



City of Lawton
Office of the City Manager
(580)581-3301
tiffany.vrska@lawtonok.gov

22 June 2021

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAWTON – Lawton City Council approved a historic 4-year collective bargaining agreement between the City of Lawton and International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO, Local 24, at the Special Council meeting held 6/22/21.

Contract highlights include:

- Increasing starting pay from \$41,000 to just over \$50,000, with an opportunity for incoming officers to top out at \$80,000. *(This makes starting pay higher than that of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.)*
- Provides for a minimum of a 5 percent pay increase across the board, plus their employee/merit steps.
- Provides a \$3,000 bonus to all non-probationary officers.
- Allows lateral hire; new recruits can transfer/be credited up to four years experience to surpass initial entry-level pay.
- Allows the rehiring of retired officers to assist with security details so more full-time officers can patrol community.
- Allows longevity incentive to be reinstated.
- Provides for a new, 40-hour flexible leave benefit.
- Increases minimum promotional pay from 5 percent to 7.5 percent.
- Establishes Liaison Committee and avenue for meetings throughout agreement term to maintain open lines of communication between Union and City Management.

"We are proud of the work these officers do each day and believe this deal is something everyone can be proud of," said Dewayne Burk, Deputy City Manager of Public Safety. "We've worked well together through this process and believe we are now in a more competitive position to recruit and retain the best of the best in law enforcement."

###

CONTACT: TIFFANY MARTINEZ VRSKA, COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIRECTOR
212 SW 9TH STREET, LAWTON, OK, 73501 | 580.581.3301 | TVRSKA@LAWTONOK.GOV