



# CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN RETIREE HEALTH PLAN ANALYSIS

September 26, 2017

 Segal Consulting

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## City of Lansing, Michigan

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September 26, 2017

Mayor Virg Bernero  
City of Lansing  
City Hall  
124 W Michigan Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48933

**Re: Final Retiree Health Plan Analysis**

Dear Mayor Bernero:

We are pleased to present Segal's final analysis of the City of Lansing's retiree health plans. This analysis provides a detailed review of the City's retiree health plans, including the following:

- ***Assumption and method review*** – an analysis of the actuarial assumptions and a review of the actuarial methods utilized in determining the Accrued Liability for compliance with generally accepted actuarial principles
- ***Peer group benchmarking*** – a comparison of the City's plans with other similar city plans in the State of Michigan
- ***Program design alternatives*** – a discussion of alternative design strategies for retiree health benefits
- ***Create independent actuarial valuation model*** – in order to quantify the current situation and potential changes
- ***Estimated Impact of Select Design Alternatives*** – estimated financial impact of potential changes
- ***Funding and Financing*** – a discussion of funding and financing issues around the City's retiree health benefits
- ***Other Important Considerations*** – a discussion of other considerations involved in reviewing the City's retiree health programs

This analysis was conducted under the supervision of Dan Levin, a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, a member of the American Academy of Actuaries, and a Fellow of the Conference of Consulting Actuaries, and a Certified Employee Benefits Specialist. The calculations were performed in accordance with the standards of practice prescribed by the Actuarial Standards Board.

The assistance of the City of Lansing's staff is gratefully acknowledged.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve as an independent actuarial advisor for the City of Lansing and we are available to answer any questions you may have on this report.

Sincerely,



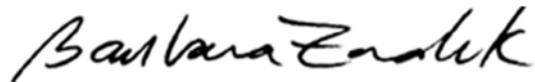
Daniel Levin, FSA, FCA, MAAA, CEBS  
Senior Vice President  
Health Consulting Actuary

Sincerely,



Kimberly Wixson  
Vice President  
Health Consultant

Sincerely,



Barbara Zaveduk, MAAA, EA  
Vice President and Actuary

Enclosure

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# 1 Background

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## Understanding the Situation

The City of Lansing sponsors health care benefits for its retirees. The benefit specifics vary by group, based on collective bargaining agreements for union groups and fringe benefit documents for non-union groups. Depending on the specific group, benefits might include a combination of the following:

- Medical and prescription drug coverage for those not eligible for Medicare
- Medical and prescription drug coverage for those eligible for Medicare
- Retiree dental coverage
- Retiree vision coverage
- Medicare Part B premium reimbursement
- Retiree life insurance (Police and Fire only)

Together, all of these non-pension retirement benefits are referred to as the City's "Other Post-Employment Benefits" or OPEB.

The exact benefits and eligibility for receiving them depend on one or more of these factors:

- Group affiliation (examples – Police, UAW, District Court Exempt, etc.)
- Date of retirement
- Date of hire

Eligibility of joint spouses, child dependents, and surviving spouses may also depend on these factors. A matrix listing current benefits by date of hire and/or retirement cohort is shown in Appendix A of this report, for each major group and cohort.

Providing retiree health benefits to these groups creates significant challenges for the City, in terms of both current cash costs and long-term liabilities. As of January 1, 2016, we have estimated closed group liabilities (assuming no new hires eligible) under the City's OPEB program to be over \$432.9 million, using a full prefunding-based discount rate of 7.25%. Current annual cash cost (net of retiree contributions) is estimated at over \$20.7 million.

- Almost 90% of the liability (\$387.0 million) is attributable to collectively bargained groups
- Over 73% of the liability (\$317.6 million) is attributable to participants who are already retired as of January 1, 2016
- City payroll of active employees covered by the defined benefit retiree health plan is approximately \$46 million as of January 1, 2016, which means the City's annual cash cost for retiree health benefits is almost 45% of covered payroll.

The calculations shown above were completed using a full prefunding-based discount rate of 7.25%. If an unfunded discount rate of 4.00% were used instead, the total estimated closed group liabilities for the City's OPEB program would be over \$692.1 million.

**Note that none of these numbers includes any of the City’s pension plans or any of the new defined contribution retiree health care plans for newer hires.**

## **Previous Actions Taken by the City**

In recognition of these challenges, the City has taken steps to modify benefits for its retiree groups, over the last several years.

### **Police Non-Supervisory and Supervisory**

- Hires after August 1, 2014 do not receive retiree spouse/dependent medical, drug or Part B coverage in retirement
- Retirees after October 12, 2015 follow active medical and drug plan designs

### **Fire (IAFF)**

- Hires after August 1, 2014 do not receive retiree spouse/dependent medical, drug, or Part B coverage in retirement
- Retirees after July 1, 2013 follow active medical and drug plan designs

### **UAW**

- Hires after October 21, 2013 do not receive retiree spouse/dependent medical, drug, or Part B coverage in retirement
- Hires after October 21, 2013 do not receive medical/drug coverage, upon attainment of Medicare eligibility. They also do not receive reimbursement for Medicare Part B premiums.
- Retirees after October 1, 2014 follow active medical and drug plan designs

### **Teamsters 214**

- Effective January 1, 2015, new hires do not receive defined benefit medical, drug, or Medicare Part B premium benefits

### **Teamsters 243 (Excludes T243 District Court)**

- Effective May 19, 2014, new hires do not receive defined benefit medical, drug, or Medicare Part B premium benefits

### **Teamsters 243 District Court and District Court Exempt**

- Hires after April 1, 2014 do not receive retiree spouse/dependent medical, drug, or Part B coverage in retirement
- Hires after April 1, 2014 do not receive medical/drug coverage, upon attainment of Medicare eligibility. They also do not receive reimbursement for Medicare Part B premiums.

Since the 2015 study, the City has also implemented the following additional program changes:

### **Teamsters 243 District Court and District Court Exempt**

- Effective July 1, 2016, new hires do not receive defined benefit medical, drug, or Medicare Part B premium benefits

### **Exempt Non-Bargaining**

- Effective July 1, 2016, new hires do not receive defined benefit medical, drug, or Medicare Part B premium benefits

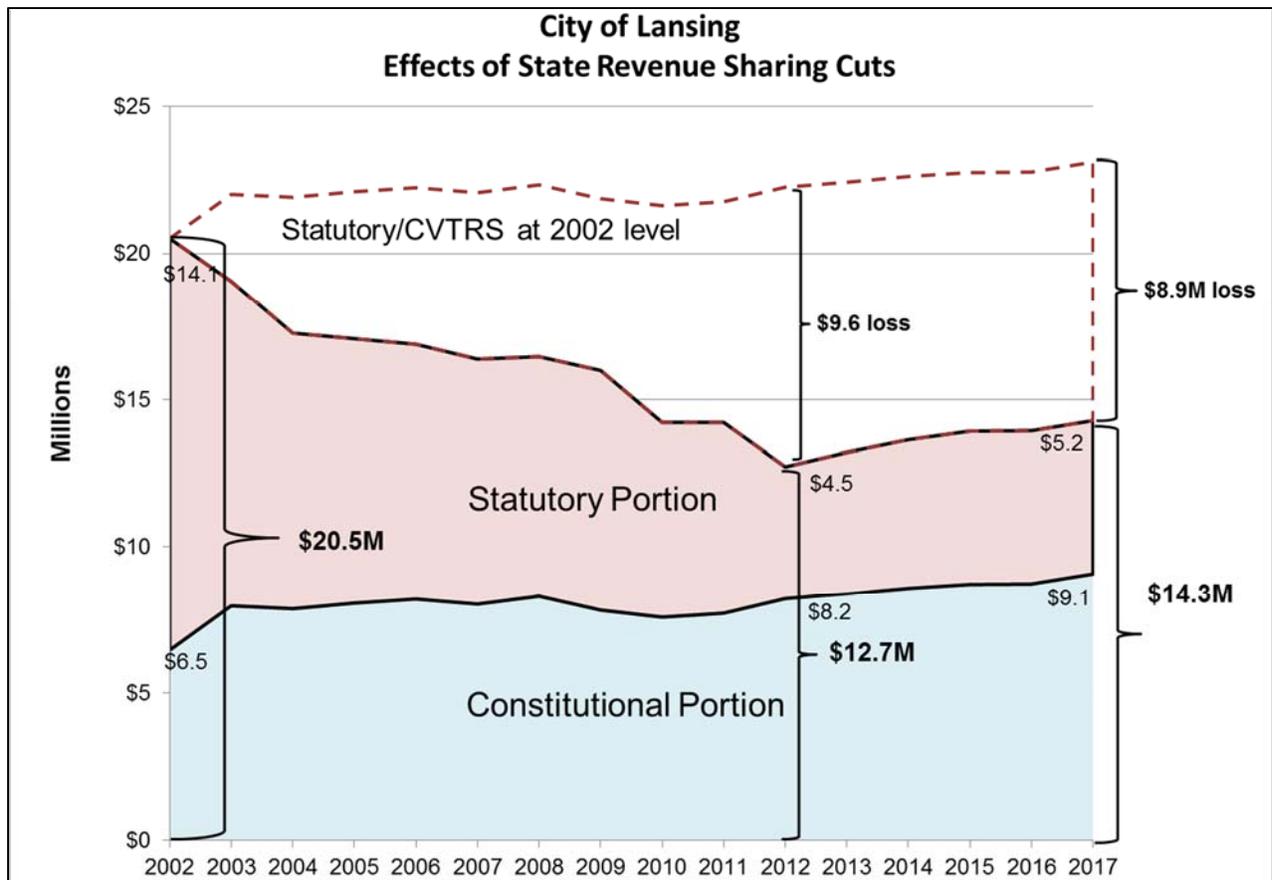
While these changes have helped to limit the City’s liability on recent and future hires, the fact remains that the majority of the liability resides with current retirees. As a result, unless changes can be made to existing retirees, over 73% of the current retiree health liability cannot be affected at all.

***In 2015, the Boomershine Consulting Group (“Boomershine”) conducted an impact study of the above changes on the City’s retiree health liability excluding the two changes effective July 1, 2016. The study estimated a cumulative cost savings of \$172.4 million over the next 40 years, assuming full pre-funding of actuarially calculated contribution amounts.***

### City Resource Challenges

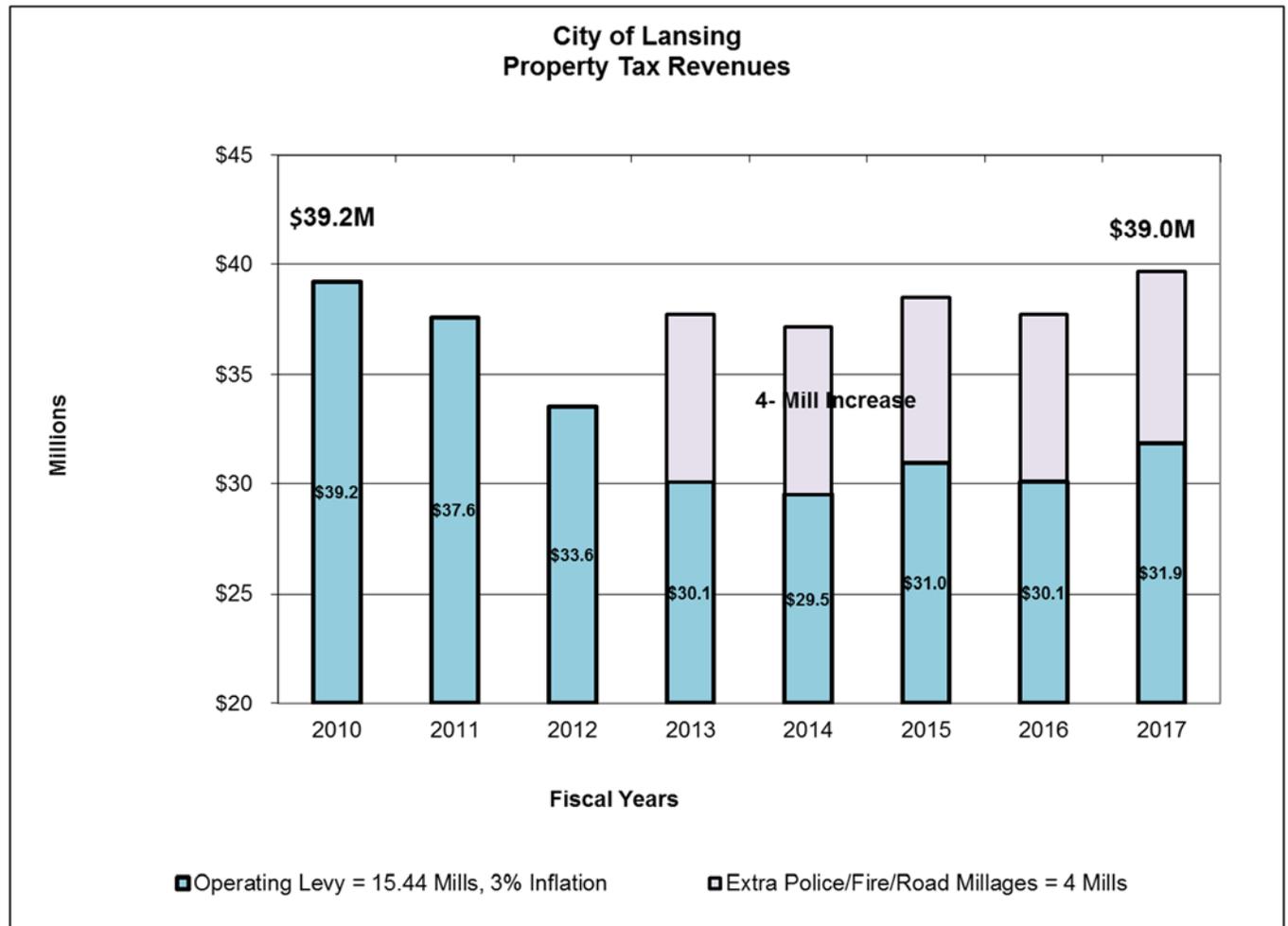
The City of Lansing, like other Michigan municipalities, is challenged in its revenue structure. The structure for Michigan’s municipal funding is based on centralization of taxation and revenue diversification at the state level, with municipalities having limitations on ability to raise revenues. A prime example is sales taxes: in many other states, municipalities can levy sales taxes; in the state of Michigan, only the state is allowed to levy sales tax. This structure was predicated on revenue sharing by the state with its municipalities.

Preceding and through the Great Recession, as the State of Michigan ran into its own budgetary challenges, the statutory portion of revenue sharing to municipalities by the state was reduced by approximately \$8.1 billion. For the City of Lansing, these cuts have amounted more than \$6 million in real dollars *annually* for the City, and almost \$9 million annually when adjusted for inflation, or over \$104 million from 2002-2017.

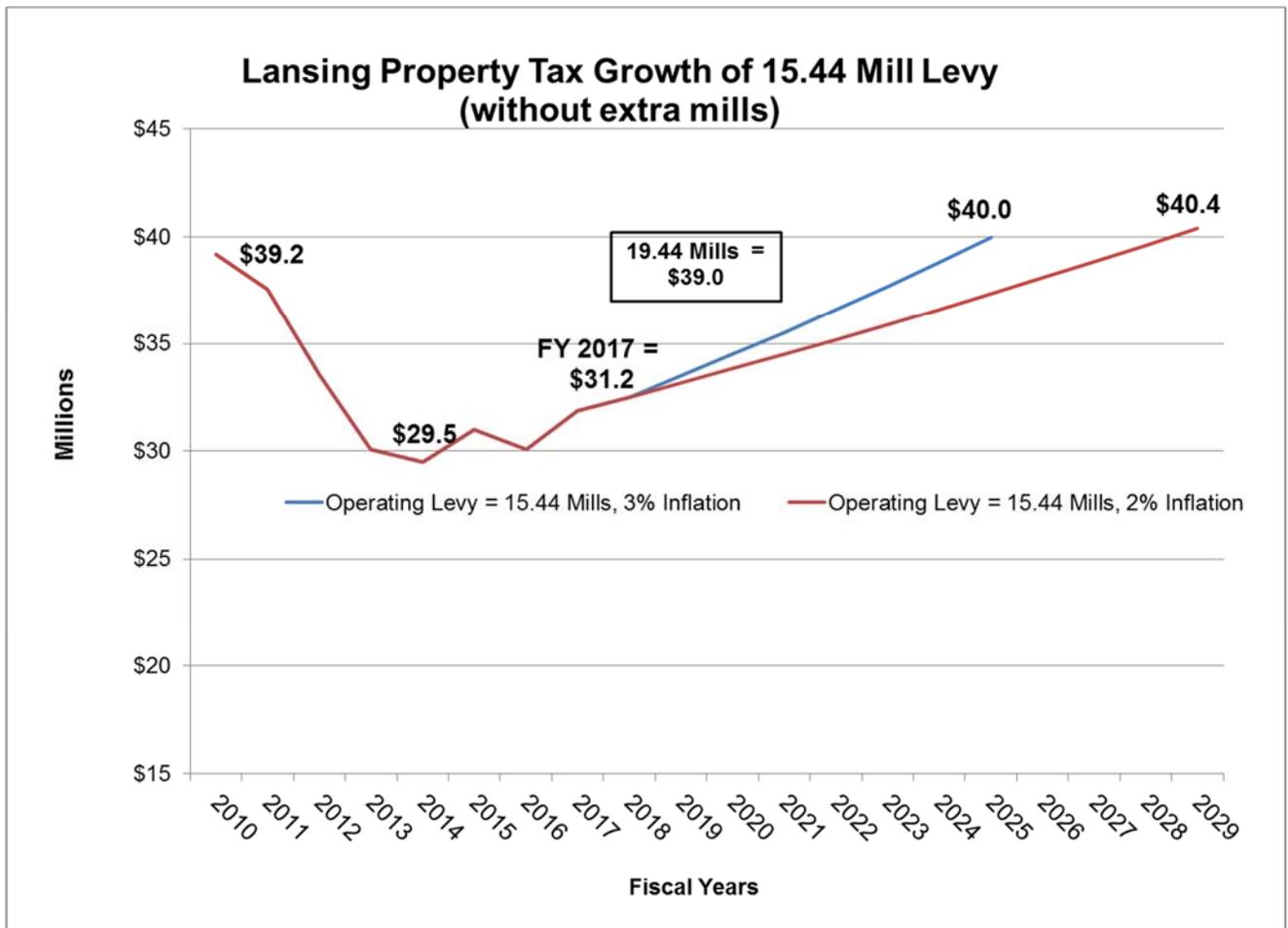


At the same time, due to limitations by the state Headlee Amendment and Proposal A, the City's (and other municipalities') largest General Fund revenue source, the property tax is limited in growth by the lesser of the rate of inflation or five percent.

During the Great Recession, as property values declined, Lansing's property taxes decreased by 25%, or \$9.7 million, over a four-year period, resulting in a four mill voted property tax increase for police, fire, and roads. While that four-mill property tax levy substantially offset that loss, it brought the City's operating levy up to 19.44 mills, which within .56 mills of the 20-mill maximum allowed for home-rule cities in the State of Michigan. As a result, the City is unable to increase its operating property tax levy much further.



As demonstrated in the following chart, because of the above-stated state limitations on property tax revenue growth from the state Headlee Amendment and Proposal A, the City anticipates property taxes to increase only 2%-3% over the next several years and that pre-recession property tax revenue levels, net of the extra four mills, will not be reached until 2025 to 2028.



These funding cuts and revenue constraints have generally affected the state’s urban core communities more than others. Urban core cities, like Lansing, tend to be older communities, having aged infrastructure; tend to be built-out with limited undeveloped land; tend to have higher poverty rates; and tend to have higher legacy (pension and retiree healthcare) costs. These factors are true for the City of Lansing, which was incorporated in 1859 and has twice the number of retirees as current employees.

In response to these challenges, leading up to and during the Great Recession, the City enacted many different changes in City programs, staffing, and organization, including:

- Reducing the City’s workforce by 30% since FY 2006, from 1,220 to 867
- Reducing City pension and retiree healthcare cost growth by negotiating increases in employee health insurance premium sharing, healthcare plan changes, and pension contributions
- Reducing City health insurance costs with a wrap program for Medicare-eligible retirees
- Closing 3 fire stations and eliminating associated costs

- Closing Waverly and Red Cedar Golf courses
- Closing Miller Road Senior Community Center
- Closing Washington Ice Dome and Scott House
- Consolidating functions within the City (grounds maintenance, engineering, fleet maintenance, parking enforcement, fire/building inspections)
- Consolidating functions with other governments (911, dive team)
- Entering into cooperative agreements with other governments (police and fire training, purchasing, economic development)
- Expanding mutual aid agreements and shared services studies with adjoining municipalities
- Transferring management of Sycamore Driving Range and Fenner Nature Center to non-profits
- Eliminating leased space by consolidating police Patrol and Investigations Divisions
- Increasing fees
- Implementing new technology to improve efficiency (including cash receipting, code compliance, financial system upgrades, payroll system, computerized traffic ticket system, E-filing for income taxes)
- Implementing energy efficiency measures in City buildings
- Instituting a voter-approved 4.0 mill property tax increase to mitigate further reductions to police, fire and road services

Noteworthy is the fact that the City's FY 2018 General Fund Budget is still less than the budget proposed by former Mayor Hollister in **FY 1999**, when adjusted for inflation.

During this time, the City also worked with its unions to reduce the growth of pension and retiree healthcare costs. A recent actuarial study estimates that these efforts have reduced projected costs to by over **\$200** million over the next forty years. However, the challenge remains in the projected growth of these costs, in combination with its aging infrastructure, reductions in revenue and revenue constraints in the next fifteen-to-twenty years.

As previously noted, these challenges are not unique to the City of Lansing, especially within the State of Michigan.

## 2 Executive Summary

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The City of Lansing (City) is seeking analysis and recommendations for potential ways to mitigate the cost and liability of its outstanding pension obligations and retiree healthcare and other post-employment benefits (“OPEB”) obligations, both present and future.

Segal Consulting (Segal) was engaged by the City to perform this analysis. This report will concern itself with the OPEB plans currently sponsored by the City. The analysis of the pension plans is provided in a separate report.

### Current State

The City of Lansing sponsors a defined benefit (DB) health care program for its retirees. The benefit specifics vary by group, based on collective bargaining agreements for union groups and fringe benefit documents for non-union groups. Key features of the program are:

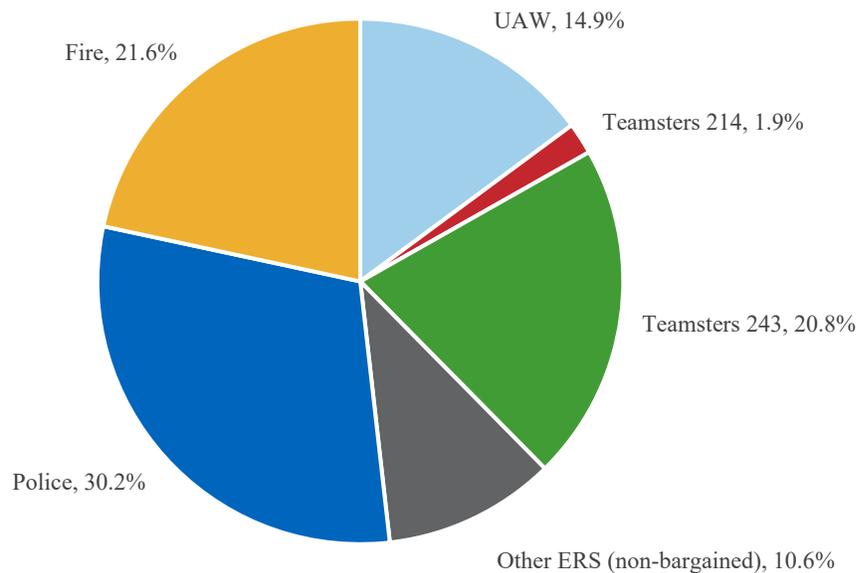
- Most groups receive medical and prescription drug coverage for both Medicare-eligible and non-Medicare participants, dental, vision, and full Medicare Part B reimbursement.
- No participant contributions are required for Medicare-eligible medical/prescription drug coverage, dental, or vision. Older retiree cohorts have no participant contributions for non-Medicare benefits either.
- Newer non-Medicare retiree cohorts are responsible for retiree contributions only to the extent the full premium cost exceeds the Michigan PA-152 “hard cap”. However, some groups have pension percentage limits or dollar limits on retiree contributions, which override the hard cap.
- New hires after specific dates for Teamsters 214, Teamsters 243, District Court, and most other non-bargained groups are in a separate defined contribution (DC) program and can only qualify for dental and vision benefits through the DB program. New hires of Police, Fire, UAW, and a few specific non-bargained employees are still eligible for the full DB plan, including medical, prescription drug, and Medicare B reimbursement.

***Complete details of all plan provisions used for our report valuation are in Appendix A. Please note that these provisions reflect the plan of benefits Segal valued in this report, but in no way imply a promise or legal obligation on behalf of the City of Lansing to provide the benefits illustrated.***

As of January 1, 2016, there are 374 actives, 52 terminated vested participants, and 865 retirees participating the defined benefit retiree health plan. Police and Fire have 346 actives, 23 terminated vested participants, and 654 retirees participating the defined benefit retiree health plan.

The current Actuarial Accrued Liability is estimated at about \$432.9 million, using a 7.25% discount rate, based on a full prefunding-based investment return rate of 7.25%. Complete details of assumptions used can be found in Appendix B. This Accrued Liability is approximately split by group as follows:

## Actuarial Accrued Liability as of January 1, 2016



From the above chart, it can be seen that almost 90% of the Accrued Liability (\$387.0 million) is attributable to collectively bargained groups. It is also important to note that over 73% of the current Accrued Liability (\$317.6 million) is attributable to current retirees and their dependents.

**Although the City of Lansing's plan is only partially funded, all calculations in this report were completed assuming that a full prefunding-based discount rate of 7.25% will be in effect going forward for illustrative purposes. If an unfunded discount rate of 4.00% were used instead, the total estimated closed group liabilities for the City's OPEB program would be over \$692.1 million.**

**Also, note that none of these numbers includes any of the City's pension plans or any of the new defined contribution retiree health care plans for newer hires.**

### Scenarios and Their Impact

In order to estimate the impact of various potential program changes, Segal created an independent actuarial valuation model as of January 1, 2016. We reviewed a number of different scenarios, in order to illustrate the impact on the Accrued Liability of various possible program design changes. The change in Actuarial Accrued Liability for each scenario is shown in Section 6 of this report.

In order to understand the impact not only on current Accrued Liability, but also on future liability, we produced a second set of scenarios that estimate the projected Accrued Liability impact as of January 1, 2046 – 30 years into the future. Since current liabilities are only based on a closed group (no new hires), the impact of certain changes to current actives or future hires would not be obvious without a long-term projection, which does incorporate assumed future hires.

## Benefit Change Options for the City

In considering options for the City to pursue, one should consider:

- Impact on City's liability (magnitude of the reduction in liability)
- Prevalence of the benefits being reduced (see benchmark comparators in Section 4, as well as discussion regarding our experience with public sector retiree health programs)
- Impact on affected groups
- Difficulty of making the change (more difficult for current retirees, as an example)

In reviewing those considerations, we believe it makes sense for the City to further investigate the following options:

- **Eliminating Medicare Part B reimbursement** – The Medicare Part B reimbursement represents more than 11% of the total liability (\$47.8 million). This benefit is not offered by any benchmark comparator and our experience is that plans that had a Part B benefit in the past eliminated it years ago. Additionally, Part B premiums are a very predictable expense to budget for retired participants.
- **Eliminating subsidized dental and vision coverage** – Combined, these represent about 5% of total liability (\$21.2 million). It appears that no other comparator group provides subsidized dental or vision beyond age 65. Alternatively, these coverages could be offered with no subsidy, where retirees have access at the full premium cost.
- **Institute a percentage cost share for Medicare-eligible coverage** – The impact of this obviously depends upon the level of contribution required, but our illustrative scenario of 25% would reduce the liability by almost 13% (\$55.3 million). Monthly contributions for Medicare-eligible medical and drug coverage are a typical plan feature, in our experience. The comparators were mixed, with one city not even offering any subsidy for Medicare coverage and another with very high (but less than 100%) subsidy. Monthly contributions are predictable and easier for retirees to budget as well. We recommend a percentage of cost rather than a fixed dollar amount so that the contribution amount automatically keeps pace with inflation.
- **Replace “Option2” design with “Option1” design for Medicare-eligible medical and prescription drug coverage** – This would reduce the liability by over 9% (\$39.6 million). Increases in Medicare point-of-service cost sharing are relatively predictable expenses for retirees. While Medicare-eligible plan designs of comparators were not available for benchmarking, our experience indicates that the current AMWINS designs are relatively rich.
- **Addition and enforcement of the Michigan Public Act 152 hard cap for all groups** – Currently, the cap does not apply to legacy retiree cohorts, and many of the newer cohorts have contribution limits as a percentage of pension or a dollar amount, which override the hard cap. Adding/enforcing the cap on all groups (no contribution limits) would reduce the liability by over 16% (\$71.0 million).
- **Replace group Medicare-eligible medical and drug coverage with a “defined dollar” Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) arrangement** – This reduces the liability by 26% (\$110.8 million) to 37% (\$159.8 million), depending on the annual increases provided by the City. This design can result in a short-term “win-win” scenario for the City and the participants. Since the

liability savings is generated by the control of health care trend, however, over the longer-term health inflation will eventually reduce the value of the benefit compared to the current offering. More detail on this design and the participant impact can be found in Section 5 of this report.

- **Consider funding the DB OPEB annually with an actuarially calculated contribution amount** – This will fund the plan and provide assets to lower future contributions. However, it is recognized that this may not be practical, given the City’s resource constraints.

**While the above are options that we believe are reasonable for the City to consider, an expanded list of options and impacts is presented in Section 6.**

Some of these changes are mutually exclusive. For example, moving Medicare coverage to a defined dollar arrangement would make instituting a 25% participant contribution on Medicare-eligible costs irrelevant. As a result, it is important to consult with your actuary regarding the impact of multiple changes, since they are not necessarily additive.

Note that the above numbers assume the changes are made to all current and future retirees. Section 6 of this report breaks down these scenarios, so that one can see the impact of grandfathering current retirees.

While no changes are “painless”, a combination of one or more of these items may be a way for the City to help manage its retiree health liability both currently and into the future.

# 3 Assumption and Method Review

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The assumptions and methods used to produce the City of Lansing’s results used in this report are detailed in Appendix B. This section focuses on our review of assumptions utilized by the Boomershine Consulting Group (“Boomershine”) in their January 1, 2016 retiree health valuations.

The actuarial valuation of a defined benefit (DB) retiree health plan is dependent upon assumptions of future experience. These assumptions are utilized in order to project the benefits that will be paid from the system.

It is important to note that the actuarial assumptions used in the valuation do not affect the benefits that are promised to participants. Ultimately, the “true cost” of a program will be the benefits that are paid to its participants. Assumptions are used to estimate the liability of the program and to review potential funding of the cost over time.

Assumptions are used to measure factors, which are uncertain and unknowable. These assumptions are the actuary’s best estimate of future events and are rarely perfectly accurate. There is no right answer, except with hindsight. The assumptions used in these calculations should be monitored and modified as appropriate, so that the true cost of the benefits paid is being measured as accurately as possible.

For the purposes of reviewing assumptions for this study, we reviewed and evaluated the following documents produced by the Boomershine Consulting Group (“Boomershine”), the plans’ valuation actuaries:

- City of Lansing Employees’ Retirement System Actuarial Valuation of Retiree Healthcare Benefits as of December 31, 2015 (prepared December 2016)
- City of Lansing Employees’ Retirement System Actuarial Assumption Review and Experience Study Covering January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2015 (prepared December 2016)
- City of Lansing Police and Fire Retirement System Actuarial Valuation of Retiree Healthcare Benefits as of December 31, 2015 (prepared December 2016)
- City of Lansing Police and Fire Retirement System Actuarial Assumption Review and Experience Study Covering January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2015 (prepared December 2016)
- City of Lansing Employees’ Retirement System Actuarial Valuation for Funding and Contributions as of December 31, 2015 (prepared October 2016)
- City of Lansing Police and Fire Retirement System Actuarial Valuation for Funding and Contributions as of December 31, 2015 (prepared October 2016)

In addition, we have had extensive discussions with Boomershine regarding the assumptions they intend to use for the January 1, 2017 valuations.

Actuarial valuation assumptions are generally divided into two groups: demographic and economic. Demographic assumptions are used to model the expected individual behavior of plan participants

and include assumptions for retirement, disability, withdrawal, and mortality. Economic assumptions are used to model financial behavior, such per capita benefit costs, healthcare trend, return on assets, and salary increases.

## Demographic Assumptions

### **Retirement, Termination, and Disability**

Segal is not in a position to independently evaluate retirement, termination, and disability rates. However, we did review the assumptions Boomershine recommends in the above experience reviews and agree they appear to be reasonable.

The percentage of disabilities assumed as duty-related is 100% for both Boomershine OPEB valuations. Boomershine's pension valuation reports use more detailed disability assumptions, which assume 95% of Police and Fire and 50% of ERS disabilities are duty-related.

**Segal recommends the City consider using duty versus non-duty disability actuarial valuation assumptions that are consistent with the Boomershine pension valuation reports.**

### **Mortality**

There have been significant improvements in mortality over the last several decades. It is now common for actuaries to use mortality tables that have a built-in projection scale, so that mortality is assumed to improve over time. In fact, Actuarial Standards of Practice now specify that plan actuaries explicitly reflect the effects of mortality improvement in valuations, unless there is a specific reason for not doing so.

The Boomershine experience reviews recommend using the sex-distinct RP-2000 Table projected to 2026 with improvement Scale BB. Blue-collar adjustments are used for Police and Fire and separate rates are used for disabled lives.

Projection of the tables to a specific year will allow for some projection of future mortality, but not the total amount of projection that is implied by the improvement scale. The Society of Actuaries has published the RP-2014 mortality table as well as a generational mortality improvement scale (MP-2015).

**Segal recommends the City consider using updated mortality tables with a fully generational projection scale.** The results in this report utilize the Approximate 2006 Headcount-Weighted Mortality Tables with full generational projections from 2006 using Scale MP-2015 instead of the RP-2000 Mortality Tables projected to 2026 with Scale BB as recommended in the December 2016 Experience Studies. This caused the Accrued Liability to be approximately 1.4% (\$6.1 million) higher than if we had used the Boomershine assumption.

### **Retirement Age of Terminated Vested Participants**

The Boomershine OPEB reports assume that, within each group, all terminated vested participants elect to receive their retiree health benefits at a single age.

This single age assumption is common for pension valuations, because the presence of early retirement reduction factors minimizes the difference between liabilities at different retirement ages. However, a single age assumption does not generally work as well for valuing retiree health benefits, because not only do more years of benefit receipt mean higher liability, but also years received prior

to attainment of Medicare age are significantly more expensive than those years after Medicare eligibility.

**Segal recommends that the City consider developing a distribution of terminated vested health plan retirement age assumption rates, which vary by age and group.**

### **Spouse/Dependent Assumptions**

Segal is not in a position to independently evaluate independent spouse married rates, spouse/child election rates, or spouse/child age assumptions. We did review them and agree they appear to be reasonable.

The Boomershire OPEB reports use actual spouse date of birth to determine marital status for both actives and retirees. While this is typical for current retirees, it is more common for valuations to assume a married percentage for active participants at the point of retirement, since their status often changes between the valuation date and the time they retire.

**Segal recommends that the City consider using a percentage married at retirement assumption for currently active employees, rather than actual married status at the valuation date.**

### **Economic Assumptions**

#### **Investment Return Rate**

Segal is not in a position to independently evaluate the investment return rate assumption. However, we did review the 7.25% assumption Boomershire recommends in the above experience reviews and agree that it appears to be reasonable.

#### **Healthcare Trend Rates**

The Boomershire December 31, 2015 OPEB valuations use a non-Medicare combined medical and prescription drug initial trend rate of 6.5% and graded down to 4.5% at 0.5% annually. Segal agrees that an ultimate non-Medicare trend rate of 4.5% is reasonable.

In the current economic environment, it is typical for OPEB valuations to use a higher initial non-Medicare trend and a long-term period to grade down to the ultimate rate (for example, an initial non-Medicare combined trend rate of 8.5% and grading down to 4.5% at 0.25% annually).

**The City may wish to consider using a higher initial non-Medicare combined medical/prescription drug trend rate, and may also wish to consider lengthening the grading period to the ultimate rate.**

The Boomershire OPEB valuations use a Medicare combined medical and prescription drug trend rate of a flat 4.5%. Segal agrees that an ultimate Medicare-eligible trend rate of 4.5% is reasonable.

In the current economic environment, it is typical for OPEB valuations to use a higher initial Medicare-eligible trend and a long-term period to grade down to the ultimate rate (for example, an initial Medicare-eligible combined trend rate of 6.5% and grading down to 4.5% at 0.25% annually).

**The City may wish to consider using a higher Medicare-eligible combined medical/prescription drug initial trend rate, with a grade down period to the ultimate rate.** The results in this report utilize the trend rates suggested above, instead of those used in the Boomershire Consulting

December 31, 2015 valuation report. This caused the Accrued Liability to be approximately 8.5% (\$33.9 million) higher than if we had used the Boomershine assumption.

Segal agrees with the reasonableness of a flat 4.5% annual trend for Medicare Part B, dental, and vision.

### **Michigan Public Act 152 Increase Rate**

Since the City's non-Medicare benefits are subject to the Michigan Public Act 152 hard cap for many of the newer retiree cohorts, an assumption about the rate of increase in the hard cap is required for the valuation. The Boomershine OPEB valuations use a trend rate of 3.5% on the hard cap amount.

**Given both the historical increases in the cap and the current economic environment, the City may wish to consider using a lower trend rate on the hard cap.** For example, 3.0% might be more in line with historical increases and the current inflation environment.

### **Per Capita Claim Cost**

Segal reviewed the per capita claim cost development performed by Boomershine, which was used in their January 1, 2016 OPEB valuations, and we agree it is reasonable based on the information provided to Boomershine by the City.

**Segal recommends that the City track and report on non-Medicare claim experience for both Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) and Physicians Health Plan (PHP) separately for the ERS versus Police and Fire groups. Additionally, we recommend that the City have AMWINS track and report on claims for both the insured Medicare Supplement plans and the insured Express Scripts Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs) separately for the ERS versus Police and Fire groups.** Ongoing tracking and reporting of these claims separately by group will allow the most accurate per capita cost assumptions going forward.

Segal reviewed per capita cost assumptions for the dental, vision, and Medicare Part B benefits and agree that they appear to be reasonable.

### **Wage Inflation and Salary Scale**

The Boomershine experience studies recommend a base wage inflation of 2.75%, which we find to be reasonable.

The Boomershine January 1, 2016 OPEB valuation reports use a flat 2.75% base wage inflation with no additional salary increase components. Since the actuarial cost method used is Entry Age Normal as a level percentage of salary, the salary increase assumptions have an impact on the Actuarial Accrued Liability.

Boomershine's pension valuation reports use more detailed salary increase assumptions, which reflect additional increase components about the base wage inflation rate.

**Segal recommends the City consider using actuarial valuation salary increase assumptions that are consistent with the Boomershine pension valuation reports.**

### **Funding and Amortization Method**

In order to determine the Actuarial Accrued Liability, the actuary applies a funding method to allocate benefits to past and future service. There are several methods commonly used in this process.

For the City's OPEB plans, the method used is the Entry Age Actuarial Cost Method as a level percentage of salary. This method is the most commonly used allocation method in the public sector and results in relatively stable contributions as a percent of payroll. In fact, this is the method required by new GASB OPEB Accounting Statements No. 74 and No. 75.

The amortization period of both the ERS and the Police and Fire OPEB plans is **partially** closed with 26 years remaining as of January 1, 2016. The partially closed amortization period means that, according to the plans' funding policies, the funding period will decrease each year until the remaining period is 15 years, at which point it will remain at 15 years. Closed periods have the feature that every dollar of Unfunded Accrued Liability will be fully amortized by a certain date, although required contributions can become very volatile in the final years of the amortization period. This volatility can be managed through a funding policy that tracks the source of change in Unfunded Accrued Liability by year and amortizes each year's change in Unfunded Accrued Liability over a closed period.

The plan's policy is to use an open 15-year amortization period when there are 15 years remaining in the funding period. The Boomershire experience reviews recommend changing the length of this period to 10 years for the ERS pension system. Open periods are often used in the public sector, but are not expected to fully amortize the Unfunded Accrued Liabilities by a specified date. An important concept in funding benefit plans is "negative amortization".

When Unfunded Accrued Liability payments are made as a percent of payroll, the dollar amount of payments rise over time as the payroll base increases. Because smaller payments are made at the beginning of the payment period, the Unfunded Accrued Liability will increase for several years, and then rapidly decrease in the last few years of the period. This is a result of the payments in early years not being sufficient to pay the interest accruing on the Unfunded Accrued Liability. While this type of payment stream is commonly used to fund public sector plans, it is important that stakeholders understand this effect.

Payments on the Unfunded Accrued Liabilities are made using a projection of future payroll increases for the groups. This is done in order to reflect the growth of payroll over the payment period. In years where total payroll growth is less than the assumption, payments toward the Unfunded Accrued Liability will be less than assumed. This will have the effect of increasing required payments in the future.

An alternative to amortizing plan funding on a level percentage of pay basis would be to make payments on the Unfunded Accrued Liability on a level dollar basis. This method would amortize the Unfunded Accrued Liability with an unchanging payment over the period, similar to a home mortgage. Although the dollar amount would remain the same, the payments as a percent of payroll would decrease as the period goes on. This would have the effect of amortizing the Unfunded Accrued Liability more quickly, but it would also result in higher payments in early years.

**Segal recommends that the OPEB plans evaluate the use of an open amortization period when the plans reach the 15-year (or 10-year) open funding period. We recommend that consideration be given to adopting a funding policy that targets 100% funding over a reasonable time-period.**

## Summary of Assumption and Method Review

Segal recommends that the City consider the following:

- Use actuarial valuation duty versus non-duty disability assumptions that are consistent with the Boomershine pension valuation reports.
- Use updated Society of Actuaries mortality tables with a fully generational projection scale.
- Develop a distribution of terminated vested health plan retirement rates that vary by age and group.
- Use a percentage married at retirement assumption for currently active employees, rather than actual married status at the valuation date.
- Review the non-Medicare trend rate assumption, and possibly use a higher non-Medicare combined medical/prescription drug initial trend rate. The City may also consider lengthening the grading period to the ultimate rate.
- Review the Medicare-eligible combined medical/prescription drug trend rate assumption, and possibly use a higher combined initial trend rate, along with a reasonable grading period to the ultimate rate.
- Given both the historical increases in the cap and the current economic environment, consider lowering the trend rate of 3.5% on the hard cap.
- Track and report on non-Medicare claim experience for both Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) and Physicians Health Plan (PHP) separately for the ERS versus Police and Fire groups. Have AMWINS track and report on claims for both the insured Medicare Supplement plans and the insured Express Scripts Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs) separately for the ERS versus Police and Fire groups.
- Use actuarial valuation salary increase assumptions that are consistent with the Boomershine pension valuation reports.
- Evaluate the use of an open amortization period when the plans reach the 15-year (or 10-year) open funding period. Consider adopting a funding policy that targets 100% funding over a reasonable time-period.

# 4 Peer Group Benchmarking

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In order to compare the adequacy of plan design, funding methods, benefit provisions, and other features of the City of Lansing retiree healthcare benefits, we have assembled information from other programs, as directed. This peer group consists of eight groups from three cities in Michigan. The eight groups included are:

- City of Ann Arbor — General Employees
- City of Ann Arbor — Police
- City of Ann Arbor — Fire
- City of Grand Rapids — General Employees
- City of Grand Rapids — Police
- City of Grand Rapids — Fire
- City of Southfield — General Employees
- City of Southfield — Police and Fire

The City of Warren was also asked to participate, but we were not able to get enough detailed information to include them in the comparator group.

The information used in this report was obtained from the following sources:

- “City of Ann Arbor Retiree Health Care Benefits Plan Retiree Health Actuarial Valuation Under GASB 45 Valuation Date: June 30, 2016” prepared by Buck Consultants, November 2016
- “City of Grand Rapids General Other Postemployment Benefits Actuarial Valuation Report June 30, 2015” prepared by Gabriel Roeder Smith, January 2016
- “City of Grand Rapids Police Other Postemployment Benefits Actuarial Valuation Report June 30, 2015” prepared by Gabriel Roeder Smith, January 2016
- “City of Grand Rapids Fire Other Postemployment Benefits Actuarial Valuation Report June 30, 2015” prepared by Gabriel Roeder Smith, January 2016
- “City of Grand Rapids 2015 Trend Report” prepared by Gabriel Roeder Smith, November 2014
- “City of Southfield Retiree Health Care Benefits Plan and Trust Actuarial Valuation Report as of June 30, 2015” prepared by Gabriel Roeder Smith, February 2016

We have grouped the results into the following tables shown below:

- Table 1 — Program Size (Defined Benefit Retiree Health Only)
- Table 2 — Key Financial Information (Defined Benefit Retiree Health Only)
- Table 3 — Other Financial Comparisons (Defined Benefit Retiree Health Only)
- Table 4 — Funding Policy and Amortization Methods
- Table 5 — Actuarial Assumptions Used in Most Recent GASB Accounting Valuations
- Table 6 — Retirement Eligibility
- Table 7 — Types of Benefits Provided (Defined Benefit Retiree Health Only)
- Table 8 — Other Plan Features (Defined Benefit Retiree Health Only))
- Table 9 — Approximate Employer Subsidy Percentage (Defined Benefit Retiree Health Only)

Note that these tables all focus on employees and retirees eligible for a defined benefit (DB) retiree health plan. Many of the groups have a defined contribution (DC) health plan, where the employee and/or employer make specific contributions each year to an individual account, during active service. Whatever amount is in the account at retirement defines the benefit – like a 401(k) or 403(b) plan versus a defined benefit pension plan. The groups with DC programs are:

- Lansing Teamsters 214, if hired January 1, 2015 or later
- Lansing Teamsters 243, if hired May 19, 2014 or later
- Lansing Teamsters 243 District Court and District Court non-bargained, if hired July 1, 2016 or later
- Lansing other non-bargained, if hired July 1, 2016 or later (excludes Council Staff, Executive Management, Mayoral Staff, City Mayor, City Clerk, and Judges)
- Grand Rapids, all employees, if hired after 2001
- Southfield Police, if hired March 1, 2014 or later
- Southfield Fire, AFSCME, TPOAM, ACS, Management, and Court, if hired September 12, 2011 or later
- Southfield PSS, if hired May 31, 2013 or later
- Southfield PST, if hired April 10, 2014 or later

Note that while Ann Arbor does not technically have a DC plan for its newer hires, it has a hybrid type defined dollar program for these groups. They get \$2,500 per year of service allocated to a notional account, which can be drawn down upon retirement to pay for claims or premiums. This defined dollar hybrid plan was effective for dates of hire ranging from July 1, 2011 to July 1, 2012, depending on the specific group.

Table 1 – Program Size (Defined Benefit Retiree Health Only)					
Group	Actives	Terminated Vested	Retirees	Inactive to Active Ratio	Annual Pay-As-You-Go Net Cost
Lansing UAW	136	1	227	1.7	\$ 2,710,000
Lansing Teamsters 214	20	12	29	2.1	\$ 300,000
Lansing Teamsters 243	173	2	355	2.1	\$ 3,980,000
Lansing All Other ERS	45	37	254	6.5	\$ 2,710,000
<b>Lansing ERS – Total</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>\$ 9,700,000</b>
Ann Arbor General*	488	0	540	1.1	\$ 8,710,000
Grand Rapids General**	817	0	335	0.9	\$ 5,730,000
Southfield General	238	33	266	1.3	\$ 3,920,000
Lansing Police	186	18	323	1.8	\$ 5,680,000
Lansing Fire	160	5	331	2.1	\$ 5,370,000
<b>Lansing Police &amp; Fire – Total</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>\$ 11,050,000</b>
Ann Arbor Police*	120	0	174	1.5	\$ 3,010,000
Ann Arbor Fire*	77	0	140	1.8	\$ 2,310,000
Grand Rapids Police**	295	26	95	0.7	\$ 2,100,000
Grand Rapids Fire**	201	4	95	0.6	\$ 2,370,000
Southfield Police & Fire	197	1	283	1.4	\$ 5,120,000

\* Ann Arbor retiree counts exclude those with only retiree life insurance benefits

\*\* Grand Rapids retiree counts exclude Medicare-eligible retirees, since they receive no subsidized benefit

### Observations

- The City of Lansing has the largest combined number of DB health participants of all cities compared
- Lansing’s program also has the largest ratio of inactives per active. This is problematic, because employer funding is typically expressed as a percentage of active payroll. The City’s high ratios exacerbate generational equity issues in funding the benefits.
- Grand Rapids counts are misleadingly low, because the DB retiree health arrangement closed in 2001 for all groups. Many of the Grand Rapids employees are in a DC arrangement. In addition, it appears that retirees on Medicare are excluded from the counts in the valuation reports, since coverage is access only (retiree-pay-all) for Grand Rapids Medicare-eligible retirees.
- Although the City of Lansing has the largest annual pay-as-you-go (cash) cost, it is attributable to their larger number of retirees. Table 3 shows that a per capita view of the cash cost is in line with other cities.

Table 2 – Key Financial Information (Defined Benefit Retiree Health Only)				
Group	Discount Rate	Accrued Liability	Employer Normal Cost	Funded Ratio
Lansing UAW	7.25%	\$ 64,370,000	\$ 810,000	
Lansing Teamsters 214	7.25%	\$ 8,390,000	\$ 80,000	
Lansing Teamsters 243	7.25%	\$ 90,060,000	\$ 530,000	
Lansing All Other ERS	7.25%	\$ 45,870,000	\$ 130,000	
<b>Lansing ERS - Total</b>	<b>7.25%</b>	<b>\$ 208,690,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,550,000</b>	<b>21.8%</b>
Ann Arbor General	7.00%	\$ 174,580,000	\$ 2,110,000	51.8%
Grand Rapids General	5.00%	\$ 56,080,000	\$ 1,010,000	16.1%
Southfield General	5.50%	\$ 103,740,000	\$ 1,690,000	14.7%
Lansing Police	7.25%	\$ 130,570,000	\$ 2,120,000	
Lansing Fire	7.25%	\$ 93,640,000	\$ 1,190,000	
<b>Lansing Police &amp; Fire - Total</b>	<b>7.25%</b>	<b>\$ 224,210,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,310,000</b>	<b>12.9%</b>
Ann Arbor Police	7.00%	\$ 70,610,000	\$ 710,000	51.8%
Ann Arbor Fire	7.00%	\$ 46,500,000	\$ 540,000	51.8%
Grand Rapids Police	5.00%	\$ 57,140,000	\$ 1,530,000	34.6%
Grand Rapids Fire	5.00%	\$ 38,170,000	\$ 1,230,000	32.2%
Southfield Police & Fire	5.50%	\$ 142,320,000	\$ 2,230,000	30.4%

### Observations

- The discount rates of the other comparators are not so much a function of investment return assumptions, as they are of funding status over time
  - Plans with a contribution policy that indicates they are expected to remain solvent indefinitely can use a full long-term investment return assumption for GASB valuations. Only the City of Ann Arbor currently fits that description.
  - Plans not expected to remain solvent and/or approach 100% funding, must blend the full return assumption with a rate earned on general assets - typically around 4.0%, for GASB accounting purposes. That is why most of the plans show a blended rate of 4.5% to 5.5%.
  - Although the City of Lansing’s plan is only partially funded, all calculations in this report were completed assuming that a full prefunding-based discount rate of 7.25% will be in effect going forward for illustrative purposes. If an unfunded discount rate of 4.00% were used instead, the total estimated closed group liabilities for the City’s OPEB program would be over \$692.1 million.
- Accrued Liability and Normal Cost (cost of benefits accruing during the year) are a function of more than just benefit design, but also demographics and assumptions
- Other than Ann Arbor, no group is even 35% funded on its OPEB plans, which often do not have the legislative requirements that apply to defined benefit pension plans

**Table 3 – Other Financial Comparisons (Defined Benefit Retiree Health Only)**

Group	Actuarially Calculated Contribution	Pay-As-You-Go Per Retiree	Employer Normal Cost Per Active	Ratio of Actuarial Contribution to Pay-As-You-Go Cost
Lansing UAW		\$ 11,938	\$ 5,956	
Lansing Teamsters 214		\$ 10,345	\$ 4,000	
Lansing Teamsters 243		\$ 11,211	\$ 3,064	
Lansing All Other ERS		\$ 10,669	\$ 2,889	
<b>Lansing ERS – Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,210,000</b>	<b>\$ 11,214</b>	<b>\$ 4,144</b>	<b>1.26</b>
Ann Arbor General	\$ 6,470,000	\$ 16,130	\$ 4,324	0.74
Grand Rapids General*	\$ 4,930,000	\$ 17,104	\$ 2,745	0.86
Southfield General	\$ 8,340,000	\$ 14,737	\$ 7,101	2.13
Lansing Police		\$ 17,585	\$ 11,398	
Lansing Fire		\$ 16,224	\$ 7,438	
<b>Lansing Police &amp; Fire – Total</b>	<b>\$ 16,190,000</b>	<b>\$ 16,896</b>	<b>\$ 9,566</b>	<b>1.47</b>
Ann Arbor Police	\$ 2,470,000	\$ 17,299	\$ 5,917	0.82
Ann Arbor Fire	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 16,500	\$ 7,013	0.74
Grand Rapids Police*	\$ 4,130,000	\$ 22,105	\$ 9,053	1.97
Grand Rapids Fire*	\$ 2,970,000	\$ 24,947	\$ 7,640	1.25
Southfield Police & Fire	\$ 9,680,000	\$ 18,092	\$ 11,320	1.89

\* Grand Rapids per capita calculations exclude Medicare eligible retirees, since they receive no subsidized benefit

### **Observations**

- The actuarially calculated contribution is often a function of amortization period and method, along with the same factors affecting Accrued Liability and Normal Cost (cost of benefits accruing during the year)
- Showing results on a per capita basis removes pure group size out of the comparison
- The City’s ERS cash cost per retiree is favorable relative to other groups. This may reflect a higher blend of lower cost post-65 retirees relative to other groups.
- The City’s Police and Fire cash cost per retiree is much higher than ERS, partly due to a higher non-Medicare mix, and partly due to more grandfathering of richer benefit designs
  - However, the Police and Fire cost is on the low side of the other public safety comparators
- The Grand Rapids very high cash cost per retiree is biased from the fact that it appears retirees eligible for Medicare are excluded from the counts in the valuation report. This leaves only non-Medicare retirees, who always have a much higher per capita cost.

- Lansing's ERS Normal Cost (cost of benefits accruing during the year) per active is favorable relative to other groups. This reflects the efforts taken by the City to increase eligibility requirements to 55/25 for most recent hire groups and the elimination of Medicare benefits for recent hires of UAW and District Court.
- Lansing's Police and Fire Normal Cost per active is the highest of any group other than Southfield Police and Fire. This reflects the rich benefit designs, lack of retiree contributions required for Medicare coverage, and the fact that Police retirees have a separate contribution limit as 1% of pension, which overrides the impact of the Michigan Public Act 152 hard cap for non-Medicare retirees.
- Groups like Ann Arbor that are making more actuarial based contributions (and are expected to fully fund the plan over time) are now at a point where their actuarial calculated contribution under GASB accounting is lower than their cash cost
- Lansing's ERS group is expected to have a low ratio of actuarial contribution to cash cost, due to the fact it has richer benefits that are front-loaded to legacy retiree groups
- Lansing's Police and Fire group is expected to have an actuarial contribution much higher than cash cost, because the benefits are not particularly front-loaded, as newer retirees will get similarly rich benefits to current retirees

**Table 4 – Funding Policy and Amortization Methods**

Group	Employer Contribution Policy	Amortization Method	Payroll Growth Rate	Amortization Period
<b>Lansing ERS</b>	<b>2.5% of payroll for UAW and old plans; 4.0% of payroll for new plans</b>	<b>Level % of pay</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>Partially closed: 26 years decreasing to 15 year open</b>
Ann Arbor General	2% annual increases until plan is 100% funded	Level % of pay	3.5%	Open: 30 years for GASB
Grand Rapids General	Pay-as-you-go already exceeds actuarial amount	Level dollar	N/A	Closed: 17 years
Southfield General	Partial funding of actuarially calculated contribution	Level dollar	N/A	Closed: 26 years
<b>Lansing Police &amp; Fire</b>	<b>2.48% of payroll</b>	<b>Level % of pay</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>Partially closed: 26 years decreasing to 15 years open</b>
Ann Arbor Police	2% annual increases until plan is 100% funded	Level % of pay	3.5%	Open: 30 years for GASB
Ann Arbor Fire	2% annual increases until plan is 100% funded	Level % of pay	3.5%	Open: 30 years for GASB
Grand Rapids Police	Actuarially calculated	Level dollar	N/A	Closed: 23 years
Grand Rapids Fire	Actuarially calculated	Level dollar	N/A	Closed: 25 years
Southfield Police & Fire	Partial funding of actuarially calculated contribution	Level dollar	N/A	Closed: 26 years

**Observations**

- Lansing’s amortization period is only partially closed, which is expected to keep the plan from being on a path to 100% funding over the long-term
- On the other hand, Lansing’s plans have legislative funding requirements as a percentage of payroll, while the other survey participants do not appear to have any such guarantees
- Although Ann Arbor uses an open period for GASB accounting, their actual contribution policy has been to increase contributions 2% each year, which results in full funding over time

**Table 5 – Actuarial Assumptions in Most Recent GASB OPEB Valuations**

Group	Investment Return	Medical/Rx Non-Medicare Health Trend	Medical/Rx Medicare Health Trend	Healthy Mortality Tables
<b>Lansing ERS</b>	<b>7.25%</b>	<b>6.5% to 4.5% over 4 years</b>	<b>4.5% flat</b>	<b>RP-2000 to 2008 with 100% scale BB and to 2023 with 50% scale BB</b>
Ann Arbor General	7.00%	8.25% to 4.5% over 15 years	6.25% to 4.5% over 13 years	RP-2000 to 2007; +2 male; -3% female; fully generational with scale AA
Grand Rapids General	5.00%	8.0% to 3.5% over 9 years	8.0% to 3.5% over 9 years	RP-2014 to 2019 with MP-2014
Southfield General	Unknown (5.9% blended for GASB)	9.0% to 4.0% over 10 years	9.0% to 4.0% over 10 years	RP-2000 to 2015; +1 year males
<b>Lansing Police &amp; Fire</b>	<b>7.25%</b>	<b>6.5% to 4.5% over 4 years</b>	<b>4.5% flat</b>	<b>RP-2000 to 2008 with 100% scale BB and to 2023 with 50% scale BB</b>
Ann Arbor Police	7.00%	8.25% to 4.5% over 15 years	6.25% to 4.5% over 13 years	RP-2000 to 2007; +2 male; -3% female; fully generational with scale AA
Ann Arbor Fire	7.00%	8.25% to 4.5% over 15 years	6.25% to 4.5% over 13 years	RP-2000 to 2007; +2 male; -3% female; fully generational with scale AA
Grand Rapids Police	Unknown (5.0% blended for GASB)	8.0% to 3.5% over 9 years	8.0% to 3.5% over 9 years	RP-2014 to 2019 with MP-2014
Grand Rapids Fire	Unknown (5.0% blended for GASB)	8.0% to 3.5% over 9 years	8.0% to 3.5% over 9 years	RP-2014 to 2019 with MP-2014
Southfield Police & Fire	Unknown (5.5% blended for GASB)	9.0% to 4.0% over 10 years	9.0% to 4.0% over 10 years	RP-2000 to 2015

**Observations**

- Lansing and Ann Arbor have similar investment return assumptions. It is difficult to compare to Grand Rapids and Southfield, because their GASB OPEB reports do not provide an explicit assumption for investment return that goes into calculating the blended partial funding rate
- Lansing uses more aggressive short-term health trend rates than the comparators – both in terms of the initial rate and the period to grade to ultimate
- On the other hand, Lansing’s ultimate trend is at the high end of the comparators
- Although Lansing’s use of RP-2000 as the base mortality table is mirrored by two of the comparators, the new RP-2014 table used by Grand Rapids is becoming an industry standard
- Ann Arbor uses a fully generational improvement scale, which is becoming standard in actuarial valuations. However, other comparator groups are still projecting to a fixed year.

Table 6 – Retiree Health Eligibility (Age/Service)				
Group	New Hires	Hired 1/1/2011	Hired 1/1/2001	New Hire Terminated Vesting
Lansing UAW	50/25	50/25	58/15 OR 50/25	25 years
Lansing Teamsters 214	50/25 (dental/vision only)	58/15 OR 50/25	55/15 OR 50/25	25 years (dental/vision only)
Lansing Teamsters 243	50/25 (dental/vision only)	50/25	58/15 OR 50/25	25 years (dental/vision only)
Lansing All Other ERS	most are 50/25 (dental/vision only)	most are 55/15	most are 55/15	most 25 years (dental/vision only)
Ann Arbor General	Notional \$2,500 per year/svc only	60/5 OR 50/20	60/5 OR 50/20	Not eligible
Grand Rapids General	RHSA only	RHSA only	RHSA only	RHSA only
Southfield General	RHSA only	57/20 OR 60/15	57/20 OR 60/10	Not DB eligible
Lansing Police	50/25	any/25	55/15 OR any/25	25 years
Lansing Fire	50/25	any/25	55/15 OR any/25	25 years
Ann Arbor Police	Notional \$2,500 per year/svc only	55/5 OR any/25 OR 50/20	55/5 OR any/25 OR 50/20	Not eligible
Ann Arbor Fire	Notional \$2,500 per year/svc only	55/5 OR any/25 OR 50/20	55/5 OR any/25 OR 50/20	Not eligible
Grand Rapids Police	RHSA only	RHSA only	RHSA only	RHSA only
Grand Rapids Fire	RHSA only	RHSA only	RHSA only	RHSA only
Southfield Police & Fire	RHSA only	most are any/20	any/20	RHSA only

### Observations

- All comparator groups have effectively eliminated their defined benefit retiree health plans for newer hires
  - Grand Rapids and Southfield new hires receive a retiree savings account (RHSA)
  - Ann Arbor new hires receive a notional allocation of \$2,500 per year of service
- While Lansing has eliminated the DB program for most ERS groups (and UAW provides new hires with Medicare-eligible benefits only), Police and Fire new hires still receive the current retiree health program, with no participant contributions for Medicare-eligible retirees and rich Medicare Supplement plans
- Lansing has been aggressive about pushing service requirements to 25 years for most groups, including Police and Fire. Hires grandfathered into the comparator defined benefit plans generally required no more than 20 years of service, and less than that in many cases.
- Actives grandfathered into the comparator defined benefit plans of Southfield and Grand Rapids Police and Fire allowed vesting of retiree health benefits
- However, Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids General did not allow any terminated vesting for retiree health benefits

**Table 7 – Types of Benefits Provided (Defined Benefit Retiree Health Only)**

Group	Non-Medicare Medical/Rx	Medicare Medical/Rx	Medicare Part B	Dental	Vision
Lansing UAW	Yes	If DOH < 10/21/13	If DOH < 10/21/13	Yes	Yes
Lansing Teamsters 214	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lansing Teamsters 243	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lansing District Court	Yes	If DOH < 4/1/14	If DOH < 4/1/14	Yes	No
Lansing All Other ERS	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ann Arbor General	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Grand Rapids General	Yes	Access only	No	Yes < 65; >65 access only	Yes < 65; >65 access only
Southfield General	Yes	Yes	No	Not clear	Not clear
<b>Lansing Police</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Lansing Fire</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Ann Arbor Police	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Ann Arbor Fire	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Grand Rapids Police	Yes	Access only	No	Yes < 65; >65 access only	Yes < 65; >65 access only
Grand Rapids Fire	Yes	Access only	No	Yes < 65; >65 access only	Yes < 65; >65 access only
Southfield Police & Fire	Yes	Yes	No	Not clear	Not clear

**Observations**

- All comparator groups provide non-Medicare medical/prescription drug for those in a DB health plan
- Grand Rapids only provides retiree-pay-all coverage to Medicare retirees, but the other comparators do subsidize medical/Rx coverage for Medicare-eligible participants
- No other comparator provides reimbursement for Medicare Part B premiums, while Lansing provides full reimbursement to almost everyone
- Ann Arbor does not provide any retiree dental or vision coverage and Grand Rapids only provides a dental/vision subsidy for non-Medicare retirees. It was not clear from the Southfield valuation report if subsidized dental and/or vision coverage is provided.
- Lansing provides free dental and vision coverage to almost all participants regardless of Medicare status. This includes newer hires not otherwise in the DB retiree health program and spouses/dependents who are not eligible to receive medical or prescription drug coverage.

**Table 8 – Other Plan Features (Defined Benefit Retiree Health Only)**

Group	Dependent Spouse Coverage	Surviving Spouse Coverage	Dependent Child Coverage	OPEB Life Insurance Benefit	In-Service Participant Contributions
<b>Lansing UAW</b>	<b>DOH &lt; 10/21/13</b>	<b>As spouse, if J&amp;S</b>	<b>As spouse</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Lansing Teamsters 214</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>As spouse, if J&amp;S</b>	<b>As spouse</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Lansing Teamsters 243</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>As spouse, if J&amp;S</b>	<b>As spouse</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Lansing District Court</b>	<b>DOH &lt; 4/1/14</b>	<b>As spouse, if J&amp;S</b>	<b>As spouse</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Lansing All Other ERS</b>	<b>DOH &lt; 7/1/07</b>	<b>As spouse, if J&amp;S</b>	<b>As spouse</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>
Ann Arbor General	Yes	If pension payable	Yes	\$ 5,000	None
Grand Rapids General	Yes	Until earlier of ret/spouse age 65	No	No	None
Southfield General	Yes	If J&S	No	No	2% of pay
<b>Lansing Police</b>	<b>DOH &lt; 8/1/14</b>	<b>As spouse, if J&amp;S</b>	<b>As spouse</b>	<b>\$ 3,000</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Lansing Fire</b>	<b>DOH &lt; 8/1//14</b>	<b>As spouse, if J&amp;S</b>	<b>As spouse</b>	<b>\$ 3,000</b>	<b>None</b>
Ann Arbor Police	Yes	If pension payable	Yes	\$ 10,000	None
Ann Arbor Fire	Yes	If pension payable	Yes	\$ 10,000	None
Grand Rapids Police	Yes	Until earlier of ret/spouse age 65	No	No	None
Grand Rapids Fire	Yes	Until earlier of ret/spouse age 65	No	No	None
Southfield Police & Fire	Yes	If J&S	Yes	No	2% of pay

**Observations**

- Lansing has been aggressive about eliminating spouse/dependent coverage eligibility for newer hires, or requiring them to pay the full cost. Other cities still cover spouses in the DB program.
- All groups other than Grand Rapids treat surviving spouses as a joint spouse, as long as a survivor pension is being received
- Grand Rapids only provides benefits to surviving spouses until the earlier of when the spouse reaches age 65 or when the retiree would have reached age 65. However, Grand Rapids Medicare retiree benefits are participant-pay-all anyway.
- Southfield Police and Fire and Ann Arbor provide dependent child coverage, while Grand Rapids and Southfield General do not
- Only Lansing and Ann Arbor provide an OPEB death benefit, and they are relatively small flat amounts
- Requiring participants to make **in-service** contributions to their DB retiree health plan is not as common as it is for pension plans, but Southfield does require participants to contribute 2% of pay to the plan

**Table 9 – Approximate Employer Subsidy Percentage (Defined Benefit Retiree Health Only)**

Group	Non-Medicare Retiree Age 60	Non-Medicare Spouse Age 60	Medicare Retiree Age 70	Medicare Spouse Age 70
<b>Lansing UAW (DOR &gt; 9/30/14)</b>	<b>100% of City paid plan to PA-152 cap; ret contrib. max 1% of pension for Opt1</b>	<b>Same, if eligible</b>	<b>100%, if eligible</b>	<b>100%, if eligible</b>
<b>Lansing Teamsters 214</b>	<b>100% of City paid plan to PA-152 cap</b>	<b>Same</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Lansing Teamsters 243 (DOR &gt; 2/19/04)</b>	<b>100% of City paid plan to PA-152 cap; ret contrib. max \$ or 1% pension for Opt1</b>	<b>Same</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Lansing District Court (T243 &amp; Non-Bargained)</b>	<b>100% of City paid plan to PA-152 cap; ret contrib. max 1% of pension for Opt1*</b>	<b>Same, if eligible</b>	<b>100%, if eligible</b>	<b>100%, if eligible</b>
<b>Lansing All Other ERS (DOR &gt; 6/30/07)</b>	<b>100% of City paid plan to PA-152 cap</b>	<b>Same, if eligible</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%, if eligible</b>
Ann Arbor General <sup>(1)</sup>	94% city paid	96% city paid	92% city paid	95% city paid
Grand Rapids General <sup>(2)</sup>	70% city paid	63% city paid	0% city paid – access only	0% city paid – access only
Southfield General <sup>(3)</sup>	99% city paid	99% city paid	98% city paid	98% city paid
<b>Lansing Police (DOR &gt; 10/12/15)</b>	<b>100% of City paid plan to PA-152 cap; ret contrib. max 1% of pension</b>	<b>Same, if eligible</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%, if eligible</b>
<b>Lansing Fire (DOR &gt; 6/30/13)</b>	<b>100% of City paid plan to PA-152 cap</b>	<b>Same, if eligible</b>	<b>100% for most</b>	<b>100%, if eligible</b>
Ann Arbor Police <sup>(1)</sup>	94% city paid	96% city paid	92% city paid	95% city paid
Ann Arbor Fire <sup>(1)</sup>	94% city paid	96% city paid	92% city paid	95% city paid
Grand Rapids Police <sup>(4)</sup>	77% city paid	72% city paid	0% city paid – access only	0% city paid – access only
Grand Rapids Fire <sup>(5)</sup>	77% city paid	72% city paid	0% city paid – access only	0% city paid – access only
Southfield Police & Fire <sup>(6)</sup>	100% city paid	100% city paid	100% city paid	100% city paid

\* 1% pension limit for District Court Non-Bargained not in the fringe document, but is currently administered for participants

- (1) Assumes High Option Plan selected
- (2) Assumes non-union retiree with 20 years of service
- (3) Assumes union retiree hired before January 1, 2007
- (4) Assumes GRPOA retiree with 20 years of service
- (5) Assumes retiree with 20 years of service
- (6) Assumes Police retiree

## **Observations**

- Ann Arbor requires only a small dollar contribution to receive medical/prescription drug coverage
- Southfield's General Plan required contribution vary greatly by individual union/department, but Police and Fire participants pay nothing, while many General Plan participants pay a very small amount
  - On the other hand, Southfield requires in-service participant contributions to the DB retiree health plan of 2% of payroll
- Grand Rapids non-Medicare contribution is calculated as a percentage of a blended retiree premium rate
  - The percentage is somewhat based on service and group, but it caps out at 80% City paid with either 25 or 30 years of service
- Grand Rapids Medicare contribution is the full separate premium rate determined for Medicare participants
- Lansing provides non-Medicare benefits at no cost to the retiree, but subject to the Michigan Public Act 152 hard cap amounts for newer retiree cohorts. However, many of the Lansing groups have 1% pension limits or dollar amount limits on the amount the participant is required to pay, overriding the cap for those groups.
  - For Lansing groups truly under the hard cap, participants will pay a larger portion of the total cost each year for non-Medicare coverage, if the cost is in excess of the Michigan Public Act 152 hard cap
- Lansing provides Medicare benefits at no cost to the retiree
- All groups treat spouses similarly to retirees in terms of required contributions, assuming the spouse is eligible at all

## Overall Benchmarking Observations

- Lansing has the largest ratio of retirees per active. This is problematic, because employer funding is typically expressed as a percentage of active payroll. Lansing's high ratios exacerbate generational equity issues in funding the benefits.
- Lansing's Police and Fire cash cost per retiree is much higher than ERS, partly due to a higher non-Medicare mix, and partly due to more grandfathering of richer benefit designs
  - However, the Police and Fire cost is on the low side of the other public safety comparators
- Lansing's ERS Normal Cost (cost of benefits accruing during the year) per active is favorable relative to other groups. This reflects the efforts taken by the City to increase eligibility requirements to 55/25 for most recent hire groups and the elimination of Medicare-eligible benefits for UAW and District Court hires after 2014.
- Lansing's Police and Fire Normal Cost per active is the highest of any group, other than Southfield Police and Fire. This reflects the rich benefit designs, and the lack of required retiree contributions.
- Lansing's amortization period is only partially closed, which is expected to keep the plan from being on a path to 100% funding over the long-term
- Lansing's Police and Fire new hires still receive the current DB retiree health program, with no participant contributions for Medicare-eligible retirees
  - All other comparator groups have effectively eliminated their defined benefit retiree health benefits for newer hires – even for public safety employees
- Lansing has been aggressive about pushing service requirements to 25 years for most groups, as well as eliminating spouse/dependent coverage for new hire cohorts. Most other groups require 20 years or less on their most recent hires still eligible for the DB retiree health program.
- Lansing provides some extra benefits beyond basic medical and prescription drug coverage that comparators are not providing
  - No comparator provides even partial Medicare B premium reimbursement
  - No comparator provides any subsidized dental or vision coverage for Medicare retirees
- Lansing appears to be the only comparator interacting with the Michigan Public Act 152 hard cap for its non-Medicare benefits
  - Careful attention must be paid as to how non-Medicare design and/or contribution decisions are impacted by the presence of the hard cap
- Lansing provides rich fully insured Medicare Supplement and prescription drug coverage, while requiring no participant contributions. Southfield Police and Fire is the only other group to be 100% employer paid, but they also require participant in-service contributions to fund the plan.

# 5 Program Design Alternatives

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## Affected Groups and Cohorts

A principal part of any design change is to decide which cohorts will be affected by the change and which ones (if any) will be grandfathered into keeping their previous benefits. Cohorts are typically defined by date of hire and/or by date of retirement. It is also possible to use some formula, for example, age + service, to determine grandfathering rules.

Reducing/eliminating benefits or increasing contributions for current retirees provides the most immediate impact to current liability. However, this is often a difficult group to change as retirees often feel they have been “promised” their current benefits levels, whether or not there is any actual promise from a legal standpoint. Additionally, it may be argued that those already retired are in the least favorable position to adjust to any program changes, as they have no time to plan retirement under the new conditions. Any changes to current retirees directly affects the annual program cash cost (also called “pay-as-you-go” cost), whereas changes to other current or future participants affect the current and/or future liability, but do not significantly impact the immediate cash cost.

Another set of participants to consider is terminated (also called deferred) vested former employees. These participants represent about 1% of the currently liability (\$5.1 million). This group has not actually retired, which may impact legal standing as well as public perception. For those who have reached eligibility age, many of the same points discussed for retired participants above also apply. Those old enough to retire immediately may also change their retirement behavior to avoid being affected by any new design changes (choosing to retire immediately). This could, in turn, affect the City’s cash cost in the short-term.

Some active employees have already reached benefit eligibility based on the applicable age/service requirements. In this way, they are similar to the terminated vested group. However, they may still have some opportunity to plan and adapt to benefit changes. Program changes could be defined so that those already eligible are grandfathered, but any such grandfathering obviously reduces the potential savings of the changes. The fact that they are currently active may very well affect options from a legal standpoint, particularly those under a collective bargaining agreement. Finally, this group could also elect to retire immediately, prior to the effective date of any design changes. As a result, all changes must be considered with care, since those changes can affect retirement behavior patterns, and potentially create skilled resource problems for the City.

Active employees not yet eligible for benefits represent the majority of the current City employees, although they do not represent a majority of the liability. These younger and/or lower service employees would have more time to adjust to program changes and plan accordingly for retirement. As such, it may be deemed more palatable to apply benefit changes to this group than to current retirees or those immediately able to retire. However, several factors limit the impact of changes to this group on the City’s current OPEB liability:

- Liability for active participants is less than the full present value of their future benefits. Instead, a participant’s current liability accrues from the date of hire to the date of decrement. The method used in the City’s actuarial valuation is to allocate the liability over that period as a level percentage of salary. When an employee progresses in their career, their salary increases, so there

is a steep increase in current liability from hire date (no liability) to decrement date (full present value of future benefits). Although other actuarial allocation methods exist, this is the most common method for public sector entities and is also the method that is required by the latest GASB OPEB accounting standards.

- Actives employees may still terminate (withdraw) from service with no benefit eligibility, which reduces their present value of future benefits.
- Since active employees will not receive OPEB benefits immediately, they are further away from actually incurring any benefit cash flows, so the present value of benefits is further discounted.
- Due to prior plan design changes over time, active cohorts typically have less generous benefits already, so there is less liability to affect.

Finally, there are those future employees who have not yet been hired as of the valuation date, but are assumed to be hired in the future. Since current actuarial liability is calculated on a closed group basis, this group has no effect at all on current liability. However, this group becomes increasingly more impactful as time goes on and can have a significant effect on estimated future liability and cash cost. Therefore, it is important to look at a long-term open group projection, in order to understand the significance of changes to these future employees. As a result, when we show plan change scenarios in Section 6, we show the impact on liability as of the current valuation date, and also projected 30 years into the future.

Since the impact of many potential design changes varies greatly depending on which groups they apply to, in Section 6 we have provided the impact of scenarios under the approach of having the changes apply to all current and future retirees, as well as having them apply only to future retirees. Additionally, some scenarios only affect future hires (cohort g. under scenarios 1/2/3/4), which do not affect the results as of the valuation date, but do affect the 30-year projection results.

## Eligibility Requirements

One key design feature to any retiree health program is the combination of age and/or service required to retire and receive benefits. Examples are:

- Age 55 and 20 years of service
- Age + service = “80 points”
- Age 60 and 10 years of service OR 25 years of service

While defined benefit pension plans usually accrue a benefit multiplier based on service, OPEB plan benefits do not lend themselves as easily to this kind of benefit multiplier approach. However, age and/or service can be used to determine the level of benefits received. For example, an employer could require age 55 and 5 years of service for eligibility, but pay 80% of costs for employees with 25 years of service and reduce the employer paid amount by 4% for each year of service less than 30. That kind of design rewards people with longer service time.

The City has increased service requirements over the years for most groups, so that they now require a minimum of 25 years of service and a minimum age of 50 or 55. Due to the amount of service now required of new hires, an age/service based benefit level is not practical for the newest cohorts of employees. However, this approach might be applied to employees in older cohorts, requiring (for example) those with 15 years of service to pay higher participant contributions and those with more

service to pay lower contributions, until maxing out benefits at 25 years of service. Such a design would require changing benefits for current active employees hired some years ago. We did not model any specific scenarios around this idea, but we could discuss further with the City if that idea is of interest.

Another eligibility concept is whether an employee can separate from service and still claim a benefit in the future, when their age would have made a benefit payable. This is the concept of “vesting” and is a feature of all pension plans, but not all OPEB plans. Terminated vesting for retiree health is almost unheard of in the corporate world, but is not uncommon for the public sector. Although many of the City’s new hires are not eligible for defined benefit health coverage (except dental/vision), older active cohorts are typically eligible with whatever years of service would have been required to be retirement eligible. We illustrate the impact of eliminating terminated vesting in Section 6 (scenario 13).

We also reviewed the impact of eliminating non-duty related disabilities from eligibility for retiree health benefits. Since most Police and Fire disabilities are duty-related, the impact of this change is low and is shown in Section 6 (scenario 14).

## Spouse and Dependent Coverage

Eligibility of a retiree may or may not mean their spouse and/or dependents are eligible for benefits. The City’s most recent hire cohorts are generally not eligible for spouse or dependent child coverage of medical and prescription drug benefits.

We reviewed the impact of eliminating coverage for spouses and children. The impact is quite large if spouses of current retirees are affected. Even if only spouses of future retirees are affected, there is still a moderate liability reduction. These are quantified in Section 6 (cohorts b. and e. in scenarios 1/2/3/4).

We also reviewed the impact of eliminating coverage only on dependent children. However, because they are only covered until age 26 and because the average cost of children is lower than adults, eliminating children has a very low impact on liability.

Some plans allow spouses to elect coverage, but provide no subsidy, so that the spouse pays 100% of the cost. Our understanding is that Teamsters 214 and some other non-bargained ERS groups have this feature. From a liability standpoint, this arrangement is equivalent to eliminating benefits for spouses. However, such an arrangement also requires careful underwriting, updating, and monitoring of full cost premium equivalent rates, in order to ensure the spouse is truly paying 100% of the cost. In particular, non-Medicare premiums must be calculated based on non-Medicare retiree claim experience alone. Blending in active experience creates an “implicit rate subsidy” and does not eliminate non-Medicare retiree liability. Another disadvantage of allowing this “access only” coverage is it creates anti-selection - meaning that the sicker spouses will tend to be the ones willing to pay the full cost. This raises the per capita premiums for all of the retiree health plan participants.

A separate question relates to the treatment of surviving spouses, after a retiree is deceased. For example, some plans limit survivor coverage to age 65 (Medicare eligibility) or even to the earlier of age 65 or when the retiree would have reached age 65. In the public sector, it is common to treat surviving spouses as retirees, as long as they are pension annuitants. This is the approach currently used by the City. We reviewed the impact of eliminating surviving spouse coverage in Section 6 (cohorts c. and f. in scenario 2).

## Benefits Offered

The City's OPEB benefits include medical and prescription drugs for both Medicare- and non-Medicare-eligibles, dental, vision, and Medicare Part B reimbursement.

It is common for employers provide retiree medical and prescription drug coverage only for non-Medicare retirees/dependents on the theory that once Medicare is available, participants have guaranteed issue supplement coverage available in the individual market, which is highly regulated. We examined the impact of eliminating Medicare-eligible coverage (including Medicare Part B reimbursement). This has a large impact on the liability, as can be seen in Section 6 (scenario 2). If the City wishes to explore this option, it should make sure to note treatment of post-65 retirees not eligible for free Medicare Part A, as discussed in Section 8 of this report.

The converse idea of providing Medicare-eligible coverage, but not providing non-Medicare coverage is not a common design, since it is those prior to Medicare age that need protection the most. In addition, removing non-Medicare retiree coverage is likely to have an impact on retirement patterns – with people tending to stay longer to keep their active health coverage under age 65. Although we would not recommend this option, we did review the impact of eliminating non-Medicare medical and prescription drug coverage in Section 6 (scenario 1). It is important to note that non-Medicare benefits are a much larger portion of total liability for Police and Fire groups than they are for ERS groups. This is because the public safety employees retire at earlier ages and because the Police pension 1% participant contribution limit overrides the PA-152 cap.

The Medicare Part B reimbursement benefit is quite significant at about 11% of the grand total current liability (\$47.8 million). The benchmarking in Section 4 and our general experience indicates that this benefit is not common anymore. Even in plans that still have it, it is not usually 100% of the premium, as it is for the City. Based on the significance of this benefit coupled with the benchmarking results, this may be an area the City wishes to consider making a change. We illustrate the impact of eliminating only the Part B reimbursement in Section 6 (scenario 4).

The City currently provides free dental coverage to everyone and free vision coverage to everyone except District Court retirees. The Benchmarking in Section 4 (as well as our experience) shows that it is not typical to provide subsidized dental or vision coverage at all. Those groups that do provide coverage, often only subsidize it until age 65. Although much less costly than medical, dental and vision do constitute about 5% of the total current liability (\$21.2 million). Given this and the benchmark results, this is another area the City may wish to review. Our understanding is that the City intends to continue providing free dental and vision to participants not eligible for the defined benefit retiree health plan. This is basically the entire liability for most of the newest ERS hires. We illustrate the impact of eliminating subsidized dental and vision coverage in Section 6 (scenario 3).

In addition, Police and Fire retirees receive a \$3,000 life insurance benefit. We reviewed the impact of eliminating the life insurance benefit and it is almost zero, due to the relatively low and flat benefit amount (scenario 5 in Section 6). As a result, we would not recommend removing this benefit for public safety employees.

## Addition and Enforcement of Michigan Public Act 152 Hard Cap

Newer retiree cohorts have a choice of Option 2, Option 1, or Base plan designs for non-Medicare benefits. The choice is complicated by the Michigan Public Act 152 (PA-152) cap affecting groups differently. For example, Police have little incentive to choose the less rich Option 1 or Base designs,

because they have a 1% of pension contribution limit that overrides the PA-152 cap no matter which option they select. Other groups, such as UAW, also have a 1% pension limit, but the limit does not apply if the richer Option 2 is selected. As a result, we believe it is likely most retirees in this position will migrate to Option 1, in order to preserve their contribution limit. Groups like Fire and most non-bargaining are subject to the PA-152 hard cap with no contribution limits.

We reviewed the impact of implementing, adding, and/or “enforcing” the PA-152 cap for all non-Medicare retiree participants. By enforcing, we mean having the hard cap override any participant contribution limits. The impact would be significant, but it varies greatly by group, as shown in Section 6 (scenario 10). See Section 8 of the report, for additional discussion of PA-152.

## Point-of-Service Cost Sharing

Medical and prescription drug plans typically contain various payments made by participants at the point-of-service, as opposed to premiums periodically paid to the employer. This includes deductibles, copays, and coinsurances. Most of the City’s older retiree cohorts have rich legacy plan designs with low amounts of cost sharing, making the cost of those plans relatively expensive for the City.

Newer retiree cohorts have a choice of Option 2, Option 1, or Base plan designs for non-Medicare benefits. However, as discussed above, this choice is greatly affected by each group’s interaction with the PA-152 cap. We examined the impact of having retirees all receive the Option 1 plan design (in a non-choice environment) or having all retirees receive the Base plan design (in a non-choice environment). As seen in Section 6 (scenarios 6 and 7), the impact varies by group, but it does have some impact on the overall liability – especially the Base plan.

For Medicare-eligible benefits, the City made a decision to offer newer retiree cohorts the richer “Option 2 based” Medicare Supplement and prescription drug coverages through AMWINS, as opposed to requiring the less rich “Option 1 based” or “Base level” benefits. Section 6 (scenarios 8 and 9) illustrates the impact of providing those Option 2 or Base level benefits. The impact is significant, because the higher deductibles have a large impact on the cost of the Medicare Supplement insurance. Also, there is no interaction with the Michigan PA-152 cap, so all participants are affected. A less rich design for medical and prescription drugs for Medicare-eligible retirees may be something the City wishes to consider.

## Participant Contributions

This section discusses monthly participant contributions made during retirement, and not in-service contributions to the retiree health plan. While in-service contributions are not nearly as common for retiree health as they are for pension plans, participant contributions in retirement are very common for retiree health programs.

The contribution can be expressed as a fixed dollar amount or as a percentage of full cost. The advantage to a percentage of cost is that the dollar amounts automatically inflate over time as the 100% cost inflates over time. Fixed dollar amounts need to be evaluated periodically to prevent their impact from declining over time.

As discussed in the “Eligibility” section above, contributions may be age and/or service based. Contributions are often different for retirees versus spouses/dependents. It is also common for the percentage of cost to vary for non-Medicare versus Medicare-eligible coverage.

The City's non-Medicare contributions for medical/prescription drugs are defined by the PA-152 cap or by pension or dollar limits for some groups (see above discussion). However, no contributions are required at all for Medicare-eligible medical/prescription drug coverage. This could be an area the City wishes to review. There are infinite amounts of potential contribution scenarios, but for illustrative purposes in Section 6 we show the impact of requiring a 25% contribution for all Medicare eligible participants (scenario 11).

## Group Medicare Advantage Plans

For Medicare-eligible participants, many employers who still wish to sponsor a defined benefit group plan are moving to group Medicare Advantage plans as a way to reduce costs.

In contrast with Medicare Supplement designs, Medicare Advantage (MA) and Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug (MAPD) plans are offered by private insurers that contract with Medicare to provide benefits, **in lieu of Medicare**, to Medicare-eligible retirees. These MA and MAPD plans completely replace traditional Medicare Parts A and B; they also replace Medicare Part D in the case of an MAPD plan.

Medicare Advantage plans generally cover the same services as Parts A and B, but often impose different cost-sharing strategies, such as office visit copayments and out-of-network coinsurance differentials. Annual deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums are common features. Many plans provide ancillary benefits such as hearing, dental, and exercise programs. Medicare Advantage plan enrollees must still pay the Medicare Part B premium, in addition to the premium for the Medicare Advantage plan selected.

Medicare Advantage plan funding from the federal government will vary depending on the health risk score of the covered participant group, as well as a star rating assigned to each plan. Star ratings are updated annually and are intended to measure plan quality and performance. Five stars is excellent and one star is poor. Plans with higher star ratings receive bonus funding from the federal government. Payments also vary by geographic area, with densely populated areas tending to get more funding.

Potential cost reduction through a group MA or MAPD plans is beyond the scope of the report, since it can only be evaluated via a vendor competitive bidding process. However, the City should be aware of this option for future consideration.

## Other Group Plan Management Techniques

Group plans may use other price and utilization management techniques, in an attempt to reduce costs.

Examples of techniques intended to manage plan utilization and cost are:

- Disease management programs (non-Medicare or MA environment only), intended to reduce costly episodes over time, by managing and engaging chronic patients
- Mandatory generic drugs, requiring the filling prescriptions with generics whenever possible
- Tighter prescription drug formularies, requiring lower net cost drugs to be used

- Periodic competitive bidding of vendor fixed costs or insured plans
- Narrow medical provider networks, improving efficiency and/or price

These techniques are very difficult to quantify in terms of any change in actuarial liability, but they can generally be applied independently of other options discussed above. For example, retirees could receive the Option 1 plan design, but also get a more restricted drug formulary.

## Defined Benefit versus Defined Contribution Plans

All of the discussion in this section up until now has focused on traditional defined benefit (DB) group health coverage, where the employer promises a plan design, providing the benefits under the specified design regardless of how much it costs.

At the other end of the scale, there are true defined contribution (DC) designs. In those plans, employer contributions (or employer matches) into individual employee accounts are made during active service. The account typically has investment options and earns interest. This is similar to a 401(k) or 403(b) DC retirement design, except the benefits are tax advantaged, as long as they are only be used on qualified expenses, such as insurance premiums, deductibles, and copays.

Similar to the trend in pension plans, many organizations are moving to this pure DC approach, because it eliminates unknown employer financial risk in future years. Also, since accounts are often structured to be portable, many younger employees identify well with something tangible, as opposed to some undefined future retirement promise.

In fact, all of the other benchmark comparators in Section 4 have moved to true DC programs for new hires. The City has done so for all groups other than Police, Fire, UAW, and a few specific ERS non-bargained employees.

## Defined Dollar Plans

There is a hybrid design, which we will refer to here as a “defined dollar” (DD) approach. The idea is that each year retirees are allocated a specific dollar amount that they can use to draw upon for qualified medical expenses.

It is important to note that this DD approach has some key differences from the true DC approach discussed above:

- Accounts are only notional and no individual’s allocation is actually funded, until the individual retires and actually submits qualified health expenses for reimbursement
- The aggregate expected liability can be funded as with any other DB program. See Section 7 for more discussion of OPEB funding.
- Although defining the allocation eliminates health trend risk for the employer, there are still other risks present. For example, there may be more retirements than expected.
- DD programs as defined here still count as “defined benefit” plans for purposes of GASB accounting provisions. Therefore, the program still carries the same GASB OPEB accounting requirements as other DB retiree health programs.

- There is no employee contribution component. All allocations are employer based and there is no mechanism to “match” employee contributions made during active service.
- Participants take on the inflation risk of health care (see discussion of health trend impact later in this section)
- Participants do NOT take on investment risk, as they would in a true DC environment
- The money can be delivered to retirees in a tax-advantaged way, through a stand-alone retiree Health Reimbursement Account (HRA)

This “hybrid” DD approach has several advantages to employers and employees:

- Since employers define the amounts allocated, there is no health care inflation risk to the employer, which is the key risk in a DB group health plan approach
- The money is not actually funded until a participant retires and begins submitting reimbursable health expenses
- Budgeting of employer plan cost on a year-by-year basis is predictable
- Retirees and their dependents are not locked into a single plan design offering, but can choose among various insurance carriers, designs, and network types, based upon their own needs and preferences
- There are flexible design options around single versus family allocations, allocations varying with years of service, etc. In addition, the employer gets to determine whether the allocation increases each year and by how much.
- The employer no longer has to be in the business of maintaining and administering a retiree health plan for affected participants
- Some retirees may be able to purchase similar coverage for less money than the employer currently subsidizes
- Unused annual allocations are not lost, but rather carried over indefinitely in the HRA account, until used by the retiree

Although some organizations are considering this DD approach for non-Medicare retirees, we are not recommending that course at this time, because this approach to providing retiree health coverage depends on having a guaranteed issue environment for retirees and their dependents. Up until the recent public marketplaces created by the Affordable Care Act (ACA), non-Medicare retirees could be charged very high premiums or denied coverage completely. Although the ACA public marketplaces currently provide a guaranteed issue vehicle for non-Medicare retirees, the marketplaces are not mature and may not be financially stable. In addition, the recent change in political leadership at the federal level leaves the continued operation of the public marketplaces in doubt.

In contrast, the DD approach has worked well for many Medicare-eligible retiree groups and it may be a viable consideration. The Medicare individual market is mature and it is stable. Retirees have a

broad choice of carriers, networks, and designs. Some retirees may find they can get similar coverage for less money than the City currently spends on their behalf in the defined benefit plan.

We examined a couple of scenarios using this defined dollar approach for the City's Medicare-eligible participants, and the impact can be seen in Section 6 as moderate to large, depending on grandfathering and annual allocation increases (scenario 12). Our scenarios assume that the City would contribute 100% of the current medical and prescription drug costs to each retiree and spouse. Many employers choose to fund less than 100%, in an effort to get a greater savings and knowing that some retirees can get the same overall value on less than 100% of the current net benefit.

Note that the reduction in liability in the illustrated scenarios does not come from a reduced City cash layout for medical and prescription drug coverage, but rather from elimination or reduction of annual inflation on the allocations being less than assumed medical and prescription drug trend rates. In addition, it was assumed that Medicare Part B reimbursement would be discontinued. No change was made to dental or vision benefits.

### **Retiree Navigation of the Individual Medicare Market**

Retirees moving from an employer-sponsored plan (with little or no need to select options) to a defined dollar approach may be overwhelmed by the array of plan options and associated marketing materials.

Plan sponsors are increasingly looking to private Medicare exchanges to assist retirees with transition from traditional benefit plans to defined dollar type plans, and to administer the HRA accounts and annual open enrollment following transition. Private Medicare exchanges have been around since about 2000, when advances in technology and availability of information made the ability for seniors to shop for health insurance a reality.

The greatest value derived from engaging an exchange vendor is the customized enrollment guidance provided to each retiree, based on each individual's travel, health status, drug utilization, provider preferences, etc. Licensed agents employed by the exchange vendor spend up to several hours on multiple phone calls, helping the retiree navigate the initial enrollment process. Re-enrollment in subsequent years involves less time, but includes the same one-on-one attention. Enrollment can be web-based, but can be completely handled by mail and phone for those without internet access or expertise. Additionally, very sick and/or elderly retirees can have an authorized representative enroll on the retiree's behalf. After coverage is purchased, retirees are directly billed by the carrier, but the exchange vendor remains available for assistance with claims and other issues that arise during the policy year.

Private exchange vendors can also provide HRA account administration services and may be able to collect plan sponsor contributions and coordinate premium payments to insurance carriers. Private exchanges earn commissions for enrolling the retirees, and those commissions are often sufficient to pay for the services rendered – at no additional cost to the employer or to the retiree. Such commissions are built directly into the individual plan premiums, so any commissions not paid to an agent or enrollment vendor are simply forfeited to the insurance carrier.

### **Impact on Retirees of Defined Dollar Benefit Design**

There are several advantages of the DD design from the participant point of view, relative to a traditional defined benefit approach:

- Retirees and their dependents are not locked into a single plan design offering, but can choose among a broad array of designs, networks, and carriers
- Participants can choose a Medicare Supplement design or a Medicare Advantage design based on their own preferences and needs
- Retirees and spouses could choose different designs based on their separate needs
- Many retirees find they are able to purchase similar coverage for the same or less than the amount of monetary value that they were receiving from the employer DB plan
- Retirees spending less than their annual allocation can carry over unused amounts in their HRA account for use in future years

However, the City should clearly understand the impact of health trend on retirees; that impact is discussed below. Also, if the City wishes to pursue this defined dollar approach for Medicare-eligible retirees, it should make sure to note treatment of post-65 retirees not eligible for free Medicare Part A, as discussed in Section 8 of this report.

### **Impact of Health Trend on Retiree Costs**

In order to illustrate the impact of health trend increasing at a higher rate than the HRA allocation increases, let us review an example, **which is for illustrative purposes only**:

- A retiree (no spouse) receives an HRA allocation of \$5,000 annually
- The retiree finds similar value coverage on the individual market and the premium plus all deductibles, copays, and coinsurances is \$4,500 in the first year
- Total of all premium and cost sharing increases at 4.5% annually
- The annual HRA allocation is designed to increase at 3.0% annually

Year	New HRA Allocation	HRA Balance at 1/1	Premium Plus All Cost sharing	HRA Balance at 12/31	Retiree Net Total Cost
1	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$4,500	\$500	\$0
2	\$5,150	\$5,650	\$4,703	\$948	\$0
3	\$5,305	\$6,252	\$4,914	\$1,338	\$0
4	\$5,464	\$6,802	\$5,135	\$1,666	\$0
5	\$5,628	\$7,294	\$5,366	\$1,927	\$0
6	\$5,796	\$7,724	\$5,608	\$2,116	\$0
7	\$5,970	\$8,086	\$5,860	\$2,226	\$0
8	\$6,149	\$8,375	\$6,124	\$2,252	\$0
9	\$6,334	\$8,585	\$6,399	\$2,186	\$0
10	\$6,524	\$8,710	\$6,687	\$2,022	\$0
11	\$6,720	\$8,742	\$6,988	\$1,754	\$0
12	\$6,921	\$8,675	\$7,303	\$1,372	\$0
13	\$7,129	\$8,501	\$7,631	\$869	\$0
14	\$7,343	\$8,212	\$7,975	\$237	\$0
15	\$7,563	\$7,800	\$8,334	\$0	\$534

The annual HRA allocation is enough to cover the annual premium and cost sharing for the first 8 years, but in year 9 the higher trend on the costs makes the HRA allocation insufficient to cover the

whole cost. However, the retiree has spent those first 8 years building up an HRA balance. By drawing from that balance, the retiree is able to avoid having any actual out-of-pocket costs for an additional 6 years. Finally, the HRA balance is depleted in year 15, and the retiree begins having real out-of-pocket costs.

The amount of inflation in the HRA allocation is important. For example, let us assume the same facts as in the prior example, except that the HRA allocation does not increase at all each year.

Year	New HRA Allocation	HRA Balance at 1/1	Premium Plus All Cost sharing	HRA Balance at 12/31	Retiree Net Total Cost
1	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$4,500	\$500	<b>\$0</b>
2	\$5,000	\$5,500	\$4,703	\$798	<b>\$0</b>
3	\$5,000	\$5,798	\$4,914	\$883	<b>\$0</b>
4	\$5,000	\$5,883	\$5,135	\$748	<b>\$0</b>
5	\$5,000	\$5,748	\$5,366	\$382	<b>\$0</b>
6	\$5,000	\$5,382	\$5,608	\$0	<b>\$226</b>

This time the annual HRA allocation is only enough to cover the annual premium and cost sharing for the first 3 years, but in year 4 the higher trend on the costs makes the HRA allocation insufficient to cover the whole cost. Now, the retiree has spent only 3 years building up an HRA balance. By drawing from that balance, the retiree is able to avoid having any actual out-of-pocket costs for an additional 2 years. The HRA balance is depleted in year 6, and the retiree begins having real out-of-pocket costs.

## 6 Estimated Impact of Select Design Alternatives

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In order to estimate the impact of various potential program changes, Segal created an independent actuarial valuation model as of January 1, 2016. We reviewed a number of different scenarios, in order to illustrate the impact on the Accrued Liability of various possible program design changes.

The effect of these changes on the Accrued Liability is shown on the following two pages. The first page shows the effect on the current Accrued Liability, as of January 1, 2016.

In order to understand the impact not only on current Accrued Liability, but also on future liability, we produced a second set of scenarios that estimate the projected Accrued Liability impact as of January 1, 2046 – 30 years into the future. Since current liabilities are only based on a closed group (no new hires), the impact of certain changes to current actives or future hires would not be obvious without a long-term projection, which does incorporate assumed future hires. The scenario numbers have the same meaning across both pages, but not all scenarios are included in this second, long-term, set of projections on the second page.

Each numbered scenario indicates a benefit to be affected (i.e. “Eliminate subsidized dental and vision coverage”).

Beneath the numbered scenarios are variations showing the change applied to different participant cohorts, as follows:

- a. current and future retirees/dependents
- b. current and future spouses/children of retirees
- c. current and future surviving spouses/children of retirees
- d. future retirees/dependents
- e. future spouses/children of retirees
- f. future surviving spouses/children of retirees
- g. newly hired future retirees/dependents

*Not all participant cohort variations are shown for all numbered scenarios.*

The color shading indicates the relative impact on the Accrued Liability, as follows:

**Orange = High impact:** 15% or more reduction in total Actuarial Accrued Liability for each sub-group and and/or for the composite of all groups combined.

**Yellow = Medium impact:** 5% to 15% reduction in total Actuarial Accrued Liability for each sub-group and and/or for the composite of all groups combined.

**Blue = Low impact:** less than 5% reduction in total Actuarial Accrued Liability for each sub-group and and/or for the composite of all groups combined.

Items may not add due to rounding.

## Impact of Select Alternatives on Current Accrued Liability *(Dollar amounts in \$millions)*

Plan Change Scenario	Decrease in accrued liability in year 1 (2016)															
	Total	Fire		Police		Police Superv		Other ERS		T214		T243		UAW		
<b>1 Eliminate non-Medicare medical/drug coverage</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$142.0	33%	\$35.1	38%	\$42.4	51%	\$22.1	47%	\$ 5.3	12%	\$ 1.6	19%	\$18.6	21%	\$16.8	26%
b for current & future spouses/children of retirees	\$ 70.5	16%	\$18.0	19%	\$22.3	27%	\$11.5	24%	\$ 2.2	5%	\$ 0.6	8%	\$ 8.1	9%	\$ 7.7	12%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 54.2	13%	\$ 7.1	8%	\$21.6	26%	\$ 9.0	19%	\$ 0.9	2%	\$ 0.7	8%	\$ 7.0	8%	\$ 8.0	12%
e for future spouses/children of retirees	\$ 26.2	6%	\$ 3.8	4%	\$10.7	13%	\$ 4.4	9%	\$ 0.4	1%	\$ 0.3	4%	\$ 2.9	3%	\$ 3.5	6%
g for newly hired future retirees/dependents	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%
<b>2 Eliminate Medicare-eligible medical/drug coverage, including Medicare Part B reimbursement</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$268.9	62%	\$53.5	57%	\$37.4	45%	\$23.0	49%	\$38.0	83%	\$ 6.3	75%	\$66.6	74%	\$44.2	69%
b for current & future spouses/children of retirees	\$117.8	27%	\$26.6	28%	\$17.7	21%	\$11.3	24%	\$15.6	34%	\$ 2.1	25%	\$26.2	29%	\$18.4	29%
c for current & future surviving spouses/children of retirees	\$ 48.2	11%	\$12.1	13%	\$ 7.1	9%	\$ 5.2	11%	\$ 6.7	15%	\$ 0.6	8%	\$ 9.0	10%	\$ 7.3	11%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 52.8	12%	\$10.4	11%	\$ 9.2	11%	\$ 3.4	7%	\$ 5.1	11%	\$ 2.2	27%	\$12.1	13%	\$10.4	16%
e for future spouses/children of retirees	\$ 20.0	5%	\$ 4.3	5%	\$ 3.5	4%	\$ 1.4	3%	\$ 0.9	2%	\$ 0.7	9%	\$ 5.5	6%	\$ 3.7	6%
f for future surviving spouses/children of retirees	\$ 4.6	1%	\$ 1.2	1%	\$ 0.9	1%	\$ 0.4	1%	\$ 0.2	0%	\$ 0.2	2%	\$ 1.0	1%	\$ 0.9	1%
g for newly hired future retiree/dependents	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%
<b>3 Eliminate subsidized dental &amp; vision coverage</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$ 21.2	5%	\$ 4.7	5%	\$ 3.3	4%	\$ 1.9	4%	\$ 2.6	6%	\$ 0.5	6%	\$ 4.8	5%	\$ 3.4	5%
b for current & future spouses/children of retirees	\$ 9.7	2%	\$ 2.4	3%	\$ 1.7	2%	\$ 1.0	2%	\$ 1.1	2%	\$ 0.2	2%	\$ 2.0	2%	\$ 1.5	2%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 5.5	1%	\$ 1.2	1%	\$ 1.1	1%	\$ 0.4	1%	\$ 0.4	1%	\$ 0.2	2%	\$ 1.2	1%	\$ 1.0	2%
g for newly hired future retiree/dependents	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%
<b>4 Eliminate Medicare Part B reimbursement</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$ 47.8	11%	\$ 9.4	10%	\$ 6.6	8%	\$ 4.0	9%	\$ 6.8	15%	\$ 1.1	14%	\$12.0	13%	\$ 7.9	12%
b for current & future spouses/children of retirees	\$ 20.9	5%	\$ 4.6	5%	\$ 3.1	4%	\$ 2.0	4%	\$ 2.8	6%	\$ 0.4	5%	\$ 4.7	5%	\$ 3.3	5%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 10.0	2%	\$ 1.8	2%	\$ 1.6	2%	\$ 0.6	1%	\$ 0.9	2%	\$ 0.4	5%	\$ 2.7	3%	\$ 1.9	3%
g for newly hired future retirees/dependents	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%
<b>5 Eliminate life insurance</b>																
a for current & future retirees	\$ 0.6	0%	\$ 0.3	0%	\$ 0.2	0%	\$ 0.1	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%
<b>6 Move non-Medicare medical/drug coverage to current Base plan design</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$ 22.4	5%	\$ 4.7	5%	\$ 8.2	10%	\$ 4.3	9%	\$ 0.4	1%	\$ 0.0	0%	\$ 1.9	2%	\$ 3.0	5%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 8.0	2%	\$ -	0%	\$ 4.2	5%	\$ 1.8	4%	\$ 0.0	0%	\$ 0.0	0%	\$ 0.6	1%	\$ 1.4	2%
<b>7 Move non-Medicare medical/drug coverage to current Option 1 plan design</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$ 12.6	3%	\$ 2.9	3%	\$ 5.0	6%	\$ 2.6	5%	\$ 0.2	0%	\$ 0.0	0%	\$ 0.3	0%	\$ 1.7	3%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 4.4	1%	\$ -	0%	\$ 2.5	3%	\$ 1.1	2%	\$ 0.0	0%	\$ 0.0	0%	\$ 0.0	0%	\$ 0.8	1%
<b>8 Move Medicare-eligible medical/drug coverage to Base AMWNS design</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$ 57.9	13%	\$12.2	13%	\$ 8.5	10%	\$ 5.2	11%	\$ 7.8	17%	\$ 1.3	15%	\$13.8	15%	\$ 9.2	14%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 11.9	3%	\$ 2.4	3%	\$ 2.1	3%	\$ 0.8	2%	\$ 1.0	2%	\$ 0.5	5%	\$ 3.0	3%	\$ 2.1	3%
<b>9 Move Medicare-eligible medical/drug coverage to Option 1 AMWNS design</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$ 39.6	9%	\$ 8.6	9%	\$ 6.0	7%	\$ 3.7	8%	\$ 5.2	11%	\$ 0.8	10%	\$ 9.2	10%	\$ 6.2	10%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 8.2	2%	\$ 1.7	2%	\$ 1.5	2%	\$ 0.6	1%	\$ 0.7	1%	\$ 0.3	4%	\$ 2.0	2%	\$ 1.4	2%
<b>10 Add non-Medicare PA-152 medical/drug coverage hard cap for cohorts not under it</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$ 71.0	17%	\$15.2	16%	\$27.8	33%	\$14.3	30%	\$ 0.9	2%	\$ 0.0	0%	\$ 6.0	7%	\$ 6.7	10%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 27.4	6%	\$ -	0%	\$14.8	18%	\$ 6.1	13%	\$ 0.0	0%	\$ 0.0	0%	\$ 2.8	3%	\$ 3.6	6%
<b>11 Medicare-eligible medical/drug coverage contributions at 25% of cost</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$ 55.3	13%	\$11.0	12%	\$ 7.7	9%	\$ 4.7	10%	\$ 7.8	17%	\$ 1.3	15%	\$13.7	15%	\$ 9.1	14%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 11.4	3%	\$ 2.1	2%	\$ 1.9	2%	\$ 0.7	1%	\$ 1.0	2%	\$ 0.5	5%	\$ 3.0	3%	\$ 2.1	3%
<b>12 Medicare-eligible to HRA targeting current City net medical/drug coverage cost, eliminate Medicare Part B reimbursement</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents, 0% increases	\$159.8	36%	\$32.6	35%	\$23.3	28%	\$13.7	29%	\$21.4	47%	\$ 2.7	32%	\$39.5	44%	\$26.6	41%
a for current & future retirees/dependents, 3% increases	\$110.8	25%	\$22.4	24%	\$15.9	19%	\$ 9.4	20%	\$15.4	34%	\$ 1.3	15%	\$27.8	31%	\$18.6	29%
d for future retirees/dependents, 0% increases	\$ 41.8	10%	\$ 8.2	9%	\$ 7.4	9%	\$ 2.7	6%	\$ 3.8	8%	\$ 1.6	19%	\$10.5	12%	\$ 7.6	12%
d for future retirees/dependents, 3% increases	\$ 27.8	6%	\$ 5.4	6%	\$ 4.9	6%	\$ 1.8	4%	\$ 2.6	6%	\$ 1.1	13%	\$ 7.0	8%	\$ 5.0	8%
<b>13 Eliminate deferred vesting</b>																
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 0.6	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ 0.3	0%	\$ 0.1	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ 0.2	0%
<b>14 Eliminate non-duty disabled benefits</b>																
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 3.1	1%	\$ 0.1	0%	\$ 0.1	0%	\$ 0.0	0%	\$ 0.9	2%	\$ 0.0	0%	\$ 0.5	1%	\$ 1.4	2%

# Impact of Select Alternatives on Long-Term Projected Accrued Liability

(Dollar amounts in \$millions)

Plan Change Scenario	Decrease in accrued liability in year 30 (2046)															
	Total	Fire	Police	Police Superv	Other ERS	T214	T243	UAW								
<b>1 Eliminate non-Medicare medical/drug coverage</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$ 138.1	20%	\$ 18.5	10%	\$ 83.2	38%	\$ 22.6	31%	\$ 0.5	1%	\$ 0.0	0%	\$ 1.3	2%	\$ 12.0	15%
b for current & future spouses/children of retirees	\$ 9.0	1%	\$ 2.0	1%	\$ 4.2	2%	\$ 1.5	2%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ 0.7	1%	\$ 0.6	1%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 135.7	20%	\$ 17.3	9%	\$ 82.9	38%	\$ 22.0	30%	\$ 0.5	1%	\$ 0.0	0%	\$ 0.9	1%	\$ 12.0	15%
e for future spouses/children of retirees	\$ 6.6	1%	\$ 0.9	0%	\$ 4.0	2%	\$ 0.8	1%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ 0.4	0%	\$ 0.6	1%
g for newly hired future retiree/dependents	\$ 112.6	17%	\$ 14.4	8%	\$ 66.2	30%	\$ 20.8	29%	\$ 0.4	1%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ 10.7	14%
<b>2 Eliminate Medicare-eligible medical/drug coverage, including Medicare Part B reimbursement</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$ 489.8	72%	\$ 148.5	81%	\$ 122.4	56%	\$ 45.6	63%	\$ 34.3	90%	\$ 9.3	90%	\$ 70.6	89%	\$ 59.1	75%
b for current & future spouses/children of retirees	\$ 177.9	26%	\$ 51.5	28%	\$ 40.7	19%	\$ 18.7	26%	\$ 9.5	25%	\$ 2.6	26%	\$ 28.3	36%	\$ 26.5	34%
c for current & future surviving spouses/children of retiree	\$ 93.9	14%	\$ 26.6	15%	\$ 19.7	9%	\$ 10.4	14%	\$ 5.6	15%	\$ 1.6	15%	\$ 15.5	20%	\$ 14.5	18%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 353.0	52%	\$ 112.6	62%	\$ 98.7	45%	\$ 30.9	43%	\$ 21.5	57%	\$ 6.2	60%	\$ 42.2	53%	\$ 40.9	52%
e for future spouses/children of retirees	\$ 103.4	15%	\$ 30.6	17%	\$ 25.7	12%	\$ 9.7	13%	\$ 4.0	10%	\$ 1.6	15%	\$ 15.2	19%	\$ 16.6	21%
f for future surviving spouses/children of retirees	\$ 36.6	5%	\$ 11.1	6%	\$ 8.3	4%	\$ 3.4	5%	\$ 1.3	4%	\$ 0.7	7%	\$ 5.3	7%	\$ 6.5	8%
g for newly hired future retiree/dependents	\$ 78.9	12%	\$ 37.3	20%	\$ 29.3	13%	\$ 9.2	13%	\$ 3.2	8%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%
<b>3 Eliminate subsidized dental &amp; vision coverage</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$ 48.8	7%	\$ 14.2	8%	\$ 11.7	5%	\$ 3.9	5%	\$ 2.6	7%	\$ 1.0	10%	\$ 7.4	9%	\$ 8.0	10%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 41.3	6%	\$ 12.2	7%	\$ 10.4	5%	\$ 3.1	4%	\$ 1.9	5%	\$ 0.9	8%	\$ 5.8	7%	\$ 7.0	9%
g for newly hired future retiree/dependents	\$ 24.6	4%	\$ 7.5	4%	\$ 6.1	3%	\$ 1.9	3%	\$ 0.8	2%	\$ 0.5	5%	\$ 3.4	4%	\$ 4.4	6%
<b>4 Eliminate Medicare Part B reimbursement</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$ 83.3	12%	\$ 25.5	14%	\$ 21.1	10%	\$ 7.8	11%	\$ 5.7	15%	\$ 1.5	15%	\$ 11.8	15%	\$ 9.9	13%
b for current & future spouses/children of retirees	\$ 29.8	5%	\$ 8.6	5%	\$ 6.8	4%	\$ 3.1	4%	\$ 1.6	6%	\$ 0.4	5%	\$ 4.7	5%	\$ 4.5	5%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 60.8	9%	\$ 19.6	11%	\$ 17.1	8%	\$ 5.3	7%	\$ 3.6	10%	\$ 1.0	10%	\$ 7.1	9%	\$ 6.9	9%
g for newly hired future retirees/dependents	\$ 14.6	2%	\$ 6.9	4%	\$ 5.4	2%	\$ 1.7	2%	\$ 0.6	1%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%
<b>5 Eliminate life insurance</b>																
a for current & future retirees	\$ 3.2	0%	\$ 1.5	1%	\$ 0.8	0%	\$ 0.3	0%	\$ 0.6	2%	\$ 0.0	0%	\$ 0.0	0%	\$ 0.0	0%
<b>6 Move non-Medicare medical/drug coverage to current Base plan design</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$ 22.0	3%	\$ 0.2	0%	\$ 16.1	7%	\$ 4.4	6%	\$ 0.0	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ 0.1	0%	\$ 1.1	1%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 21.6	3%	\$ -	0%	\$ 16.1	7%	\$ 4.3	6%	\$ 0.0	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ 0.1	0%	\$ 1.1	1%
<b>7 Move non-Medicare medical/drug coverage to current Option 1 plan design</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$ 12.7	2%	\$ 0.1	0%	\$ 9.8	4%	\$ 2.7	4%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ 0.0	0%	\$ 0.1	0%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 12.5	2%	\$ -	0%	\$ 9.8	4%	\$ 2.6	4%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ 0.1	0%
<b>8 Move Medicare-eligible medical/drug coverage to Base AMWINS design</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$ 105.5	16%	\$ 32.6	18%	\$ 26.9	12%	\$ 10.0	14%	\$ 7.1	19%	\$ 1.9	19%	\$ 14.7	19%	\$ 12.3	16%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 76.2	11%	\$ 24.7	14%	\$ 21.8	10%	\$ 6.8	9%	\$ 4.4	12%	\$ 1.3	12%	\$ 8.7	11%	\$ 8.4	11%
<b>9 Move Medicare-eligible medical/drug coverage to Option 1 AMWINS design</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$ 71.7	11%	\$ 22.4	12%	\$ 18.6	9%	\$ 6.9	10%	\$ 4.7	12%	\$ 1.3	12%	\$ 9.7	12%	\$ 8.1	10%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 51.9	8%	\$ 17.0	9%	\$ 15.1	7%	\$ 4.7	7%	\$ 2.9	8%	\$ 0.8	8%	\$ 5.8	7%	\$ 5.6	7%
<b>10 Add non-Medicare PA-152 medical/drug coverage hard cap for cohorts not under it</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$ 88.2	13%	\$ 0.8	0%	\$ 67.5	31%	\$ 18.3	25%	\$ 0.1	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ 0.8	1%	\$ 0.8	1%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 86.5	13%	\$ -	0%	\$ 67.2	31%	\$ 17.8	25%	\$ 0.1	0%	\$ -	0%	\$ 0.6	1%	\$ 0.8	1%
<b>11 Medicare-eligible medical/drug coverage contributions at 25% of cost</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents	\$ 101.6	15%	\$ 30.7	17%	\$ 25.3	12%	\$ 9.5	13%	\$ 7.1	19%	\$ 1.9	19%	\$ 14.7	19%	\$ 12.3	16%
d for future retirees/dependents	\$ 73.1	11%	\$ 23.3	13%	\$ 20.4	9%	\$ 6.4	9%	\$ 4.5	12%	\$ 1.3	13%	\$ 8.8	11%	\$ 8.5	11%
<b>12 Medicare-eligible to HRA targeting current City net medical/drug coverage cost, eliminate Medicare Part B reimbursement</b>																
a for current & future retirees/dependents, 0% increases	\$ 457.9	67%	\$ 131.2	72%	\$ 108.4	50%	\$ 40.1	55%	\$ 34.9	92%	\$ 9.6	93%	\$ 72.7	92%	\$ 61.0	77%
a for current & future retirees/dependents, 3% increases	\$ 327.9	48%	\$ 91.0	50%	\$ 75.4	35%	\$ 27.8	38%	\$ 26.1	69%	\$ 7.2	70%	\$ 54.6	69%	\$ 45.7	58%
d for future retirees/dependents, 0% increases	\$ 330.4	49%	\$ 100.4	55%	\$ 88.1	40%	\$ 27.5	38%	\$ 21.9	58%	\$ 6.4	62%	\$ 43.7	55%	\$ 42.4	54%
d for future retirees/dependents, 3% increases	\$ 236.0	35%	\$ 69.8	38%	\$ 61.4	28%	\$ 19.1	26%	\$ 16.3	43%	\$ 4.8	47%	\$ 32.8	41%	\$ 31.8	40%

# 7 Funding OPEB Obligations

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## Funding Discussion

Funding the retiree obligation provides security for both the City and the participants that funds will be available to pay the retiree health benefits. Some type of legislated actuarial-based contribution would give retirees more confidence that money will be available to pay for benefits. As a result, strong funding requirements could be used as a negotiation tool, in return for making any changes that lower the value of the overall benefit package. However, it is recognized that this may not be practical, given the City's resource constraints.

Prefunding is a proven management tool. The advantages of prefunding include longer-term savings and higher interest rate assumptions, with correspondingly lower annual required contribution levels and lower total liability amounts.

A policy for funding retiree health benefits is a concise statement of how a plan sponsor intends to pay for its retiree health benefits, including both current year costs and prefunding of future retiree health liabilities. It can be a statute, ordinance or policy document. It is usually created by the jurisdiction's governing body.

Our understanding of the City of Lansing's current OPEB funding policy for ERS is a statutory employer contribution of 2.5% of payroll for UAW and all older plan participants and 4.0% of payroll for newer non-UAW plan participants. Our understanding of the City of Lansing's current OPEB funding policy for Police and Fire is a statutory employer contribution of 2.48% of payroll. These statutory contribution amounts are not expected to be sufficient to get the plans to 100% funded over time.

In deciding whether to modify the current prefunding approach, the City may want to project the short-term and long-term costs associated with multiple approaches, ideally reviewing a number of potential contribution scenarios, in order to determine a funding policy that would work for the City.

Another consideration is the likely reactions of stakeholders. While many employees may not think much about their retirement benefits until later in their careers, employees (and retirees) are likely to feel more secure they will receive future benefits in plans that are funded at increased levels. Because public sector financing takes place in open meetings, the issue of whether to prefund the liabilities for retiree benefits or to use money for other government services, infrastructure improvements, or repair projects for the jurisdiction is at the forefront of taxpayers' attention. Elected officials may find it difficult to commit hard-won tax revenues toward prefunding liabilities for current and future retirees, where the value of those investments is not immediately apparent to taxpayers.

## Amortization Methods

The goal of an appropriate funding policy is to fund the benefits payable from the plan over a reasonable period. For the purposes of generational equity, the amortization period should also be related to the working lifetime of the group being covered. An appropriate funding policy results in a contribution that funds the Normal Cost (cost of benefits accruing during the year) and includes a payment towards the Unfunded Accrued Liability, which is the amount for which assets are

insufficient to cover the benefits that have been earned in the past. Amortization of Unfunded Accrued Liability can be over a “closed” period or an “open” period.

A “closed” amortization period will reduce the Unfunded Accrued Liability of the plan over a set timeframe, ending at a specific future date. A closed period has the advantage of effectively amortizing the liability in a specified period, but it can result in volatile contributions near the end of the amortization period.

An “open” amortization period re-amortizes the Unfunded Accrued Liability of the plan each year over the same period as the previous year. The contributions under an open amortization period are less volatile than with a closed period, but the Unfunded Accrued Liability is not amortized as quickly as with a closed period and may never be amortized. Depending on the amortization period, the Unfunded Accrued Liability may actually increase under an open amortization period.

Amortization can also be done as a “level percent of payroll” or as a “level dollar” amount. “Level percent of payroll” amortization expresses the amortization payments over the future payroll of the group. An assumption must be made about the increase in payroll that is expected to occur over the amortization period. While the payments are expected to be level as a percent of pay, the amount of the payments is smaller in the earlier years of the amortization period and larger in the later years. This can result in a “negative amortization”, where the Unfunded Accrued Liability grows during the first years of the amortization period. The level percent of payroll amortization method generally results in a stable contribution rate. However, if actual payroll increases are less than expected, the actual current payments are lower and future contributions, as a percentage of payroll, will need to increase. In addition, combining the level percent of payroll method with an open amortization period can result in the “negative amortization”, where the Unfunded Accrued Liability increases every year in the future.

A “level dollar” amortization expresses the amortization payments as a fixed dollar amount over the amortization period. A typical example is a home mortgage payment, where a fixed amount is paid each month. This results in greater payments at the beginning of the period than with the level percent of payroll method. While the payments reduce the Unfunded Accrued Liability more quickly in the early years of the amortization period, the payments do not remain constant as a percent of payroll.

In some cases, retirement systems use a combination of the methods above in their funding policies. A common example is to use a short, closed period for a one-time benefit adjustment or window, while amortizing the remaining Unfunded Accrued Liability over a longer open period. Another option is using fixed-length closed periods to amortize changes in the Unfunded Accrued Liability each year.

The City of Lansing is currently using a “partially closed” hybrid amortization as a level percentage of payroll, for purposes of GASB OPEB reporting. A closed period of 26 years is amortized down to 15 years, and then the 15 years remain as an open period. This method is not expected to get the plans to 100% funding over time.

The City has options to accelerate payments toward the Unfunded Accrued Liability of the plans. A statutory policy requiring the funding of an actuarially calculated contribution would accelerate payments. An actuarially calculated contribution would increase payments by requiring funding of the Normal Cost each year PLUS an amortization payment to the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued

Liability. Payments toward the Unfunded Accrued Liabilities of the plans could be controlled by the following valuation assumptions and methods, among others:

- The initial amortization period of the plans – shorter initial period increases payments
- The payroll growth assumption – reducing the growth rate increases payments
- Investment return assumption – reducing the assumed investment return increases payments

### Increased OPEB Contributions

The advantage of accelerating contribution amounts is increased assets earning investment returns, which will lower future contributions. Ultimately, the City must determine the method of funding the OPEB plans that provides for systematic payments to the Unfunded Accrued Liability, while meeting the risk profile of the City and its stakeholders.

Ideally, the City could consider accelerating its contributions to the OPEB plan. However, it is recognized that this may not be practical, given the City's unfunded liability for pension benefits and significant resource constraints noted on pages 7-10 of the Background section.

Measures the City could consider include:

- Sale of City assets, which would be a one-time, non-recurring source
- Increase in the City's income tax rates, although it is understood that to do so, changes would need to be made to State of Michigan legislation.
- Levying a property tax millage. It is understood from City officials that the City Charter maximum operating property tax levy is 20.0 mills, and the City is currently levying 19.44 mills. It is also understood from City officials that 1.0 mill currently generates approximately \$2.0 million and equates to a \$50 annual increase for a taxpayer owning a house valued at \$100,000.
- Levying a local sales tax, which would require a change in State of Michigan legislation, as it is understood to currently be prohibited at the municipal level.
- The City should consider whether an OPEB obligation bond would be a means to fund the OPEB plan. There are a number of issues related to OPEB obligation bonds including that the bonds need to be issued as taxable bonds and there is a risk that there could be a major market correction when the bond proceeds are invested. Some municipalities have seen total costs, including bond debt service; increase after an OPEB obligation bond is issued. Furthermore, the debt service is a fixed cost and must be paid each year regardless of investment returns.

The City could consider exploring the transfer of public assets or the revenue generated as sources to fund the OPEB plan. In the private sector, corporations have made in-kind contributions – non-cash assets such as securities and real estate to fund their retirement plans. US Steel contributed 170,000 acres of timberland to meet its pension liabilities. Pan American World Airways transferred the lease for its flagship terminal at New York's Kennedy Airport to its pension funds. The public sector has begun to implement or consider alternative revenue sources. Some strategies are as follows:

- The private sector's practice of transferring assets to pension funds was cited in a New Jersey proposal to fund the state's beleaguered public pension plans with revenues from the state's lottery.

- In Canada, the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan owns the licenses to operate both the British and Irish national lotteries. These assets were not in-kind contributions but rather a direct investment aimed at boosting the pension fund's returns.
- In 2010, the Pittsburgh City Council irrevocably dedicated parking revenues to the city's three employee pension funds for 31 years. The city effectively transferred the value of asset ownership to the pension plan without requiring it to assume the risks of ownership or management responsibilities.
- The City of Hartford, Connecticut plans to donate a 600-acre public park, which does not produce revenue, as partial payment of the city's annual required contribution to the Municipal Employees Retirement Fund.
- One of the most profitable in-kind contributions made to a pension fund was the conveyance in 2011 of a toll-road network owned by Australia's Queensland state government to the state's pension fund. Queensland Investment Corporation, the fund's manager, restructured the business, added two additional roads to the toll network and sold the asset three years later at a \$3.8 billion profit for the pension fund.

The City must weigh these potential options with the costs of doing nothing. In light of the City's revenue constraints, combined with its pension obligations, OPEB funding obligations could have the effect of crowding out available resources for City services, as well as or in combination with, the path of emergency financial management or bankruptcy, as experienced by some other Michigan communities.

# 8 Other Considerations

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## GASB Accounting Standards

GASB 74 (plan accounting/reporting) is effective for the first fiscal year beginning after June 15, 2016 and replaces GASB No. 43. GASB 75 (employer accounting/reporting) is effective for the first fiscal year beginning after June 15, 2017 and replaces GASB No. 45. GASB No. 75 will require employers to place the entire unfunded OPEB liability directly onto their balance sheets immediately.

The new statements also mandate a common actuarial allocation method for all entities – the Entry Age Normal method, as a level percentage of salary. In anticipation of this impending change, the December 31, 2015 Boomershine Consulting OPEB valuation reports switched the City of Lansing plans from a level dollar actuarial cost method to the level percentage of pay actuarial cost method.

These new GASB changes could spur renewed interest in prefunding of OPEB benefits. Although GASB does not require prefunding of OPEB liabilities, given how large these values are likely to be, their inclusion on financial reports will have a measurable impact on the reported financial status of many municipalities.

In light of new GASB OPEB Statements No. 74 & 75, some entities will need to re-examine their existing OPEB contribution policies. An example of a policy requiring revision is one that uses a percentage of the Annual Required Contribution (ARC) for funding, since GASB No. 74 & 75 eliminate the concept of the ARC altogether. The new statements make it clear that funding must be considered completely separate from accounting. Actuarial valuations will need to show two completely different sets of results for funding versus GASB accounting.

Although separate, the funding policy and funded status of the plans will affect the GASB accounting results, because GASB mandates that funded plans use a discount rate related to the rate of return the assets are expected to generate – in other words, the investment return assumption. Completely unfunded plans are required to use a discount rate tied to an index rate for 20-year tax-exempt general obligation municipal bonds with an average rating of AA/Aa or higher, while partially funded plans must use a blend of these two rates. Therefore, a better-funded plan will have a lower GASB OPEB obligation, not only due to having more assets, but also due to using a higher discount rate.

## Michigan Public Act 152

In 2011, the State of Michigan passed Public Act 152 (PA-152), which requires that local units of government place a hard cap on their health care, institute an 80/20 cost sharing arrangement, or opt out with 2/3 vote of the governing body. The City of Lansing complies via the hard cap.

Although retired employees are exempt from the requirements of PA-152, the City's collective bargaining agreements and fringe benefit documents specify that some retiree cohorts are subject to all of the same cost sharing requirements of the active plans – including the PA-152 hard cap.

Compliance with the hard cap effectively reduces the impact of health care trend on non-Medicare medical and prescription drug benefits for those cohorts subject to the cap, since the expected inflation on the hard cap amounts is 2.5% to 3.5%, while the ultimate health care trend rate assumed

by the City is 4.5%. Most of the retiree rates for medical and prescription drug non-Medicare plans are already close to or above the current hard cap amounts.

Newer Fire retirees, all Teamsters 214 retirees, and most non-bargained newer retiree cohorts are directly subject to the hard cap, with no participant contribution limits.

The effect of the PA-152 cap is somewhat muted by the current collective bargaining agreements for UAW, Teamsters 243 City, Teamsters 243 District Court, Police (both supervisor and non-supervisor), and the fringe document for District Court non-bargained. These groups have retiree contribution limits that override the hard cap, based on a specified dollar amount and/or a specified percentage of pension benefit. However, some of these groups lose the protection of the limit, unless they choose one of the newer (and less rich) City plan designs, so the cap still has some effect on these groups, although the impact is lessened.

Note the Medicare premium rates are much lower than non-Medicare rates, and well below the hard cap amounts. As a result, there is no material impact expected for the near future on Medicare-eligible benefits.

Overall, the presence of the PA-152 legislation reduces the Accrued Liability of City's non-Medicare retiree health benefits. If PA-152 were repealed or if the City elected to opt-out, the City's January 1, 2016 OPEB liability would increase by about 6% (\$24.1 million) in total. However, the liability for the Fire group would increase by about 23% (\$21.9 million), as that group has no participant contribution limits that are overriding the hard cap. For retirees scheduled to pay the lesser of the PA-152 hard cap or a participant contribution limit, we assumed the specified contribution limit would continue to apply.

Given the interaction of the PA-152 hard cap with the City's non-Medicare costs, it will be critical that any changes made by the City consider the presence of the hard cap.

### **Retirees Not Eligible for Free Medicare Part A**

There are likely participants who are over age 65 who are not eligible for free Medicare Part A. These are typically state or local governmental employees hired prior to March 31, 1986 who have never paid Social Security taxes for the required 10 years and who do not have a spouse whose work qualified both of them for Medicare. There are two options for handling these participants:

1. Treat them the same as any other participant not eligible for Medicare and enroll them in the non-Medicare retiree plans.
2. Require them to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B. This would require a monthly premium to buy Part A (\$411.00 in 2016) as well as paying for Part B (\$121.80 in 2016, unless making more than \$85,000 single or \$170,000 married filing jointly). The retiree would need to decide whether to purchase a Prescription Drug plan under Medicare Part D (average cost of \$42.43 in Michigan for 2016).

The monthly Part B premium may be subject to a lifetime late enrollment penalty since the participant did not first sign up when age 65. The penalty is 10% for every 12-month period the individual could have enrolled in Part B. However, it is our understanding that the penalties would be waived if the retiree had uninterrupted medical and credible drug coverage through an employer until that date and that group coverage was cancelled.

The monthly Part D premium may also be subject to a lifetime late enrollment penalty since the participant did not first sign up when age 65. The penalty is 1% per month from the period the individual could have enrolled in Part D. It is our understanding that the penalties would be waived if the retiree had uninterrupted creditable drug coverage through an employer, until that group coverage was cancelled.

## Legal and Collective Bargaining Considerations

Most of the potential scenarios illustrated in Section 6 of this report would be considered changes to those retirees and/or active employees who are affected. Whenever there is a perceived change in benefits, the plan sponsor must consider the potential litigation that could arise.

The City should review all correspondence, contracts, letters, documents, etc., in order to determine what, if any, any legal promises have been made to current retirees and/or current employees (as future retirees).

Future employees are just that – employee who will be hired in the future. There is no litigation risk there. Future employees may consider the value of retiree health benefits as they make their decision to join, or to stay at, a future employer. However, this is the easiest place for the City to reduce retiree health benefits. These employees have not yet started to work and voters, many of whom do not receive retiree health benefits, may not consider this a significant issue. There may still be resistance from the national unions that represent public sector employees. Of course, the City has already eliminated defined benefit retiree health (other than dental and vision) for new retirees of most groups, but the Police, Fire, UAW, and some specific non-bargained employees are still entitled to them. Note that while changes to future hires reduce costs in the future, they will have NO impact on current OPEB liabilities, as those amounts only represent the projected costs for current active employees and current retirees.

## Potential Impact on Employment and Retirement Patterns

Any change to retiree health (or pension) benefits can cause a change in retirement patterns. In the January 2014 periodical “Trends and Issues,” by the TIAA-CREF Institute, the question of “How Does Coverage by Retiree Health Insurance Affect the Age of Retirement” was explored. The findings include that the existence of retiree health benefits has an impact on public sector retirement patterns and the lack of those benefits can delay retirement. The second question applicable to this analysis is not examined – what happens if the level of retiree health benefits is reduced, but not eliminated?

Similar findings were seen in the “Does Retiree Health Insurance Encourage Early Retirement?” paper, published in the “Journal of Public Economics, Volume 104, August 2013.” Again, there is the question of whether a lower level of benefit or modification of the benefit would lead to a similar delay in retirements.

We believe it is likely that a reduction in **non-Medicare** benefits is likely to cause some effect on retirement patterns, but it is impossible to determine exactly how the retirement patterns would change.

However, a potential delay in retirement patterns has several implications, including:

1. Additional savings in retiree health benefits, since retirees will have coverage for less years of their lives. For example, they may choose to retire at age 65, rather than age 60, due to lack of health benefits for non-Medicare retirees. However, see the next point for the offsetting consequence of this choice.
2. Increase in active health benefits costs as the older active employees will work longer (not retire as quickly). While, on average, retiree health benefits costs more than active health benefits (assuming the benefit levels and required contributions are the same), this does not affect them at the individual person level. If hypothetical employee, Mary, were to work one additional year (from age 61 to age 62), her health care costs will be similar in that one year of work as compared to what they would have been if she retired at age 61.
3. Projected changes in the active workforce will not take place. If fewer employees retire, the ability to replace more expensive (payroll, benefits) older employees with less expensive (payroll, benefits) younger employees will not occur.

Because of these potential implications, changes in retiree health benefits for current active employees should consider the issue of retirement patterns.

# Appendix A: Current Benefit Provisions

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These plan summaries are intended to illustrate the benefits valued by Segal for purposes of this report. In no way do they imply a promise or legal obligation on behalf of the City of Lansing to provide the benefits shown here.

To save space, we did not include non-duty disability age/service requirements in the summaries. Most groups generally require the same amount of service that would be required for retiree health benefit vesting. Other non-bargained and District Court non-bargained generally require 10 years of service.

**Appendix A - Retiree Benefit Summaries**

Group	Police Non-Supervisory				
	Inactive		Active		
Status	Retired 5/18/10 to 10/12/15		Hired < 7/1/10	Hired 7/1/10 to 7/31/14	Hired > 7/31/14
Cohort	Retired < 5/18/10	Retired > 10/12/15	Hired < 7/1/10	Hired 7/1/10 to 7/31/14	Hired > 7/31/14
Pre-Medicare Medical/Rx Coverage Type of Plan Design(s) Do Plan Designs Follow Active Plan Changes? Retiree Contributions Limit on Retiree Contribution Amounts Restriction on Retiree Contribution Limits	Various legacy No None N/A N/A	Option2 No None N/A N/A	Base/Option1/Option2 No > PA-152 cap with limits 1% of pension None	Base/Option1/Option2 No > PA-152 cap with limits 1% of pension None	Base/Option1/Option2 No > PA-152 cap with limits 1% of pension None
Medicare Eligible Medical/Rx Coverage Type of Plan Design(s) Retiree Contributions	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None
Medicare B Premium Reimbursements Retiree Dental Coverage Retiree Vision Coverage	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes	Retiree Only Yes Yes
Joint Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage Surviving Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage Dependent Child Medical/Rx Coverage	Yes if J&S form Yes	Yes if J&S form Yes	Yes if J&S form Yes	Yes if J&S form Yes	dental/vision only dental/vision only dental/vision only
Retiree Life Insurance Benefit	\$3,000*	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Opt-Out Credit Available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retirement Eligibility Age/Service #1 Age/Service #2 Age/Service #3			55/15 any/25 N/A	any/25* N/A N/A	50/25* N/A N/A
OPEB Vesting Eligibility Service Payable			15 years service Age 55	25 years service Age 55	25 years service Age 55
Notes	*No life ins. if retired before 7/1/82			*Up to 2 years credit for military svc	*Up to 2 years credit for military svc

**Important Note**

These plan features are intended to illustrate the benefits valued by Segal for purposes of this report. In no way do they imply a promise or legal obligation on behalf of the City of Lansing to provide the benefits shown here.

**Appendix A - Retiree Benefit Summaries**

Group	Police Supervisory					
	Inactive		Active			
Status	Retired < 7/15/10	Retired 7/15/10 to 10/12/15	Retired > 10/12/15	Hired < 7/15/10	Hired 7/15/10 to 7/31/14	Hired > 7/31/14
Cohort	Retired < 7/15/10	Retired 7/15/10 to 10/12/15	Retired > 10/12/15	Hired < 7/15/10	Hired 7/15/10 to 7/31/14	Hired > 7/31/14
Pre-Medicare Medical/Rx Coverage Type of Plan Design(s) Do Plan Designs Follow Active Plan Changes? Retiree Contributions Limit on Retiree Contribution Amounts Restriction on Retiree Contribution Limits	Various legacy No None N/A N/A	Option2 No \$250/\$550/\$650 Only contribute up to 5 yrs N/A	Base/Option1/Option2 No > PA-152 cap with limits 1% of pension None			
Medicare Eligible Medical/Rx Coverage Type of Plan Design(s) Retiree Contributions	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None
Medicare B Premium Reimbursements Retiree Dental Coverage Retiree Vision Coverage	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes	Retiree Only Yes Yes
Joint Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage Surviving Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage Dependent Child Medical/Rx Coverage	Yes if J&S form Yes	Yes if J&S form Yes	Yes if J&S form Yes	Yes if J&S form Yes	Yes if J&S form Yes	dental/vision only dental/vision only dental/vision only
Retiree Life Insurance Benefit	\$3,000*	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Opt-Out Credit Available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retirement Eligibility Age/Service #1 Age/Service #2 Age/Service #3				55/15 any/25 N/A	any/25* N/A N/A	50/25* N/A N/A
OPEB Vesting Eligibility Service Payable				15 years service Age 55	25 years service Age 55	25 years service Age 55
Notes	*No life ins. if retired before 7/1/82				*Up to 2 years credit for military svc	*Up to 2 years credit for military svc

**Important Note**  
These plan features are intended to illustrate the benefits valued by Segal for purposes of this report. In no way do they imply a promise or legal obligation on behalf of the City of Lansing to provide the benefits shown here.

**Appendix A - Retiree Benefit Summaries**

Group Status Cohort	Fire				
	Inactive			Active	
	Retired < 7/1/11	Retired 7/1/11 to 6/30/13	Retired > 6/30/13	Hired < 7/1/06	Hired 7/1/06 to 6/30/10
Pre-Medicare Medical/Rx Coverage Type of Plan Design(s) Do Plan Designs Follow Active Plan Changes? Retiree Contributions Limit on Retiree Contribution Amounts Restriction on Retiree Contribution Limits	Various legacy No None N/A N/A	Option2* No 15% premium fixed by DOR N/A N/A	Base/Option1/Option2* No > PA-152 cap No Limit N/A	Base/Option1/Option2 No > PA-152 cap No Limit N/A	Base/Option1/Option2 No > PA-152 cap No Limit N/A
Medicare Eligible Medical/Rx Coverage Type of Plan Design(s) Retiree Contributions	AMM/WINS None	AMM/WINS 10% premium fixed by DOR	AMM/WINS None	AMM/WINS None	AMM/WINS None
Medicare B Premium Reimbursements Retiree Dental Coverage Retiree Vision Coverage	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes
Joint Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage Surviving Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage Dependent Child Medical/Rx Coverage	Yes if J&S form Yes	Yes if J&S form Yes	Yes if J&S form Yes	Yes if J&S form Yes	Yes if J&S form Yes
Retiree Life Insurance Benefit	\$3,000*	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Opt-Out Credit Available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retirement Eligibility Age/Service #1 Age/Service #2 Age/Service #3			55/10 any/25 N/A	55/15 any/25* N/A	any/25* N/A N/A
OPEB Vesting Eligibility Service Payable			10 years service Age 55	15 years service Age 55	25 years service Age 55
Notes	*No life ins. if retired before 7/1/83	* Legacy if ret < 9/1/11	* Option2 only if ret < 8/1/14	*Up to 2 years credit for military svc	*Up to 2 years credit for military svc

**Important Note**

These plan features are intended to illustrate the benefits valued by Segal for purposes of this report. In no way do they imply a promise or legal obligation on behalf of the City of Lansing to provide the benefits shown here.

**Appendix A - Retiree Benefit Summaries**

Group	UAW						
	Inactive		Active				
Status	Retired < 7/1/10	Retired 7/1/10 to 9/30/14	Retired > 9/30/14	Hired < 12/1/89	Hired 12/1/89 to 3/7/10	Hired 3/8/10 to 10/20/13	Hired > 10/20/13
Pre-Medicare Medical/Rx Coverage Type of Plan Design(s) Do Plan Designs Follow Active Plan Changes? Retiree Contributions Limit on Retiree Contribution Amounts Restriction on Retiree Contribution Limits	Various legacy* No None N/A N/A	Option2 No \$125/\$225/\$325 1% of pension N/A	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes > PA-152 cap with limits 1% of pension No limit if Option2 elected	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes > PA-152 cap with limits 1% of pension No limit if Option2 elected	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes > PA-152 cap with limits 1% of pension No limit if Option2 elected	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes > PA-152 cap with limits 1% of pension No limit if Option2 elected	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes > PA-152 cap with limits 1% of pension No limit if Option2 elected
Medicare Eligible Medical/Rx Coverage Type of Plan Design(s) Retiree Contributions	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	N/A No
Medicare B Premium Reimbursements Retiree Dental Coverage Retiree Vision Coverage	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes	No Yes Yes
Joint Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage Surviving Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage Dependent Child Medical/Rx Coverage	Yes if J&S form Yes	Yes if J&S form Yes	Yes if J&S form Yes	Yes if J&S form Yes	Yes if J&S form Yes	Yes if J&S form Yes	dental/vision only dental/vision only dental/vision only
Retiree Life Insurance Benefit	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Opt-Out Credit Available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Only pre-Medicare
Retirement Eligibility Age/Service #1 Age/Service #2 Age/Service #3			58/8 50/25 N/A	58/15 50/25 N/A	58/15 50/25 N/A	50/25 N/A N/A	50/25 N/A N/A
OPEB Vesting Eligibility Service Payable		8 years service Normal retirement age	15 years service Normal retirement age	15 years service Normal retirement age	25 years service Age 50	25 years service Age 50	25 years service Age 50
Notes	* Option2 if ret > 3/28/10						

**Important Note**

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**Appendix A - Retiree Benefit Summaries**

		<b>T214</b>						
<b>Group</b>		<b>Inactive</b>		<b>Active</b>				
<b>Status</b>		All Retirees		Hired < 10/29/90	Hired 10/29/90 to 12/7/08	Hired 12/8/08 to 9/16/12	Hired 9/17/12 to 12/31/14	Hired > 12/31/14
<b>Cohort</b>		Base/Option1/Option2: Yes > PA-152 cap No Limit N/A		Base/Option1/Option2: Yes > PA-152 cap No Limit N/A				
Pre-Medicare Medical/Rx Coverage		AMW/INS	AMW/INS	AMW/INS	AMW/INS	AMW/INS	AMW/INS	N/A
Type of Plan Design(s)		None	None	None	None	None	None	N/A
Do Plan Designs Follow Active Plan Changes?		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Retiree Contributions		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Limit on Retiree Contribution Amounts		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Restriction on Retiree Contribution Limits		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Medicare Eligible Medical/Rx Coverage		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Type of Plan Design(s)		if J&S form	if J&S form	if J&S form	if J&S form	if J&S form	if J&S form	N/A
Retiree Contributions		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Medicare B Premium Reimbursements		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Retiree Dental Coverage		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retiree Vision Coverage		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Joint Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	dental/vision only
Surviving Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	dental/vision only
Dependent Child Medical/Rx Coverage		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	dental/vision only
Retiree Life Insurance Benefit		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Opt-Out Credit Available		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Retirement Eligibility								
Age/Service #1		65 points with 8 yrs	55/15	55/15	55/15	55/15	55/15	50/25 for d/v only
Age/Service #2		N/A	50/25	50/25	50/25	50/25	50/25	N/A
Age/Service #3		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
OPEB Vesting Eligibility								
Service Payable		8 years service 65 points	15 years service Age 55	15 years service Age 55	15 years service Age 55	15 years service Age 55	25 years service Age 55	25 yrs for d/v only Age 55 for d/v only
Notes								No DB retiree health, except dental/vision

**Important Note**

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**Appendix A - Retiree Benefit Summaries**

Group	T243 - Regular						
	Inactive		Active				
	Retired < 2/20/04	Retired > 2/19/04	Hired < 7/1/87	Hired 7/1/87 to 10/28/90	Hired 10/29/90 to 2/8/10	Hired 2/9/10 to 5/18/14	Hired > 5/18/14
Pre-Medicare Medical/Rx Coverage	Various legacy	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes	N/A
Type of Plan Design(s)	No	> PA-152 cap with limits	N/A				
Do Plan Designs Follow Active Plan Changes?	None	1% pension OR \$125/\$225/\$325	N/A				
Retiree Contributions	N/A	No limit if Option2 elected	N/A				
Limit on Retiree Contribution Amounts							
Restriction on Retiree Contribution Limits							
Medicare Eligible Medical/Rx Coverage	AM/WINS	AM/WINS	AM/WINS	AM/WINS	AM/WINS	AM/WINS	N/A
Type of Plan Design(s)	None	None	None	None	None	None	N/A
Retiree Contributions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Medicare B Premium Reimbursements	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retiree Dental Coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retiree Vision Coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Joint Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	dental/vision only
Surviving Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage	if J&S form	if J&S form	if J&S form	if J&S form	if J&S form	if J&S form	dental/vision only
Dependent Child Medical/Rx Coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	dental/vision only
Retiree Life Insurance Benefit	No	No	No	No	No	No	N/A
Opt-Out Credit Available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Retirement Eligibility							
Age/Service #1		65 points with 8 yrs	65 points with 8 yrs	65 points with 15 yrs	58/15	50/25	50/25 for div only
Age/Service #2		N/A	N/A	N/A	50/25	N/A	N/A
Age/Service #3		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
OPEB Vesting Eligibility							
Service Payable		8 years service	8 years service	15 years of service	15 years of service	25 years of service	25 yrs for div only
Notes		65 points	65 points	Age 55	Age 55	Age 55	Age 55 for div only
							No DB retiree health, except dental/vision

**Important Note**  
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**Appendix A - Retiree Benefit Summaries**

Group	T243 - District Court				911 Operators	
	Inactive		Active		Inactive	
Status	All Retirees		Hired < 6/1/10	Hired 6/1/10 to 3/31/14	Hired 4/1/14 to 6/30/16	Hired > 6/30/16
Cohort	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes > PA-152 cap with limits 1% pension No limit if Option2 elected		Base/Option1/Option2 Yes > PA-152 cap with limits 1% pension No limit if Option2 elected		Base/Option1/Option2 Yes > PA-152 cap with limits 1% pension No limit if Option2 elected	
Pre-Medicare Medical/Rx Coverage Type of Plan Design(s) Do Plan Designs Follow Active Plan Changes? Retiree Contributions Limit on Retiree Contribution Amounts Restriction on Retiree Contribution Limits	AMWINS None Yes Yes Not subsidized	AMWINS None Yes Yes Not subsidized	AMWINS None Yes Yes Not subsidized	AMWINS None Yes Yes Not subsidized	N/A N/A No Yes Not subsidized	N/A N/A No Yes Not subsidized
Medicare Eligible Medical/Rx Coverage Type of Plan Design(s) Retiree Contributions	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	N/A N/A	AMWINS None
Medicare B Premium Reimbursements Retiree Dental Coverage Retiree Vision Coverage	Yes Yes Not subsidized	Yes Yes Not subsidized	Yes Yes Not subsidized	Yes Yes Not subsidized	No Yes Not subsidized	Yes Yes Yes
Joint Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage Surviving Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage Dependent Child Medical/Rx Coverage	Yes if J&S form Yes	Yes if J&S form Yes	Yes if J&S form Yes	Yes if J&S form Yes	dental/vision only dental/vision only dental/vision only	Yes if J&S form Yes
Retiree Life Insurance Benefit	No	No	No	No	N/A	N/A
Opt-Out Credit Available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Only pre-Medicare	Yes
Retirement Eligibility Age/Service #1 Age/Service #2 Age/Service #3	58/15 50/25 N/A	58/15 50/25 N/A	50/25 N/A N/A	50/25 N/A N/A	50/25 for div only N/A N/A	50/25 for div only N/A N/A
OPEB Vesting Eligibility Service Payable	15 years of service Age 55	15 years of service Age 55	25 years of service Age 55	25 years of service Age 55	25 years of service Age 55	25 yrs for div only Age 55 for div only
Notes	* Retirees > 6/30/12 not Lansing's; TVs still possible					

**Important Note**

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## Appendix A - Retiree Benefit Summaries

Group	<b>District Court Non-Bargaining</b>			
	<b>Inactive</b>		<b>Active</b>	
Status	All Retirees		Hired < 6/1/10	Hired 4/1/14 to 6/30/16
Cohort	Hired < 6/1/10		Hired 6/1/10 to 3/31/14	Hired > 6/30/16
Pre-Medicare Medical/Rx Coverage Type of Plan Design(s) Do Plan Designs Follow Active Plan Changes? Retiree Contributions Limit on Retiree Contribution Amounts Restriction on Retiree Contribution Limits	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes > PA-152 cap with limits* 1% pension* No limit if Option2 elected	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes > PA-152 cap with limits* 1% pension* No limit if Option2 elected	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes > PA-152 cap with limits* 1% pension* No limit if Option2 elected	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes > PA-152 cap with limits* 1% pension* No limit if Option2 elected
Medicare Eligible Medical/Rx Coverage Type of Plan Design(s) Retiree Contributions	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	N/A N/A
Medicare B Premium Reimbursements Retiree Dental Coverage Retiree Vision Coverage	Yes Yes Not subsidized	Yes Yes Not subsidized	Yes Yes Not subsidized	No Yes Not subsidized
Joint Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage Surviving Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage Dependent Child Medical/Rx Coverage	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes	dental/vision only dental/vision only dental/vision only
Retiree Life Insurance Benefit Opt-Out Credit Available	No Yes	No Yes	No Yes	N/A N/A
Retirement Eligibility Age/Service #1 Age/Service #2 Age/Service #3	65 points with 15 yos N/A N/A	25 years of service N/A N/A	25 years of service N/A N/A	50/25 for d/v only N/A N/A
OPEB Vesting Eligibility Service Payable	15 years service 65 points	25 years of service Age 55	25 years of service Age 55	25 yos for d/v only Age 55 for d/v only
Notes	*1% pension limit not in fringe document, but is currently administered	*1% pension limit not in fringe document, but is currently administered	*1% pension limit not in fringe document, but is currently administered	No DB retiree health, except dental/vision

**Important Note**

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**Appendix A - Retiree Benefit Summaries**

Group	Council Staff							
	Inactive			Active				
Status	Retired < 7/1/07	Retired > 6/30/07	Hired < 7/1/87	Hired 7/1/87 to 10/28/90	Hired 10/29/90 to 6/30/07	Hired 7/1/07 to 2/28/09	Hired 3/1/09 to 10/14/12	Hired > 10/14/12
Cohort	Retired < 7/1/07	Retired > 6/30/07	Hired < 7/1/87	Hired 7/1/87 to 10/28/90	Hired 10/29/90 to 6/30/07	Hired 7/1/07 to 2/28/09	Hired 3/1/09 to 10/14/12	Hired > 10/14/12
Pre-Medicare Medical/Rx Coverage Type of Plan Design(s) Do Plan Designs Follow Active Plan Changes? Retiree Contributions Limit on Retiree Contributions Amounts Restriction on Retiree Contribution Limits Medicare Eligible Medical/Rx Coverage Type of Plan Design(s) Retiree Contributions Medicare B Premium Reimbursements Retiree Dental Coverage Retiree Vision Coverage Joint Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage Surviving Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage Dependent Child Medical/Rx Coverage Retiree Life Insurance Benefit Opt-Out Credit Available Retirement Eligibility Age/Service #1 Age/Service #2 Age/Service #3 OPEB Vesting Eligibility Service Payable Notes	Legacy No City pays 55%/75%/100% prem s.v.c. based N/A N/A AMWINS None Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes if J&S form Yes No Yes	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes > PA-152 cap* N/A N/A AMWINS None Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes if J&S form Yes No Yes	Base/Option1/Option2* Yes > PA-152 cap* N/A N/A AMWINS None Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes if J&S form Yes No Yes	Base/Option1/Option2* Yes > PA-152 cap* N/A N/A AMWINS None Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes if J&S form Yes No Yes	Base/Option1/Option2* Yes > PA-152 cap* N/A N/A AMWINS None Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes if J&S form Yes No Yes	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes > PA-152 cap N/A N/A AMWINS None Retiree Only Yes Yes Med/Rx not subsidized Med/Rx not subsidized Med/Rx not subsidized No Yes	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes > PA-152 cap N/A N/A AMWINS None Retiree Only Yes Yes Med/Rx not subsidized Med/Rx not subsidized Med/Rx not subsidized No Yes	0095/0094/0056 Yes > PA-152 cap N/A N/A AMWINS None Retiree Only Yes Yes Med/Rx not subsidized Med/Rx not subsidized Med/Rx not subsidized No Yes
			8 years of service At termination	15 years of service Age 55	8 years of service** Age 55	15 years of service Age 55	15 years of service Age 55	25 years of service Age 55
	* If hired <10/29/90, premium share is \$0	* If <15 yrs. City pays 55%/75% of Base prem (8/12 yrs)	* If retired < 7/1/07, \$0 ret crnt and Legacy plan design	* If retired < 7/1/07, \$0 ret crnt and Legacy plan design	* If retired < 7/1/07, City pays 100% of Base Plan (no cap); retiree can buy-up ** If <15 yrs. City pays 55%/75% of Base prem. (8/12 yrs)			

**Important Note**  
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**Appendix A - Retiree Benefit Summaries**

Group Status Cohort	Executive Management & Mayoral Staff		
	Inactive	Active	Active
	Retired < 7/1/07	Retired > 6/30/07	Hired < 10/29/90
Pre-Medicare Medical/Rx Coverage	Legacy No	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes
Type of Plan Design(s)	City pays 55%/75%/100% prem svc based*	> PA-152 cap*	> PA-152 cap*
Do Plan Designs Follow Active Plan Changes?	N/A	N/A	N/A
Retiree Contributions	N/A	N/A	N/A
Limit on Retiree Contribution Amounts	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None
Restriction on Retiree Contribution Limits	Yes	Yes	Yes
Medicare Eligible Medical/Rx Coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes
Type of Plan Design(s)	Yes if J&S form	Yes if J&S form	Yes if J&S form
Retiree Contributions	Yes	Yes	Yes
Medicare B Premium Reimbursements	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retiree Dental Coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retiree Vision Coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes
Joint Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes
Surviving Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dependent Child Medical/Rx Coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retiree Life Insurance Benefit	No	No	No
Opt-Out Credit Available	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retirement Eligibility			
Age/Service #1		Fire 55/10 OR any/25	55/8**
Age/Service #2		Police 55/15 OR any/25	N/A
Age/Service #3		Non-P/F 65 points and 15 yos	N/A
OPEB Vesting Eligibility		15 years of service	15 years of service**
Service Payable		65 points	Age 55
Notes	* If hired <10/29/90, premium share is \$0	* If <15 yos, City pays 55%/75% of Base prem (8/12 yos)	* If retired < 7/1/07, City pays 100% of Base Plan (no cap); retiree can buy-up ** If <15 yos, City pays 55%/75% of Base prem (8/12 yos)

**Important Note**

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**Appendix A - Retiree Benefit Summaries**

Group	Mayor / City Clerk					
	Inactive		Active			
Status	Retired < 1/1/06	Retired > 12/31/05	Elected < 7/1/87	Elected 7/1/87 to 6/30/07	Elected 7/1/07 to 6/30/09	Elected > 6/30/09
Cohort	Retired < 1/1/06	Retired > 12/31/05	Elected < 7/1/87	Elected 7/1/87 to 6/30/07	Elected 7/1/07 to 6/30/09	Elected > 6/30/09
Pre-Medicare Medical/Rx Coverage	Legacy No	Base/Option 1/Option 2 Yes	Base/Option 1/Option 2* Yes	Base/Option 1/Option 2* Yes	Base/Option 1/Option 2 Yes	Base/Option 1/Option 2 Yes
Do Plan Designs Follow Active Plan Changes?	None	> PA-152 cap	> PA-152 cap*	> PA-152 cap*	> PA-152 cap	> PA-152 cap
Retiree Contributions	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Limit on Retiree Contribution Amounts	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Restriction on Retiree Contribution Limits	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Medicare Eligible Medical/Rx Coverage	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None
Type of Plan Design(s)	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None
Retiree Contributions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Retiree Only
Medicare B Premium Reimbursements	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retiree Dental Coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retiree Vision Coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Joint Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Med/Rx not subsidized
Surviving Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage	if J&S form Yes	if J&S form Yes	if J&S form Yes	if J&S form Yes	if J&S form Yes	Med/Rx not subsidized
Dependent Child Medical/Rx Coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Med/Rx not subsidized
Retiree Life Insurance Benefit	No	No	No	No	No	No
Opt-Out Credit Available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retirement Eligibility						
Age/Service #1		Any/8	Any/8	55/15	55/15	55/15
Age/Service #2		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Age/Service #3		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
OPEB Vesting Eligibility						
Service Payable		8 years of service At termination	8 years of service At termination	15 years of service Age 55	15 years of service Age 55	15 years of service Age 55
Notes		* If retired < 1/1/06, \$0 retiree contribution, and Legacy design	* If retired < 1/1/06, \$0 retiree contribution, and Legacy design	* If retired < 1/1/06, \$0 retiree contribution, and Legacy design		

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**Appendix A - Retiree Benefit Summaries**

Group	Judges		
	Inactive	Active	Active
Status	All Retirees	Took Office < 7/1/88	Took Office 7/1/88 to 10/28/90
Cohort	Took Office < 7/1/88	Took Office > 7/1/88	Took Office > 10/28/90
Pre-Medicare Medical/Rx Coverage	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes > PA-152 cap N/A N/A	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes > PA-152 cap N/A N/A	Base/Option1/Option2 Yes > PA-152 cap N/A N/A
Type of Plan Design(s)	AMWINS None	AMWINS None	AMWINS None
Do Plan Designs Follow Active Plan Changes?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retiree Contributions	Yes	Yes	Yes
Limit on Retiree Contribution Amounts	Not subsidized	Not subsidized	Not subsidized
Restriction on Retiree Contribution Limits	Yes	Yes	Yes
Medicare Eligible Medical/Rx Coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes
Type of Plan Design(s)	None	None	None
Retiree Contributions	None	None	None
Medicare B Premium Reimbursements	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retiree Dental Coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retiree Vision Coverage	Not subsidized	Not subsidized	Not subsidized
Joint Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes
Surviving Spouse Medical/Rx Coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dependent Child Medical/Rx Coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retiree Life Insurance Benefit	No	No	No
Opt-Out Credit Available	Yes	Yes	Yes
Retirement Eligibility	Any/8	Any/15	55/15
Age/Service #1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Age/Service #2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Age/Service #3	N/A	N/A	N/A
OPEB Vesting Eligibility	8 years of service At termination	15 years of service Age 55	15 years of service Age 55
Service Payable			
Notes			

**Important Note**  
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# Appendix B: Assumptions & Methods

## Data

Detailed census data as of December 31, 2015 for postretirement welfare benefits was provided by Boomershine Consulting Group.

For the 30-year projection scenarios, replacement new entrants were generated each year to maintain the number of budgeted employee positions in each group, as provided by the City. The age, gender, and salary profile for each new entrant was based on an average of the most recent hires of each plan group in a specified time period. Assumptions for each new hire group are shown in the table below:

Plan Group	Active Population as of 1/1/2016	Active Population from 1/1/2017 to 1/1/2046	Basis of New Entrant Age/Gender/Salary Profile
Fire	160	175	Recent hires in last 5 years
Police Non-Supervisory	145	159	Recent hires in last 5 years
Police Supervisory	41	42	Recent hires in last 15 years
UAW	136	161	Recent hires in last 5 years
Non-UAW	238	238	Recent hires in last 5 years

## Actuarial Cost Method

Entry-Age Normal, level Percentage of Payroll

## Measurement Date

January 1, 2016, using census data as of December 31, 2015

## Source of Certain Demographic and Economic Assumptions

Some of the assumptions relied upon the results the “Actuarial Assumption Review and Experience Study Covering January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2015” of the Police and Fire and Employees’ Retirement Systems, completed by Boomershine Consulting Group in December 2016. These include rates of termination, retirement, and disability, as well the investment return rate, and base wage inflation rate. We modified the mortality assumption based on Segal’s professional judgment. The others were reviewed for general reasonableness.

## Discount Rate and Investment Return

7.25%

For illustrative purposes of this report, fully prefunding an actuarially calculated contribution was assumed, so the discount rate was set equal to the investment return rate.

## Wage Inflation Rate:

ERS and Police and Fire - 2.75% per year

## **Salary Increase Rate:**

### Employees' Retirement System

UAW – Additional increase of 2.00% per year with less than 10 years of service, and an additional 1.00% per year with 10 years of service or more.

Non-UAW - Additional increase of 1.50% per year with less than 9 years of service, and an additional 0.25% per year with 9 years of service or more.

### Police and Fire Retirement System

Additional increase of 7.00% per year with less than 5 years of service, and an additional 0.75% per year with 5 years of service or more.

The salary increase rate assumptions were based on the “Actuarial Valuation for Funding and Contributions as of December 31, 2015” pension studies completed by Boomershine Consulting Group (December 2016).

## **Postretirement Mortality Rates**

### Employees' Retirement System

Healthy: Based on Headcount-Weighted Approximate RP-2006 Combined Healthy Mortality Table, projected generationally with the MP-2015 improvement scale from 2006

Disabled: Based on Headcount-Weighted Approximate RP-2006 Disabled Retiree Mortality Table, projected generationally with the MP-2015 improvement scale from 2006

### Police and Fire Retirement System

Healthy: Based on Headcount-Weighted Approximate RP-2006 Blue Collar Healthy Mortality Table, projected generationally with the MP-2015 improvement scale from 2006

Disabled: Based on Headcount-Weighted Approximate RP-2006 Disabled Retiree Mortality Table, projected generationally with the MP-2015 improvement scale from 2006

The underlying tables reasonably reflect the mortality experience of the Plan as of the measurement date. These mortality tables were then adjusted to future years using the generational projection to reflect future mortality improvement between the measurement date and those years.

## Termination Rates

Years of Service	ERS Assumed Rate (%)*		
	UAW	Non-UAW Male	Non-UAW Female
0	10.00	22.00	33.00
1	7.00	18.70	28.10
2	5.00	15.90	23.80
3	5.00	13.50	20.30
4	5.00	11.65	17.45
5	4.00	9.80	14.60
10	1.00	4.30	6.50
15	1.00	0.00	0.00
20+	0.50	0.00	0.00

\* Rates cut out at earliest retirement age

Years of Service	Fire Assumed Rate (%)	Age	Police Assumed Rate (%)
0	4.00	20	15.00
1	3.20	25	7.50
2	2.73	30	3.70
3	2.25	35	1.90
4	1.78	40	0.90
5	1.30	45	0.50
10	0.40	50	0.08
15	0.10	51 & Over	0.00
20+	0.00		

## Disability Rates

Age	Assumed Rate (%)	
	ERS <sup>1</sup>	Police & Fire <sup>2</sup>
20	0.04	0.12
30	0.04	0.60
40	0.13	0.94
50	0.41	1.13
60	0.90	0.00

<sup>1</sup> 50% of disabilities were assumed to be duty related

<sup>2</sup> 95% of disabilities were assumed to be duty related

## Retirement Rates

After meeting eligibility requirements for Healthcare coverage, based on the participant's plan and date of hire, the following rates apply:

Years of Service	Fire Assumed Rate (%)	Years of Service	Police Assumed Rate (%)
10-24	5	10-24	5
25	90	25	90
26-29	60	26-29	25
30+	100	30+	100
ERS Assumed Rate (%)			
Age	UAW	Age	Non-UAW
50-54	50	50-57	55
55-64	30	58	15
65+	100	59	5
		60-64	15
		65	60
		66-69	25
		70+	100

## Retirement Age for Inactive Vested Participants

### Employees' Retirement System

UAW: 100% at age 65

Non-UAW: 100% at age 70

### Police and Fire Retirement System

Police and Fire: 100% at age 65

## Unknown Data for Participants

A missing census item for a given participant was assumed to equal the average value of that item over all other participants of the same status and group for whom the item is known. If not specified, participants are assumed to be male.

## Participation and Coverage Election

100% of employees eligible to retire and receive subsidized postretirement welfare coverage were assumed to participate in the plan. 60% of future surviving spouses (for both current retirees with a joint spouse, and for future retirees) eligible to receive subsidized postretirement welfare coverage were assumed to participate in the plan.

## Dependents

Demographic data was available for spouses of current retirees. For future retirees, husbands were assumed to be three years older than their wives.

100% of active participants currently with a spouse were assumed to have a spouse also electing coverage at a retirement

0% of active participants currently without a spouse were assumed to have one electing coverage at retirement.

8% of all ERS retirees and 20% of all Police and Fire retirees are assumed to have covered children, up to age 26. Retirees are assumed to be 30 years older than their children, with two children on average.

### Per Capita Cost Development

Per capita costs were developed by the Boomershine Consulting Group, based on data provided to them by the City. Segal reviewed the development of these for reasonableness.

### Per Capita Health Cost

The annual per capita dental and vision claims costs for the plan year beginning January 1, 2016 were estimated to be \$367 and \$67, respectively. The annual per capita medical and prescription drug claims costs for the plan year beginning January 1, 2016 are shown in the table below for males and for females at selected ages. These costs are net of deductibles and other benefit plan cost sharing provisions. Dependent children were assumed to have a blended claim amount of 50% male and 50% female at each age.

Age	Medical & Prescription Drug			
	ERS		Police and Fire	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
50	\$4,483	\$5,577	\$8,218	\$10,223
55	6,026	6,724	11,046	12,326
60	8,339	7,786	15,285	14,271
64	10,232	9,554	18,756	17,512
65	4,343	4,343	4,482	4,482
70	5,035	5,035	5,196	5,196
75	5,697	5,697	5,879	5,879
80	6,077	6,077	6,271	6,271

Retirees are assumed to elect the option that provides the most benefits at the lowest retiree cost. The following factors were applied to the claims above for each option.

	Non-Medicare			Medicare	
	Legacy	Option 1	Option 2	Legacy	Non-Legacy
ERS	1.000	0.897	1.000	1.000	0.987
Police and Fire	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.939

### Medicare Part B Premium Reimbursement

\$1,463 in calendar year 2016 for participants over the age of 65

90% of participants over the age of 65 were assumed to be receiving the reimbursement.

### Michigan PA-152 Cap and Inflation Rate

Participants and dependents subject to the Michigan PA-152 hard cap amount, who do not have any limits on their participant contributions, had their medical and prescription drug per capita claim costs limited to the hard cap amounts in effect for the plan year beginning January 1, 2016.

<b>Michigan PA-152 Cap Limits:</b>	\$6,142.11 Single / \$12,845.04 Double / \$16,751.23 Family
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The Michigan PA-152 hard cap was assumed to increase at a rate of 3.00% per year, based on a historical review of the Cap limits over the previous five years.

### Health Care Trend Rates

Health care trend measures the anticipated overall rate at which health plan costs are expected to increase in future years. The rates shown below are “net” and are applied to the net per capita costs shown above. The trend shown for a particular plan year is the rate that is applied to that cost to yield the next year’s projected cost.

Year	Rate (%)			
	Pre-65 Medical & Prescription Drug	Post-65 Medical & Prescription Drug	Medicare Part B Reimbursement	Dental & Vision
2016	8.50	6.50	4.50	4.50
2017	8.25	6.25	4.50	4.50
2018	8.00	6.00	4.50	4.50
2019	7.75	5.75	4.50	4.50
2020	7.50	5.50	4.50	4.50
2021	7.25	5.25	4.50	4.50
2022	7.00	5.00	4.50	4.50
2023	6.75	4.75	4.50	4.50
2024	6.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
2025	6.25	4.50	4.50	4.50
2026	6.00	4.50	4.50	4.50
2027	5.75	4.50	4.50	4.50
2028	5.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
2029	5.25	4.50	4.50	4.50
2030	5.00	4.50	4.50	4.50
2031	4.75	4.50	4.50	4.50
2032 & Later	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50

The trend rate assumptions were developed using Segal’s internal guidelines, which are established each year using data sources such as the 2017 Segal Health Trend Survey, internal client results, trends from other published surveys prepared by the S&P Dow Jones Indices, consulting firms and brokers, and CPI statistics published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Retiree Contribution Increase Rate

Retirees with contributions limited to 1% of their gross annual pension amount were assumed to increase at 3.0% per year. Retirees with contribution equal to a percentage of the cost of coverage were assumed to increase with medical trend. No annual increase on any other required retiree contributions was assumed.

	Police	Police Super	UAW	District Court
Assumed average pension amount	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$27,500	\$21,000

### Plan Design

Development of plan liabilities was based on the plan of benefits in effect as described in Appendix A