

**BIENVILLE PARISH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT,
WARD 7
BIENVILLE PARISH, LOUISIANA
FINANCIAL REPORT
DECEMBER 31, 2024**

Bienville Parish Fire Protection District, Ward 7
Financial Report
December 31, 2024

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Bienville Parish Fire Protection District, Ward 7

P. O. Box 309
Saline, LA 71070

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

This section of the Bienville Parish Fire Protections District, Ward 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 assist 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 Statement of Net Position

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
ASSETS:		
Assets	\$ 1,488,126	\$ 1,202,408
Capital Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	<u>1,303,951</u>	<u>1,469,360</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,792,077</u>	<u>\$ 2,671,768</u>
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts Payable	\$ 16,786	\$ 25,741
Payroll Tax Payable	<u>-</u>	<u>1,090</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 16,786</u>	<u>\$ 26,831</u>
NET POSITION:		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 1,303,951	\$ 1,469,360
Unrestricted	<u>1,471,340</u>	<u>1,175,577</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 2,775,291</u>	<u>\$ 2,644,937</u>

Summary of Statement of Activities

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
REVENUES:		
Program Revenues-		
Intergovernmental	\$ 27,838	\$ 30,168
General Revenues-		
Taxes	536,450	570,536
Other	<u>7,947</u>	<u>14,649</u>
Total Revenues	\$572,235	\$615,353
EXPENSES:		
Current-		
Public Safety	<u>441,881</u>	<u>445,861</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>\$130,354</u>	<u>\$ 169,492</u>

- The District's assets exceeded its liabilities by \$2,775,291 (net position) for the year. For the prior year this was \$2,644,937.
- Unrestricted Net Position of \$1,471,340 represents the portion available to maintain the District's obligation to both citizens and creditors. This is an increase of \$295,763 from \$1,175,577 in the prior year.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

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

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budget

As the primary revenue source for the District is property taxes, this type of tax is not subject to changes in the economy in the short-term. However, in the long-term, significant increases or decreases in the tax base would be evident. Revenues and expenditures in 2025 should not change significantly from 2024.

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 309, Saline, LA 71070.

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
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Bienville Parish Fire
Protection District, Ward 7
Bienville Parish, Louisiana

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and major fund of the Bienville Parish Fire Protection District, Ward 7 (District), a component unit of the Bienville Parish Police Jury, 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.

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, 2024, 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 and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*. 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 related 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 these 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, which raise substantial doubt about District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statements 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 opinion. 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 judgment 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 judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, which 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 Management's Discussion and Analysis and Budgetary Comparison Schedule 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.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head or Chief Executive Officer is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 15, 2025, 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.



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

May 15, 2025

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GOVERNMENT-WIDE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Bienville Fire Protection District, Ward 7
Statement of Net Position
December 31, 2024

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
ASSETS:	
Current Assets:	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 951,309
Revenue Receivable	536,387
Other Assets	<u>430</u>
Total Current Assets	\$ 1,488,126
Non-current Assets:	
Capital Assets (net)	<u>1,303,951</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,792,077</u>
LIABILITIES:	
Current Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	<u>\$ 16,786</u>
NET POSITION:	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 1,303,951
Unrestricted	<u>1,471,340</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 2,775,291</u>

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report.

Bienville Fire Protection District, Ward 7
Statement of Activities
December 31, 2024

			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
Activities	Expenses	Operating Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities
<hr/>			
Governmental Activities:			
Public Safety	\$ 441,881	\$ 27,838	\$ (414,043)
	General Revenues:		
	Property Taxes		\$ 536,450
	Interest & Miscellaneous		7,948
	Total General Revenues		\$ 544,398
	Change in Net Position		\$ 130,354
	Net Position-January 1, 2024		2,644,937
	Net Position, December 31, 2024		\$ 2,775,291

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Bienville Fire Protection District, Ward 7
 Balance Sheet - Governmental Fund
 December 31, 2024

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
ASSETS:	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 951,309
Revenue Receivable	536,387
Other Assets	<u>430</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,488,126</u>
LIABILITIES:	
Accounts Payable	\$ 16,786
FUND BALANCE:	
Unassigned	<u>1,471,340</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$ 1,488,126</u>

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report.

Bienville Fire Protection District, Ward 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, 2023	\$ 1,471,340
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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)	<u>1,303,951</u>
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Total Net Position of Governmental Activities at December 31, 2023	<u><u>\$ 2,775,291</u></u>
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Bienville Fire Protection District, Ward 7
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance-
Governmental Fund
December 31, 2024

	Governmental Activities
REVENUES:	
Taxes	\$ 536,450
Intergovernmental-	
State Grant	15,220
Fire Insurance Rebate	12,618
Interest & Miscellaneous	<u>7,947</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 572,235</u>
EXPENDITURES:	
Public Safety-	
Current-	
Wages & Salaries	\$ 43,067
Insurance	53,933
Utilities	19,529
Repairs & Maintenance	25,062
Materials & Supplies	30,612
Operating Services	72,802
Capital Outlay	<u>31,467</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 276,472</u>
Excess Deficiency of Revenues over Expenditures	\$ 295,763
Fund Balance- Beginning of Year	<u>1,175,577</u>
Fund Balance-End of Year	<u><u>\$ 1,471,340</u></u>

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report.

Bienville Fire Protection District, Ward 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	\$	295,763
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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		31,467
Deprecation Expense		<u>(196,876)</u>

Change in net position per statement of activities at December 31, 2024	\$	<u>130,354</u>
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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Bienville Parish Fire Protection District, Ward 7
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

Introduction:

Bienville Parish Fire Protection District, Ward 7 was created by the Bienville Parish Police Jury under the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes 40:1492-1601, for the purpose of providing fire protection for the citizens of the District. The District is governed by a Board of Commissioners who are resident property taxpayers of the District. 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.

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

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

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

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

Because the Police Jury appoints the District's governing board, the District was determined to be a component unit of the Police Jury, the financial reporting entity. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the District and do not present information on the Police Jury, the general government services provided by that governmental unit, or the other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity.

Bienville Parish Fire Protection District, Ward 7
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

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. A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of the entity.

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.

Bienville Parish Fire Protection District, Ward 7
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

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.

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, money market 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.

Bienville Parish Fire Protection District, Ward 7
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

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, airpacks	7 years
Radios	10 years
Fire trucks	10 years
Other vehicles	5 years
Buildings	40 years

Compensated Absences-

There is no formal leave policy for the District; therefore, no entry is made to record compensated absences.

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;

Bienville Parish Fire Protection District, Ward 7
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

- 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.

The General Fund has an unassigned fund balance of \$1,471,340. 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, Bienville Parish Fire Protection District, Ward 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 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, expenditures, and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

2. Cash and Cash Equivalents:

The cash and cash equivalents of the Bienville Parish Fire Protection District, Ward 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.

Bienville Parish Fire Protection District, Ward 7
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

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 at December 31, 2024, totaled \$954,593 and of this amount, \$250,000 was secured by FDIC Insurance, and the remaining amount was secured with pledged securities from Sabine State Bank.

3. Receivables:

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

<u>Class of Receivable</u>	<u>General Fund</u>
Taxes-	
Ad Valorem	<u>\$536,387</u>

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

4. Leases:

On July 1, 1988, the District entered into three 99-year leases for land to be used for fire stations. The consideration for the leases is the benefit that will be provided to the lessor by having fire protection equipment on the leased premises.

5. Capital Assets:

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

<u>Governmental Activities</u>	<u>Balance 01-01-24</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Balance 12-31-24</u>
Capital Assets Not Depreciated:				
Land	\$ 17,071	\$ 0	\$0	\$ 17,071
Capital Assets Depreciated:				
Buildings	454,279	13,985	0	468,264
Equipment	1,735,109	17,482	0	1,752,591
Vehicles	<u>1,775,093</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,775,093</u>
Total Assets	\$3,981,552	\$ 31,467	\$0	\$4,013,019
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>2,512,192</u>	<u>196,876</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>2,709,068</u>
Net Capital Assets	<u>\$1,469,360</u>	<u>\$(165,409)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,303,951</u>

Depreciation expense of \$196,876 was charged to the public safety function.

Bienville Parish Fire Protection District, Ward 7
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

6. Ad Valorem Taxes:

The District levies taxes on real and business personal property located within the boundaries of Bienville Parish Fire Protection District, Ward 7. Property taxes are levied by the District on property values assessed by the Bienville Parish Tax Assessor and approved by the State of Louisiana Tax Commission.

The Bienville 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.

Assessed values are established by the Bienville 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, 2023. Total assessed value for Fire Protection 7 was \$35,606,744 in 2024. 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 \$3,347,174 of the assessed value in 2024.

For the year ended December 31, 2024, taxes of 17.16 mills were levied on the property and were dedicated to fire protection.

7. Pending Litigation:

There is no pending litigation against the District as of December 31, 2024.

Bienville Parish Fire Protection District, Ward 7
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2024

8. Compensation Paid to Board Members:

A detailed of compensation paid to individual council members for the year ended December 31, 2024 follows:

Rita Plunkett	\$1,280
Bennie Martin	450
Stephen Brown	120
Doug Latimer	800
Lucious Jefferson Jr	<u>180</u>
Total	<u>\$2,830</u>

9. Subsequent Events:

Management has evaluated events through May 15, 2025, which the financial statements were available for issue. There were no items to be reported as subsequent events.

OTHER REQUIRED
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Bienville Fire Protection District, Ward 7
General Fund
Budgetary Comparison Schedule
December 31, 2024

	Budget			Variance- Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Original	Final	Actual	
REVENUES:				
Taxes	\$ 472,997	\$ 472,997	\$ 536,450	\$ 63,453
Intergovernmental-				
State Grant	4,000	4,000	15,220	11,220
Fire Insurance Rebate	8,000	8,000	12,618	4,618
Interest & Miscellaneous	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>7,947</u>	<u>4,947</u>
 Total Revenues	 <u>\$ 487,997</u>	 <u>\$ 487,997</u>	 <u>\$ 572,235</u>	 <u>\$ 84,238</u>
EXPENDITURES:				
Current-				
Public Safety-				
Wages & Salaries	\$ 119,200	\$ 119,200	\$ 43,067	\$ 76,133
Insurance	50,000	50,000	53,933	(3,933)
Utilities	15,500	15,500	19,529	(4,029)
Repairs & Maintenance	37,000	37,000	25,062	11,938
Materials & Supplies	29,500	29,500	30,612	(1,112)
Operating Services	92,760	92,760	72,802	19,958
Capital Outlay	<u>129,150</u>	<u>129,150</u>	<u>31,467</u>	<u>97,683</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 473,110</u>	<u>\$ 473,110</u>	<u>\$ 276,472</u>	<u>\$ 196,638</u>
 Excess Deficiency of Revenues over Expenditures	 \$ 14,887	 \$ 14,887	 \$ 295,763	 \$ 280,876
 Fund Balance- Beginning of Year	 <u>1,175,577</u>	 <u>1,175,577</u>	 <u>1,175,577</u>	 <u>-</u>
 Fund Balance-End of Year	 <u>\$ 1,190,464</u>	 <u>\$ 1,190,464</u>	 <u>\$ 1,471,340</u>	 <u>\$ 280,876</u>

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Bienville Parish Fire Protection District, Ward 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: Charles McClain, Fire Chief

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Salary	\$18,400
Benefits- Social Security & Medicare	<u>1,408</u>
Total	<u>\$19,808</u>

See independent auditor's 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
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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*

Bienville Parish Fire
Protection District, Ward 7
Bienville Parish, 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, and the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*, the financial statements of the governmental activities and major fund as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Bienville Parish Fire Protection District, Ward 7's (District) basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated May 15, 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) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the 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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from 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 determination of financial statement amounts. 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 or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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, this report is a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 25:513, 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

May 15, 2025

Bienville Parish Fire Protection District, Ward 7
Schedule of Audit Results
Year Ended December 31, 2024

I. SUMMARY OF AUDIT RESULTS

The following summarize the audit results:

1. An unmodified opinion was issued on the financial statements of the Bienville Parish Fire Protection District, Ward 7, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024.
2. The audit did not disclose any material weaknesses in internal control.
3. The audit disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

II. FINDINGS IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

There were no current year findings identified.

II. PRIOR YEAR AUDIT FINDINGS

There were no prior year audit findings identified.