



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 4/14/2026

REQUESTER: Jeanne Snider

PRESENTER: Jeanne Snider, Assistant City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2526-129: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AUTHORIZING JOINT PETITION SETTLEMENT OF THE CLAIM FILED BY NOEL MOHRMANN UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION STATUTES OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA IN THE CASES OF NOEL MOHRMANN V. THE CITY OF NORMAN, WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION CASE 2025-02034 P; 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:

Noel Mohrmann is a 13 year Fire Driver Engineer for the City of Norman's Suppression Division of the Fire Department. He was hired on September 12, 2012, as a Firefighter Recruit and promoted to firefighter 9/12/13 and Fire Driver Engineer November 15, 2021. On April 17, 2025, he filed workers compensation case CM3-2025-02034 P with the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission alleging a single incident on the job injury to the Left Shoulder, Arm, and Hand from a lifting injury on April 2, 2025. The City admitted the injury and the case proceeded through the normal litigation process.

Prior to a trial being held, Mr. Mohrmann has agreed to a settlement in the total amount of \$21,780, which represents 22 percent permanent partial disability (PPD) to the Left Arm and 0 percent PPD to the Left Shoulder and Left Hand. The settlement is recommended for consideration by the City Council.

DISCUSSION:

Medical Treatment.

Mr. Mohrmann was initially seen at Norman Regional Occupational Medicine on the day following his injury. He was treated conservatively and sent for a magnetic resonance imaging

(MRI) of the left elbow on April 8, 2025. Upon follow up and review of the MRI imaging showing a full thickness bicep tendon tear, he was referred to orthopedic surgery. On April 16, 2025, he was seen by Dr. Bond and after review of the MRI surgical repair was recommended. On April 21, 2025, he underwent left open distal bicep tendon repair which was performed followed by physical therapy postoperatively. Mr. Mohrmann continued to follow up with Dr. Bond and on October 17, 2025, he was released to regular work without restrictions and instructed to follow-up as needed and returned to work October 20, 2025.

Issues for Trial. Since there is no question Mr. Mohrmann's injury occurred while in the course of his employment with the City, the primary issues to be tried before the Workers' Compensation Commission are the extent of his injury and whether the injury is 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. Mohrmann was evaluated by Lance Rosson, D.O., on December 19, 2025, and opined an impairment rating of 39 percent (\$38,610) PPD to the left arm/elbow. In addition, Dr. Rosson opined that Mr. Mohrmann would need continued medical benefits in the nature of prescription medication on an as needed basis, as well as other treatment his treating physician or further selected physicians might deem necessary. On March 5, 2026, Mr. Mohrmann was then evaluated by the City's medical expert, William Jones, M.D., MPH, and opined 9 percent (\$8,910) to the left arm, 0 percent to the left shoulder and left hand and opined future medical treatment including vocational retraining would not be required. The City's maximum exposure for total PPD would be \$38,610.

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

Proposed Settlement. The proposed settlement closes Workers' Compensation Commission Case 2025-02034 P in a lump sum payment of \$21,780 (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 \$653.40, 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. Mohrmann 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 \$435.60; Special Occupational Health & Safety Tax in the amount of \$163.35; 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 \$154.14.

These additional costs and fees total \$893.09, which brings the total cost of the settlement to the City to \$22,673.09.

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. Mohrmann 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.