CITY OF JOPLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

ITEM
Council Bill No. 2026-001 approving a Labor Agreement by and between the City of Joplin and the Joplin Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 59.

MEETING DATE
January 5, 2026

REVIEWED BY:
Peter Edwards, City Attorney; Leslie Haase, Finance Director; Gerald Ezell, Fire Chief; Nick Edwards, City Manager.

SUMMARY:
This Council Bill approves a new Labor Agreement between the City of Joplin and the Joplin Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 59.

BACKGROUND:

The Joplin Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 59 (hereinafter IAFF) has represented Fire Fighters, Drivers, Fire Captains, Battalion Chief, Fire Training Chief, Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshall of the City of Joplin, Missouri (hereinafter "City") regarding terms and conditions of employment. The IAFF and City signed a Labor Agreement effective January 5, 2023. In April of 2025, the IAFF and City began discussions on topics related to compensation and working conditions for a new Labor Agreement.

Since that time, the IAFF and City have been meeting and negotiating the terms of a new Labor Agreement. On or about December 20, 2025, the parties came to an agreement. The compensation piece of the new Labor Agreement, specifically the new pay plan and slotting of employees, is contingent on this Council placing the Prop B Sales Tax renewal on the ballot in 2026, and voters of the City of Joplin passing the renewal tax, and in the event that the tax does not pass the agreement may be reopened for further negotiations. The Labor Agreement was taken to the IAFF membership and they voted in favor of adopting the Agreement. The City desires to approve the attached Labor Agreement, which shall expire on December 31, 2031, in order to allow for changes to wages as contemplated therein to take effect after passage of the tax renewal and the funding of the Police and Fire Pension Plan to 120%.

RECOMMENDATION:
Staff recommends this Council Bill be passed on an emergency basis.

ATTACHMENTS:
Council Bill No. 2026-001 w/Agreement

PCE:vew