

Decision Paper

Georgia Rakowitz

Request for Extension of LOD Leave

Issue

Georgia Rakowitz, Fire Captain, assigned to Aviation, seeks an extension of Line of Duty leave from January 19, 2015 to May 25, 2015 for injuries suffered while on duty on April 2, 2005. This extension will restore 752 hours, or 94 eight hour shifts of accrued leave. In accordance with Texas Local Government Code Chapter 143.073, this extension requires an approval by City Council. The department needs to submit a request for ordinance that will include the Fire Chief's recommendation.

Facts

- Date of injury – April 2, 2005.
- Fire Captain Rakowitz injured her mid to lower back, when she jumped over a charged line off the steps of the apparatus and landed on the pavement with her legs straight.
- She was diagnosed with failed back syndrome and underwent a four level lumbar spine surgery on July 31, 2014.
- Captain Rakowitz developed post-operative complications with significant wound drainage resulting in an operative incision and drainage performed on August 6, 2014.
- Fire Captain Rakowitz underwent extensive post operative physical therapy and pain management care.
- On Line of Duty leave from April 2, 2005 to August 29, 2005, November 24, 2010 to December 21, 2010 and July 16, 2014 to January 18, 2015. She began using her own leave on January 19, 2015 to May 25, 2015.
- Fire Captain Georgia Rakowitz returned to duty on May 26, 2015.

Considerations

Recommendation

Fire Department staff recommends approval.

Approved Disapproved

Charles N. Hood, Fire Chief

Date

12/21/15