ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SAMARITAN FUND PROGRAM LLC, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ($1,300,000.00), WITH A TEN (10) PERCENT CONTINGENCY IF NEEDED, TO PROVIDE A SOURCE OF VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR QUALIFIED EMPLOYEES AND QUALIFIED DEPENDENTS SURFACING FROM ELIGIBLE HEALTH CONDITIONS; TO USE THIS PROCESS FOR RISK MANAGEMENT TO MITIGATE HIGH DOLLAR MEDICAL CLAIMS ON THE CITY'S SELF-INSURED PLAN FOR A ONE (1) YEAR PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2027, TO DECEMBER 31, 2027, TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City's fully insured group medical plan was presented with a renewal quote thirty-four percent (34%) percent higher than the expiring premium; and,

WHEREAS, in a risk management effort to control rising healthcare costs for covered individuals during 2027, the City intends to design a self-insured medical plan which allows the City to meet the needs of its qualified employees in addition to contracting with Samaritan Fund Program LLC to provide voluntary funding resources for all qualified employees and qualified dependents suffering from eligible health conditions; and,

WHEREAS, Samaritan Fund Program LLC is not insurance but is a vendor that offers charitable assistance fund sourcing and third-party financial assistance management from independent charities and foundations to absorb the participant's premium costs and out-of-pocket medical bills; and,

WHEREAS, the Human Resources Department recommends the City to enter into a contract with Samaritan Fund Program LLC, in an effort to manage rising healthcare costs for a period of one (1) year from January 1, 2027, to December 31, 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

Section 1. The City Manager is authorized to enter into a contract with Samaritan Fund Program LLC, in a form approved by the City Attorney, in an amount not to exceed One Million, Three Hundred Thousand Dollars ($1,300,000.00), with a ten (10) percent contingency if needed, to source financial assistance for

qualified employees and qualified dependents with eligible serious health conditions, for a one (1) year period from January 1, 2027, to December 31, 2027, in a form substantially the same form as Exhibit A to this ordinance .

Section 2. Under Arkansas Code Annotated $14-58-104(19), the governing body of a city of the first class may purchase risk management services without soliciting bids.

Section 3. Funding for this contract is included in the 2027 budget line item for Employee Health Self-Insurance Fund in Account No. 602001-63211.

Section 4. ***Severability.*** In the event any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this resolution is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the resolution which shall remain in full force and effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not originally a part of the ordinance.

Section 5. ***Repealer.*** All laws, ordinances, resolutions, or parts of the same, that are inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution, are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 6. ***Emergency Clause.*** *The ability of the City to meet its desire to provide insurance to its employees, including those qualified employees with serious medical needs, is essential to the public health, safety, and welfare; an emergency is, therefore, declared to exist and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage.*

PASSED: October 20, 2026

ATTEST: **APPROVED:**

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Allison Segars, City Clerk **Frank Scott, Jr., Mayor**

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

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Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney

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