

**Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
Shongaloo, Louisiana
Financial Statements
And
Report on Agreed-Upon Procedures
As of and For the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
Shongaloo, Louisiana

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COOK & MOREHART

Certified Public Accountants

1215 HAWN AVENUE • SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71107 • P.O. BOX 78240 • SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71137-8240

TRAVIS H. MOREHART, CPA
VICKIE D. CASE, CPA

TELEPHONE (318) 222-5415

FAX (318) 222-5441

STUART L. REEKS, CPA
J. PRESTON DELAUNE, CPA

MEMBER
AMERICAN INSTITUTE
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

SOCIETY OF LOUISIANA
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Independent Accountants' Review Report

To the Board of Commissioners
Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
Shongaloo, Louisiana

We have reviewed the financial statements of the governmental activities and major fund of the Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9, a component unit of the Webster Parish Police Jury, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of management of the Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

Accountants' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

We are required to be independent of Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9 and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our review.

Accountants' Conclusion

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

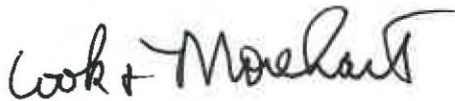
Required Supplemental Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison information on pages 18–19 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Such information is the responsibility of management. We have not audited, reviewed, or compiled the required supplementary information, and we do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any assurance on it.

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of the financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. The results of our review of the basic financial statements are not affected by this missing information.

Supplementary Information

The supplementary information included in the accompanying Schedule of Per Diem Paid Commissioners and Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head on pages 20–21 are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. This supplementary information is the responsibility of management and was derived from, and relates directly to, the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The supplementary information has been subjected to the review procedures applied in our review of the basic financial statements. We are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the supplementary information. We have not audited the supplementary information and do not express an opinion on it.



Cook & Morehart
Certified Public Accountants
June 26, 2024

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
 Shongaloo, Louisiana
 Statement of Net Position
 December 31, 2023

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 324,210
Investments	36,672
Accounts receivable - ad valorem taxes	286,184
Prepaid expenses	10,116
Capital assets:	
Depreciable	<u>1,677,897</u>
Total assets	<u>2,335,079</u>
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	4,857
Non-current liabilities	
Due within one year	117,537
Due in more than one year	<u>120,451</u>
Total liabilities	<u>242,845</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Unavailable revenue- ad valorem taxes	<u>305,762</u>
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets	1,431,018
Unrestricted	<u>355,454</u>
Total net position	<u><u>\$ 1,786,472</u></u>

See accompanying notes and independent accountants' review report

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
 Shongaloo, Louisiana
 Statement of Activities
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Expenses:

Public safety - fire protection	\$ 247,305
Interest on long-term debt	7,798
	255,103

Program revenues:

Operating grant - Forestry grant	9,819
Total program revenues	9,819

Net program revenues (expenses)	(245,284)
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General revenues:

Ad valorem taxes	290,272
Fire insurance rebate	7,648
Interest income	453
Water meter receipts	7,199
Other income	2,278
Total general revenues	307,850

Change in net position	62,566
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Net position - beginning	1,723,906
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Net position - ending	\$ 1,786,472
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See accompanying notes and independent accountants' review report

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
 Shongaloo, Louisiana
 Balance Sheet
 Governmental Fund
 December 31, 2023

	<u>General Fund</u>
Assets	
Cash	\$ 324,210
Investments	36,672
Accounts receivable- ad valorem taxes	<u>286,184</u>
Total assets	<u><u>\$ 647,066</u></u>
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	<u>\$ 2,890</u>
Total liabilities	<u>2,890</u>
Deferred inflows of resources	
Unavailable revenue	
Ad valorem taxes	<u>305,762</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>305,762</u>
Fund balance	
Unassigned	<u>338,414</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balance	<u><u>\$ 647,066</u></u>

See accompanying notes and independent accountants' review report.

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
 Shongaloo, Louisiana
 Reconciliation of the Balance Sheet of the Governmental Fund
 to the Statement of Net Position
 December 31, 2023

Fund balance - total governmental fund	\$ 338,414
<p>Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:</p>	
<p>The nonallocation method of accounting for prepayments is used in the fund statements since the prepayment does not provide expendable financial resources - prepaid expenses</p>	10,116
<p>Long-term liabilities and other amounts are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.</p>	
Finance purchase	(237,988)
Accrued interest payable	(1,967)
<p>Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the governmental funds.</p>	<u>1,677,897</u>
Net position of governmental activities	<u>\$ 1,786,472</u>

See accompanying notes and independent accountants' review report.

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
 Shongaloo, Louisiana
 Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance
 Governmental Fund
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	General Fund
Revenues	
Ad valorem taxes	\$ 290,272
Intergovernmental revenue:	
Fire insurance rebate	7,648
Forestry grant	9,819
Water meter receipts	7,199
Interest income	453
Miscellaneous	2,278
Total revenues	317,669
Expenditures	
Current - public safety - fire protection	120,726
Capital outlay	28,716
Debt service:	
Principal retirement	114,693
Interest and other charges	8,746
Total expenditures	272,881
Change in fund balance	44,788
Fund balance at beginning of year	293,626
Fund balance at end of year	\$ 338,414

See accompanying notes and independent accountants' review report.

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
 Shongaloo, Louisiana
 Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in
 Fund Balance of the Governmental Fund to the Statement of Activities
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Net change in fund balance - total governmental fund	\$	44,788
<p>Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:</p>		
<p>The nonallocation method of accounting for prepayments is used in the fund statements since the prepayment does not provide expendable financial resources.</p>		796
<p>The repayment of principal of long-term debt consumes current financial resources of governmental funds.</p>		114,693
<p>Accrued interest expense on long-term debt is reported in the government-wide statement of activities and changes in net assets, but does not require the use of current financial resources; therefore, accrued interest expense is not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.</p>		948
<p>Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which depreciation \$127,375 exceeded capital outlays \$28,716 in the current period.</p>		<u>(98,659)</u>
Change in net position of governmental activities	\$	<u>62,566</u>

See accompanying notes and independent accountants' review report.

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
Shongaloo, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023

INTRODUCTION

The Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9 (the District) was created by the Webster Parish Police Jury in 1989 by a resolution to purchase and maintain fire equipment and to provide fire protection for the people of Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9. The District is governed by a board of commissioners consisting of 5 members. All members are appointed by the Webster Parish Police Jury.

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9's financial statements are prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (Statements and Interpretations). The more significant accounting policies established in GAAP and used by the Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9 are discussed below.

A. Reporting Entity

Because the Webster Parish Police Jury appoints the members of the governing board and because the District operates within the geographical boundaries of Webster Parish, the District was determined to be a component unit of the Webster Parish Police Jury, the governing body of the parish and the governmental body with oversight responsibility. This report includes only funds which are maintained by the District and does not present information on the Webster Parish Police Jury, the general government service provided by that governmental unit, or the other governmental units that comprise the Webster Parish Police Jury.

B. Basic Financial Statements – Government-Wide Statements

The Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9's basic financial statements include both government-wide (reporting the funds maintained by the Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9 as a whole) and fund financial statements (reporting the Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9's major funds). Both the government-wide and fund financial statements categorize primary activities as either governmental or business type. The Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9's general fund is classified as governmental activities. The Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9 does not have any business-type activities.

In the government-wide Statement of Net Position, the governmental activities column is presented on a consolidated basis and is reported on a full accrual, economic resource basis, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations. The Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9's net position is reported in two parts – net investment in capital assets, and unrestricted net position.

(Continued)

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
Shongaloo, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023
(Continued)

The government-wide Statement of Activities reports both the gross and net cost of each of the Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9's functions. The functions are supported by program revenues and general government revenues. The Statement of Activities reduces gross expenses (including depreciation) by any related program revenues, which must be directly associated with the function. Program revenues for the year ended December 31, 2023 consisted of a forestry grant. The net costs (by function) are normally covered by general revenues.

This government-wide focus is more on the sustainability of the Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9 as an entity and the change in the Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9's net position resulting from the current year's activities.

C. Basic Financial Statements – Fund Financial Statements

The financial transactions of the Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9 are recorded in individual funds in the fund financial statements. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprises its assets, liabilities, reserves, fund equity, revenues and expenditures. The various funds are reported by generic classification within the financial statements.

The following fund types are used by the Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9:

Governmental Funds – the focus of the governmental funds' measurement (in the fund statements) is upon determination of financial position and changes in financial position (sources, uses, and balances of financial resources) rather than upon net income. The following is a description of the governmental funds of the Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9:

- a. General fund is the general operating fund of the Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

The emphasis in fund financial statements is on the major funds in the governmental category. GASB sets forth minimum criteria (percentage of the assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of either fund category or the governmental and enterprise combined) for the determination of major funds. The District's general fund was determined to be a major fund.

D. Basis of Accounting

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

1. Accrual:

The governmental funds in the government-wide financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

(Continued)

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
Shongaloo, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023
(Continued)

Revenues of the Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9 consist principally of property taxes, intergovernmental revenues - fire insurance rebate and interest income. Property taxes are recorded in the year for which the taxes are levied. Property taxes are assessed on a calendar year basis, become due on November 15 of each year, and become delinquent on December 31. Because the 2023 tax levy is intended to fund the 2024 fiscal year, the levy has been recorded as a receivable and deferred inflows of resources. Interest income is recorded when earned. Intergovernmental revenues are recorded when received because they are generally not measurable until actually received.

2. Modified Accrual:

The governmental funds financial statements are presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when susceptible to accrual; i.e., both measurable and available. "Available" means collectible within the current period or within 60 days after year end. Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related liability is incurred. The exception to this rule is that principal and interest on general obligation long-term debt, if any, is recognized when due. Depreciation is not recognized in the governmental fund financial statements.

E. Budgets

The district uses the following budget practices:

1. A preliminary budget for the ensuing year is prepared by the Fire Chief and Officers of the District prior to December 31 of each year and is made available for public inspection at least fifteen days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year.
2. After completion of all action necessary to finalize and implement the budget, the budget is adopted by the Board of Commissioners.
3. All budgetary appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year.
4. The budget is established and controlled by the board of commissioners at the object level of expenditure. All changes in the budget must be approved by the board.
5. The budget is adopted on a cash basis for the general fund.

F. Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Investments

Cash includes amounts in petty cash, interest-bearing demand deposits, and money market accounts. Cash equivalents include amounts in time deposits and those investments with original maturities of 90 days or less. Under state law, the district may deposit funds in demand deposits, interest-bearing demand deposits, or money market accounts with state banks organized under Louisiana law or any other state of the United States, or under the laws of the United States.

(Continued)

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
Shongaloo, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023
(Continued)

Investments are limited by Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 33:2955. If the original maturities of investments exceed 90 days, they are classified as investments; however, if the original maturities are 90 days or less, they are classified as cash equivalents. Investments are carried at fair value.

G. Capital Assets

Capital assets purchased or acquired with an original cost of \$2,500 or more are reported at historical cost or estimated historical cost. Contributed assets are reported at acquisition value as of the date received. Additions, improvements, and other capital outlays that significantly extend the useful life of an asset are capitalized. Other costs incurred for repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred.

Depreciation on all assets is provided on the straight-line basis over the following estimated useful lives:

Buildings and Improvements	10 – 30 years
Equipment	5 – 15 years
Vehicles	5 – 30 years

H. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. At this time, the District has no transactions that meet the definition of deferred outflows of resources.

The District's governmental activities and governmental fund report a separate section for *deferred inflows of resources*. This separate financial statement element represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The District has one item that met this definition and qualifies for reporting in this category. Accordingly, the item "unavailable revenue" is reported in the governmental fund balance sheet and statement of net position. The District reports unavailable revenue from one source: ad valorem taxes. This amount is deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period for which the amounts were levied and budgeted.

I. Compensated Absences

The District had no liability for compensated absences at December 31, 2023.

J. Use of Estimates

Management uses estimates and assumptions in preparing financial statements. Those estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, and reported revenues and expenses. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(Continued)

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
Shongaloo, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023
(Continued)

K. Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets and liabilities. Net position invested in capital assets, net of related debt consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balance of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on its use either through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation adopted by the district or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. The District's policy is to first apply restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available.

L. Fund Balances

GASB has defined the different types of fund balances that a governmental entity must use for financial reporting purposes. GASB requires the fund balance amounts to be properly reported within one of the fund balance categories listed below.

1. Nonspendable fund balances are amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form, such as inventory or prepaid expenses, or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact, such as a trust that must be retained in perpetuity.
2. Restricted fund balances are restricted when constraints placed on the use of resources are either (a) externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments, or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
3. Committed fund balances include amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes as a result of constraints imposed by the District's board of commissioners (the District's highest level of decision making authority). Committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the District's board of commissioners removes those constraints by taking the same type of action (i.e. legislation, resolution, or ordinance).
4. Assigned fund balances are amounts that are constrained by the District's intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. The District's board of commissioners have the authority to assign amounts to be used for specific purposes.
5. Unassigned fund balances are the residual classification for the District's general fund and include all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications.

When both restricted and unrestricted fund balances are available for use, it is the District's policy to use restricted fund balance first, then unrestricted fund balance. Furthermore, committed fund balances are reduced first, followed by assigned amounts, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of those unrestricted fund balance classifications can be used.

(Continued)

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
 Shongaloo, Louisiana
 Notes to Financial Statements
 December 31, 2023
 (Continued)

M. Prepaid Items

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future periods and are reported as prepaid expenses in the government-wide financial statements.

N. Fair Value Measurements

Generally accepted accounting principles require disclosure to be made about fair value measurements, the level of fair value hierarchy, and valuation techniques. The fair value hierarchy categorizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value into three levels:

Level 1 inputs – The valuation is based on quoted market prices for identical assets or liabilities traded in active markets;

Level 2 inputs – The valuation is based on quoted market prices for similar instruments traded in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active, and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;

Level 3 inputs – The valuation is determined by using the best information available under the circumstances and might include the government's own data but should adjust those data if (a) reasonably available information indicates that other market participants would use different data or (b) there is something particular to the government that is not available to other market participants.

The asset's or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

(2) Levied Taxes

The following is a summary of authorized and levied ad valorem taxes:

	Authorized Millage	Levied Millage	Expiration Date
Operating	11.41	11.41	2028
Operating	11.41	11.41	2033

On November 18, 2023, a special election was held in the District whereby the voters approved the District to continue to levy an 11.41 mills tax for a period of 10 years beginning in the year 2024 and ending with the year 2033.

(Continued)

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
Shongaloo, Louisiana
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2023
(Continued)

(3) Capital Assets

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

	Balance at Jan 1, 2023	Additions	Deletions	Balance at Dec 31, 2023
Governmental Activities:				
Capital assets, being depreciated:				
Buildings and improvements	\$ 553,611	\$	\$	\$ 553,611
Equipment	133,508	28,716		162,224
Vehicles	1,915,084			1,915,084
Total capital assets, being depreciated at historical cost	<u>2,602,203</u>	<u>28,716</u>		<u>2,630,919</u>
Less accumulated depreciation:				
Buildings and improvements	(226,350)	(16,837)		(243,187)
Equipment	(130,117)	(2,645)		(132,762)
Vehicles	(469,180)	(107,893)		(577,073)
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>(825,647)</u>	<u>(127,375)</u>		<u>(953,022)</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	<u>1,776,556</u>	<u>(98,659)</u>		<u>1,677,897</u>
Governmental activities capital assets, net	<u>\$ 1,776,556</u>	<u>\$ (98,659)</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 1,677,897</u>

Depreciation expense for the year ended December 31, 2023 was \$127,375.

(4) Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Investments

At December 31, 2023, the District had cash, cash equivalents, and investments (book balances), totaling \$360,882 as detailed below.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The District had cash and cash equivalents at December 31, 2023 (book balances) totaling \$324,210 in interest bearing demand deposits and demand deposit accounts. These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under state law, these deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent.

Investments

Included in investments at December 31, 2023, are certificates of deposits totaling \$36,672 with maturities of 90 days or more. The investments are presented in the financial statements at fair value using level 2 fair value measure for certificates of deposit.

(Continued)

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
 Shongaloo, Louisiana
 Notes to Financial Statements
 December 31, 2023
 (Continued)

Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned to it. As of December 31, 2023, \$74,788 of the District's bank balances totaling \$361,460 were exposed to custodial credit risk as follows:

Uninsured and collateral held by the pledging bank's trust department not in the District's name:

Investments	\$ <u>74,788</u>
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(5) Risk Management

The District purchases commercial insurance to provide workers compensation coverage and general liability and property insurance. There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage from the prior year.

(6) Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through June 28, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

(7) Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses

Accounts payable and accrued expenses at December 31, 2023, consisted of the following:

<u>Class of Payable</u>	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Accounts payable	\$ <u>2,890</u>
Total – fund statements	<u>2,890</u>
Accrued interest payable	<u>1,967</u>
Total – government-wide financial statements	<u>\$ 4,857</u>

(8) Long-term Liabilities

Long-term liability activity for the year ended December 31, 2023, was as follows:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>Due Within One Year</u>
Finance purchase	\$ 352,681	\$ _____	\$(114,693)	\$ 237,988	\$ 117,537
Total long-term liabilities, governmental activities	<u>\$ 352,681</u>	<u>\$ _____</u>	<u>\$(114,693)</u>	<u>\$ 237,988</u>	<u>\$ 117,537</u>

(Continued)

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
 Shongaloo, Louisiana
 Notes to Financial Statements
 December 31, 2023
 (Continued)

Finance Purchase – Fire Trucks

During 2021, the District entered into a lease agreement to purchase three fire trucks. The trucks are included in capital assets at a cost of \$722,912, with accumulated depreciation totaling \$140,566 as of December 31, 2023. Interest has been imputed at a rate of 2.48%, and the District will make annual payments through July 2025. A security interest constituting a first lien on the fire trucks have been granted to the lessor. The debt service requirements to maturity are as follows:

<u>Year Ended</u> <u>December 31,</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2024	\$117,537	\$5,902	\$123,439
2025	120,451	2,988	123,439
	<u>\$237,988</u>	<u>\$8,890</u>	<u>\$246,878</u>

Interest expense in the statement of activities for the year ended December 31, 2023 was \$7,798.

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
Shongaloo, Louisiana
Required Supplementary Information
Budgetary Comparison Schedule
Cash Basis
General Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts Original & Final	Actual	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
Revenues			
Ad valorem taxes	\$ 300,000	\$ 290,272	\$ (9,728)
Fire insurance rebate	5,000	7,648	2,648
Forestry grant		9,819	9,819
Water meter receipts	6,500	7,199	699
Interest income	200	453	253
Miscellaneous		2,278	2,278
Total revenues	311,700	317,669	5,969
Expenditures			
Current - fire protection	67,900	126,053	(58,153)
Capital outlay	5,000	28,716	(23,716)
Debt service:			
Principal retirement	114,693	114,693	
Interest and other charges	8,746	8,746	
Total expenditures	196,339	278,208	(81,869)
Change in fund balance	115,361	39,461	(75,900)
Fund balance at beginning of year	171,468	321,421	149,953
Fund balance at end of year	\$ 286,829	\$ 360,882	\$ 74,053

See independent accountant's review report.

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
Shongaloo, Louisiana
Notes to Required Supplementary Information
December 31, 2023

The District's budget is adopted on a cash basis for all funds. There were no amendments to the 2023 budget. The budget comparison schedule included in the accompanying financial statements includes the original budget. The schedule below reconciles excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses on the budget basis with GAAP basis:

	<u>General Fund</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses (budget basis)	\$ 39,461
Adjustments:	
Expenditure accruals – net	<u>5,327</u>
Excess of revenues and other sources over (under) expenditures and other uses (GAAP basis)	<u>\$ 44,788</u>

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
Shongaloo, Louisiana
Other Supplementary Information
Schedule of Per Diem Paid Commissioners
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

PER DIEM AND OTHER PAID COMMISSIONERS

The following serve on the Board of Commissioners:

John Stanley, President	\$
Jessie Lee, Vice President	
Tim Mouser, Commissioner	
Terry Pearce, Commissioner	
Peggy "Suzy" Evers, Secretary – Treasurer	<u>12,000</u>
	<u>\$ 12,000</u>

See independent accountant's review report.

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
Shongaloo, Louisiana
Other Supplementary Information
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Agency Head:

Claude Pickard, Fire Chief (until 2-05-23)

PURPOSE		AMOUNT
Compensation	\$	2,000

Michael Boots, Fire Chief (beginning 2-06-23)

PURPOSE		AMOUNT
Compensation	\$	10,000

See independent accountant's review report.

COOK & MOREHART

Certified Public Accountants

1215 HAWN AVENUE • SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71107 • P.O. BOX 78240 • SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71137-8240

TRAVIS H. MOREHART, CPA
VICKIE D. CASE, CPA

TELEPHONE (318) 222-5415

FAX (318) 222-5441

STUART L. REEKS, CPA
J. PRESTON DELAUNE, CPA

MEMBER
AMERICAN INSTITUTE
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

SOCIETY OF LOUISIANA
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Independent Accountants' Report On Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

The Board of Commissioners
Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9's (the District) compliance with certain laws and regulations contained in the accompanying Louisiana Attestation Questionnaire during the year ended December 31, 2023, as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513 and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*. The District's management is responsible for its financial records and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

The District has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the District's compliance with the laws and regulations contained in the accompanying Louisiana Attestation Questionnaire during the year ended December 31, 2023. Additionally, the Louisiana Legislative Auditor has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

Public Bid Law

1. Obtain documentation for all expenditures made during the year for material and supplies exceeding \$60,000, or public works exceeding \$250,000. Compare the documentation for these expenditures to Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 38:221-2286 (the public bid law) and report whether the expenditures were made in accordance with these laws.

The were no expenditures made during the year ended December 31, 2023 exceeding \$60,000 for materials and supplies or \$250,000 for public works.

Code of Ethics for Public Officials and Public Employees

2. Obtain from management a list of the immediate family members of each board member as defined by LSA-RS 42:1101-1124 (the code of ethics).

The District provided us with the required list.

3. Obtain from management a listing of all employees paid during the fiscal year.

The District provided us with the required list.

4. Report whether any employees names appear on both lists obtained included in procedures 2 and 3.

None of the employees included on the list of employees provided by the District [agreed-upon procedure (3)] appeared on the list provided by the District in agreed-upon procedure (2).

5. Obtain a list of all disbursements made during the year and a list of outside business interests of board members, employees, and board members' and employees' immediate families. Report whether any vendors appear on both lists.

The District provided the listings. No vendors appeared on both lists.

Budgeting

6. Obtain a copy of the legally adopted budget and all amendments.

The District provided us with a copy of the original budget. There were no amendments.

7. Trace documentation for the adoption of the budget and approval of any amendments to the minute book and report whether there are any exceptions.

The District adopted the 2023 budget in October, 2022. There were no amendments.

8. Compare the revenues and expenditures of the final budget to actual revenues and expenditures to determine if actual revenues fail to meet budgeted revenues by 5% or more or if actual expenditures exceed budgeted amounts by 5% or more.

We compared the revenues and expenditures of the final budget to actual revenues and expenditures. Actual revenues met budgeted amounts by more than 5%.

Exception: Actual expenditures exceeded budgeted expenditures by more than 5%.

Accounting and Reporting

9. Obtain the list of all disbursements made during the fiscal year. Randomly select 6 disbursements and obtain documentation from management for those disbursements. Compare the selected disbursements to the supporting documentation, and:

(a) report whether the six disbursements agree to the amount and payee in the supporting documentation.

We examined supporting documentation for each of the six selected disbursements and found that payment was for the proper amount and made to the correct payee.

(b) report whether the six disbursements are coded to the correct fund and general ledger account;

All six disbursements were properly coded to the correct fund and general ledger account.

(c) report whether the six disbursements were approved in accordance with management's policies and procedures.

Inspection of documentation supporting each of the six selected disbursements indicated the six disbursements were approved in accordance with management's policies and procedures.

Meetings

10. Obtain evidence from management indicating that agendas for meetings recorded in the minute book were posted or advertised as required by R.S. 42:11 through LSA-RS 42:13 (the open meetings law); and report whether there are any exceptions.

The District posted its meetings and agendas as required by LSA-RS 42:11 through 42:28 (the open meetings law). No exceptions noted.

Debt

11. Obtain bank deposits for the fiscal year, and scan the deposit slips in order to identify and report whether there are any deposits that appear to be proceeds of bank loans, bonds, or like indebtedness. If any such proceeds are identified, obtain from management evidence of approval by the State Bond Commission, and report any exceptions.

We inspected copies of all bank deposits slips for the fiscal year and noted no deposits which appeared to be proceeds of bank loans, bonds, or like indebtedness.

Advances and Bonuses

12. Obtain the list of payroll disbursements and meeting minutes of the governing board. Scan these documents to identify and report whether there are any payments or approval of payments to employees that may constitute bonuses, advances, or gifts.

A reading of the minutes and inspection of payroll disbursements of the District for the year ended December 31, 2023 indicated no instances which would indicate payments to employees which would constitute bonuses, advances, or gifts.

State Audit Law

13. Report whether the District provided for a timely report in accordance with R.S. 24:513.

The District provided for a timely report in accordance with R.S. 24:513.

14. Inquire of management and report whether the District entered into any contracts that utilized state funds as defined in R.S. 39:72.1 A (2); and that were subject to the public bid law (R.S. 38:2211, et seq.), while the District was not in compliance with R.S. 24:513 (the audit law).

Not applicable. The District was in compliance with R.S. 24:513.

Prior Comments and Recommendations

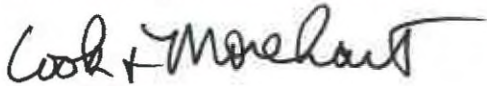
15. Obtain and report management's representation as to whether any prior year suggestions, recommendations, and/or comments have been resolved.

There was one(1) prior year finding for the year ended December 31, 2022 in regards to the 2022 budget. See schedule of prior year findings.

We were engaged by the District to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the standards applicable to attestation engagement contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the United States Comptroller General. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on the District's compliance with the foregoing matters. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on the District's compliance with certain laws and regulations contained in the accompanying Louisiana Attestation Questionnaire, as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513 and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.



Cook & Morehart
Certified Public Accountants
June 26, 2024

Webster Parish Fire Protection District No. 9
Shongaloo, Louisiana
Summary Schedule of Prior Year Findings
December 31, 2023

There was one(1) finding for the prior year audit for the year ended December 31, 2022.

Reference No:	2022 – 01 Local Government Budget Act
Finding:	The 2022 budget was adopted during the 2022 year and actual expenditures exceeded budgeted expenditures by more than 5%.
Criteria:	State law requires the District to adopt the budget no later than 15 days prior to beginning of fiscal year and amend the budget when expenditures will be 5% more than budgeted expenditures.
Cause:	The District's Treasurer position changed during 2021 and the deadline was not met, which also caused the 2022 budget not to be amended.
Effect:	The 2022 budget was adopted late and actual expenditures exceeded budgeted expenditures by more than 5%.
Recommendation:	We recommend the District comply with the Local Government Budget Act
Current Status:	The District adopted the 2023 budget in accordance with the Local Government Budget Act. See repeat finding for expenditures exceeding budgeted expenditures by more than 5% for 2023.

Summary Schedule of Current Year Findings
For Louisiana Legislative Auditor
December 31, 2023

There is one(1) finding for the current year audit for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Reference No:	2023 – 01 Local Government Budget Act
Finding:	Actual expenditures exceeded budgeted expenditures by more than 5% for the 2023 budget.
Criteria:	State law requires the District to amend the budget when expenditures will be 5% more than budgeted expenditures.
Cause:	The 2023 budget was not amended.
Effect:	Actual expenditures exceeded budgeted expenditures by more than 5%.
Recommendation:	We recommend the District comply with the Local Government Budget Act.
Corrective Action Plan:	The District will comply with the Local Government Budget Act. The District will monitor the 2024 budget for amendments.

LOUISIANA ATTESTATION QUESTIONNAIRE
(For Attestation Engagements of Governmental Agencies)

6-26-2024 (Date Transmitted)

COOK + MOREHART, CPAs (CPA Firm Name)

P.O. Box 78240 (CPA Firm Address)

Shreveport, LA 71137-8240 (City, State Zip)

In connection with your engagement to apply agreed-upon procedures to the control and compliance matters identified below, as of 12-31-22 (date) and for the year then ended, and as required by Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 24:513 and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, we make the following representations to you.

Public Bid Law

It is true that we have complied with the state procurement code (R.S. 39:1551 – 39:1755); the public bid law (R.S. 38:2211-2296), and, where applicable, the regulations of the Division of Administration and the State Purchasing Office.

Yes No [] N/A []

Code of Ethics for Public Officials and Public Employees

It is true that no employees or officials have accepted anything of value, whether in the form of a service, loan, or promise, from anyone that would constitute a violation of R.S. 42:1101-1124.

Yes No [] N/A []

It is true that no member of the immediate family of any member of the governing authority, or the chief executive of the governmental entity, has been employed by the governmental entity after April 1, 1980, under circumstances that would constitute a violation of R.S. 42:1119.

Yes No [] N/A []

Budgeting

We have complied with the state budgeting requirements of the Local Government Budget Act (R.S. 39:1301-15), R.S. 39:33, or the budget requirements of R.S. 39:1331-1342, as applicable.

Yes No [] N/A []

Accounting and Reporting

All non-exempt governmental records are available as a public record and have been retained for at least three years, as required by R.S. 44:1, 44:7, 44:31, and 44:36.

Yes No [] N/A []

We have filed our annual financial statements in accordance with R.S. 24:514, and 33:463 where applicable.

Yes No [] N/A []

We have had our financial statements reviewed in accordance with R.S. 24:513.

Yes No [] N/A []

We did not enter into any contracts that utilized state funds as defined in R.S. 39:72 1 A. (2); and that were subject to the public bid law (R.S. 38:2211, et seq.), while the agency was not in compliance with R.S. 24:513 (the audit law).

Yes No [] N/A []

We have complied with R.S. 24:513 A. (3) regarding disclosure of compensation, reimbursements, benefits and other payments to the agency head, political subdivision head, or chief executive officer.

Yes No [] N/A []

We have complied with R.S. 24:515.2 regarding reporting of pre- and post-adjudication court costs, fines and fees assessed or imposed; the amounts collected; the amounts outstanding; the amounts retained; the amounts disbursed, and the amounts received from disbursements.

Yes [] No [] N/A [X]

Meetings

We have complied with the provisions of the Open Meetings Law, provided in R.S. 42:11 through 42:28.

Yes [X] No [] N/A []

Debt

It is true we have not incurred any indebtedness, other than credit for 90 days or less to make purchases in the ordinary course of administration, nor have we entered into any lease-purchase agreements, without the approval of the State Bond Commission, as provided by Article VII, Section 8 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, Article VI, Section 33 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, and R.S. 39:1410 60-1410.65.

Yes [X] No [] N/A []

Advances and Bonuses

It is true we have not advanced wages or salaries to employees or paid bonuses in violation of Article VII, Section 14 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, R.S. 14:138, and AG opinion 79-729

Yes [X] No [] N/A []

Prior-Year Comments

We have resolved all prior-year recommendations and/or comments.

Yes [X] No [] N/A []

General

We acknowledge that we are responsible for the Agency's compliance with the foregoing laws and regulations and the internal controls over compliance with such laws and regulations.

Yes [X] No [] N/A []

We acknowledge that we are responsible for determining that the procedures performed are appropriate for the purposes of this engagement

Yes [X] No [] N/A []

We have evaluated our compliance with these laws and regulations prior to making these representations.

Yes [X] No [] N/A []

We have provided you with all relevant information and access under the terms of our agreement.

Yes [X] No [] N/A []

We have disclosed to you all known noncompliance of the foregoing laws and regulations, as well as any contradictions to the foregoing representations.

Yes [] No [] N/A [X]

We are not aware of any material misstatements in the information we have provided to you.

Yes [X] No [] N/A []

We have disclosed to you any communications from regulatory agencies, internal auditors, other independent practitioners or consultants, and others concerning noncompliance with the foregoing laws and regulations, including communications received during the period under examination; and will disclose

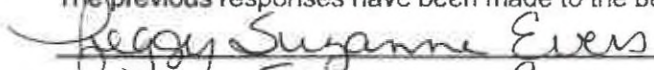


to you any such communication received between the end of the period under examination and the date of your report.

Yes [] No [] N/A [X]

We will disclose to you, the Legislative Auditor, and the applicable state grantor agency/agencies all known noncompliance and other events subsequent to the date of this representation and the date of your report that could have a material effect on our compliance with laws and regulations and the internal controls with such laws and regulations, or would require adjustment or modification to the results of the agreed-upon procedures.

Yes [] No [] N/A [X]

The previous responses have been made to the best of our belief and knowledge.

	Secretary	6/22/24	Date
	Treasurer	6/22/24	Date
	President	6/22/24	Date