

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fairfield Township Board of Trustees and IAFF Local 5276 Approve Memorandum of Understanding to Restore Fire Department Staffing and Reduce Overtime Costs

Fairfield Township, Ohio — The Fairfield Township Board of Trustees and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 5276 are pleased to announce the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that represents a collaborative effort to strengthen emergency services while improving the Township's fiscal stewardship.

The agreement restores the Fire Department's minimum daily staffing level from **nine (9) to eleven (11) personnel**, enhancing the department's ability to respond to emergencies safely and effectively. At the same time, the MOU includes operational changes designed to **reduce overtime expenses**, allowing the Township to better manage personnel costs while maintaining high-quality emergency response services.

This agreement reflects a shared commitment by Township leadership and IAFF Local 5276 to work together in the best interests of Fairfield Township residents, businesses, and Fire Department personnel.

"Public safety remains one of the Township's highest priorities," said Michael Berding, President of the Fairfield Township Board of Trustees. "This Memorandum of Understanding demonstrates what can be accomplished when management and labor work collaboratively to find solutions that improve service to our community while being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars."

Representatives of IAFF Local 5276 also praised the agreement.

"This MOU is the result of productive discussions focused on ensuring our firefighters have the staffing necessary to safely and effectively serve the community," said Joel Coomer, President IAFF Local 5276. "By restoring minimum staffing while implementing measures to reduce unnecessary overtime, this agreement benefits our members, the Township, and, most importantly, the residents we serve."

Restoring the minimum staffing level to eleven personnel is expected to improve operational readiness, increase flexibility in emergency response, and better support firefighter safety. The agreement's overtime reduction strategies will help control labor costs while maintaining reliable staffing levels.

Both the Fairfield Township Board of Trustees and IAFF Local 5276 recognize that this agreement is an important step toward ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Township's Fire Department and continuing to provide exceptional emergency services to the community.

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