ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE TO DECLARE IT IMPRACTICAL AND UNFEASIBLE TO BID; TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN CONTRACT WITH THE ARKANSAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTEEN THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY-THREE AND 11/100 DOLLARS ($518,673.11) FOR CITY MEMBERSHIP TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2027 MUNICIPAL LEAGUE DEFENSE PROGRAM TO COVER CERTAIN LITIGATION EXPENSES, TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Municipal League acts as Arkansas municipalities' official representative before the state and federal governments, provides litigation defense to participating municipalities, their officials and employees through the Municipal League Defense Program to mitigate the impact of legal actions, and access to League educational information; and,

WHEREAS, when the City or its employees are named as defendants in civil rights causes of action at the State and Federal level, not only is there cost associated with litigating these cases, but there is also the potential liability should the City or its employee be found liable; and,

WHEREAS, instead of purchasing an annual insurance policy for this risk, the City elected to purchase an annual membership to participate in the Municipal League Defense Program administered by the Arkansas Municipal League; and,

WHEREAS, current program coverage for the City ends on December 31, 2026, and it is critical to have this membership in place on January 1, 2027; and,

WHEREAS, the City's 2026 AML membership and premium cost was Four Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand, Four Hundred Thirteen and 36/100 Dollars ($498,413.86); and,

WHEREAS, due to the City's potential loss liability, the 2027 Municipal Legal Defense Program membership premium has increased by Twenty Thousand, Two Hundred Fifty-Nine and 25/100 Dollars ($20,259.25) to Five Hundred Eighteen Thousand, Six Hundred Seventy-Three and 11/100 Dollars ($518,673.11) per the Arkansas Municipal League invoice attached hereto as Exhibit A.

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 the Arkansas Municipal League

in an amount not to exceed Five Hundred Eighteen Thousand, Six Hundred Seventy-Three and 11/100 Dollars ($518,673.11), for City membership to participate in the 2027 Municipal League Defense Program to cover certain litigation expenses.

Section 2. The Board of Directors of the City of Little Rock declares that it is impractical and unfeasible to subject participation in this Program to a competitive bid selection process because such defense pool participation is designed to allow which enables the City to provide its own legal counsel for the litigation of these matters and is not available in the insurance marketplace because it is not liability insurance and, therefore, waives competitive bidding requirement.

Section 2. The Board of Directors finds that it is impractical and unfeasible to bid for such a contract as this is an insurance pool not Liability Insurance which enables the City to provide its own legal counsel for the litigation of these matters.

Section 3. The City expressly reserves the right to terminate this agreement, without penalty, at any time during 2027 if, after a competitive selection process, the City determines a different method to provide such coverage that assures the City has ultimate control over litigation, can use the Office of the City Attorney for the trial of these matter if desired, and that any and all settlements will comply with the provisions of Little Rock, Ark., Code § 2-241 (Ed. 1988), as amended by Little Rock, Ark., Ordinance No. 22,069 (November 16, 2021).

Commented [LR1]: Is coverage the correct word given this is not insurance?

Section 4. Funds for this expenditure are allocated annually in General Fund Account No. 100000-63630.

Section 5. ***Severability.*** In the event any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this ordinance is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the ordinance which shall remain in full force and effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional was not originally a part of the ordinance.

Section 6. ***Repealer.*** All ordinances, resolutions, bylaws, and other matters, or parts of thereof, which are in conflict with any provision of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 7. ***Emergency Clause.*** *The City's ability to participate in the Municipal Leage Defense Program is essential to the public health, safety, and welfare, and therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its passage so there is no question that the City is a part of this pool on January 1, 2027.*

PASSED: NOVEMBER 17, 2026

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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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EXHIBIT A

ARKANSAS
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

INVOICE

PO BOX 38
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR 72115
501.374.3484



LITTLE ROCK
Nicholas Sarpy
500 W. Markham St., Rm 208
Little Rock, AR 72201

November 3, 2026

2027 Annual Service Charge & MLDP Premium — Invoice Number: AML27-00005 Revised

AML Service Charge	
$40.00 Plus $0.35 Per Capita	$70,946.85
Discount $0.14 Per Capita (applied based on AML program participation)	-$28,362.74
Yearly membership dues allow access to League educational and information materials, as well as membership in the National League of Cities. To participate in the League programs, membership is required.	
Optional: Municipal Legal Defense Program (MLDP)	
$2.35 Per Capita	$476,089.00
(Per capita fee based on loss experience of participant)	
MLDP membership provides municipalities and municipal officials and employees legal defense and monetary coverage for police actions taken on duty, as well as certain employment actions. The Program also provides legal defense in land use, ADA, FLSA, illegal exaction, and other types of actions within the terms of the Program brochure, accessible online at https://armuni.org/MLDP. In addition to the litigation benefits MLDP members receive grants assistance and legal advice through the inquiry team.	
Total 2027 AML and MLDP Services	**$518,673.11**

Due Date: March 1, 2027