance) for full-time employees through the calendar year 2022. Should the primary plan (basic health insurance) premium increase for the calendar years 2023 and 2024, the Employer agrees to pay no less than eighty-five (85%) of the premium. The employee shall pay the remainder. The employee shall pay the remainder of the premium.

At any time during the term of this Agreement, should the County wish to change health benefits for employees as a result of a change of coverage, carrier or cost to the employee being implemented by the Board of County Commissioners, the Employer will notify the Union of the pending change, and the Union may initiate discussion on the effects of the change by directing a letter to the Employer indicating its desire to do so. The parties shall meet within two (2) weeks of such notice. It is agreed that no change shall be initiated during the two (2) week period.

29.03 Effective on execution of this Agreement, the Employer will contribute sixty-one (\$61.00) per month per bargaining unit employee on active pay status to the AFSCME Care Fund. Such contribution shall be for the purpose of providing Dental II A \$34, Vision II \$12 and Prescription Drug \$15 benefits as described by AFSCME. Employees not participating in the benefit as of the date of this Agreement must submit an enrollment card to the Personnel Office in order to initiate such Employer contribution. The only obligation of the Employer under such plan and this section shall be to pay the required premium.

ARTICLE 30 WAGES

30.01 Wage Plan

The Union and Employer agree to the wage plan set forth below. There are sixteen (16) pay grades, numbered 1 through 16, for each of the current bargaining unit classifications. For the duration of this Agreement, the following pay grades will be in effect:

Pay Grade	Min		Max	
	Hourly	Annual	Hourly	Annual
1	\$ 12.41	\$25,815.92	\$ 16.76	\$ 34,856.85
2	\$ 13.52	\$28,129.71	\$ 18.26	\$ 37,984.75
3	\$ 14.54	\$30,250.69	\$ 19.64	\$ 40,855.57
4	\$ 15.64	\$32,521.63	\$ 21.12	\$ 43,919.20
5	\$ 16.81	\$34,963.97	\$ 22.69	\$ 47,197.07
6	\$ 18.08	\$37,599.12	\$ 24.39	\$ 50,732.03
7	\$ 19.42	\$40,384.24	\$ 26.22	\$ 54,545.50
8	\$ 20.88	\$43,426.45	\$ 28.19	\$ 58,637.49
9	\$ 22.43	\$46,661.47	\$ 30.30	\$ 63,029.41
10	\$ 24.12	\$50,175.01	\$ 32.57	\$ 67,742.69
11	\$ 25.94	\$53,945.63	\$ 35.02	\$ 72,841.60
12	\$ 27.88	\$57,994.77	\$ 39.04	\$ 81,196.96
13	\$ 29.98	\$62,365.26	\$ 41.97	\$ 87,302.80
14	\$ 32.23	\$67,035.70	\$ 45.12	\$ 93,858.54
15	\$ 34.65	\$72,070.34	\$ 48.50	\$100,885.62
16	\$ 37.23	\$77,447.76	\$ 52.13	\$108,426.86

Employees hired after execution of this Agreement, will be paid starting at the base rate. No employee will be paid below the base rate for his or her job classification. However, the Employer may, at its discretion, place a newly hired employee at a rate up to 5% above the base rate depending on the employee's experience and market conditions (i.e. the base rate times 1.05.)

Employees who are promoted (move to a higher pay grade through the bid procedure specified herein) will receive the greater of either the hourly rate for the entry level of the new pay grade or the hourly rate equal to three percent (3%) more than their current hourly rate.

Employees who are reduced in position through bid, or other reason except for failure of the probationary period, will go back to the wage they would have had if they had not changed position.

Employees who fail the probationary period following a promotion and are reinstated to their former positions will maintain their wage which they would have held had they not been promoted.

A certified Building Inspector who holds an O.B.B.S certification of either Residential Building Official (RBO), Electrical Safety Inspector (ESI), Building Inspector (BI), shall receive a supplement of one dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) per hour added to the base rate for each certification not to exceed two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) total.

Employees in the classifications of WW Operator II, WW Operator I, Water Distribution Technician, Maintenance Mechanic, and Maintenance Worker II who hold any of the following certifications or licenses, shall receive a supplement of one dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) per hour added to the base rate for each certification or license not to exceed two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) total:

WW Class I	WW Class II
Water Distribution Class I	WW Collections Class I
CDL	

Additional certifications for ACDES and other Commissioner departments may be approved upon the recommendation of the Department Director and approved by the County Administrator.

Effective January 1, 2025 employees will be eligible for steps within their first two years of employment. Step One will be given on the one-year anniversary date of employment, and Step Two will be given on the second-year anniversary date of employment. Below is the step amount associated with each paygrade:

Pay Grade	
5	0.30
6	0.35
7	0.35
8	0.40
9	0.40
10	0.45
11	0.45
12	0.45
13	0.45

30.02 Raises

Employees will receive the following raises, provided that the raises do not put their hourly rates above the maximum rate:

- Effective with the first full pay period that includes January 1, 2025, all bargaining unit employees will receive a 5% general wage increase.
- Effective with the first full pay period that includes January 1, 2026, all bargaining unit employees will receive a 3% general wage increase.
- Effective with the first full pay period that includes January 1, 2027, all bargaining unit employees will receive a 3% general wage increase.

In addition, employees receiving no steps, or no certification pay for years 2025, 2026 and 2027, will receive the following:

- Effective with the first full pay period that includes January 1, 2025, affected employees will receive a one-time payment of three hundred (\$300) dollars.
- Effective with the first full pay period that includes January 1, 2026, affected employees will receive a one-time payment of two hundred (\$200) dollars.
- Effective with the first full pay period that includes January 1, 2027, affected employees will receive a one-time payment of two hundred (\$200) dollars.

30.03 Longevity

Employees who have worked five full years with the County will receive longevity for each year of service in excess of five years in accordance with the Longevity Pay Grid listed below:

5 years of service	\$520
6 years of service	\$624
7 years of service	\$728
8 years of service	\$832
9 years of service	\$936
10 years of service	\$1,040
11 years of service	\$1,144
12 years of service	\$1,248
13 years of service	\$1,352
14 years of service	\$1,456
15 years of service	\$1,560
16 years of service	\$1,664
17 years of service	\$1,768
18 years of service	\$1,872
19 years of service	\$1,976
20 years of service	\$2,080
21 years of service	\$2,184
22 years of service	\$2,288
23 years of service	\$2,392
24 years of service	\$2,496
25 years of service	\$2,600

For purposes of longevity, time spent on unpaid leaves of absence in excess of six consecutive months will not count toward longevity service. Longevity payments will be made in November of each year in one lump sum and will be subject to the employee's customary withholdings and deductions. The Employer will make their portion of retirement contribution as required by the Ohio Public Employee Retirement System.

30.04 Exceeding the Maximum Rate. Employees whose hourly rates on or before December 31, 2021, are equal to or greater than the maximum rate established for their respective job classifications will receive their raises in the form of a one-time, lump sum payment, paid in the first full pay period after January 1 in the year that the raise took effect. The one-time, lump sum payment is equal to the employee's current hourly rate times 3% times 2,080 hours.

e.g., A Customer Service Tech who earned a \$20.65 hourly rate on or before December 31, 2018, would receive a one-time, lump sum payment of \$859.04, because the \$20.65 hourly rate is higher than the maximum wage rate established for that classification ($\$20.65/\text{hr.} \times 0.02 \times 2,080 \text{ hrs.} = \859.04).

Employees whose hourly rates on or before December 31, 2021, are less than the maximum rate established for their respective job classifications, but whose new hourly rates including raises would exceed the maximum rate for their respective classification, will receive the following:

- a. A wage increase in the first full pay period after January 1 in the year that the raise took effect, which will sufficiently bring the employee's hourly rate to the maximum rate for their respective classification; and
- b. The remaining balance of the contract increase of the employee's then current rate, paid in the form of a one-time, lump sum payment in the first full pay period after January 1 in the year that the raise took effect. The one-time, lump sum payment is equal to the remaining balance times 2,080 hours.

e.g., A Custodian hired who earned a \$15.00 hourly rate on or before December 31, 2021, would receive the following in lieu of a 3% general wage increase:

1. A wage increase of \$0.19/hr. in the first full pay period after January 1 in the year that the raise took effect, bringing the employee's wage to the maximum rate of \$15.19/hr.; and
2. A one-time, lump sum payment of \$228.80, paid in the first full pay period after January 1 in the year that the raise took effect ($\$0.11/\text{hr.} \times 2,080 \text{ hrs.} = \228.80).

30.05 Promotions and Reclassifications. Employees who are promoted during the term of this Agreement will receive an automatic increase of 3% to their hourly wage rate or the minimum hourly rate for that classification, whichever is greater. The increase will be effective on the date of promotion.

30.06 Pay Grade Assignments. For the duration of this Agreement, the pay grades for each classification shall be in accordance with Appendix A.

ARTICLE 31 MISCELLANEOUS

31.01 Employees in the classification of Wastewater Treatment Operator I, II and III, Wastewater Worker II, Distribution Technician, Distribution Technician in Training, Maintenance Department employees, Dog Warden, Dog Warden/Humane Agent, Treatment Plant Maintenance Mechanic, all Inspectors in the Building Department, Inspectors in Training, Grant Specialist and EMA Department Employees will receive up to two hundred fifty (\$250) dollars per contract year, upon presentation of receipt(s) for purchase of work boots meeting standards established by the Employer.

31.02 Uniform Allowance. A yearly uniform allowance of five hundred dollars (\$500) shall be paid on an annual basis no later than February 28th each year to the employees in the following classifications: Dog Warden, Dog Warden/Humane Agent, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I, II and III, Treatment Plant Maintenance Mechanic, Relief Operator, Water Distribution Technicians, all Inspectors in the Building Department, Inspectors in Training, Maintenance Department Grant Specialist, Planner Trainer, 911 Coordinator.

A yearly uniform allowance of four hundred dollars (\$400) shall be paid on an annual basis to all other employees in the remaining classifications no later than February 28th each year, for the purposes of purchasing office appropriate attire and/or items with the County and Department logo on them.

It is understood that the employee may be taxed on the total amount of allowance if it does not comply with the Internal Revenue Service Fringe Benefit Guideline. If an employee would like to opt-out of this benefit they must submit a signed form (Appendix K) to Human Resources no later than January 31st of each year.

This article as it reads does not affect any current or future equipment, or supplies given by the employer as required or needed to maintain safety and operational needs.

31.03 The Employer will pay a one-time fifteen hundred-dollar (\$1,500) sign on bonus to employees hired into the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I or II Classifications and Water Distribution Technicians.

31.04 The Employer will pay a five hundred-dollar (\$500) bonus to employees who pass the Ohio EPA Class II Water Treatment Operator's test or Class II Water Distribution test, and a (\$250) bonus to employees who pass the Ohio EPA Class I Water Operator test or the Class I Water Distribution test.

31.05 Employees will have two (2) attempts, at the Employer's expense, to take the Ohio EPA Class I Operator's test. After two (2) unsuccessful attempts, the employee may take additional tests at his/her cost, and the Employer will only reimburse the employee for the last successful attempt. Additionally, employees will have two (2) attempts, at the Employer's expense, to take the Ohio EPA Class II Operator's test. After two (2) unsuccessful attempts, the employee may take additional tests at his/her cost, and the Employer will only reimburse the employee for the last successful attempt. Employees will have two (2) attempts, at the Employer's expenses to take the Water Distribution Technician test. After two (2) unsuccessful attempts, the employee may take additional test at his/her cost and the Employer will only reimburse the employee for the last successful attempt.

31.06 The County shall pay, according to policy, each employee ten dollars (\$10.00) for meal money, with an itemized receipt, during the shift in the event any overtime is worked abutting the normal workday more than 4 hours or overtime on the weekends and holidays more than 4 hours.

ARTICLE 32 WAIVER IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

32.01 In case of emergency declared by the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Ohio, the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County, the Federal or State Legislature, such as acts of God, the following conditions of this Agreement shall automatically be suspended:

- a. time limits for the Employer or the Union replies on grievances; and
- b. all work rules and/or agreements and practice relating to the assignment of all employees.

32.02 Upon the termination of the emergency or within seven (7) calendar days of date of said declared emergency unless otherwise mutually agreed by the parties, should valid grievances exist, they shall be processed in accordance with the provisions outlined in the grievance procedure, and shall proceed from the point in the grievance procedure to which they (the grievance(s)) had properly progressed.

ARTICLE 33 GENDER AND PLURAL

33.01 Whenever the context so requires, the use of words herein, in the singular, shall be construed to include the plural, and words in the plural, the singular, and words whether in the masculine, feminine or neuter gender shall be construed to include all of said genders. By the use of either the masculine or feminine genders it is understood that said use is for convenience purposes only and is not to be interpreted to be discriminatory by reason of sex.

ARTICLE 34 OBLIGATION TO NEGOTIATE

34.01 The Employer and the Union acknowledge that during negotiations which preceded this Agreement, each had the unlimited right and opportunity to make demands and proposals with respect to any subject or matter not removed by law from the area of collective bargaining/negotiations and that the understandings and agreements arrived at by the parties after the exercise of that right and opportunity are set forth in this Agreement.

34.02 Therefore, for the life of this Agreement, the Employer and the Union each voluntarily and unqualifiedly waives the right, and each agrees that the other shall not be obligated to negotiate collectively with respect to any subject or matter referred to, or covered in this Agreement, or with respect to any subject or matter not specifically referred to or covered in this Agreement, even though such subjects or matters may not have been within the knowledge or contemplation of either or both of the parties at the time they negotiated and signed this Agreement.

34.03 Only upon mutual agreement of the parties may any provision of this Agreement be renegotiated during its term.

**ARTICLE 35
TOTAL AGREEMENT**

35.01 This Agreement represents the entire agreement between the Employer and the Union and unless specifically and expressly set forth in the express written provisions of this Agreement, all rules, regulations, benefits and practices previously and presently in effect may be modified and discontinued at the sole discretion of the Employer, after a seven (7) day notice to the Union, without any such modifications or discontinuances being subject to any grievance or appeal procedure herein.

**ARTICLE 36
CONFORMITY TO LAW**

36.01 This Agreement shall be subject to and subordinated to any applicable present and future federal and state laws as set forth in R.C. 4117.10, and the invalidity of any provisions of this Agreement by reason of any such existing or future law shall not affect the validity of the surviving provisions.

36.02 If the Enactment of legislation, or a determination by a court of final and competent jurisdiction (whether in a proceeding between the parties or in one not between the parties but controlling by reason of the facts) renders any portion of this Agreement invalid or unenforceable, such legislation or decision shall not affect the validity of the surviving provisions of this agreement, which shall remain in full force and effect as if such invalid provision(s) thereof had not been included herein.

36.03 In the event a portion of this Agreement is rendered invalid, as set forth above, upon written notification of either party, the parties shall meet within thirty (30) days to negotiate a lawful alternative.

**ARTICLE 37
REST PERIOD**

37.01

When an employee is required to work sixteen (16) or more consecutive hours before their regularly scheduled shift, he/she will receive a maximum of eight (8) hours rest period before being required to report back to work.

Management agrees to meet with union in a labor management meeting in 2025 to further discuss the section that has been stricken above.

**ARTICLE 38
DURATION OF AGREEMENT**

38.01

A. This Agreement shall be effective as of January 1, 2025 and shall remain in full force and effect through December 31, 2027.

B.

If either party desires to modify, amend or terminate this Agreement, it shall give written notice of such intent no earlier than ninety (90) calendar days prior nor later than **one-hundred-twenty (120)** calendar days to the expiration date of this Agreement. Such notice shall be by certified mail with return receipt. The parties shall commence negotiations within two (2) weeks upon receipt of the notice of intent.

**ARTICLE 39
EXECUTION**

39.01 This Agreement is hereby executed on this 22nd day of January, 2025.

FOR ASHTABULA COUNTY:

FOR LOCAL 3781:


Kathryn Whittington, Commissioner


David Britton, Negotiating Member

Case Kozlowski, Commissioner

Dawn Gates, Negotiating Member


J.P. Ducro, Commissioner


Darren Buell, Negotiating Member


Janet Discher, County Administrator

FOR AFSCME OHIO COUNCIL 8


Jessica Brundage, H.R Director


Breen McNally, Representative

**ARTICLE 38
DURATION OF AGREEMENT**

38.01

- A. This Agreement shall be effective as of January 1, 2025 and shall remain in full force and effect through December 31, 2027.
- B.

If either party desires to modify, amend or terminate this Agreement, it shall give written notice of such intent no earlier than ninety (90) calendar days prior nor later than **one-hundred-twenty (120)** calendar days to the expiration date of this Agreement. Such notice shall be by certified mail with return receipt. The parties shall commence negotiations within two (2) weeks upon receipt of the notice of intent.

**ARTICLE 39
EXECUTION**

39.01 This Agreement is hereby executed on this _____ day of _____, 2025.

FOR ASHTABULA COUNTY:

FOR LOCAL 3781:

Kathryn Whittington, Commissioner

David Britton, Negotiating Member

Case Kozlowski, Commissioner

Dawn Gates, Negotiating Member

J.P. Ducro, Commissioner

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Janet Discher, County Administrator

FOR AFSCME OHIO COUNCIL 8

Jessica Brundage, H.R Director

Breen McNally, Representative

Appendix A

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Pay Grade</u>
Certified Inspector I	12
Electrical Safety Inspector I	12
Multi Certified Inspector II	12
Multi Certified Inspector III	13
Permit Technician in Training	95% of 7
Permit Technician	7
E911 Coordinator/Planner Trainer	8
Customer Service Tech I	6
WW Operator in Training	7
WW Operator I	9
WW Operator II	10
WW Worker II	7
WW Maintenance Mechanic	8
Utility Coordinator	8
Dog Warden	9
Dog Warden/Humane Agent	10
Administrative Assistant	7
Account Clerk II	7
Utility Clerk	7
Fiscal Analyst (Account Clerk II in Planning Dept)	7
Building Maintenance Lead Worker	9
Maintenance Worker II	8
Custodian Maintenance Worker I	5
Project Coordinator I	9
Project Coordinator II	10
Water Distribution Technician	9

**APPENDIX B
DUES DEDUCTION FORM**

**AUTHORIZATION FOR REPRESENTATION
AND PAYROLL DEDUCTION
OHIO COUNCIL 8, AFSCME, AFL-CIO**

I, the undersigned, designate the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL/CIO, as my duly chosen and authorized representative on all matters related to my wages, hours and conditions of employment in order to promote and protect my economic welfare. Please consider this your authority to deduct from salary or wages earned by me an amount certified by the Union. The amount deducted shall be paid to the Local Union Treasurer, AFSCME, as you may be directed.

Employee

Date

**APPENDIX C
OFFICIAL GRIEVANCE FORM**

Grievance # _____

Step # _____

Employee Name: _____

Employee classification: _____ Immediate Supervisor: _____

Date and Time of Incident: ___/___/___ Time: _____ A.M./P.M.

Date Grievance First Discussed: ___/___/___

Date Grievance was Filed in Writing at Step One: ___/___/___

1. This grievance alleges that: ___ a. Article ___ Section ___ was violated: OR
___ b. Disciplinary action was not appropriately applied.

2. Explain what was done, and how and why the action was inappropriate.

Remedy requested to resolve the grievance.

I authorize the AFSCME Local 3781 as my representative to act for me in the disposition of this grievance.

Employee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Union Representative's Signature: _____ Date: _____

DATE SUBMITTED TO MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVE: ___/___/___

(To be filled out by Management Representative)

DATE RECEIVED BY MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVE: ___/___/___

DISPOSITION OF GRIEVANCE:

DATE PRESENTED TO EMPLOYEE/UNION REPRESENTATIVE: ___/___/___

Employee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Union Representative: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Management Representative: _____ Title: _____

The employee has until ___/___/___ to pursue this grievance to the next step.

**APPENDIX D
BIDDING FORM**

Bid Classification

Employee Name

Present Classification

Employee Signature

Received by the Employer on _____
Date

Employer

- One copy of the complete bid form retained by Employer
- One copy returned to employee
- One copy sent to Union

APPENDIX E FLEX TIME AGREEMENT

Either the Employer or an employee may make a request to flex the employee's daily work schedule for a limited period of time. Flex time is not intended to replace regularly scheduled work hours. Flex time may be permitted only by agreement of the Employer and the employee to accommodate work related circumstances or to meet departmental needs. Flex time can only be granted as long as the affected office is able to provide full service between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Monday through Friday.

Under no circumstances will a flex schedule be agreed that allows an employee to work more than forty (40) hours per week, or before 7:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m., and all employees must be scheduled to work between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Employees and supervisors are required to comply with all other Policies, Procedures and the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Requests to flex the regular work schedule will not be unreasonably denied by either the Employer or the employee. Denials of flex time requests are not subject to the Grievance Procedure unless the denials infer a pattern of discrimination contravening Section 3.1.

**APPENDIX F
NOTICE OF BUMPING**

Employee Name: _____

Employee Classification: _____

Department: _____

I hereby give notice of bumping and wish to exercise my "bumping" rights in accordance with Article 24 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement in order to bump into _____ Classification. I understand that this notice must be given within five (5) working days of my receipt of my layoff notice.

With reference to Section 24.04

Employee Signature

Date Submitted

Received By

APPENDIX G
Affidavit of Domestic Partnership
Commissioners
Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners

I, _____, hereby certify that _____
Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners Employee (Print) Domestic Partner (Print)

1. Is my domestic partner and that we share a regular and permanent residence, and
2. Have a committed personal relationship for at least six months, and
3. Can demonstrate financial interdependence as required below, and
4. Are not related by blood, not legally married, nor in a domestic partnership with anyone else.

Demonstrating financial interdependence: We share financial obligations, as demonstrated by the existence of at least two (2) of the following conditions: (please check those that apply)

- a. _____ We have a common or joint ownership of a residence (house, condominium, or mobile home). (Deed/Title)
- b. _____ Joint ownership of a motor vehicle. (Title)
- c. _____ Joint checking account. (Bank statement)
- d. _____ Joint credit account. (Statement)
- e. _____ Residential lease identifying both partners as tenants. (Lease)
- f. _____ My domestic partner has been designated as a primary beneficiary of at least one of the following:
 - i. A life insurance policy. (Copy of affidavit page)
 - ii. My will, or
 - iii. A trust

NOTE: At least two (2) documents are required to prove the existence of the above-mentioned conditions.

Should my domestic partnership terminate, I agree to file, within thirty (30) days, an Affidavit of Termination of Domestic Partnership with the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners Human Resource Office affirming that the domestic partnership has been terminated and that a copy of the Affidavit of Termination of Domestic Partnership Status (attached) has been mailed to my previous partner.

I understand that another Affidavit of Domestic Partnership cannot be filed until six (6) months after the most recent domestic partnership has been terminated. I also understand that an Affidavit of Termination of Domestic Partner Status must be filed with the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners Human Resource Office and also mailed to the previous domestic partner.

I understand the information in this affidavit will be used by the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners for the sole purpose of determining my eligibility for domestic partnership benefits, related to Sections 21.05B and 37.01 of the most recent collective bargaining agreement. This information will be treated as confidential as to the extent permitted by Ohio law and will be used solely for those purposes of the collective bargaining agreement stated above.

Signature

Local 3781 Ohio Council 8
Ashtabula County Commissioners 2025-2027

Date

Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners
Statement of Termination of Domestic Partnership

I, _____, affirm under penalty of perjury, that the Affidavit of Domestic Partnership
Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners Employee (Print)

attested to and signed by me on _____ is terminated as specified below:
Date

Name of Domestic Partner: _____

Termination of the Affidavit of Domestic Partnership is due to:

- Termination of Domestic Partnership: _____
Date
- Death of Domestic Partner: _____
Date

I understand that another Affidavit of Domestic Partnership cannot be filed until six (6) months after this Statement
of Termination of Domestic Partnership has been filed with my agency's Human Resources Office.

I shall mail a copy of this signed statement to my surviving former Domestic Partner.

Signature

Date

APPENDIX H
Affidavit for Leave Due to Death in the Family
Commissioners

Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners

I, _____, hereby certify that _____
Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners Employee (Print) Deceased Person (Print)

And is my _____ has passed away and I am requesting
Relationship to Employee

_____ days of bereavement
_____ days of sick
_____ days of vacation leave.

I understand that I get a maximum of three days of bereavement and three days of sick leave per death. I further understand that the information will be used by the Ashtabula County Commissioners for the sole purpose of determining my eligibility for leave. This information will be treated as confidential as to the extent permitted by Ohio law. Any falsification of information on this affidavit may be grounds for discipline up to and including termination.

Signature

Date

APPENDIX I



Safety and Health Issue Reporting Form

Please submit this form to a department head, supervisor or manager as soon as possible after you notice a safety or health issue.

Remember that you should stop any operation you feel is unsafe.

Name (optional): _____ Date: _____

Location: _____

Facility, equipment, control, work processes: _____

Description of the issue: _____

Suggested solution: _____

Signature (optional): _____

Department Head, Supervisor or Manager

Date received: _____

Action taken: _____

Signature of supervisor: _____

Workers' Comp. & Risk Specialist

Date received: _____

Follow up to employee: _____

Follow up to supervisor: _____

Issue was resolved: _____

Issue need further attention: _____

Created 7/2024

APPENDIX J

Commissioners

Compensatory time carryover request. Must follow guidelines set forth in Article 15.6.

Date of request: _____

Name: _____

Department: _____

Requested number of hours requesting to carryover: _____

(Maximum of 40 hours allowed)

Plan of action to use carryover hours: _____

Employee signature: _____

Department Head/Appointing Authority

Approve: _____

Deny: _____

Comments/explanation: _____

Department Head/Appointing Authority signature: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX K

Article 31.02 of the AFSCME Local 3781 contract with the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners allows members to elect to receive a once a year uniform allowance. The amount of allowance is based on the employee's job classification. Please refer to your contract for specific details.

Uniform allowance will be automatically paid out to each member no later than February 28th of each year unless you opt-out of receiving this payment.

Opting Out: if an employee does not want to receive the payment, they must complete this opt-out form and return it to Human Resources by January 31st each year.

Expectation of Uniform Maintenance: It is expected that all employees maintain uniforms or work clothes in good repair and presentable condition at all times, even if they opt-out of this payment. This includes replacing items as needed to ensure a professional appearance.

Acknowledgement:

By signing below, I acknowledge that I chose to opt out of the uniform allowance. I understand that by opting out at this time I will not receive any uniform allowance for the calendar year.

Name: _____

Employee ID: _____

Department: _____

Job Title: _____

Reason for opting out: _____

Employee Signature: _____

Date: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____

Date: _____

