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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITIZENS, FIRE FIGHTERS AND POLICE JOIN TOGETHER TO SUPPORT PUBLIC SAFETY PROPOSAL

RESCUE NORMAN COMMITTEE FORMED

Norman residents concerned with the lack of adequate police and fire protection and the memberships of Norman Fire Fighters, International Association of Fire Fighters, Lodge 2067, and the Norman Fraternal Order of Police, Bratcher-Minor Memorial Lodge #122, have joined together to form a committee to support the passage of the Public Safety sales tax increase on the May 13 ballot.

Officers of The Committee to Rescue Norman are Co-Chairpersons: Lori Burks, Butch Crawford, Kurt Holley, Stephen A. Lucas, Tim McDermott, and Teddy Wilson. Gary Schmidt is the Treasurer.

Butch Crawford, Fire Fighter and President of IAFF remarked, "For a half-penny, we can hire an additional 30 Fire Fighter and build two new Fire Stations. In emergencies, lives can be saved when we have enough fire fighters and trucks to respond and Fire Stations within 5 minutes of the crisis. We are the first responders to medical emergencies, such as heart attacks, strokes, cutting accident victims out of their cars, injury accidents, etc. Last year we responded to 10,470 calls for service, up 45% in the last 5 years."

"Simply put, it's all about safety; safety for the citizens of Norman and safety for the men and women who risk their lives daily to protect Norman families and businesses. When someone is breaking in to your house, or you are being assaulted, or your child is lost, every second counts. No one in a crisis should have to wait for help. Often the only Officer available to respond is coming from the other side of town from another crisis because we do not have enough officers. This half penny is a small price to pay to protect our families, neighborhoods, businesses, streets, and parks," explained Officer and FOP President Stephen A. Lucas.

Norman is growing, but the size of the Police Force and Fire Department does not. We continue to add more neighborhoods and retail businesses without adding the necessary public safety components. For a half-cent, Norman can be a safer place to live, raise our children, and work.

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