

**CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT NO. 4**
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Financial Report

Year Ended December 31, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Independent Auditor's Report	1-3
 BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
 GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (GWFS)	
Statement of net position	6
Statement of activities	7
 FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (FFS)	
Balance sheet - governmental fund	9
Reconciliation of the governmental fund balance sheet to the statement of net position	10
Statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance of governmental fund	11
Reconciliation of the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance of governmental fund to the statement of activities	12
Notes to basic financial statements	13-30
 REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION	
Budgetary comparison schedule.	
General Fund	32
Schedule of changes in total OPEB liability and related ratios	33
Schedule of employer's share of net pension liability	34
Schedule of employer contributions	35
Notes to required supplementary information	36-37
 INTERNAL CONTROL, COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS	
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	39-40
Summary schedule of current and prior year audit findings and management's corrective action plan	41-42

KOLDER, SLAVEN & COMPANY, LLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Brad E. Kolder, CPA, JD*
Robert S. Carter, CPA*
Arthur R. Mixon, CPA*
Stephen J. Anderson, CPA*
Matthew E. Margaglio, CPA*
Casey L. Ardoin, CPA, CFE*
Wanda F. Arcement, CPA
Bryan K. Joubert, CPA
Nicholas Fowlkes, CPA
Deidre L. Stock, CPA

Of Counsel

C. Burton Kolder, CPA*

Victor R. Slaven, CPA* - retired 2020
Christine C. Doucet, CPA - retired 2022
Gerald A. Thibodeaux, Jr., CPA* - retired 2024

183 S. Beadle Rd.
Lafayette, LA 70508
Phone (337) 232-4141

1428 Metro Dr. 450 E. Main St.
Alexandria, LA 71301 New Iberia, LA 70560
Phone (318) 442-4421 Phone (337) 367-9204

200 S. Main St. 1201 David Dr.
Abbeville, LA 70510 Morgan City, LA 70380
Phone (337) 893-7944 Phone (985) 384-2020

434 E. Main St. 11929 Bricksome Ave.
Ville Platte, LA 70586 Baton Rouge, LA 70816
Phone (337) 363-2792 Phone (225) 293-8300

WWW.KSRCPAS.COM

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

* A Professional Accounting Corporation

Board of Commissioners
Central Fire Protection District No. 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and major fund of the Central Fire Protection District No. 4 (the District), 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.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and major fund of the District, as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America

Basis for Opinions

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we,

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

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the required supplementary information as listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, 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. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Management has omitted 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 financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 20, 2024, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC
Certified Public Accountants

Baton Rouge, Louisiana
June 20, 2024

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**GOVERNMENT-WIDE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2023

	Governmental Activities
ASSETS	
Cash and interest-bearing deposits	\$ 2,474,064
Receivables, net	1,430,932
Due from other governmental agencies	3,572,687
Capital assets not being depreciated:	
Land	264,018
Capital assets, net of depreciation	3,244,248
Total assets	10,985,949
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Pension related	1,818,925
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	152,594
Accrued expenses	62,082
Accrued interest payable	19,415
Long-term liabilities:	
Other post employment benefits	2,955,131
Net pension liability	5,050,691
Due within one year	156,876
Due in more than one year	701,433
Total liabilities	9,098,221
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Pension related	403,006
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets	2,852,348
Unrestricted	451,299
Total net position	\$ 3,303,647

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Activities	Expenses	Program Revenues		Net (Expense) Revenues and change in Net Position
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities
Governmental activities:				
Public safety - fire	\$ 5,708,159	\$ 399,005	\$ 201,082	\$ (5,108,072)
Interest and fiscal charges	19,415	-	-	(19,415)
Total governmental activities	<u>\$ 5,727,574</u>	<u>\$ 399,005</u>	<u>\$ 201,082</u>	<u>(5,127,487)</u>
		General revenues:		
				4,337,466
				313,436
				232,225
				226,608
				202,329
				197,956
				16,706
				<u>6,110</u>
				<u>5,532,836</u>
				405,350
				<u>2,898,297</u>
				<u>\$ 3,303,647</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Balance Sheet
Governmental Fund
December 31, 2023

ASSETS

Cash and interest-bearing deposits	\$2,474,064
Revenue receivable-	
Ad valorem taxes, net of allowance for uncollectible taxes of \$124,000	1,122,485
User fees, net of allowance for uncollectible accounts of \$39,396	102,248
State revenue sharing	206,199
Due from other governmental agencies	<u>3,572,687</u>
Total assets	<u>\$7,477,683</u>

LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS
OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCE

Liabilities:	
Accounts payable	\$ 152,594
Accrued expenses and benefits payable	<u>62,082</u>
Total liabilities	214,675
Deferred inflows of resources:	
Ad valorem taxes, user fees, and intergovernmental revenue	733,766
Fund balance.	
Unassigned	<u>6,529,242</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balance	<u>\$7,477,683</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Reconciliation of the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet
to the Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2023

Total fund balance for governmental funds		\$ 6,529,242
Capital assets, net		3,508,266
Long term liabilities:		
Accrued interest payable	\$ (19,415)	
Lease payable	(655,918)	
Compensated absences payable	<u>(202,391)</u>	(877,724)
Some of the District's revenues will be collected after year-end, but are not available soon enough to pay for the current period's expenditures and, therefore, are reported as deferred inflows of resources at the fund level.		
Ad valorem taxes	445,993	
User fees	81,574	
State revenue sharing	<u>206,199</u>	733,766
Pension:		
Net pension liability asset	(5,050,691)	
Deferred outflows of resources	1,818,925	
Deferred inflows of resources	<u>(403,006)</u>	(3,634,772)
Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB):		
OPEB payable		<u>(2,955,131)</u>
Net position of governmental activities		<u>\$ 3,303,647</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Revenues:	
Ad valorem taxes	\$ 4,339,545
Charges for services	397,525
Intergovernmental revenues -	
Federal grants	201,082
State funds -	
State revenue sharing	313,436
Fire insurance rebate	202,329
State supplemental pay	232,225
Interest earnings	197,956
Miscellaneous	6,110
Total revenues	<u>5,890,209</u>
Expenditures:	
Current -	
Public safety - fire	4,845,043
Debt service -	
Principal retirement	152,366
Interest charges	23,925
Capital outlay	408,152
Total expenditures	<u>5,429,486</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	<u>460,723</u>
Other financing sources:	
Proceeds from the disposal of assets	<u>28,087</u>
Net change in fund balance	488,810
Fund balance, beginning	<u>6,040,432</u>
Fund balance, ending	<u>\$ 6,529,242</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and
Changes in Fund Balance of Governmental Fund
to the Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Net change in fund balance per Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances		\$ 488,810
Capital assets:		
Capital additions	\$ 405,574	
Depreciation expense	<u>(429,632)</u>	(24,058)
Sales of capital assets		(11,381)
Some of the District's revenues will be collected after year-end, but are not available soon enough to pay for the current period's expenditures and, therefore, are reported as deferred inflows of resources at the fund level.		
Ad valorem taxes	(2,079)	
User fees	<u>1,480</u>	(599)
Changes in long term liabilities:		
Payments on capital lease	152,366	
Accrued interest	4,510	
Accrued compensated absences	<u>(16,703)</u>	140,173
The effect of recording net pension and OPEB liability/asset and the related deferred outflows and inflows:		
Change in OPEB	8,039	
Change in pension expense	(422,242)	
Nonemployer pension contribution revenue recognized	<u>226,608</u>	<u>(187,595)</u>
Change in net position per Statement of Activities		<u>\$ 405,350</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the basic financial statements.

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accompanying financial statements of the Central Fire Protection District No. 4 (District) have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. GAAP includes all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements. The accounting and reporting framework and the more significant accounting policies are discussed in subsequent subsections of these notes.

A. Financial Reporting Entity

The Central Fire Protection District No. 4 (the District) was formed in 1976 by the City of Baton Rouge, Parish of East Baton Rouge (City/Parish).

The purpose of the District is to provide fire protection rescue and emergency medical service for the citizens of the District. The District serves approximately 35,000 individuals. The District employs permanent full-time employees and part-time employees. It also employs temporary employees as needed. Limited services are provided through volunteers. No value is attributed to the volunteer services in the accompanying financial statements.

A five-member board governs the District. Two board members are appointed by the City/Parish and two are appointed by the Central City Council. The fifth member is appointed by the other board members. No members are compensated.

The Board of Commissioners has the authority to make decisions, appoint administrators and managers, and significantly influence operations. It also has the primary accountability for fiscal matters. Therefore, the District is a financial reporting entity as defined by Section 2100 of the 2011 Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") *Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards*, "Defining the Financial Reporting Entity". There are no component units included within the reporting entity.

B. Basis of Presentation

Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)

The statement of net position and statement of activities display information about the reporting government as a whole. They include all funds of the reporting entity which are considered to be governmental activities. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange 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 and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include (a) fees and charges paid by the recipients for goods or services offered by the programs, and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program.

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.

Fund Financial Statements (FFS)

The accounts of the District are organized and operated 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.

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, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, 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, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, 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, as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 13:781 is the principal fund of the District and is used to account for the operations of the District. General operating expenditures are paid from this fund.

C. 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 position and the statement of activities, governmental activities are presented using the economic resources measurement focus. The accounting objectives of this measurement focus are the determination of operating income, changes in net position (or cost recovery) and financial position. All assets, deferred outflows

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources (whether current or noncurrent) associated with its activities are reported. Government-wide fund equity is classified as net position.

In the fund financial statements, the "current financial resources" measurement focus or the "economic resources" measurement focus is used as appropriate. The governmental fund utilizes a "current financial resources" measurement focus. Only current financial assets and liabilities are generally included on its balance sheet. The operating statement presents sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach is then reconciled, through adjustment, to a government-wide view of the District operations.

Basis of Accounting

In the government-wide statement of net position 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 asset used. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources 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 collectible 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. Revenues are classified by source and expenditures are classified by function and character. 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.

The District reports deferred inflows of resources on its governmental fund balance sheet. For governmental fund financial statements, deferred inflows arise when potential revenue does not meet both the "measurable" and "available" criteria for recognition in the current period. Deferred inflows also arise when resources are received before the District has a legal claim to them, as when grant monies are received prior to the incurrence of qualifying expenditures. In subsequent periods, when both revenue recognition criteria are met, or when the District has a legal claim to the resources, the deferred inflow is removed from the balance sheet and revenue is recognized.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the District's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

D. Assets, Deferred Outflows, Liabilities, Deferred Inflows and Equity

Cash and interest-bearing deposits

For purposes of the statement of net position, cash and interest-bearing deposits include all demand accounts, savings accounts, and certificates of deposits of the District

Receivables

In the government-wide statements, receivables consist of all revenues earned at year-end and not received.

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 \$2,000 or more for capitalizing capital assets. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized.

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 position. Depreciation is provided over the assets' estimated useful lives using the straight-line method of depreciation. The range of estimated useful lives by type of asset is as follows:

	<u>Years</u>
Buildings	7 - 40
Equipment, furniture and fixtures	5 - 15

Compensated absences

Employees who work 24-hour shifts who have been employed for one to five years earn 11 days of vacation pay; for six to ten years of service, they earn 12 days; for eleven to fifteen, they earn 14 days; over sixteen years and over, they earn 15 days. Employees who work a 40-hour week who have been employed for one to five years earn 15 days of vacation pay; for six to ten years of service, they earn 20 days; for eleven to fifteen, they earn 25 days; over sixteen years and over, they earn 30 days. For all employees up to three days of vacation a year may be carried over to the next year at the Fire Chief's discretion. Unless an exception was approved by the board no employee may carry more than 240 hours at year end. Employees of the District are not allowed to carry over sick leave and sick pay is not paid upon resignation or retirement.

In the government-wide statements, the District accrues accumulated unpaid vacation leave and compensatory leave and associated related costs when earned (or

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

estimated to be earned) by the employee. No compensated absences liability is recorded on the governmental fund financial statements.

Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources

In some instances, the GASB requires a government to delay recognition of decreases in net position as expenditures until a future period. In other instances, governments are required to delay recognition of increases in net position as revenues until a future period. In these circumstances, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources result from the delayed recognition of expenditures or revenues, respectively. At December 31, 2023, the District recognized \$733,766 of deferred inflows of resources resulting from ad valorem tax collections, user fee collections, and state revenue sharing received more than 60 days after the close of the fiscal year in the fund financial statements. On the government-wide financial statements, the District recognized deferred inflows of resources and deferred outflows of resources attributable to pension benefits.

Equity Classifications

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

- a. Net investment in capital assets – Consists of net capital assets reduced by outstanding balances of any related debt obligations and deferred inflows of resources attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets and increase by balances of deferred outflows of resources related to those assets.
- b. Restricted net position – Net position is considered restricted if their use is constrained to a particular purpose. Restrictions are imposed by external organizations such as federal or state laws or buyers of the District's debt. Restricted net position is reduced by liabilities and deferred inflows of resources related to the restricted assets.
- c. Unrestricted net position – consists of all other net position that does not meet the definition of the above two components and is available for general use by the District.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance. As such, fund balances of the governmental funds are classified as follows.

- a. Nonspendable – amounts that cannot be spent either because they are in nonspendable form or because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- b. Restricted – amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of constitutional provisions or enabling legislation or because of constraints

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

that are externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or the laws or regulations of other governments.

- c. Committed – amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by a formal decision of the Board, which is the highest level of decision-making authority for the District.
- d. Assigned – amounts that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed but that are intended to be used for specific purposes determined by a formal decision of the Board.
- e. Unassigned – all other spendable amounts.

When an expenditure is incurred for the purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available, the District considers restricted funds to have been spent first. When an expenditure is incurred for which committed, assigned, or unassigned fund balances are available, the District considers amounts to have been spent first out of committed funds, then assigned funds, and finally unassigned funds, as needed, unless the District has provided otherwise in his commitment or assignment actions.

E. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

F. Pensions

The net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources, and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, has been determined using the flow of economic resources measurement focus and full accrual basis of accounting. Non-employer contributions are recognized as revenue in the government-wide financial statements. In the governmental fund financials, contributions are recognized as expenditures when due.

G. Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions (OPEB)

The net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources, and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense, has been determined using the flow of economic resources measurement focus and full accrual basis of accounting. In the governmental fund financial statements, contributions are recognized as expenditures when due.

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

(2) Cash and Interest-Bearing Deposits

Under state law, the District may deposit funds within a fiscal agent bank organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the Union, or the laws of the United States. The District may invest in United States bonds, treasury notes, or certificates and time deposits of state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana.

These deposits are stated at cost, which approximates market. Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the District's deposits may not be recovered or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The District does not have a policy for custodial credit risk; however, 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 pledging financial institution. 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. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank by a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. Deposit balances (bank balances) are secured as follows.

Bank balances	<u>\$ 2,879,005</u>
Deposits are secured as follows:	
Insured deposits	\$ 250,000
Uninsured and collateral held by the pledging bank, not in the District's name	<u>2,629,005</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,879,005</u>

(3) Ad Valorem Taxes

Ad valorem taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property as of January 1 of each year. Taxes are levied in September or October and billed to the taxpayers by the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff in November. Billed taxes are based on assessed values determined by the East Baton Rouge Parish Assessor and are collected by the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff.

Taxes were levied at the rate of 19.25 mills on property with net assessed valuations totaling \$303,993,010. Total taxes levied during 2023 were \$4,375,939, excluding \$1,476,019 due to homestead exemption. Taxes receivable at year-end of \$1,122,485 consisted of \$1,246,485 gross taxes receivable less an allowance for uncollectible taxes of \$124,000.

(4) User Charges

The District is empowered to assess a user charge of \$32 for each residential and commercial structure in the District. The District has an agreement for the sheriff to place the user charges on the property tax statements. They are subject to the same enforcement procedures as property taxes. Total user charges levied during 2023 were \$413,482. User fees receivable at year-end of \$102,248 consisted of \$141,644 gross taxes receivable less an allowance for uncollectible accounts of \$39,396.

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

(5) Due From Other Governmental Agencies

Amounts due from other governmental agencies consist of the following:

East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff:		
Ad valorem taxes		\$ 3,271,006
User charges		<u>301,681</u>
		<u>\$ 3,572,687</u>

(6) Capital Assets

Capital asset balances and activity is as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deletions	Ending Balance
Land	\$ 264,018	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 264,018
Buildings	2,480,865	175,815	-	2,656,680
Equipment, furniture and fixtures	4,298,049	229,759	132,255	4,395,553
Totals	7,042,932	405,574	132,255	7,316,251
Less: accumulated depreciation	3,499,227	429,632	120,874	3,807,985
Capital assets, net of depreciation	<u>\$ 3,543,705</u>	<u>\$ (24,058)</u>	<u>\$ 11,381</u>	<u>\$ 3,508,266</u>

Depreciation expense of \$429,632 was charged to public safety.

(7) Long-Term Liabilities

Lease – On January 24, 2020, the District entered into an equipment lease purchase agreement, maturing January 24, 2027, annual payments of \$176,291, including interest of 2.96%, secured by fire trucks and air packs with a book value of \$750,558 (net of \$231,991 accumulated depreciation). At December 31, 2023, the outstanding balance was \$655,918.

During the year ended December 31, 2023, the following changes occurred in long-term liabilities:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due within one year
Compensated absences	\$ 185,688	\$ 211,114	\$ 194,411	\$ 202,391	\$ -
Lease	808,284	-	152,366	655,918	156,876
Totals	<u>\$ 993,972</u>	<u>\$ 211,114</u>	<u>\$ 346,777</u>	<u>\$ 858,309</u>	<u>\$ 156,876</u>

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

The annual debt service to maturity is as follows:

<u>Year Ending December 31,</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2024	\$ 156,876	\$ 19,415
2025	161,519	14,772
2026	166,300	9,991
2027	<u>171,223</u>	<u>5,068</u>
Total	<u>\$ 655,918</u>	<u>\$ 49,246</u>

(8) Other Post-Employment Benefits

Plan Description:

Plan Description – District administers a single-employer defined benefit healthcare plan. The plan provides health insurance benefits to eligible retirees and their spouses. Benefits provisions are established and may be amended by the Board of Commissioners. No assets are accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in paragraph 4 of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 75. The Plan does not issue a publicly available report.

Benefits Provided - Retirees may continue their coverage paying approximately 50% of premiums and receiving the same benefits as they did prior to their retirement. Current employees pay approximately 35%.

Employees Covered by Benefit Terms – At December 31, 2023, there were 38 active members and 4 retirees covered by the medical plan terms.

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

Total OPEB Liability

The District's total OPEB liability of \$2,955,131 was measured as of December 31, 2023 and was determined by using an Alternative Measurement Method in place of an actuarial valuation.

Actuarial Assumptions and other inputs – The total OPEB liability was determined using the following assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified. The bond yield was based on a 20-year tax exempt municipal bond.

Age Adjustment Factor	2.831339
Average Retirement Age	60
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Amortization Method	Level Percentage of Payroll
Assets Backing OPEB Liability	None
Plan Asset Return	0.00%
Bond Yield	3.40%
Discount Rate	3.40%
Prior Year Discount Rate	2.44%
Projected Salary Increases	3.00%
Amortization Period	20
Percentage Participation	100%
NOL and ADC	Calculated Using the Alternative Measurement Method in accordance with GASB methodology.
Mortality Table	Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Tables, with mortality improvement projected for 10 years.
Turnover Assumption	Derived from data maintained by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management regarding the most recent experience of the employee group covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

Changes in the Total OPEB Liability

Balance at December 31, 2022	<u>\$ 2,963,170</u>
Changes for the year:	
Service cost	\$ 57,230
Interest	73,663
Effect of economic-demographic gains or losses	353,049
Effect of assumptions changes or inputs	(489,151)
Benefit payments and net transfers	<u>(2,830)</u>
Net changes	<u>(8,039)</u>
Balance at December 31, 2023	<u>\$ 2,955,131</u>

Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the discount rate – The following presents the total OPEB liability of the District, as well as what the District’s total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current discount rate:

	1% Decrease 2.60%	Current Discount Rate 3.60%	1% Increase 4.60%
Total OPEB liability	\$ 3,467,071	\$ 2,955,131	\$ 2,544,648

Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the healthcare cost trend rates – The following presents the total OPEB liability of the District, as well as what the District’s total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current healthcare trend rates:

	1% Decrease 3.70%	Current Discount Rate 4.70%	1% Increase 5.70%
Total OPEB liability	\$ 2,489,564	\$ 2,955,131	\$ 3,540,202

OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the District recognized OPEB revenue of \$8,039. At December 31, 2023, there were no deferred inflows or outflows of resources related to OPEB.

Payables to the Plan

At December 31, 2023, the District did not have any amounts payable to the plan.

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

(9) Employee Retirement Systems

The District participates in a cost-sharing defined benefit plan, administered by a public employee retirement system. Article X, Section 29(F) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 assigns the authority to establish and amend benefit provisions of the plan administered by the public employee retirement system to the State Legislature. The plan is not closed to new entrants. Substantially all District employees participate in the following retirement system:

Plan description: The Firefighters' Retirement System (the System) is the administrator of a cost-sharing multiple-employer plan. Members in the System consist of full-time firefighters, eligible employees of the retirement system, or any person in a position as defined in the municipal fire and police civil service system that earns at least \$375 per month, excluding state supplemental pay, and is employed by any municipality, parish, or fire protection district of the State of Louisiana, except for Orleans Parish and City of Baton Rouge. The System provides retirement benefits for their members. The projections of benefit payments in the calculation of the total pension liability includes all benefits to be provided to current active and inactive employees through the System in accordance with benefit terms and any additional legal agreements to provide benefits that are in force at the measurement date.

Firefighters' Retirement System issues a stand-alone report on its financial statements. Access to the audit report can be found on the System's website www.lafirefightersret.com or on the Office of Louisiana Legislative Auditor's official website www.lla.state.la.us.

Benefit provisions are authorized within Act 434 of 1979 and amended by LRS 11:2251-11.2272. The following is a brief description of the plan and its benefits and is provided for general informational purposes only. Participants should refer to the appropriate statutes for more complete information.

Any person who becomes an employee as defined in RS 11:2252 on and after January 1, 1980 shall become a member as a condition of employment.

No person who has attained age fifty or over shall become a member of the System, unless the person becomes a member by reasons of a merger or unless the System received an application for membership before the applicant attained the age of fifty. No person who has not attained the age of eighteen years shall become a member of the System.

Any person who has retired from service under any retirement system or pension fund maintained basically for public officers and employees of the state, its agencies or political subdivisions, and who is receiving retirement benefits there from may become a member of System, provided the person meets all other requirements for membership. Service credit from the retirement system or pension plan from which the member is retired shall not be used for reciprocal recognition of service with this System, or for any other purpose in order to attain eligibility or increase the amount of service credit in this System.

Retirement Benefits: Employees with 20 or more years of service who have attained age 50, or employees who have 12 years of service who have attained age 55, or 25 years of service at any age are entitled to annual pension benefits equal to 3.333% of their average final compensation based on the 36 consecutive months of highest pay multiplied by their total years of service, not to exceed 100%. Employees may elect to receive their pension benefits in the form of a joint and survivor annuity.

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

If employees terminate before rendering 12 years of service, they forfeit the right to receive the portion of their accumulated plan benefits attributable to their employer's contributions. Benefits are payable over the employees' lives in the form of a monthly annuity. An employee may elect an unreduced benefit or any of seven options at retirement. See R.S. 11:2256(A) for additional details on retirement benefits.

Disability Benefits. A member who acquires a disability, and who files for disability benefits while in service, and who upon medical examination and certification as provided for in Title 11, is found to have a total disability solely as the result of injuries sustained in the performance of his official duties, or for any cause, provided the member has at least five years of creditable service and provided that the disability was incurred while the member was an active contributing member in active service, shall be entitled to disability benefits under the provisions of R.S. 11:2258(B).

Death Benefits: Benefits shall be payable to the surviving eligible spouse or designated beneficiary of a deceased member as specified in R.S. 11:2256(B) & (C).

Deferred Retirement Option Plan Benefits: After completing 20 years of creditable service and age 50 or 25 years at any age, a member may elect to participate in the deferred retirement option plan (DROP) for up to 36 months.

Upon commencement of participation in DROP, employer and employee contributions to the System cease. The monthly retirement benefits that would have been payable is paid into the deferred retirement option plan account. Upon termination of employment, a participant in the program has several options to receive their DROP benefit. A member may (1) elect to roll over all or a portion of their DROP balance into another eligible qualified plan, (2) receive a lump-sum payment from the account, (3) receive single withdrawals at the discretion of the member, (4) receive monthly or annual withdrawals, or (5) receive an annuity based on the DROP account balance. These withdrawals are in addition to his regular monthly benefit.

If employment is not terminated at the end of the 36 months, the participant resumes regular contributions to the System. No payments may be made from the DROP account until the participant retires.

Initial Benefit Option Plan: Effective June 16, 1999, members eligible to retire and who do not choose to participate in DROP may elect to receive, at the time of retirement, an initial benefit option (IBO) in an amount up to 36 months of benefits, with an actuarial reduction of their future benefits. Such amounts may be withdrawn or remain in the IBO account earning interest at the same rate as the DROP account.

Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs): Under the provisions of R.S. 11:246 and 11:2260(A)(7), the board of trustees is authorized to grant retired members and widows of members who have retired an annual cost of living increase of up to 3% of their current benefit, and all retired members and widows who are 65 years of age and older a 2% increase in their original benefit. In order for the board to grant either of these increases, the System must meet certain criteria detailed in the statute related to funding status and interest earnings (R.S. 11:243). In lieu of these COLAs, pursuant to R.S. 11:241, the board may also grant an increase on a formula equal to up to \$1 times the total number of years credited service accrued at retirement or at death of the member or retiree plus the number of years since retirement or since death of the member of retiree to the system's fiscal year end preceding the payment of the benefit increase. If there are not

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

sufficient funds to fund the benefit at the rate of one dollar per year for such total number of years, then the rate shall be reduced in proportion to the amount of funds that are available to fund the cost-of-living adjustment.

Employer Contributions: Employer contributions are actuarially determined each year. For the year ended June 30, 2023, employer and employee contributions for members above the poverty line were 33.25% and 10.0%, respectively. The employer and employee contribution rates for those members below the poverty line were 35.25% and 8.0%, respectively.

Non-employer Contributions: According to state statute, the System receives insurance premium assessments from the state of Louisiana. The assessment is considered support from a non-employer contributing entity and appropriated by the legislature each year based on an actuarial study. Non-employer contributions of \$226,608 are recognized as revenue during the year and excluded from pension expense.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions: The District reported a liability of \$5,050,691 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023 and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the District's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2023, the District's proportionate share was .774%, which was a decrease of .052% from its proportionate share measured as of June 30, 2022.

The District recognized pension expense of \$1,119,583

The District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 157,688	\$ 173,039
Changes of assumptions	305,614	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	684,558	-
Change in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	326,138	229,967
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date	344,927	-
Total	\$ 1,818,925	\$ 403,006

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

Deferred outflows of resources of \$344,927 resulting from the employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the subsequent period. Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions to be recognized in pension expense are as follows:

<u>Year Ended</u> <u>December 31</u>	
2024	\$ 289,230
2025	154,105
2026	661,479
2027	(8,528)
2028	(8,899)
Thereafter	<u>(16,395)</u>
	<u>\$ 1,070,992</u>

Actuarial Assumptions: The net pension liability was measured as the portion of the present value of projected benefit payments to be provided through the pension plan to current active and inactive employees that is attributed to those employees' past periods of service, less the amount of the System's fiduciary net position

A summary of the actuarial methods and assumptions used in determining the total pension liability of the System are as follows:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2023
Actuarial Cost Method for Financial Reporting	Entry Age Normal
Investment Rate of Return (discount rate)	6.90% per annum (net of investment expenses, including inflation)
Expected Remaining Service Lives	7
Inflation Rate	2.50% per annum
Projected Salary Increases	14.10% in the first two years of service and 5.20% with 3 or more years of service; includes inflation and merit increases
Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs)	For the purpose of determining the present value of benefits, COLAs were deemed not to be substantively automatic and only those previously granted were included.

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the June 30, 2023, valuation, assumptions for mortality rates were based on the following:

- For active member, mortality was set equal to the Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for Safety Below-Median Employees.
- For annuitants and beneficiaries, mortality was set equal to the Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for Safety Below-Median Healthy Retirees.
- For disabled retirees, mortality was set equal to the Pub-2010 Public Retirement Plans Mortality Table for Safety Disabled Retirees.
- In all cases the base table was multiplied by 105% for males and 115% for females, each with full generational projection using the appropriate MP2019 scale.

The long-term expected real rate of return is an important input into the actuary's determination of the reasonable range for the discount rate which is used in determining the total pension liability. The actuary's method incorporates information from multiple consultants and investments firms regarding future expected rates of return, variances, and correlation coefficients for each asset class. The change integrates data from multiple sources to produce average values thereby reducing reliance on a single data source.

The June 30, 2023, estimated long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined by the System's actuary using the System's target asset allocation as of January 2023 and the G.S. Curran & Company Consultant Average study for 2023. The Consultants' Average Study included projected nominal rates of return, standard deviations of returns, and correlations of returns for a list of common asset classes collected from a number of investment consultants and investment management firms. Each consultant's response included nominal expected long term rates of return. In order to arrive at long term expected arithmetic real rates of return, the actuary normalized the data received from the consultant's responses in the following ways. Where nominal returns received were arithmetic, the actuary simply reduced the return assumption by the long term inflation assumption. Where nominal returns were geometric, the actuary converted the return to arithmetic by adjusting for the long term standard deviation and then reduced the assumption by the long term inflation assumption. Using the target asset allocation for the System and the average values for expected real rates of return, standard deviation of returns, and correlation of returns, an arithmetic expected nominal rate of return and standard deviation for the portfolio was determined. The System's long-term assumed rate of inflation of 2.50% was used in this process for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major class included in the System's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023, is summarized in the following table:

Asset Type		Target Asset Allocation	Long-term Expected Real Rates of Return
Equity	U.S. Equity	29.50%	6.24%
	Non-U.S. Equity	11.50%	6.49%
	Global Equity	10.00%	6.49%
	Emerging Market Equity	5.00%	8.37%
Fixed Income	U.S. Core Fixed Income	20.00%	1.89%
	U.S. TIPS	2.00%	1.72%
	Emerging market Debt	2.00%	4.30%
	Multisector Fixed Income	2.00%	***
Multi-Asset	Global Tactical Asset Allocation	0.00%	4.02%
Alternatives	Private Equity	9.00%	9.57%
	Real Estate	6.00%	4.41%
	Real Assets	3.00%	5.62%
Total		<u>100%</u>	

*** Multifactor Fixed Income was added to the target asset allocation policy subsequent to the actuary's calculation of the 2023 long-term expected real rate of return.

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.90%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rates and that contributions from participating employers will be made at the actuarially determined rates approved by PRSAC taking into consideration the recommendation of the System's actuary. Based on those assumptions, the System's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity to Changes in the Discount Rate: The following presents the net pension liability of the Parish, calculated using the discount rate of 6.90%, as well as what the Parish's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower, or one percentage point higher than the current rate.

	1% Decrease <u>5.90%</u>	Current Discount Rate <u>6.90%</u>	1% Increase <u>7.90%</u>
Net Pension Liability (Asset)	\$ 7,791,700	\$ 5,050,691	\$ 2,764,567

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

(10) Risk Management

The District is exposed to risks of loss in the areas of auto and property liability and surety bonds. All of these risks are handled by purchasing commercial insurance coverage. There have been no significant reductions in the insurance coverage during the year, nor have settlements exceeded coverage for the past three years.

(11) Litigation

There was no litigation pending against the District at December 31, 2023.

(12) Board of Commissioners

The District is governed by a Board of Commissioners. The members receive no compensation or per diem allowances for their service.

(13) Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to Agency Head

The schedule of compensation, benefits, and other payments to the District's agency head is as follows:

Purpose:	<u>Stephen Branscum, Fire Chief</u>
Salary	\$ 114,822
Benefits - insurance	17,044
Benefits - retirement	42,659
Benefits - education	1,200
Benefits - special overtime for declared storm	4,966
State supplemental pay	7,200
Total	<u>\$ 187,891</u>

(14) Tax Abatement

The District is subject to industrial tax abatements granted by the Board of Commerce and Industry. The Louisiana Industrial Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program is a state incentive program which offers an attractive tax incentive for manufacturers who make a commitment to jobs and payroll in the state. The program provides an 80% property tax abatement for an initial term of five years and the option to renew for five additional years. As a result of this program, the District's ad valorem tax revenues were reduced by approximately \$7,536 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

**REQUIRED
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Budgetary Comparison Schedule
General Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Budget		Actual	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
Revenues:				
Ad valorem taxes	\$ 4,191,300	\$ 4,191,300	\$ 4,339,545	\$ 148,245
Charges for services	405,000	405,000	397,525	(7,475)
Intergovernmental				
Federal grants	627,589	201,082	201,082	-
State revenue sharing	305,000	305,000	313,436	8,436
Fire insurance rebate	225,000	225,000	202,329	(22,671)
State supplemental pay	225,000	225,000	232,225	7,225
Interest earnings	23,500	23,500	197,956	174,456
Miscellaneous	2,500	2,500	6,110	3,610
Total revenues	<u>6,004,889</u>	<u>5,578,382</u>	<u>5,890,209</u>	<u>311,826</u>
Expenditures:				
Public safety -				
Salaries	2,680,000	2,680,000	2,526,794	153,206
Employee benefits	1,490,850	1,490,850	1,377,079	113,771
Contractual services	797,250	797,250	721,504	75,746
Supplies	245,489	245,489	219,666	25,823
Debt service -				
Principal retirement	152,366	152,366	152,366	-
Interest charges	23,925	23,925	23,925	-
Capital outlay	630,009	203,502	408,152	(204,650)
Total expenditures	<u>6,019,889</u>	<u>5,593,382</u>	<u>5,429,486</u>	<u>163,896</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	<u>(15,000)</u>	<u>(15,000)</u>	<u>460,723</u>	<u>475,723</u>
Other financing sources:				
Proceeds from the disposal of assets	15,000	15,000	28,087	13,087
Net changes in fund balance	-	-	488,810	488,810
Fund balance, beginning	<u>6,040,432</u>	<u>6,040,432</u>	<u>6,040,432</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balance, ending	<u>\$ 6,040,432</u>	<u>\$ 6,040,432</u>	<u>\$ 6,529,242</u>	<u>\$ 488,810</u>

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Schedule of Changes in Total OPEB Liability and Related Ratios
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total OPEB Liability						
Service cost	\$ 71,297	\$ 73,849	\$ 73,849	\$ 97,342	\$ 108,467	\$ 57,230
Interest	105,124	120,868	74,738	89,337	90,720	73,663
Changes in benefit terms	-	-	-	-	-	-
Differences between expected and actual experience	-	-	-	-	-	-
Changes in assumptions	137,027	106,863	773,178	(138,685)	(844,170)	(136,102)
Benefit payments and net transfers	<u>(1,051)</u>	<u>(1,203)</u>	<u>(1,203)</u>	<u>(2,059)</u>	<u>(2,830)</u>	<u>(2,830)</u>
Net Changes	312,397	300,377	920,562	45,935	(647,813)	(8,039)
Total OPEB liability - beginning	<u>2,031,712</u>	<u>2,344,109</u>	<u>2,644,486</u>	<u>3,565,048</u>	<u>3,610,983</u>	<u>2,963,170</u>
Total OPEB liability - ending	<u>\$ 2,344,109</u>	<u>\$ 2,644,486</u>	<u>\$ 3,565,048</u>	<u>\$ 3,610,983</u>	<u>\$ 2,963,170</u>	<u>\$ 2,955,131</u>
Covered employee payroll	\$ 1,944,228	\$ 1,958,915	\$ 1,954,807	\$ 2,048,611	\$ 2,099,012	\$ 2,120,401
Total OPEB liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	120.57%	135.00%	182.37%	176.26%	141.17%	139.37%

* Equal to net OPEB liability

This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability
Firefighters' Retirement System
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

* Year ended December 31,	Employer Proportion of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)	Employer Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)	Employer's Covered Payroll	Employer's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2015	0.601%	3,243,416	1,277,138	254.0%	72.45%
2016	0.618%	4,044,398	1,394,183	290.1%	68.16%
2017	0.691%	3,962,936	1,614,962	245.4%	73.55%
2018	0.720%	4,139,161	1,713,238	241.6%	73.55%
2019	0.746%	4,668,886	1,802,023	259.1%	73.96%
2020	0.764%	5,294,948	1,901,791	278.4%	72.61%
2021	0.796%	2,820,903	1,906,286	148.0%	86.78%
2022	0.826%	5,822,992	2,002,423	290.8%	74.68%
2023	0.774%	5,050,691	2,128,952	237.2%	77.69%

* The amounts presented have a measurement date of June 30.

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Schedule of Employer Contributions
Firefighters' Retirement System
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Year ended December 31,	Contractually Required Contribution	Contributions in Relation to Contractual Required Contribution	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Employer's Covered Payroll	Contributions as a % of Covered Payroll
2015	\$371,326	\$371,326	-	\$ 1,362,664	27.25%
2016	391,662	391,662	-	1,492,046	26.25%
2017	444,995	444,995	-	1,719,787	25.88%
2018	456,264	456,264	-	1,721,751	26.50%
2019	506,487	506,487	-	1,867,204	27.13%
2020	577,694	577,694	-	1,935,236	29.85%
2021	645,869	645,869	-	2,002,423	32.25%
2022	718,521	718,521	-	2,128,952	33.75%
2023	690,708	690,708	-	2,077,318	33.25%

This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Required Supplementary Information

(1) Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The District follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

- a. Prior to January 1, the Fire Chief submits to the Board a proposed budget for the ensuing year. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them.
- b. A public hearing is held on the proposed budget at least ten days after publication of the call for a hearing.
- c. After the holding of the public hearing and completion of all action necessary to finalize and implement the budget, the budget is legally adopted prior to the commencement of the fiscal year for which the budget is being adopted.
- d. All budgetary appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year.
- e. The budget is adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Budgeted amounts included in the accompanying financial statements are as originally adopted or as finally amended by the Fire District.

(2) Other Postemployment Benefits

Benefit Changes –

There were no changes of benefit terms

Changes of assumptions –

Year ended December 31,	Discount Rate	Healthcare Cost Trend Rates	Projected Salary Increase
2018	3.40%	4.60%	3.00%
2019	2.75%	4.70%	3.00%
2020	2.44%	4.80%	3.00%
2021	2.44%	4.90%	3.00%
2022	3.60%	4.70%	3.00%
2023	3.40%	4.70%	3.00%

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Notes to the Required Supplementary Information

(3) Pension Plan

Changes of Benefit Terms:

There were no changes of benefit terms.

Changes of assumptions –

* Year ended December 31.	Discount Rate	Investment Rate of Return	Inflation Rate	Expected Remaining Service Lives	Projected Salary Increase
2015	7.50%	8.24%	2.875%	7	4.75% - 15%
2016	7.50%	8.34%	2.875%	7	4.75% - 15%
2017	7.40%	8.29%	2.775%	7	4.75% - 15%
2018	7.30%	8.09%	2.700%	7	4.75% - 15%
2019	7.15%	7.94%	2.500%	7	4.50% - 14.75%
2020	7.00%	7.00%	2.500%	7	5.20% - 14.10%
2021	6.90%	6.90%	2.500%	7	5.20% - 14.10%
2022	6.90%	6.90%	2.500%	7	5.20% - 14.10%
2023	6.90%	6.90%	2.500%	7	5.20% - 14.10%

* The amounts presented have a measurement date of June 30.

**COMPLIANCE, INTERNAL CONTROL
AND
OTHER MATTERS**

KOLDER, SLAVEN & COMPANY, LLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Brad E. Kolder, CPA, JD*
Gerald A. Thibodeaux, Jr., CPA*
Robert S. Carter, CPA*
Arthur R. Mixon, CPA*
Stephen J. Anderson, CPA*
Matthew E. Margaglio, CPA*
Casey L. Ardoin, CPA, CFE*
Wanda F. Arcement, CPA
Bryan K. Joubert, CPA
Nicholas Fowlkes, CPA
Deidre L. Stock, CPA

C. Burton Kolder, CPA*
Of Counsel

Victor R. Slaven, CPA* - retired 2020
Christine C. Doucet, CPA – retired 2022

* A Professional Accounting Corporation

183 S. Beadle Rd. 11929 Bricksome Ave.
Lafayette, LA 70508 Baton Rouge, LA 70816
Phone (337) 232-4141 Phone (225) 293-8300

1428 Metro Dr. 450 E. Main St.
Alexandria, LA 71301 New Iberia, LA 70560
Phone (318) 442-4421 Phone (337) 367-9204

200 S. Main St. 1201 David Dr.
Abbeville, LA 70510 Morgan City, LA 70380
Phone (337) 893-7944 Phone (985) 384-2020

434 E. Main St. 332 W. Sixth Ave.
Ville Platte, LA 70586 Oberlin, LA 70655
Phone (337) 363-2792 Phone (337) 639-4737

WWW.KCSRCPAS.COM

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Board of Commissioners
Central Fire Protection District No. 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Central Fire Protection District No. 4 (the District), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 20, 2024.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

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

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of current and prior year audit findings as item 2023-001 to be a material weakness.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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

The District's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the District's response to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of current and prior year audit findings and management's corrective action plan. The District's response was not subject to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. However, under Louisiana Revised Statute 24.513, this report is distributed by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor as a public document.

Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC
Certified Public Accountants

Baton Rouge, Louisiana
June 20, 2024

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Schedule of Current and Prior Year Audit Findings
and Management's Corrective Action Plan
Year Ended December 31, 2023

Part I. Current Year Findings and Management's Corrective Action Plan

A. Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

No items to report.

B. Compliance

No items to report.

CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Schedule of Current and Prior Year Audit Findings
and Management's Corrective Action Plan (Continued)
Year Ended December 31, 2023

Part II. Prior Year Findings and Management's Corrective Action Plan

A. Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

2022-001 Inadequate Segregation of Accounting Functions

CONDITION: The District did not have adequate segregation of functions within the accounting system.

RECOMMENDATION: Management should evaluate the cost vs. benefit of complete segregation and whenever possible, reassign incompatible duties among different employees to ensure that a single employee does not have a control of more than one of the following responsibilities: (1) authorization; 2) custody (3) record keeping; and (4) reconciliation.

CURRENT STATUS: Resolved

B. Compliance

No items reported

Central Fire Protection District No. 4
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures

Fiscal period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

KOLDER, SLAVEN & COMPANY, LLC

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

To the Board of Members of the
Central Fire Protection District No. 4,
and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor:

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA's) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Central Fire Protection District No. 4's (the District) management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

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 C/C areas identified in LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Additionally, LLA 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 exceptions are as follows:

Written Policies and Procedures

1. Obtain and inspect the entity's written policies and procedures and observe that they address each of the following categories and subcategories (if applicable to public funds and the entity's operations):
 - a) **Budgeting**, including preparing, adopting, monitoring, and amending the budget.
 - b) **Purchasing**, including (1) how purchases are initiated; (2) how vendors are added to the vendor list; (3) the preparation and approval process of purchase requisitions and purchase orders; (4) controls to ensure compliance with the Public Bid Law; and (5) documentation required to be maintained for all bids and price quotes.
 - c) **Disbursements**, including processing, reviewing, and approving.
 - d) **Receipts/Collections**, including receiving, recording, and preparing deposits. Also, policies and procedures should include management's actions to determine the completeness of all collections for each type of revenue or agency fund additions (e.g. periodic confirmation with outside parties, reconciliation to utility billing after cutoff procedures, reconciliation of traffic ticket number sequences, agency fund forfeiture monies confirmation).

- e) **Payroll/Personnel**, including (1) payroll processing, and (2) reviewing and approving time and attendance records, including leave and overtime worked, and (3) approval process for employees(s) rate of pay or approval and maintenance of pay rate schedules.
- f) **Contracting**, including (1) types of services requiring written contracts, (2) standard terms and conditions, (3) legal review, (4) approval process, and (5) monitoring process.
- g) **Credit Cards (and debit cards, fuel cards, P-Cards, if applicable)**, including (1) how cards are to be controlled, (2) allowable business uses, (3) documentation requirements, (4) required approvers of statements, and (5) monitoring card usage (e.g., determining the reasonableness of fuel card purchases).
- h) **Travel and expense reimbursement**, including (1) allowable expenses, (2) dollar thresholds by category of expense, (3) documentation requirements, and (4) required approvers.
- i) **Ethics**, including (1) the prohibitions as defined in Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 42:1111-1121, (2) actions to be taken if an ethics violation takes place, (3) system to monitor possible ethics violations, and (4) a requirement that documentation is maintained to demonstrate that all employees and officials were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy.
- j) **Debt Service**, including (1) debt issuance approval, (2) continuing disclosure EMMA reporting requirements, (3) debt reserve requirements, and (4) debt service requirements.
- k) **Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**, including (1) identification of critical data and frequency of data backups, (2) storage of backups in a separate physical location isolated from the network, (3) periodic testing/verification that backups can be restored, (4) use of antivirus software on all systems, (5) timely application of all available system and software patches/updates, and (6) identification of personnel, processes, and tools needed to recover operations after a critical event.
- l) **Sexual Harassment**, including R.S. 42:342-344 requirements for (1) agency responsibilities and prohibitions, (2) annual employee training, and (3) annual reporting.

Board or Finance Committee

- 2 Obtain and inspect the board/finance committee minutes for the fiscal period, as well as the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or equivalent document in effect during the fiscal period, and:
 - a) Observe that the board/finance committee met with a quorum at least monthly, or on a frequency in accordance with the board's enabling legislation, charter, bylaws, or other equivalent document.
 - b) For those entities reporting on the governmental accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included monthly budget-to-actual comparisons on the general fund, quarterly budget-to-actual, at a minimum, on proprietary funds, and semi-annual budget-to-actual, at a minimum on all special revenue funds. *Alternatively, for those entities reporting on the non-profit accounting model, observe that the minutes referenced or included financial activity relating to public funds if those public funds comprised more than 10% of the entity's collections during the fiscal period.*
 - c) For governmental entities, obtain the prior year audit report and observe the unassigned fund balance in the general fund. If the general fund had a negative ending unassigned fund balance in the prior year audit report, observe that the minutes for at least one meeting during the fiscal period referenced or included a formal plan to eliminate the negative unassigned fund balance in the general fund.
 - d) Observe whether the board/finance committee received written updates of the progress of resolving audit finding(s), according to management's corrective action plan at each meeting until the findings are considered fully resolved.

Bank Reconciliations

3. Obtain a listing of entity bank accounts for the fiscal period from management and management's representation that the listing is complete. Ask management to identify the entity's main operating account. Select the entity's main operating account and randomly select 4 additional accounts (or all accounts if less than 5). Randomly select one month from the fiscal period, obtain and inspect the corresponding bank statement and reconciliation for each selected account, and observe that:
 - a) Bank reconciliations include evidence that they were prepared within 2 months of the related statement closing date (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged),
 - b) Bank reconciliations include evidence that a member of management board member who does not handle cash, post ledgers, or issue checks has reviewed each bank reconciliation within 1 month that the reconciliation was prepared (e.g., initialed and dated, electronically logged); and
 - c) Management has documentation reflecting that it has researched reconciling items that have been outstanding for more than 12 months from the statement closing date, if applicable.

Collections (excluding EFTs)

4. Obtain a listing of deposit sites for the fiscal period where deposits for cash/checks/money orders (cash) are prepared and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 deposit sites (or all deposit sites if less than 5).
5. For each deposit site selected, obtain a listing of collection locations and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one collection location for each deposit site (i.e. 5 collection locations for 5 deposit sites), obtain and inspect written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if no written policies and procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties) at each collection location, and observe that job duties are properly segregated at each collection location such that:
 - a) Employees that are responsible for cash collections do not share cash drawers/registers.
 - b) Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for preparing/making bank deposits, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling collection documentation (e.g. pre-numbered receipts) to the deposit.
 - c) Each employee responsible for collecting cash is not responsible for posting collection entries to the general ledger or subsidiary ledgers, unless another employee/official is responsible for reconciling ledger postings to each other and to the deposit.
 - d) The employee(s) responsible for reconciling cash collections to the general ledger and/or subsidiary ledgers, by revenue source and/or agency fund additions, are not responsible for collecting cash, unless another employee/official verifies the reconciliation.
6. Obtain from management a copy of the bond or insurance policy for theft covering all employees who have access to cash. Observe that the bond or insurance policy for theft was enforced during the fiscal period.
7. Randomly select two deposit dates for each of the 5 bank accounts selected for procedure #3 under "Bank Reconciliations" above (select the next deposit date chronologically if no deposits were made on the dates randomly selected and randomly select a deposit if multiple deposits are made on the same day). *Alternately, the practitioner may use a source document other than bank statements when selecting the deposit dates for testing, such as a cash collection log, daily revenue report, receipt book, etc.* Obtain supporting documentation for each of the 10 deposits and:

- a) Observe that receipts are sequentially pre-numbered.
- b) Trace sequentially pre-numbered receipts, system reports, and other related collection documentation to the deposit slip.
- c) Trace the deposit slip total to the actual deposit per the bank statement.
- d) Observe that the deposit was made within one business day of receipt at the collection location (within one week if the depository is more than 10 miles from the collection location or the deposit is less than \$100 and the cash is stored securely in a locked safe or drawer).
- e) Trace the actual deposit per the bank statement to the general ledger.

Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases/payments, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)

8. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).
9. For each location selected under #8 above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that:
 - a) At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order making the purchase.
 - b) At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors.
 - c) The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files
 - d) Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments.
 - e) Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.

[Note: Exceptions to controls that constrain the legal authority of certain public officials (e.g., mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality); should not be reported.]]
10. For each location selected under #8 above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction and:
 - a) Observe that the disbursement matched the related original itemized invoice and that supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity.
 - b) Observe that the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under #9, as applicable.
11. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the practitioner should select an alternative month and or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.

Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/P-Cards

12. Obtain from management a listing of all active credit cards, bank debit cards, fuel cards, and P-cards (cards) for the fiscal period, including the card numbers and the names of the persons who maintained possession of the cards. Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete
13. Using the listing prepared by management, randomly select 5 cards (or all cards if less than 5) that were used during the fiscal period. Randomly select one monthly statement or combined statement for each card (for a debit card, randomly select one monthly bank statement). obtain supporting documentation and:
 - a) Observe that there is evidence that the monthly statement or combined statement and supporting documentation (e.g., original receipts for credit debit card purchases, exception reports for excessive fuel card usage) was reviewed and approved, in writing (or electronically approved), by someone other than the authorized card holder. [Note: requiring such approval may constrain the legal authority of certain public officials (e.g., mayor of a Lawrason Act municipality): these instances should not be reported]]
 - b) Observe that finance charges and late fees were not assessed on the selected statements.
14. Using the monthly statements or combined statements selected under #12 above, excluding fuel cards, randomly select 10 transactions (or all transactions if less than 10) from each statement, and obtain supporting documentation for the transactions (i.e. each card should have 10 transactions subject to testing) For each transaction, observe that it is supported by (1) an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased, (2) written documentation of the business/public purpose, and (3) documentation of the individuals participating in meals (for meal charges only). For missing receipts, the practitioner should describe the nature of the transaction and note whether management had a compensating control to address missing receipts, such as a "missing receipt statement" that is subject to increased scrutiny.

Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (excluding card transactions)

15. Obtain from management a listing of all travel and travel-related expense reimbursements during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing or general ledger is complete. Randomly select 5 reimbursements, obtain the related expense reimbursement forms prepaid expense documentation of each selected reimbursement, as well as the supporting documentation. For each of the 5 reimbursements selected:
 - a) If reimbursed using a per diem, observe that the approved reimbursement rate is no more than those rates established either by the State of Louisiana or the U.S. General Services Administration (www.gsa.gov).
 - b) If reimbursed using actual costs, observe that the reimbursement is supported by an original itemized receipt that identifies precisely what was purchased.
 - c) Observe that each reimbursement is supported by documentation of the business/public purpose (for meal charges, observe that the documentation includes the names of those individuals participating) and other documentation required by written policy (procedure #1h).
 - d) Observe that each reimbursement was reviewed and approved, in writing, by someone other than the person receiving reimbursement.

Contracts

16. Obtain from management a listing of all agreements/contracts for professional services, materials and supplies, leases, and construction activities that were initiated or renewed during the fiscal period. *Alternately, the practitioner may use an equivalent selection source, such as an active vendor list.* Obtain management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 contracts (or all contracts if less than 5) from the listing, excluding the practitioner's contract, and:
 - a) Observe that the contract was bid in accordance with the Louisiana Public Bid Law (e.g., solicited quotes or bids, advertised), if required by law.
 - b) Observe that the contract was approved by the governing body/board, if required by policy or law (e.g. Lawrason Act, Home Rule Charter).
 - c) If the contract was amended (e.g. change order), observe that the original contract terms provided for such an amendment and that amendments were made in compliance with the contract terms (e.g. if approval is required for any amendment was approval documented).
 - d) Randomly select one payment from the fiscal period for each of the 5 contracts, obtain the supporting invoice, agree the invoice to the contract terms, and observe that the invoice and related payment agreed to the terms and conditions of the contract.

Payroll and Personnel

17. Obtain a listing of employees and officials employed during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 employees or officials, obtain related paid salaries and personnel files, and agree paid salaries to authorized salaries/pay rates in the personnel files.
18. Randomly select one pay period during the fiscal period. For the 5 employees or officials selected under #16 above, obtain attendance records and leave documentation for the pay period, and:
 - a) Observe that all selected employees or officials documented their daily attendance and leave (e.g., vacation, sick, compensatory).
 - b) Observe that supervisors approved the attendance and leave of the selected employees/officials.
 - c) Observe that any leave accrued or taken during the pay period is reflected in the entity's cumulative leave records.
 - d) Observe that the rate paid to the employees or officials agree to the authorized salary/pay rate found within the personnel file.
19. Obtain a listing of those employees or officials that received termination payments during the fiscal period and management's representation that the list is complete. Randomly select two employees or officials, obtain related documentation of the hours and pay rates used in management's termination payment calculations and the entity policy on termination payments. Agree the hours to the employee or officials' cumulate leave records, agree the pay rates to the employee or officials' authorized pay rates in the employee or officials' personnel files, and agree the termination payment to entity policy.
20. Obtain management's representation that employer and employee portions of third-party payroll related amounts (e.g. payroll taxes, retirement contributions, health insurance premiums, garnishments, workers' compensation premiums, etc.) have been paid, and any associated forms have been filed, by required deadlines.

Ethics

21. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #16 under "Payroll and Personnel" above, obtain ethics documentation from management, and:
 - a. Observe that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed one hour of ethics training during the fiscal period.
 - b. Observe that the entity maintains documentation which demonstrates each employee and official were notified of any changes to the entity's ethics policy during the fiscal period, as applicable.
22. Inquire and/or observe whether the agency has appointed an ethics designee as required by R.S. 42:1170.

Debt Service

23. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes and other debt instruments issued during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all debt instruments on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that State Bond Commission approval was obtained for each bond/note issued.
24. Obtain a listing of bonds/notes outstanding at the end of the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select one bond/note, inspect debt covenants, obtain supporting documentation for the reserve balance and payments, and agree actual reserve balances and payments to those required by debt covenants (including contingency funds, short-lived asset funds, or other funds required by the debt covenants).

Fraud Notice

25. Obtain a listing of misappropriations of public funds and assets during the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Select all misappropriations on the listing, obtain supporting documentation, and observe that the entity reported the misappropriation(s) to the legislative auditor and the district attorney of the parish in which the entity is domiciled.
26. Observe that the entity has posted on its premises and website, the notice required by R.S. 24:523.1 concerning the reporting of misappropriation, fraud, waste, or abuse of public funds.

Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

27. Perform the following procedures, verbally discuss the results with management, and report "We performed the procedure and discussed the results with management."
 - a. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has backed up its critical data (if there is no written documentation, then inquire of personnel responsible for backing up critical data) and observe evidence that such backup (a) occurred within the past week, (b) was not stored on the government's local server or network, and (c) was encrypted.
 - b. Obtain and inspect the entity's most recent documentation that it has tested/verified that its backups can be restored (if no written documentation, inquire of personnel responsible for testing/verifying backup restoration) and observe evidence that the test/verification was successfully performed within the past 3 months.
 - c. Obtain a listing of the entity's computers currently in use, and their related locations, and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 computers and observe while management demonstrates that the selected computers have current and active antivirus software and that the operating system and accounting system software in use are currently supported by the vendor.

28. Randomly select 5 terminated employees (or all terminated employees if less than 5) using the list of terminated employees obtained in procedure #9C. Observe evidence that the selected terminated employees have been removed or disabled from the network.
29. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from Payroll and Personnel procedure #9A obtain cybersecurity training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates that the following employees/officials with access to the agency's information technology assets have completed cybersecurity training as required by R.S. 42. 1267. The requirements are as follows:
 - a. Hired before June 9, 2022 – completed the training and;
 - b. Hired before June 9, 2022 – completed the training within 30 days of initial service or employment.

Sexual Harassment

30. Using the 5 randomly selected employees/officials from procedure #16 under "Payroll and Personnel" above, obtain sexual harassment training documentation from management, and observe that the documentation demonstrates each employee/official completed at least one hour of sexual harassment training during the calendar year.
31. Observe that the entity has posted its sexual harassment policy and complaint procedure on its website (or in a conspicuous location on the entity's premises if the entity does not have a website).
32. Obtain the entity's annual sexual harassment report for the current fiscal period, observe that the report was dated on or before February 1, and observe that it includes the applicable requirements of R.S. 42.344:
 - a. Number and percentage of public servants in the agency who have completed the training requirements;
 - b. Number of sexual harassment complaints received by the agency;
 - c. Number of complaints which resulted in a finding that sexual harassment occurred;
 - d. Number of complaints in which the finding of sexual harassment resulted in discipline or corrective action; and
 - e. Amount of time it took to resolve each complaint.

Findings:

No exceptions were found as a result of procedures list above with the exception of:

Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity

Five (5) out of five (5) employees tested have not completed the required cybersecurity training.

Management's Response:

Management of the Central Fire Protection District No. 4 agrees with the exceptions in the report and is working to correct the items identified.

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 applicable standards of Government Auditing Standards. 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 those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. 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 those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, 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 LLA as a public document.

Kolder, Slaven & Company, LLC

Certified Public Accountants

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

June 20, 2024