



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 09/22/2026

REQUESTER: City Council

PRESENTER: Kathryn Walker, Deputy City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2627-47: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA APPOINTING THE AD HOC PUBLIC SAFETY PLANNING AND FUNDING COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE SUSTAINABLE METHODOLOGIES FOR FUNDING LONG TERM PUBLIC SAFETY CAPITAL AND STAFFING NEEDS.

BACKGROUND:

In 2008, Norman voters approved a temporary seven-year dedicated portion of sales tax to fund certain public safety needs, including 41 additional police personnel, 30 additional fire personnel, related vehicles and equipment, and the acquisition, design, construction and equipment costs associated with Fire Stations 8 and 9 ("PSST I"). This temporary tax became a permanent tax when Norman voters approved PSST II, which was intended to fund the personnel costs from PSST I, in addition to 13 school resource officers, 4 additional emergency communication officers, 2 additional mechanics for emergency vehicles, replacement of city radio communication systems, construction of the Emergency Communications and Operations Center, replacement of fire trucks and apparatus, and relocation and reconstruction of Fire Station 5. The final remaining PSST II project is the relocation and reconstruction of Fire Station 5, which is anticipated to begin in the coming months.

The City has undertaken studies evaluating future staffing and facility needs for the Police and Fire Departments. PSST II sales tax revenues are insufficient to fund these future staffing and facility needs. Council has asked that an ad hoc committee be appointed to evaluate these needs and recommend long-term funding solutions to Council.

DISCUSSION:

Resolution R-2627-47 establishes the Ad Hoc Public Safety Planning and Funding Committee to review long-term public safety staffing and facility needs and recommend funding mechanisms to Council to address such needs. After receiving applications for the Committee, the Mayor recommends appointing 13 members to the Committee as outlined in the Resolution. In addition to 13 voting members, the University of Oklahoma and the Absentee Shawnee Tribe will have two ex-officio positions to ensure coordination among entities. The Committee will provide

monthly reports to Council and will set its meeting schedule with the goal of completing its work in 12 months.

Multiple departments will assist the Committee, with the Finance Department serving as the lead staffing entity. All meetings will be held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends adoption of Resolution R-2627-47.