DESOTO PARISH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3 STONEWALL, LOUISIANA

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT DECEMBER 31, 2024

DeSoto Parish Fire Protection District No. 3

Stonewall, Louisiana

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

DeSoto Parish Fire Protection District No. 3 5200 Hwy 3276 Stonewall, Louisiana 71078

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and major fund of the DeSoto Parish Fire Protection District No. 3 ("District") 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 DeSoto Parish Fire Protection District No. 3 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 the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditors' 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 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, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the 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 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 accompanying Schedule of Compensation, Benefits, and Other Payments to the Agency Head, Political Subdivision 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 the 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 June 24, 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, regulation, 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
Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier, CPA's

Natchitoches, Louisiana

June 24, 2025

December 31, 2024

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

As management of the DeSoto Parish Fire Protection District No. 3 (Fire District), we offer the readers of our annual financial report our discussion and analysis of the Fire District's financial performance during the fiscal year that ended on December 31, 2024. Please read it in conjunction with the Fire District's financial statements, which follow this section.

The Fire District was determined to be a component unit of the DeSoto Parish Policy Jury. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the Fire District.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Fire District experienced an increase in its total net position of \$274,266 or 15.96% during the year. At December 31, 2024, the assets of the Fire District exceeded its liabilities by \$1.992.678.

The unrestricted net position of \$1,562,273 (78.40% of total net position) represents the amount available to be used to meet the Fire District's ongoing obligations to its citizens. The remaining 21.60% of net position (\$430,405) is net investment in capital assets.

Ad valorem tax revenues increased \$85,739 (13.87%) to \$703,785 during 2024 from \$618,046 during the prior year. This increase was primarily due to changes in valuing oil and gas properties for ad valorem tax purposes implemented in the prior year.

Parcel fees revenues continued an upward trend in 2024, increasing \$6,350 (4.12%) to \$160,550 from \$154,200 in 2023.

The Fire District's total expenses of \$589,285 (net of \$94,220 of depreciation) in 2024 were an increase of \$58,841 or 11.09% from \$530,444 in 2023.

OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This Management Discussion and Analysis document introduces the basic financial statements which include government-wide financial statements and fund financial statements. These two types of financial statements present the Fire District's financial position and results of operations from differing perspectives, which are described as follows:

Government-Wide Financial Statement

The government-wide financial statements report information about the Fire District as a whole using accounting methods similar to those used by private-sector companies. These report all revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid. Furthermore, the government-wide statements include all of the Fire District's assets and all of its liabilities. All of the Fire District's activities are classified as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. The governmental activities are financed primarily by property taxes, parcel fees and intergovernmental revenues that include fire insurance rebates, state supplemental pay and grants.

Fund Financial Statements

Fund financial statements provide detailed information regarding the Fire District's most significant activities and are not intended to provide information for the Fire District as a whole. Funds are accounting devices that are used to account for specific sources of funds. All of the Fire District's funds are limited to its general fund, which is classified as a Governmental Fund. This fund is used to account for essentially the same functions that are reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike government-wide financial statements, the governmental fund uses a modified accrual basis of accounting that provides a short-term view of the Fire District's finances. Assets reported by the governmental fund are limited to amounts that are available for current needs. In addition, liabilities are limited to amounts that are expected to be paid from currently available assets.

December 31, 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

The notes to the financial statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements. The notes to the financial statements can be found immediately following the basic financial statements.

Required Supplementary Information

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain *required supplementary information*. The Fire District adopts an annual budget for the general fund. A budgetary comparison statement is provided for the general fund to demonstrate budgetary compliance.

Supplementary Information

The schedule of compensation, benefits and other payments to agency head or chief executive officer is presented to fulfill the requirements of Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513(A)(3).

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE FIRE DISTRICT AS A WHOLE

The comparison of net position from year to year serves to measure a government's financial position. As of December 31, 2024, the Fire District's assets exceed its liabilities by \$1,992,678 (net position).

At December 31, 2024, \$430,405 or 21.60% of the Fire District's net position reflects capital assets with a historical cost of \$2,340,896 less accumulated depreciation of \$1,697,493 and related debt of \$212,998.

Total net accounts receivable increased \$111,866 or 16.01% primarily resulting from the increased ad valorem tax revenues previously referenced and the increased receivables associated therewith.

Total liabilities for the Fire District decreased \$39,300 or 13.14% from 2023, as trend that will continue as long-term debt incurred for a new pumper truck purchased 2022 is paid down.

A Summary of Statement of Net Position at December 31,:

	Governmental Activities					
ASSETS	2024		2023	% Change		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 449,354	\$	292,173	53.80%		
Investments	316,627		306,080	3.45%		
Accounts receivable, net (see note 3)	810,787		698,921	16.01%		
Prepaid expenses	11,609		11,244	3.25%		
Capital assets, net	643,403		685,265	-6.11%		
Total assets	2,231,780		1,993,683	11.94%		
LIABILITIES						
Current liabilities	26,104		22,973	13.63%		
Long-term liabilities	212,998		252,298	-15.58%		
Total liabilities	239,102		275,271	-13.14%		
NET POSITION						
Net investment in capital assets	430,405		432,967	-0.59%		
Unrestricted	1,562,273		1,285,445	21.54%		
Total net position	\$ 1,992,678	\$	1,718,412	15.96%		

December 31, 2024

The following schedule compares revenues and expenses for the current and previous year. Total revenues increased by 14.13% (\$118,571) since last year. Approximately 73.48% of the Fire District's total revenues come from property taxes and 16.76% from parcel fees. Total expenses increased 6.68% (\$42,779) over the prior year.

A Summary of Statement of Activities as of December 31,:

	Governmental Activities				
	_	2024		2023	% Change
Program Revenues:	_				
Charges for services-parcel fees	\$	160,550	\$	154,200	4.12%
Grants and contributions		24,643		-	100.00%
General Revenues:					
Ad valorem taxes		703,785		618,046	13.87%
Intergovernmental revenues		32,297		35,876	-9.98%
Interest income		13,426		7,505	78.89%
Other revenue		23,070		23,573	-2.13%
Total revenues		957,771		839,200	14.13%
Expenses	_				
Public safety	_	683,505		640,726	6.68%
Total expenses	_	683,505		640,726	6.68%
Increases (decrease) in net position		274,266		198,474	15.96%
Net position beginning		1,718,412		1,519,938	13.06%
Net position, ending	\$ -	1,992,678	\$	1,718,412	15.96%
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FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE FIRE DISTRICT'S GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

For the year ended December 31, 2024, differences between the government-wide presentation and the fund financial statements were due to depreciation associated with capital assets, debt service, changes in prepaid expenses, and unavailable revenues.

GENERAL FUND BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

The Fire District adopted a budget for its General Fund for the year ended December 31, 2024. Actual revenues were \$153,708 (19.17%) more than the final budgeted amounts. Actual expenses were less than the budgeted amounts by \$11,054 (1.60%). The budget was not amended during the year. The Fire District is in compliance with the Local Government Budget Act.

DEBT ADMINISTRATION

The Fire District entered into a financed purchase agreement with REV Financial Services LLC for \$327,824 to fund the purchase of one pumper truck during the year ended December 31, 2022. This debt has been reduced by \$114,826 in principal payments made including \$39,300 in the current year. This leaves a balance of \$212,998 due on the long-term debt.

CAPITAL ASSETS

The Fire District acquired two IC750 Cutters during the year for a total of \$52,358.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET

The primary revenue source for the Fire District is ad valorem property taxes. This tax is not subject to changes in the economy in the short term. However, in the long-term, the ability to sustain this income could affect the Fire District's revenue. The budget for fiscal year 2025 should not change significantly from the fiscal year end 2024 budget.

December 31, 2024

CONTACTING THE FIRE DISTRICT

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, and creditors with a general overview of the finances for those funds maintained by the DeSoto Parish Fire Protection District No. 3 and to show the Fire District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Greg Baker, Chairman, at P. O. Box 329, Stonewall, Louisiana, 71078 or call at (318) 925-0087.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEET / STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

December 31, 2024

	-	Governmental Funds Financial Statements Balance Sheet General Fund	-	Adjustments	-	Government-wide Statements Statement of Net Position
ASSETS	-		-	•		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	449,354	\$	-	\$	449,354
Investments		316,627		-		316,627
Ad valorem tax receivables		676,022		-		676,022
Parcel fees and other receivables		134,765		-		134,765
Prepaid expenses		-		11,609		11,609
Capital assets, net	_	-		643,403		643,403
TOTAL ASSETS	_	1,576,768		655,012		2,231,780
LIABILITIES						
Current Liabilities:						
Accounts payable		12,260		-		12,260
Payroll liabilities		13,844		-		13,844
Non-current liabilities:						
Long-term debt due within one year		-		40,361		40,361
Long-term debt	_	-		172,637		172,637
TOTAL LIABILITIES	_	26,104		212,998		239,102
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES						
Unavailable ad valorem taxes		14,733		(14,733)		-
Unavailable assessment fees		9,175		(9,175)		-
	-	3,	-	(0,110)	•	
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES		22.000		(22,000)		
RESOURCES	-	23,908		(23,908)		
FUND BALANCE / NET POSITION Fund Balance:						
Unassigned	_	1,526,756		(1,526,756)		-
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	_	1,526,756		(1,526,756)		
TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCE	\$	1,576,768		(1,337,666)		
Net Position: Net investment in capital assets Unrestricted			_	430,405 1,562,273		430,405 1,562,273
TOTAL NET POSITION			\$	-	\$	1,992,678

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement. See the accompanying independent auditor's report.

STATEMENT B

DESOTO PARISH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3 Stonewall, Louisiana

RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET TO THE GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

December 31, 2024

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

Fund Balance - Governmental Fund	\$ 1,526,756
Prepaid expenses involve payment with current financial resources that are attributable to fiscal periods beyond the end of the current fiscal year	11,609
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not current financial resources and therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds	643,403
Unavailable revenues are reported as deferred inflows of resources in the governmental funds, but are reflected as income in the Government-wide statement	
Deferred ad valorem taxes Deferred assessment fees	14,733 9,175
Long-term liabilities, including capital leases, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.	(212,998)
Net Position of Governmental Activities	\$ 1,992,678

STATEMENT C

1,992,678

DESOTO PARISH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3 Stonewall, Louisiana

STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENTAL FUND REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE / STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the year ended December 31, 2024

Governmental Funds **Financial Statements** Government-wide Statement of Revenues Expenditures, and Statements **Changes in Fund Balance** Statement of General Fund Adjustments **Activities EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES** Public Safety-Fire Personnel and related benefits 339,764 \$ 339,764 \$ \$ (365)Materials and supplies 208.824 208.459 34,250 General and administrative 34,250 Capital outlays 52,358 (52,358)Debt service: Principal 39,300 (39,300)Interest 6,812 6,812 94,220 Depreciation 94,220 TOTAL EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES 681,308 2,197 683,505 **PROGRAM REVENUES** Charges for services 160.235 315 160.550 Operating grants & contributions 24,643 24,643 **TOTAL PROGRAM REVENUES** 315 184,878 185,193 **NET PROGRAM EXPENSE** (496, 430)(1,882)(498,312)**GENERAL REVENUES** Ad valorem taxes 701,987 1,798 703,785 13.426 Interest earnings 13.426 21,497 21,497 Fire insurance rebate State supplemental pay 10,800 10,800 Other income 23,070 23,070 **TOTAL GENERAL REVENUES** 1.798 770,780 772,578 **NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE/ CHANGE IN NET POSITION** 274,350 (84)274,266 **FUND BALANCE / NET POSITION** Beginning of the year 1,252,406 1,718,412

1,526,756

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement. See the accompanying independent auditor's report.

End of the year

STATEMENT D

DESOTO PARISH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3 Stonewall, Louisiana

RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the year ended December 31, 2024

Amounts reported for governmenta	al activities in the Statement of	f Activities are different because:

Net Change in Fund Balances, Governmental Funds	\$	274,350
Governmental funds report expenses that involve payments with current financial resources, such as insurance, in the year in which it is paid. In the Statement of Activities, payments that are attributable to current periods are recognized.		365
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds:		
The amount by which depreciation (\$94,220) exceeded capital outlays (\$52,358) in the current period.		(41,862)
The issuance of long-term debt provides current financial resources to government funds while the repayment of principal of long-term debt consumes financial resources.		
Principal payments		39,300
Because of the timing of actual receipt, some revenues are not considered "available" to pay current obligations and are not reported in the governmental funds.		
Change in deferred ad valorem taxes Change in deferred assessment fees	_	1,798 315
Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities	\$	274,266

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement. See the accompanying independent auditor's report.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2024

INTRODUCTION

DeSoto Parish Fire Protection District No. 3 (the District) was created by the DeSoto Parish Police Jury, as authorized by Louisiana Revised Statute 40:1492 on July 22, 1987. The District is governed by a five-member board appointed in accordance to LRS 40:1496 as follows: two members by the Police Jury, two members by the Town of Stonewall, and one, the chairman, by the other four members. The District is responsible for maintaining and operating five fire stations and related equipment, and providing fire protection and rescue services to approximately 7,000 residents and taxpayers in the northwestern part of the parish. The District is staffed by a full time Chief and Deputy Chief and around 20 volunteers.

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The District's financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (Statements and Interpretations). The District's financial statements also conform to the requirements of Louisiana Revised Statutes 24:513 and to the guides set forth in the *Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide*.

A. REPORTING ENTITY

The District was determined to be a component unit of the DeSoto Parish Police Jury, the financial reporting entity. The Police Jury is financially accountable for the District because it appoints or ratifies a voting majority of the board and has the ability to impose its will on them. The accompanying financial statements present information only on the funds maintained by the District and do not present information on the Police Jury, the general government services provided by that governmental unit, or the other governmental units that comprise the financial reporting entity.

B. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The DeSoto Parish Fire Protection District No. 3's financial statements consist of government-wide financial statements, including a statement of net position and a statement of activities, and fund financial statements, which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities display information about the reporting government as a whole. They include the fund of the reporting entity, which is considered to be a governmental activity. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other non-exchange revenues.

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

Fund Financial Statements

The accounts of the District are organized and operated on the basis of funds. A fund is an independent fiscal and accounting entity with a separate set of self-balancing accounts. Fund accounting segregates funds according to their intended purpose and is used to aid management in demonstrating compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions. These funds focus on the sources, uses and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the fund from which they will be paid. The difference between a governmental fund's assets and liabilities is reported as fund balance. In general, fund balance represents the accumulated expendable resources which may be used to finance future period programs or operations. A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of the entity. The one fund of the District is classified as a major governmental fund and is described below:

<u>General Fund.</u> The General Fund, as provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 47:1906, is the primary operating fund of the District and is used to account for the operations of the District. The General Fund is available for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred in accordance with state and federal laws and according to the District's policy.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2024

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

C. MEASUREMENT FOCUS/ BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Measurement focus is a term used to describe "which" transactions are recorded within the various financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to "when" revenues, expenditures, expenses, transfers, assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources—are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements.

Measurement Focus

On the government-wide Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, governmental activities are presented using the economic resources measurement focus. The accounting objectives of this measurement focus are the determination of operating income, changes in net position (or cost recovery) and financial position. All assets and liabilities (whether current or non-current) associated with its activities are reported. Government-wide fund equity is classified as net position.

In the fund financial statements, the "current financial resources" measurement focus is used. Only current financial assets and liabilities are generally included on its balance sheet. The statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance reports sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of available spendable financial resources during a given period. This approach is then reconciled, through adjustment, to a government-wide view of the operations.

Basis of Accounting

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

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

Revenues. Ad valorem (property) taxes and property assessments are recognized in the year in which the taxes are assessed or billed. Ad valorem taxes and parcel fees are assessed on a calendar year basis, attach as an enforceable lien, and become due and payable on the date the tax rolls are filed with the recorder of mortgages. Intergovernmental revenues are recognized when the District is entitled to funds. Interest income on time and demand deposits are recorded monthly when the interest is earned and credited to the account.

<u>Expenditures</u>. Salaries are recorded when employee services are provided. Purchases of various operating supplies are recorded as expenditures in the accounting period in which they are purchased. Substantially all other expenditures are recognized when the related fund liability is incurred.

D. ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Cash and Investments

For purposes of the Statement of Net Position, cash includes all demand accounts, and interest bearing savings accounts of the District. Investments consist of certificates of deposit with an original maturity of three months or more. Under state law, the District may deposit funds with a fiscal agent organized under the laws of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the union, or the laws of the United States. The District may invest in United States bonds, treasury notes and bills, government-backed agency securities, or certificates and time deposits of state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having their principal offices in Louisiana.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2024

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Prepaid Expenses

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

Accounts Receivable

Receivables for the governmental activities include ad valorem taxes and assessment fees. These receivables are considered fully collectible and, thus, no allowance for uncollectibles is utilized.

Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant, and equipment, are reported in the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated cost if historical cost is not available. Donated assets are recorded as capital assets at their estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The District maintains a threshold level of \$2,500 or more for capitalizing capital assets. The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized.

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

Buildings 40 years
Firefighting equipment 5-10 years
Fire trucks 15 years
Office equipment 3 years

Unavailable ad valorem taxes and parcel fees

The District recognizes property tax and parcel fee revenues in accordance with Section P70, "Property Taxes" of the Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards on the Fund statements. Unpaid property taxes and parcel fees as of December 31, 2024, are recorded as a receivable. Those net property taxes and parcel fees receivable which were not collected within 60 days immediately following December 31, 2024, are recorded as unavailable tax revenue.

Equity Classifications

Net Position. The District classifies net position in the government-wide financial statements, as follows:

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

When an expense is incurred that can be paid using either restricted or unrestricted resources (net position), the District's policy is to first apply the expense toward restricted resources and then toward the unrestricted resources.

Fund Balances. Fund balances of the governmental funds are classified as follows:

• Nonspendable- Resources that are not in spendable form (such as prepaid expenses) because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact;

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2024

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

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

The District would typically use restricted fund balances first, followed by committed resources, and then assigned resources, as appropriate opportunities arise, but reserves the right to selectively spend unassigned resources first to defer the use of these other classified funds.

The General Fund, the District's only governmental fund, has an unassigned fund balance of \$1,526,756.

E. USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

2. CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Cash:

At December 31, 2024, the District has cash balances totaling \$449,354 (book balance). Cash consists of only interest bearing demand deposits.

Investments:

At December 31, 2024, the District has investment balances totaling \$316,627 (book balance). Investments consists of only certificates of deposit (CD's) with maturities of one year or less.

The CD's are stated at cost, which approximates fair value.

The cash and investments of the District 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 government 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.

At December 31, 2024, the District had \$765,490 in deposits (collected bank balances). These deposits were secured from risk by \$500,000 of federal deposit insurance and \$265,490 in pledged securities with a market value of \$807,909.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2024

3. CAPITAL ASSETS

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

	Balance			Balance
Governmental Activities	1/1/2024	Additions	Deletions	12/31/2024
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 11,450	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,450
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Vehicles	1,774,559	-	-	1,774,559
Buildings	229,820	-	-	229,820
Firefighting equipment	260,899	52,358	-	313,257
Office equipment	11,810	-	-	11,810
Total assets being depreciated	2,277,088	52,358		2,329,446
Less Accumulated Depreciation				
Vehicles	1,159,054	81,008	-	1,240,062
Buildings	179,216	8,942	-	188,158
Firefighting equipment	253,193	4,270	-	257,463
Office equipment	11,810	-	-	11,810
Total	1,603,273	94,220		1,697,493
Capital Assets, Net	\$ 685,265	\$ (41,862)	<u>\$ -</u>	\$ 643,403

Depreciation expense of \$94,220 was charged to the public safety function.

4. LEVIED TAXES

Ad Valorem Taxes

The District levies taxes on real and business property located within the boundaries of the District. Property taxes are levied by the District on property values assessed by the DeSoto Parish Tax Assessor and approved by the State of Louisiana Tax Commission. The DeSoto 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. The property tax calendar is as follows:

Assessment date	January 1, 2024
Levy date	June 30, 2024
Tax bills mailed	October 15, 2024
Total taxes are due	December 31, 2024
Penalties & interest added	January 31, 2025
Tax sale	May 15, 2025

The District has authorized 10.00 and levied 9.72 ad valorem millage for 2024. The resolution assessing the taxes was approved by the district voters November 21, 2015, effective January, 2016, and was renewed December 7, 2024 for another 10 years beginning with the tax year 2026. The assessment is to cover the cost of fire protection equipment, the maintenance and operation of fire protection facilities and equipment, and for obtaining water for fire protection purposes.

Ad valorem taxes are recorded in the year the taxes are assessed. The taxes are normally collected in December of the current year and January and February of the ensuing year. Total assessed value in the District was \$89,930,656 in 2024. Louisiana state law exempts the first \$75,000 of assessed value of a taxpayer's primary residence from parish property taxes. This homestead exemption represents a total of \$17,524,700 in assessed value or \$170,340 in lost taxes for 2024. Total ad valorem tax revenues recognized in 2024 by the District was \$703,785.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2024

4. LEVIED TAXES (continued)

The following are the principal taxpayers for the District (2024 amounts):

			% OF TOTAL	AD VALOREM
		ASSESSED	ASSESSED	TAX REVENUE
	TYPE OF BUSINESS	VALUATION	VALUATION	TO DISTRICT
CHESAPEAKE OPERATING, INC	Oil & Gas	\$ 12,926,511	17.85% \$	125,626
SWN PRODUCTION (LOUISIANA), LLC	Oil & Gas	7,057,928	9.75%	68,619
MAGNOLIA MIDSTREAM GAS SERVICES	Oil & Gas	2,787,833	3.85%	27,096
ALLEGIANCE CRANE & EQUIPMENT, LLC	Industrial	1,921,903	2.65%	18,650
COMSTOCK OIL & GAS	Oil & Gas	1,829,136	2.53%	17,806
STONEWALL AUTO VENTURES, LLC	Auto Dealer	1,464,255	2.02%	14,216
MARKETPLACE CHEVROLET/BUICK	Auto Dealer	707,982	0.98%	6,897
MAW REAL ESTATE, LLC	Real Estate	610,197	0.84%	5,912
CENTERPOINT ENERGY - ARKLA	Public Utility	448,028	0.62%	4,363
COMCAST OF LA/MS/TX, LLC	Telecommunications	424,705	0.59%	4,152
Total		\$ 30,178,478	41.68% \$	293,337

Parcel fees

As per Louisiana RS 40:1502, the District annually levies a service charge of \$50 to persons owning assessed property located within its boundaries. The resolution assessing the service charges was reapproved by the district voters December 7, 2024, to continue for ten years through December, 2037. The assessment is to cover the cost of fire protection equipment, the maintenance and operation of fire protection facilities and equipment, and for obtaining water for fire protection purposes. On October 14, 2017, the voters of the District approved Louisiana RS 40:1502.16. This statute states assessment fees are to be charged on all residential or commercial structures, whether occupied or unoccupied located in the district and will be billed and collected through the DeSoto Parish Sheriff's office in October of each year when property tax assessments are billed. Due dates and dates of penalties assessed will also follow the property tax calendar dates. The District assessed \$160,550 in service charges in 2024, and recognized \$160,350 in revenue.

5. RETIREMENT COMMITMENTS

All employees of the District are members of the Federal Social Security System. The District and its employees contribute a percentage of each employee's salary to the System (6.2% by the employee). The District's contribution during the year ended December 31, 2024, amounts to \$19,565.

6. COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENTS

During 2019 District along with 5 other Parish Fire Districts entered into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office will provide the Fire Districts with adequate dispatching services for the annual sum of \$275,000 (payable in four quarterly payments) to be paid proportionally by each of the Fire Districts based on 2018 millage revenues. The total portion of the District is \$16,835 (\$4,208.75 due quarterly). The DeSoto Sheriff agreed to hire 4 full time employees to provide the dispatching services and to employ a communications supervisor for those employees dispatching for the Fire Districts.

7. LEASE AGREEMENTS

The District has the following lease agreements:

- 40-year lease commencing April 1, 1990, with North DeSoto Water System to provide water to the District. Annual payment due of \$1.
- 25-year lease commencing April 1, 1990, with Town of Stonewall to lease the land at 5200 Hwy 3276 on which Central Station is located. Annual payment due of \$1.
- 99-year lease (or as long as the District exists) commencing October 1, 1990, with J. U. Burford to lease the land at 2426 Hwy. 171 for Station 2. Annual payment due of \$1.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2024

8. LONG-TERM DEBT

On June 16, 2021 the Board of Commissioners of the District approved an eight-year Financed Purchase Agreement dated June 22, 2021 with REV Financial Services, LLC, for the purchase of one new tanker truck delivered in 2022. The principal amount is \$327,824 with an interest rate of 2.40%. The agreement calls for an annual payment of \$46,111, which includes principal and interest.

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

Long-term debt payable at December 31, 2023	\$	252,298
New debt issued		-
Less payments made during year		(39,300)
Long-term debt payable as December 31, 2024	\$	212,998
Amount of long-term debt due within one year	ф -	40.261
Amount of long-term dept due within one year	Ð	40,361

The future minimum debt payments and interest required under the above referenced Financed Purchase Agreement:

Due	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	40,361	5,751	46,112
2026	41,450	4,661	46,111
2027	42,569	3,542	46,111
2028	43,719	2,393	46,112
2029	44,899	1,212	46,111
	\$212,998	\$ 17,559	\$230,557

9. RISK MANAGEMENT

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to limited torts, theft of or damage to and destruction of assets and errors and omissions. To handle some of the risk, the District maintains surety bond coverage. No settled claims from these risks have exceeded insurance coverage in the last three years. There were no significant changes to insurance coverage during the year ended December 31, 2024.

10. LITIGATION

There is no litigation pending against the District, at December 31, 2024, nor is it aware of any unasserted claims.

11. COMPENSATION PAID TO BOARD MEMBERS

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

12 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has performed an evaluation of the District's activities through June 26, 2025 and has concluded that there were two significant events requiring recognition or disclosure through the date and time these financial statements were available to be issued.

OTHER REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE 1

DESOTO PARISH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3 Stonewall, Louisiana

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - GENERAL FUND

For the year ended December 31, 2024

	-	Budgeted Amounts Original Final Actual				Variance with final budget positive (negative)	
Revenues	-				_		 , , ,
Service charge parcel fees	\$	154,000	\$	154,000	\$	160,235	\$ 6,235
Ad valorem taxes		600,000		600,000		701,987	101,987
Intergovernmental revenue- state funds							
Fire insurance rebate		20,000		20,000		21,497	1,497
State Supplemental Pay		14,400		14,400		10,800	(3,600)
Other revenues		10,050		10,050		23,070	13,020
Interest income		3,500		3,500	_	13,426	 9,926
Total Revenues	-	801,950		801,950		955,658	 153,708
Expenditures Current: Public safety-fire							
Personal and related benefits		423,900		423,900		339,764	84,136
Materials and supplies		196,100		196,100		208,824	(12,724)
General and administrative		26,250		26,250		34,250	(8,000)
Debt service:							, ,
Principal		39,300		39,300		39,300	-
Interest		6,812		6,812		6,812	-
Total Expenditures	-	692,362		692,362	_	681,308	 11,054
Net Change in Fund Balance		109,588		109,588		274,350	164,762
Fund balances, beginning of year		1,252,406		1,252,406		1,252,406	-
Fund balances, end of year	\$	1,361,994	\$	1,361,994	\$	1,526,756	\$ 164,762
	-		•		-		

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE 2

DESOTO PARISH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3 Stonewall, Louisiana

SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION, BENEFITS AND OTHER PAYMENTS TO AGENCY HEAD OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER For the year ended December 31, 2024

	January to May David Jenkins Fire Chief	June to December Fred Rison Fire Chief
Salary	28,950	63,308
State Supplemental Pay	3,300	7,500
Benefits-insurance (Medicare)	468	1,027
Benefits- retirement (Social Security)	4,390	4,390
Benefits - other	-	-
Auto use	-	-
Vehicle provided by government	-	-
Per diem	-	-
Reimbursements	-	2,103
Travel	-	-
Registration fees	-	-
Conference travel	-	-
Continuing professional education fees	-	-
Dues	-	-
Unvouchered expenses	-	-
Special meals	-	-

DESOTO PARISH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3

Stonewall, Louisiana NOTE TO BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE

Year Ended December 31, 2024

Budgetary Information

DeSoto Parish Fire Protection District No. 3 (the District) is required by state law to adopt an annual budget. The following procedures are followed in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

A proposed budget is prepared by the governing board in November and made available for public inspection no later than 15 days prior to December 31, of each year. In an open meeting prior to December 31, the budget is adopted and becomes part of the official minutes of the District. The proposed budget for the General Fund is prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting.

Once a budget is approved, it can be amended by approval of a majority of the Board. Amendments are presented at a regular open meeting for Board approval. The original budget was approved by the board on December 12, 2023. The budget was not amended during the year.

The budget is prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Budgets for most governmental funds are adopted annually on the cash basis of accounting.

The Louisiana Local Government Budget Act provides that "the total proposed expenditures shall not exceed the total of estimated funds available for the ensuing year." The "total estimated funds available" is the sum of the respective estimated fund balances at the beginning of the year and the anticipated revenues for the current year. Amendments to the adopted budget are required if total revenues fail to meet budgeted revenues by 5% or more, and/or total actual expenditures exceed total budgeted expenditures by 5% of more. Total revenues were more than budgeted revenues by \$153,708 (19.17%). Actual cash expenditures were less than budgeted amounts by \$11,054 (1.60%).

The District is in compliance with the Local Government Budget Act R.S. 39:1301-14 and the budget requirements of LSA-RS 39:34.

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 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

DeSoto Parish Fire Protection District No. 3 5200 Hwy 3276 Stonewall, Louisiana 71078

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 of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the DeSoto Parish Fire Protection District No. 3's (District) basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 24, 2025.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

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

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or 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 or significant deficiencies may exist that were not 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 financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance 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 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 24, 2025

DeSoto Parish Fire Protection District No. 3 Schedule of Audit Results Year Ended December 31, 2024

I. Summary of Audit Results

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

II. FINDINGS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

None identified.

III. PRIOR YEAR AUDIT FINDINGS

None identified.