CINCINNATI FINANCIAL CORP
Form 8-K
October 12, 2018

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 OR 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report: October 11, 2018
(Date of earliest event reported)

CINCINNATI FINANCIAL CORPORATION
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Ohio	0-4604	31-0746871
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

6200 S. Gilmore Road, Fairfield, Ohio	45014-5141
(Address of principal executive offices)	(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (513) 870-2000

N/A
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

¨ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
¨ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
¨ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
¨ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13a-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§203.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

¨ Emerging growth company

¨ If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.

On October 11, 2018, Cincinnati Financial Corporation (the “Company”) entered into an agreement (the “SPA”) for the sale and purchase of the entire issued share capital of MSP Underwriting Limited (“MSP”), by and between the Company and Münchener Rückversicherungs Gesellschaft AG (“Munich Re”), pursuant to which the Company agreed to purchase, and Munich Re agreed to sell, all of the issued and outstanding share capital of MSP and its subsidiaries, which includes the Lloyds' managing agent, Beaufort Underwriting Agency Limited for Lloyd's Syndicate 318 (the “Transaction”), subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions (referred to below).

As aggregate consideration for the purchase of the share capital of MSP and its subsidiaries, the Company will pay £102 million in cash at the closing of the Transaction, subject to post-closing adjustment based on the net asset value of MSP and its subsidiaries as of the completion of the Transaction, determined as set forth in the SPA. The closing of the Transaction is subject to the satisfaction or waiver of customary closing conditions, such as receipt of certain regulatory approvals, including approval of the U.K. Prudential Regulation Authority, the U.K. Financial Conduct Authority and Franchise Board and Council of Lloyd's. The SPA contains customary warranties and undertakings made by each of the Company and Munich Re, subject to the terms and limitations described in the SPA. The SPA will terminate if certain closing conditions are not satisfied, including receipt of the previously referenced regulatory approvals, on or prior to April 11, 2019.

On October 12, 2018, the Company issued a news release announcing the signing of the SPA and scheduling a webcast and conference call to discuss the proposed transaction. A copy of the news release is furnished herewith as Exhibit 99.1.

On October 12, 2018, the Company also made available an investor presentation regarding the Transaction. A copy of the investor presentation is furnished herewith as Exhibit 99.2.

The foregoing information, including the Exhibits referenced in this Item 7.01, is being furnished pursuant to this Item 7.01 and shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise be subject to the liabilities of that section, and shall not be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

99.1 News Release dated October 12, 2018, titled "Cincinnati Financial Signs Agreement to Acquire MSP Underwriting Limited from Munich Re"

99.2 Investor Presentation, dated October 12, 2018

Safe Harbor

This is our “Safe Harbor” statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Our business is subject to certain risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially from those suggested by the forward-looking statements in this report. Some of those risks and uncertainties are discussed in our 2017 Annual Report on Form 10-K, Item 1A, Risk Factors, Page 30.

Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to:

- The fact that the consummation of the Transaction is subject to closing conditions, one or more of which may not be satisfied, or that the Transaction is not consummated for any other reason
- Our inability to integrate MSP and its subsidiaries into our on-going operations, or disruptions to our on-going operations due to such integration
- Unusually high levels of catastrophe losses due to risk concentrations, changes in weather patterns, environmental events, terrorism incidents or other causes
- Increased frequency and/or severity of claims or development of claims that are unforeseen at the time of policy issuance
- Inadequate estimates, assumptions or reliance on third-party data used for critical accounting estimates
- Declines in overall stock market values negatively affecting the company’s equity portfolio and book value
- Prolonged low interest rate environment or other factors that limit the company’s ability to generate growth in investment income or interest rate fluctuations that result in declining values of fixed-maturity investments, including declines in accounts in which we hold bank-owned life insurance contract assets
- Domestic and global events resulting in capital market or credit market uncertainty, followed by prolonged periods of economic instability or recession, that lead to:

Significant or prolonged decline in the fair value of a particular security or group of securities and impairment of the asset(s)

Significant decline in investment income due to reduced or eliminated dividend payouts from a particular security or group of securities

Significant rise in losses from surety and director and officer policies written for financial institutions or other insured entities

- Recession or other economic conditions resulting in lower demand for insurance products or increased payment delinquencies
- Difficulties with technology or data security breaches, including cyberattacks, that could negatively affect our ability to conduct business; disrupt our relationships with agents, policyholders and others; cause reputational damage, mitigation expenses and data loss and expose us to liability under federal and state laws
- Disruption of the insurance market caused by technology innovations such as driverless cars that could decrease consumer demand for insurance products
- Delays, inadequate data developed internally or from third parties, or performance inadequacies from ongoing development and implementation of underwriting and pricing methods, including telematics and other usage-based insurance methods, or technology projects and enhancements expected to increase our pricing accuracy, underwriting profit and competitiveness
- Increased competition that could result in a significant reduction in the company’s premium volume
- Changing consumer insurance-buying habits and consolidation of independent insurance agencies that could alter our competitive advantages
- Inability to obtain adequate ceded reinsurance on acceptable terms, amount of reinsurance coverage purchased, financial strength of reinsurers and the potential for nonpayment or delay in payment by reinsurers

- Inability to defer policy acquisition costs for any business segment if pricing and loss trends would lead management to conclude that segment could not achieve sustainable profitability

- Inability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends consistent with current or past levels
- Events or conditions that could weaken or harm the company's relationships with its independent agencies and hamper opportunities to add new agencies, resulting in limitations on the company's opportunities for growth, such as:
  - Downgrades of the company's financial strength ratings
  - Concerns that doing business with the company is too difficult
  - Perceptions that the company's level of service, particularly claims service, is no longer a distinguishing characteristic in the marketplace
  - Inability or unwillingness to nimbly develop and introduce coverage product updates and innovations that our competitors offer and consumers expect to find in the marketplace
- Actions of insurance departments, state attorneys general or other regulatory agencies, including a change to a federal system of regulation from a state-based system, that:
  - Impose new obligations on us that increase our expenses or change the assumptions underlying our critical accounting estimates
  - Place the insurance industry under greater regulatory scrutiny or result in new statutes, rules and regulations
  - Restrict our ability to exit or reduce writings of unprofitable coverages or lines of business
  - Add assessments for guaranty funds, other insurance related assessments or mandatory reinsurance arrangements; or that impair our ability to recover such assessments through future surcharges or other rate changes
  - Increase our provision for federal income taxes due to changes in tax law
  - Increase our other expenses
  - Limit our ability to set fair, adequate and reasonable rates
  - Place us at a disadvantage in the marketplace
  - Restrict our ability to execute our business model, including the way we compensate agents
- Adverse outcomes from litigation or administrative proceedings
- Events or actions, including unauthorized intentional circumvention of controls, that reduce the company's future ability to maintain effective internal control over financial reporting under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
- Unforeseen departure of certain executive officers or other key employees due to retirement, health or other causes that could interrupt progress toward important strategic goals or diminish the effectiveness of certain longstanding relationships with insurance agents and others
- Events, such as an epidemic, natural catastrophe or terrorism, that could hamper our ability to assemble our workforce at our headquarters location

Further, the company's insurance businesses are subject to the effects of changing social, global, economic and regulatory environments. Public and regulatory initiatives have included efforts to adversely influence and restrict premium rates, restrict the ability to cancel policies, impose underwriting standards and expand overall regulation. The company also is subject to public and regulatory initiatives that can affect the market value for its common stock, such as measures affecting corporate financial reporting and governance. The ultimate changes and eventual effects, if any, of these initiatives are uncertain.

Signature

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

CINCINNATI FINANCIAL CORPORATION

Date: October 12, 2018 /S/ Michael J. Sewell
Michael J. Sewell, CPA

Chief Financial Officer, Senior Vice President and Treasurer
(Principal Accounting Officer)