



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 04/14/2026

REQUESTER: AshLynn Wilkerson, Assistant City Attorney

PRESENTER: AshLynn Wilkerson, Assistant City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF SPECIAL CLAIM SC-2526-1: SUBMITTED BY CLIFFORD JEMISON, THROUGH LEGAL COUNSEL JOE FARNAN, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,000 FOR PERSONAL INJURY DAMAGES AS A RESULT OF A COLLISION WITH A CITY VEHICLE THAT OCCURRED ON FEBRUARY 26, 2025.

BACKGROUND:

On April 30, 2025, a tort claim was filed by Clifford Jemison, through his legal counsel Joe Farnan, for property and personal injury damages, for an initial demand of \$2,500 for property and an unspecified amount for personal injury, resulting from an automobile accident with a City vehicle at the intersection of South Lahoma Avenue and West Lindsey Street on the morning of February 26, 2025.

DISCUSSION:

The property damages claim was settled on June 12, 2025, through the administrative claims process for \$2,500. Documents for the personal injury claim were received by the City on February 2, 2026. City Attorney staff discussed the merits of the personal injury claim and potential settlement during an Executive Session held on March 24, 2026. This settlement is within the range discussed with Council in such session.

Following Council approval of the settlement, a friendly suit will be initiated in the Cleveland County District Court so that the agreed settlement amount of \$60,000 may be reduced to a judgment to allow for it to be placed on the property tax rolls and paid over three (3) years, as described in further detail below.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is believed that the proposed settlement for the personal injury claim is fair, reasonable and in the best interests of the City. It is recommended the settlement of this matter, in the total amount of \$60,000, be approved by City Council and that this office be directed to reduce the settlement amount to judgment in accordance with Titles 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 (3) 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 City funds.