

**WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
OF EVANGELINE PARISH
Pine Prairie, Louisiana**

Financial Report

Year Ended December 31, 2023

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

* A Professional Accounting Corporation

To the Board of Directors
Ward Four Fire Protection District
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Ward Four Fire Protection District of Evangeline Parish (District) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's 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 respective financial position of the governmental activities and the major fund of the District, 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 Opinions

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 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 opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the 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 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 Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. 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 judgement 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 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 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 budgetary comparison information, pages 22-23, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, 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 inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, 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.

The District has omitted management’s discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing 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. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 9, 2024, on our consideration of the District’s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely 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 effectiveness of the District’s internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC
Certified Public Accountants

Ville Platte, Louisiana
May 9, 2024

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**GOVERNMENT-WIDE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (GWFS)**

WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2023

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
ASSETS	
Cash and interest-bearing deposits	\$ 1,232,089
Receivables, net	422,413
Due from other governmental agencies	11,176
Capital assets:	
Non-depreciable	126,702
Depreciable, net	<u>1,126,228</u>
Total assets	<u>2,918,608</u>
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	<u>4,103</u>
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets	1,252,930
Unrestricted	<u>1,661,575</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 2,914,505</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues Operating Grants and Contributions	Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position Governmental Activities
Governmental activities:			
Public safety	<u>\$ 418,347</u>	<u>\$ 11,176</u>	<u>\$ (407,171)</u>
General revenues:			
Ad valorem taxes, levied for general purposes			476,723
State revenue sharing			13,080
Fire insurance rebate			17,707
Interest and investment earnings			6,648
Miscellaneous			<u>1,800</u>
Total general revenues			<u>515,958</u>
Change in net position			108,787
Net position, beginning			<u>2,805,718</u>
Net position, ending			<u>\$ 2,914,505</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (FFS)

WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

Balance Sheet
Governmental Fund - General Fund
December 31, 2023

ASSETS

Cash and interest-bearing deposits	\$ 1,232,089
Receivables, net	422,413
Due from other governmental agencies	<u>11,176</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,665,678</u>

LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCE

Liabilities:	
Accounts payable	\$ 4,103
Deferred inflows of resources:	
Unavailable revenue - ad valorem taxes and state revenue sharing	61,543
Fund balance:	
Unassigned	<u>1,600,032</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balance	<u>\$ 1,665,678</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

Reconciliation of the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet
to the Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2023

Total fund balance for the governmental fund at December 31, 2023		\$ 1,600,032
Total net position reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position is different because:		
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds. Those assets consist of:		
Land	\$ 126,702	
Buildings and improvements, net of \$253,687 accumulated depreciation	291,141	
Equipment, net of \$1,011,038 accumulated depreciation	<u>835,087</u>	1,252,930
Some revenues will be collected after year-end but are not available soon enough to pay for the current period's expenditures and, therefore, are reported as deferred inflows of resources at the fund level.		
Unavailable revenue - ad valorem taxes and state revenue sharing		<u>61,543</u>
Net position at December 31, 2023		<u>\$2,914,505</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Fund - General Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Revenues:	
Ad valorem tax	\$ 433,526
State revenue sharing	9,286
Fire insurance rebate	17,707
Federal grants	11,176
Miscellaneous income	1,800
Interest income	6,648
Total revenues	480,143
Expenditures:	
Current -	
Public safety:	
Advertising	1,305
Dues	1,953
Fire insurance rebate	17,706
Fuel	6,732
Insurance	28,745
Miscellaneous	7,930
Office	4,145
Outside services	35,034
Assessor deductions	14,971
Professional fees	21,023
Repairs and maintenance	60,979
Supplies	40,112
Training	8,105
Travel	110
Utilities	16,935
Volunteer firemen	17,870
Capital outlay	163,587
Total expenditures	447,242
Net change in fund balance	32,901
Fund balance, beginning	1,567,131
Fund balance, ending	\$ 1,600,032

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and
Changes in Fund Balance of Governmental Fund
to the Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Total net change in fund balance for the year ended December 31, 2023 per the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance	\$ 32,901
The change in net position reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities is different because:	
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense.	
Capital outlay which is considered expenditures on the statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance	\$ 163,587
Depreciation expense	<u>(134,692)</u> 28,895
Some revenues will be collected after year-end but are not available soon enough to pay for the current period's expenditures and, therefore, are reported as deferred inflows of resources at the fund level.	
Change in unavailable revenue - ad valorem taxes and state revenue sharing	<u>46,991</u>
Change in net position for the year ended December 31, 2023 per the statement of activities	<u>\$ 108,787</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accompanying financial statements of the Ward Four Fire Protection District (District) have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. GAAP includes all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements. The accounting and reporting framework and the more significant accounting policies are discussed in subsequent subsections of this note.

A. Financial Reporting Entity

The Ward Four Fire Protection District was created by and in accordance with provisions of Part I, Chapter 7, Title 40, of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 for the purpose of fire protection in its designated Evangeline Parish area. This report includes all funds and activities that are controlled by the District as an independent political subdivision of the State of Louisiana. There are no component units required to be reported in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The Board of Commissioners are solely responsible for the operations which include the hiring and retention of employees, authority over budgeting, responsibility for deficits, and the receipt and disbursement of funds. Board members receive no compensation.

The District serves approximately 120 households and has no employees. All firemen are volunteers.

B. Basis of Presentation

Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)

The government-wide financial statements provide operational accountability information for the District as an economic unit. The government-wide financial statements report the District's ability to maintain service levels and continue to meet its obligations as they come due. The statements include all governmental activities of the District. Fiduciary funds are omitted from the government-wide financial statements. The District has no fiduciary funds.

The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the District's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include (a) fees and charges paid by the recipients for goods or services offered by the programs, and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Fund Financial Statements (FFS)

The accounts of the District are organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered to be an independent fiscal and accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for within separate sets of self-balancing accounts, which comprise its assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, fund balance, revenues, expenditures, and transfers. The minimum number of funds is maintained consistent with legal and managerial requirements. Fund financial statements report detailed information about the District. The various funds of the District are classified as governmental funds. The emphasis on fund financial statements is on major funds, each displayed in a separate column.

The General Fund is always a major governmental fund. Other individual major governmental funds are determined as funds whose revenues, expenditures/expenses, assets and deferred outflows of resources, or liabilities and deferred inflows of resources are at least ten percent of the corresponding totals for all funds of that category or type and at least five percent of the corresponding total for all governmental funds combined or funds designated as major at the discretion of the District. Funds not classified as a major fund are aggregated and presented in a single column in the fund financial statements.

Governmental Fund – General Fund

The General Fund, as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 13:781, is the principal fund of the District and is used to account for the operations of the District's office. The various fees and charges due to the District's office are accounted for in this fund. General operating expenditures are paid from this fund.

C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

Measurement Focus

The measurement focus determines the accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund.

The governmental activities within the government-wide statement of net position and statement of activities are presented using the economic resources measurement focus. The economic resources measurement focus meets the accounting objectives of determining net income, net position, and cash flows.

The governmental funds use the current financial resources measurement focus. This measurement focus is based upon the receipt and disbursement of current available financial resources rather than upon net income.

WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to the point at which revenues or expenditures/expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. It relates to the timing of the measurements made regardless of the measurement focus applied.

The governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting. Nonexchange revenues, including intergovernmental revenues and grants, are reported when all eligibility requirements have been met. Fees and charges and other exchange revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

The governmental funds financial statements are presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when susceptible to accrual i.e., both measurable and available. "Available" means collectible within the current period or within 60 days after year end. An exception to this is grants collected on a reimbursement basis. Those reimbursable grants are recognized as revenue when reimbursable expenditures are made. Expenditures are recognized when the related liability is incurred. Exceptions to this general rule include principal and interest on general obligation long-term debt which is recognized when due and payable.

Program Revenues

Program revenues included in the statement of activities are derived directly from the program itself or from parties outside the District's taxpayers or citizenry, as a whole; program revenues reduce the cost of the function to be financed from the District's general revenues.

Allocation of indirect expenses

The District reports all direct expenses by function in the statement of activities. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a function. Indirect expenses of other functions are not allocated to those functions but are reported separately in the statement of activities. Depreciation expense is specifically identified by function and is included in the direct expense of each function. Interest on long-term debt is considered an indirect expense and is reported separately on the statement of activities.

D. Assets, Deferred Outflows, Liabilities, Deferred Inflows, and Equity

Cash and interest-bearing deposits

For purposes of the statement of net position, cash and interest-bearing deposits include all demand accounts, savings accounts, and certificates of deposits of the District.

WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Receivables

In the government-wide statements, receivables consist of all revenues earned at year-end and not yet received. Major receivable balances for the governmental activities include ad valorem taxes and state revenue sharing. Uncollectible ad valorem taxes are recognized as bad debts through the establishment of an allowance account. An allowance in the amount of \$47,197 was established at December 31, 2023.

Prepaid Expenses

Prepaid expenses are recorded when services are purchased in the current period but received in a future period.

Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant, and equipment, are reported in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. 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 acquisition value at the date of donation. The District maintains a threshold level of \$5,000 or more for capitalizing capital assets. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized.

Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets is recorded as an expense in the statement of activities, with accumulated depreciation reflected in the statement of net position. Depreciation is provided over the assets' estimated useful lives using the straight-line method of depreciation. The range of estimated useful lives by type of asset is as follows:

Equipment	5-15 years
Buildings and improvements	10-40 years

In the fund financial statements, the acquisition of capital assets used in governmental fund operations is accounted for as capital outlay expenditures of the governmental fund upon acquisition.

Long-Term Debt

The accounting treatment of long-term debt depends on whether the assets are used in governmental fund operations or whether they are reported in the government-wide or fund financial statements. Since the District doesn't have a proprietary fund, all long-term debt is used in governmental fund operations.

All long-term debt to be repaid from governmental resources is reported as liabilities in the government-wide statements. The District has no long-term debt at December 31, 2023 .

WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Long-term debt for governmental funds is not reported as liabilities in the fund financial statements. The debt proceeds are reported as other financing sources and payment of principal and interest reported as expenditures.

Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources

In some instances, the GASB requires a government to delay recognition of decreases in net position as expenditures until a future period. In other instances, governments are required to delay recognition of increases in net position as revenues until a future period. In these circumstances, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources result from the delayed recognition of expenditures or revenues, respectively. Ad valorem taxes and state revenue sharing for the governmental fund which have not been received within 60 days subsequent to year end are considered deferred inflows of resources on the fund financial statements.

Equity Classifications

In the government-wide statements, equity is classified as net position and displayed in three components:

- a. Net investment in capital assets consists of net capital assets reduced by outstanding balances of any related debt obligations and deferred inflows of resources attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets and increased by balances of deferred outflows of resources related to those assets.
- b. Restricted net position consists of net position with constraints placed on the use either by external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Restricted net position is reduced by liabilities and deferred inflows of resources related to the restricted assets. It is the District's policy to use restricted net position prior to the use of unrestricted net position when both restricted and unrestricted net position are available for an expense which has been incurred.
- c. Unrestricted net position consists of all other net position that does not meet the definition of "restricted" or "net investment in capital assets."

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. Fund balance is further classified as follows:

- a. Nonspendable – amounts that cannot be spent either because they are in nonspendable form or because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

- b. Restricted – amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of constitutional provisions or enabling legislation or because of constraints that are externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or the laws or regulations of other governments.
- c. Assigned – amounts that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed but that are intended to be used for specific purposes. Under the District’s adopted policy, only the District Board may assign amounts for specified purposes.
- d. Unassigned – all other spendable amounts.

It is the District’s policy to use restricted amounts first when both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available unless prohibited by legal or contractual provisions. Additionally, the District uses committed, assigned, and lastly unassigned amounts of fund balance in that order when expenditures are made.

E. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures/expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(2) Cash and Interest-Bearing Deposits

Under state law, the District may deposit funds within a fiscal agent bank organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the Union, or the laws of the United States. The District may invest in certificates and time deposits of state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana. At December 31, 2023, the District has cash and interest-bearing deposits (book balances) as follows:

Demand deposits	\$ 548,184
Time and savings	<u>683,905</u>
Total	<u>\$1,232,089</u>

WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the District's deposits may not be recovered or the collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party will not be recovered. These 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 similar federal security, 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 bank. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. At December 31, 2023, bank balances were secured as follows:

Bank balances	<u>\$ 1,239,869</u>
Federal deposit insurance	659,328
Pledged securities	<u>580,541</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,239,869</u>

Deposits in the amount of \$580,541 were exposed to custodial credit risk. These deposits are uninsured and collateralized with securities held by the pledging institutions' trust department or agent, but not in the District's name. The District does not have a policy for custodial credit risk.

(3) Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2023 follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deletions	Ending Balance
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ -	\$ 126,702	\$ -	\$ 126,702
Buildings and improvements	544,828	-	-	544,828
Equipment	<u>1,809,240</u>	<u>36,885</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,846,125</u>
Total	2,354,068	163,587	-	2,517,655
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>1,130,033</u>	<u>134,692</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,264,725</u>
Net capital assets	<u>\$ 1,224,035</u>	<u>\$ 28,895</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,252,930</u>

Depreciation expense of \$134,692 was charged to the public safety function.

(4) Ad Valorem Taxes

Ad valorem taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property as of January 1st of each year. Taxes are levied in October and billed to the taxpayers in December. Billed taxes are due by December 31st and become delinquent on January 1st of the following year. The taxes are based on assessed values determined by the Evangeline Parish Assessor. The taxes are collected and remitted to the District by the Evangeline Parish Sheriff.

WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

Notes to Basic Financial Statements (Continued)

For the year ended December 31, 2023, taxes of 9.79 mills were levied on property with assessed valuations totaling \$48,161,610. Total taxes levied in 2023 were \$471,501. Ad valorem taxes receivable at December 31, 2023 was \$409,333, net of an allowance for uncollectible taxes of \$47,197.

(5) Tax Abatements

The District is subject to property tax abatements for a lease agreement between the Industrial Development Board and Pine Prairie Energy Center, LLC, which allowed for the exemption of ad valorem taxes. This agreement, which was approved by the Evangeline Parish Police Jury, is for the inducement of economic development in Evangeline Parish. The tax exemption will continue for the term of the lease. For the year ended December 31, 2023 the District abated ad valorem tax in the amount of \$271,851.

(6) Board Members' Compensation

No per diem or other compensation is paid to board members of the District.

(7) Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to District Chief

A detail of compensation, benefits, and other payments to District Chief Josh Uhlman, for the year ended December 31, 2023 follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	
Contract labor	\$ 9,400
Cell phone allowance	960
Reimbursement for supplies	<u>52</u>
	<u>\$ 10,412</u>

(8) Risk Management

The District is exposed to risks of loss in the areas of general and auto liability, property hazards, and workers' compensation. All of these risks are handled by purchasing commercial insurance coverage. There have been no significant reductions in the insurance coverage during the year, nor have settlements exceeded coverage for the past three years.

(9) Litigation

At December 31, 2023, there is no litigation pending against the District.

**REQUIRED
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

Budgetary Comparison Schedule
General Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Budget		Actual	Variance with
	Original	Final		Final Budget Positive (Negative)
Revenues:				
Ad valorem tax	\$ 500,000	\$ 473,391	\$ 433,526	\$ (39,865)
State revenue sharing	-	-	9,286	9,286
Fire insurance rebate	20,000	17,707	17,707	-
Federal grants	-	-	11,176	11,176
Miscellaneous income	2,000	1,800	1,800	-
Interest income	500	698	6,648	5,950
Total revenues	<u>522,500</u>	<u>493,596</u>	<u>480,143</u>	<u>(13,453)</u>
Expenditures:				
Current -				
Public safety:				
Advertising	1,000	1,290	1,305	(15)
Dues	1,500	1,553	1,953	(400)
Fire insurance rebate	20,000	17,706	17,706	-
Fuel	6,000	5,568	6,732	(1,164)
Insurance	30,000	28,745	28,745	-
Miscellaneous	40,000	40,520	7,930	32,590
Office expense	10,000	5,024	4,145	879
Outside services	20,000	25,170	35,034	(9,864)
Assessor deductions	-	15,000	14,971	29
Professional fees	20,000	21,995	21,023	972
Repairs and maintenance	40,000	48,805	60,979	(12,174)
Supplies	30,000	57,850	40,112	17,738
Training	2,500	5,482	8,105	(2,623)
Travel	-	-	110	(110)
Utilities	15,000	17,064	16,935	129
Volunteer firemen	-	-	17,870	(17,870)
Capital outlay	-	149,452	163,587	(14,135)
Total expenditures	<u>236,000</u>	<u>441,224</u>	<u>447,242</u>	<u>(6,018)</u>
Net change in fund balance	286,500	52,372	32,901	(19,471)
Fund balance, beginning	<u>1,577,974</u>	<u>1,567,131</u>	<u>1,567,131</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balance, ending	<u>\$ 1,864,474</u>	<u>\$ 1,619,503</u>	<u>\$ 1,600,032</u>	<u>\$ (19,471)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

Notes to Required Supplementary Information
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

(1) Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The Ward Four Fire Protection District follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

1. The Secretary-Treasurer prepares a proposed budget and submits it to the District Board for the fiscal year no later than fifteen days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year.
2. A summary of the proposed budget is published, and the public is notified that the proposed budget is available for public inspection. At the same time, a public hearing is called.
3. A public hearing is held on the proposed budget at least ten days after publication of the call for a hearing.
4. After the holding of the public hearing and completion of all action necessary to finalize and implement the budget, the budget is legally adopted prior to the commencement of the fiscal year for which the budget is being adopted.
5. All budgetary appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year.
6. The budget is adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Budgeted amounts included in the accompanying financial statements are as originally adopted or as finally amended by the Ward Four Fire Protection District.

(2) Excess of Expenditures Over Appropriations

The General Fund incurred expenditures in excess of appropriations in the amount of \$6,018 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

**INTERNAL CONTROL, COMPLIANCE,
AND
OTHER MATTERS**

KOLDER, SLAVEN & COMPANY, LLC

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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*

To the Board of Directors
Ward Four Fire Protection District
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

We have audited, in accordance with the 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 major fund of the Ward Four Fire Protection District of Evangeline Parish (District) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated May 9, 2024.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the 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 opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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 a 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 charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of current and prior year audit findings and management's corrective action plan as item 2023-001 that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from 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 an instance of noncompliance or other matter that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of current and prior year findings and management's corrective action plan as item 2023-002.

Ward Four Fire Protection District's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the District's response to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of current and prior year audit findings and management's corrective action plan. The District's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

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 with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Legislative Auditor as a public document.

Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC
Certified Public Accountants

Ville Platte, Louisiana
May 9, 2024

WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

Schedule of Current and Prior Year Audit Findings and Management’s Corrective Action Plan
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Part I. Current Year Findings relating to an audit in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*:

A. Internal Control

2023-001 Segregation of Duties

Fiscal Year Finding Initially Occurred: Unknown

CONDITION: The District does not have an adequate segregation of accounting duties.

CRITERIA: AU-C §315.04, *Understanding the Entity and its Environment and Assessing the Risks of Material Misstatement*, defines internal control as follows: “Internal control is a process, effected by those charged with governance, management, and other personnel, designed to provide reasonable assurance about the achievement of objectives with regard to reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.”

CAUSE: The cause of the condition is the fact that the District does not have a sufficient number of staff performing administrative and financial duties so as to provide adequate segregation of accounting and financial duties.

EFFECT: Failure to adequately segregate accounting and financial functions increases the risk that errors and/or irregularities including fraud and/or defalcations may occur and not be prevented and/or detected.

RECOMMENDATION: Management should reassign incompatible duties among different employees to ensure that a single employee does not have control of more than one of the following responsibilities: (1) authorization; (2) custody; (3) recordkeeping; and (4) reconciliation.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE: Due to the size of the operation and cost-benefit of additional personnel, it may not be feasible to achieve complete segregation of accounting duties.

B. Compliance

2023-002 Purchase of Property

Fiscal year finding initially occurred: 2023

CONDITION: The District paid more than the appraised value for a piece of property.

CRITERIA: Paying in excess of the appraised value may violate Article VII, §14 of the Louisiana Constitution “Donation, Loan, or Pledge of Public Credit” which states that the funds, credit, property, or things of value of the state or of any political subdivision shall not be loaned, pledged, or donated to or for any person, association, or corporation, public or private.

WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Pine Prairie, Louisiana

Schedule of Current and Prior Year Audit Findings and Management's Corrective Action Plan (Continued)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

CAUSE: The District obtained two appraisals for the property, both of which were less than the amount actually paid.

EFFECT: Paying more than the appraised value may result in the over expenditure of public funds and could violate Article VII §14 of the Louisiana Constitution.

RECOMMENDATION: The District should not pay more than the appraised value for a property purchase.

MANAGEMENT'S CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN: The District was limited in land sites available in the designated area in which new fire facilities are necessary.

Part II. Prior Year Findings relating to an audit in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*:

A. Internal Control

2022-001 Segregation of Duties

Fiscal Year Finding Initially Occurred: Unknown

CONDITION: The District does not have an adequate segregation of accounting duties.

RECOMMENDATION: Management should reassign incompatible duties among different employees to ensure that a single employee does not have control of more than one of the following responsibilities: (1) authorization; (2) custody; (3) recordkeeping; and (4) reconciliation.

CURRENT STATUS: See finding 2023-001.

B. Compliance

There were no compliance findings noted.

**WARD FOUR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
OF EVANGELINE PARISH**

**Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures Report
Year Ended December 31, 2023**

KOLDER, SLAVEN & COMPANY, LLC

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

To the Board of Commissioners of the Ward Four Fire Protection District
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 fiscal period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. The Ward Four Fire Protection District's management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

The Ward Four Fire Protection 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 fiscal period January 1, 2023 through 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 whether 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.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

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.

The policy did not include the following subcategory: how vendors are added to the vendor list.

iii. ***Disbursements***, including processing, reviewing, and approving.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- 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).
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
- v. **Payroll/Personnel**, including (1) payroll processing, (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employee rates of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.
This category is not applicable. The District does not have payroll.
- 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.
The policy did not contain the following subcategories: types of services requiring written contracts and 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.
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
- viii. **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, purchase 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).
There is no policy for this category.
- ix. **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.
The policy did not contain the following subcategories: actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, system to monitor possible ethics violations, and a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees/officials were notified of any changes to the 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.
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
- 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 personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.
There is no policy for this category.
- 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.
There is no policy for this category.

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 comparisons, at a minimum, on proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on all special revenue funds.
 - 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.

No exceptions were found as a result of procedures i – iv.

3) Bank Reconciliations

- A. Obtain a listing of entity 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 each selected 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 or electronically logged);
 - ii. Bank reconciliations include written evidence that a member of management or a 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 or electronically logged); and
 - iii. Management has documentation reflecting it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

Bank reconciliations did not contain preparer and approver initial and date. No exceptions were found as a result of procedure iii.

4) Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)

- 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).

Obtained the listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete.

- 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 there are 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 responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers;
 - ii. Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not also 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 also 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; and
 - iv. The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or custodial fund additions, is (are) not also responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.

No exceptions were found as a result of procedures i - iv.

- C. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe that the bond or insurance policy for theft was in force during the fiscal period.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- D. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A (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). 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.

No exceptions were found as a result of procedures i - v.

5) Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases, 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).

Obtained the listing of locations that process payments and management's representation that the listing is complete.

- 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, then 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 or making the purchase;
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
 - ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors;
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
 - 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;
Exception noted.
 - 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; and
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
 - 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.
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
- C. For each location selected under procedure #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 whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under procedure #5B above, as applicable.
Obtained the entity's non-payroll disbursement transactions and management's representation that the population is complete. One disbursement did not have indication of approval on invoice.
- 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 electronic disbursements 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.
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

6) Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/Purchase Cards (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.

Obtained the listing of active cards and 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) were reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved), by someone other than the authorized card holder (those instances requiring such approval that may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials such as the mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality, should not be reported; and

There was no evidence of approval noted.

- ii. Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- C. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under procedure #7B 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 (e.g., 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 observe whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a "missing receipt statement" that is subject to increased scrutiny.

Six transaction receipts did not identify precisely what was purchased, seven transaction receipts did not have documentation of business/public purpose, and two transaction receipts did not contain documentation of individuals participating in meals.

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 and 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);

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- ii. If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased;

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- 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 Policies and Procedures procedure #1A(vii); and

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- iv. Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

Two reimbursements did not contain proper approval.

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 whether 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 whether 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 that 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 that the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

No exceptions were found as a result of procedures i – iv.

9) Payroll and Personnel N/A-no payroll or personnel

- A. Obtain a listing of employees and officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees or 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 or 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 that 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 agrees 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's or official's cumulative leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee's or official's authorized pay rates in the employee's or official's 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 any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

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
Three exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
 - ii. Observe whether the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates that each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.
No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.
- B. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.
The entity has not appointed an ethics designee.

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.
NA – There was no debt issued during the year.
- 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).
N/A – There was no debt outstanding during the year.

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.

There were no misappropriations of public funds during the year.

- 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.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

13) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

- A. Perform the following procedures:

- i. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe evidence 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.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- ii. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- 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.

We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management.

- B. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in procedure #9C. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.

No exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- 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.

No cybersecurity training was performed.

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 that 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.

Three exceptions were found as a result of this procedure.

- B. Observe that 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).

The entity does not have a sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure.

- 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 that the report 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.

The report was not filed.

Management's Response

Management of the Ward Four Fire Protection District concurs with the exceptions and are working to address the deficiencies identified.

We were engaged by the Ward Four Fire Protection District 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 *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, 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 Ward Four Fire Protection District 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.

Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC
Certified Public Accountants

Ville Platte, Louisiana
May 9, 2024