



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 06/25/2024

REQUESTER: Rickey Knighton II, Assistant City Attorney

PRESENTER: Rickey Knighton II, Assistant City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE A SETTLEMENT OF CANDICE SMITH V. CITY OF NORMAN, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA COURT CASE CIV-2022-1002, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000.

BACKGROUND:

This case was brought by Candice Smith on November 22, 2022 alleging claims for gender discrimination under state and federal law. On May 24, 2024, Ms. Smith indicated that she would be willing to settle the case for \$15,000.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Smith has stated her willingness to settle her case for \$15,000. Because this matter involves pending litigation, the merits of this case were discussed during executive session held on June 11, 2024. The settlement offer is within the range discussed with Council in Executive Session.

Funds are available in the Miscellaneous Services-Judgments Account (No. 43122351-44705).

RECOMMENDATION:

It is believed that the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable and in the best interests of the City. It is recommended the settlement of this matter be approved by City Council and that this office be directed to reduce the settlement amount to judgment in accordance with 51 O.S. §159, and 62 O.S. §362. The settlement amount will then be placed on the property tax rolls for collection over the next three years. Under this process, one- third of the judgment amount plus interest at the statutory rate on the unpaid balance is collected through property tax roll assessments over that time period. This statutorily allowed procedure for payment of judgments against a municipality will minimize the impact of the settlement on the City's Water Reclamation Fund, Sewer Maintenance Fund and General Fund.