



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**CITY OF VAN WERT
VAN WERT COUNTY
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County
515 East Main Street
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

To the City Council:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Van Wert, Van Wert County, Ohio (the City), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash-basis financial position of the governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City, as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in cash-basis financial position and the budgetary comparison for the General fund for the year then ended in accordance with the cash-basis of accounting described in Note 2.

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 City, 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.

Emphasis of Matter - Accounting Basis

Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(B) requires the City to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 2, and for determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. 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 City'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 *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 City'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 City'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.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 13, 2024, on our consideration of the City'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 City'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 City's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

September 13, 2024

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City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Statement of Net Position-Cash Basis
December 31, 2023

	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
Assets			
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 7,626,864	\$ 6,066,494	\$ 13,693,358
Cash with Fiscal Agents	407,618	145,977	553,595
Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents	-	140,878	140,878
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>\$ 8,034,482</u>	<u>\$ 6,353,349</u>	<u>\$ 14,387,831</u>
Net Position			
Restricted for:			
Capital Projects	\$ 2,340,429	\$ -	\$ 2,340,429
Other Purposes	1,355,637	140,878	1,496,515
Unrestricted	4,338,416	6,212,471	10,550,887
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u>\$ 8,034,482</u>	<u>\$ 6,353,349</u>	<u>\$ 14,387,831</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Statement of Activities-Cash Basis
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Program Cash Receipts				Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position		
	Cash Disbursements	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants, Contributions	Capital Grants, Contributions	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
Governmental Activities							
General Government	\$ 2,066,757	\$ 744,803	\$ 87,182	\$ -	\$ (1,234,772)	\$ -	\$ (1,234,772)
Security of Persons and Property							
Police	3,009,983	7,288	21,222	-	(2,981,473)	-	(2,981,473)
Fire	2,342,330	456,383	20,896	-	(1,865,051)	-	(1,865,051)
Other	211,955	505	23,295	-	(188,155)	-	(188,155)
Public Services	144,457	-	-	-	(144,457)	-	(144,457)
Public Health	181,216	20,501	-	-	(160,715)	-	(160,715)
Leisure Time Activities	448,678	45,980	-	-	(402,698)	-	(402,698)
Community and Economic Development	140,089	-	-	-	(140,089)	-	(140,089)
Transportation	7,623,629	1,110	834,476	-	(6,788,043)	-	(6,788,043)
Capital Outlay	1,689,187	550	-	17,776	(1,670,861)	-	(1,670,861)
Intergovernmental	581,164	-	-	-	(581,164)	-	(581,164)
Debt Service:							
Principal Retirement	109,842	-	-	-	(109,842)	-	(109,842)
Interest and Fiscal Charges	66,623	-	-	-	(66,623)	-	(66,623)
Total Governmental Activities	<u>18,615,910</u>	<u>1,277,120</u>	<u>987,071</u>	<u>17,776</u>	<u>(16,333,943)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(16,333,943)</u>
Business-Type Activities							
Water	2,896,904	2,149,751	200,000	-	-	(547,153)	(547,153)
Sewer	3,224,819	3,129,793	200,000	-	-	104,974	104,974
Total Business-Type Activities	<u>6,121,723</u>	<u>5,279,544</u>	<u>400,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(442,179)</u>	<u>(442,179)</u>
Total Primary Government	<u>\$ 24,737,633</u>	<u>\$ 6,556,664</u>	<u>\$ 1,387,071</u>	<u>\$ 17,776</u>	<u>(16,333,943)</u>	<u>(442,179)</u>	<u>(16,776,122)</u>
General Receipts:							
Property Taxes Levied for:							
					407,772	-	407,772
					52,714	-	52,714
					52,714	-	52,714
Income Taxes Levied for:							
					5,565,330	-	5,565,330
					1,170,497	-	1,170,497
					2,660,221	-	2,660,221
					206,014	-	206,014
Other Local Taxes -Hotel/Motel							
Grants and Entitlements not Restricted							
to Specific Programs							
					529,269	-	529,269
					60,128	-	60,128
					33,193	-	33,193
					568,360	-	568,360
					243,133	-	243,133
					588,636	-	588,636
					73,758	92,316	166,074
Total General Receipts					<u>12,211,739</u>	<u>92,316</u>	<u>12,304,055</u>
Transfers					22,791	(22,791)	-
Change in Net Position					<u>(4,099,413)</u>	<u>(372,654)</u>	<u>(4,472,067)</u>
Net Position Beginning of Year					<u>12,133,895</u>	<u>6,726,003</u>	<u>18,859,898</u>
Net Position End of Year					<u>\$ 8,034,482</u>	<u>\$ 6,353,349</u>	<u>\$ 14,387,831</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Statement of Assets and Fund Balances - Cash Basis
Governmental Funds
December 31, 2023

	General	Street Construction	Police & Fire Safety	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets					
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 3,818,174	\$ 1,277,811	\$ 887,029	\$ 1,643,850	\$ 7,626,864
Cash with Fiscal Agents	336,497	23,806	-	39,403	399,706
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>\$ 4,154,671</u>	<u>\$ 1,301,617</u>	<u>\$ 887,029</u>	<u>\$ 1,683,253</u>	<u>\$ 8,026,570</u>
 Fund Balances					
Nonspendable	\$ 15,800	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,800
Restricted	-	1,301,617	887,029	1,507,420	3,696,066
Committed	215,083	-	-	175,833	390,916
Assigned	1,224,752	-	-	-	1,224,752
Unassigned	2,699,036	-	-	-	2,699,036
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<u>\$ 4,154,671</u>	<u>\$ 1,301,617</u>	<u>\$ 887,029</u>	<u>\$ 1,683,253</u>	<u>\$ 8,026,570</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balances to
Net Position of Governmental Activities
December 31, 2023

Total Governmental Fund Balances	\$ 8,026,570
 <i>Amounts reported for governmental activities in the</i> <i>statement of net position are different because:</i>	
 An internal service fund is used by management to charge the costs of vehicle repairs to individual funds. The assets and liabilities of the internal service fund are included in governmental activities in the statement of net position.	
	<u>7,912</u>
<i>Net Position of Governmental Activities</i>	<u><u>\$ 8,034,482</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances - Cash Basis
Governmental Funds
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	General	Street Construction	Police & Fire Safety	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Receipts					
Property Taxes	\$ 407,772	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 105,428	\$ 513,200
Municipal Income Taxes	5,565,330	2,660,221	1,170,497	-	9,396,048
Other Local Taxes	55,366	-	-	150,648	206,014
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	-	-	-	568,360	568,360
Charges for Services	559,762	-	-	1,660	561,422
Fees, Licenses and Permits	114,694	-	-	-	114,694
Fines and Forfeitures	248,866	-	-	293,863	542,729
Intergovernmental	516,465	-	17,458	1,181,912	1,715,835
Interest	588,636	-	-	31,564	620,200
Rent	58,275	-	-	-	58,275
Gifts and Donations	1,100	-	-	28,750	29,850
Other	20,771	22,940	-	30,047	73,758
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>8,137,037</u>	<u>2,683,161</u>	<u>1,187,955</u>	<u>2,392,232</u>	<u>14,400,385</u>
Disbursements					
Current:					
General Government	1,842,666	-	-	224,525	2,067,191
Security of Persons and Property					
Police	2,939,351	-	-	70,632	3,009,983
Fire	2,280,189	-	-	71,159	2,351,348
Other	211,674	-	-	281	211,955
Public Service	144,457	-	-	-	144,457
Public Health	172,198	-	-	-	172,198
Leisure Time Activities	448,678	-	-	-	448,678
Community and Economic Development	-	-	-	140,089	140,089
Transportation	-	6,613,834	-	1,009,795	7,623,629
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	581,164	581,164
Capital Outlay	-	-	1,499,074	190,113	1,689,187
Debt Service:					
Principal Retirement	19,921	-	19,921	70,000	109,842
Interest and Fiscal Charges	11,149	-	11,149	44,325	66,623
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<u>8,070,283</u>	<u>6,613,834</u>	<u>1,530,144</u>	<u>2,402,083</u>	<u>18,616,344</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>66,754</u>	<u>(3,930,673)</u>	<u>(342,189)</u>	<u>(9,851)</u>	<u>(4,215,959)</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)					
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	29,800	-	3,393	-	33,193
Insurance Recoveries	60,128	-	-	-	60,128
Advances In	594,365	-	-	-	594,365
Advances Out	-	-	-	(594,365)	(594,365)
Transfers In	34,045	-	-	162,770	196,815
Transfers Out	(162,770)	(3,592)	-	(4,730)	(171,092)
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>555,568</u>	<u>(3,592)</u>	<u>3,393</u>	<u>(436,325)</u>	<u>119,044</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	622,322	(3,934,265)	(338,796)	(446,176)	(4,096,915)
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	<u>3,532,349</u>	<u>5,235,882</u>	<u>1,225,825</u>	<u>2,129,429</u>	<u>12,123,485</u>
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 4,154,671</u>	<u>\$ 1,301,617</u>	<u>\$ 887,029</u>	<u>\$ 1,683,253</u>	<u>\$ 8,026,570</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
*Reconciliation of the Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes
in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds \$ (4,096,915)

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

The internal service fund used by management to charge the costs of vehicle repairs to individual funds is not reported in the entity-wide statement of activities. Governmental disbursements and related internal service fund receipts are eliminated. The net receipt (disbursement) of the internal service fund is allocated among the governmental activities.

(2,498)

Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities

\$ (4,099,413)

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes
In Fund Balance - Budget and Actual - Budget Basis
General Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>			Variance with Final Budget Over (Under)
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
Receipts				
Property Taxes	\$ 403,000	\$ 403,000	\$ 407,772	\$ 4,772
Income Taxes	5,201,900	5,201,900	5,565,330	363,430
Other Local Taxes	53,000	53,000	55,366	2,366
Charges for Services	521,600	521,600	559,762	38,162
Licenses and Permits	120,000	120,000	114,694	(5,306)
Fines and Forfeitures	325,000	325,000	248,866	(76,134)
Intergovernmental	394,830	394,830	516,465	121,635
Interest	165,000	165,000	588,636	423,636
Rent	60,000	60,000	58,275	(1,725)
Contributions and Donations	-	-	1,100	1,100
Other	94,950	94,950	20,771	(74,179)
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>7,339,280</u>	<u>7,339,280</u>	<u>8,137,037</u>	<u>797,757</u>
Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	2,113,491	2,200,559	1,873,117	327,442
Security of Persons and Property				
Police	2,945,957	3,158,851	2,913,848	245,003
Fire	2,409,019	2,516,187	2,277,430	238,757
Other	297,133	252,871	211,674	41,197
Public Services	204,130	262,858	201,705	61,153
Public Health	171,198	172,198	172,198	-
Leisure Time Activities	482,918	484,521	445,689	38,832
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	-	19,921	19,921	-
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	11,149	11,149	-
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<u>8,623,846</u>	<u>9,079,115</u>	<u>8,126,731</u>	<u>952,384</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>(1,284,566)</u>	<u>(1,739,835)</u>	<u>10,306</u>	<u>1,750,141</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Sale of Assets	2,000	2,000	29,800	27,800
Insurance Recoveries	-	-	60,128	60,128
Advances In	-	-	594,365	594,365
Transfers In	15,000	15,000	31,675	16,675
Transfers Out	(150,470)	(236,176)	(224,688)	11,488
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>(133,470)</u>	<u>(219,176)</u>	<u>491,280</u>	<u>710,456</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	<u>(1,418,036)</u>	<u>(1,959,011)</u>	<u>501,586</u>	<u>2,460,597</u>
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	2,863,470	2,863,470	2,863,470	-
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	75,234	75,234	75,234	-
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 1,520,668</u>	<u>\$ 979,693</u>	<u>\$ 3,440,290</u>	<u>\$ 2,460,597</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Statement of Fund Net Position - Cash Basis
Proprietary Funds
December 31, 2023

	<u>Business-Type Activities (Enterprise)</u>			Governmental Activities - Internal Service Fund
	<u>Water</u>	<u>Sewer</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Assets				
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,299,685	\$ 4,766,809	\$ 6,066,494	\$ -
Cash with Fiscal Agents	77,970	68,007	145,977	7,912
Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>70,439</u>	<u>70,439</u>	<u>140,878</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>\$ 1,448,094</u>	<u>\$ 4,905,255</u>	<u>\$ 6,353,349</u>	<u>\$ 7,912</u>
Net Position				
Restricted for Other Purposes	\$ 70,439	\$ 70,439	\$ 140,878	\$ -
Unrestricted	<u>1,377,655</u>	<u>4,834,816</u>	<u>6,212,471</u>	<u>7,912</u>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u>\$ 1,448,094</u>	<u>\$ 4,905,255</u>	<u>\$ 6,353,349</u>	<u>\$ 7,912</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Net Position - Cash Basis
Proprietary Funds
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Business-Type Activities (Enterprise)			Governmental Activities - Internal Service Fund
	Water	Sewer	Totals	
Operating Receipts				
Charges for Services	\$ 2,073,740	\$ 3,109,633	\$ 5,183,373	\$ 293,239
Tap In Fees	76,011	20,160	96,171	-
<i>Total Operating Receipts</i>	2,149,751	3,129,793	5,279,544	293,239
Operating Disbursements				
Personal Services	1,173,864	1,041,764	2,215,628	132,745
Materials and Supplies	880,593	695,216	1,575,809	155,621
Utilities Deposits Refunded	1,459	1,459	2,918	-
Capital Outlay	840,988	1,277,588	2,118,576	5,000
<i>Total Operating Disbursements</i>	2,896,904	3,016,027	5,912,931	293,366
<i>Operating Income (Loss)</i>	(747,153)	113,766	(633,387)	(127)
Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)				
Intergovernmental	200,000	200,000	400,000	-
Other Non-Operating Receipts	52,501	39,815	92,316	561
Principal Retirement	-	(208,792)	(208,792)	-
<i>Total Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	252,501	31,023	283,524	561
<i>Income (Loss) Before Transfers</i>	(494,652)	144,789	(349,863)	434
Transfers Out	(12,267)	(10,524)	(22,791)	(2,932)
<i>Total Transfers</i>	(12,267)	(10,524)	(22,791)	(2,932)
<i>Change in Net Position</i>	(506,919)	134,265	(372,654)	(2,498)
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	1,955,013	4,770,990	6,726,003	10,410
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	\$ 1,448,094	\$ 4,905,255	\$ 6,353,349	\$ 7,912

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position - Cash Basis
Fiduciary Funds
December 31, 2023

	Private Purpose Trust Funds	Custodial Funds
Assets		
Cash in Segregated Accounts	\$ 41,510	\$ 98,811
<i>Total Assets</i>	41,510	98,811
Net Position		
Restricted for Individuals, Organizations and Other Governments	-	98,811
Restricted for Other Fiduciary	41,510	-
<i>Total Net Position</i>	\$ 41,510	\$ 98,811

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position - Cash Basis
Fiduciary Funds
December 31, 2023

	Private Purpose Trust Funds	Custodial Funds
Additions		
Fines and Forfeitures for Other Governments	\$ -	\$ 842,206
Amounts Received as Fiscal Agent	-	233,335
Interest	2,110	-
<i>Total Additions</i>	<u>2,110</u>	<u>1,075,541</u>
Deductions		
Distributions as Fiscal Agent	-	233,335
Distributions of Fines and Forfeitures	-	855,466
<i>Total Deductions</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,088,801</u>
<i>Change in Net Position</i>	2,110	(13,260)
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	<u>39,400</u>	<u>112,071</u>
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 41,510</u>	<u>\$ 98,811</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

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City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The City of Van Wert is a home rule municipal corporation established under the laws of the State of Ohio. The City operates under the Mayor/Council form of government. Four council members are elected from wards for two year terms. The President of Council and three council members are elected by separate ballot from the municipality at large for two year terms. The Mayor is elected for a four year term. The Mayor may veto any legislation passed by Council. In addition to establishing City policies, Council is responsible for passing ordinances, adopting the budget, and appointing boards and commissions. The Mayor is responsible for carrying out the policies and ordinances of Council, for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the City and for appointing the heads of the various City departments.

The reporting entity is composed of the primary government, component unit, and other organizations that are included to ensure the financial statements of the City are not misleading.

A. Primary Government

The primary government consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies that are not legally separate from the City. The primary government of the City of Van Wert provides the following services to its citizens: police and fire protection, emergency medical transportation, parks and recreation, building inspection, street maintenance and repairs, water, sewer services as well as a staff to provide support (i.e., payroll processing, accounts payable, and revenue collection) to the service providers. Council has direct responsibility for these services.

B. Component Units

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the City is financially accountable. The City is financially accountable for an organization if the City appoints a voting majority of the organization’s governing board and (1) the City is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the City is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization’s resources; the City is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or the City is obligated for the debt of the organization. The City is also financially accountable for any organizations that are fiscally dependent on the City in that the City approves their budget, the issuance of their debt, or the levying of their taxes. Component units also include legally separate, tax-exempt entities whose resources are for the direct benefit of the City, are accessible to the City and are significant in amount to the City. There were no component units of the City of Van Wert in 2023.

C. Joint Ventures/Jointly Governed Organizations/Related Organizations

A joint venture is a legal entity or other organization that results from a contractual arrangement that is owned, operated, or governed by two or more participants as a separate and specific activity subject to joint control, in which the participants retain (a) an ongoing financial interest or (b) an ongoing financial responsibility. Under the cash basis of accounting, the City does not report assets for equity interests in joint ventures.

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

The City participates in the following jointly governed organizations and other related organizations.

Jointly Governed Organizations

Van Wert County Regional Planning Commission - (the Commission) is a jointly governed organization among the County, City of Van Wert, and Townships and villages within the County. The degree of control exercised by any participating government is limited to its representation on the Board. The Board is comprised of thirty members of which, two-thirds are elected officials. The County must be represented by the three County Commissioners, a County Health Official, the County Engineer, the County Recorder, the County Auditor, the Sheriff and the County Extension Agent. Other members include: a representative from all participating Boards of Township Trustees: the Mayor or a Council member of each participating incorporated village; two representatives from the City of Van Wert, one being the Mayor or his designee and one being appointed by City Council.

The remaining members of the Commission are representatives from public utility, minority groups, business industry, Ministerial Association, farm organizations, Chamber of Commerce and other representatives as deemed necessary by the Commission.

The Commission makes studies, maps, plan, recommendations and reports, concerning the physical, environmental, social, economic, and governmental characteristic, functions, and services of the County. The City made no contributions in 2023 for operations of the Commission. The Commission is a joint venture since it cannot continue to exist without the financial support of the City. The City does not have an equity interest in the joint venture. The Commission is not accumulating significant financial resources and is not experiencing fiscal stress that may cause an additional financial benefit to or burden on members in the future. Complete financial statement can be obtained from the Commission located at 121 East Main, Van Wert, Ohio 45891.

Community Improvement Corporation of the City of Van Wert and Van Wert County (the CIC) – The CIC is a jointly governed organization between the City and the County. The general purpose of the CIC is to pursue and maintain economic development within the County.

The CIC is governed by a Board of Trustees made up of fifteen members, who include: three elected or appointed officers of the City, to be designated annually by the Board of County Commissioners; six people to be designated annually by the Board of Trustees of the Van Wert Area Chamber of Commerce; the President of the Van Wert Industrial Development Corporation (in ex officio status); and two people who are residents of the County, to be elected at the annual meeting of the members by a majority of the members listed previously.

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Related Organizations

Woodland Union Cemetery, Van Wert County

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges for the Woodland Union Cemetery, Van Wert County, (the Cemetery). Pleasant Township and the City of Van Wert appoint a three-member Board of Trustees to direct cemetery operations. The Board of Trustees possesses its own contracting and budgeting authority, hires and fires personnel, and does not depend on the City for operational subsidies. Although the City serves as the taxing authority, its role is limited to a ministerial function. The determination to request approval of a tax, the rate, and the purpose are discretionary decisions made solely by the Board of Trustees. Financial information can be obtained from the Woodland Union Cemetery, 10968 Woodland Avenue, Van Wert, Ohio 45891.

Public Entities Pool of Ohio (PEP)

The City belongs to the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (PEP), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio local governments. PEP provides property and casualty coverage for its members. PEP is a member of the American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP), which is also administered by ARPCO. Member governments pay annual contributions to fund PEP. PEP pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles. (See Note 7)

Ohio Association of Public Treasurers Group Rating Plan (GRP)

The City participates in the Ohio Association of Public Treasurers Group Rating Plan (GRP) for workers' compensation. The GRP is an up-front premium savings for the City's Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation premium. The GRP is based upon claims that have already occurred for the member participants. The GRP is offered in conjunction with CompManagement, LLC, the City's Third Party administrator for workers' compensation. Within that capacity, CompManagement provides risk management services to the City of Van Wert. Each year, the participants pay an enrollment fee to the program to cover the costs of administering the program. (See Note 7)

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

As discussed further in Note 2.C, these financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting. This cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Generally accepted accounting principles include all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the cash basis of accounting. Following are the more significant of the City's accounting policies.

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

A. Basis of Presentation

The City's basic financial statements consist of government-wide financial statements, including a statement of net position and a statement of activities, and fund financial statements which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

1. Government-Wide Financial Statements

The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the City as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds. The activity of the internal service fund is eliminated to avoid "doubling up" receipts and disbursements. The statements distinguish between those activities of the City that are governmental in nature and those that are considered business-type activities. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental receipts or other nonexchange transactions. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties for goods or services.

The statement of net position presents the cash balance of the governmental and business-type activities of the City at year end. The statement of activities compares disbursements and program receipts for each program or function of the City's governmental activities and business-type activities. Disbursements are reported by function. A function is a group of related activities designed to accomplish a major service or regulatory program for which the City is responsible.

Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program, grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program, and receipts of interest earned on grants that are required to be used to support a particular program. Receipts which are not classified as program receipts are presented as general receipts of the City, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental program or business activity is self-financing on a cash basis or draws from the general receipts of the City.

2. Fund Financial Statements

During the year, the City segregates transactions related to certain City functions or activities in separate funds in order to aid financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. Fund financial statements are designed to present financial information of the City at this more detailed level.

The focus of governmental and enterprise fund financial statements is on major funds. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column. The internal service fund is presented in a single column on the face of the proprietary fund financial statements. Fiduciary funds are reported by type.

Proprietary fund statements distinguish operating transactions from nonoperating transactions. Operating receipts generally result from exchange transactions such as charges

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

for services directly relating to the funds' principal services. Operating disbursements include costs of sales and services and administrative costs. The fund statements report all other receipts and disbursements as nonoperating.

B. Fund Accounting

The City 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 City are presented in three categories: governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary.

1. Governmental Funds

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions of the City are financed. The following are the City's major governmental funds:

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 City for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Street Construction Fund - The street construction fund accounts for all financial resources resulting from .50 percent income tax. The street construction fund is for the following purpose: to design, build, maintain and inspect City streets for any related equipment, labor, materials and supplies.

Police & Fire Safety Fund – The police and fire safety fund accounts for financial resources for the purpose of capital improvements related to the police and fire departments.

The other governmental funds of the City account for and report grants and other resources, whose use is restricted, committed or assigned to a particular purpose.

2. Proprietary Funds

The City classifies funds financed primarily from user charges for goods or services as proprietary. Proprietary funds are classified as either enterprise funds or internal service funds.

Enterprise Funds - Enterprise funds may be used to account for any activity for which a fee is charged to external users for goods or services. The following are the City's major enterprise funds:

Water Fund - The water fund accounts for the provision of water treatment and distribution to the residents and commercial users located within the City.

Sewer Fund - The sewer fund accounts for the provision of sanitary sewer services to the residents and commercial users within the City.

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Internal Service Fund - The internal service fund accounts for the financing of services provided by one department or agency to other departments or agencies of the City on a cost reimbursement basis. The City's internal service fund accounts for monies received for the activities of the garage fund.

3. Fiduciary Funds

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private purpose trust funds, and custodial funds. Trust funds are used to account for assets held by the City under a trust agreement for individuals, private organizations, or other governments and are not available to support the City's own programs. The City's trust fund accounts for an endowment in which only the income is to be used to remove dead or dangerous trees from the City property between the sidewalk and the streets. Custodial funds are purely custodial in nature and are used to account for assets held by the City for individuals, other governments, or other organizations. The City's custodial funds accounts for the activity of the municipal court, State Patrol Rotary, ESID, and the Woodland Cemetery.

C. Basis of Accounting

The City's financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Receipts are recorded in the City's financial records and reported in the financial statements when cash is received rather than when earned and disbursements are recorded when cash is paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

As a result of the use of the cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and expenses for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued expenses and liabilities) are not recorded in these financial statements.

D. Budgetary Process

All funds, except custodial funds, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the certificate of estimated resources, and the appropriations resolution, all of which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The tax budget demonstrates a need for existing or increased tax rates.

The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amount City Council may appropriate. The appropriations ordinance is City Council's authorization to spend resources and sets annual limits on disbursements plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by City Council. The legal level of control has been established by City Council at the fund, department, and object level for all funds.

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the year if projected increases or decreases in receipts are identified by the City Finance Director. The amounts reported as the

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

original budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the certificate of estimated resources when the original appropriations were adopted. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the amended certificated of estimated resources in effect at the time final appropriations were passed by City Council.

The appropriations ordinance is subject to amendment throughout the year with the restriction that appropriations cannot exceed estimated resources. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts reflect the first appropriation ordinance for that fund that covered the entire year, including amounts automatically carried forward from prior years. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts represent the final appropriation amounts passed by City Council during the year.

E. Cash and Investments

To improve cash management, cash received by the City is pooled and invested. Individual fund integrity is maintained through City records. Interest in the pool is presented as “Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents”.

Cash and cash equivalents that are held separately within the Municipal Court of the City (Custodial Fund) and for the Walter Emans Memorial (Private Purpose Trust) are recorded as “Cash in Segregated Accounts”.

Investments of the cash management pool and investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time of purchase are presented on the financial statements as cash equivalents. Investments with an initial maturity of more than three months that were not purchased from the pool are reported as investments.

Investments are reported as assets. Accordingly, purchases of investments are not recorded as disbursements, and sales of investments are not recorded as receipts. Gains or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or negative receipts (contra revenue), respectively.

During the year 2023, the City invested in STAR Ohio. STAR Ohio (the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio), is an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer’s Office which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAR Ohio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but has adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), Statement No. 79, “Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants.” The City measures their investment in STAR Ohio at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides an NAV per share that approximates fair value.

For the year 2023, there were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, notice must be given 24 hours in advance of all deposits and withdrawals exceeding \$100 million. STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit the transaction to \$250 million, requiring the excess amount to be transacted the following business day(s), but only to the \$25 million limit. All accounts of the participant will be combined for these purposes.

City of Van Wert
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

The City also reports “cash with fiscal agents” for monies held for Jefferson Health Plan.

Interest earnings are allocated to City funds according to State statutes, the Charter and Codified Ordinances of the City, grant requirements, or debt related restrictions. Interest receipts credited to the General Fund during 2023 was \$588,636 which includes \$476,303 assigned from other City funds.

F. Restricted Assets

Assets are reported as restricted when limitations on their use change the nature or normal understanding of the availability of the asset. Such constraints are either externally imposed by creditors, contributors, grantors, or laws of other governments, or are imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the City are reported as nonspendable.

The City also reports “restricted cash and cash equivalents” for monies held for water and sewer deposits.

G. Inventory and Prepaid Items

The City reports disbursements for inventory and prepaid items when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

H. Capital Assets

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

I. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment or retirement, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the City’s cash basis of accounting.

J. Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans

The City recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in Notes 8 and 9, the employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and for postretirement health care benefits.

K. Long-Term Obligations

The City’s cash basis financial statements do not report liabilities for bonds and other long-term obligations. Proceeds of debt are reported when cash is received and principal and interest payments are reported when paid.

City of Van Wert
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

L. Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. Net position restricted for other purposes primarily include resources restricted for street repair, and maintenance of State highways and local streets, recreation, loans to local businesses, and other revenues restricted for use by the municipal court and police department. The City's policy is to first apply restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted resources are available.

M. Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the City is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable - The nonspendable fund balance category includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form, or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The "not in spendable form" criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

Restricted - Fund balance is reported as 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 or enabling legislation (City ordinances).

Enabling legislation authorizes the City to assess, levy, charge, or otherwise mandate payment of resources (from external resource providers) and includes a legally enforceable requirement that those resources be used only for the specific purposes stipulated in the legislation. Legal enforceability means that the City can be compelled by an external party-such as citizens, public interest groups, or the judiciary to use resources created by enabling legislation only for the purposes specified by the legislation.

Committed - The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by formal action (ordinance or resolution) of City Council. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless City Council removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (ordinance or resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. In contrast to fund balance that is restricted by enabling legislation, the committed fund balance classification may be redeployed for other purposes with appropriate due process. Constraints imposed on the use of committed amounts are imposed by City Council, separate from the authorization to raise the underlying revenue; therefore, compliance with these constraints is not considered to be legally enforceable. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

City of Van Wert
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Assigned - Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the City for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the general fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the general fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by City Council or a City official delegated that authority by City Charter or ordinance, or by State Statute.

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

The City 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.

N. Interfund Transactions

Transfers between governmental and business-type activities on the government-wide financial statements are reported in the same manner as general receipts.

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as receipts in the seller funds and as disbursements in the purchaser funds. Subsidies from one fund to another without a requirement for repayment are reported as interfund transfers. Interfund transfers are reported as other financing sources/uses in governmental funds and after nonoperating receipts/disbursements in proprietary funds. Repayments from funds responsible for particular disbursements to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented in the financial statements.

O. Pensions

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, information about fiduciary net position of the pension plans and additions to/deductions from their fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the pension systems. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. The pension systems report investments at fair value.

P. Leases

The City is the lessee (as defined by GASB 87) in one lease related to equipment under noncancelable leases. Lease receivables/payables are not reflected under the City's modified cash basis of accounting. Lease revenue/disbursements are recognized when they are received/paid.

City of Van Wert
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Q. Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA)

In 2023, GASB Statement No. 96, Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA) was effective. This GASB pronouncement had no effect on beginning net position/fund balance.

The City may enter into SBITAs; however, liabilities are not reflected under the City's cash basis of accounting. SBITA disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

Note 3 – Compliance

Ohio Administrative Code, Section 117-2-03 (B), requires the City to file annual financial reports which are prepared using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). For 2023, the City prepared its financial statements that, although formatted similar to financial statements prescribed by Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement, No. 34, report on a basis of cash receipts and cash disbursements rather than GAAP. The accompanying financial statements and notes omit assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, fund equities, and disclosures that, while material, cannot be determined at this time. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38, the City may be fined, and subject to various other administrative remedies for its failure to file the required financial report.

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

Monies held by the City are classified by State statute into three categories.

Active monies are public monies determined to be necessary to meet current demands upon the City treasury. Active monies must be maintained either as cash in the City treasury, in commercial accounts payable or withdrawable on demand, including negotiable order of withdrawal (NOW) accounts, or in money market deposit accounts.

Inactive deposits are public deposits that Council has identified as not required for use within the current five year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must either be evidenced by certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designation of depositories, or by savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

Interim deposits are deposits of interim monies. Interim monies are those monies which are not needed for immediate use but which will be needed before the end of the current period of designation of depositories. Interim deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit or by savings or deposit accounts, including passbook accounts.

Protection of the City's deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), by eligible securities pledged by the financial institution as security for repayment, or by the financial institutions participation in 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.

Interim monies held by the City can be deposited or invested in the following securities:

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

1. United States Treasury bills, bonds, notes, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury, or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligation or security issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality including, but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Government National Mortgage Association, and Student Loan Marketing Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least 2 percent and be marked to market daily, and the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio or Ohio local governments; and, with certain limitations including a maturity within ten years from the date of settlement, bonds and other obligations of political subdivisions of the State of Ohio, if training requirements have been met;
5. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;
6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
7. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio).
8. Certain bankers' acceptances and commercial paper notes for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time if training requirements have been met.

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements, and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage, and short selling are also prohibited. An investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase, unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the City, and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity. Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of the securities representing the investments to the treasurer or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

Deposits

At year-end, \$750 of the City's bank balance of \$352,173 was exposed to custodial credit risk. Although the securities were held by the pledging financial institutions' trust department in the City's name and all statutory requirements for the investment of money had been followed, noncompliance with Federal requirements could potentially subject the City to a successful claim by the FDIC.

City of Van Wert
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Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

At December 31, 2023, the City reported cash with fiscal agent balance of \$553,595 with the Jefferson Health Plan, a public entity, risk sharing, claims servicing and insurance purchasing pool (see Note 7). The money is held by the claims servicing pool in a pooled account, which is representative of numerous entities and therefore cannot be included in the risk disclosures reported by the City. The classification of cash and cash equivalents with fiscal agent for the Jefferson Health Plan as a whole may be obtained from the Plan's fiscal agent, the Jefferson County Educational Service Center. To obtain financial information, write to the Jefferson Health Plan, Treasurer, 2023 Sunset Blvd., Steubenville, Ohio 43952.

Custodial Credit Risk Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the City will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in possession of an outside party.

The City has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or protected by:

- Eligible securities pledged to the City and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose market value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of the deposits being secured; or
- Participation in 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. OPCS required the total market value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State.

Investments

As of December 31, 2023, the City had the following investments:

Investment	Amount	Investment Maturities in Months			% Total
		0 - 12	13 - 36	Over 36	
NAV:					
STAR Ohio	\$ 515,868	\$ 515,868	\$ -	\$ -	3.9%
Cost Value:					
Repurchase Agreement	909,197	909,197	-	-	6.8%
VW Municipal Court Improvement Bonds	915,000	75,000	160,000	680,000	6.9%
VW Municipal Building HVAC Improvement Bonds	852,076	40,838	84,764	726,474	6.4%
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation	500,000	-	500,000	-	3.8%
Federal Home Loan Bank	3,500,000	-	3,500,000	-	26.2%
Federal Farm Credit Bank	3,000,000	2,000,000	1,000,000	-	22.5%
Money Market Accounts	2,642,166	2,642,166	-	-	19.8%
Certificates of Deposit	490,000	-	490,000	-	3.7%
	<u>\$13,324,307</u>	<u>\$ 6,183,069</u>	<u>\$ 5,734,764</u>	<u>\$ 1,406,474</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

Interest Rate Risk Interest rate risk arises because potential purchasers of debt securities will not agree to pay face value for those securities if interest rates subsequently increase. The City's investment policy addresses interest rate risk by requiring the City's investment portfolio be structured so that securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations and/or long-term debt payments, thereby avoiding the need to sell securities on the open market prior to maturity, and by investing operating funds primarily in short-term investments.

Credit Risk The security underlying the repurchase agreement, the federal farm credit banks, federal home loan mortgage corporation and federal home loan bank carry a rating of Aaa by Moody's and AA+

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by Standard and Poors. STAR Ohio carries a rating of AAAM by Standard and Poor's. The City has no investment policy dealing with investment credit risk beyond the requirements in state statutes. Ohio law requires that STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service and that the money market fund be rated in the highest category at the time of purchase by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service.

STAR Ohio is an investment pool operated by the Ohio State Treasurer. It is unclassified since it is not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form. Ohio law requires STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service. The weighted average of maturity of the portfolio held by STAR Ohio as of December 31, 2023, is 46 days and carries a rating of AAAM by S&P Global Ratings.

Custodial Credit Risk For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the City will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The repurchase agreement, federal national mortgage association notes and the federal home loan bank notes are exposed to custodial credit risk as they are uninsured, unregistered, and held by the counterparty's trust department or agent but not in the City's name.

The City has no investment policy dealing with investment custodial risk beyond the requirements in ORC 135.14(M)(2) which states, "Payment for investments shall be made only upon the delivery of securities representing such investments to the treasurer, investing authority, or qualified trustee. If the securities transferred are not represented by a certificate, payment shall be made only upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian by the treasurer, governing board, or qualified trustee."

Concentration of Credit Risk The City places no limit on the amount it may invest in any one issuer.

Note 5 – Income Taxes

The City levies a 1.72 percent income tax on substantially all income earned in the City. In addition, City residents employed in municipalities having an income tax less than 1.72 percent must pay the difference to the City. Additional increases in the income tax rate require voter approval. Employers within the City withhold income tax on employee compensation and remit at least quarterly and file an annual declaration.

The City's income tax ordinance requires that .72 percent of the income tax levied is to be used to finance capital improvements. As a result, .50 percent of receipts are allocated to the street construction fund and .22 percent of receipts are allocated to the police and fire safety fund each year. Starting in 2010, based on the prior year tax budget, up to 2/3 of the .22 percent of receipts allocated to the police and fire safety fund can be used for personal and fringe benefit expense for police and fire personnel. An amended police and fire fund was established for this activity.

The remaining income tax receipts are to be used to pay the cost of administering the tax, general fund operations, capital improvements, debt service and other governmental functions when needed, as determined by Council. During 2023, the taxes were allocated to the general fund, street construction fund, police and fire safety fund.

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Note 6 – Property Taxes

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real and public utility property located in the City. Property tax revenue received during 2023 for real and public utility property taxes represents collections of the 2022 taxes.

2023 real property taxes were levied after October 1, 2022 on the assessed value as of January 1, 2022, the lien date. Assessed values are established by State law at 35 percent of appraised market value.

Real property taxes are payable annually or semi-annually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semi-annually, the first payment is due December 31, with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits later payment dates to be established.

Public utility tangible personal property currently is assessed at varying percentages of true value; public utility real property is assessed at 35 percent of true value. 2023 public utility property taxes which became a lien December 31, 2022, are levied after October 1, 2022, and are collected in 2023 with real property taxes.

The full tax rate for all City operations for the year ended December 31, 2023, was \$3.20 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The assessed values of real property and public utility tangible property upon which 2023 property tax receipts were based are as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Assessed Value</u>
Real Estate	\$ 184,263,770
Public Utility Personal Property	<u>14,671,750</u>
Total Assessed Value	<u>\$ 198,935,520</u>

The County Treasurer collects property taxes on behalf of all taxing districts within the County, including the City. The County Auditor periodically remits to the City its portion of the taxes collected.

Note 7 – Risk Management

Property and Liability

The City is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. During 2023, the City also contracted for buildings and contents coverage. The City also contracted through Merkle Insurance Agency with the Public Entities Pool of Ohio for the remaining coverage.

Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three years and there was no significant reduction in coverage from the prior year.

The City is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and injuries to employees.

The City insures against injuries to employees through the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation.

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Casualty and Property Coverage

APEEP provides PEP with an excess risk-sharing program. Under this arrangement, PEP retains insured risks up to an amount specified in the contracts.

The aforementioned casualty and property reinsurance agreement does not discharge PEP's primary liability for claims payments on covered losses. Claims exceeding coverage limits are the obligation of the respective government.

Financial Position

PEP's financial statements (audited by other auditors) conform with general accepted accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and reported the following assets, liabilities and net position at December 31, 2023 and 2022 (most recent available):

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Assets	\$ 67,306,752	\$ 61,537,313
Liabilities	<u>(23,172,377)</u>	<u>(18,643,081)</u>
Net Position - Unrestricted	<u>\$ 44,134,375</u>	<u>\$ 42,894,232</u>

At December 31, 2023 the liabilities above include approximately \$18.6 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets above also include approximately \$67.3 million (\$61.5 million for 2022) of unpaid claims to be billed. The Pool's membership increased to 629 members in 2023 (610 in 2022). These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment.

The Pool uses reinsurance and excess risk sharing arrangements to reduce its exposure to loss. These agreements permit recovery of a portion of its claims from reinsurers and a risk sharing pool; however, they do not discharge the Pool's primary liability for such payments. The Pool is a member of American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP), which, like PEP, is administered by York Risk Pooling Services, Inc. (York). APEEP provides the Pool with an excess risk sharing program. Under this arrangement, the Pool retains insured risks up to an amount specified in the contracts.

Worker's Compensation

The City participates in the Ohio Association of Public Treasurers (GRP) for worker's compensation. The intent of the GRP is to achieve the benefit of reduced premiums for the participants, foster safer working conditions and foster cost-effective claims management skills by virtue of its grouping and representation with other participants in the GRP. The workers' compensation experience of the participating cities is calculated as one experience and a common premium is applied to all cities in the GRP. Each participant pays its workers' compensation premium to the state based on the rate for all cities in the GRP rather than its individual rate. Total savings are then calculated and each participant's individual performance is compared to the overall savings of the GRP. A participant will then either receive money from or be required to contribute to the "Equity Pooling Fund." This "equity pooling"

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arrangement insures that each participant shares equally in the overall performance of the GRP. CompManagement provides administrative, cost control and actuarial services to the GRP.

Employee Medical Benefits

The City is an allocated balance member of the Jefferson Health plan for the City's self-insured health insurance for medical and prescription drug coverage and with The Standard as the Provider for the City's term life insurance, and accidental death and dismemberment and Vision Service plan for insurance for vision. Fund Reserves or deficits are held by the plans fiscal agent. As of December 31, 2023 the City reserve balance was \$553,595. In 2020, the City went to a single High Deductible Plan with a Health Savings Account and Health Reimbursement Account for health insurance.

Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

The statewide retirement systems provide both pension benefits and other postemployment benefits (OPEB).

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

Pensions and OPEB are a component of exchange transactions – between an employer and its employees — of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions are provided to an employee—on a deferred-payment basis—as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period.

The net pension/OPEB liability represents the City's proportionate share of each pension/OPEB plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each pension/OPEB plan's fiduciary net position. The net pension/OPEB liability calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost of living adjustments and others. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting this estimate annually.

Ohio Revised Code limits the City's obligation for the liability to annually required payments. The City cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions/OPEB are financed; however, the City does receive the benefit of employees' services in exchange for compensation including pension and OPEB.

GASB 68/75 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires funding to come from these employers. All pension contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes pension costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits. In addition, health care plan enrollees pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. State statute requires the retirement systems to amortize unfunded pension liabilities within 30 years. If the pension amortization period exceeds 30 years, each retirement system's board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension/OPEB liability. Resulting adjustments to the net pension/OPEB liability would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients.

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The net pension/net OPEB liability are not reported on the face of the financial statements, but rather are disclosed in the notes because of the use of the cash basis framework.

The remainder of this note includes the pension disclosures. See Note 9 for the OPEB disclosures.

Plan Description – Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)

Plan Description – City employees, other than full-time police and firefighters, participate in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple employer public employee retirement system which administers three separate pension plans. The traditional pension plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. The member-directed plan is a defined contribution plan and the combined plan is a combination cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit/defined contribution pension plan. Effective January 1, 2022, new members may no longer select the Combined Plan, and current members may no longer make a plan change to this plan. Participating employers are divided into state, local, law enforcement and public safety divisions. While members in the state and local divisions may participate in all three plans, law enforcement and public safety divisions exist only within the traditional plan. Substantially all employee members are in OPERS' traditional plan; therefore, the following disclosure focuses on the traditional pension plan.

OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits, and annual cost of living adjustments to members of the traditional and combined plans. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about OPERS' fiduciary net position that may be obtained by visiting <https://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml>, by writing to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling 800-222-7377.

Senate Bill (SB) 343 was enacted into law with an effective date of January 7, 2013. In the legislation, members in the traditional and combined plans were categorized into three groups with varying provisions of the law applicable to each group. The following table provides age and service requirements for retirement and the retirement formula applied to final average salary (FAS) for the three member groups under the traditional and combined plans as per the reduced benefits adopted by SB 343 (see OPERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report referenced above for additional information, including requirements for reduced and unreduced benefits):

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Group A Eligible to retire prior to January 7, 2013 or five years after January 7, 2013	Group B 20 years of service credit prior to January 7, 2013 or eligible to retire ten years after January 7, 2013	Group C Members not in other Groups and members hired on or after January 7, 2013
State and Local	State and Local	State and Local
Age and Service Requirements: Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 57 with 25 years of service credit or Age 62 with 5 years of service credit
Traditional Plan Formula: 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	Traditional Plan Formula: 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	Traditional Plan Formula: 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 35 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 35
Public Safety	Public Safety	Public Safety
Age and Service Requirements: Age 48 with 25 years of service credit or Age 52 with 15 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 48 with 25 years of service credit or Age 52 with 15 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 52 with 25 years of service credit or Age 56 with 15 years of service credit
Law Enforcement	Law Enforcement	Law Enforcement
Age and Service Requirements: Age 52 with 15 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 48 with 25 years of service credit or Age 52 with 15 years of service credit	Age and Service Requirements: Age 48 with 25 years of service credit or Age 56 with 15 years of service credit
Public Safety and Law Enforcement	Public Safety and Law Enforcement	Public Safety and Law Enforcement
Traditional Plan Formula: 2.5% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 25 years and 2.1% for service years in excess of 25	Traditional Plan Formula: 2.5% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 25 years and 2.1% for service years in excess of 25	Traditional Plan Formula: 2.5% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 25 years and 2.1% for service years in excess of 25

Final average Salary (FAS) represents the average of the three highest years of earnings over a member's career for Groups A and B. Group C is based on the average of the five highest years of earnings over a member's career.

Members who retire before meeting the age and years of service credit requirement for unreduced benefits receive a percentage reduction in the benefit amount. The amount of a member's pension benefit vests upon receipt of the initial benefit payment. The options for Public Safety and Law Enforcement permit early retirement under qualifying circumstances as early as age 48 with a reduced benefit.

When a benefit recipient has received benefits for 12 months, the member is eligible for an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA). This COLA is calculated on the base retirement benefit at the date of retirement and is not compounded. For those who retired prior to January 7, 2013, the cost-of-living adjustment is 3 percent. For those retiring on or after January 7, 2013, beginning in calendar year 2019, the adjustment is based on the average percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index, capped at 3 percent.

Funding Policy - The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions as follows:

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	State and Local	Public Safety	Law Enforcement
2023 Statutory Maximum Contribution Rates			
Employer	14.0 %	18.1 %	18.1 %
Employee	10.0 %	*	**
2023 Actual Contribution Rates			
Employer:			
Pension	14.0 %	18.1 %	18.1 %
Post-employment Health Care Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Employer	<u>14.0 %</u>	<u>18.1 %</u>	<u>18.1 %</u>
Employee	<u>10.0 %</u>	<u>12.0 %</u>	<u>13.0 %</u>

- * This rate is determined by OPERS' Board and has no maximum rate established by ORC.
- ** This rate is also determined by OPERS' Board, but is limited by ORC to not more than 2 percent greater than the Public Safety rate.

Employer contribution rates are actuarially determined and are expressed as a percentage of covered payroll. The City's contractually required contribution was \$467,554 for 2023.

Plan Description – Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund (OP&F)

Plan Description – Full-time police and firefighters participate in Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by OP&F. OP&F provides retirement and disability pension benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefit provisions are established by the Ohio State Legislature and are codified in Chapter 742 of the Ohio Revised Code. OP&F issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial information and required supplementary information and detailed information about OP&F fiduciary net position. The report that may be obtained by visiting the OP&F website at www.op-f.org or by writing to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, 140 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-5164.

Upon attaining a qualifying age with sufficient years of service, a member of OP&F may retire and receive a lifetime monthly pension. OP&F offers four types of service retirement: normal, service commuted, age/service commuted and actuarially reduced. Each type has different eligibility guidelines and is calculated using the member's average annual salary. The following discussion of the pension formula relates to normal service retirement.

For members hired after July 1, 2013, the minimum retirement age is 52 for normal service retirement with at least 25 years of service credit. For members hired on or before after July 1, 2013, the minimum retirement age is 48 for normal service retirement with at least 25 years of service credit.

The annual pension benefit for normal service retirement is equal to a percentage of the allowable average annual salary. The percentage equals 2.5 percent for each of the first 20 years of service credit, 2.0 percent for each of the next five years of service credit and 1.5 percent for each year of service credit in excess of 25 years. The maximum pension of 72 percent of the allowable average annual salary is paid

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after 33 years of service credit (see OP&F Annual Comprehensive Financial Report referenced above for additional information, including requirements for Deferred Retirement Option Plan provisions and reduced and unreduced benefits).

Under normal service retirement, retired members who are at least 55 years old and have been receiving OP&F benefits for at least one year may be eligible for a cost-of-living allowance adjustment. The age 55 provision for receiving a COLA does not apply to those who are receiving a permanent and total disability benefit, statutory survivors and annuity beneficiaries. Members participating in the DROP program have separate eligibility requirements related to COLA.

The COLA amount for members who have 15 or more years of service credit as of July 1, 2013, and members who are receiving a pension benefit that became effective before July 1, 2013, will be equal to 3.0 percent of the member’s base pension benefit.

The COLA amount for members who have less than 15 years of service credit as of July 1, 2013, and members whose pension benefit became effective on or after July 1, 2013, will be equal to a percentage of the member’s base pension benefit where the percentage is the lesser of 3.0 percent or the percentage increase in the consumer price index, if any, over the twelve-month period that ends on the thirtieth day of September of the immediately preceding year, rounded to the nearest one-tenth of one percent.

Members who retired prior to July 24, 1986, or their surviving beneficiaries under optional plans are entitled to cost-of-living allowance increases. The annual increase is paid on July 1st of each year. The annual COLA increase is \$360 under a Single Life Annuity Plan with proportional reductions for optional payment plans.

Funding Policy – The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions as follows:

	Police	Firefighters
2023 Statutory Maximum Contribution Rates		
Employer	19.50 %	24.00 %
Employee	12.25 %	12.25 %
 2023 Actual Contribution Rates		
Employer:		
Pension	19.00 %	23.50 %
Post-employment Health Care Benefits	0.50	0.50
Total Employer	19.50 %	24.00 %
Employee	12.25 %	12.25 %

Employer contribution rates are expressed as a percentage of covered payroll. The City’s contractually required contribution to OP&F was \$610,227 for 2023.

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Pension Liability

The net pension liability for OPERS was measured as of December 31, 2022, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. OP&F's total pension liability was measured as of December 31, 2022, and was determined by rolling forward the total pension liability as of January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022. The City's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the City's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>OPERS</u>	<u>OP&F</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Current Measurement Period	0.019356%	0.0931602%	
Prior Measurement Period	<u>0.019780%</u>	<u>0.0955050%</u>	
Change in Proportion	<u>-0.000424%</u>	<u>-0.0023448%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 5,717,771	\$ 8,849,316	\$ 14,567,087

Actuarial Assumptions – OPERS

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and cost trends. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review or modification as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation. The total pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2022, using the following key actuarial assumptions and methods applied to all periods included in the measurement in accordance with the requirements of GASB 67:

	<u>OPERS Traditional Plan</u>
Wage Inflation	2.75 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	2.75 to 10.75 percent including wage inflation
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA:	
Pre-January 7, 2013 Retirees	3.00 percent, simple
Post-January 7, 2013 Retirees	3.00 percent, simple through 2023, then 2.05 percent, simple
Investment Rate of Return	6.90 percent
Actuarial Cost Method	Individual Entry Age

Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on 130 percent of the Pub-2010 General Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for State and Local Government divisions and 170 percent of the Pub-2010 Safety Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for the Public Safety and Law Enforcement divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates are based on 115 percent of the PubG-2010 Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) [for all divisions]. Post-retirement mortality rates for disabled retirees are

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based on the PubNS-2010 Disabled Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) [for all divisions]. For all of the previously described tables, the base year is 2010 and mortality rates for a particular calendar year are determined by applying the MP-2020 mortality improvement scales (males and females) to all of these tables.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five-year period ended December 31, 2020.

During 2022, OPERS managed investments in three investment portfolios: the Defined Benefit portfolio, the Health Care portfolio, and the Defined Contribution portfolio. The Defined Benefit portfolio contains the investment assets for the Traditional Pension Plan, the defined benefit component of the Combined Plan and the annuitized accounts of the Member-Directed Plan. Within the Defined Benefit portfolio contributions into the plans are all recorded at the same time, and benefit payments all occur on the first of the month. Accordingly, the money-weighted rate of return is considered to be the same for all plans within the portfolio. The annual money-weighted rate of return expressing investment performance, net of investment expenses and adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested, for the Defined Benefit portfolio was a loss of 12.10 percent for 2022.

The allocation of investment assets with the Defined Benefit portfolio is approved by the Board of Trustees as outlined in the annual investment plan. Plan assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of achieving and maintaining a fully funded status for the benefits provided through the defined benefit pension plans. The long-term expected rate of return on defined benefit investment assets was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected real rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage, adjusted for inflation. Best estimates of geometric rates of return were provided by the Board's investment consultant. For each major class that is included in the Defined Benefit portfolio's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2022, these best estimates are summarized below:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Weighted Average Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return (Geometric)</u>
Fixed Income	22.00%	2.62%
Domestic Equities	22.00	4.60
Real Estate	13.00	3.27
Private Equity	15.00	7.53
International Equities	21.00	5.51
Risk Parity	2.00	4.37
Other investments	5.00	3.27
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	

Discount Rate The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability for the current year was 6.9 percent. The discount rate for the prior year was 7.2 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members and those of the contributing employers are made at the contractually required rates, as actuarially determined. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected

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future benefits payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate The following table presents the City's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 6.9 percent, as well as what the City's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower (5.9 percent) or one-percentage-point higher (7.9 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)	\$ 8,565,030	\$ 5,717,771	\$ 3,349,362

Actuarial Assumptions – OP&F

OP&F's total pension liability as of December 31, 2022, is based on the results of an actuarial valuation date of January 1, 2022, and rolled-forward using generally accepted actuarial procedures. The total pension liability is determined by OP&F's actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 67, as part of their annual valuation. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment mortality, salary increases, disabilities, retirements and employment terminations. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future. Assumptions considered are: withdrawal rates, disability retirement, service retirement, DROP elections, mortality, percent married and forms of the payment, DROP interest rate, CPI-based COLA, investment returns, salary increases and payroll growth.

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results, prepared as of January 1, 2022, are presented below.

Valuation Date	January 1, 2022, with actuarial liabilities rolled forward to December 31, 2022
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Investment Rate of Return	7.50 percent
Projected Salary Increases	3.75 percent to 10.50 percent
Payroll Growth	3.25 percent per annum, compounded annually, consisting of Inflation rate of 2.75 percent plus productivity increase rate of 0.50 percent
Cost of Living Adjustments	2.20 percent simple per year

For 2022, the mortality for service retirees is based on the Pub-2010 Below-Median Safety Amount-Weighted Healthy Retiree mortality table with rates adjusted to 96.20 percent for males and 98.70 percent for females. All rates are projected using the MP-2021 Improvement Scale.

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For 2022, mortality for disabled retirees is based on the Pub-2010 Safety Amount-Weighted Disabled Retiree mortality table with rates adjusted by 135 percent for males and 97.9 percent for females. All rates are projected using the MP-2021 Improvement Scale.

For 2022, mortality for contingent annuitants is based on the Pub- 2010 Below-Median Safety Amount-Weighted Contingent Annuitant Retiree mortality table with rates adjusted by 108.9 percent for males and 131 percent for females. All rates are projected using the MP-2021 Improvement Scale.

For 2022, Mortality for active members is based on the Pub-2010 Below-Median Safety Amount-Weighted Employee mortality table. All rates are projected using the MP- 2021 Improvement Scale.

For 2021, mortality for non-disabled participants is based on the RP-2014 Total Employee and Healthy Annuitant Mortality Tables rolled back to 2006, adjusted according to the rates in the following table, and projected with the Buck Modified 2016 Improvement Scale. Rates for surviving beneficiaries are adjusted by 120 percent.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Police</u>	<u>Fire</u>
67 or less	77 %	68 %
68-77	105	87
78 and up	115	120

For 2021, mortality for disabled retirees is based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Tables rolled back to 2006, adjusted according to the rates in the following table, and projected with the Buck Modified 2016 Improvement Scale.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Police</u>	<u>Fire</u>
59 or less	35 %	35 %
60-69	60	45
70-79	75	70
80 and up	100	90

The most recent experience study was completed for the five-year period ended December 31, 2021.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption (30 to 50 years) and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the underlying inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

Best estimates of the long-term expected geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in OP&F's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2022, are summarized below:

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Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic Equity	18.60 %	4.80 %
Non-US Equity	12.40	5.50
Private Markets	10.00	7.90
Core Fixed Income *	25.00	2.50
High Yield Fixed Income	7.00	4.40
Private Credit	5.00	5.90
U.S. Inflation Linked Bonds*	15.00	2.00
Midstream Energy Infrastructure	5.00	5.90
Real Assets	8.00	5.90
Gold	5.00	3.60
Private Real Estate	12.00	5.30
Commodities	2.00	3.60
Total	125.00 %	

Note: Assumptions are geometric.

* levered 2.5x

OP&F's Board of Trustees has incorporated the risk parity concept into OP&F's asset liability valuation with the goal of reducing equity risk exposure, which reduces overall Total Portfolio risk without sacrificing return, and creating a more risk-balanced portfolio based on their relationship between asset classes and economic environments. From the notional portfolio perspective above, the Total Portfolio may be levered up to 1.25 times due to the application of leverage in certain fixed income asset classes.

Discount Rate The total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.50 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contributions from employers and from the members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. Projected inflows from investment earning were calculated using the longer-term assumed investment rate of return of 7.50 percent. Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, a long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate Net pension liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate, and to illustrate the potential impact, the following table presents the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.50 percent, as well as what the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.50 percent), or one percentage point higher (8.50 percent) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 11,673,955	\$ 8,849,316	\$ 6,501,193

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Note 9 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans

See Note 8 for a description of the net OPEB liability.

Plan Description – Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)

Plan Description – The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) administers three separate pension plans: the traditional pension plan, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan; the member-directed plan, a defined contribution plan; and the combined plan, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that has elements of both a defined benefit and defined contribution plan. Substantially all employee members are in OPERS’ traditional plan; therefore, the following disclosure focuses on the traditional pension plan.

OPERS maintains a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit post-employment health care trust. The 115 Health Care Trust (115 Trust or Health Care Trust) was established in 2014, under Section 115 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The purpose of the 115 Trust is to fund health care. Medicare-enrolled retirees may have an allowance deposited into a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) account to be used toward the health care program of their choice selected with the assistance of an OPERS vendor. Non-Medicare retirees have converted to an arrangement similar to the Medicare-enrolled retirees, and are no longer participating in OPERS provided self-insured group plans.

With one exception, OPERS-provided health care coverage is neither guaranteed nor statutorily required. Ohio law currently requires Medicare Part A equivalent coverage or Medicare Part A premium reimbursement for eligible retirees and their eligible dependents.

OPERS offers a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) allowance to benefit recipients meeting certain age and service credit requirements. The HRA is an account funded by OPERS that provides tax free reimbursement for qualified medical expenses such as monthly post-tax insurance premiums, deductibles, co-insurance, and co-pays incurred by eligible benefit recipients and their dependents.

OPERS members retiring with an effective date of January 1, 2022, or after must meet the following health care eligibility requirements to receive an HRA allowance:

Medicare Retirees Medicare-eligible with a minimum of 20 years of qualifying service credit

Non-Medicare Retirees Non-Medicare retirees qualify based on the following age-and-service criteria:

Group A 30 years of qualifying service credit at any age;

Group B 32 years of qualifying service credit at any age or 31 years of qualifying service credit and minimum age 52;

Group C 32 years of qualifying service credit and minimum age 55; or,
A retiree from groups A, B or C who qualifies for an unreduced pension, but a portion of their service credit is not health care qualifying service, can still qualify for health care at age 60 if they have at least 20 years of qualifying health care service credit.

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Retirees who don't meet the requirement for coverage as a non-Medicare participant can become eligible for coverage at age 65 if they have at least 20 years of qualifying service.

Members with a retirement date prior to January 1, 2022, who were eligible to participate in the OPERS health care program will continue to be eligible after January 1, 2022.

Eligible retirees may receive a monthly HRA allowance for reimbursement of health care coverage premiums and other qualified medical expenses. Monthly allowances, based on years of service and the age at which the retiree first enrolled in OPERS coverage, are provided to eligible retirees, and are deposited into their HRA account.

Retirees will have access to the OPERS Connector, which is a relationship with a vendor selected by OPERS to assist retirees participating in the health care program. The OPERS Connector may assist retirees in selecting and enrolling in the appropriate health care plan.

When members become Medicare-eligible, recipients enrolled in OPERS health care programs must enroll in Medicare Part A (hospitalization) and Medicare Part B (medical).

OPERS reimburses retirees who are not eligible for premium-free Medicare Part A (hospitalization) for their Part A premiums as well as any applicable surcharges (late-enrollment fees). Retirees within this group must enroll in Medicare Part A and select medical coverage, and may select prescription coverage, through the OPERS Connector. OPERS also will reimburse 50 percent of the Medicare Part A premium and any applicable surcharges for eligible spouses. Proof of enrollment in Medicare Part A and confirmation that the retiree is not receiving reimbursement or payment from another source must be submitted. The premium reimbursement is added to the monthly pension benefit.

The Ohio Revised Code permits but does not require OPERS to provide health care to its eligible benefit recipients. Authority to establish and amend health care coverage is provided to the Board in Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Disclosures for the health care plan are presented separately in the OPERS financial report. Interested parties may obtain a copy by visiting <https://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml>, by writing to OPERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling (614) 222-5601 or 800-222-7377.

Funding Policy - The Ohio Revised Code provides the statutory authority allowing public employers to fund postemployment health care through their contributions to OPERS. When funding is approved by OPERS Board of Trustees, a portion of each employer's contribution to OPERS is set aside to fund OPERS health care plans. Beginning in 2018, OPERS no longer allocated a portion of its employer contributions to health care.

Employer contribution rates are expressed as a percentage of the earnable salary of active members. In 2023, state and local employers contributed at a rate of 14.0 percent of earnable salary and public safety and law enforcement employers contributed at 18.1 percent. These are the maximum employer contribution rates permitted by the Ohio Revised Code. Active member contributions do not fund health care.

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Each year, the OPERS Board determines the portion of the employer contribution rate that will be set aside to fund health care plans. For 2023, OPERS did not allocate any employer contribution to health care for members. The OPERS Board is also authorized to establish rules for the retiree or their surviving beneficiaries to pay a portion of the health care provided. Payment amounts vary depending on the number of covered dependents and the coverage selected.

Employer contribution rates are actuarially determined and are expressed as a percentage of covered payroll. The City's contractually required contribution was \$0 for 2023.

Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund (OP&F)

Plan Description – The City contributes to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F) sponsored healthcare program, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined post-employment health care plan administered by a third-party provider. This program is not guaranteed and is subject to change at any time upon action of the Board of Trustees. On January 1, 2019, OP&F implemented a new model for health care. Under this new model, OP&F provides eligible retirees with a fixed stipend earmarked to pay for health care and Medicare Part B reimbursements.

OP&F contracted with a vendor who assists eligible retirees in choosing health care plans that are available where they live (both Medicare-eligible and pre-65 populations). A stipend funded by OP&F is available to these members through a Health Reimbursement Arrangement and can be used to reimburse retirees for qualified health care expenses.

Regardless of a benefit recipient's participation in the health care program, OP&F is required by law to pay eligible recipients of a service pension, disability benefit and spousal survivor benefit for their Medicare Part B insurance premium, up to the statutory maximum provided the benefit recipient is not eligible to receive reimbursement from any other source. Once OP&F receives the necessary documentation, a monthly reimbursement is included as part of the recipient's next benefit payment. The stipend provided by OP&F meets the definition of an Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) as described in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 75.

OP&F maintains funds for health care in two separate accounts: one account for health care benefits and one account for Medicare Part B reimbursements. A separate health care trust accrual account is maintained for health care benefits under IRS Code Section 115 trust. IRS Code Section 401(h) account is maintained for Medicare Part B reimbursements.

The Ohio Revised Code allows, but does not mandate, OP&F to provide OPEB benefits. Authority for the OP&F Board of Trustees to provide health care coverage to eligible participants and to establish and amend benefits is codified in Chapter 742 of the Ohio Revised Code.

OP&F issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial information and required supplementary information for the plan. The report may be obtained by visiting the OP&F website at www.op-f.org or by writing to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, 140 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-5164.

Funding Policy – The Ohio Revised Code provides for contribution requirements of the participating employers and of plan members to the OP&F defined benefit pension plan. Participating employers are

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required to contribute to the pension plan at rates expressed as percentages of the payroll of active pension plan members, currently 19.5 percent and 24 percent of covered payroll for police and fire employer units, respectively. The Ohio Revised Code states that the employer contribution may not exceed 19.5 percent of covered payroll for police employer units and 24 percent of covered payroll for fire employer units. Active members do not make contributions to the OPEB Plan.

The Board of Trustees is authorized to allocate a portion of the total employer contributions for retiree health care benefits. For 2023, the portion of employer contributions allocated to health care was 0.5 percent of covered payroll. The amount of employer contributions allocated to the health care plan each year is subject to the Trustees' primary responsibility to ensure that pension benefits are adequately funded.

The OP&F Board of Trustees is also authorized to establish requirements for contributions to the health care plan by retirees and their eligible dependents or their surviving beneficiaries. Payment amounts vary depending on the number of covered dependents and the coverage selected.

The City's contractually required contribution to OP&F was \$14,396 for 2023.

Net OPEB Liability

The net OPEB liability and total OPEB liability for OPERS were determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2021, rolled forward to the measurement date of December 31, 2022, by incorporating the expected value of health care cost accruals, the actual health care payment, and interest accruals during the year. OP&F's total OPEB liability was measured as of December 31, 2022, and was determined by rolling forward the total OPEB liability as of January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022. The City's proportion of the net OPEB liability was based on the City's share of contributions to the retirement plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>OPERS</u>	<u>OP&F</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability:			
Current Measurement Period	0.019693%	0.0931602%	
Prior Measurement Period	0.020393%	0.0955050%	
Change in Proportion	<u>-0.000700%</u>	<u>-0.0023448%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 124,168	\$ 663,273	\$ 787,441

Actuarial Assumptions – OPERS

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the values of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and cost trends. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review or modification as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of health care costs for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of coverage provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of costs between OPERS and plan members. The total OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2021, rolled forward to

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the measurement date of December 31, 2022. The actuarial valuation used the following key actuarial assumptions and methods applied to all prior periods included in the measurement in accordance with the requirements of GASB 74:

	<u>December 31, 2022</u>	<u>December 31, 2021</u>
Wage Inflation	2.75 percent	2.75 percent
Projected Salary Increases,	2.75 to 10.75 percent	2.75 to 10.75 percent
	including wage inflation	including wage inflation
Single Discount Rate	5.22 percent	6.00 percent
Investment Rate of Return	6.00 percent	6.00 percent
Municipal Bond Rate	4.05 percent	1.84 percent
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	5.50 percent, initial	5.50 percent, initial
	3.50 percent, ultimate in 2036	3.50 percent, ultimate in 2034
Actuarial Cost Method	Individual Entry Age	Individual Entry Age

Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on 130 percent of the Pub-2010 General Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for State and Local Government divisions and 170 percent of the Pub-2010 Safety Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for the Public Safety and Law Enforcement divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates are based on 115 percent of the PubG-2010 Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates for disabled retirees are based on the PubNS-2010 Disabled Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. For all of the previously described tables, the base year is 2010 and mortality rates for a particular calendar year are determined by applying the MP-2020 mortality improvement scales (males and females) to all of these tables.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five-year period ended December 31, 2020.

During 2022, OPERS managed investments in three investment portfolios: the Defined Benefit portfolio, the Health Care portfolio and the Defined Contribution portfolio. The Health Care portfolio includes the assets for health care expenses for eligible members. Within the Health Care portfolio, if any contributions are made into the plans, the contributions are assumed to be received continuously throughout the year based on the actual payroll payable at the time contributions are made. Health care-related payments are assumed to occur mid-year. Accordingly, the money-weighted rate of return is considered to be the same for all plans within the portfolio. The annual money-weighted rate of return expressing investment performance, net of investment expenses and adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested, for the Health Care portfolio was a loss of 15.6 percent for 2022.

The allocation of investment assets within the Health Care portfolio is approved by the Board of Trustees as outlined in the annual investment plan. Assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of continuing to offer a sustainable health care program for current and future retirees. OPERS' primary goal is to achieve and maintain a fully funded status for the benefits provided through the defined pension plans. Health care is a discretionary benefit. The long-term expected rate of return on health care investment assets was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage, adjusted for inflation. Best estimates of geometric rates of return were provided by the Board's investment consultant. For each major asset class that is included in the Health

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Care’s portfolio’s target asset allocation as of December 31, 2022, these best estimates are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Weighted Average Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return (Geometric)
Fixed Income	34.00%	2.56%
Domestic Equities	26.00	4.60
Real Estate Investment Trust	7.00	4.70
International Equities	25.00	5.51
Risk Parity	2.00	4.37
Other Investments	6.00	1.84
Total	100.00%	

Discount Rate A single discount rate of 5.22 percent was used to measure the OPEB liability on the measurement date of December 31, 2022; however, the single discount rate used at the beginning of the year was 6 percent. Projected benefit payments are required to be discounted to their actuarial present value using a single discount rate that reflects (1) a long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments (to the extent that the health care fiduciary net position is projected to be sufficient to pay benefits), and (2) tax-exempt municipal bond rate based on an index of 20-year general obligation bonds with an average AA credit rating as of the measurement date (to the extent that the contributions for use with the long-term expected rate are not met). This single discount rate was based on an expected rate of return on the health care investment portfolio of 6.00 percent and a municipal bond rate of 4.05 percent (Fidelity Index’s “20-Year Municipal GO AA Index”). The projection of cash flows used to determine this single discount rate assumed that employer contributions will be made at rates equal to the actuarially determined contribution rate. Based on these assumptions, the health care fiduciary net position and future contributions were sufficient to finance health care costs through 2054. As a result, the actuarial assumed long-term expected rate of return on health care investments was applied to projected costs through the year 2054, and the municipal bond rate was applied to all health care costs after that date.

Sensitivity of the City’s Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate The following table presents the City’s proportionate share of the net OPEB liability calculated using the single discount rate of 5.22 percent, as well as what the City’s proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower (4.22 percent) or one-percentage-point higher (6.22 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
City’s Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ 422,612	\$ 124,168	\$ (122,097)

Sensitivity of the City’s Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rate Changes in the health care cost trend rate may also have a significant impact on the net OPEB liability or asset. The following table presents the net liability or asset calculated using the assumed trend rates, and the expected net OPEB liability or asset if it were calculated using a health care cost trend rate that is 1.0 percent lower or 1.0 percent higher than the current rate.

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Retiree health care valuations use a health care cost-trend assumption that changes over several years built into the assumption. The near-term rates reflect increases in the current cost of health care; the trend starting in 2023 is 5.50 percent. If this trend continues for future years, the projection indicates that years from now virtually all expenditures will be for health care. A more reasonable alternative is the health plan cost trend will decrease to a level at, or near, wage inflation. On this basis, the actuaries project premium rate increases will continue to exceed wage inflation for approximately the next decade, but by less each year, until leveling off at an ultimate rate, assumed to be 3.50 percent in the most recent valuation.

	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
City's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ 116,386	\$ 124,168	\$ 132,928

Actuarial Assumptions – OP&F

OP&F's total OPEB liability as of December 31, 2022, is based on the results of an actuarial valuation date of January 1, 2022, and rolled-forward using generally accepted actuarial procedures. The total OPEB liability is determined by OP&F's actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 74, as part of their annual valuation. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, salary increases, disabilities, retirements and employment terminations. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations.

Actuarial calculations reflect a long-term perspective. For a newly hired employee, actuarial calculations will take into account the employee's entire career with the employer and also take into consideration the benefits, if any, paid to the employee after termination of employment until the death of the employee and any applicable contingent annuitant. In many cases, actuarial calculations reflect several decades of service with the employer and the payment of benefits after termination.

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results, are presented below.

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Valuation Date	January 1, 2022, with Actuarial Liabilities Rolled Forward to December 31, 2022
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Investment Rate of Return	7.50 Percent
Projected Salary Increases	3.75 Percent to 10.50 Percent
Payroll Growth	3.25 Percent
Blended Discount Rate:	
Current Measurement Date	4.27 Percent
Prior Measurement Date	2.84 Percent
Cost of Living Adjustments	2.20 Percent Simple per Year
Projected Depletion Year of OPEB Assets	2036

For 2022, mortality for service retirees is based on the Pub-2010 Below-Median Safety Amount-Weighted Healthy Retiree mortality table with rates adjusted by 96.2 percent for males and 98.7 percent for females. All rates are projected using the MP-2021 Improvement Scale.

For 2022, mortality for disabled retirees is based on the Pub-2010 Safety Amount-Weighted Disabled Retiree mortality table with rates adjusted by 135 percent for males and 97.9 percent for females. All rates are projected using the MP-2021 Improvement Scale.

For 2022, mortality for contingent annuitants is based on the Pub- 2010 Below-Median Safety Amount-Weighted Contingent Annuitant Retiree mortality table with rates adjusted by 108.9 percent for males and 131 percent for females. All rates are projected using the MP-2021 Improvement Scale.

For 2022, mortality for active members is based on the Pub-2010 Below-Median Safety Amount-Weighted Employee mortality table. All rates are projected using the MP- 2021 Improvement Scale.

For 2021, mortality for non-disabled participants is based on the RP-2014 Total Employee and Healthy Annuitant Mortality Tables rolled back to 2006, adjusted according to the rates in the following table, and projected with the Buck Modified 2016 Improvement Scale. Rates for surviving beneficiaries are adjusted by 120 percent.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Police</u>	<u>Fire</u>
67 or less	77 %	68 %
68-77	105	87
78 and up	115	120

For 2021, mortality for disabled retirees is based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Tables rolled back to 2006, adjusted according to the rates in the following table, and projected with the Buck Modified 2016 Improvement Scale.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Police</u>	<u>Fire</u>
59 or less	35 %	35 %
60-69	60	45
70-79	75	70
80 and up	100	90

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The most recent experience study was completed for the five-year period ended December 31, 2021.

The long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments was determined using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in the Statement of Investment Policy. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expected. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted averaged of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes.

Best estimates of the long-term expected geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in OP&F's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2022, are summarized below:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Domestic Equity	18.60 %	4.80 %
Non-US Equity	12.40	5.50
Private Markets	10.00	7.90
Core Fixed Income *	25.00	2.50
High Yield Fixed Income	7.00	4.40
Private Credit	5.00	5.90
U.S. Inflation Linked Bonds*	15.00	2.00
Midstream Energy Infrastructure	5.00	5.90
Real Assets	8.00	5.90
Gold	5.00	3.60
Private Real Estate	12.00	5.30
Commodities	2.00	3.60
Total	<u>125.00 %</u>	

Note: Assumptions are geometric.

* levered 2.5x

OP&F's Board of Trustees has incorporated the risk parity concept into OP&F's asset liability valuation with the goal of reducing equity risk exposure, which reduces overall Total Portfolio risk without sacrificing return, and creating a more risk-balanced portfolio based on the relationship between asset classes and economic environments. From the notional portfolio perspective above, the Total Portfolio may be levered up to 1.2 times due to the application of leverage in certain fixed income asset classes.

Discount Rate For 2022, the total OPEB liability was calculated using the discount rate of 4.27 percent. For 2021, the total OPEB liability was calculated using the discount rate of 2.84 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contribution from employers and from members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the longer-term assumed investment rate of return of 7.5 percent. Based on those assumptions, OP&F's fiduciary net position was projected to not be able to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, for 2022, the long-term assumed rate of return on investments of 7.50 percent was applied to periods before December 31, 2035, and the Municipal Bond Index Rate of 3.65 percent was applied to periods on and after December 31,

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2035, resulting in a discount rate of 4.27 percent. For 2021, a municipal bond rate of 2.05 percent at December 31, 2021, was blended with the long-term rate of 7.5 which resulted in a blended discount rate of 2.84. The municipal bond rate was determined using the Bond Buyers General Obligation 20-year Municipal Bond Index Rate.

Sensitivity of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate Net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate, and to illustrate the potential impact the following table presents the net OPEB liability calculated using the discount rate of 4.27 percent, as well as what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (3.27 percent), or one percentage point higher (5.27 percent) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
City's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 816,759	\$ 663,273	\$ 533,692

Note 10 – Debt

The City's long-term debt activity for the year ended December 31, 2023 was as follows:

	Balance 12/31/2022	Additions	Reductions	Balance 12/31/2023
Governmental Activities				
<i>Government Obligation Bonds</i>				
4.50% VW Municipal Court Improvement Bonds	\$ 985,000	\$ -	\$ (70,000)	\$ 915,000
2.50% VW Municipal Building HVAC Improvement Bonds	891,918	-	(39,842)	852,076
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 1,876,918	\$ -	\$ (109,842)	\$ 1,767,076
Business-Type Activities				
<i>Direct Borrowings:</i>				
0.00% OPWC Allingham/Bonnewitz Pump Station	\$ 259,621	\$ -	\$ (43,270)	\$ 216,351
0.00% OWDA Loan #8055	5,462,215	-	(165,522)	5,296,693
Total Business-Type Activities	\$ 5,721,836	\$ -	\$ (208,792)	\$ 5,513,044
Total City Debt	\$ 7,598,754	\$ -	\$ (318,634)	\$ 7,280,120

Governmental Activities:

Van Wert Municipal Court Improvement Bonds

On February 16, 2013, the City issued \$1,500,000 in un-voted general obligation bonds to for the purpose of acquiring and renovating a building for use as a municipal court. The bonds were issued for a twenty year period with final maturity in 2033. The bonds will be paid from the Municipal Court Special Projects Fund.

Van Wert Municipal Building HVAC Improvement Bonds

On March 19, 2020, the City issued \$968,710 in un-voted general obligation bonds to for the purpose of improving HVAC and lighting facilities at the municipal building. The bonds were issued for a twenty

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year period with final maturity in 2040. The bonds will be paid from the Police and Fire Safety Fund and General Fund.

Business-type Activities:

Direct Borrowings

Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA)

OWDA loan 8055 was entered into in 2018. The loan is for \$7,003,200 for construction of a CSO pump station and diversion overflow structure payable over 20 years. The loan is being retired from the sewer enterprise fund.

In the event of default, as defined by each OWDA loan agreement, the lender may declare the full amount of the unpaid Project Participation Principal amount immediately due and payable and require the City to pay any fines or penalties incurred with interest.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Loan:

The OPWC loan consists of \$865,410 owed to the Ohio Public Works Commission for the Allingham / Bonnewitz Pump Station. The OPWC loan is payable over a term of 20 years at an interest rate of 0%. The City began making semi-annual principal payments on July 1, 2009. Loan is being retired from the sewer enterprise fund.

In the event of default, as defined by the OPWC loan agreement, the amount of default will be subject to 8 percent interest on all amounts due from date of default. Additionally, the Lender may declare all amounts immediately due and payable or require the City treasurer to pay the amounts due from funds appropriated to the county's undivided local government fund. The lender will also be entitled to collect any cost incurred in the event of default.

Principal and interest requirements to retire debt outstanding at December 31, 2023, were as follows:

Year	Governmental Activities				Business Type Activities		Total	
	Municipal Court Bonds		Municipal Building HVAC Bonds		OWDA Loans	OPWC Loan		
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest	Principal	Principal	Principal	Interest
2024	\$ 75,000	\$ 41,175	\$ 40,838	\$ 21,302	\$ 331,042	\$ 43,271	\$ 490,151	\$ 62,477
2025	80,000	37,800	41,859	20,281	331,042	43,270	496,171	58,081
2026	80,000	34,200	42,905	19,234	331,042	43,270	497,217	53,434
2027	85,000	30,600	43,978	18,162	331,042	43,270	503,290	48,762
2028	90,000	26,775	45,078	17,062	331,042	43,270	509,390	43,837
2029-2033	505,000	69,975	242,867	67,834	1,655,207	-	2,403,074	137,809
2034-2038	-	-	274,781	35,919	1,655,207	-	1,929,988	35,919
2039-2042	-	-	119,770	4,510	331,069	-	450,839	4,510
Total	\$ 915,000	\$ 240,525	\$ 852,076	\$ 204,304	\$ 5,296,696	\$ 216,351	\$ 7,280,123	\$ 444,829

Note 11 – Fund Balance

Fund balance is classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and/or unassigned based primarily on the extent to which the City is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the government funds. The constraints placed on fund balance for the General Fund and all other governmental funds are presented below:

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	General	Street Construction	Police & Fire Safety	Other Governmental Funds	Total
Nonspendable for:					
Unclaimed Monies	\$ 15,800	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,800
Restricted for:					
Street Construction	-	1,301,617	-	-	1,301,617
Police & Fire Capital	-	-	887,029	-	887,029
Other Purposes	-	-	-	1,507,420	1,507,420
Total Restricted	-	1,301,617	887,029	1,507,420	3,696,066
Committed for:					
Other Purposes	215,083	-	-	175,833	390,916
Total Committed	215,083	-	-	175,833	390,916
Assigned for:					
Encumbrances	162,738	-	-	-	162,738
Subsequent Year Appropriations	1,062,014	-	-	-	1,062,014
Total Assigned	1,224,752	-	-	-	1,224,752
Unassigned	2,699,036	-	-	-	2,699,036
Total Fund Balance	\$ 4,154,671	\$ 1,301,617	\$ 887,029	\$ 1,683,253	\$ 8,026,570

Note 12 – Interfund Activity

Transfers

Fund	Transfer In	Transfer Out
General Fund	\$ 34,045	\$ 162,770
Street Construction Fund	-	3,592
Nonmajor Governmental Funds	162,770	4,730
Water Fund	-	12,267
Sewer Fund	-	10,524
Internal Service - Garage Fund	-	2,932
Total	\$ 196,815	\$ 196,815

Several funds transferred \$34,045 to the general fund to be held for retirement and a payroll year that has 27 payroll periods. Transfers out of the General Fund were made primarily to funds to support operations.

Interfund

In the year ended December 31, 2023, the City repaid an interfund advance of \$594,365 from the State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to the General Fund. The primary purpose of interfund advances is to cover costs in specific funds where revenues were not received by December 31, 2023. There were no outstanding advances at year end.

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County, Ohio
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 13 – Construction and Contractual Commitments

	Contractual Commitment	Expended	Balance 12/31/2023
<i>Governmental Activities</i>			
Everett Prescott	\$ 2,036,111	\$ 1,982,052	\$ 54,059
Strum Construction	604,792	595,318	9,474
Choice One	135,000	117,804	17,196
Kleinfelder, Inc	10,000	-	10,000
Ben Kauser Excavating, LLC	434,900	368,970	65,930
Total	<u>\$ 3,220,803</u>	<u>\$ 3,064,144</u>	<u>\$ 156,659</u>
 <i>Business-Type Activities</i>			
Choice One	\$ 72,680	\$ 33,550	\$ 39,130
Bebout & Houg Roofing & Siding	265,996	18,561	247,435
Kleinfelder, Inc	21,500	13,791	7,709
Total	<u>\$ 360,176</u>	<u>\$ 65,902</u>	<u>\$ 294,274</u>

Note 14 – Budgetary Basis of Accounting

While the City is reporting financial position, results of operations and changes in fund balances on the cash basis, the budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements and encumbrances. The Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – Budget Basis (Non-GAAP Basis) and Actual presented for the general fund is presented on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The difference between the budget basis and the cash basis is outstanding year end encumbrances are treated as disbursements (budget) rather than a reservation of fund balance (cash). The encumbrances outstanding at year end (budgetary basis) amount to \$162,738 in the general fund. The following table summarizes the adjustments necessary to reconcile the cash basis statement to the budgetary basis statement:

	<u>General Fund</u>
Cash Basis	\$ 622,376
Funds Budgeted Elsewhere	(64,288)
Adjustment for Encumbrances	(162,738)
Hospitalization Surplus	106,236
Budget Basis	<u>\$ 501,586</u>

Note 15 – Contingent Liabilities

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the City are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor, principally the federal government. Grantors 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.

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

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

City of Van Wert
Van Wert County
515 East Main Street
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

To the City Council:

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 cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Van Wert, Van Wert County, (the City) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated September 13, 2024, wherein we noted the City uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the City'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 opinions on the effectiveness of the City's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express opinions on the effectiveness of the City'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 City'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 City'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 that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2023-001.

City's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the City's response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings. The City'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 City'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 City's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

September 13, 2024

**CITY OF VAN WERT
VAN WERT COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

**FINDING RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS**

FINDING NUMBER 2023-001

Noncompliance

Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 provides that each public office shall file a financial report for each fiscal year. The Auditor of State may prescribe forms by rule or may issue guidelines, or both, for such reports. If the Auditor of State has not prescribed a rule regarding the form for the report, the public office shall submit its report on the form utilized by the public office.

Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(B) requires the City to file annual financial reports which are prepared using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

The City prepared financial statements that, although formatted similar to financial statements prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, report on the cash basis of accounting rather than GAAP. The accompanying financial statements and notes omit certain assets, liabilities, deferred inflows/outflows of resources, fund equities/net position, and disclosures that, while presumed material, cannot be determined at this time.

Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 the City may be fined and subject to various other administrative remedies for its failure to file the required financial report. Failure to report on a GAAP basis compromises the City's ability to evaluate and monitor the overall financial condition of the City. To help provide the users with more meaningful financial statements, the City should prepare its annual financial statements according to generally accepted accounting principles.

Officials' Response

The City prepares its financial statements utilizing an Other Comprehensive Basis of Accounting. The City is unable to prepare GAAP statements due to lack of an adequate inventory of assets. The City is willing to take the risk of being fined as opposed to incurring the expense of a city wide inventory.

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CITY of VAN WERT

515 EAST MAIN STREET • VAN WERT, OHIO 45891

"Vincit Amor Patriae"

The Love of Country Conquers

ERIKA BLACKMORE
City Auditor

Phone: 419-238-6976
Fax: 419-238-1999
E-mail: wycityauditor@vanwert.org

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2022-001	Ohio Revised Code 117.38, Ohio Admin Code 117-2-03 (B) The City did not file GAAP statements. Originally issued as 1998-001.	Not Corrected	The City prepares its financial statements utilizing Other Comprehensive Basis of Accounting

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



CITY OF VAN WERT

VAN WERT 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 10/8/2024

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov