City of Auburn Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters Disability Board

Tuesday, February 2, 2016 - 10:00 AM – Council Conference Room

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jim Kelly called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Conference Room located on the first floor of Auburn City Hall, 25 West Main Street in Auburn. Members present included Chair Kelly, Chair Pro Tem Bill Petersen, Member Yolanda Trout, Member Claude DaCorsi, and Member-at-large Kurt Vogel. Also present were Board Attorney Doug Ruth and Board Secretary Danielle Daskam. LEOFF 1 Fire retiree Mick Crawford was also in attendance.

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There was no change to the agenda.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the January 5, 2016 LEOFF Board Meeting
Motion by Chair Pro Tem Petersen, second by Member Trout to approve the January 5, 2016 minutes as distributed.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 5-0

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Pending Disability Leave/Retirement Applications
There was no pending disability leave/retirement application.

B. Pending Medical/Hearing/Vision/Dental Claims

1. Murray Board
Request for reimbursement of dental expenses in the amount of $984 for services received on December 2, 2015.

MURRAY BOARD	$1,200.00	BALANCE
2015		$1,200.00
June 2, 2015	$267.00	$933.00

On January 5, 2016, the LEOFF Board tabled the claim pending clarification on whether the services provided were eligible under medical insurance. See the enclosed email from the Association of

Washington Cities Benefits Representative, which explains that insurance covers only surgery and related services to the surgery for Mr. Board's condition; insurance does not cover other treatment.

Motion by Chair Pro Tem Petersen, second by Member Vogel to approve the claim in the amount of $933.00, which is the balance of Mr. Board's 2015 dental benefit.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 5-0

2. Cali Ann Edwards
Request for reimbursement of equipment in the amount of $20,077.35.

On January 5, 2016, the LEOFF Board tabled Ms. Edwards' claim pending receipt of additional information regarding the medical necessity of the equipment and whether the claims were submitted to Medicare/insurance. No new information was received.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Disability Leave/Retirement Applications
No application for disability leave/retirement was received.

B. Appeals/Requests for Reconsideration
No request for reconsideration was received.

C. Medical/Hearing/Vision/Dental Claims

1. Dave Schuur
Request for approval/reimbursement of long-term care expenses for the month of January 2016 in the amount of $4,253.20 ($137.20/day).

Motion by Chair Pro Tem Petersen, second by member Trout to approve the claim in the amount of $4,253.20.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 5-0

2. Theodore Lindback
Request for reimbursement of dental expenses in the amount of $99.75 for services received on January 18, 2016. Mr. Lindback has not received dental expense reimbursement in 2016.

Motion by Chair Pro Tem Petersen, second by Member Vogel to approve the claim in the amount of $99.75.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 5-0

3. Michael Darby
Request for reimbursement of dental expenses in the amount of $189.00 for services received on January 13, 2016. Mr. Darby has not received dental expense reimbursement in 2016.

Motion by Member Vogel, second by Chair Pro Tem Petersen to approve the claim in the amount of $189.00.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 5-0

D. Other Discussion

1. Policy and Procedure Manual Update
Board Attorney Ruth reviewed his memo to the Board dated January 28, 2016 regarding LEOFF Board Policy Manual 2016 Changes. Attorney Ruth stated he reviewed the current Policies and Procedures for conformance with current statutes and case law. In 2013, the State Legislature revised RCW 41.26.110 to address a potential dilemma in electing LEOFF board members. The new law provides the authority for LEOFF 1 law enforcement officers and fire fighters to elect a second representative if no Plan 1 fire fighters or law enforcement officers are eligible to vote. Attorney Ruth suggested amending Section 1.01 Membership to add a new paragraph E:

Section 1.01 Membership.....

> E. If there are either no fire fighters or no law enforcement officers under the jurisdiction of the board eligible to vote, the eligible officers or fire fighters shall elect a second eligible employee representative.

Board Attorney Ruth also suggested the following changes to Section 9.02 relating to vision services. The proposed amendments eliminate an ambiguity in the policy language that addresses vision benefits in Section 9.02(C) and the revisions to Section 9.02(C) and the reimbursement worksheets intend to clarify the provisions. Additionally, revisions are proposed to remove

archaic language and combine worksheets for retirees and active members into one worksheet.

Upon further discussion by the Board, the following amendments were recommended including the proposed changes to the claims worksheets:

Section 9.02 Medical Claims for Corrective Lenses and Frames

A. Active LEOFF 1 Members
~~Vision insurance coverage is provided for active LEOFF 1 members through Regence BlueShield. If any balance remains after Regence BlueShield, or any other vision plan the LEOFF I member is enrolled in, has paid its benefit, the member should forward a copy of the Explanation of Benefits statement together with a completed Corrective Lenses and Frames Worksheet to the LEOFF Board for consideration.~~ The LEOFF Board will reimburse up to the amounts described below. The reimbursement rates apply after all insurance coverages have been applied. Any balance due after the LEOFF Board reimbursement is the responsibility of the LEOFF I member. To receive reimbursement, the member shall forward a copy of any insurance Explanation of Benefits Statement together with a completed Corrective Lenses and Frames Worksheet to the LEOFF Board for consideration.

B. Retired LEOFF I Members
Eye examinations for retired LEOFF I members are to be charged to the City-contracted plan ~~Regence BlueShield~~. The retired LEOFF I member may purchase from the optician or ophthalmologist of his or her choice.

The member shall ~~should~~ forward a completed Corrective Lenses and Frames Worksheet to the LEOFF Board for consideration for any lenses and frames expense. The LEOFF Board will reimburse up to the amounts described below. The reimbursement rates apply after all, if any, insurance coverages have been applied. Any balance due after the LEOFF Board reimbursement is the responsibility of the LEOFF I member.

C. Vision Benefits
Payments for eyeglasses and contact lenses, plus the reasonable costs of necessary eye examination services of a

licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist, will be approved pursuant to the authority granted to the Board under RCW 41.26.150, if eyeglasses are prescribed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

The Board will approve payment either for one pair of eyeglasses or for contact lenses, at the member's option, or as prescribed, to correct vision when required for a new prescription in accordance with the following schedule:

1. Eyeglass Lenses and Frames: $270.00 maximum per single set of frames and pair of lenses not more than once every twelve (12) consecutive months. Lenses covered include single vision, bifocal, trifocal and progressive lenses.

2. Second Pair: A second pair of monofocal (i.e. computer) glasses shall be approved only if prescribed by a ophthalmologist or licensed optometrist. The maximum cost of the second pair shall not exceed $270.00 per single set of frames and pair of lenses not more than once in a twenty-four (24) consecutive months.

3. Contact Lenses: Not to exceed $250 maximum during any twelve (12) month period including disposable contact lenses.

4. Replacement: Claims for replacement pair of eyeglass frames and/or lenses or contacts will be allowed if proof of damage is provided and shown to have been incurred in the performance of a member's fire or law enforcement duties. Only one replacement pair per year, due to accidental damage, will be allowed, not to exceed the amount allowable above.

5. Additional/Spare Pair: No reimbursement will be made for a spare pair of glasses or contact lenses. (Rev. 5/2008)

D. Corrective Vision Surgery

The Board will reimburse the member the amount of $1,000 per eye for corrective vision surgery. If a member is reimbursed the $1,000 per eye for the surgery, he or she will not be reimbursed for eyeglasses or contact lenses during the subsequent two calendar years, unless eyeglasses or contact lenses are medically necessary. (Rev. 7/2012)

Upon discussion of LEOFF 1 Fire retiree Mick Crawford's suggested policy revisions, it was consensus of the Board not to amend Sections 9.09, 9.02B, 9.03 or 9.01(A)(1) at this time.

It was consensus of the Board members to amend Sections 9.01(I) and (J) to allow LEOFF 1 members to submit claims for payment for office co-pays within 12 months and to allow payment of the claim with the approval of the LEOFF 1 representative to the Board rather than require full LEOFF Board review and approval prior to payment to the LEOFF 1 member.

Chair Kelly brought forward a discussion of coverage limits for vision, dental, and hearing aids that are currently in the LEOFF Policies and Procedures. Chair Pro Tem offered to submit a comparison of benefits obtained from last year's LEOFF conference. Each year, the organizers of the LEOFF Conference prepare a comparison of other jurisdiction's policies and benefits provided under their policies.

2. Mick Crawford

(For clarification of these minutes, Mr. Crawford's comments were received immediately following approval of the minutes.)

LEOFF 1 Fire Captain retiree Mick Crawford addressed the Board regarding his eligibility for Social Security and Medicare Parts A, B and C. Mr. Crawford reported he received a letter from the City's Human Resources Director advising that anyone over the age of 65 can purchase Medicare Part B. Mr. Crawford stated the LEOFF Policies state that the amount the Board is obligated to pay for his medical services will be reduced any amount received or eligible to be received by another insurance company or under Medicare. Mr. Crawford contended he is not eligible for Medicare Parts A, B or C. He stated he applied twice for Medicare and received two rejection letters from Social Security.

Mr. Crawford questioned the authority under which the City is requiring him to purchase Medicare Part B, even though he is not eligible for Medicare. And, additionally, if there is authority to require him to purchase Medicare Part B, why not Part A.

Board Attorney Ruth stated the policies reference the requirement to enroll in Medicare Part B in a couple sections of the policies and procedures and references RCW 41.26.152; however, he will need to perform additional research on the question.

Chair Pro Tem Petersen added that Social Security and Medicare are separate issues. Chair Pro Tem Petersen stated he believes it is the state LEOFF statute that requires members to subscribe to Medicare Part B.

Chair Kelly questioned whether the scenario is isolated to retiree Mick Crawford or are other fire members affected.

Mr. Crawford proposed changes to the current policies and procedures to eliminate prior approval for an eye examination and hearing exam.

Mr. Crawford also proposed extending the 90 day period that medical claims must be submitted.

Mr. Crawford also advised the Board that the new insurance, Premera, is requiring him to obtain a primary physician and a referral to his heart doctor, which he has been a patient of for over seven years. Mr. Crawford also expressed frustration that the new insurance is requiring changes in how some of his drugs are dispensed.

Chair Kelly requested Mr. Crawford work with the City's Human Resources Department to rectify any medical insurance coverage issues he is experiencing.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:47.

APPROVED this 2nd day of March, 2016.

James Kelly
JIM KELLY, CHAIR

Danielle Daskam, Board Secretary