

**NATCHITOCHEs PARISH
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 7**

FINANCIAL REPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2024

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
Financial Report
December 31, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Required Supplementary Information	
Management's Discussion and Analysis	1-3
Independent Accountant's Review Report	4-5
<u>Basic Financial Statements</u>	
Government-Wide Financial Statements	
Statement of Net Position	8
Statement of Activities	9
Fund Financial Statements	
Balance Sheet-Governmental Fund	11
Reconciliation of the Governmental Fund Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position	12
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance-Governmental Fund	13
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance of the Governmental Fund to the Statement of Activities	14
Notes to Financial Statements	16-24
<u>Other Required Supplementary Information</u>	
Budgetary Comparison Schedule-General Fund	26
<u>Supplementary Information</u>	
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer	28
<u>Other Reports/Schedules</u>	
Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures	30-33
Louisiana Attestation Questionnaire	34-36
Management Letter	37
Management Response	38

**NATCHITOCHES PARISH FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT NO. 7
P. O. Box 68
Marthaville, LA 71450**

MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

This section of the Natchitoches Parish Fire District No. 7’s (hereafter referred to as the District) annual financial report presents an overview and analysis of the District’s financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2024. The intent of the MD&A is to look at the District’s financial performance as a whole. It should, therefore be read in conjunction with this report. Certain comparative information is presented to provide an overview of the District’s operations.

Financial Highlights

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities provide information about the activities of the District as a whole and presents a longer-term view of the District’s finances. These statements tell how these services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

- The Statement of Net Position presents all of the District’s assets and liabilities, with the difference between the two reported as “net position”. Over time, increases or decreases in the District’s net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the District is improving or deteriorating.
- The Statement of Activities presents information showing how the District’s net position changed during the current year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Therefore, some revenues and some expenses that are reported in this statement will not result in cash flows until future years.

Fund Financial Statements

The services provided by the District are financed through a governmental fund. A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The District uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The District conducts its day-to-day operations through a governmental fund, the General Fund. These statements provide a short-term view of the District’s finances and assists in determining whether there will be adequate financial resources available to meet the current needs of the District.

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

Summary of the Statement of Net Position

	2024	2023
ASSETS:		
Current Assets	\$ 900,499	\$ 861,056
Capital Assets (net)	<u>2,463,457</u>	<u>2,617,838</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 3,363,956</u>	<u>\$ 3,478,894</u>
LIABILITIES:		
Current Liabilities	\$ 122,426	\$ 113,923
Long-Term Liabilities	<u>257,397</u>	<u>374,360</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 379,823</u>	<u>\$ 488,283</u>
NET POSITION:		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 2,089,097	\$ 2,133,701
Unrestricted	<u>895,036</u>	<u>856,910</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 2,984,133</u>	<u>\$ 2,990,611</u>

Summary of the Statement of Activities

	2024	2023
REVENUES:		
Program Revenues-		
Intergovernmental	\$ 30,494	\$ 27,605
General Revenues-		
Taxes	433,091	531,602
Miscellaneous	<u>8,972</u>	<u>3,556</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 472,557</u>	<u>\$ 562,763</u>
EXPENSES:		
Current-		
Public Safety	447,342	389,623
Interest on Long-Term Debt	<u>31,693</u>	<u>15,317</u>
Total Expenses	<u>479,035</u>	<u>404,940</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>\$ (6,478)</u>	<u>\$ 157,823</u>

The District's assets exceeded its liabilities by \$2,984,133 (net position) for the year. For the prior year, this was \$2,990,611.

Unrestricted Net Position of \$895,036 represents the portion available to maintain the District's obligations to both citizens and creditors. This is an increase of \$38,126 from prior year.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

The actual revenues were \$106,519 less than the budgeted amount for the year. Actual expenditures were less than the budgeted amount by \$196,680. Revenues continue to be sufficient to enable the District to provide the necessary fire protection services to the citizens of the district.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget

The primary revenue source for the District is property taxes. This type of tax is not subject to changes in the economy, in the short-term. However, in the long-term, significant increases/decreases in the tax base would be evident. The budget for FY 2025 should not change significantly from the FY 2024 budget.

Contacting the Fire District

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, and creditors with a general overview of the District's finances and to show the District's accountability for the money it receives. Any questions about this report or requests for additional information may be directed to the District at P. O. Box 68, Marthaville, LA 71450.

T | C | B | T
THOMAS, CUNNINGHAM, BROADWAY & TODTENBIER
Certified Public Accountants

Eddie G. Johnson, CPA – A Professional Corporation (1927-1996)

Mark D. Thomas, CPA – A Professional Corporation

Roger M. Cunningham, CPA, LLC

Jessica H. Broadway, CPA – A Professional Corporation

Ryan E. Todtenbier, CPA – A Professional Corporation

321 Bienville Street
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457
(318) 352-3652
Fax (318) 352-4447

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT’S REVIEW REPORT

Natchitoches Parish Fire
Protection District No. 7
P. O. Box 68
Marthaville, Louisiana 71450

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7 (District), a component unit of the Natchitoches Parish Government, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District’s basic financial statements as listed in the Table of Contents. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management’s financial data and making inquiries of management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements

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

Accountant’s Responsibility

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

We are required to be independent of the Natchitoches Parish Fire District No. 7 and to meet other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our review.

Accountant's Conclusion

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

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis and the Budgetary Comparison Schedule, as listed in the Table of Contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and 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. The information is the responsibility of management. We have not audited, reviewed, or compiled the required supplementary information and we do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any assurance on it.

Supplementary Information

The accompanying schedule of compensation, benefits, and other payments to the agency head or chief executive officer is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The information is the representation of management. We have reviewed the information and, based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the information in order for it to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have not audited the supplementary information and, accordingly, do not express an opinion on such information.

Other Reporting Requirements

In accordance with the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide* and the provisions of state law, we have issued a report dated June 2, 2025 on the results of our agreed-upon procedures on page 29 through 32 and pages 33 through 35 present the Louisiana Attestation Questionnaire.

Thomas, Cunningham Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's

Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's
Natchitoches, Louisiana

June 2, 2025

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GOVERNMENT-WIDE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2024

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
ASSETS:	
Current Assets:	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 471,311
Revenue Receivable	<u>429,188</u>
Total Current Assets	\$ 900,499
Non-current Assets:	
Capital Assets (net)	<u>2,463,457</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 3,363,956</u>
LIABILITIES:	
Current Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	\$ 3,814
Payroll Liabilities	1,649
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt	<u>116,963</u>
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 122,426
Non-current Liabilities:	
Long-Term Debt (net of current portion)	<u>257,397</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 379,823</u>
NET POSITION:	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 2,089,097
Unrestricted	<u>895,036</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 2,984,133</u>

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
Statement of Activities
December 31, 2024

Activities	Expenses	Operating Grants and Contributions	Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
			Governmental Activities
Governmental Activities:			
Public Safety	\$ 447,342	\$ 30,494	\$ (416,848)
Interest on Long-Term Debt	<u>31,693</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(31,693)</u>
Total Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 479,035</u>	<u>\$ 30,494</u>	<u>\$ (448,541)</u>
General Revenues:			
Taxes-			
Ad Valorem			\$ 433,091
Miscellaneous			<u>8,972</u>
Total General Revenues			<u>\$ 442,063</u>
Change in Net Position			\$ (6,478)
Net Position, January 1			<u>2,990,611</u>
Net Position, December 31			<u>\$ 2,984,133</u>

See independent auditors' report and notes to financial statements.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
Balance Sheet - Governmental Fund
December 31, 2024

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
ASSETS:	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 471,311
Revenue Receivable	<u>429,188</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 900,499</u>
LIABILITIES:	
Accounts Payable	\$ 3,814
Payroll Liabilities	<u>1,649</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 5,463</u>
FUND BALANCE:	
Unassigned	<u>895,036</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$ 900,499</u>

See independent auditors' report and notes to financial statements.

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
 Reconciliation of Governmental Fund
 Balance Sheet to the Statement of Net Position
 December 31, 2024

Total Fund Balance for the Governmental Fund at December 31, 2024	\$	895,036
--	----	---------

Total Net Position reported for Governmental Activities in
Statement of Net Position is different because:

The following used in Governmental Activities are
not current financial resources and, therefore, are
not reported in the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet-

Capital Assets (Net)		2,463,457
----------------------	--	-----------

Long-term Liabilities are not due and payable in the
current period. Therefore they are not reported in the
Governmental Fund Balance Sheet -

Long-Term Debt		<u>(374,360)</u>
----------------	--	------------------

Total Net Position of Governmental Activities at December 31, 2024	\$	<u>2,984,133</u>
---	----	------------------

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance-
Governmental Fund
December 31, 2024

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
REVENUES:	
Taxes-	
Ad Valorem	\$ 433,091
Intergovernmental-	
Fire Insurance Rebate	20,010
State Revenue Sharing	10,484
Interest & Miscellaneous	<u>8,972</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 472,557</u>
EXPENDITURES:	
Current-	
Public Safety	\$ 245,961
Debt Service	141,470
Capital Outlay	<u>47,000</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 434,431</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 38,126
Fund Balance-Beginning of Year	<u>856,910</u>
Fund Balance-End of Year	<u>\$ 895,036</u>

See independent auditors' report and notes to financial statements.

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
 Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,
 and Changes in Fund Balance of the Governmental Fund
 to the Statement of Activities
 December 31, 2024

Net change in fund balance-governmental fund	\$	38,126
--	----	--------

Some revenues reported in the Statement of Activities do not provide current financial resources and these are not reported as revenues in governmental funds. Some expenses reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the funds. These timing differences are summarized below:

Capital Outlay		58,418
Deprecation Expense		(212,799)
Payments on Long-Term Debt		109,777
		109,777

Change in net position per statement of activities at December 31, 2024	\$	<u>(6,478)</u>
--	----	----------------

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

1. Introduction:

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7 was created by the Natchitoches Parish Government, by ordinance in June 1982, under the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes 40:1492-1701, for the purpose of providing fire protection to the citizens of the District. The District is governed by a Board of Commissioners who are resident property taxpayers of the District. The commissioners are approved/appointed by the Natchitoches Parish Government. The District was created to acquire and maintain buildings, machinery, equipment, water tanks, water hydrants and water lines, and any other such things necessary to provide proper fire protection and control within the District.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

The accounting and reporting policies of Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7 conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental units. Such accounting and reporting policies also conform to the requirements of Louisiana Revised Statutes 24:517 and to the guides set forth in the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*.

A. Reporting Entity-

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

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

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

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

Because the Parish Government created by ordinance Fire District No. 7, the District was determined to be a component unit of the Natchitoches Parish Government, the financial reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the District and do not present information on the Parish Government, the general government services provided by that governmental unit, or the other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity.

B. Basis of Presentation-

Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)

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

The Statement of Net Position presents the governmental-type activities on a consolidated basis, and is reported on a full accrual, economic resource basis, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations.

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

C. Fund Accounting-

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

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

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

The major fund of the District is described below:

Governmental Fund-

General Fund

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

D. Measurement Focus/Basis of Accounting-

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

Accrual Basis - Government-Wide Financial Statements (GWFS)

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities display information about the District as a whole. Both of these statements have been prepared using the economic measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from exchange and exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place.

Modified Accrual Basis - Fund Financial Statements (FFS)

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. Governmental fund types use the flow of current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when susceptible to accrual; i.e., when they are both measurable and available. "Measurable" means the amount of the transaction can be determined and "available" means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. The District considers all revenues "available" if collected within 60 days after year-end. Expenditures are generally recorded under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related liability is incurred. The exceptions to this general rule are that (1) unmatured principal and interest on long-term debt, if any, are recorded when due and (2) claims and judgments and compensated absences are recorded as expenditures when paid with expendable available financial resources.

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

E. Assets, Liabilities, 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 deposit of the District.

Capital Assets-

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

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

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 useful lives by type of asset is as follows:

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

Compensated Absences-

Employees of the District cannot carry leave forward from year to year. Therefore, there is no accrual made for compensated absences.

Long-term Obligations-

In the government-wide financial statements, long-term debt is reported as liabilities in the applicable governmental statements of net position and activities.

In the fund statements, governmental fund types recognize debt issued as other financing sources. Repayment of the principal and interest is shown as an expenditure.

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

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

When an expense is incurred for the purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available, management applies unrestricted resources first, unless a determination is made to use restricted resources. The policy concerning which to apply first varies with the intended use and legal requirements. This decision is typically made by management at the incurrence of the expense.

In the fund statements, governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance and displayed in five components. The following classifications describe the relative strength of the spending constraints placed on the purposes for which resources can be used:

- a. Nonspendable fund balance - amounts that are not in a spendable form (such as prepaid expenses) or are required to be maintained intact;
- b. Restricted fund balance - amounts constrained to specific purposes by their providers (such as grantors, bondholders, and higher levels of government), through constitutional provisions, or by enabling legislation;
- c. Committed fund balance - amounts constrained to specific purposes by a government itself, using its highest level of decision-making authority; to be reported as committed, amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the government takes the same highest level action to remove or change the constraint;
- d. Assigned fund balance - amounts a government intends to use for a specific purpose; intent can be expressed by the governing body or by an official or body to which the governing body delegates the authority;
- e. Unassigned fund balance - amounts that are available for any purpose; positive amounts are reported only in the general fund.

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

The General Fund has an unassigned fund balance of \$895,036. If applicable, the District would typically use restricted fund balances first, followed by committed resources and assigned resources as appropriate opportunities arise, but reserves the right to selectively spend unassigned resources first and to defer the use of these other classified funds.

F. Budget-

Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7 adopts a budget for the next fiscal year. The budget is open for public inspection. All budgetary appropriations lapse at the end of the fiscal year. The budget is prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting.

G. Estimates-

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues, expenditures and expenses during the reported period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

3. Cash and Cash Equivalents:

The cash and cash equivalents of the Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7 are subject to the following risk:

Custodial Credit Risk: Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the District will not be able to recover its deposits. Under state law, these deposits (or the resulting bank balances) must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal or exceed the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. These securities are held in the name of the pledging fiscal agent bank in a holding or custodial bank that is mutually acceptable to both parties. Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1229 imposes a statutory requirement on the custodial bank to advertise and sell the pledged securities within 10 days of being notified by the District that the fiscal agent bank has failed to pay deposited funds upon demand. Further, Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1224 states that securities held by a third party shall be deemed to be held in the District's name.

Bank account balances totaled \$472,414 at December 31, 2024, which were secured by \$250,000 of federal depository insurance and pledged securities with a market value of \$15,066 held by the custodial banks in the name of the District.

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

4. Capital Assets:

Capital asset balances and activity for the year ended December 31, 2024, is as follows:

Governmental Activities	Balance 01-01-24	Additions	Deletions	Balance 12-31-24
Capital Assets Not Depreciated:				
Land	\$ 15,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 15,000
Construction in Progress	<u>285,500</u>	<u>47,000</u>	<u>332,500</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Capital Assets Not Deprec.	<u>\$ 300,500</u>	<u>47,000</u>	<u>\$ 332,500</u>	<u>\$ 15,000</u>
Capital Assets Depreciated:				
Firefighting equipment	\$ 495,444	\$ 11,418	\$ 0	\$ 506,862
Vehicles	2,979,387	0	0	2,979,387
Buildings	<u>418,890</u>	<u>332,500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>751,390</u>
Total Capital Assets Depreciated	<u>\$3,893,721</u>	<u>\$ 343,918</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$4,237,639</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$4,194,221</u>	<u>\$ 390,918</u>	<u>\$ 332,500</u>	<u>\$4,252,639</u>
Less, Accumulated Depreciation:				
Firefighting Equipment	\$ 466,526	\$ 6,615	\$ 0	\$ 473,141
Vehicles	947,888	172,612	0	1,120,500
Buildings	<u>161,969</u>	<u>33,572</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>195,541</u>
Total Depreciation	<u>\$1,576,383</u>	<u>\$212,799</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$1,789,182</u>
Net Capital Assets	<u>\$2,617,838</u>	<u>\$178,119</u>	<u>\$ (332,500)</u>	<u>\$2,463,457</u>

Depreciation expense of \$212,799 was charged to the public safety function.

5. Ad Valorem Taxes:

The District levies taxes on real and business personal property located within the boundaries of Natchitoches Parish Fire District No. 7. Property taxes are levied by the District on property values assessed by the Natchitoches Parish Tax Assessor and approved by the State of Louisiana Tax Commission.

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

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

Property Tax Calendar

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

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

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

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

A revaluation of all property is required to be completed no less than every four years. The last revaluation was completed for the roll of January 1, 2020. Total assessed value was \$54,335,953 in 2023. Louisiana state law exempts the first \$7,500 of assessed value of a taxpayer's primary residence from parish property taxes. This homestead exemption was a total of \$3,979,730 of the assessed value in 2023. For the year ended December 31, 2024, taxes of 10 mils were levied on the property and dedicated to fire protection.

6. Pending Litigation:

There were no civil suits seeking damages against the District outstanding at December 31, 2024.

7. Related Party Transactions:

The District had no identified related party transactions for the year ended December 31, 2024.

8. Compensation Paid to Board Members:

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

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

9. Receivables:

The following is a summary of receivables at December 31, 2024:

<u>Class of Receivable</u>	<u>General Fund</u>
Taxes-	
Ad Valorem	\$418,704
Intergovernmental-	
State Revenue Sharing	<u>10,484</u>
Total	<u>\$429,188</u>

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

10. Long-Term Debt:

In July 2023, the District entered into a lease-purchase agreement with Leasing 2, Inc. for two US tanker freightliners for \$610,290. The terms of this agreement call for repayment to be made over five years at \$141,470 per annum at 6.36% interest.

The following is a summary of the long-term obligation transactions for the year ended December 31, 2024.

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Lease-Purchase Agreement	<u>\$484,137</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$109,777</u>	<u>\$374,360</u>

The annual debt service requirements to maturity at December 31, 2027, are as follows:

<u>Year Ending December 31</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	116,963	24,507	141,470
2026	124,620	16,850	141,470
2027	<u>132,777</u>	<u>8,692</u>	<u>141,469</u>
Total	<u>\$374,360</u>	<u>\$50,049</u>	<u>\$424,409</u>

11. Subsequent Events:

Management has evaluated events through June 2, 2025, the date which the financial statements were available for issue. There were no items to be reported as subsequent events.

OTHER REQUIRED
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
General Fund
Budgetary Comparison Schedule
December 31, 2024

	<u>Budget</u>			Variance- Favorable (Unfavorable)
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
REVENUES:				
Taxes-				
Ad Valorem	\$ 550,376	\$ 550,376	\$ 433,091	\$ (117,285)
Intergovernmental-				
Fire Insurance Rebate	21,000	20,000	20,010	10
State Revenue Sharing	-	-	10,484	10,484
Interest & Miscellaneous	<u>7,500</u>	<u>8,700</u>	<u>8,972</u>	<u>272</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 578,876</u>	<u>\$ 579,076</u>	<u>\$ 472,557</u>	<u>\$ (106,519)</u>
EXPENDITURES:				
Current-				
Public Safety	\$ 236,311	\$ 242,111	\$ 245,961	\$ (3,850)
Debt Service	-	-	141,470	(141,470)
Capital Outlay	<u>389,000</u>	<u>389,000</u>	<u>47,000</u>	<u>342,000</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 625,311</u>	<u>\$ 631,111</u>	<u>\$ 434,431</u>	<u>\$ 196,680</u>
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ (46,435)	\$ (52,035)	\$ 38,126	\$ 90,161
Fund Balance-Beginning of Year	<u>856,910</u>	<u>856,910</u>	<u>856,910</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balance-End of Year	<u>\$ 810,475</u>	<u>\$ 804,875</u>	<u>\$ 895,036</u>	<u>\$ 90,161</u>

See independent auditors' report and notes to financial statements.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to
Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Agency Head Name: Doug Birdwell, Fire Chief

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cell Phone	\$0
Dues	0
Reimbursement-Supplies	0
Insurance	0
Registration Fees	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>\$0</u>

See independent accountant's review report.

OTHER REPORTS/SCHEDULES

T | C | B | T
THOMAS, CUNNINGHAM, BROADWAY & TODTENBIER
Certified Public Accountants

Eddie G. Johnson, CPA – A Professional Corporation (1927-1996)

Mark D. Thomas, CPA – A Professional Corporation
Roger M. Cunningham, CPA, LLC
Jessica H. Broadway, CPA – A Professional Corporation
Ryan E. Todtenbier, CPA – A Professional Corporation

321 Bienville Street
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457
(318) 352-3652
Fax (318) 352-4447
www.tcbtcpa.com

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT’S REPORT
ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES**

Natchitoches Parish Fire
Protection District No. 7
P. O. Box 68
Marthaville, Louisiana 71450

We have performed the procedures included in the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide* and enumerated below, which were agreed to by the management of the Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7 and the Legislative Auditor, State of Louisiana, solely to assist the users in evaluating management’s assertions about the Natchitoches Parish Fire District No. 7’s compliance with certain laws and regulations during the year ended December 31, 2024, included in the Louisiana Attestation Questionnaire. This agreed-upon procedures engagement was performed in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of the specified users of the report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

PUBLIC BID LAW

1. Obtain documentation for all expenditures made during the year for materials and supplies exceeding \$60,000, and public works exceeding \$250,000. Compare the documentation for these expenditures to Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 36:1551-39:1755 (the state procurement code) or R.S. 38:2211-2296 (the public bid law), whichever is applicable; and report whether the expenditures were made in accordance with these laws.

No expenditures found to be in violation.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

2. Obtain a list of the immediate family members of each board member as defined by R.S. 42:1101-1124 (the ethics law).

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

3. Obtain a list of all employees paid during the fiscal year.

Management provided us with the requested list.

4. Report whether any employees' names appear on both lists obtained by Procedures 2 and 3.

No instances that would fall under the above circumstances were found.

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

Management provided the requested information. None of the business interests of board members, employees, and their immediate families appeared as vendors on the list of disbursements.

BUDGETING

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

Management provided us with a copy of the original and amended budgets.

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

We traced adoption of the original budget to the documentation in the minutes of the meeting of the district's commissioners held on September 3, 2024. Management represented that there were amendments to the budget.

8. Compare the revenues and expenditures of the final budget to actual budget revenues and expenditures. Report whether actual revenues failed to meet budgeted revenues by 5% or more, and whether actual expenditures exceeded budgeted amounts by 5% or more.

We compared the revenues and expenditures of the final budget to actual revenues and expenditures. Actual revenues did exceed budgeted amounts by more than 5% however the Expenditures for the year did not exceed budgeted amounts by more than 5%.

ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

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

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

Each of the six selected disbursements agreed to the amount and payee in the supporting documentation.

- (b) Report whether the six disbursements were coded to the correct fund and general ledger account.

Each of the six selected disbursements were coded to the correct general ledger account.

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

The District's policies and procedures state that the chairman of the District's Board of Commissioners must approve all disbursements, with subsequent approval by the full board. Documentation supporting each of the six selected disbursements included the signature of the chairman of the Board of Commissioners. In addition, approval by the full commission of each disbursement was traced to the district's minute book.

MEETINGS

10. Obtain evidence from management to support those agendas for meetings recorded in the minute book were posted or advertised as required by R.S. 42:11 through 42:28 (the open meetings law); and report whether there are any exceptions.

Management asserted that the agendas for meetings were posted as required by state law.

DEBT

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

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

ADVANCES AND BONUSES

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

We scanned the general ledger, no evidence of any payroll being processed.

STATE AUDIT LAW

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

The District's report was due June 30, 2025 and was submitted in a timely manner.

14. Inquire of management and report whether the agency entered into any contracts that utilized state funds as defined in R.S. 39:72.1 A. (2); and that were subject to the public bid law (R.S. .8:2211, et seq.), while the agency was not in compliance with the R.S 24:513 (the audit law).

Management represented that the District did not enter into any contracts that utilized state funds.

PRIOR YEAR CONTRACTS

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

Our prior year report, dated February 1, 2024, did not include any suggestions, exceptions, recommendations, or comments.

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

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

Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's

Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's
Natchitoches, Louisiana

June 2, 2025

NATCHITOCHES PARISH FIRE DISTRICT NO. 7

LOUISIANA ATTESTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

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

In connection with your engagement to apply agreed-upon procedures to the control and compliance matters identified below, as of December 31, 2024 and for the year then ended, and as required by Louisiana Revised Statute (R.S.) 24:513 and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, we make the following representations to you.

Public Bid Law

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Code of Ethics for Public Officials and Public Employees

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Budgeting

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Accounting and Reporting

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

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

Yes [☒] No [☐] N/A [☐]

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

Yes [☒] No [☐] N/A [☐]

We did not enter into any contracts that utilized state funds as defined in R.S. 39:72.1 A. (2); and that were subject to the public bid law (R.S. 38:2211, et seq.), while the agency was not in compliance with R.S. 24:513 (the audit law).

Yes [☒] No [☐] N/A [☐]

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

Yes [☒] No [☐] N/A [☐]

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

Yes [☒] No [☐] N/A [☐]

Meetings

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

Yes [☒] No [☐] N/A [☐]

Debt

It is true we have not incurred any indebtedness, other than credit for 90 days or less to make purchases in the ordinary course of administration, nor have we entered into any lease-purchase agreements, without the approval of the State Bond Commission, as provided by Article VII, Section 8 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, Article VI, Section 33 of the 1974 Louisiana Constitution, and R.S. 39:1410.60-1410.65.

Yes [☒] No [☐] N/A [☐]

Advances and Bonuses

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

Yes [☒] No [☐] N/A [☐]

Prior-Year Comments

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

Yes [☒] No [☐] N/A [☐]

General

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

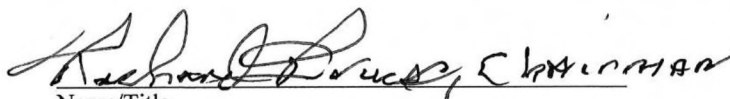
We have disclosed to you any communications from regulatory agencies, internal auditors, other independent practitioners or consultants, and others concerning noncompliance with the foregoing laws and regulations, including communications received during the period under examination; and will disclose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

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

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


Name/Title

06-02-2025
Date

T | C | B | T
THOMAS, CUNNINGHAM, BROADWAY & TODTENBIER
Certified Public Accountants

Eddie G. Johnson, CPA - A Professional Corporation (1927-1996)

Mark D. Thomas, CPA - A Professional Corporation
Roger M. Cunningham, CPA - LLC
Jessica H. Broadway, CPA - A Professional Corporation
Ryan E. Todtenbier, CPA - A Professional Corporation

321 Bienville Street
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457
(318) 352-3652
Fax (318) 352-4447
www.tcbtcpa.com

June 2, 2025

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
P. O. Box 68
Marthaville, LA 71450

RE: Management Letter
Review Report – December 31, 2024

We have performed our review of the Natchitoches Parish Fire 7 and have applied certain agreed-upon procedures. As part of those procedures, we have the following information to report to you:

LA Revised Statutes require that a budget for the General Fund be amended if actual revenues are less than budgeted revenues by 5% or more, and/or actual expenditures exceed budgeted revenues by 5% or more. For the year ended December 31, 2024, the Village failed to amend the budget when the actual revenues were less than budgeted revenues by more than 5% as allowed. We recommend that the Village institute procedures to ensure the budget for the General Fund is amended whenever actual revenues are less than budgeted revenues by more than 5% and/or actual expenditures are more than budgeted expenditures by more than the 5% allowed.

Sincerely,

Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's
Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's

Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7

P.O. Box 68
Marthaville, Louisiana 71450

June 2, 2025

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

RE: Natchitoches Parish Fire Protection District No. 7
Review Report – December 31, 2024

The following is our response to the management letter issued to us by the firm Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's for the year ended December 31, 2024.

Management's Corrective Action Plan

Local Government Budget Act – We will institute procedures to ensure the budget is amended if actual revenues are less than budgeted revenues by 5% or more, and/or actual expenditures exceed budgeted expenditures by 5% or more as allowed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Bruce, Chairman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Bruce, Board Chairman