# AUDITOR C

# MASON DEERFIELD JOINT FIRE DISTRICT WARREN COUNTY

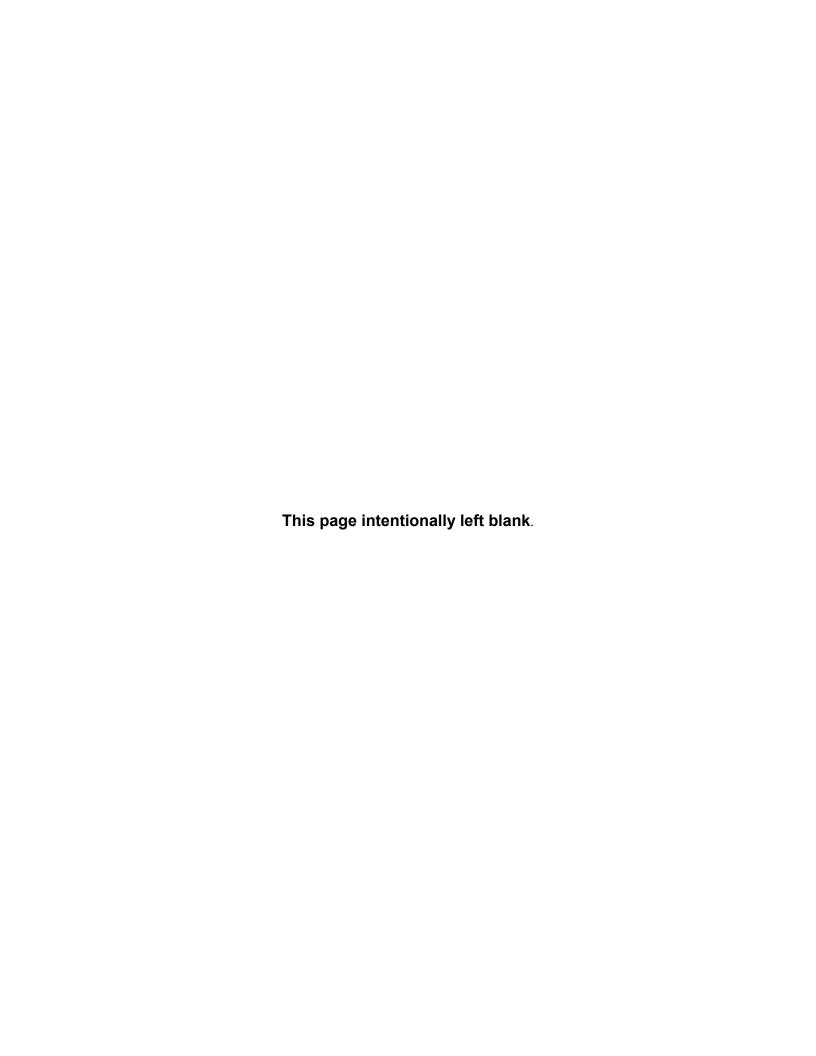
**REGULAR AUDIT** 

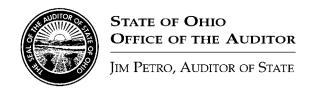
FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 1998 - DECEMBER 31, 2001



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#### REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Mason Deerfield Joint Fire District Warren County 202 W. Main Street Mason, Ohio 45040

#### To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Mason Deerfield Joint Fire District, Warren County, Ohio (the District), as of and for three months ended December 31, 1998, and for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2000 and 1999 (the Period). These financial statements are the responsibility of the District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

Except as discussed in the following paragraph, we conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We were unable to obtain sufficient evidential matter supporting emergency medical services (EMS) billing receipts of the Joint Fire District. This significant accounting function was performed by a service organization that did not provide an audit report on the controls in place and tests of the operating effectiveness of control or a report on the application of agreed-upon procedures that describe the relevant tests of controls. Without this evidential matter, we were unable to obtain sufficient information regarding the emergency medical service receipts recorded. We were unable to satisfy ourselves regarding the validity of the underlying transactions through other auditing procedures. The emergency medical service receipts represent 21% and 11% of the Joint Fire District's receipts for January 1 to December 31, 1999 and 2001 respectively.

As discussed in Note 1, the Joint Fire District ceased to operate as of September 30, 1998. The accompanying financial statements for the period October 1, 1998 to December 31, 2001 were prepared on the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary, had we been able to obtain sufficient evidence to support the amounts reported as emergency medical service receipts for the period January 1 to December 31, 1999 and 2001, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the fund cash balance of the District, for the period October 1, 1998 to December 31, 2001, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the period on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Mason Deerfield Joint Fire District Warren County Report of Independent Accountants Page 2

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 22, 2002 on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the management, the Board of Trustees, and other officials authorized to receive this report under Section 117.26, Ohio Revised Code, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Jim Petro Auditor of State

March 22, 2002

# COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES JOINT FIRE DISTRICT FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001

Cash Receipts: EMS Collections Earnings on Investments Miscellaneous	\$ 425 2,863 667
Total Cash Receipts	3,955
Cash Disbursements: Audit Fees - Auditor of State Rental on storage Miscellaneous	5,995 900 4,402
Total Disbursements	11,297_
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	(7,342)
Fund Cash Balance January 1, 2001	309,696
Fund Cash Balance December 31, 2001	\$302,354

# COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES JOINT FIRE DISTRICT FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000

Cash Receipts:	
EMS Collections	165
Earnings on Investments	6,384
Miscellaneous	14,347
Total Cash Receipts	20,896
Cash Disbursements:	
Auditing and Accounting Services	12,500
Rental on storage	880
Total Disbursements	13,380
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	7,516
First Oash Balance Inc. on A 2000	202.400
Fund Cash Balance January 1, 2000	302,180
For LOcal Balance Beauth and 1 0000	\$309,696
Fund Cash Balance December 31, 2000	<u> </u>

# COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES JOINT FIRE DISTRICT FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

Cash Receipts:	
EMS Collections	\$ 13,754
Reimbursements from Insurance	245
Earnings on Investments	12,809
Miscellaneous	 36,914
Total Cash Receipts	 63,722
Cash Disbursements:	
City of Mason	138
Auditing and Accounting Services	5,785
Audit Fees - Auditor of State	14,589
Income Tax Assessment	2,735
Utilities	500
Employment	64,196
Professional Services	6,674
Supplies	318
Rental on storage	865
Miscellaneous	 696
Total Disbursements	96,496
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	 (32,774)
Fund Cash Balance January 1, 1999	334,954
Fund Cash Balance December 31, 1999	\$ 302,180

# OMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AN CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES JOINT FIRE DISTRICT FUND FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 1998 TO DECEMBER 31, 1998

Cash Receipts:	Φ.	004 700
For Escrow Account per Warren County Auditor	\$	331,739
Homestead and Rollback		151,000
Personal Property Taxes		455,686
EMS Collections		30,560
Reimbursements from Insurance		1,913
Earnings on Investments		4,253
Miscellaneous		305
Total Cash Receipts	_	975,456
Cash Disbursements:		
City of Mason		270,218
Deerfield Township		336,468
Payroll		56,789
Audit Fees - Auditor of State		1,387
Utilities		3,620
Employment		25,861
Professional Services		21,164
Supplies		3,813
Rental on storage		210
Miscellaneous		9,412
Total Disbursements		728,942
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements		246,514
Fund Cash Balance October 1, 1998		88,440
Fund Cash Balance December 31, 1998		\$334,954

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 1998 TO DECEMBER 31, 2001

#### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### A. Description of the Entity

The Mason Deerfield Joint Fire District, Warren County, Ohio (the Joint Fire District), is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio as stated in Ohio Rev. Code, Section 505.371. The Joint Fire District was directed by a six-member board of fire district trustees, which includes three representatives from Deerfield Township and three representatives from the City of Mason Council. The Joint Fire District's purpose was to operate a fire district for the delivery of fire and ambulance services to the communities of Deerfield Township and the City of Mason.

On September 30, 1998 the Joint Fire District ceased to operate as a separate political entity due to the withdrawal of Deerfield Township pursuant to their December 29, 1997 resolution. Upon the withdrawal of any township or municipal corporation from a joint fire district, the county auditor ascertains, apportions, and orders a division of the funds on hand. A division of assets was carried out by the Warren County Auditor and assets of the Joint Fire District were divided on September 30, 1998. The division of cash was based on tax valuations. The division of physical assets was based on tax valuations and an agreement between the fire chiefs. An escrow account has been established with the City of Mason to pay remaining obligations and receipt any revenues due to the Joint Fire District. The activity of the escrow account is reflected in the accompanying financial statements.

The custodian of the Joint Fire District funds believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Joint Fire District was financially accountable.

#### **B.** Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the basis of accounting prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State, which is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as prescribed or permitted by the Auditor of State.

#### C. Deposits

The Joint Fire District bank accounts consisted of a checking account and a savings account. The checking account is the original Joint Fire District account. This account has remained open to allow outstanding checks to clear. The savings account was opened by the City of Mason to account for all remaining obligations and receipt any revenues due to the Joint Fire District.

#### D. Fund Accounting

The City of Mason pays obligations and receipts any revenues into the Joint Fire District escrow account that they have established within their accounting system. This account, the Joint Fire District Fund, is an agency fund on the City's books. It is used to account for the payments of all remaining Joint Fire District obligations and to record the receipts received by the City of Mason for the Joint Fire District. The activity of this fund is reflected in the accompanying financial statements.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 1998 TO DECEMBER 31, 2001 (Continued)

#### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

#### E. Budgetary Process

The Joint Fire District is no longer a separate entity since it ceased to exist on September 30, 1998 and therefore does not have a budgetary process of its own.

#### 2. EQUITY IN POOLED DEPOSITS

The District maintains deposits in a checking and savings account. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits at December 31 follows:

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Checking account Savings account	\$ 79,331 223,023	\$ 79,059 230,637	\$ 68,583 <u>233,597</u>	\$ 32,572 302,382
Total deposits	\$ 302,354	\$ 309,696	\$ 302,180	\$ 334,954

**Deposits:** Deposits are either insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

#### 3. PROPERTY TAX

The Joint Fire District received personal property taxes and homestead and rollback during 1998. These amounts were then distributed by the Warren County Auditor in amounts reflective of the City of Mason's and Deerfield Township's tax valuations. These distributions are described in Note 7.

#### 4. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The District's full-time emergency personnel belonged to the Police and Firemen's Disability and Pension Funds (PFDPF). Other full-time employees belonged to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Ohio. PFDPF and PERS are cost-sharing, multiple-employer plans. These plans provide retirement benefits, including postretirement healthcare, and survivor and disability benefits to participants as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

Contribution rates are also prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. For 1998, members of PFDPF contributed 10% of their wages to the PFDPF. The District contributed an amount equal to 19.5% of their wages. PERS members contributed 8.5% of their gross salaries. The District contributed an amount equal to 13.55% of participants' gross salaries. The District paid the third quarter and fourth quarter of 1998 contributions during the period. As of December 31, 2001 the District has paid all required contributions.

The Joint Fire District's part-time emergency personnel paid into social security (FICA) and Medicare. For 1998, members contributed 7.45%, with the employer contributing the same percentage.

#### 5. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees obtained insurance to extend their emergency service management liability policy for possible claims made after the Joint Fire District ceased to exist. This policy was effective for a period of five years from the issuance date of October 1, 1998. This supplemental coverage has an aggregate coverage unit of \$2,000,000 and a "wrongful act" unit of \$1,000,000.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 1998 TO DECEMBER 31, 2001 (Continued)

#### 6. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The District is defendant in several lawsuits. Although the outcome of these suits is not presently determinable, management believes that the resolution of these matters will not materially adversely affect the District's financial condition. Any judgments against the former District would be paid out of the escrow account.

#### 7. STATUS OF RECEIVABLES ON THE DATE OF DISSOLUTION, SEPTEMBER 30, 1998

#### Medicount:

Medicount performed the fire and ambulance run bill processing for the Joint Fire District. Monies are due to the Joint Fire District from bills processed before the dissolution. The total amount receivable at September 30, 1998 was \$72,032.68. The receipts can take up to two years to collect. Most of these receipts are to be settled in court. This means that the patient is taking the responsible party to court, as most the receivables are from auto accidents. The receivables are only from the City of Mason and Deerfield Township. Some of the receivables may be written off by Medicount. The three-year average for the Joint Fire District of items past due being written off is 18%. The average overall collection is 70%. Medicount retains 10% of all payments received and pays the remainder to the Joint Fire District. During the period of October 1, 1998 to December 31, 2001 the Joint Fire District had received \$44,904. As of May 8, 2001 all of the outstanding balances were determined to be too old to be collected and were written off. The amount collected during the period was receipted into the escrow account. The escrow account is part of the distribution of monies as described in Note 9.

#### State Grant:

The Joint Fire District has a reimbursement grant from the State of Ohio which provided reimbursement for 50% of training costs. The grant covered all bills up to the dissolution date. At September 30, 1998, the amount of the bills outstanding was \$8,870. As provided by the grant, one half of this amount would be reimbursed to the Joint Fire District and placed in the escrow account. At September 30, 1998, the amount due to the Joint Fire District is approximately \$4,435. The Joint Fire District receipted in \$4,150 on June 30, 2000. This amount was deposited into the escrow account. The escrow account is part of the distribution of monies as disclosed in Note 9.

#### Homestead and Rollback:

A homestead and rollback distribution was received by the Joint Fire District in the amount of \$151, 000.14. The distribution was divided between the City of Mason and Deerfield Township based on their tax valuations and subsequently distributed. This amount was received on November 4, 1998 and apportioned to the City and Township on December 15, 1998.

#### Tangible Personal Property Taxes:

A tangible personal property tax settlement was received by the Joint Fire District in the amount of \$455,685.76. The settlement was divided between the City of Mason and Deerfield Township based on their tax valuations and subsequently distributed. This amount was received on November 23, 1998 and apportioned to the City and Township on December 15, 1998.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 1998 TO DECEMBER 31, 2001 (Continued)

# 7. STATUS OF RECEIVABLES ON THE DATE OF DISSOLUTION, SEPTEMBER 30, 1998 (Continued)

#### Worker's Compensation:

The Joint Fire District overpaid its workers compensation obligation by an estimated \$3,068. As of June 30, 2001, part of this amount was credited to the account of the Joint Fire District and the rest was received by the Joint Fire District and is included in the final distribution to the City and Township and is included in the final distribution as disclosed in Note 9.

#### 8. STATUS OF PAYABLES ON THE DATE OF DISSOLUTION, SEPTEMBER 30, 1998

#### Auditor of State:

The Joint Fire District had outstanding audit costs. As of January 31, 1999 the audit costs were estimated at \$15,000. During the period October 1, 1998 to December 31, 2001, the Joint Fire District paid \$21,971 in audit costs to the Auditor of State. This included costs for the prior audit and also the current audit.

#### **Unemployment Costs:**

The Joint Fire District had unemployment costs associated with the dissolution and at January 31, 1999 they were estimated to be \$4,186. The employees have up to two years to file unemployment claims against the Joint Fire District. During the period October 1, 1998 to December 31, 2001, the Joint Fire District paid \$6,904 to the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services.

#### Attorney Fees:

\$2,304 was paid for legal fees from October 1, 1998 to December 31, 2001.

#### Pagers:

At the dissolution the Joint Fire District had a total of nineteen pagers. These pagers were not divided between the two entities. The pagers were turned off but were not returned to the company. This was resolved and a total of \$225 was paid for lost pagers.

#### Umble, Gayhart, and Jacobsen, CPAs:

At January 31, 1999 the Joint Fire District had an outstanding bill for auditing and accounting services which was approximately \$35,285. The total costs paid from October 1, 1998 to December 31, 2000 was \$18,285. No other costs will be incurred because it was settled in the court.

#### Copier Lease Payments:

At September 30, 1998, the Joint Fire District had three copiers. The dissolution agreement stated that Deerfield Township would receive two copiers and that the City of Mason would receive one copier. One copier that Deerfield Township received was returned to the leasing company. The copiers were still in the Joint Fire District's name. The leasing company did not release the original signer of the lease agreement, but the City of Mason and Deerfield Township were to pay the lease payments according to the division. Therefore, the Joint Fire District would have been liable for the lease payment if the entities would default.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 1998 TO DECEMBER 31, 2001 (Continued)

#### 7. STATUS OF PAYABLES ON THE DATE OF DISSOLUTION, SEPTEMBER 30, 1998 ( Continued)

There were no payments made to the leasing company from October 1, 1998 to December 31, 2001 out of the escrow account. Neither the City of Mason nor Deerfield Township defaulted on the lease.

#### 8. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

#### A. DISTRIBUTION OF MONIES

The remaining balances in the initial Joint Fire District account and the current escrow account, once obligations have been paid are to be divided between the City of Mason and Deerfield Township. The division is to be based on their tax valuations, with the City of Mason getting 44.54% and Deerfield Township getting 55.46%. Due to the District receiving an estate bequest (see Part B) and this estate still being outstanding, the Warren County Auditor decided to distribute 90% of the escrow account and 100% of the initial Joint Fire District account in January 2002.

October 1, 1998 balance	\$88,440
Plus Subsequent Receipts per accompanying financial statements	1,064,029
Less Subsequent Expenditures per accompanying financial statements	<u>850,115</u>
December 31, 2001 balance	<u>\$302,354</u>
Portion remaining to be distributed at a later date	\$22,302
Total to be divided	\$281,042
Distribution to the City of Mason (44.54%)	\$124,956
Distribution to Deerfield Township (55.46%)	\$155,591

On January 12, 2002, the Warren County Auditor approved the distribution of these funds. The City of Mason distributed these funds in January, 2002. Outstanding checks in the amount of \$1,225 are being held by the City of Mason in an unclaimed funds account. At the end of the five years, which is the time stipulated by the Ohio Revised Code the amounts that are left to be unclaimed will be sent to the City of Mason and Deerfield Township in their respective percentages.

Any unknown receipts or expenditures that may come about will also be divided between the City and Township based on the percentages mentioned above.

#### **B. BEQUEST - ESTATE**

A former resident of the Joint Fire District, has left the Joint Fire District a quarter (25%) of her estate. This estate includes money and real property. As of the date of this report the estate is still open and not settled. Once the estate is settled, the Warren County Auditor will distribute the rest of the proceeds from this estate to the City of Mason and Deerfield Township.

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# REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Mason Deerfield Joint Fire District Warren County 202 W. Main Street Mason, Ohio 45202

#### To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Mason Deerfield Joint Fire District, Warren County, Ohio (the District), for the period October 1, 1998 to December 31, 2001, and have issued our report thereon dated March 22, 2002, which was qualified for lack of sufficient evidential matter supporting emergency management services billing receipts. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

#### Compliance

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

#### Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted a matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the District's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements. The reportable condition is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2001-40483-001.

A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions.

Mason Deerfield Joint Fire District Warren County Report of Independent Accountants on Compliance and on Internal Control Required by *Government Auditing Standards* Page 2

Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions, and accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are considered to be material weaknesses. We believe that the reportable condition described above is a material weakness.

We also noted other matters involving the internal control over financial reporting that do not require inclusion in this report that we have reported to management of the District in a separate letter dated March 22, 2002.

This report is intended for the information and use of management and the Board of Trustees, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Jim Petro Auditor of State

March 22, 2002

#### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 1998 TO DECEMBER 31, 2001

# FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS

#### FINDING NUMBER 2001-40483-001 - Internal Control, Material Weakness - SAS-70

Mason Deerfield Joint Fire District delegated payroll processing, which is a significant accounting function, to a payroll processing agency. The Joint Fire District did not establish procedures to reasonably determine that payroll has been completely and accurately processed in accordance with the payroll processing contract. The Joint Fire District should have implemented procedures to reasonably assure the completeness and accuracy of payroll processed by their processing agency.

The District also delegated fire and ambulance billing processing and collecting to a billing agency. The Joint Fire District did not establish procedures to reasonably determine that fire and ambulance billings have been completely and accurately processed and collected in accordance with the fire and ambulance billing contract. The Joint Fire District should have implemented procedures to reasonably assure the completeness and accuracy of fire and ambulance billing and collecting processed by their billing agency.

This was also noted in the audit of the September 1998 financial statements.

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#### SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i> :
1998-40483-001	Improper Contract for Audit		Finding No Longer Valid
1998-40483-002	Possible Independence Issue		Finding No Longer Valid
1998-40483-003	Audits to be conducted according to generally accepted governmental auditing standards		Finding No Longer Valid
1998-40483-004	Budgetary		Finding No Longer Valid
1998-40483-005	Accounting system		Finding No Longer Valid
1998-40483-006	SAS-70	No	Not Corrected - Finding No.001
1998-40483-007	Supporting Documentation for Expenditures	No	Partially Corrected - Reported in Management Letter
1998-40483-008	Board Oversight		Finding No Longer Valid



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# MASON DEERFIELD JOINT FIRE DISTRICT WARREN COUNTY

#### **CLERK'S CERTIFICATION**

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

**CLERK OF THE BUREAU** 

Susan Babbitt

CERTIFIED MAY 9, 2002