



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 10/13/2026

REQUESTER: Ryan Riddel

PRESENTER: Ryan Riddel, Assistant City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2627-56: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AUTHORIZING JOINT PETITION SETTLEMENT OF THE CLAIM FILED BY BRANDON KYLE WANSICK UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION STATUTES OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA IN THE CASES OF *BRANDON KYLE WANSICK V. THE CITY OF NORMAN*, WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION CASE 2025-06855A; DIRECTING THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT TO THEN FILE SUCH SETTLEMENT AND ALL ATTENDANT COSTS IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO SUBSEQUENTLY PURCHASE SUCH WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION JUDGMENT FROM THE RISK MANAGEMENT INSURANCE FUND.

BACKGROUND:

Brandon Wansick is a former Police Sergeant for the City of Norman Police Department, Staff Services Division. He was hired as a Police Officer on January 23, 2009, and promoted to Master Police Officer on July 23, 2013, and Police Sergeant on January 23, 2019. Mr. Wansick retired from the City of Norman on December 25, 2025, and currently works for the City of Washington, Oklahoma. He filed workers compensation case 2025-06855A on December 22, 2025, with the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission alleging a single incident on the job injury to both legs while participating in an on the job defense tactics training requirement on November 20, 2024. The claim was admitted and proceeded through the normal litigation process.

Prior to a trial being held, Mr. Wansick agreed to a settlement in the total amount of \$40,590, which represents 21 percent (\$20,790) permanent partial disability (PPD) to the right leg (Knee) and 20 percent (\$19,800) permanent partial disability (PPD) to the left leg (Knee). The settlement is recommended for consideration by the City Council.

DISCUSSION:

Medical Treatment. Mr. Wansick was initially seen at Norman Regional Occupational Medicine for the right knee the day of his injury and underwent a right knee magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) on November 21, 2024. MRI imaging of the right knee revealed Anterior cruciate ligament and meniscal tears. He was referred to Dr. Bond and underwent right knee arthroscopic surgery on January 9, 2025, followed by postoperative physical therapy. Due to exacerbating left knee symptoms from a prior work-related injury which had required surgery, an updated left knee MRI was ordered. Imaging revealed post-surgical changes, lateral meniscal tear with severe osteoarthritis and acute inflammation. For the left knee, he underwent a series of intra-articular steroid injections without noticeable improvement. He continued to follow-up with Dr. Bond for his bilateral knees. A repeat MRI for the right knee on March 13, 2025, revealed postoperative findings; however, further surgical intervention was not recommended by Dr. Bond. On May 21, 2025, Mr. Wasick was released at maximum medical improvement for the right knee. On December 1, 2025, he underwent a left knee arthroscopy followed by postoperative physical therapy. On January 2, 2026, he was released at MMI.

Issues for Trial. Since there is no question Mr. Wansick's injuries occurred during the course of his employment with the City, the primary issues to be tried before the Workers' Compensation Commission are the extent of his injuries and whether the injuries are permanent in nature. Permanent partial disability is a factual determination made by the Workers' Compensation Commission Trial Judge based on doctors' opinions and medical records regarding the extent of PPD.

Evaluations. Mr. Wansick was rated by Lance Rosson, D.O., on February 27, 2026, and opined an impairment rating of 39 percent (\$38,610) permanent partial impairment (PPI) to the left leg (Knee), over and above any pre-existing condition/impairment and 39 percent (\$38,610) to the right leg (Knee), over and above any pre-existing condition/impairment. In addition, Dr. Rosson opined that Mr. Wansick would need continued medical benefits in the nature of prescription medications on an as needed basis as well as other treatment his treating physician or further selected physicians might deem necessary, as well as continued medical maintenance for retained hardware. On May 7, 2026, Mr. Wansick was rated by the City's medical expert, William Jones, M.D., MPH, and opined 12 percent (\$11,880) PPI to the left leg (Knee) and 6 percent (\$5,940) PPI to the right leg (Knee), over and above 3 prior injuries with surgeries since high school, and opined continued medical maintenance would not be required. The City's maximum exposure for total PPD would be \$77,220.

Trial. The case proceeded through the normal litigation process; however, Mr. Wansick has agreed to settlement as outlined below. If a trial were held, the Judge would determine nature and extent to his injury and award permanent partial disability as well as order continued medical maintenance and vocational rehab if required.

Proposed Settlement. The proposed settlement closes Workers' Compensation Commission Case 2025-06855 A in a lump sum payment of \$40,590 (less 20% attorney fee). Pursuant to 85A O.S. § 31(7), for injuries occurring on or after July 1, 2019, a Multiple Injury Trust Fund assessment in the total amount of \$1,217.70, representing (3%) of the permanent partial disability awards shall be deducted and paid to the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

It is felt that the settlement is fair and reasonable. A settlement is beneficial to the City in that it is a full, final and complete settlement of any and all cases and closes out any continued medical treatment. The settlement is beneficial to Mr. Wansick in that it provides certainty for an award and would be paid in a lump sum rather than at a weekly rate over a period of time.

Furthermore, if the case was settled in this manner, the City would incur additional costs and fees of:

Workers' Compensation Administration Fund Tax in the amount of \$811.80; Special Occupational Health & Safety Tax in the amount of \$304.43; and Workers Comp Commission Filing fee in the amount of \$140.00.

In addition, the City would incur an additional cost and fee for the Cleveland County Court Filing Fee in the amount of \$160.39.

These additional costs and fees total \$1,416.62, which brings the total cost of the settlement to the City to \$42,006.62.

Adequate funds are available in the Order/Settlements Account (43330102-42131).

RECOMMENDATION:

For the reasons outlined above, it is believed the settlement is fair, reasonable, and in the best interest of the City. Acceptance of the settlement would require payments as outlined above. If approved, the settlement amount would be paid to Mr. Wansick and his attorney in a lump sum. The settlement would be certified to the Cleveland County District Court to be placed on the property tax rolls for collection over the next three years in accordance with 85A O.S. § 107, 51 O.S. § 159, and 62 O.S. § 361, *et seq* and 85 O.S. § 313, 51 O.S. § 159. Certifying the order to the property tax rolls would, in effect, reimburse the City's Workers' Compensation Fund over the next three years.