

**NATCHITOCHE PARISH
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4**

**FINANCIAL REPORT
December 31, 2003**

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date 9.1.04

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4
Financial Report
December 31, 2003

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ACCOUNTANT'S COMPILATION REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Natchitoches Parish Fire
Protection District No. 4
P. O. Box 430
Provencal, Louisiana 71468

We have compiled the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and major fund information of the Natchitoches Parish Fire District No. 4, a component unit of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2003, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the Table of Contents, in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

A compilation is limited to presenting, in the form of financial statements, information that is the representation of management. We have not audited or reviewed the accompanying financial statements, and accordingly, do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on them.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis and budgetary comparison information on pages 2 through 5 and 25 through 26, are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have compiled the supplementary information from information that is the representation of management, without audit or review. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on the supplementary information.

In accordance with the Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide and the provisions of state law, we have issued a report dated April 23, 2004, on the results of our agreed-upon procedures.

Johnson, Thomas & Cunningham
Johnson, Thomas & Cunningham, CPA's

April 23, 2004
Natchitoches, LA 71457

NATCHITOCHEs PARISH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4
P. O. Box 430
Provençal, LA 71468

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The Management's Discussion and Analysis is an element of the new reporting model adopted by the *Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB)* in their Statement No. 34. As this is the first year the District will be reporting under this new model, certain comparative information with the previous year, which is by design included in this model, will not be presented in the analysis, as permitted by GASB No. 34 with respect to first year reporting.

Financial Highlights

This annual report consists of a series of new financial statements. The Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities provide information about the activities of the District as a whole and present a longer-term view of the District's finances. These statements tell how these services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending. The District is a component unit of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury. Its operations are conducted through a general fund.

A summary of the basic government-wide financial statements is as follows:

Summary of Statement of Net Assets

ASSETS:

Assets	\$117,782
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>215,662</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$333,444</u>

LIABILITIES:

Long-term debt	\$ <u>65,000</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ <u>65,000</u>

NET ASSETS \$268,444

NET ASSETS:

Investment in capital assets, net of related debt	\$150,662
Reserved for long-term debt	65,000
Unreserved fund balance	<u>52,782</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>\$268,444</u>

Summary of Statement of Activities

REVENUES:

General Revenues:

Taxes	\$54,145
Other	<u>5,131</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$59,276</u>

EXPENSES:

Public Safety	\$23,727
Depreciation Expense	24,567
Interest Expense	<u>4,303</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$52,597</u>

Change in Net Assets \$ 6,679

- This District's assets exceeded its liabilities by \$268,444 (net assets) for the year.
- Unreserved net assets of \$52,782 represent the portion available to maintain the District's obligation to both citizens and creditors.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

Revenues continue to be sufficient to enable the District to provide the necessary fire protection services to the citizens of the district.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget

As the primary revenue source for the District is property taxes. This type of tax is not subject to changes in the economy, in the short-term. However, in the long-term, significant increases/decreases in the tax base would be evident. The budget for FY 2004 should not change significantly from the FY 2003 budget.

Contacting the Fire District

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, and creditors with a general overview of the District's finances and to show the District's accountability for the money it receives. Any questions about this report or requests for additional information may be directed to the District at P. O. Box 430, Provencal, LA 71468.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**GOVERNMENT-WIDE
FINANCAL STATEMENTS**

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4
Statement of Net Assets
December 31, 2003

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
ASSETS:	
Current Assets:	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 80,187
Net Receivables	<u>37,595</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$117,782</u>
Non-current Assets:	
Net Capital Assets	<u>\$215,662</u>
Total Non-current Assets	<u>\$215,662</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$333,444</u>
LIABILITIES:	
Current Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	\$ 0
Current Portion Long-term Debt	<u>15,000</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 15,000</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities:	
Long-term Debt	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 65,000</u>
NET ASSETS:	
Invested in Capital Assets , Net of Related Debt	\$150,662
Restricted for:	
Debt Service	65,000
Unrestricted	<u>52,782</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$268,444</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$333,444</u>

See accountant's compilation report and notes to financial statements.

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4
Statement of Activities
December 31, 2003

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Program Revenues</u>		<u>Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Assets Government Activities</u>
		<u>Charges for Services</u>	<u>Operating Grants and Contributions</u>	
Governmental Activities:				
Public Safety	\$23,727	\$0	\$0	\$ (23,727)
Depreciation	24,567	0	0	(24,567)
Interest Expense	<u>4,303</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(4,303)</u>
Total Governmental Activities	<u>\$52,597</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$ (52,597)</u>
General Revenues:				
				\$ 54,145
Taxes-Property Tax				4,516
Intergovernmental				550
Interest				<u>65</u>
Miscellaneous				
				<u>\$ 59,276</u>
				\$ 6,679
				<u>261,765</u>
				<u>\$268,444</u>

See accountant's compilation report and notes to financial statements.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4
Balance Sheet-Governmental Fund
December 31, 2003

Assets:

Cash	\$ 80,187
Receivables-Net	<u>37,595</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$117,782</u>

Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	\$ <u>0</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ <u>0</u>

Fund Balance:

Reserved for Debt Service	\$ 65,000
Unreserved	<u>52,782</u>
Total Fund Balance	<u>\$117,782</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$117,782</u>

See accountant's compilation report and notes to financial statements.

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4
Reconciliation of the Governmental Fund
Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Assets
December 31, 2003

Total Fund Balance for the Governmental Fund at December 31, 2003	\$117,782
Total Net Assets reported for Governmental Activities in the Statement of Net Assets is different because:	
Capital Assets used in Governmental Activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the fund. Those assets consist of:	
Land, Equipment, Buildings, and Vehicles, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	215,662
Long-term liabilities are not reported in the funds	<u>(65,000)</u>
Total Assets of Governmental Activities at December 31, 2003	<u>\$268,444</u>

See accountant's compilation report and notes to financial statements.

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance-
Governmental Fund
Year Ended December 31, 2003

	<u>Total</u>
REVENUES:	
Taxes	\$ 54,145
Intergovernmental	4,516
Other-	
Interest	550
Miscellaneous	<u>65</u>
Total Revenues	\$ <u>59,276</u>
EXPENDITURES:	
Current-	
Public Safety	\$ 23,727
Debt Service-	
Principal	14,000
Interest	<u>4,303</u>
Total Expenditures	\$ <u>42,030</u>
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 17,246
Fund Balance-Beginning of Year	<u>100,537</u>
Fund Balance-End of Year	<u>\$117,783</u>

See accountant's compilation report and notes to financial statements.

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4
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, 2003

Total Net Change in Fund Balance at December 31, 2003, per Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance	\$ 17,246
The Change in Net Assets reported for Governmental Activities in the Statement of Activities is different because:	
ADD: Principal paid on long-term debt is shown as an expenditure in governmental funds, but it reduces long-term debt in the Statement of Net Assets	14,000
LESS: Depreciation expense for the year ended December 31, 2003, not shown in the Fund financial statements	<u>(24,567)</u>
Total changes in Net Assets at December 31, 2003, per Statement of Activities	\$ <u>(6,679)</u>

See accountant's compilation report and notes to financial statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2003**1. Introduction:**

Fire Protection District No. 4, of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, was created in June 1982, by ordinance of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury. The District is charged with providing fire protection for the citizens of District No. 4 of Natchitoches Parish.

In April of 1984, the Financial Accounting Foundation established the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) to promulgate generally accepted accounting principles and reporting standards with respect to activities and transactions of state and local governmental accounting and financial reporting. The codification and subsequent GASB pronouncements are recognized as generally accepted accounting principles for state and local government.

Fire Protection District No. 4, of Natchitoches Parish prepares its financial statements in accordance with the standards established by the GASB. GASB Codification Section 2100 establishes criteria for determining the governmental reporting entity and has defined the governmental reporting entity to be the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury. The accompanying statements present only transactions of the Fire District No. 4, of Natchitoches Parish, a component unit of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

The accounting and reporting policies of Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4 conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental units. Such accounting and reporting policies also conform to the requirements of Louisiana Revised Statutes 24:517 and to the guides set forth in the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*.

A. Reporting Entity-

As the governing authority of the Parish, for reporting purposes, the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury is the financial reporting entity for Natchitoches Parish. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government (police jury), (b) organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable, and (c) other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 14 established criteria for determining which component units should be considered part of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury for financial reporting purposes. The basic criteria for including a potential component unit within the reporting entity is financial accountability. The GASB has set forth criteria to be considered in determining financial accountability. This criteria includes:

1. Appointing a voting majority of an organization's governing body and

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2003

- a. The ability of the police jury to impose its will on that organization and/or
 - b. The potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the police jury.
2. Organizations for which the police jury does not appoint a voting majority but are fiscally dependent on the police jury.
 3. Organizations for which the reporting entity financial statements would be misleading if data of the organization is not included because of the nature or significance of the relationship.

Because the police jury created by ordinance Fire District No. 4, the District was determined to be a component unit of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, the financial reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the District and do not present information on the police jury, the general government services provided by that governmental unit, or the other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity.

B. Basis of Presentation-

Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)

The Statement of Net Assets and Statement of Activities report information about the reporting government as a whole. They include all funds of the reporting entity. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other non-exchange revenues.

The Statement of Activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the District's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function. Program revenues include (a) fees and charges paid by the recipient for goods or services offered by the program, and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

C. Fund Accounting-

The accounts of the District are organized on the basis of funds. A fund is an independent fiscal and accounting entity with a separate set of self-balancing accounts. Fund accounting segregates funds according to their intended purpose and is used to aid management in demonstrating compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions. The minimum number of funds is maintained consistent with legal and managerial requirements.

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2003

The District maintains only one fund. It is categorized as a governmental fund. The emphasis on fund financial statements is on major governmental and enterprise funds; each displayed in a separate column. A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of the entity or meets the following criteria:

- a. Total assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of that individual governmental or enterprise fund are at least 10 percent of the corresponding total for all funds of that category or type; and
- b. Total assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of the individual governmental or enterprise fund are at least 5 percent of the corresponding total for all governmental and enterprise funds combined.

The major fund of the District is described below:

Governmental Fund-

General Fund

The General Fund is the general operating fund of the District. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

D. Measurement Focus/Basis of Accounting-

Measurement focus is a term used to describe "which" transactions are recorded within the various financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to "when" transactions are recorded regardless of the measurement focus applied.

Measurement Focus-

On the government-wide Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities, governmental activities are presented using the economic resources measurement focus as defined in item b. below.

In the financial statements, the "current financial resources" measurement focus or the "economic resources" measurement is used as appropriate.

- a. The governmental fund utilizes a "current financial resources" measurement focus. Only current financial assets and liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. Their operating statement presents sources and uses of available spendable financial resources during a given period. This fund uses fund balance as its measure of available spendable financial resources at the end of the period.

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2003

- b. The government-wide financial statement utilizes an “economic resources” measurement focus. The accounting objectives of this measurement focus are the determination of operating income, changes in net assets (or cost of recovery) and financial position. All assets and liabilities (whether current or noncurrent) associated with its activities are reported. Government-wide fund equity is classified as net assets.

Basis of Accounting-

In the government-wide Statement of Assets and Statement of Activities, the governmental activities are presented using the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred or economic assets used. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from exchange and exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collected within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures (including capital outlay) generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures are recorded only when payment is due.

E. Assets, Liabilities, and Equity-

Cash and Interest-Bearing Deposits-

For purposes of the Statement of Net Assets, cash and interest-bearing deposits include all demand accounts, savings accounts, and certificates of deposit of the District.

Capital Assets-

Capital assets, which include property, plant, and equipment, are reported in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated cost if historical cost is not available. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at their estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The District maintains a threshold level of \$500 or more for capitalizing capital assets.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of that asset or materially extend the life of that asset are not capitalized.

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2003

Depreciation of all exhaustible capital assets is recorded as an expense in the Statement of Activities, with accumulated depreciation reflected in the Statement of Net Assets. Depreciation is provided over the assets' estimated useful lives using the straight-line method of depreciation. The range of useful lives by type of asset is as follows:

Furniture, computers	5 years
Firefighting equipment	10 years
Ladders, hoses, airpaks	7 years
Radios	10 years
Fire trucks	15 years
Other vehicles	5 years
Buildings	40 years

Compensated Absences-

There are no employees of the District, therefore no entry is made to record compensated absences.

Equity Classifications-

In the government-wide statements, equity is classified as net assets and displayed in three components:

- a. Invested in capital assets, net of related debt--Consists of capital assets including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
- b. Restricted net assets--Consists of net assets with constraints placed on the use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (2) law through constitutional provision or enabling legislation.
- c. Unrestricted net assets--All other net assets that do not meet the definition of "restricted" or "invested in capital assets, net of related debt".

In the fund statements, governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. Fund balance is further classified as reserved and unreserved, with unreserved further split between designated and undesignated.

F. Budget-

Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4 adopts a budget for the next fiscal year. The budget is open for public inspection. All budgetary appropriations lapse at the end of the fiscal year. The budget is prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting.

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2003

3. Changes in Accounting Principles:

For the year ended December 31, 2003, the District has implemented GASB Statement No. 34, Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis-for State and Local Governments. GASB No. 34 creates new basic financial statements for reporting on the District's financial activities. The financial statements now include government-wide financial statements prepared on the accrual basis of accounting, and fund financial statements which present information for individual major funds rather than by fund type which has been the mode of presentation in previously issued financial statements.

The implementation of GASB No. 34 caused the opening fund balance at December 31, 2002, to be restated in terms of "net assets" as follows:

Total fund balance-Governmental Fund at December 31, 2002		\$100,537
Add: Cost of capital assets at December 31, 2002	\$ 390,156	
Less: Accumulated Depreciation at December 31, 2002	(149,928)	240,228
Less: Long-term Debt at December 31, 2002		<u>(79,000)</u>
Net Assets at December 31, 2002		<u>\$261,765</u>

4. Cash and Cash Equivalents:

For reporting purposes, cash and cash equivalents include cash demand deposits, time deposits, and certificates of deposit. At December 31, 2003, the District had cash and cash equivalents (collected bank balances) totaling \$80,188. Cash and cash equivalents are stated at cost, which approximates market. Under Louisiana law, these deposits must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal the amount on deposit with the bank. These pledged securities are held in the name of the pledging bank in a holding or custodial bank in the form of safekeeping receipts held by the District. The deposits at December 31, 2003, were secured as follows:

Demand Deposits	\$80,188
FDIC Insurance	<u>80,188</u>
Uninsured	<u>\$ 0</u>

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2003

5. Capital Assets:

Capital asset balances and activity for the year ended December 31, 2003, is as follows:

<u>Governmental Activities</u>	<u>Balance 01-01-03</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Balance 12-31-03</u>
Capital Assets Not Depreciated:				
Land	\$ <u>29,352</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$0	\$ <u>29,352</u>
Capital Assets Depreciated:				
Furniture, computers	\$ 4,593	\$ 0	\$0	\$ 4,593
Firefighting equipment	31,726	0		31,726
Ladders, hoses, airpacks	31,078	0		31,078
Radios	12,587	0		12,587
Fire trucks	239,400	0		239,400
Buildings	<u>41,420</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>41,420</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$390,156</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	\$0	<u>\$390,156</u>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation:				
Furniture, computers	\$ 4,593	\$ 0	\$0	\$ 4,593
Firefighting equipment	20,933	3,178		24,111
Ladders, hoses, airpacks	6,698	3,108		9,806
Radios	5,305	1,286		6,591
Fire trucks	107,494	15,960		123,454
Buildings	<u>4,905</u>	<u>1,035</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,939</u>
Total Depreciation	<u>\$149,928</u>	<u>\$ 24,567</u>	\$0	<u>\$174,494</u>
Net Capital Assets	<u>\$240,228</u>	<u>\$(24,567)</u>	\$0	<u>\$215,662</u>

Depreciation expense of \$24,567 was charged to the general government function.

6. Ad Valorem Taxes:

The District levies taxes on real and business personal property located within the boundaries of Natchitoches Parish Fire District No. 4. Property taxes are levied by the District on property values assessed by the Natchitoches Parish Tax Assessor and approved by the State of Louisiana Tax Commission.

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2003

The Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's office bills and collects property taxes for the District. Collections are remitted to the District monthly. The District recognizes property tax revenues when levied.

Property Tax Calendar

Assessment date	January 1, 2003
Levy date	June 30, 2003
Tax bills mailed	October 15, 2003
Total taxes are due	December 31, 2003
Penalties and interest added	January 31, 2004
Lien date	January 31, 2004
Tax Sale	May 15, 2004

The District is permitted to levy taxes up to 10% of the assessed property valuation for each specified purpose, or, in the aggregate for all purposes 25% of the assessed valuation for the payment of principal and interest on long-term debt after the approval by the voters of the District.

Assessed values are established by the Natchitoches Parish Tax Assessor each year on a uniform basis at the following ratios to fair market value:

10% land	15% machinery
10% residential improvements	15% commercial improvements
15% industrial improvements	25% public service properties, excluding land

A revaluation of all property is required to be completed no less than every four years. The last revaluation was completed for the roll of January 1, 2000. Total assessed value was \$4,846,970 in 2003. Louisiana state law exempts the first \$7,500 of assessed value of a taxpayer's primary residence from parish property taxes. This homestead exemption was a total of \$1,910,130 of the assessed value in 2003. For the year ended December 31, 2003, taxes of 7.00 mils were levied on the property and were dedicated to fire protection. Taxes collected totaled \$54,145, after adjustments from the prior year.

7. Pension Plan:

The District is not a member of any retirement plan.

8. Pending Litigation:

There were no civil suits seeking damages against the District outstanding at December 31, 2003.

9. Related Party Transactions:

The District had no identified related party transactions for the year ended December 31, 2003.

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2003

10. Compensation Paid to Board Members:

The members of the Board of Commissioners of the District receive no compensation for their services.

11. Receivables:

The following is a summary of receivables at December 31, 2003:

<u>Class of Receivable</u>	<u>General Fund</u>
Taxes- Ad Valorem	<u>\$37,595</u>

Substantially all receivables are considered to be fully collectible, and no allowance for uncollectibles is used.

12. General Long-term Debt:

On June 2, 1997, the District incurred debt on a certificate of indebtedness issued for the purchase of a fire truck, equipment, and building improvements totaling \$140,000. The note is for 10 years and bears a rate of interest of 5.40 %. Transactions related to this certificate of indebtedness for 2003 are as follows:

	<u>2003</u>
Beginning Balance	\$79,000
Payments Made During Year	<u>14,000</u>
Ending Balance	<u>\$65,000</u>

The annual requirements to amortize all debt outstanding as of December 31, 2003 including interest payments of \$8,964 are as follows:

2004	18,510
2005	18,700
2006	18,836
2007	<u>17,918</u>
Total	<u>\$73,964</u>

OTHER REQUIRED
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4
General Fund
Budgetary Comparison Schedule
For the Year Ended December 31, 2003

	2003			Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Budget		Actual	
	Original	Final		
REVENUES:				
Taxes	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$54,145	\$ 145
Intergovernmental	4,000	4,000	4,516	516
Interest	500	500	550	50
Miscellaneous	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>(35)</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$58,600</u>	<u>\$58,600</u>	<u>\$59,276</u>	<u>\$ 676</u>
EXPENDITURES:				
Public Safety	\$25,300	\$25,300	\$23,727	\$ 1,573
Capital Outlay	15,000	15,000	0	15,000
Debt Service-				
Principal	14,000	14,000	14,000	0
Interest	<u>4,300</u>	<u>4,300</u>	<u>4,303</u>	<u>(3)</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$58,600</u>	<u>\$58,600</u>	<u>\$42,030</u>	<u>\$16,570</u>

Johnson, Thomas & Cunningham
Certified Public Accountants

Eddie G. Johnson, CPA – A Professional Corporation (1962-1996)

Mark D. Thomas, CPA – A Professional Corporation

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT
ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Natchitoches Parish Fire
Protection District No. 4
P. O. Box 430
Provencal, Louisiana 71468

We have performed the procedures included in the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide* and enumerated below, which were agreed to by the management of the Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4 and the Legislative Auditor, State of Louisiana, solely to assist the users in evaluation management's assertions about the Natchitoches Parish Fire District No. 4's compliance with certain laws and regulations during the year ended December 31, 2003, included in the *Louisiana Attestation Questionnaire*. This agreed-upon procedures engagement was performed in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of the specified users of the report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

PUBLIC BID LAW

1. Select all expenditures made during the year for materials and supplies exceeding \$15,000, or public works exceeding \$100,000, and determine whether such purchases were made in accordance with LSA-RS 38:2211-2251 (the public bid law).

No expenditures found to be in violation.

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), and a list of outside business interests of all board members and employees, as well as their immediate families.

Management provided us with the required list including the noted information.

3. Obtain from management a listing of all employees paid during the period under examination.

Not applicable.

4. Determine whether any of those employees included in the listing obtained from management in agreed-upon procedures (3) were also included on the listing obtained from management in agreed-upon procedures (2) as immediate family members.

Not applicable.

BUDGETING

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

Management provided us with a copy of the budget.

6. Trace the budget adoption and amendments to the minute book.

We traced the adoption of the original budget to the minutes of the District.

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

We compared the revenues and expenditures of the final budget to actual revenues and expenditures. Actual revenues and expenditures for the year were within the 5% variance allowed.

ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

8. Randomly select 6 disbursements made during the period under examination and:

- (a) trace payments to supporting documentation as to proper amount and payee:

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) determine if payments were properly coded to the correct fund and general ledger account:

Each disbursement appeared to be coded correctly.

- (c) determine whether payments received approval from proper authorities:

Inspection of supporting documentation showed written approval. In addition, non-recurring entries were discussed and approved in the minutes.

MEETINGS

9. Examine evidence indicating that agendas for meetings recorded in the minute book were posted or advertised as required by LSA-RS 42:1 through 42:12 (the open meetings law).

The District is only required to post a notice of each meeting and the accompanying agenda on the door of the District's office building. Management has asserted that such documents were properly posted.

DEBT

10. Examine bank deposits for the period under examination and determine whether any such deposits appear to be proceeds of bank loans, bonds or any other indebtedness which have not been approved by the State Bond Commission.

We inspected copies of all bank deposits for the period under examination and noted no deposits that appeared to be proceeds of bank loans, bonds, or other indebtedness that had not been approved by the State Bond Commission.

ADVANCES AND BONUSES

11. Examine payroll records and minutes for the year to determine whether any payments have been made to employees that may constitute bonuses, advances, or gifts.

Not applicable.

We were not engaged to, and did not, perform an examination, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion on management's assertions. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report is intended solely for the use of management of the Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 4 and the Legislative Auditor, State of Louisiana, and should not be used by those who have not agreed to the procedures and taken responsibility for the sufficiency of the procedures for their purposes. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Johnson, Thomas & Cunningham

Johnson, Thomas & Cunningham, CPA's

April 23, 2004

Natchitoches, Louisiana

**NATCHITOCHE PARISH
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4**

LOUISIANA ATTESTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Johnson, Thomas & Cunningham, CPA's
321 Bienville Street
Natchitoches, LA 71457

In connection with your compilation of our financial statements as of December 31, 2003 and for the period then ended, and as required by Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513 and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, we make the following representations to you. We accept full responsibility for our compliance with the following laws and regulations and the internal controls over compliance with such laws and regulations. We have evaluated our compliance with the following laws and regulations prior to making these representations.

These representations are based on the information available to us as of December 31, 2003.

Public Bid Law

It is true that we have complied with the public bid law, LSA-RS Title 38:2212, and, where applicable, the regulations of the Division of Administration, State Purchasing Office.

Yes X No ___

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 LSA-RS 42:1101-1124.

Yes X No ___

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 LSA-RS 42:1119.

Yes X No ___

Budgeting

We have complied with the state budgeting requirements of the Local Government Budget Act (LSA-RS 39:1301-14 or the budget requirements of LSA-RS 39:43.

Yes X No ___

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 LSA-RS 44:1, 44:7, 44:31, and 44:36.

Yes X No ___

We have filed our annual financial statements in accordance with LSA-RS 24:514, 33:453, and/or 39:92, as applicable.

Yes X No ___

We have had our financial statements audited or compiled in accordance with LSA-RS 24:513.

Yes X No ___

Meetings

We have complied with the provisions of the Open Meetings Law, provided in RS 42:1 through 42:12.

Yes X No ___

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 LSA-RS 47:1410.60.

Yes X No ___

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, LSA-RS 14:138, and AG opinion 72-729.

Yes X No ___

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

