



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**WESTERN RESERVE JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MAHONING COUNTY**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County
111 South Main Street
Poland, Ohio 44514

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the Western Reserve Joint Fire District, Mahoning County, Ohio (the District), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions which Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Western Reserve Joint Fire District, as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, or the changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) 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.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the District on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 2 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. Management is also responsible 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 GAAS and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *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 GAAS 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.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted to opine on the financial statements as a whole.

The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the schedule) as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements.

The schedule is the responsibility of management and derives from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. We subjected this schedule to the auditing procedures we applied to the financial statements. We also applied certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling the schedule 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, this schedule is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 28, 2023, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and 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.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

September 28, 2023

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Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County, Ohio

Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and
Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 945,410	\$ -	\$ 322,979	\$ 1,268,389
Intergovernmental	47,622	1,799,543	49,457	1,896,622
Charges for Services	300	140,239	-	140,539
Interest	13,400	2,087	10,736	26,223
Miscellaneous	25,357	-	-	25,357
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>1,032,089</u>	<u>1,941,869</u>	<u>383,172</u>	<u>3,357,130</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	350,462	-	5,702	356,164
Public Safety	602,626	1,862,129	-	2,464,755
Capital Outlay	-	-	80,860	80,860
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	-	-	490,227	490,227
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	-	41,377	41,377
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>953,088</u>	<u>1,862,129</u>	<u>618,166</u>	<u>3,433,383</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>79,001</u>	<u>79,740</u>	<u>(234,994)</u>	<u>(76,253)</u>
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)				
Sale of Fixed Assets	2,450	-	-	2,450
Transfers In	-	29,909	275,292	305,201
Transfers Out	(305,201)	-	-	(305,201)
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)</i>	<u>(302,751)</u>	<u>29,909</u>	<u>275,292</u>	<u>2,450</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(223,750)	109,649	40,298	(73,803)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>829,155</u>	<u>57,142</u>	<u>600,648</u>	<u>1,486,945</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 605,405</u>	<u>\$ 166,791</u>	<u>\$ 640,946</u>	<u>\$ 1,413,142</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County, Ohio

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Western Reserve Joint Fire District, Mahoning County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A five-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints two members and one citizen. Those subdivisions are Poland Township and Poland Village. The District provides fire protection and emergency rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

The District’s management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the District is financially accountable.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The District’s financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types which is organized on a fund type basis.

Fund Accounting

The District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the District are presented below:

General Fund The General Fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The general fund balance is available to the District for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Special Revenue Funds These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The District had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services Fund - The Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services Fund is used to account for revenues derived from ambulance and emergency medical service fees.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Fund - The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Fund is used to account for a Federal grant and related local match for the purchase of radio equipment allowable under the terms of the grant agreement.

Capital Project Funds These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. The District had the following significant capital project fund:

Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County, Ohio

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Capital Levy Fund – This fund accounts for and reports receipts from a Capital Improvement Levy restricted for capital outlay projects or to make payments on note advances for capital projects.

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Board recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C) permit.

Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

Appropriations Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund and department level of control and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year-end.

Estimated Resources Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered cash as of January 1st. The County Budget Commission must approve estimated resources.

Encumbrances The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over and need not be reappropriated.

A summary of 2022 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments The District's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

The District maintains three demand deposit accounts.

Capital Assets The District records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

Accumulated Leave In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County, Ohio

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Leases

The District is the lessee in a lease (as defined by GASB 87) related to copier equipment under noncancelable leases. Lease disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the District must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable The District classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the District and the nonexpendable portion of the corpus in permanent funds.

Restricted Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed Trustees can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The District must adhere to these commitments unless the Trustees amend the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

Assigned Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the general fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

Unassigned Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The District applies restricted resources last when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 11.

Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County, Ohio

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending 2022 follows:

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$982,696	\$1,034,539	\$51,843
Special Revenue	1,897,080	1,971,778	74,698
Capital Projects	639,982	658,464	18,482
Total	\$3,519,758	\$3,664,781	\$145,023

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$1,336,831	\$1,326,972	\$9,859
Special Revenue	1,935,440	1,907,815	27,625
Capital Projects	636,000	618,166	17,834
Total	\$3,908,271	\$3,852,953	\$55,318

Budgetary expenditures include encumbrances of \$68,683, \$45,686 and \$0 in the general fund, special revenue funds and capital projects fund, respectively.

Note 4 – Deposits

The District maintains a deposits and investments pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits at December 31 was as follows:

Demand Deposits	2022 \$ 1,412,892
Cash on Hand	250
Total Carrying Amount of Deposits	\$ 1,413,142

The District uses a payroll clearing account which is included in demand deposits. Expenditures included in the accompanying financial statement reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2022, the District is holding \$2,311 in unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

At December 31, 2022, all of the District’s deposits were insured or collateralized.

Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County, Ohio

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 5 – Property Taxes

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopted tax rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

Public utilities are also taxed on personal and real property located within the District.

The County is responsible for assessing property, and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the District.

Note 6 – Risk Management

The District is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and injuries to employees. The District insures against injuries to volunteers and employees through the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation.

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The District pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

Commercial Insurance

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.

During 2022, the District did not pay for any losses that exceeded insurance coverage.

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Clerical employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent, of their gross salaries and the District contributed an amount equaling 14 percent, of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2022.

Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County, Ohio

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Social Security

Fire and medical District employees contributed to Social Security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants.

Employees contributed 6.2 percent of their gross salaries. The District contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2022.

Note 8 - Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2022.

Effective January 1, 2022, OPERS discontinued the group plans currently offered to non-Medicare retirees and re-employed retirees. Instead, eligible non-Medicare retirees will select an individual medical plan. OPERS will provide a subsidy or allowance via an HRA allowance to those retirees who meet health care eligibility requirements. Retirees will be able to seek reimbursement for plan premiums and other qualified medical expenses.

Note 9 – Note Debt

The District had the following notes outstanding at December 31, 2022:

Obligation	Balance 1/1/22	Additions	Deductions	Balance 12/31/22
Fire Truck Acquisition Note - 2.50%	\$491,812	\$0	(\$244,067)	\$247,745
Station 93 Construction Note - 2.69%	945,314	0	(246,160)	699,154
Total	\$1,437,126	\$0	(\$490,227)	\$946,899

During 2018, the District issued the fire truck acquisition note through Farmers National Bank to finance the purchase of a ladder truck. The note was issued for 5 years at 2.50 percent and is collateralized by the District's taxing authority. The note matures April 1, 2023, and payments are made from the Capital Projects Fund.

During 2020, the District issued the Station 93 construction note through Farmers National Bank to finance the excavation, building addition and various improvements to Fire Station 93. The note was issued for 10 years at 2.69 percent and is collateralized by the District's taxing authority. The note matures April 15, 2030, and payments will be made from the Capital Projects Fund.

The District made a double payment on the Station 93 construction loan in 2022 and expects to do so again in 2023.

Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County, Ohio

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Amortization of the above notes are scheduled as follows:

Year Ended December 31,	Fire Truck Acquisition Note		Station 93 Construction Note	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2023	\$ 247,745	\$ 6,024	\$ 118,839	\$ 18,807
2024	-	-	122,036	15,610
2025	-	-	125,318	12,328
2026	-	-	128,689	8,957
2027	-	-	132,151	5,495
2028	-	-	72,121	1,940
Total	<u>\$ 247,745</u>	<u>\$ 6,024</u>	<u>\$ 699,154</u>	<u>\$ 63,137</u>

Note 10 – Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the District are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor, principally the federal government. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Note 11 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are encumbrances. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the encumbrance balances were as follows:

Balances	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 68,683	\$ 45,686	\$ -	\$ 114,369
Total	<u>\$ 68,683</u>	<u>\$ 45,686</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 114,369</u>

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of capital projects funds are restricted, committed, or assigned. These restricted, committed, and assigned amounts in the special revenue and capital projects funds would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County, Ohio

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 12 – Subsequent Event

In November of 2022, the voters of the District voted on and passed a 2.75 mill, continuous, emergency medical services operating levy. The levy is expected to generate approximately \$1.18 million annually, beginning in 2023. With this passage of this levy, the District hired part-time, around the clock staff to accommodate the increase in emergency calls within the District, effective August 1, 2023.

Note 13 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021 while the national state of emergency continues. During 2022, the District did not receive COVID-19 funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the District. The impact on the District's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County, Ohio

Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and
Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	Governmental Fund Types			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 922,883	\$ -	\$ 315,038	\$ 1,237,921
Intergovernmental	60,274	3,361	49,723	113,358
Charges for Services	440	56,359	-	56,799
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	500	-	-	500
Interest	3,450	-	-	3,450
Miscellaneous	29,641	-	746	30,387
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>1,017,188</u>	<u>59,720</u>	<u>365,507</u>	<u>1,442,415</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	363,947	-	-	363,947
Public Safety	477,941	21,873	-	499,814
Capital Outlay	17,120	-	759,398	776,518
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	-	-	492,768	492,768
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	-	38,837	38,837
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>859,008</u>	<u>21,873</u>	<u>1,291,003</u>	<u>2,171,884</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>158,180</u>	<u>37,847</u>	<u>(925,496)</u>	<u>(729,469)</u>
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)				
Transfers In	-	-	275,292	275,292
Transfers Out	(275,292)	-	-	(275,292)
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)</i>	<u>(275,292)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>275,292</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(117,112)	37,847	(650,204)	(729,469)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>946,267</u>	<u>19,295</u>	<u>1,250,852</u>	<u>2,216,414</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 829,155</u>	<u>\$ 57,142</u>	<u>\$ 600,648</u>	<u>\$ 1,486,945</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County, Ohio

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Western Reserve Joint Fire District, Mahoning County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A five-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints two members and one citizen. Those subdivisions are Poland Township and Poland Village. The District provides fire protection and emergency rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

The District's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the District is financially accountable.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The District's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types which is organized on a fund type basis.

Fund Accounting

The District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the District are presented below:

General Fund The General Fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The general fund balance is available to the District for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Special Revenue Funds These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted, committed or assigned to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The District had the following significant Special Revenue Fund:

Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services Fund - The Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services Fund is used to account for revenues derived from ambulance and emergency medical service fees.

Capital Project Funds These funds accounts for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. The District had the following significant capital project fund:

Capital Levy Fund – This fund accounts for and reports receipts from a Capital Improvement Levy restricted for capital outlay projects or to make payments on note advances for capital projects.

Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County, Ohio

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Board recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C) permit.

Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

Appropriations Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund and department level of control and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year-end.

Estimated Resources Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered cash as of January 1st. The County Budget Commission must approve estimated resources.

Encumbrances The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over and need not be reappropriated.

A summary of 2021 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments The District's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

The District maintains two demand deposit accounts and one repurchase agreement account.

Capital Assets The District records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

Accumulated Leave In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the District must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County, Ohio

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Nonspendable The District classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the District and the nonexpendable portion of the corpus in permanent funds.

Restricted Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed Trustees can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The District must adhere to these commitments unless the Trustees amend the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

Assigned Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the general fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

Unassigned Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The District applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 11.

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending 2021 follows:

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$992,354	\$1,017,188	\$24,834
Special Revenue	54,361	59,720	5,359
Capital Projects	615,191	640,799	25,608
Total	\$1,661,906	\$1,717,707	\$55,801

Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County, Ohio

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$1,294,922	\$1,151,871	\$143,051
Special Revenue	43,000	23,233	19,767
Capital Projects	1,308,544	1,291,003	17,541
Total	\$2,646,466	\$2,466,107	\$180,359

Budgetary expenditures include encumbrances of \$17,571, \$1,360 and \$0 in the general fund, special revenue fund and capital projects fund, respectively.

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

The District maintains a deposits and investments pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits and investments at December 31 was as follows:

Demand Deposits	2021 \$ 13,560
Cash on Hand	250
Total Deposits and Cash on Hand	13,810
Repurchase Agreement	1,473,135
Total Carrying Amount of Deposits and Investments	\$ 1,486,945

The District does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statement reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2021, the District is holding \$3,085 in unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

At December 31, 2021, all of the District’s deposits were insured or collateralized.

Investments

The District’s financial institution transfers securities to the District’s agent to collateralize repurchase agreements. The securities are not in the District’s name.

Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County, Ohio

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 5 – Property Taxes

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopted tax rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

Public utilities are also taxed on personal and real property located within the District.

The County is responsible for assessing property, and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the District.

Note 6 – Risk Management

The District is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and injuries to employees. The District insures against injuries to volunteers and employees through the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation.

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The District pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

Commercial Insurance

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.

During 2021, the District did not pay for any losses that exceeded insurance coverage.

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Clerical employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent, of their gross salaries and the District contributed an amount equaling 14 percent, of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2021.

Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County, Ohio

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Social Security

Fire and medical District employees contributed to Social Security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants.

Employees contributed 6.2 percent of their gross salaries. The District contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2021.

Note 8 - Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2021. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2021.

Note 9 – Note Debt

The District had the following notes outstanding at December 31, 2021:

Obligation	Balance 1/1/21	Additions	Deductions	Balance 12/31/21
Fire Truck Acquisition Note - 2.50%	\$729,894	\$0	(\$238,082)	\$491,812
Station 93 Construction Note - 2.69%	1,200,000	0	(254,686)	945,314
<i>Total</i>	<u>\$1,929,894</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$492,768)</u>	<u>\$1,437,126</u>

During 2018, the District issued the fire truck acquisition note through Farmers National Bank to finance the purchase of a ladder truck. The note was issued for 5 years at 2.50 percent and is collateralized by the District's taxing authority. The note matures April 1, 2023 and payments are made from the Capital Projects Fund.

During 2020, the District issued the Station 93 construction note through Farmers National Bank to finance the excavation, building addition and various improvements to Fire Station 93. The note was issued for 10 years at 2.69 percent and is collateralized by the District's taxing authority. The note matures April 15, 2030 and payments will be made from the Capital Projects Fund.

The District made a double payment on the Station 93 construction loan in 2021 and expects to do so again in 2022.

Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County, Ohio

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Amortization of the above notes are scheduled as follows:

Year Ended December 31,	Fire Truck Acquisition Note		Station 93 Construction Note	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2022	\$ 243,821	\$ 12,492	\$ 108,514	\$ 29,132
2023	247,991	6,024	111,433	26,213
2024	-	-	114,367	23,279
2025	-	-	117,507	20,139
2026	-	-	120,668	16,978
2027 - 2030	-	-	372,825	5,462
Total	<u>\$ 491,812</u>	<u>\$ 18,516</u>	<u>\$ 945,314</u>	<u>\$ 121,203</u>

Note 10 – Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the District are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor, principally the federal government. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Note 11 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are encumbrances. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the encumbrance balances were as follows:

Balances	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 17,571	\$ 1,360	\$ -	\$ 18,931
Total	<u>\$ 17,571</u>	<u>\$ 1,360</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 18,931</u>

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of capital projects funds are restricted, committed, or assigned. These restricted, committed, and assigned amounts in the special revenue and capital projects funds would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County, Ohio

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 12 – Subsequent Event

The District was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Federal Grant in the amount of \$1,676,436 to purchase 419 portable radios, 31 base stations and 92 mobile radios for 15 participating local fire departments within Mahoning County. The grant also requires a local match of \$167,644 for a total project cost of \$1,844,080. The local match of \$167,644 will be divided among 15 participating fire districts pro-rated based upon the number of radios each district will receive.

No Federal grant money was received or spent in 2021 and the amount of local match to be collected from each district, as well as the Western Reserve Joint Fire District's portion, will be determined and collected in 2022.

Note 13 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June, 2021 while the national state of emergency continues. During 2021, the District did not receive COVID-19 funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the District. The impact on the District's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

**WESTERN RESERVE JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MAHONING COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

FEDERAL GRANTOR Pass Through Grantor Program / Cluster Title	Federal AL Number	Pass Through Entity Identifying Number	Total Federal Expenditures
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY			
<i>Direct Program</i>			
Assistance to Firefighters Grant	97.044	EMW-2020-FG-15249	\$ 1,676,436
Total U.S. Department of Homeland Security			1,676,436
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			\$ 1,676,436

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

**WESTERN RESERVE JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MAHONING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
2 CFR 200.510(b)(6)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

NOTE A – BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of the Western Reserve Joint Fire District (the District) under programs of the federal government for the year ended December 31, 2022. The information on this Schedule is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the District, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position or changes in net position of the District.

NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the cash basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in Uniform Guidance wherein certain types of expenditures may or may not be allowable or may be limited as to reimbursement.

NOTE C – INDIRECT COST RATE

The District has elected not to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

NOTE D - MATCHING REQUIREMENTS

Certain Federal programs require the District to contribute non-Federal funds (matching funds) to support the Federally-funded programs. The District has met its matching requirements. The Schedule does not include the expenditure of non-Federal matching funds.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County
111 South Main Street
Poland, Ohio 44514

To the Board of Trustees:

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 (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the Western Reserve Joint Fire District, Mahoning County, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 28, 2023, wherein we noted the District followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit.

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 District'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. 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 or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

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 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 District'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 District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

September 28, 2023

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO THE MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Western Reserve Joint Fire District
Mahoning County
111 South Main Street
Poland, Ohio 44514

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program

Opinion on the Major Federal Program

We have audited Western Reserve Joint Fire District's, Mahoning County, (the District) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on Western Reserve Joint Fire District's major federal program for the year ended December 31, 2022. Western Reserve Joint Fire District's major federal program is identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying schedule of findings.

In our opinion, Western Reserve Joint Fire District complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended December 31, 2022.

Basis for Opinion on the Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with 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 opinion on compliance for the major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

The District's Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the District's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the District's compliance based on our audit. 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 GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the District's compliance with the requirements of the major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, 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 District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- obtain an understanding of the District's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of this testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

September 28, 2023

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**WESTERN RESERVE JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MAHONING COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
DECEMBER 31, 2022**

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

(d)(1)(i)	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Adverse under GAAP, unmodified under the regulatory basis
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iii)	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(v)	Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion	Unmodified
(d)(1)(vi)	Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR § 200.516(a)?	No
(d)(1)(vii)	Major Programs (list):	Assistance to Firefighters – AL# - 97.044
(d)(1)(viii)	Dollar Threshold: Type A/B Programs	Type A: > \$ 750,000 Type B: all others
(d)(1)(ix)	Low Risk Auditee under 2 CFR § 200.520?	No

**2. FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS**

None

3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



WESTERN RESERVE JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

MAHONING COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 11/9/2023

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This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
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