

**TANGIPAOA PARISH FIRE PROTECTION  
DISTRICT NO. 1  
AMITE, LOUISIANA**

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
AS OF AND FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**  
**Amite, Louisiana**

Annual Financial Statements

As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023  
With Supplementary Information Schedules

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## Independent Auditor's Report

Mr. E. Ray Glasgow, Chairman, and  
Members of the Board of Commissioners  
Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1  
Amite, Louisiana

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### ***Opinion***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the general fund of Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1, a component unit of the Tangipahoa Parish Council, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the governmental activities and the major fund of Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1 as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### ***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Fire District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Fire District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

### ***Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements as a whole are free of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fire District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Fire District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### ***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information on pages 5 through 10 and 37 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquires of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquires, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### ***Supplementary Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Fire District's basic financial statements. The schedule of compensation paid board of commissioners – schedule 2, and the schedule of compensation, benefits, and other payments to agency head or chief executive officer – schedule 3, listed as other supplementary information in the table of contents, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements of the Fire District.

The schedules 2 and 3 are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedules 2 and 3 are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

The list of insurance policies in force marked “unaudited” has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

### **Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 30, 2024, on our consideration of the Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Governmental Auditing Standards* in considering the Fire District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Peddlahere & Co, LLP*

June 30, 2024  
Metairie, Louisiana

## **Management's Discussion and Analysis**

# **Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**

## **Amite, Louisiana**

### Management's Discussion and Analysis

December 31, 2023

As management of the Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1, Amite, Louisiana (the "Fire District"), we offer readers of the Fire District's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Fire District for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. This management discussion and analysis ("MD&A") is designed to provide an objective and easy to read analysis of the Fire District's financial activities based on currently known facts, decisions, or conditions. It is intended to provide readers with a broad overview of the Fire District's finances. It is also intended to provide readers with an analysis of the Fire District's short-term and long-term activities based on information presented in the financial report and fiscal policies that have been adopted by the Fire District. Specifically, this section is designed to assist the reader in focusing on significant financial issues, provide an overview of the Fire District's financial activity, identify changes in the Fire District's financial position (its ability to address the next and subsequent year challenges), identify any material deviations from the financial plan (the approved budget), and identify individual fund issues or concerns.

As with other sections of this financial report, the information contained within this MD&A should be considered only a part of a greater whole. The readers of this statement should take time to read and evaluate all sections of this report, including the footnotes and the other Required Supplemental Information ("RSI") that is provided in addition to this MD&A.

#### **Overview of the Financial Statements**

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Fire District's financial statements. The Fire District's basic financial statements consist of the following components:

1. Government-Wide Financial Statements
2. Fund Financial Statements
3. Notes to the Financial Statements
4. Other Supplementary Information, which is in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

#### **1. Government-Wide Financial Statements**

Government-Wide financial statements are designed by GASB Statement No. 34 to change the way in which government financial statements are presented. It now provides readers for the first time a concise "entity-wide" Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities, seeking to give the user of the financial statements a broad overview of the Fire District's financial position and results of operations in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

- A. The *Statement of Net Position* presents information on all of the Fire District's assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. The difference between the assets and liabilities is reported as Net Position. Over time, increases or decreases in Net Position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Fire District is improving or weakening.
- B. The *Statement of Activities* presents information showing how the Fire District's Net Position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in Net Position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g., uncollected taxes or fees).

**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**  
**Amite, Louisiana**

Management's Discussion and Analysis

December 31, 2023

**Government-Wide Financial Analysis**

As noted earlier, Net Position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. The following table provides a summary of the Fire District's Net Position for the current year as compared to the prior year. For a more detailed analysis, see the Statement of Net Position on Statement A of this report.

	Government Activities			
	2023	2022	\$ Change	% Change
<b>Assets:</b>				
Current and Other Assets	\$ 5,637,705	\$ 5,008,836	\$ 628,869	12.56%
Capital Assets	3,130,322	3,019,264	111,058	3.68%
Total Assets	\$ 8,768,027	\$ 8,028,100	\$ 739,927	9.22%
<b>Liabilities:</b>				
Current Liabilities	\$ 272,633	\$ 255,138	\$ 17,495	6.86%
Long-term Liabilities	525,063	538,543	(13,480)	-2.50%
Total Liabilities	\$ 797,696	\$ 793,681	\$ 4,015	0.51%
<b>Net Position:</b>				
Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 2,591,467	\$ 2,465,956	\$ 125,511	5.09%
Restricted	187,332	35,776	151,556	423.62%
Unrestricted	5,191,532	4,732,687	458,845	9.70%
Total Net Position	\$ 7,970,331	\$ 7,234,419	\$ 735,912	10.17%

A portion of the Fire District's Net Position reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g., equipment, furniture, etc.), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. The Fire District uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending.

A portion of the Fire District's Net Position is restricted for debt service. The remaining balance of unrestricted Net Position (or \$5,191,532) may be used to meet the Fire District's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

At the end of the current fiscal year, the Fire District is able to report positive balances in both categories of Net Position. The same situation held true for the prior fiscal year.

To further understand what makes up the changes in Net Position, the following table provides a summary of the results of the Fire District's operating activities for the current year as compared to the prior year. An analysis of the primary sources of these changes follows the table. For a more detailed analysis, see the Statement of Activities on Statement B of this report.



**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**  
**Amite, Louisiana**

Management's Discussion and Analysis

December 31, 2023

	Government Activities		\$ Change	% Change
	2023	2022		
Revenues:				
Program Revenues:				
Grants and Contributions	\$ 87,854	\$ 13,596	\$ 74,258	100.00%
General Revenues:				
Ad Valorem Taxes	684,469	622,368	62,101	9.98%
Sales Tax Revenue	1,437,764	1,348,498	89,266	6.62%
Other Revenues	929,248	723,724	205,524	28.40%
Total Revenues	\$ 3,139,335	\$ 2,708,186	\$ 431,149	15.92%
Expenses:				
Operations	\$ (2,171,360)	\$ (2,124,564)	\$ 46,796	2.20%
Debt Service-Interest	(22,585)	(23,194)	(609)	-2.63%
Depreciation	(209,478)	(185,277)	24,201	13.06%
Total Expenses	\$ (2,403,423)	\$ (2,333,035)	\$ 70,388	3.02%
Changes in Net Position	\$ 735,912	\$ 375,151	\$ 360,761	96.16%
Net Position, Beginning of Year	\$ 7,234,419	\$ 6,859,268	\$ 375,151	5.47%
Net Position, End of Year	\$ 7,970,331	\$ 7,234,419	\$ 735,912	10.17%

Grants and Contributions increased due to state funds received under a cooperative endeavor agreement of \$82,714, and a grant received from Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation for safety equipment.

The Fire District's revenue from ad valorem taxes increased by \$62,101 or 9.98%. Sales tax revenue increased by \$89,266 or 6.62%. Other revenues increased by \$205,524 or 28.40%.

Operations expenses increased largely due to an increase in insurance of \$17,161, an increase in employee medical and training of \$15,878, and an increase in salaries and related benefits of \$57,780.

Depreciation expense increased by \$24,201 or 13.06%.

**Governmental Activities**

The Governmental Activities of the District include General Government. Ad valorem taxes (22.41%) and sales taxes (46.63%) fund these governmental activities.

**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1  
Amite, Louisiana**

Management's Discussion and Analysis

December 31, 2023

Here we show the Fire District's expenditures related to those functions typically associated with governments:

	Amount	Percentage
Public Safety - Fire	\$ 2,171,358	85.05%
Capital Outlay	346,014	13.55%
Debt Service	35,776	1.40%
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 2,553,148	100.00%

General revenues are those available for the Fire District to use to pay for the governmental activities described above. The following chart shows the Fire District's general revenues.

	Amount	Percentage
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 691,153	22.41%
State Revenue Sharing	23,406	0.76%
Fire Insurance Rebate	78,909	2.55%
Fire District No. 2	81,888	2.66%
Sales Tax Revenue	1,437,764	46.63%
State Supplemental Pay	129,874	4.21%
City Sales Tax Appropriation	320,000	10.38%
Interest Income	46,595	1.51%
Other Revenues	274,080	8.89%
Total General Revenues	\$ 3,083,669	100.00%

Sales taxes are the largest source of revenue for the Fire District, comprising 46.63% of governmental revenue. Ad valorem taxes are another large source of revenue, comprising 22.41% of governmental revenue. For the year ended December 31, 2023, taxes of 15 mills were levied on property inside of the Fire District's limits. The Fire District's taxable assessed valuations increased \$1,486,321 from \$43,745,645 to \$45,231,966.

**2. Fund Financial Statements**

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Fire District, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the Fire District consist of one category: governmental funds.

A. Governmental funds are used to account for most of the Fire District's basic services reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. These funds are reported using modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Fire District's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund

**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**  
**Amite, Louisiana**

Management's Discussion and Analysis

December 31, 2023

information helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the Fire District's programs.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for government funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities. These reconciliations are located on pages 15 and 17.

The Fire District maintains one governmental fund, the General Fund. Information is presented for this fund on Statements C and E of this report.

*Financial Analysis of the Governmental Funds*

As of the end of the current fiscal year, the General Fund reported an ending fund balance of \$5,341,851.

The Fire District retains a reasonable surplus in the General Fund for unforeseen future emergencies such as natural disasters, decrease in economic conditions, emergency capital outlay requirements, and other similar conditions.

**3. Notes to the Financial Statements**

The notes to the financial statements provide additional information that is essential for a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements can be found on the pages indicated in the table of contents.

**4. Other Supplementary Information**

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information. Required supplementary information can be found in Schedule 1 of this report.

A. Budgetary Comparison Schedule – The Fire District adopts an annual appropriated budget for the General Fund. Budgetary comparison statements have been provided for this fund to demonstrate compliance with this budget in Schedule 1.

B. Analysis of Significant Budget Variances in the Fire District's General Fund:

1. Revenues:

- a. The amount budgeted for ad valorem tax revenue was under-budgeted due to an increase in valuations.
- b. The amount budgeted for sales tax revenue was under-budgeted. This was the result of an increase in sales tax collections as compared to the previous year.

**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**  
**Amite, Louisiana**

Management's Discussion and Analysis

December 31, 2023

2. Expenditures:

- a. Salaries and related benefits were over-budgeted due to changes in personnel, which reduced actual salaries.
- b. Insurance was underbudgeted due to unexpected rate increases.

**Capital Assets**

The Fire District's net investment in capital assets for its governmental activities as of December 31, 2023, amounts to \$3,130,322 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes land, improvements, and equipment. The total increase in the Fire District's investment in capital assets for 2023 was \$111,058 or 3.68%, mainly due to the acquisition of land and equipment and corresponding depreciation expense.

Major capital additions during the current fiscal year include equipment purchased at a cost of \$210,838, land improvements of \$12,291, and construction in progress including architect design on the training facility project of \$122,886.

Additional information on the Fire District's capital assets can be found in Note 6 of this report.

**Requests for Information**

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Fire District's finances for all those with an interest in the government's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to Mrs. Agnes Prevost, Post Office Box 279, Amite, Louisiana, 70422.

## **Financial Statements**

**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**  
**Amite, Louisiana**

Statement A

Statement of Net Position

December 31, 2023

**Assets**

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 3,877,148
Investments	551,269
Receivables (Net of Allowances for Uncollectibles)	1,001,773
Prepaid Expense	20,183
Cash-Restricted	187,332
Net Investment in Capital Assets	<u>3,130,322</u>
Total Assets	<u>8,768,027</u>

**Liabilities**

Accounts Payable	26,148
Retainage Payable	14,370
Accrued Interest Payable	8,891
Sheriff's Pension Fund Payable	25,536
Accounts Payable Payroll Liabilities	33,896
Funds Held in Escrow	150,000
Long-term Liabilities - USDA Loan	
Due within one year	13,792
Due after one year	<u>525,063</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>797,696</u>

**Net Position**

Net Investment in Capital Assets	2,591,467
Restricted	187,332
Unrestricted	<u>5,191,532</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 7,970,331</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**  
**Amite, Louisiana**

Statement B

Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

**Expenditures/Expenses**

Salaries and Related Benefits	\$ (1,577,071)
Salaries - Supplemental Pay	(129,874)
Compensation Paid Board Members	(1,500)
Sheriff's Pension Fund	(25,536)
Employee Medical and Training	(24,859)
Insurance	(182,943)
911 Dispatch	(7,154)
Operating Supplies	(82,260)
Professional Fees	(46,772)
Repairs and Maintenance	(43,172)
Telephone and Utilities	(32,357)
Other	(17,862)
Depreciation	(209,478)
Interest	<u>(22,585)</u>
Total Expenditures	(2,403,423)

**Program Revenues**

Grants and Contributions	<u>87,854</u>
Net Program Revenues (Expenses)	<u>(2,315,569)</u>

**General Revenues**

Ad Valorem Taxes	684,469
Sales Tax Revenue	1,437,764
State Revenue Sharing	23,378
City Sales Tax Appropriation	320,000
Fire Insurance Rebate	78,909
Fire District No. 2	81,888
State Supplemental Pay	129,874
Interest Income	46,595
Other Revenues	<u>248,604</u>
Total General Revenues	<u>3,051,481</u>

**Change In Net Position**

735,912

**Net Position**

Beginning of the year	<u>7,234,419</u>
End of the year	<u>\$ 7,970,331</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**  
**Amite, Louisiana**

Statement C

Balance Sheet – Governmental Fund

December 31, 2023

	<u>General Fund</u>
<b>Assets</b>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 3,877,148
Investments	551,269
Receivables (Net of Allowances for Uncollectibles)	1,001,773
Prepaid expenses	20,183
Cash-Restricted	<u>187,332</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 5,637,705</u>
 <b>Liabilities</b>	
Accounts payable	\$ 26,148
Retainage Payable	14,370
Accrued Interest Payable	8,344
Sheriff's Pension Fund Payable	25,536
Accounts Payable Payroll Liabilities	33,896
Funds Held in Escrow	<u>150,000</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>258,294</u>
 <b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	
Deferred Ad Valorem Tax and Revenue Sharing	<u>37,560</u>
 <b>Fund Balance / Net Position</b>	
Fund Balance	
Nonspendable - Prepaid Items	20,183
Restricted	187,332
Assigned	713,552
Unassigned	<u>4,420,784</u>
Total Fund Balance	<u>5,341,851</u>
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows and Fund Balance	<u>\$ 5,637,705</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.



**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**  
**Amite, Louisiana**

Statement D

Reconciliation Of The Governmental Fund Balance Sheet  
To The Government-Wide Statement Of Net Position

December 31, 2023

Total Fund Balances, Governmental Fund \$ 5,341,851

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the  
statement of net position are different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not  
financial resources and therefore are not reported in  
the funds. The assets consist of:

Governmental capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation 3,130,322

Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period,  
and therefore are not reported in the governmental funds:

USDA Loan payable (538,855)  
Changes in accrued interest payable (547)

Deferred outflows and inflows are not financial  
resources or currently payable:

Deferred inflows 37,560

Total Net Position, Governmental Activities \$ 7,970,331

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**  
**Amite, Louisiana**

Statement E

Statement Of Revenues, Expenditures, And Changes In Fund Balances  
 Governmental Fund

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	<u>General Fund</u>
<b>Revenues</b>	
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 691,153
Sales Tax Revenue	1,437,764
State Revenue Sharing	23,406
City Sales Tax Appropriation	320,000
Fire Insurance Rebate	78,909
Fire District No. 2	81,888
State Supplemental Pay	129,874
Interest Income	46,595
Grants and Contributions	87,854
Other Revenues	274,080
Total Revenues	3,171,523
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Salaries and Related Benefits	1,577,071
Salaries - Supplemental Pay	129,874
Compensation Paid Board Members	1,500
Sheriff's Pension Fund	25,536
Employee Medical and Training	24,859
Insurance	182,943
911 Dispatch	7,154
Operating Supplies	82,260
Professional Fees	46,772
Repairs and Maintenance	43,172
Telephone and Utilities	32,357
Other	17,860
Capital Outlay	346,014
Debt Service:	
Principal	14,453
Interest	21,323
Total Expenditures	2,553,148
<b>Excess Of Revenues Over Expenditures</b>	618,375
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	-
<b>Net Change In Fund Balance</b>	618,375
<b>Fund Balances At Beginning Of Year</b>	4,723,476
<b>Fund Balances At End Of Year</b>	\$ 5,341,851

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**  
**Amite, Louisiana**

Statement F

Reconciliation Of The Statement Of Revenues, Expenditures,  
 And Changes In Fund Balances Of Governmental Fund  
 To The Government-Wide Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Total Net Change In Fund Balances, Governmental Fund	\$	618,375
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Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

Capital outlays are reported in governmental funds as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of these assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. These differences consist of:

Capital outlay	\$	346,014	
Disposition of capital assets		(25,478)	
Depreciation expense		<u>(209,478)</u>	111,058

Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the governmental funds, but rather are deferred to subsequent fiscal years.

Change in unavailable revenues related to receivables		(7,427)
---	--	---------

The issuance of long-term debt provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of the long-term debt consumes current financial resources of governmental funds.

Principal payments		14,453
--------------------	--	--------

Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require use of current financial resources and are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.

Change in accrued interest		<u>(547)</u>
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Change In Net Position, Governmental Activities	\$	<u><u>735,912</u></u>
---	----	-----------------------

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**  
**Amite, Louisiana**

Notes to the Financial Statements  
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

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# Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1

## Amite, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements  
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

### Introduction

The Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1 (hereinafter referred to as the “Fire District”) was created by the Tangipahoa Parish Council as authorized by Act 194 of the 1942 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. The Fire District was created for the purpose of acquiring, maintaining, and operating buildings, machinery, equipment, water tanks, water hydrants and waterlines, and other things necessary to provide proper fire prevention and control of the property within the Fire District. The boundaries of the Fire District encompass and provide fire protection to approximately 11,200 residents. The Fire District is governed by a board of commissioners consisting of five members who are resident taxpayers of the Fire District. These five commissioners are referred to as the Board of Commissioners. Two members are appointed by the Tangipahoa Parish Council and two members are appointed by the Town of Amite, the municipal corporation located within the Fire District. The fifth board member is selected by the other four board members and serves as chairman. The members serve terms of two years. Vacancies are filled by the bodies making the original appointments.

At the present time, the Fire District employs a total of twenty-three (23) employees to include a fire chief, secretary, and twenty-one (21) full and part time firefighters. The Fire District maintains an office, two fire stations in Amite, Louisiana, and substations in Velma, Louisiana and Arcola, Louisiana.

### 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### A. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying basic financial statements of the District have been prepared in conformity with governmental accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. These financial statements are presented in accordance with GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements, Management’s Discussion and Analysis, for State and Local Governments*. The definition and composition of these statements, as originally defined in GASB Statement No. 34, are as amended by GASB Statements included in the following paragraphs.

#### B. Financial Reporting Entity

As the governing authority of the Parish, for reporting purposes, the Tangipahoa Parish Council is the financial reporting entity for Tangipahoa Parish. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) primary government (parish council), (b) organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable, and (c) other organizations for which the nature and significance of the relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity’s financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 14 established criteria for determining which component units should be considered part of the Tangipahoa Parish Council for financial reporting purposes. The basic criterion for including a potential component unit with the reporting entity is financial

# **Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**

## **Amite, Louisiana**

Notes to the Financial Statements  
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

accountability. The GASB has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. This criteria includes:

1. Appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body, and
  - a. The ability of the parish council to impose its will on that organization and / or
  - b. The potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the parish council.
2. Organizations for which the parish council does not appoint a voting majority but are fiscally dependent on the parish council.
3. Organizations for which the reporting entity's financial statements would be misleading if data of the organization were not included because of the nature or significance of the relationship.

Because the parish council appoints two board members and has approval over their taxing authority, the Fire District was determined to be a component unit of the Tangipahoa Parish Council, the financial reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the fund maintained by the Fire District and do not present information on the parish council, the general government services provided by that governmental unit, or other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity.

### C. Fund Accounting

The Fire District uses funds to report on its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions relating to certain government functions or activities.

A fund is defined as a separate fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Funds of the Fire District are classified as follows:

#### *Governmental Fund*

General Fund – The General Fund is the general operating fund of the Fire District. It is used to account or all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

### D. Basis of Accounting

The amounts reflected in the Governmental Funds of Statements C and E, are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. The statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances reports on the sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach is then reconciled, through adjustment, to a government-wide view of Fire District operations.

# Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1

## Amite, Louisiana

### Notes to the Financial Statements As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

The amounts reflected in the Governmental Funds of Statements C and E use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e., when they become both measurable and available). Measurement means the amount of the transaction can be determined and available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. The Fire District considers all revenues available if they are collected within 60 days after the fiscal year end. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for interest and principal payments on general long-term debt which is recognized when due, and certain compensated absences and claims and judgments which are recognized when the obligations are expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources.

The governmental funds use the following practices in recording revenues and expenditures:

#### *Revenues*

Ad valorem taxes and related state revenue sharing are recorded in the year the taxes are assessed. Ad valorem taxes are assessed on a calendar year basis, become due on November 15 of each year, and become delinquent on December 31. The taxes are generally collected in December of the current year and January and February of the ensuing year.

Sales taxes are recorded in the year in which they are assessed and become due and payable. Interest income represents amounts earned on checking accounts and certificates of deposit invested with financial institutions. Interest earned on checking accounts and certificates of deposit is recorded when earned. Contractual and similar revenue is recognized using modified accrual basis, and nearly all other revenues are recorded when received.

#### *Expenditures*

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on long-term debt, which are not recognized until due.

#### E. Government-Wide Financial Statements

The Statement of Net Position (Statement A) and the Statement of Activities (Statement B) display information about the Fire District as a whole. These statements include all the financial activities of the Fire District. Information contained in these statements reflects the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources resulting from exchange or exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange occurs (regardless of when cash is received or disbursed).

Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources resulting from nonexchange transactions are recognized in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 33, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Nonexchange Transactions*.

# Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1

## Amite, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements  
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Reconciliation:

The reconciliation of the items reflected in the fund financial statements to the Statement of Net Position (Statement A) and the Statement of Activities (Statement B) for the year ended December 31, 2023, is as follows:

Statement A	
Record Net Capital Assets	\$ 3,130,322
Long Term Debt	(538,855)
Changes in accrued interest payable	(547)
Deferred Inflows of Resources	37,560
Net Effect of Changes	\$ 2,628,480

Statement B	
Capitalization of Capital Assets	\$ 346,014
Record Principal Payments	14,453
Changes in accrued interest payable	(547)
Disposition of capital assets	(25,478)
Record Depreciation Expense on Capital Assets	(209,478)
Net Effect of Differences in Deferred Inflows of Resources	(7,427)
Net Effect of Changes	\$ 117,537

F. Budgets

The Fire District uses the following budgetary practices in accordance with provisions of Louisiana R.S. 39:1301-1315:

1. The Fire District prepares a budget on the cash basis of accounting. The Fire District adopted a budget for the General Fund for 2023.
2. The Fire District's secretary and fire chief prepare the proposed budget and submit same to the chairman and board of commissioners no later than fifteen days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. The proposed budget for 2023 was presented to the chairman and board of commissioners on November 10, 2022.
3. A summary of the proposed budget is published in the official journal and the public is notified that the proposed budget is available for public inspection. At the same time, a public hearing is called. The proposed budget for 2023 was published in the official journal within the required time frame.



**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**  
**Amite, Louisiana**

Notes to the Financial Statements  
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

4. A public hearing is held on the proposed budget at least ten days after publication of the call for the hearing. The public hearing on the proposed budget for 2023 was held on December 15, 2022.
5. After the holding of the public hearing and completion of all actions necessary to finalize and implement the budget, the budget was adopted. The proposed budget for 2023 was adopted on December 15, 2022.
6. Budgetary amendments require the approval of the chairman and board of commissioners. The budget for 2023 was not amended.
7. All budgetary appropriations lapse at year-end.
8. Formal budgetary integration is not employed; however, monthly budget comparisons are made as a part of interim reporting. Budgeted amounts included in the accompanying financial statements include the adopted budget amounts. The amounts are reconciled to the amounts reflected on the budget comparison statements as follows:

Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over		
Expenditures (Statement E)	\$	618,375
Add: Prior Year Receivables		907,505
Current Year Payables		145,854
Prior Year Prepaid Expense		40,366
Less: Current Year Receivables		1,001,773
Current Year Prepaid Expense		20,183
Prior Year Payables		<u>285,360</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over		
Expenditures (Schedule 1)	\$	<u>404,784</u>

G. Encumbrances

The Fire District does not utilize encumbrance accounting.

H. Deposits and Investments

Cash includes amounts in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, time deposits and money market accounts. Cash equivalents include amounts in time deposits and those investments with original maturities of 90 days or less. Under state law, the Fire District may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, money market accounts, or time deposits with state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having their principal offices in Louisiana.

# Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1

## Amite, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements  
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Under state law, the Fire District may invest in United States bonds, treasury notes, or certificates. These are classified as investments if their original maturities exceed 90 days; however, if the original maturities are 90 days or less, they are classified as cash equivalents. Investments are stated at original cost.

### I. Inventories

The Fire District uses the purchase method for accounting for expendable supplies where expenditures are recognized when the items are purchased. The Fire District did not record any inventory at December 31, 2023.

### J. Prepaid Expense

Prepaid balances are for payments made by the Fire District in the current year to receive services occurring in a subsequent fiscal year.

### K. Capital Assets

Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated cost if historical cost is not available. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at their estimated fair market value at the date of donation.

Capital assets and depreciation are recorded in the Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities. Since surplus assets are sold for an immaterial amount when declared as no longer needed for public purposes, no salvage value is taken into consideration for depreciation purposes. All capital assets, other than land, are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

Description	Estimated Lives
Buildings	40
Communication and Electronic Equipment	10
Personal Protective Equipment	10 - 12
Firefighting Vehicles	7 - 25
Office & Station Furnishings and Miscellaneous	5 -20
Firefighting Equipment	10 - 15
Rescue Equipment	10

### L. Compensated Absences

The Fire District has the following policy relating to vacation and sick leave:

The Fire District's policy relating to vacation and sick leave is governed by Louisiana Fireman Civil Service Laws. After one year of continuous employment, each employee receives eighteen shifts of paid vacation. This vacation period shall be increased one shift for each year of service over ten years, up to a maximum vacation period of thirty shifts, all of which shall be with full pay. Vacation leave

# Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1

## Amite, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements  
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

must be taken when earned and cannot be accumulated past the employee's anniversary date. All firemen are entitled to sick leave for a period of not less than fifty-two weeks. Sick leave is forfeited at termination of employment.

The cost of current leave privileges, computed in accordance with GASB Codification Section C60, is recognized as a current year expenditure in the General Fund when leave is actually taken.

At December 31, 2023, the Fire District recorded no liability for accumulated vacation leave.

### M. Long-Term Obligations

In the government-wide financial statements, debt principal payments of government activities are reported as decreases in the balance of the liability on the Statement of Net Position. In the fund financial statements, however, debt principal payments of governmental funds are recognized as expenditures when paid.

### N. Fund Balance/Net Position

#### *Fund Balance*

GASB has issued Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, which defines the different types of fund balances that a governmental entity must use for financial reporting purposes. GASB 54 requires the fund balance amounts to be properly reported within one of the fund balance categories listed below.

1. Nonspendable fund balances are associated with inventories, prepaids, long-term loans and notes receivable, and property held for resale (unless the proceeds are restricted, committed, or assigned).
2. Restricted fund balances include amounts that can be spent only for the specific purposes stipulated by constitution, external resource providers, or through enabling legislation.
3. Committed fund balances include amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action of the Board of Commissioners (the District's highest level of decision-making authority).
4. Assigned fund balances are intended to be used by the District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed.
5. Unassigned fund balances are the residual classification for the District's general fund and include all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications.

The District's policy is to apply expenditures against nonspendable fund balances, restricted fund balances, committed fund balances, assigned fund balances, and unassigned fund balances, in that order, at the end of the fiscal year by adjusting journal entries.

The calculation of fund balance amounts begins with the determination of nonspendable fund balances. Then restricted fund balances for specific purposes are determined (not including non-spendable

# Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1

## Amite, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements  
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

amounts). Then any remaining fund balance amounts for the non-general funds are classified as restricted fund balance. It is possible for the non-general funds to have negative unassigned fund balance when non-spendable amounts plus the restricted fund balances for specific purposes amounts exceed the positive fund balance for the non-general fund.

### *Net Position*

GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements, Management's Discussion and Analysis, for State and Local Governments*, required reclassification of net position into three separate components. GASB Statement No. 63, *Financial Reporting of Deferred Outflows of Resources, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position*, revised the terminology by incorporating deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources into the definitions of the required components of the residual measure and by renaming that measure as net position, rather than net assets. GASB Statement No. 63 requires the following components of net position:

1. Net Investment in Capital Assets Component of Net Position – The net investment in capital assets component of net position consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. Deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets or related debt also should be included in this component of net position. If there are significant unspent related debt proceeds or deferred inflows of resources attributable to the unspent amount, that amount should not be included in the calculation of net investment in capital assets. Instead, that portion of the debt or deferred inflows of resources should be included in the same net position component (restricted or unrestricted) as the unspent amount.
2. Restricted Component of Net Position – The restricted component of net position consists of restricted assets reduced by liabilities and deferred inflows of resources related to those assets. Generally, a liability relates to restricted assets if the asset results from a resource flow that also results in the recognition of a liability or if the liability will be liquidated with the restricted assets reported.
3. Unrestricted Component of Net Position – The unrestricted component of net position is the net amount of the assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources that are not included in the determination of net investment in capital assets or the restricted component of net position.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Fire District's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

### O. Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

# Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1

## Amite, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements  
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

P. Sales and Use Taxes

In an election held July 19, 2003, the voters approved a one-half of one percent sales tax for providing a retirement system for the Fire District employees, hiring additional firefighters, and general operation of the District. The Fire District, through its governing authority, adopted a resolution on August 14, 2003, authorizing the imposition of the tax effective October 1, 2003.

The sales tax is collected by the Tangipahoa Parish School Board and remitted to the Fire District in the month following the receipt by the School Board. The School Board receives the sales tax approximately one month after collection by vendors. Sales taxes collected by the School Board in January and February have been accrued and are included under the caption "Accounts Receivable."

**2. Levied Taxes**

The following is a summary of authorized and levied ad valorem taxes:

	2023
General Fund	15.00 mils

Ad valorem taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property as of January 1 of each year. Taxes are levied by the Fire District during the year and actually billed to taxpayers and become due in November. Billed taxes become delinquent on December 31 of each year. Revenues from ad valorem taxes are budgeted in the year billed and recognized as revenue when billed. The Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office bills and collects the property taxes using the assessed value determined by the Tax Assessor of Tangipahoa Parish. The taxes are generally collected in December of the current year and January and February of the ensuing year. For 2023, the Fire District levied 15.00 mills for a total tax levy of \$678,487 on taxable property valuation totaling \$45,231,966.

**3. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

At December 31, 2023, the Fire District had cash and cash equivalents (book balances) totaling \$4,064,480 as follows:

Demand Deposits	\$ 2,043,665
LA Asset Management Pool Funds (LAMP)	2,020,815
Total	\$ 4,064,480

The bank deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, these deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These securities are held in the name of the pledging

# Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1

## Amite, Louisiana

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As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

fiscal agent bank in the holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. At December 31, 2023, the Fire District had \$2,053,540 in bank deposits (collected bank balances) and \$2,020,815 in LAMP (see below).

The bank deposits are secured from risk as follows:

Bank Balances	\$ <u>2,053,540</u>
Federal Deposit Insurance	500,000
Uncollateralized (Category 3)	
Pledged Securities	<u>1,553,540</u>
 Total	 <u>2,053,540</u>
 Un-Collateralized Bank Balance	 <u><u>\$ -</u></u>

The Fire District reports its investments in LAMP as cash due to the highly liquid nature of these deposits. LAMP is considered to be an external investment pool administered by LAMP, Inc., a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana. Only local government entities having contracted to participate in LAMP have an investment interest in its pool of assets. The primary objective of LAMP is to provide a safe environment for the placement of public funds in short-term, high quality investments. The LAMP portfolio includes only securities and other obligations in which local governments in Louisiana are authorized to invest in accordance with LA-R.S. 33:2955.

LAMP is an investment pool that, to the extent practical, invest in a manner consistent with GASB Statement No. 79. The following facts are relevant for investment pools:

- Credit risk: LAMP is rated AAAM by Standard & Poor's.
- Custodial credit risk: LAMP participants' investments in the pool are evidenced by shares of the pool. Investments in pools should be disclosed, but not categorized because they are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form. The public entity's investment is with the pool, not the securities that make up the pool; therefore, no disclosure is required.
- Concentration of credit risk: Pooled investments are excluded from the five percent disclosure requirement.
- Interest rate risk: LAMP is designed to be highly liquid to give its participants immediate access to their account balances. LAMP prepares its own interest rate risk disclosure using the weighted average maturity (WAM) method. The WAM of LAMP assets is restricted to not more than 900 days, and consists of no securities with a maturity in excess of 397 days or 762 days for U.S. Government floating/variable rate investments. The WAM for LAMP's total investments is generally 60 days or less to maintain AAAM rating.

# Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1

## Amite, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements  
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- Foreign currency risk: Not applicable.

The investments in LAMP are stated at fair value. The fair value is determined on a weekly basis by LAMP and the value of the position in the external investment pool is the same as the net asset value of the pool shares.

LAMP, Inc. is subject to the regulatory oversight of the state treasurer and the board of directors. LAMP is not registered with the SEC as an investment company.

Investments in LAMP are not insured by FDIC or any other Federal agency, and collateralization requirements are not applicable when participating in the pool.

#### 4. Investments

The Fire District's investments include time deposits with a maturity date of greater than 90 days of \$551,269 and are secured from risk as follows:

Investments	\$ <u>551,269</u>
Federal Deposit Insurance	250,000
Uncollateralized (Category 3)	
Pledged Securities	<u>301,269</u>
 Total	 <u>551,269</u>
 Un-Collateralized Investment Balance	 <u><u>\$ -</u></u>

#### 5. Receivables

The following is a summary of receivables at December 31, 2023:

Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 678,487
State Revenue Sharing	282,540
Tangipahoa Parish Fire District No. 2	21,508
Sales Tax	23,378
Less allowance for doubtful accounts	<u>(4,140)</u>
 Total	 <u>\$ 1,001,773</u>

# Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1

## Amite, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements  
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

### 6. Capital Assets

A summary of changes in capital assets for 2023 follows:

	Balance 12/31/22	Increases	Decreases	Balance 12/31/23
<b>Capital Assets Not Depreciated:</b>				
Construction in Progress	\$ 68,188	\$ 135,176	\$ 80,478	122,886
Land and Land Improvements	<u>245,540</u>	<u>80,478</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>326,018</u>
Total Capital Assets Not Being Depreciated	<u>\$ 313,728</u>	<u>\$ 215,654</u>	<u>\$ 80,478</u>	<u>\$ 448,904</u>
<b>Other Capital Assets:</b>				
Buildings	\$ 1,370,632	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,370,632
Equipment	<u>3,788,290</u>	<u>210,838</u>	<u>250,286</u>	<u>3,748,842</u>
Total Other Capital Assets	<u>\$ 5,158,922</u>	<u>\$ 210,838</u>	<u>\$ 250,286</u>	<u>\$ 5,119,474</u>
<b>Less Accumulated Depreciation for:</b>				
Buildings	\$ 599,361	\$ 34,271	\$ -	\$ 633,632
Equipment	<u>1,854,025</u>	<u>175,207</u>	<u>224,808</u>	<u>1,804,424</u>
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>\$ 2,453,386</u>	<u>\$ 209,478</u>	<u>\$ 224,808</u>	<u>\$ 2,438,056</u>
Other Capital Assets, Net	<u>2,705,536</u>	<u>1,360</u>	<u>25,478</u>	<u>2,681,418</u>
Totals	<u><u>\$ 3,019,264</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 217,014</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 105,956</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,130,322</u></u>

### 7. Deferred Compensation Plan

The Fire District offers its employees a deferred compensation plan created in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 457, which is classified as an other employee benefit plan. The assets of the plan are held in trust (custodial accounts) for the exclusive benefit of the participants (employees) and their beneficiaries. In accordance with GASB No. 97, Certain Component Unit Criteria, and Accounting and Financial Reporting for IRC Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plans, the trust is not reported as a fiduciary component unit of the Fire District.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Fire District made no employer contributions to the deferred compensation plan.

### 8. Employer Defined Contribution Pension Plan

The Fire District has established the "Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1 Money Purchase Plan," a defined contribution plan administered by Nova 401(k) Associates. For each plan year, the Fire district shall make a fixed contribution equal to 5% of each participant's compensation and may make a



# Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1

## Amite, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements  
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

matching contribution equal to 10% of the eligible participant's compensation based on the elective deferrals such participant is making under the Tangipahoa Parish Fire District No. 1 457 Plan referred to in Note 6 above.

An employee becomes an eligible participant under the plan after one year of service. The participant has a nonforfeitable (vested) right to his account of 50% after five years and 100% after 7 years of participation in the plan. Pension expense for the year ended December 31, 2023, was \$179,234. There were no contributions to the plan outstanding at December 31, 2023.

### 9. Other Post Employment Benefits

The Fire District has no other post employment benefits.

### 10. Leases

The Fire District has no capital leases or operating leases at December 31, 2023.

### 11. Changes in Long-Term Obligations

The following is a summary of debt transactions for the Fire District for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Note Payable Obligation	Total
Balance at January 1, 2023	\$ 553,308	\$ 553,308
Increase in Debt	-	-
Principal Payments	(14,453)	(14,453)
Balance at December 31, 2023	<u>\$ 538,855</u>	<u>\$ 538,855</u>

The Revenue Bonds payable consist of an issue financed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to pay part of the cost of construction of the new fire station. The revenue bonds, dated August 2, 2007, for a total amount of \$688,000, will be due in annual installments of principal and interest, totaling \$35,776, payable for 40 years, with an interest at 4.125%, beginning August 2, 2008. Additionally, the Fire District maintains a separate account at a local bank with a minimum balance at all times equal to the annual installment of principal and interest.

**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**  
**Amite, Louisiana**

Notes to the Financial Statements  
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Principal and interest requirements (presented separately) to maturity are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2024	\$ 13,792	\$ 21,984	\$ 35,776
2025	14,117	21,659	35,776
2026	14,699	21,077	35,776
2027	15,306	20,470	35,776
2028	15,937	19,839	35,776
2029-2033	90,107	88,773	178,880
2034-2038	110,289	68,591	178,880
2039-2043	134,991	43,889	178,880
2044-2047	<u>129,617</u>	<u>13,647</u>	<u>143,264</u>
	<u>\$ 538,855</u>	<u>\$ 319,929</u>	<u>\$ 858,784</u>

**12. Compensation Paid Board Members**

Louisiana Revised Statute 40:1498 provides that each member of the board of commissioners of the Fire District shall receive compensation in the amount of thirty dollars per meeting, not to exceed two meetings in any one calendar month. Compensation paid to individual board members is presented with the accompanying supplementary schedule.

**13. Local Service Agreements**

The Fire District has entered into a contractual agreement with the Tangipahoa Parish Rural Fire Protection District No. 2 whereby the Fire District shall provide fire protection and emergency medical services including but not limited to firefighting equipment, vehicles, supplies, and such employees as are available within the boundaries of the Tangipahoa Parish Rural Fire Protection District No. 2. In consideration for such service, the Wilmer Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. and the Loranger Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. each agree to pay full sum and amount of 1.25% of ad valorem funds to be split equally between the two departments for the services provided to the Fire District. This agreement is effective for the period January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2020. The original agreement expired December 31, 2020, and the services are currently being provided on a quarter-to-quarter basis.

The revenue from the above agreements is reported under “Fire District No. 2.”

**14. Contract with Communication District Number One**

In 2011, the Fire District entered into an intergovernmental agreement with Tangipahoa Communication District Number One (the Communication District) whereby the Communication District will answer all emergency 911 lines and radio dispatch for and on behalf of the Fire District. In consideration of this service,

# **Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**

## **Amite, Louisiana**

Notes to the Financial Statements  
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

the Fire District shall pay for its share of certain costs and charges of the Communication District based on an allocable percentage of call volume of the Communication District. In 2019, the Fire District entered into a new contract with the Communication District. The contract is for a one year period beginning July 1, 2019, and shall automatically renew each year unless cancelled by either party with ninety days written notice. The annual cost to the Fire District is approximately \$7,500.

### **15. Cooperative Endeavor Agreements**

The Fire District entered into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the State of Louisiana on January 4, 2023, to provide funding for the Bruce Cutrer Regional Fire Training Facility of Tangipahoa Parish. The agreement provides capital outlay funds for construction of a state-of-the-art training facility and classroom for a public purpose. Funding is limited to capital improvements for the project in the amounts set forth in the funding summary. The Fire District has agreed to provide a match of not less than twenty-five percent of the total requested amount of funding.

The Fire District entered into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office on June 20, 2023, to give access to, and use of, the training facility constructed, owned, and operated by the Fire District to the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff. The term of the agreement shall begin on June 15, 2023, and shall continue for a period of ten years. Notwithstanding anything in the agreement to the contrary, the parties may, by mutual agreement, and in writing, terminate the agreement early or extend the term of the agreement.

The Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff shall pay the Fire District \$500,000, in total compensation over the term of the agreement with a pre-pay in the amount of \$300,000 over the first two years of the term with \$150,000 being due on June 15, 2023, and \$150,000 being due on June 15, 2024. The balance of the prepayment shall be divided evenly throughout the remainder of the term and shall be paid on June 15 of each year of the term. The prepayments shall be segregated in a separate interest bearing account until such time as the facility is fully funded and construction commences. The Fire District shall not make any other use of the pre-payments other than for the construction and development of the facility. In the event that the funding for the facility is cancelled or redirected for other purposes, such that the facility is not constructed, the pre-payments held in escrow shall be returned to the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff, with accrued interest.

On December 7, 2023, the Fire District entered into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Town of Roseland to provide fire protection, emergency medical services, and other related first responder services to Roseland. Among other conditions, Roseland shall annually budget and pay an annual base amount of \$30,000 in 12 monthly installments. The term of the agreement is for five years and commences on January 1, 2024.

### **16. Commitments & Contingencies**

#### **Contract for Architectural And Professional Services**

In April 2023 the Fire District contracted with Gasaway Gasaway Bankston Architects to provide overall coordination, site planning, construction administration and design phase services for the Bruce Cutrer Regional Fire Training Facility. The cost of the contract is based on the Louisiana Facility Planning and Control State Fee Schedule, including specified hourly rates described in the contract for other services that

# Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1

## Amite, Louisiana

Notes to the Financial Statements  
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

may arise during the course of the contract. For 2023, expenditures and reimbursements under the contract totaled \$122,886, and are included in capital assets, construction in progress.

### 17. On-Behalf Payments for Salaries and Benefits

During 1997, the Fire District implemented GASB Statement No. 24, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Certain Grants and Other Financial Assistance*. This standard requires the Fire District to report in the financial statements on-behalf salary and fringe benefit payments made by the State of Louisiana to certain groups of fire employees.

Supplementary salary payments are made by the state directly to certain groups of employees. The Fire District is not legally responsible for these salaries. Therefore, the basis for recognizing the revenue and expenditure (expense) payments is the actual contribution made by the state. For 2023, the state paid supplemental salaries to the following groups of employees of the Fire District.

On-behalf payments recorded as revenues and expenditures (expenses) in the 2023 financial statements are as follows:

General Fund:

Fireman Supplemental Pay	<u>\$ 129,874</u>
Total On-Behalf Payments	<u>\$ 129,874</u>

The Fire District is required to pay from its own budget the payroll taxes and retirement contributions on these on-behalf payments.

### 18. Litigation and Claims

The Fire District is not involved in, or aware of, any lawsuits or pending claims at this time.

### 19. Risks and Uncertainties

Fire Prevention Bureau

In December 2021, The Fire District adopted a resolution to create the Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1 Fire Prevention Bureau (the Fire Prevention Bureau) pursuant to LA R.S. 40:1563. Accordingly, the Fire District has assumed the responsibility and liability for inspections conducted by the Fire Prevention Bureau. Official approval for the establishment of the Fire Prevention Bureau was granted by the State Fire Marshall in May 2021.

Questioned Costs

The 2020 audit of the Fire District's major federal program award received in 2020 resulted in a questioned cost that could have a material effect on the financial statements. Because the ultimate resolution of the questioned cost involves many factors and is determined by the granting or cognizant agency, the amount, if any, of the questioned cost which may be disallowed cannot be determined at this time. Accordingly, the Fire District is not in a position at this time to record a liability representing the questioned cost.

**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**  
**Amite, Louisiana**

Notes to the Financial Statements  
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

**20. Subsequent Events**

Management has evaluated subsequent events through June 30, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Effective January 1, 2024, the money purchase pension plan and the deferred compensation plan have been replaced with enrollment in the Firefighters' Retirement System of Louisiana. The employer contribution rate to the plan is currently 33.25 percent.

On April 27, 2024, the voters authorized an increase to a ten (10) mill ad valorem tax to be levied in lieu of the five (5) mill tax currently being levied.

## **Required Supplementary Information**

**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**  
**Amite, Louisiana**

Schedule 1

General Fund - Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances –  
 Budget (Non-GAAP Basis) and Actual

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual Amounts - Budgetary Basis	Variance with Final Budget Favorable / (Unfavorable)
<b>Revenues:</b>				
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 630,192	\$ 30,192
Sales Tax Revenue	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,405,872	205,872
State Revenue Sharing	25,000	25,000	15,614	(9,386)
Fire Insurance Rebate	50,000	50,000	78,909	28,909
Fire District No. 2	68,000	68,000	81,553	13,553
State Supplemental Pay	144,000	144,000	129,874	(14,126)
Interest on Investments	4,000	4,000	46,595	42,595
City Sales Tax	320,000	320,000	320,000	-
Other Revenues	3,000	3,000	361,936	358,936
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>2,414,000</u>	<u>2,414,000</u>	<u>3,070,545</u>	<u>656,545</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
Salaries and Related Benefits	1,741,000	1,741,000	1,587,853	153,147
Salaries - Supplemental Pay	145,000	145,000	129,874	15,126
Compensation Paid Board Members	1,950	1,950	1,500	450
Sheriff's Pension Fund	23,500	23,500	24,730	(1,230)
Employee Medical	5,000	5,000	4,006	994
Employee Training	15,000	15,000	9,189	5,811
Insurance	165,000	165,000	181,246	(16,246)
911 Dispatch	8,000	8,000	7,191	809
Operating Supplies	80,000	80,000	64,041	15,959
Professional Fees	23,000	23,000	45,866	(22,866)
Repairs and Maintenance	65,000	65,000	41,710	23,290
Telephone and Utilities	37,000	37,000	31,954	5,046
Other	35,500	35,500	35,323	177
Capital Outlay	850,000	850,000	465,502	384,498
Debt Service	35,776	35,776	35,776	-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>3,230,726</u>	<u>3,230,726</u>	<u>2,665,761</u>	<u>564,965</u>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures</b>	<b>(816,726)</b>	<b>(816,726)</b>	<b>404,784</b>	<b>1,221,510</b>
<b>Fund Balance - Beginning of the Year</b>	<u>3,950,588</u>	<u>3,950,588</u>	<u>4,060,965</u>	<u>110,377</u>
<b>Fund Balance - End of the Year</b>	<u>\$ 3,133,862</u>	<u>\$ 3,133,862</u>	<u>\$ 4,465,749</u>	<u>\$ 1,331,887</u>

See auditor's report and accompanying notes.

## **Other Supplementary Information**



**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1  
Amite, Louisiana**

Schedule 2

Supplemental Information

As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Schedule of Compensation Paid Board of Commissioners

The schedule of compensation paid to the Board of Commissioners is presented in compliance with House Concurrent Resolution No. 54 of the 1979 Session of the Louisiana Legislature. The compensation paid to the Board of Commissioners is included in the expenditures of the General Fund. In accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 40:1498, board members are paid \$30 for attending meetings of the Board, not to exceed two meetings in any one calendar month.

	<u>Total</u> <u>Meetings</u>	<u>Meetings</u> <u>Present</u>	<u>Amount</u>
E Ray Glasgow PO Box 918 Amite, LA 70422 985-748-8191	12	11	\$ 330
Herbert Brumfield 505 Richardson Street Amite, LA 70422 985-517-0073	12	12	360
Merrie Bennett 60231 Anderson Lane Amite, LA 70422 985-747-1160	12	11	330
Reginald Foster 18474 Highway 16 Amite, LA 70422 985-517-7177	12	5	150
Robbie Lee PO Box 939 Amite, LA 70422 985-748-9000	12	11	<u>330</u> <u>\$ 1,500</u>

**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1  
Amite, Louisiana**

Schedule 3

Supplemental Information

As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Schedule of Compensation, Benefits And Other Payments To Agency Head,  
Political Subdivision Head, Or Chief Executive Officer

The schedule of compensation, benefits and other payments to agency head, political subdivision head or chief executive officer is presented in compliance with Act 706 of the 2014 Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

Agency Head Name: Fire Chief J.D. Stevens

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salary	\$ 93,759
Benefits - health insurance	6,831
Benefits - retirement	13,929
Reimbursements	30

**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1  
Amite, Louisiana**

List of Insurance Policies in Force  
(Unaudited)  
December 31, 2023

<u>Insurer/Policy No.</u>	<u>Coverage</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Period</u>
American Alternative Insurance Corporation VFNU-TR-0014447	Commercial Property: 210 NE Central Avenue Amite, LA		6/28/23 - 6/28/24
	Buildings	\$ 965,890	
	Personal property	98,188	
	200 Block NE Central Avenue Amite, LA		
	Building	177,746	
	Personal property	30,417	
	13201 Ballpark Road Independence, LA		
	Building	32,234	
	104 Campo Lane Amite, LA		
	Building	986,920	
	Personal property	174,512	
		General Liability: Including products/completed operations, personal and advertising injury	
	Each occurrence	1,000,000	
	General aggregate	2,000,000	
	Crime Coverages:		
	Employee Dishonesty (Each)	35,000	
American Alternative Insurance Corporation VFNU-CM-0014446	Commercial Automobile: Liability, including uninsured motorist		6/28/23 - 6/28/24
	Property - Scheduled	1,000,000	
		3,768,000	
Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation 3352-S	Workers' compensation insurance	Statutory Limits	11/5/23 - 11/5/24

**Other Independent Auditor's Reports and  
Findings and Recommendations**

**Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control  
Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters  
Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in  
Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards***

# PEDELAHORE & CO., LLP

*Certified Public Accountants*

ROBERT J. MORA, CPA  
MARY H. VALIGOSKY, CPA  
MILTON B. CAVALIER, CPA  
JENNIFER L. DORAN, CPA

MEMBER  
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DIANE O. LEFORT, CPA  
MITZI P. LAMPO, CPA

Independent Auditor's Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On  
Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of Financial Statements Performed In  
Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

Mr. E. Ray Glasgow, Chairman and  
Members of the Board of Commissioners  
Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1.  
Amite, Louisiana

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and the general fund of the Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1, Amite, Louisiana, a component unit of the Tangipahoa Parish Council, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 30, 2024.

## **Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1's (the Fire District's) internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the basic financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fire District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fire District's internal control.

*A deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charge with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

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Metairie, Louisiana 70002  
(504) 522-8708  
(504) 522-8719 Fax

103 N. Laurel Street  
Amite, Louisiana 70422  
(985) 748-4108  
(985) 748-8662 Fax

1801 CM Fagan Dr., Suite 1  
Hammond, Louisiana 70403  
(985) 230-0049  
(985) 230-0083 Fax

## **Report On Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Fire District’s financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity’s internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management of the Fire District and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Legislative Auditor as a public document.

*Pedellahere & Co, LLP*  
Metairie, Louisiana  
June 30, 2024

## **Findings and Recommendations**



**Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1**

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

**Section I – Summary of Auditor’s Results**

*Financial Statements*

Type of auditor's report issued:	Unmodified	
Internal control over financial reporting:		
Material weakness(es) identified?	_____yes	___X___no
Significant deficiency(ies) identified that are not considered to be material weaknesses?	_____yes	___X___none reported
Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?	_____yes	___X___no

*Federal Awards*

Not applicable.

**Section II – Financial Statement Findings**

There are no financial statement findings.

**Section III – Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs**

None.

**Section IV – Management Letter**

None issued

**Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings**

Ref.#	Fiscal Year Findings Initially Occurred	Description of Findings	Corrective Action Taken	Plan Corrective Action/Partial Corrective Action Taken	Additional Explanation
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**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

None

**Compliance and Other Matters**

None

**Federal Award Programs**

2020-001	2020	Application for reimbursement included ineligible costs.	Corrective action has already been implemented	N/A	Resolved at entity level; no further action required of the Fire District at this time. Awaiting response from grantor agency.
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**Management Letter Suggestions**

None

*Note: This schedule has been prepared by the management of the Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1.*

# PEDELAHORE & CO., LLP

*Certified Public Accountants*

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## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

To Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1 and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA's) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the period ending December 31, 2023. The Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1's management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1 (the District) has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in LLA's SAUPs for the period ending December 31, 2023. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

### **1) Written Policies and Procedures**

- A. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe that they address each of the following categories and subcategories (if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations):
  - i. ***Budgeting***, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget
  - ii. ***Purchasing***, including (1) how purchases are initiated; (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list; (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders; (4) controls to ensure compliance with the public bid law; and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.
  - iii. ***Disbursements***, including processing, reviewing, and approving
  - iv. ***Receipts/Collections***, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g. periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).

- v. ***Payroll/Personnel***, including (1) payroll processing, and (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked and (3) approval process for employee(s) rate of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.
- vi. ***Contracting***, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
- vii. ***Travel and expense reimbursement***, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
- viii. ***Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, P-Cards, if applicable)***, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).
- ix. ***Ethics***, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.
- x. ***Debt Service***, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure/EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
- xi. ***Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity***, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personal, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.
- xii. ***Prevention of Sexual Harassment***, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

Results of Procedures: We noted no exceptions except the following: The purchasing procedures do not include an approved vendor's list, and the Prevention of Sexual Harassment procedures do not include the annual reporting requirement.

Management's response: The District does not feel it is necessary to maintain an approved vendor list as the Fire District's purchasing policy already includes a purchase order system requiring the requisite approvals. The District annually prepares reports regarding sexual harassment and will include this procedure in their written sexual harassment policy.

## **2) Board or Finance Committee**

- A. Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and:

- i. Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.
- ii. For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe whether the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds. *Alternately, for those entities reporting on the non-profit accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included financial activity relating to public funds if those public funds comprised more than 10% of the entity's collections during the fiscal period.*
- iii. For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.
- iv. Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

Results of Procedures: No exceptions were found as the result of these procedures.

### **3) Bank Reconciliations**

- A. Obtain a listing of client bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for selected each account, and observe that:
  - i. Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged);
  - ii. Bank reconciliations include evidence that a member of management/board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation within 1 month of the date the reconciliation was prepared (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged); and
  - iii. Management has documentation reflecting that it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

Result of Procedures: No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

**4) Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers - EFT's)**

- A. Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).
- B. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (i.e. 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if no written policies or procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that:
- i. Employees that are responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers.
  - ii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g. pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit.
  - iii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit.
  - iv. The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions are not responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.
- C. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe the bond or insurance policy for theft was enforced during the fiscal period.
- D. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for procedure #3 under "Bank Reconciliations" procedure #3A above (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). *Alternately, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc.* Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:
- i. Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.
  - ii. Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
  - iii. Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.
  - iv. Observe that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).
  - v. Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

Results of Procedures: No exceptions were found as a result of these procedures.

5) *Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases/payments, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)*

- A. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).
- B. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:
  - i. At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order/making the purchase.
  - ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors.
  - iii. The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files.
  - iv. Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments.
  - v. Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.
- C. For each location selected under #5A above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction and
  - i. Observe whether the disbursement, whether by paper or electronic means, matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity, and
  - ii. Observe that the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under procedure #5B, as applicable.
- D. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g. sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.

Results of Procedures: No exceptions were found as a result of these procedures.



**6) Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/P-Cards**

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and purchase cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management’s representation that the listing is complete.
- B. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement), obtain supporting documentation, and:
  - i. Observe whether there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit/debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) was reviewed and approved, in writing, (or electronically approved), by someone other than the authorized card holder. (those instances requiring such approval may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials such as the mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality should not be reported); and
  - ii. Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.
- C. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under procedure #6B above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (i.e. each card should have 10 transactions subject to inspection). For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and note whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a “missing receipt statement” that is subject to increased scrutiny.

Results of Procedures: No exceptions were found as a result of these procedures.

**7) Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (excluding card transactions)**

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management’s representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements, obtain the related expense reimbursement forms/prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected:
  - i. If reimbursed using a per diem, observe that the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration ([www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov)).
  - ii. If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased.

- iii. Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by Written Policy and Procedures procedure #1A(vii); and
- iv. Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

Results of Procedures: No exceptions were found as a result of these procedures.

## **8) Contracts**

- A. Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. *Alternately, the practitioner may use an equivalent selection source, such as an active vendor list.* Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 contracts (or all contracts if less than 5) from the listing, excluding the practitioner's contract, and:
  - i. Observe that the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law.
  - ii. Observe that the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g. Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter).
  - iii. If the contract was amended (e.g. change order), observe the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g., if approval is required for any amendment, the documented approval); and
  - iv. Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

Results of Procedures: No exceptions were found as the result of these procedures.

## **9) Payroll and Personnel**

- A. Obtain a listing of employees/elected officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees/officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.
- B. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under procedure #9A above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and:
  - i. Observe that all selected employees/officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory);
  - ii. Observe whether supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees or officials.

- iii. Observe any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records; and
  - iv. Observe the rate paid to the employees or officials agree to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.
- C. Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials and obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity's policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee or officials' cumulate leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee or officials' authorized pay rates in the employee/officials' personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.
- D. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll related amounts (e.g., payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums, etc.) have been paid, and associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

Results of Procedures: No exceptions were found as a result of these procedures.

#### ***10) Ethics***

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A obtain ethics documentation from management, and
- i. Observe whether the documentation demonstrates that each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:1170; and
  - ii. Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.
- B. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170

Results of Procedures: No exceptions were found as a result of these procedures.

#### ***11) Debt Service***

- A. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes and other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all debt instruments on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each debt instrument issued as required by Article VII, Section 8 of the Louisiana Constitution.
- B. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one bond/note, inspect debt covenants, obtain supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agree actual reserve balances and payments to those required by debt covenants (including contingency funds, short-lived asset funds, or other funds required by the debt covenants).

Results of Procedures: No exceptions were found as a result of these procedures.

### **12) Fraud Notice**

- A. Obtain a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all misappropriations on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that the entity reported the misappropriation(s) to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the entity is domiciled as required by R.S. 24:523.
- B. Observe that the entity has posted on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

Results of Procedures: No exceptions were found as a result of these procedures. Management indicated that there were no misappropriations of public funds during the year.

### **13) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**

- A. Perform the following procedures, **verbally discuss the results with management, and report "We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management."**
  - i. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if no written documentation, inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe that such backup (a) occurred within the past week, (b) was not stored on the government's local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.
  - ii. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if not written documentation, inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verification backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.
  - iii. Obtain a listing of the entity's computers currently in use and their related locations, and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 computers and observe while management demonstrates that the selected computers have current and active antivirus software and that the operating system and accounting system software in use are currently supported by the vendor.
- B. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in procedure #9C. Observe that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.
- C. Using the 5 randomly selected employees / officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain cybersecurity training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates that the following employees/officials with access to the agency's information technology assets have completed cybersecurity training as required by R.S. 42:1267. The requirements are as follows:
  - Hired before June 9, 2020 – completed the training; and

- Hired on or after June 9, 2020 – completed the training within 30 days of initial service or employment

Results of Procedures: We performed the procedures and discussed the results with management.

#### **14) Prevention of Sexual Harassment**

- A. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year as required by R.S. 42:343.
- B. Observe the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity’s premises if the entity does not have a website).
- C. Obtain the entity’s annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe it includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42:344:
  - i. Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements:
  - ii. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency:
  - iii. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred:
  - iv. Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action: and
  - v. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

Results of Procedures: No exceptions were found as a result of these procedures, with the exception of the following: The annual report did not list the percentage of the employees/officials who completed the training in the calendar year.

Management’s response: The District will include the percentage of employees/officials completing the training in their annual report.

We were engaged by the Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1 to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Governmental Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the Tangipahoa Parish Fire Protection District No. 1 and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the LLA as a public document.

*Pedellakere & Co, LLP*

Metairie, Louisiana

June 30, 2024