

Certified Public Accountants, A.C.

# WEST LICKING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT LICKING COUNTY REGULAR AUDIT FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 - 2020



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Board of Trustees West Licking Joint Fire District 851 East Broad Street Pataskala, OH 43062

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the West Licking Joint Fire District, Licking County, prepared by Perry & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C., for the audit period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The West Licking Joint Fire District is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber Auditor of State Columbus, Ohio

November 28, 2022



## WEST LICKING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT LICKING COUNTY

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#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

West Licking Joint Fire District Licking County 851 Broad Street Pataskala. Ohio 43062

To the Board of Trustees:

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

#### **Unmodified and Adverse Opinions**

We have audited the financial statements of the West Licking Joint Fire District, Licking County, Ohio (the District), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements.

#### **Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting**

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions which Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

#### Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the District, as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, or the changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

#### **Basis for Opinions**

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

Tax - Accounting - Audit - Review - Compilation - Agreed Upon Procedure - Consultation - Bookkeeping - Payroll - Litigation Support - Financial Investigations

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West Licking Joint Fire District Licking County Independent Auditor's Report Page 2

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

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

#### Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and Government Auditing Standards, we

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

West Licking Joint Fire District Licking County Independent Auditor's Report Page 3

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (Continued)

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 9, 2022, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

**Perry & Associates** 

Certified Public Accountants, A.C.

Yerry & associates CANS A. C.

Marietta, Ohio

September 9, 2022

### WEST LICKING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT LICKING COUNTY

## COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY BASIS) ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 10,730,258	\$ 1,203,230	\$ -	\$ 11,933,488
Charges for Services	-	1,422,268	-	1,422,268
Intergovernmental	772,469	794,924	-	1,567,393
Earnings on Investments	4,388	-	-	4,388
Miscellaneous	416,920	353,213		770,133
Total Cash Receipts	11,924,035	3,773,635		15,697,670
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	11,834,719	1,328,814	-	13,163,533
Capital Outlay	-	1,183,881	24,146	1,208,027
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	486,397	220,428	-	706,825
Interest and Fiscal Charges		123,521		123,521
Total Cash Disbursements	12,321,116	2,856,644	24,146	15,201,906
Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	(397,081)	916,991	(24,146)	495,764
Other Financing Receipts				
Sale of Capital Assets	-	86,616	-	86,616
Advances In	-	-	300,000	300,000
Advances Out		(300,000)		(300,000)
Total Other Financing Receipts		(213,384)	300,000	86,616
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances	(397,081)	703,607	275,854	582,380
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	4,079,601	1,340,483		5,420,084
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$ 3,682,520	\$ 2,044,090	\$ 275,854	\$ 6,002,464

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

#### Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of West Licking Joint Fire District, Licking County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A six-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. Those subdivisions are Etna Township, Jersey Township, Harrison Township, Village of Kirkersville, City of Reynoldsburg, and City of Pataskala. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

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

#### Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### Basis of Presentation

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

#### **Fund Accounting**

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

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

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

**Special Levy Fund** – Receives tax and intergovernmental revenue for equipment and capital outlay expenditures related to fire equipment.

**Fire and Rescue Ambulance EMS Fund –** Receives charges for services directly related to Emergency Medical Service billings for direct costs of services.

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

**Station 404 Fund –** Advanced monies in anticipation of receiving bond proceeds for the construction of New Station 404.

#### Basis of Accounting

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

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

#### Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### Basis of Accounting (Continued)

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

#### **Budgetary Process**

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

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

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

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

A summary of 2021 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

#### **Deposits and Investments**

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

Investment in STAR Ohio is measured 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.

#### Capital Assets

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

#### Accumulated Leave

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

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

#### Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### **Fund Balance**

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

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

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

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

**Assigned** Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. Governmental funds other than the general fund report all fund balances as *assigned* unless they are restricted or committed. In the general fund, *assigned* amounts represent intended uses established by District Trustees or a District official delegated that authority by resolution, or by State Statute. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the general fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

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

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

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

#### Note 3 - Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2021 follows:

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts **Budgeted** Actual Receipts Receipts Fund Type Variance General \$ 11,763,690 \$ 11,924,035 160,345 3,065,555 794,696 Special Revenue 3,860,251 Capital Projects 300,000 300,000 Total \$ 15,129,245 \$ 16,084,286 955,041

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

#### Note 3 – Budgetary Activity (Continued)

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

		Appropriation	Budgetary		
Fund Type		Authority	Expenditures	\	/ariance
General		\$ 12,786,331	\$ 12,466,062	\$	320,269
Special Revenue		3,622,503	3,481,189		141,314
Capital Projects		300,000	187,400		112,600
	Total	\$ 16,708,834	\$ 16,134,651	\$	574,183

#### Note 4 - Deposits and Investments

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

	2021
Demand deposits	\$ 5,080,047
Total deposits	5,080,047
STAR Ohio	922,417
Total investments	922,417
Total deposits and investments	\$ 6,002,464

#### Deposits

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

#### Investments

Investments in STAR Ohio and mutual funds are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or bookentry form.

#### Note 5 - Taxes

#### **Property Taxes**

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

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

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

#### Note 6 - Interfund Balances

Outstanding advances at December 31, 2021, consisted of \$300,000 advanced to the Capital Projects fund to provide capital for projects.

#### Note 7 - Risk Management

The District belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) (the "Plan"), a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members"). The Plan is legally separate from its member governments.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages to its members sold through fourteen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio.

Effective November 1, 2010 (through October 31, 2017), the corridor is for losses paid is between 60% and 70% of casualty premiums earned in the first \$250,000. Effective November 1, 2016, the OPRM elected to participate in a property loss corridor deductible. The property corridor includes losses paid between 70% and 75%. In 2018, the casualty loss corridor was eliminated and the property corridor was adjusted to losses paid between 65% and 70%. Effective November 1, 2019, the property loss corridor was adjusted to losses between 60% and 67.5% and remain unchanged effective November 1, 2021 and November 1, 2020. OPRM had 769 members as of December 31, 2021.

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2021

Assets \$ 21,777,439 Liabilities (15,037,383) Members' Equity \$ 6,740,056

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM at the Plan's website, www.ohioplan.org.

#### Note 8 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans

#### Ohio Police and Fire Retirement System

The District certified Fire Fighters belong to the Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F). OP&F is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OP&F participants contributed 12.25 percent of their wages. The District contributed to OP&F an amount equal to 24 percent of full-time fire fighters' wages. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2021.

#### Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

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

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

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

#### Social Security

Several District's employees contributed to social Security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants.

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

#### Note 9 - Postemployment Benefits

Both OP&F and OPERS offer cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. OP&F contributes 0.5 percent of the employer contribution to fund these benefits. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the Traditional Pension Plan and Combined Plan was 1.0 percent during calendar year 2021. OP&F contributes 0.5 percent to fund these benefits.

#### Note 10- Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2021, was as follows:

Principal	Interest Rate
\$ 1,555,000	5%
983,508	3.765%
\$ 2,538,508	
	\$ 1,555,000 983,508

On May 22, 2018, the District issued general obligation bonds in the amount of \$1,750,000 for the purpose of financing the construction of a new fire station with the bonds maturing in 2038. The District's taxing authority collateralized the bonds.

On January 31, 2019, the District entered into a Equipment Lease Purchase agreement with Leasing 2, Inc. for the lease of a new Fire Truck. Amount outstanding as of December 31, 2021 was \$983,508. The lease matures on January 31, 2029.

#### Amortization

Amortization of the above debt, including interest, is scheduled as follows:

Year Ending	Fire Truck	Fire Station
December 31:	Lease	Bonds
2022	\$ 144,644	\$ 86,450
2023	144,644	91,000
2024	144,644	91,000
2025	144,644	97,500
2026	144,644	97,500
2027-2031	433,992	592,250
2032-2037	-	761,250
2037-2038		355,250
Total	\$ 1,157,212	\$ 2,172,200

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

#### Note 11 - Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the District cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the unexpendable corpus of the permanent funds. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilities effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

Fund Balances	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 144,946	\$ 324,515	\$ 163,254	\$ 632,715
Total	\$ 144,946	\$ 324,515	\$ 163,254	\$ 632,715

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

#### Note 12 - COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June, 2021 while the national state of emergency continues. During 2021, the District received COVID-19 funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the District. The impact on the District's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated. The District's investment portfolio fluctuates with market conditions, and due to market volatility, the amount of gains or losses that will be realized in subsequent periods, if any, cannot be determined.

### WEST LICKING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT LICKING COUNTY

## COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY BASIS) ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts Property and Other Local Taxes Charges for Services	\$ 9,773,995	\$ 1,194,358 1,194,579	\$ -	\$ 10,968,353 1,194,579
Intergovernmental Earnings on Investments Miscellaneous	1,019,487 27,981 392,598	79,216 - 20,499	- - -	1,098,703 27,981 413,097
Total Cash Receipts	11,214,061	2,488,652		13,702,713
Cash Disbursements				
Current: General Government Capital Outlay	11,335,853 -	1,359,823 849,152	- 103,775	12,695,676 952,927
Debt Service: Principal Retirement Interest and Fiscal Charges	<u>-</u>	214,870 129,202	<u>-</u>	214,870 129,202
Total Cash Disbursements	11,335,853	2,553,047	103,775	13,992,675
Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	(121,792)	(64,395)	(103,775)	(289,962)
Other Financing Receipts Sale of Capital Assets Other Financing Sources		18,756 4,000		18,756 4,000
Total Other Financing Receipts		22,756		22,756
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances	(121,792)	(41,639)	(103,775)	(267,206)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	4,201,393	1,382,122	103,775	5,687,290
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$ 4,079,601	\$ 1,340,483	\$ -	\$ 5,420,084

Licking County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

#### Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of West Licking Joint Fire District, Licking County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A six-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. Those subdivisions are Etna Township, Jersey Township, Harrison Township, Village of Kirkersville, City of Reynoldsburg, and City of Pataskala. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

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

#### Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### Basis of Presentation

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

#### **Fund Accounting**

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

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

**Special Levy Fund** – Receives tax and intergovernmental revenue for equipment and capital outlay expenditures related to fire equipment.

**Fire and Rescue Ambulance EMS Fund –** Receives charges for services directly related to Emergency Medical Service billings for direct costs of services.

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

**Station 405 Fund –** Made payments on the construction of Station 405.

#### Basis of Accounting

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

Licking County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

#### Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### Basis of Accounting (Continued)

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

#### **Budgetary Process**

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

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

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

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

A summary of 2020 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

#### **Deposits and Investments**

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

Investment in STAR Ohio is measured 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

#### Capital Assets

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

#### Accumulated Leave

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

Licking County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

#### Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### **Fund Balance**

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

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

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

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

**Assigned** Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. Governmental funds other than the general fund report all fund balances as *assigned* unless they are restricted or committed. In the general fund, *assigned* amounts represent intended uses established by District Trustees or a District official delegated that authority by resolution, or by State Statute. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the general fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

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

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

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 10.

#### Note 3 - Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2020 follows:

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts				
	Budgeted	Actual		_
	Receipts	Receipts	\	/ariance
	\$ 11,077,374	\$ 11,214,061	\$	136,687
	2,618,453	2,511,408		(107,045)
Total	\$ 13,695,827	\$ 13,725,469	\$	29,642
		Budgeted Receipts \$ 11,077,374 2,618,453	Budgeted Actual Receipts Receipts \$ 11,077,374 \$ 11,214,061 2,618,453 2,511,408	Receipts Receipts \$ 11,077,374 \$ 11,214,061 \$ 2,618,453 2,511,408

Licking County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

#### Note 3 – Budgetary Activity (Continued)

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

		Appropriation	Budgetary		
Fund Type		Authority	Expenditures	\	/ariance
General	_	\$ 12,240,903	\$ 11,933,031	\$	307,872
Special Revenue		3,276,018	3,159,117		116,901
Capital Projects		103,775	103,775		-
	Total	\$ 15,620,696	\$ 15,195,923	\$	424,773

#### Note 4 - Deposits and Investments

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

	2020
Demand deposits	\$ 4,498,421
Total deposits	4,498,421
STAR Ohio	921,663
Total investments	921,663
Total deposits and investments	\$ 5,420,084

#### **Deposits**

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

#### Investments

Investments in STAR Ohio and mutual funds are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or bookentry form.

#### Note 5 - Taxes

#### **Property Taxes**

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

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

Licking County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

#### Note 6 – Risk Management

The District belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) (the "Plan"), a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members"). The Plan is legally separate from its member governments.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages to its members sold through fourteen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio.

OPRM coverage programs are developed specific to each member's risk management needs and the related premiums for coverage are determined through the application of uniform underwriting criteria addressing the member's exposure to loss. Effective November 1, 2017, the OPRM retained 47% of the premium and losses on the first \$250,000 casualty treaty and 30% of the first \$1,000,000 property treaty. The OPRM is also participated in a property primary excess of loss treaty. This treaty reimbursed the OPRM 30% for losses between \$200,000 and \$1,000,000. The reimbursement is based on the amount of loss between \$200,000 and \$1,000,000. Effective November 1, 2018, the OPRM the property retention remained unchanged, however, the Plan assumed 100% of the first \$250,000 casualty treaty. Members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member. Effective November 1, 2019, the OPRM's property retention increased from 30% to 33%, while the casualty treaty remains unchanged and still assumes 100% of the first \$250,000 casualty treaty. OPRM had 771 members as of December 31, 2020.

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2020.

Assets \$ 18,826,974 Liabilities (13,530,267) Members' Equity \$ 5,296,707

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM at the Plan's website, www.ohioplan.org.

#### Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

#### Ohio Police and Fire Retirement System

The District certified Fire Fighters belong to the Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F). OP&F is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OP&F participants contributed 12.25 percent of their wages. The District contributed to OP&F an amount equal to 24 percent of full-time fire fighters' wages. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2020.

#### Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

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

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries and the District contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2020.

Licking County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

#### Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans (Continued)

#### Social Security

Several District's employees contributed to social Security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants.

Employees contributed 6.2 percent of their gross salaries. The District contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2020.

#### Note 8 - Postemployment Benefits

Both OP&F and OPERS offer cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. OP&F contributes 0.5 percent of the employer contribution to fund these benefits. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the Traditional Pension Plan and Combined Plan was 1.0 percent during calendar year 2020. OP&F contributes 0.5 percent to fund these benefits.

#### Note 9- Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2020, was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Fire Station Bonds	\$ 1,620,000	5%
Fire Truck Lease	1,087,237	3.765%
Pumper Truck Lease	538,096	3.594%
Total	\$ 3,245,333	

On May 22, 2018, the District issued general obligation bonds in the amount of \$1,750,000 for the purpose of financing the construction of a new fire station with the bonds maturing in 2038. The District's taxing authority collateralized the bonds.

On April 30, 2019, the District entered into a Equipment Lease Purchase agreement with Leasing 2, Inc. for the lease of a new Pumper Truck. Amount outstanding as of December 31, 2019 was \$538,096. The lease matures on April 30, 2029.

On January 31, 2019, the District entered into a Equipment Lease Purchase agreement with Leasing 2, Inc. for the lease of a new Fire Truck. Amount outstanding as of December 31, 2019 was \$1,087,237. The lease matures on January 31, 2029.

Licking County

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

#### Note 9- Debt (Continued)

Amortization

Amortization of the above debt, including interest, is scheduled as follows:

			Pumper			
Year Ending	Fire Truck		Truck		Fire Station	
December 31:	Lease		Lease		Bonds	
2021	\$	144,644	\$ 71,037	<del>,</del>	\$	80,275
2022		144,644	71,037	•		86,450
2023		144,644	71,037	•		91,000
2024		144,644	71,037	•		91,000
2025		144,644	71,037	•		97,500
2026-2030		578,576	284,148	3		559,250
2031-2035		-	-			725,000
2036-2038						522,000
Total	\$	1,301,796	\$ 639,333	3	\$ 2	2,252,475

#### Note 10 - Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the District cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the unexpendable corpus of the permanent funds. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilities effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

		Special	
Fund Balances	General	Revenue	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 597,177	\$ 606,070	\$1,203,247
Total	\$ 597,177	\$ 606,070	\$1,203,247

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

#### Note 11 - Change in Accounting Principle

For 2020, the District has made changes to their cash basis reporting model. These changes include modifications to the definition of fiduciary funds, adding a separate combined statement of additions, deductions, and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) – all fiduciary fund types, and removing the fund balance classifications from the combined statement of receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) – all governmental fund types.

Licking County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

#### Note 12 - COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the District. The District's investment portfolio fluctuates with market conditions, and due to market volatility, the amount of gains or losses that will be realized in subsequent periods, if any, cannot be determined. In addition, the impact on the District's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.



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749 Wheeling Ave., Suite 300 Cambridge, OH 43725 740.435.3417

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

West Licking Joint Fire District Licking County 851 Broad Street Pataskala, Ohio 43062

#### To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 and the related notes to the financial statements of the **West Licking Joint Fire District**, Licking County, (the District) and have issued our report thereon dated September 9, 2022, wherein we noted the District followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit.

#### Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purposes of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings as item 2021-001 that we consider to be a material weakness.

Tax - Accounting - Audit - Review - Compilation - Agreed Upon Procedure - Consultation - Bookkeeping - Payroll - Litigation Support - Financial Investigations

Members: American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Ohio Society of CPAs • West Virginia Society of CPAs • Association of Certified Fraud Examiners • Association of Certified Anti-Money Laudering Specialists •





West Licking Joint Fire District
Licking County
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by Government Auditing Standards
Page 2

#### Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the financial statements. However, opining on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

#### Purpose of this Report

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

Perry & Associates

Certified Public Accountants, A.C.

Very Marcutes CAS A. C.

Marietta, Ohio

September 9, 2022

## WEST LICKING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT LICKING COUNTY SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020

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

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2021-001**

#### **Material Weakness**

#### **Financial Reporting**

The District is responsible for establishing procedures and controls to help prevent and detect errors in financial reporting.

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.09 requires, in part, each subdivision to establish a bond retirement fund for the retirement of serial bonds, notes or certificates of indebtedness.

During 2018, the District issued a bond refunding and did not establish a debt service fund to account for the bond proceeds or the retirement of the bond.

We recommend the District establish a debt service fund to account for the retirement of the 2018 refunding bond. New funds established should be approved by the Board and documented in the minutes.

During 2021, receipts and disbursements were not always posted or classified correctly. The following posting errors were noted:

• The principal balance paid on the Pumper Truck lease was classified as Capital Outlay, rather than principal.

Not posting receipts and disbursements correctly resulted in the financial statements requiring a reclassification. The Financial Statements reflect the reclassification.

During the audit, aspects of the notes to the financial statements were corrected from the Hinkle filing to agree to the financial statements in the audit report and to include all necessary note disclosures.

In 2020 and 2021, the following Notes to the financial statements were corrected to agree to the financial statements:

- Note 3 Budgetary Activity Tables did not disclose accurate amounts; and
- Note 4 Deposits and Investments Table did not disclose accurate amount.

In 2021, the following Note Disclosures were added:

- Note 6 Interfund Balances
- Note 11 Fund Balances

In 2020, the following Note Disclosures were added:

- Note 9 Debt
- Note 10 Fund Balances
- Note 11 Change in Accounting Principle

## WEST LICKING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT LICKING COUNTY SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020 (CONTINUED)

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

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2021-001 (Continued)**

#### **Material Weakness (Continued)**

#### **Financial Reporting (Continued)**

We recommend the District use the available templates for financial statements and notes to the financial statements on the Auditor of State's website to prepare an accurate annual financial report.

To help ensure accuracy and reliability in the financial reporting process, we recommend management perform a detailed review of its draft financial statements. Such review should include procedures to ensure that all revenues and disbursements are properly identified and classified on the financial statements.

Management's Response: We did not receive a response to this finding.

## WEST LICKING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT LICKING COUNTY

#### SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2019-001	Budgetary Controls	Corrected	None
2019-002	Financial Reporting	Not Corrected	Repeated as Finding 2021- 001





#### WEST LICKING JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

#### LICKING 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 12/8/2022

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